

NATURAL RESOURCES: Solid Waste

Positions: Solid Waste

(Adopted March 1973)

LWVO supports:

1. The philosophy that solid waste, from generation to ultimate disposal, must be purposefully and systematically controlled by all levels of government in order to provide efficient service, protect the environment, and achieve successful resource recovery.
2. The strengthening, expansion, and enforcement of state solid waste laws. The state should encourage reclamation and volume reduction.
3. Measures to forestall depletion of our natural resources and to recover nonrenewable resources.
4. Financing of solid waste facilities by a variety of methods, including user fees, or a combination of fees and/or taxes with state and federal aid; the use of private capital whenever possible.

Background: Solid Waste

Separate state consensus questions were asked as part of the LWVUS 1972-73 study of solid waste. Fifty-seven Leagues participated in developing these LWVO positions. LWVO's 1977 Convention dropped portions of the position statement covered by the LWVUS solid waste position.

In 1974, a constitutional amendment was passed authorizing industrial revenue bonds for disposal of solid waste. LWVO took no position.

LWVO worked with a coalition in the late 1970's to enact a mandatory bottle deposit law. Local Leagues played a major role. The initiative failed. However, the Office of Litter Control was established in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Lack of landfill space brought on the passage of 117-HB 592 in 1988, reducing reliance on the use of landfills by establishing new objectives for solid waste reduction, recycling, reuse, and minimization.

Most of Ohio's Solid Waste Management Districts have operated very successfully under 117-HB 592 and revisions that have been made. However, situations developed in a few districts that prompted legislators in 1997 to once again look at the solid waste law. Legislation was introduced but died in committee.

The Ohio 2006-07 budget bill, HB 66, reduced funding going to recycling programs through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention. HB 66 also placed a moratorium on new Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) landfills and formed a committee of business leaders, legislators, and the public to review the aspects of how CDD disposals are regulated in Ohio and make recommendations to the General Assembly. The committee's report resulted in legislation: 126-HB397, 126-HB417, 126-SB224, 126-SB234. LWVO commended Governor Taft and the 126th Legislature on the deliberate method used to construct this legislation.

Under direction by Governor Taft, the Legislature and the Ohio EPA continued to establish rules for disposal and beneficial use options for residential, industrial and manufacturing waste.

The 2009 State Plan for the Ohio EPA outlines direction for the reduction, reuse, and recycling of solid waste including the new use technologies for energy-from-waste. The LWVO will continue to follow resulting legislation and advocate for legislation that supports our solid waste positions.

