

FAIR HOUSING

Support for measures to meet the needs for affordable and accessible housing through use of state funds and incentives to localities.

League action in housing began in 1968 when the LWVUS added support for equality of opportunity in housing to that for education and employment. The LWVNY reached a position in 1970 providing the basis for action in housing.

HOUSING

Statement of Position

As announced by the State Board, September 1970

Revised to reflect State Convention action, 1999

- 1. Support for increased state funds for affordable and accessible housing and for rent subsidies.**
- 2. Support for incentives to encourage communities to accept their share of the overall responsibility for providing sufficient housing for low and moderate-income families.**
- 3. Support for the participation of counties in meeting housing needs, through such methods as permitting the establishment of County Housing Authorities.**
- 4. Support for legislation which requires local governments to take affirmative action to provide some of their vacant land for low-income families.**

The League has worked to eliminate discrimination in rentals to low-income families and has supported government subsidies for housing for these families. In the early 1970s, the League worked for fair housing by seeking adequate funding for the Division of Human Rights and administrative changes in, and expansion of, the Human Rights Law to make it more effective.

In 1974 and 1975, there was a successful effort for the passage of the Warranty of Habitability Law, which added an obligation by landlords to maintain rental properties in compliance with applicable codes and an obligation of tenants to pay rent. In 1979, the League successfully supported a Retaliatory Eviction bill, which protects tenants against retaliation when they notify officials of housing code violations or otherwise act in good faith to secure their rights to habitable housing.

Since 1974, the League has supported implementation of the Housing and Community Development Act, which consolidated federal assistance under the block grant approach. In 1989 the League supported legislation for a constitutional amendment, which would extend to counties the housing and development powers now granted to cities, towns and villages, an amendment, which would help provide affordable housing. This bill received first passage. However, it needed two successive sessions to approve this legislation, and it was defeated in 1991. The League continues to support this form of legislation.

SOCIAL POLICY

IMPACT ON ISSUES 2005-2007

62 Grand Street, Albany, New York 12207*Telephone: 518-465-4162*Fax: 518-465-0812

E-mail: lwnvny@lwnvny.org*Website: www.lwnvny.org

The League has consistently monitored the New York State budget to assure adequate state funds for affordable and accessible housing and for rent subsidies.