

**League of Women Voters of Atlanta Fulton County  
Local Positions**

**I. Government**

We support:

- A. Local government reorganization to:
  - 1. Eliminate duplication of service delivery
  - 2. Equalize the tax burden
  - 3. Provide tax base growth to the central Atlanta economy
  - 4. Eliminate conflicting jurisdictions
  - 5. Develop regional approaches to meeting area-wide planning and service needs
- B. Encouraging citizen input into the budget process by:
  - 1. Using a program rather than a line item budget for better understanding
  - 2. Publishing a summary budget that focuses on county services by program areas and clearly set out the funds to be expended in each area
  - 3. Holding public hearings early in the budget calendar year to give citizens a voice in setting priorities
- C. The neighborhood planning concept of:
  - 1. Institutional approach for obtaining citizen
  - 2. Creation of a neighborhood planning concept for Fulton County with a tie-in to the comprehensive development plan and to the county budget
  - 3. Atlanta's neighborhood planning unit (NPU) process
- D. A regional council for Atlanta and Fulton County that would
  - 1. Deal with regional problems
  - 2. Develop approaches to meeting area-wide planning and service needs in land use, housing, transportation and environmental issues
- E. An Atlanta city charter for:
  - 1. a mayor with great administrative and executive authority
  - 2. a board of aldermen with legislative and policy-making powers only ACHIEVED
- F. Action by the state to designate Grady hospital as a regional hospital with funding that would ensure quality medical care for the region (cross reference VII.A.)

**II. Education**

We support:

- A. the transfer of Fulton County teachers to the state retirement system ACHIEVED
- B. An elected school board and an appointed superintendent for Fulton County ACHIEVED
- C. The present Atlanta Board of Education with six districts and three at-large seats
- D. Equal access to vocational education. Support the concept that all secondary students in Atlanta and Fulton County have an equal opportunity to participate in vocational education.
- E. The position that standards for teacher quality should be raised.
  - Support for:
    - 1. Measures to improve hiring and recruiting practices
    - 2. Measures to strengthen the implementation of dismissal and non-renewal procedures
    - 3. Annual evaluations of tenured as well as non-tenured teachers
    - 4. An evaluator in addition to the principal or a team evaluation
    - 5. Improved use of evaluation as a positive tool for instructional improvement, with specific feedback for teachers and specific recommendations for remediation
    - 6. Thorough training for principals and other administrators in evaluation and dismissal procedures
- F. The improvement of working conditions for teachers in Atlanta and Fulton County. Support for:
  - 1. reductions in student-teacher ratios
  - 2. additional teachers' aides
  - 3. free lunch periods and planning periods for teachers
  - 4. reduction in teachers' clerical duties or additional clerical assistance
  - 5. measures to strengthen school leadership

- 6. measures to deal more effectively with disruptive students
- G. Improved pay incentives to attract and retain qualified teachers.  
Support for:
  - 1. a well-designed career ladder program
  - 2. across-the-board salary increases to raise teachers' salaries to a level competitive with similar professions
- H. A successful incentive program for teachers which includes non-pay incentive to provide recognition and special opportunities for exemplary teachers.  
Support for:
  - 1. Sabbaticals
  - 2. Grants for special projects
  - 3. recognitions of exemplary teachers with special awards
  - 4. Programs which offer special opportunities to exemplary teachers, such as "mentor" programs

### **III. Housing**

We support:

- A. Local fair housing laws and enforceable codes.  
Support for:
  - 1. uniform building codes and code enforcement
  - 2. efficiency and accountability in the operation of the Atlanta Housing Authority and the Fulton County Housing Authority
- B. Decent housing for those with low and moderate incomes.  
Support for:
  - 1. prohibition of real estate and mortgage financing practices that inhibit rehabilitation or construction of housing for low and moderate income persons
  - 2. direct subsidies for housing assistance to the poor
  - 3. funds for housing counseling and legislation which would require notice of foreclosure sent to property owners
- C. Dispersal of low income housing in Atlanta and Fulton County.  
Support for:
  - 1. non-exclusionary zoning practices
  - 2. construction of new public housing, and incentives and subsidies for new, privately constructed housing

### **IV. Economic Development**

We support:

