

HOUSING

Adopted: 1969 Amended: 1995, 2007

– POSITION IN BRIEF–

Support programs and policies to provide equal access to housing without discrimination and adequate housing for low and moderate income families.

– FULL POSITION –

Support of programs and policies to provide equal access to housing without discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, or any arbitrary reason.

The League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale supports programs to provide adequate housing for low and moderate income families. This support includes many programs, such as small multi-unit developments which may be purchased and single-family residences for lease or renting only.

The League strongly supports the idea that low-income families should have freedom of choice as to location of their homes. These developments should be scattered throughout the community, including utilization of empty lots within our cities. Density should be in direct ratio to available and potentially available services. Open spaces and architectural consistency with adjacent areas should be required in order to encourage the best aesthetic values. If desired or necessary, maintenance of the property should be included in the costs to low-income families.

In order to achieve these goals, changes should be made to provide for flexibility in zoning and building codes. These changes should be made to provide for economic mix, requiring a fixed percentage of low-income housing to be built into all new subdivisions of multiple planned units with low-income housing mixed throughout each development. Building codes should reflect flexibility, allowing use of innovative designs and materials for construction.

The League supports financial aid programs from one or all levels of government. Tax incentives should be given to private builders who meet the above criteria and requirements. The League supports programs with strong controls governing mortgage and rate protection and property maintenance.

The League contends that it is an inherent right of every person to enjoy equality of opportunity for adequate housing.