

POSITION STATEMENTS

What is a Position Statement?

A Position Statement is a broad, general statement regarding a specified subject which provides a framework under which the Junior League of Los Angeles (JLLA) can act together to conduct advocacy on behalf of our community partners. Advocacy efforts could include (a) participation in a coalition working to address the issue; (b) the support, opposition or amendment of legislation at the state, local, or federal level or (c) education of our membership as to the impact of the issue in Los Angeles. It also provides guidance as to which issue areas our potential community partners and JLLA should be targeting to affect meaningful change.

What is the purpose of a Position Statement?

The purpose of a Position Statement is to allow JLLA to join together with other Leagues and community partners to support, oppose or amend legislation at the local, state or federal level that impacts one or more issues that has been or is being addressed by the Junior League of Los Angeles. For this reason, Position Statements may be broader than the Junior League of Los Angeles' current issue areas but should include our past and potential issue areas.

Additionally, it allows for the opportunity to pursue a project, partner, or piece of legislation that appropriately reflects the position of the Junior League of Los Angeles.

Which Councils use our Position Statement?

Any Council may use our JLLA position statements to guide their efforts. For example, Community Council may use them to pursue potential community partners in a specific area through our Project Research and Development Committee. Development may use it to apply for grants with a targeted focus on an issue as part of our Donor Cultivation plan. Public Policy uses them as part of our local advocacy efforts through the Local Public Affairs Committee, as well as at the state and federal level through the State Public Affairs Committee's efforts. In short, position statements are a guide for any Council to use as we engage with organizations and entities external to the Junior League of Los Angeles.

What is the California State Public Affairs Committee?

The California State Public Affairs Committee (California SPAC or SPAC) consists of the seventeen Junior Leagues in California. Each Junior League sends two representatives, the Senior and Junior SPAC delegates. SPAC represents over 10,000 Junior League members in California. SPAC advocates on behalf of the nearly one hundred collective community partners throughout the state in the areas of health, education, violence prevention and family support.

COMMUNITY

Position Statement on the Environment

The Junior League of Los Angeles supports the preservation of the environment as necessary for the health of future generations. As such, the League supports efforts to educate the public about ways to ameliorate toxins in food, soil, air, water as well as efforts to limit the presence of dangerous chemicals in consumer goods, including toys, which may impact the health and welfare of children.

Additional supported educational efforts include the dissemination of environmental health information, including inspection results, food safety, housing, pest control, and water quality. The League also supports programs to provide hands-on assistance to environmental clean up projects as well as promoting health and quality of life by identifying, preventing, and controlling harmful environmental factors in Los Angeles communities.

Position Statement on Homelessness

The Junior League of Los Angeles supports efforts to assist the homeless. JLLA primarily focuses on women and children through support services which provide, among other things, medical aid, education, including nutritional counseling, and shelters and will advocate to see that such services are provided to all women and children in need.

Position Statement on Voluntarism

The Junior League of Los Angeles supports and promotes voluntarism as essential to the welfare of our society.

Position Statement on Women

The Junior League of Los Angeles supports efforts to ensure that women and individuals who identify as women receive equal treatment and opportunity under the law and that women have equal access to the opportunities and services essential for their intellectual, economic, social, mental, physical and emotional well-being.

We will advocate to see that women have equitable access to and advancement in employment opportunities; equal pay for equal work; that workplace anti-discrimination statutes are vigorously enforced; that all women have access to quality, affordable daycare/dependent care; that nursing mothers are treated with dignity in public and in the workplace; that homemakers attain recognition of the economic value of the vital services that they perform; that legislation and government programs reflect marriage as an equal economic partnership; that women and girls have rights to education without discrimination or segregation and equal opportunity to participate in sports; and programs and services are provided that support developing the potential of women.

EDUCATION

Position Statement on Academic Achievement Gap

The Junior League of Los Angeles believes that every student should have equitable and optimal opportunities to learn free from bias – intentional or unintentional – based on race, gender, socioeconomic status, or language. The League supports programs and initiatives that are working to close the academic achievement gap.

Position Statement on Early Childhood Education

The Junior League of Los Angeles understands the need for and access to quality early childhood education for all children. The League thus supports and encourages early childhood education programs that help prepare all children for kindergarten and a lifetime of learning.

