

LWVOR Position Statements — July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

1. Home Rule:

LWVOR favors Home Rule for Oak Ridge.

2. Federal Financial Assistance to the City:

LWVOR supports federal financial assistance programs for Oak Ridge.

3. Land Use:

LWVOR

- Supports preservation and maintenance of city-owned greenbelts and long-range planning for their use, with assigned responsibilities in the city government for implementation; and
- encourages industrial development in conformity with adequate codes.

4. Council-Manager Form of Government:

LWVOR supports the Council-Manager form of government for Oak Ridge. (This position was reaffirmed at a consensus meeting on September 30, 2003, with formal re-adoption by the board on October 14, 2003)

5. Housing:

LWVOR agrees that:

- a. Since additional moderate-priced housing is important to the future of Oak Ridge, the City should use appropriate means to encourage such construction, as it does industrial development.
- b. City code enforcement personnel should be maintained at a level adequate to handle the number of inspections required.
- c. The city should require code inspection to take place when occupancy of rental property changes, although not more frequently than once a year.
- d. The Housing Code should continue to require owners to provide a safe and adequate heat source.
- e. Procedures should be improved that allow the City to require renovation or removal of dangerous or unsafe structures in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- f. The city should investigate mechanisms to deal with property that is unsightly and neglected and implement them if feasible.
- g. It is desirable to develop and make available a basic rental contract, written in plain language, to protect the rights of landlords and tenants.