

**Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters  
Advocacy Positions**

**GOVERNMENT**

Wayne County Government  
Transportation

**Wayne County Government**

Support of efficient, effective, flexible charter county government.

Standards are:

A. For the Charter Commission

1. Disqualification of local and county officials for election to the commission.
2. Adequate salary for the commissioners.
3. A reasonable time limit for completion of commission work.
4. Adequate operational funds for the commission.

B. As to structure, a more responsible and more efficient form of county government.

1. There should be a single executive with power to appoint and remove heads of administrative departments, prepare and administer the budget and formulate long range plans. If an elective office, the executive should have veto power over legislation.
2. There should be no election of county clerk, register of deeds, sheriff, county treasurer, county auditor, or drain commissioner. The auditor should be appointed by the elected legislative body. The functions of the remaining listed officials should be assigned to administrative departments, the heads of which should be appointed by the county executive.
3. There should be a small elected legislative body of not more than 15 members. Districts should be of as nearly equal population as possible, and gerrymandering should be avoided.
4. Elected county officials should serve four-year terms.
5. Most county functions should be carried on by departments directly responsible to the executive rather than by semi-autonomous boards and commissions.

C. As to substantive powers, we favor:

In areas in which it is given power, the county should be allowed to set minimum standards for services to be provided by the municipalities. It is assumed that minimum standards would be set by the county only in areas of welfare, health and safety. The county should be allowed to set up special service assessment districts in order to furnish and fund services as requested by communities or as required by county standards. Some general fund assistance should be available for areas of low property value.

The charter should provide for the initiative and referendum in all areas other than appropriations where it is already prohibited by the state constitution. Wayne

County should have available taxes other than the property tax.

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## **Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters Advocacy Positions**

### **Transportation**

(Transportation Advocacy Position based on studies conducted by the former League of Women Voters Detroit Metropolitan Area (LWVDMA). Adopted by LWVGP, May 3, 2014.)

- A. Supports a Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Transit System.
  1. Includes all governmental units under a single transportation agency. Governmental units should not be able to opt out of this system.
  2. Goals should be to
    - a. provide transportation services
    - b. revitalize the urban area
    - c. reduce air pollution
  3. Primary attention should be given to:
    - a. increasing mobility throughout the area
    - b. helping the general population to get jobs
    - c. reducing the use of the private automobile
  
- B. Supports a Transportation Agency governed by an appointed board of 8-13 members.
  1. Term of office should be 3-4 years, overlapping, part-time, and with minimal salaries.
  2. Board members should represent both population and governmental units.
  3. Appointments should be by a combination of agencies to include SEMCOG and the Governor.
  4. The Mayor of Detroit and the County Board of Commissioners could be included in the appointing combination of agencies.
  5. If there is an elected board:
    - a. the election should be nonpartisan
    - b. public officials or employees should not be restricted from holding office, but each potential appointee should be carefully evaluated for possible conflict of interest.
  6. Board members, whether elected or appointed, should not be for an indefinite number of years.
  
- C. Supports a minimum level of service provided to all.
  1. This should include:
    - a. urban and outlying areas
    - b. the elderly
    - c. the handicapped
  2. The greatest level of service should go to heavily populated areas. Job locations should be considered in establishing transportation routes.

3. There should be a mix of line haul (bus lines of straight routes) and specialized bus service to outlying areas for those individuals who are dependent on public transportation for mobility.

- a. curb-to-curb and door-to-door should be available such as paratransit (new terminology defining other than "line haul") types of services.

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- b. park-and-ride type services should be available to avoid single occupancy vehicles.

4. There should be selected fare reductions for the handicapped, the elderly, the young and students.

D. Supports funding for public transportation from a combination of federal, state, and local sales taxes that supports modes of public transportation.

1. Vehicle-related taxes and taxes from other sources, such as general revenue and sales taxes should be included.
2. Extra local demand-responsible transportation should be funded mainly by the community served. A mix of other funding sources may be more appropriate for most types of special service or to meet the needs of certain populations.
3. There should be coordination among various types of special and line haul transportation services.

E. Supports statewide general purpose transportation fund.

1. Allocation from the fund should be determined by need.
2. State Department of Transportation should give equal attention to all modes of transportation.
3. The director of the Department should have experience in all modes of transportation.

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