

League of Women Voters of Anchorage

Position: Community Councils

Statement of Position:

The League of Women Voters of Anchorage supports the concept and purpose of Community Councils as a direct and continuing means of citizen participation in government and local affairs.

Amplification:

The League supports the concept of Community councils in that they are intended to provide a vehicle by which people can work together for expression of their opinions, needs and desires in a manner that will have an impact on the community's development and services. Community Councils should play an important part in contributing to the decision-making process of local governing bodies and should be instrumental in the setting of priorities affecting community development and individual well-being.

The League believes Community Councils should aggressively pursue community concerns with emphasis on action, and that they should serve as resource pools for membership on local boards and commissions.

The Municipality has the responsibility to keep the Community Councils informed of all legislative and executive action and potential actions that impact neighborhoods. The League believes the Municipality should diligently carry out the responsibilities it has to Community Councils. Further, the League believes the Mayor should be responsible for giving Community Councils an opportunity to participate in the formulation of, and to review and comment upon, all land use, social and economic proposals which will have a significant impact on all or a substantial portion of district residents. Such opportunity for participating should be afforded Community Councils in the initial stages of proposal development. Where Municipal ordinance or resolution requires the giving of mailed notice to adjacent or nearby residents or property owners with respect to a proposed rezoning or land use change, the Municipality should send a copy of the same notice to the appropriate Community Councils.

The Municipality should respond timely to all written communications from Community Councils requesting information on Municipal law, policy or action on a Municipal land use, social or economic proposal.

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Position established in 1977, reviewed and reworded 1982, 1994, and reaffirmed each year since at Annual Meeting.