LOCAL LEAGUE POSITIONS

The League of Women Voters [LWV] of Martha's Vineyard has reached five local positions through the consensus process. We **vote annually** to renew these Positions in order to continue action on issues pertaining to them.

Regionalization

Adopted January 1978, rev. June 2024

The LWV of Martha's Vineyard supports regionalization on the Island, especially in the areas of health, water quality, waste management, public safety, schools, and seasonal emergency shelters.

Examples of regionalization supported by a majority include an all-island health district, police and fire departments.

The League supports:

- The All Island School Committee;
- The MV Refuse District which holds a hazardous waste collection 3 times a year and provides recycling bins;
- The Electronics Disposal partnership with MV Community Services and the student government at MV Regional High School that is held twice a year;
- The County of Dukes County government.

The regionalization of schools for administration, curriculum and standards development, central purchasing of supplies and equipment are supported by the League.

Land Use

Adopted June 1992, rev. June 2024

The LWV of Martha's Vineyard is in favor of protecting from pollution the aquifer, coastal and all bodies of water on the Vineyard. Development should be prohibited or strictly regulated to protect our natural resources.

Zoning alone cannot control growth, regional rather than town management is preferable for many infrastructure projects.

The League supports:

- The MV Commission - and the MV Land Bank – Manuel F. Correllus State Forest - Sheriff's Meadow Foundation – The Trustees of Reservation – Vineyard Conservation Society in their efforts to control development and to preserve critical areas;
- The MV Refuse Disposal and Resource Recovery District – MV Refuse District - in its work to protect our environment through recycling and proper disposal of solid and hazardous waste;
- The Dukes County Regional Housing Authority which provides affordable housing for qualified applicants;
- The Vineyard Transit Authority [VTA] that provides public bus and van services with a fleet of gas/electrical vehicles to relieve traffic and parking congestion;
- The MV Climate Action (Plan) - a guide to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, managing the impacts of climate change, including beach erosion and flooding. and creating a healthier and more resilient Vineyard community.

The League favors additional regional projects such as a septage treatment plant, affordable and accessible housing.

Town taxes should be voted to provide recreational amenities, beach~~es~~ access, public parking and to protect aesthetic values.

Affordable Housing

Adopted June 1996, rev. June 2024

The LWV of Martha's Vineyard recognizes the urgent need for year-round affordable housing in our community. We realize that solutions to the housing problems on the Vineyard will need to be creative and diverse in order to respond to the unique dynamics of our community.

Solutions we would actively support are:

- The adoption of local zoning and subdivision control laws that would favor the creation of year-round rental property and

affordable home ownership. The League recognizes the importance of maintaining the rural qualities of the Vineyard when considering zoning and planning changes.
- Broadening the policies of the Martha's Vineyard Commission and Town governing boards to encourage opportunities and funding that would support affordable housing.

The League endorses the work of the following local boards:

- *The Dukes County Regional Housing Authority*: We support the development and management of multi-family units through conversion of existing private or municipal property that is deemed appropriate for that use. We recognize concerns regarding density and consideration must be given for the impact on a neighborhood.
- *The Affordable Housing Committees*: The League supports the local Affordable Housing Committees that work toward the Commonwealth's goal of each town having a minimum of 10% of its housing stock considered affordable.
- *Island Housing Trust:* The LWV supports the creation of permanently affordable housing, both rental and home ownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income households.
- *Harbor Homes of MV:* The LWV supports the mission of Harbor Homes that all residents of the Island have access to safe, sanitary and secure housing.

The League also supports the following grassroots activities:

- Habitat for Humanity home ownership program for low-income residents who help with the construction of their housing.
- A Housing Bank that will provide significant permanent funding to advance year-round housing.

Finally, the League supports the idea that affordable housing should be built with environmentally sustainable methods and should fit well into its neighborhood.

Shared Use (Bike) Paths

adopted June 1996, rev. June 2024

The LWV-MV (League) supports the development of new Shared Use/Bike Paths (SUPs) to alleviate road congestion, expand pedestrian access, promote use of alternative transportation and safety.

The League supports:

- Planning: the creation of additional SUPs should coordinate through the Martha's Vineyard Commission's Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and its Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
- Cooperation: New SUPs that impact or connect with another town should be planned with input from and approval by the governing boards of both towns.
- Aesthetics: New SUPs should be planned with maintaining rural and scenic qualities along with user safety.
- Public Education: Public education should be ongoing to educate motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians about safety, rules of use, and identification of SUP routes.
- Safety: all SUPs should be maintained regularly (cleared of debris, leaves, sand, snow, etc.) for the safety of the user (runner, skateboarder, roller blader, biker)

The Steamship Authority

Adopted December 1997, rev June 2024

The LWV of Martha's Vineyard continues to support the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority [SSA] to operate a safe, efficient, and reliable transportation system to the island of Martha's Vineyard with commitment to sustainability, accessibility to our port Vineyard community and to public engagement.

Example: Meetings are open to the Public and are virtual and to participate with comments by going to the SSA:
Website https://www.steamshipauthority.com
Address: 228 Palmer Ave., Falmouth, MA 02540 – 508-548-5011.

Solutions we would actively supports:

- Timely and accurate communication to the Vineyard public.
- More accommodating round-trip passage to medical appointments - and, clearer policy(ies) on emergency transports.

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