

BOARD OF FINANCE

(Adopted 1978, Revised 1979, 1983, 1992)

The League of Women Voters of Westport supports the separation of power, as established by Town Charter, among the First Selectman, the Board of Finance and the Representative Town Meeting, in budget preparation and review and approval of appropriations.*

Explanation:

1. We believe that the First Selectman should take a strong lead in the budget-making process.
 - a. The budgetary process should start early enough to give new boards and new personnel enough time on the job before starting on budget-making.
 - b. Adhering closely to the Town Charter, the First Selectman should set priorities and assume responsibilities for the town budget.
2. We believe that the Representative Town Meeting should have a strong role in financial and budgetary decisions.
3. All personnel involved in the Town's budget-making process should be able to justify any action and expense considering the following:
 - a. Degree of benefit to the entire community.
 - b. Degree of seriousness of the problem.
 - c. Appropriateness of timing, considering future needs and planning.
 - d. Cooperation and coordination with other agencies affected.
 - e. Adequacy of proposed action to solving the problem.
 - f. Capacity of the agency or department and its personnel to achieve expected results.
 - g. Possibility of alternative or other sources of support including financial support.
4. We support bonding to fund large, nonrecurring projects.
5. We support use of general revenue-sharing funds, if available, primarily as nonrecurring capital expenditures rather than general expenditures.

* Please refer to the League of Women Voters of Westport's position on Budget Process.