

*Slipp* *Parker*  
Atlanta Urban League  
239 Auburn Ave., N. E.  
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# FACTS

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## PROGRAM 1964-65

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, is dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

### CHALLENGE TO LEAGUE MEMBERS

**Working through the League, your citizen's voice is magnified a thousand times!**  
**What you think counts!**  
**What you do carries weight!**  
**What you contribute toward developing League program alters the face of your government!**

The following Program was adopted at the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Atlanta on March 31, 1964:

**CURRENT AGENDA** — ("CA's" — subjects which have been studied and on which the League has reached consensus)

- I. **METROPOLITAN GROWTH:** Evaluation of practicable means of providing cooperative governmental structures and urban services.
- II. **WELFARE:** Continued considerations of public welfare laws, facilities and services.

**CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES** — ("CR's" — subjects which have been studied and on which the League has reached consensus.)

- I. Preservation and Improvement of Public Schools of Atlanta and Fulton County
- II. An Effective Urban Renewal Program
- III. Local Elections: Short Ballot  
Reduction in size of Fulton County Democratic Executive Committee  
Late Primary  
Improvement of Atlanta Election Processes  
Election Costs Paid from Public Funds
- IV. Local Government Administration

## CURRENT AGENDA

- I. METROPOLITAN GROWTH:** The League has had a Metropolitan Growth Item on the Agenda for several years and has made a series of studies on parks, mass transportation and urban services.

**Positions:** The League supports acquisition of park sites and opposes diversion of existing park lands to non-recreational uses. There is a plan being devised by the Metropolitan Planning Commission to provide new areas within the city for park usage and acquisition of open spaces outside the city for regional parks within one hour's drive from the city. This plan will be studied carefully by the Committee.

The League favors some type of mass transit system for Atlanta and its environs. The Constitutional Amendment which passed the last General Assembly would allow the five-county area, or any part of it, to begin construction on a Rapid Transit System and to levy taxes for the purpose. Under the present Constitution this will be submitted to the voters for approval this fall. Such authority is included in the current draft of the proposed new Constitution.

### AREA OF NEW STUDY

**Water and Sewerage:** Study all possibilities for further cooperation between the Water Department and the Sewer Department, and the consideration of combining the two under one department of government.

The committee will also closely follow developments relating to pollution control and flooding in the metropolitan area but does not plan extensive study on this problem.

**Metropolitan Governments:** The Metropolitan Growth Committee plans a new study of the inter-relationships of the many and varied municipal governments. This study will be made in cooperation with the newly established (and as yet unnamed) Council representing all these governments. Cooperation with the County Commissioners, Council of Mayors, Atlanta Region Metropolitan Planning Commission and other interested groups will, we hope, give us sufficient information to compile consensus questions for our briefings.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mrs. Robert Cohn, Chairman  
Mrs. Robert L. Brown  
Mrs. John T. Galambos

Mrs. William P. Montgomery, Co-Chairman  
Mrs. William Reid Darnell  
Mrs. Paul Weir

Committee meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month at the home of the chairman. Any League members who wish to participate in either the Metropolitan Growth or Welfare studies or simply observe at committee meetings will be welcome.

- II. WELFARE:** Although Welfare has been a Current Agenda item for two years, there has been no consensus. The issue of FACTS, "WELFARE — A New Look" describes the fluidity of the situation over the past two years, locally and in the state, which made it impractical to try for consensus in the phases under study.

### Area of New Study — Grady Hospital.

The Committee will study the structure and function of Grady Hospital itself and the Authority which governs it. They also will study its education services (Grady is a "teaching" hospital), personnel, out-patient and in-patient operations, financing and budget, and psychiatric care. For the first time the League will have observers at the meetings of the Hospital Authority (only part of which are even now open to us).

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs. Edward J. Kelley, Chairman  
Mrs. Pierce Allgood  
Mrs. Angus Avar  
Miss Glenda Briscoe  
Mrs. Dan Burge  
Mrs. Harry Dunstan

Mrs. A. C. Hueners  
Mrs. P. Richard Hosang  
Mrs. George LaFitte  
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Mrs. Forrest W. Paige  
Mrs. Fred Ryan  
Mrs. Randolph Whitfield

Committee meetings at which any League member is welcome will be held on the last Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Call League office for place of meeting.

## CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

### I. Preservation and Improvement of Public Schools of Atlanta and Fulton County.

Our primary position under this CR is our commitment to keep the schools open. There is a possibility that in the coming year consolidation of the school systems of Atlanta and Fulton County will be proposed. If this develops the League can study the question and possibly reach a position to act.

### II. An Effective Urban Renewal Program

During the past year the Urban Renewal program threatened to bog down because Atlanta did not meet requirements for federal support; i.e., adequate code enforcement with emphasis on the Housing Code, adequate relocation efforts for displaced families, adequate public housing, adequate activity on the part of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Revision of the housing inspection system has already been effected and four (4) additional Housing Code inspectors have been employed. Plans are under way for more public housing, although there are only two very small projects under construction so far. The Citizens Advisory Committee has committed itself to press aggressively for adequate relocation facilities. The federal government has agreed to "go along" and supply further funds on this basis.

Under the supervision of the Urban Renewal Committee there is under way a city-wide study — to be called the "Community Improvement Program" — to determine the needs and best overall plan for city-wide development. The federal government will pay two-thirds of the cost of the study.

The League's job during the next year in supporting its position on Urban Renewal will consist mostly of closely following progress of the above and testifying before various hearings and committees.

### III. Local Elections

Many of the League's positions have been incorporated in the proposed new Election Code which is before the Georgia Legislature as this issue of FACTS goes to press.

Since Fulton County has become a two-party area, members at the Annual Meeting questioned the appropriateness of the second item under this CR. The suggestion was that we should also study the Republican Fulton County Executive Committee if we wish to keep it on our CR's. They urged the Board to restudy this position during the coming year in light of current circumstances.

### IV. Local Government Administration

Portions of the Plan of Improvement will automatically fall under the study of the current Metropolitan Growth item.

The League will continue to support sound budgeting practices for local government and the public school systems, public hearings, efficient uses of funds and safeguards against overspending. The League attends all budget hearings and fulfills its Continuing Responsibility in this field by studying all proposed budgets and making public statements before the appropriate government bodies.

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