

LOCAL PROGRAM FOR ACTION

1. *Cohesive, Sustainable Communities and Neighborhoods*

The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth will support and promote effective, creative, attainable and collaborative ways of making our communities and neighborhoods more cohesive and sustainable.

2. *Affordable Housing in Crystal, New Hope and Plymouth, both Rental and Homeowner Units*

The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports and promotes the need for community awareness and responsiveness to the housing issue. We support our local city councils (assuming they support the League's positions and follow Met Council's guidelines). We promote the involvement of our members on local councils, commissions and committees. (Cross Reference *Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues #6*)

3. *Corrections: Police Departments (Update)*

The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth recommends: 1) sufficient resources for staffing, equipment and programs; 2) equitable pay plans; 3) funding for special projects, 4) progressive training for all staff to meet mandated requirements, enhance skills, meet new and developing challenges, and develop personnel; 5) specialized roles including Community Services, School Resource Officers, Juvenile Specialists, Drug Task Force Officers, Canine Officers, Crime Analysts and others required to meet changing demands; 6) honest and open communications between the police department and the public, and with the city council including clear statements of the balance between services desired and available resources.

The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth believes that crime prevention programs should receive the same priority level as other traditional law enforcement services if they are to be meaningful and effective.

4. *Juvenile Needs*

The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports recreational programs and facilities for teenagers which build character and address developmental growth. The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports youth involvement in the design and development of their own recreational needs. The achievement of this goal will require business and civic groups, youth-serving agencies and Independent School District #281. The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports continued efforts of the police, school, and youth serving agencies to enforce chemically free environments, as well as provide connections to education, counseling and resources for youth who exhibit at-risk behavior for chemical use.

5. *Public Access Television – Cable TV*

The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth is a strong advocate of public access community television as a valuable medium to increase communication in the nine NW suburbs area. The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports broad-based television in order to protect and maintain a high standard and availability of service. The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth needs to monitor all phases of legislation and regulation at the federal, state and local levels recognizing that changes being proposed or decided will impact the operations and continuation of community television.

6. *Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL)*

The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports the program of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues.

7. *The Single Working Parent*

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT – Recognizing the high incidence of single-parenthood, marriage dissolution and the resultant economic dislocation and dual role responsibilities (parent breadwinner) for the single parent, the League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports: 1) keeping records of court-ordered child support and alimony payments to provide a means of assessing the degree of non-custodial parent responsibility for their children; 2) stricter enforcement of court-ordered child support payments; 3) assuring sufficient funding for childcare programs.

Recognizing the job market pays women, on the average, less than it pays men for an equal position; that women continue to be at a disadvantage in the employment arena because of their dual roles; and recognizing that divorce means instant poverty for some parents and children because of the lack of child support and a welfare system that provides minimal

benefits, the League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports: 1) encouraging the concept of equal pay for work of equal value, based on bias-free job evaluations; 2) encouraging job-sharing with pro-rated benefits.

CHILDCARE – Recognizing that a high proportion of female parents work outside the home with the resulting pressure of childcare, the League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports: 1) expanding the public school Adventure Club program; 2) assuring sufficient funding from the Community Childcare block grants.

HOUSING – Recognizing the dire need for affordable housing, particularly for families with children, and the undesirability of concentrating the housing for lower income families in a few sections of a city, and recognizing the need for providing choice in location, the League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports: encouraging the dispersal of affordable housing choices within cities and throughout all cities in the region.

Recognizing the need that renters, particularly those with children, have for more information about current and potentially available housing, and recognizing the need to provide referrals and assistance, the League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports: establishment of and coordination of housing information/assistance offices and programs throughout the region.

(Concurrence with the Minneapolis League of Women Voters.)

8. *Recycling*

The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports recycling as a means of reducing waste and reusing material.

9. *Local City Government*

The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth supports the study of the governments of Crystal, New Hope and Plymouth.

The League of Women Voters of Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth will monitor activities and report on the Human Rights Commission in each city.

Non-Recommended Local Program

Notes: Members directed the Board to pursue an update on the mental health needs of youth.