Position Statement on Education

The Junior League of Los Angeles is committed to ensuring that all individuals have access to an education that will provide them with the skills necessary to be productive members of our global society. We will advocate for policies and programs to achieve that goal. We are committed to giving children choices by nurturing families at risk, bolstering every child's ability to get a quality education, creating meaningful alternatives to violence. We will support multitude of efforts to provide after and/or before school programs for youth (one-on-one mentoring, career guidance, support of further education goals, parent involvement programs, teacher support/assistance and parenting skills).

Position Statement on Foster Youth Education

The Junior League of Los Angeles recognizes the challenges, obstacles and barriers foster youth face as they progress through the educational system. The League is committed to supporting foster youth in their educational achievements from early childhood through college and careers. The League supports programs, legislation and initiatives that work to raise awareness, promote best practices, policy improvements and reforms to improve education outcomes for children in foster care.

Position Statement on Literacy

The Junior League of Los Angeles is committed to increasing literacy among children, adolescents and adults. The League believes that literacy involves a continuum of learning which is pertinent to enabling individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential and to participate fully in their community and wider society.

Position Statement on Science, Math and Technology Education

The Junior League of Los Angeles is acutely aware of the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education in keeping America competitive in the global economy. Therefore, the League values and supports educational enrichment programs and initiatives that emphasize and offer STEM training for children, youth, and women.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Position Statement on At-Risk Families

The Junior League of Los Angeles recognizes the challenges faced today by at-risk families and supports and advocates for policies and programs to provide after and/or before school programs for youth, family counseling, parental involvement programs, parenting skills classes, and affordable daycare/dependent care.

Position Statement on Foster Youth

The Junior League of Los Angeles recognizes the unique challenges faced by children currently in foster care and the emancipated youth aging out of the foster care system. Numerous studies confirm that foster youth experience disproportionate increase in homelessness, unemployment, unplanned pregnancy, and incarceration. The League supports efforts to ensure that foster youth and young adults emancipated from foster care have the opportunities and services essential for their physical, intellectual, emotional, mental, social, and economic well-being and will advocate on their behalf to recommend that such opportunities and services exist. Additionally, the League sees value in and supports mentoring programs for foster youth.

HEALTH

Healthy Living

Physical Activity, Immunizations, Smoking Prevention, Alcohol & Drug Treatment

Position Statement on Childhood Obesity

The Junior League of Los Angeles supports programming and legislation to empower youth to make healthy lifestyle choices and help reverse the growing epidemic of childhood obesity which can in turn put youth at a greater risk for associated adult health issues including heart disease, type two diabetes, stroke, several types of cancer, and osteoarthritis.

Position Statement on Disease Prevention and Access to Health Care

The Junior League of Los Angeles recognizes that individuals require health-related information and access to quality healthcare for physical, mental, social and emotional growth and development. The League therefore supports programs that both enhance public awareness and access to healthcare, and encourages efforts in the field of medical research aimed at the prevention and treatment of disease.

Position Statement on Food Insecurity

The Junior League of Los Angeles recognizes the importance of building strong, sustainable, local and regional food systems that ensure access to affordable and nutritious food for all Los Angeles communities in order to decrease the prevalence of food insecurity, defined as the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods. As such, the League supports advocacy for initiatives designed to address food access problems on the local and state level and in turn, affect change on the related problem of obesity.

Position Statement on Perinatal Depression and Maternal Mental Health

The Junior League of Los Angeles supports Maternal Mental Health and Perinatal Depression awareness; Perinatal Depression encompasses a wide range of mood disorders that can affect a woman during pregnancy and after the birth of a child. The League is committed to continuing to raise awareness around this issue as an important step towards much needed educational campaigns and treatment programs, that will in turn reduce the stigma associated with this condition and help women, their families, friends, clinicians and other professionals recognize the signs. Specifically, the League supports all efforts to support and educate the public about perinatal depression, maternal mental health and support programs which directly assist women and families suffering from perinatal depression.

Position Statement on Substance Abuse

The Junior League of Los Angeles is concerned with the social health and economic consequences to individuals and society as a whole caused by the abuse of and addiction to substances such as illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. The League supports the development of policies and programs which provide education, prevention strategies, and/or treatment for those at risk and will advocate for these goals.

Diseases & Conditions

Infectious, Chronic, Flu, Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, STDs

Position Statement on AIDS

The Junior League of Los Angeles supports efforts to educate our communities about AIDS, assist persons infected with HIV, and promote ongoing and new research on AIDS prevention and treatment.