- A. An economic development strategy for Atlanta.
- B. Job training with greater involvement by the private sector. Support for public job training that:
  - 1. focuses on job training rather than short-time placement
  - 2. induce a greater involvement of the private sector

### **V. Transportation**

We support:

- A. Mass transit. Support for
  - 1. Policies which encourage more reliance on public transportation
  - 2. An increase in the carrying capacity of the present street system
  - 3. Construction of bikeway systems and more sidewalks
  - 4. Protection of existing residential neighborhoods
  - 5. Integrated transportation systems rather than highways alone
  - 6. Direct community involvement in the planning process
- B. Transportation as a strategy to decrease unemployment and increase economic development.  
Support for:
  - 1. Efforts to educate the public regarding available jobs and transportation services
  - 2. Public and private transportation alternatives such as private van pooling, specifically designed to enhance transportation to jobs

3. Incentives to companies that develop and/or implement transportation programs to serve the city's unemployed

## **VI. Criminal justice**

We support:

- A. Measures that will improve the administration of justice in the courts of limited jurisdiction of Fulton County and its municipalities.
  1. The decriminalization of the public inebriant
  2. A municipal court facility that is physically and administratively separate from the Atlanta Police Department
- B. Community-based alternatives for all but the most violent offenders.

Support of:

  1. restitution, diversion and community service as alternatives to incarceration
  2. transition alternatives for completion of prison sentences
  3. Community involvement and support for rehabilitation of offenders

## **VII. Natural Resources**

We support:

- A. Preservation of residential areas with adequate means for citizen input and review in planning and zoning decisions (cross reference: I.F.)
  1. land use decisions that allow for adequate provisions of open spaces, parks and recreation facilities
  2. comprehensive land use planning with appropriate controls to implement the plans
  3. the preservation of residential areas consistent with the needs of a given neighborhood
  4. provision for citizen input and review in the planning and zoning process
- B. Protection of the Chattahoochee River watershed as an irreplaceable natural resource. Support measures to preserve and enhance the quality of the water for municipal supply, and the river, its floodplain and steep slopes for scenic and aesthetic value.
  1. Support for:
    - a. the metropolitan river act of 1973
    - b. measures to maintain high water quality, including increased treatment for wastewater, alternatives to wastewater dilution, and the present level of power generation
    - c. recreational use of the river and its floodplain that maintains the natural character of the floodplain and the quality of the water, including non-motorized floating craft, nature trails, bridle trails, hiking trails, limited tent camping and the preservation of historic sites
  2. OPPOSITION TO:
    - a. commercialization of the river itself, including navigation and industrialization which would reduce water quality or aesthetic values
    - b. commercialization or contrived development of recreational facilities or historical sites
    - c. motorized vehicles other than those needed for access
    - d. building for commercial or residential use in the floodplain
    - e. Any disturbance of the steep slopes
  3. SUPPORT FOR the following priorities in any plan affecting the future water supply
    - a. that the environmental balance in the water remain unchanged
    - b. that the recreational use of Lake Lanier be retained
    - c. that the plan be as flexible as possible in terms of reversibility
    - d. that minimal loss of peak power is preferable to options that affect the other three priorities
- C. Comprehensive planning for solid waste management. Support for:
  1. The 1972 comprehensive plans for solid waste management in Atlanta and Fulton County
  2. The Solid Waste Management Act of 1972

3. Local applications of the environmental protection agency guidelines for land disposal, incineration, source separation, resource recovery and bottle deposits
- D. Neighborhood redevelopment of the I-485 Stone Mountain Freeway [Great Park]. Support for:
1. neighborhood redevelopment with a park/attraction of regional interest in the large central area
  2. redevelopment that includes a mix of cluster houses, small and mid- rise apartments (located at or near public transportation routes)
  3. neighborhood park areas to serve new and existing housing
  4. transportation through the rights-of-way that is limited to streets necessary for neighborhood redevelopment
  5. a two-lane road serving only the park attraction
  6. renovation of the existing industrial/commercial areas that is complementary to the park and housing development
  7. development of an authority with development and maintenance responsibility made up of representatives from surrounding neighborhoods
  8. public participation in the decision process

## **VII. Social policy**

We support:

An amendment to the Drunk Driving Law requiring an evaluation for alcohol problems and treatment for those found to have a drinking problem; also alternatives to incarceration for DUI including, but not limited to, treatment.