Position Statement on Microbicides

The Junior League of Los Angeles supports advocacy for the development and distribution of microbicides (including complementary emerging technologies) designed to protect women from HIV transmission. Microbicides, and other related technologies or therapeutics, provide the opportunity for women to have effective protection against STDs without relying on her partner for application. Women need HIV-prevention tools that they control in order to safeguard their health and that of their families and communities.

Position Statement on Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The Junior League of Los Angeles recognizes that sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) remain a major public health challenge in Los Angeles. Substantial incident cases of curable STDs (Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis) occur each year in Los Angeles County, the vast majority among young people, aged 15 to 24 years. As such, the League is committed to supporting efforts to educate our communities about STDs and to promote awareness regarding this growing issue.



Life Stages & Populations

Infant & Child, Pregnancy, Seniors, Women

Position Statement on Aging

The Junior League of Los Angeles supports efforts to ensure that older adults have the opportunities and services essential for their physical, intellectual, emotional, mental, social, and economic well-being and will advocate to see that such opportunities and services exist.

Position Statement on Teenage Pregnancy

The Junior League of Los Angeles supports opportunities for all teenagers to have access to both sex education and education assuring an informed decision to become a parent. The League supports the availability of information regarding contraceptives to all sexually active teenagers. In addition, the League supports programs designed to broaden the opportunities available to teenage parents by encouraging and providing support for them to complete their education.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Emergency Kits

Position Statement on Emergency Preparedness

The Junior League of Los Angeles recognizes the importance of increased emergency and disaster preparedness in communities throughout Los Angeles as recent surveys have indicated that a majority of participants do not have the food, water, and personal resources to withstand a prolonged loss of basic services and thus lack adequate preparation. As such, the League supports raising awareness and the development of policies and programs which provide education and strategies around public preparation.

Injury, Violence & Safety

Child Abuse, Falls, Fires, Poisoning, Suicide, Youth Violence

Position Statement on Child Abuse

The Junior League of Los Angeles recognizes that child abuse and neglect is a critical problem. Therefore, the League is committed to assuring that children have the opportunities and services essential for optimal physical, emotional, mental and social growth and will advocate to ensure that such opportunities and services are provided.

Position Statement on Health and Safety

The Junior League of Los Angeles is concerned with the health and safety of all individuals including those who are physically and mentally challenged and society as a whole, and is committed to the development of policies and programs which provide education and/or prevention strategies and/or treatment and will advocate for these goals.

Position Statement on Internet Safety

The Junior League of Los Angeles recognizes that as children are spending more time online, this is leading to an increased risk of predation and other cybercrimes. As there are few means of controlling the safety of the online environment, the League supports the development of comprehensive online and social medial safety programs, laws to prevent and prosecute cybercrimes, and educational programs to help children avoid this form of victimization.

SOCIETAL VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Position Statement on Domestic Violence

The Junior League of Los Angeles is committed to the prevention of domestic violence against women and children. We are committed to educating and empowering women to make choices to live a healthy violence-free life and healing children who are victims of domestic violence through mentoring programs and innovative after-school programs. The Junior League of Los Angeles supports programs and legislation that educate, protect, and prevent women and children from domestic violence.

Position Statement on Gun Violence

The Junior League of Los Angeles recognizes the prevalence of gun violence in the United States. As an organization that strives to promote education and the advancement of transitional age youth (TAY), the League is particularly invested in protecting children and students against gun violence. The League condemns gun violence of all types and supports legislation that promotes gun education and safety.

Position Statement on Human Trafficking

The Junior League of Los Angeles opposes human trafficking in all its forms, and supports programs and legislation that stops human trafficking, advocates for victims and educates the community at large. The Junior League of Los Angeles supports programs and legislation that assists victims of human trafficking in obtaining the government assistance they need and creates criminal and civil penalties and remedies for those who perpetuate human trafficking in the world. Additionally, the Junior League of Los Angeles supports legislation and programs that promote educating law enforcement agencies how to identify trafficking victims to ensure that victims are not treated as criminals but are instead referred to the proper organization to receive the assistance and guidance they need.

Position Statement on Sexual Assault

The Junior League of Los Angeles recognizes that Los Angeles eliminated its historic rape kit backlog in 2011 due to strong pressure by victim advocates. As such, the League is committed to supporting efforts to prevent any future backlogs of untested rape kits, which, if tested, may contain evidence to prevent future violence against women. The League supports such efforts through programs and legislation aimed at protecting all victims of sexual violence.



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Position Statement on Sexual Harassment

The Junior League of Los Angeles is committed to ending sexual harassment in any environment. The League supports efforts and policies to ban discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.