

Government

Humboldt County Grand Jury System - 1991, 1995, 2000

Position Summary: Support improved understanding of and participation in the Grand Jury system and strengthening the resources and support for the Grand Jury, so that it can carry out its investigative functions.

Positions:

1. Increase accurate information to the public about the Grand Jury process and procedures through the Presiding Judge, the Jury Commissioner, community groups, media and former Grand Jurors.
2. Support the formation of a regular Grand Jury composed of citizens, willing to serve, selected from a cross section of the community.
3. Encourage Grand Jury to focus on its power to investigate government agencies with lesser emphasis to be given to criminal investigations.
4. Improve resources and support to Grand Jury by providing adequate office and meeting space, childcare, clerical help and reimbursement for travel.
5. Encourage publication of Grand Jury report and responses to the report by a community-wide newspaper.
6. Encourage Jury Commissioner to send out more informative brochure to prospective Grand Jurors.
7. Encourage and fund comprehensive orientation and training for regular Grand Jurors.
8. Support the use of standardized format for comprehensive official responses to Grand Jury final report findings and recommendations.

Library Facilities - 1970

Position Summary: Support of improved library facilities in the Humboldt County Library District.

Positions:

1. Improve quality and quantity of materials.
2. Increase staff to meet basic state library standards.
3. Improve multi-media services.
4. Increase accessibility and convenience to the public.
5. Apply for state and federal funds available to assist in reaching these goals.
6. Increase financing to provide for present and future needs.

Eureka City Government - 1976

Position Summary: The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County supports retaining a city charter that insures a council/manager form of government which provides for well-trained and qualified personnel for the complexities of city management, is flexible and easy to understand, conforms to the provisions of state law and contains the basic direction of city government with the majority of issues to be dealt with by ordinance procedure.

Local Government Financing in Humboldt County - 1980

Position Summary: Support of adequate local government financing to maintain government services to meet the demands of the community.

Positions:

1. Strengthen local government revenues through continued acquisition of available federal funds when available, creating a local income tax through the redistribution of the state income tax, increasing local share of the state sales tax according to the point of origin, and use of fees set at an appropriate level.
2. Decrease of local government expenditures by consolidation of special districts when possible, conversion of special districts to assessment districts when feasible, and avoidance of overlapping of special districts.
3. Accommodation of community needs by the county or cities providing general services instead of creating new government structures.
4. Use of fees should be encouraged when services result in specific individual benefit and if discontinued services are demanded by the community. Fees should be reviewed periodically at budget time to reflect the cost of services.
5. Use of assessment districts to help finance capital improvements and maintenance in business districts and residential areas. Allocation of public and private benefits of the project to be assessed must be carefully determined. Payment of assessment for those on fixed incomes may be deferred until the property is sold or inherited.

The Role of Government in Economic Development in Humboldt County – 1982, 2005

Position Summary: Support of economic development in Humboldt County by local government defining goals, setting priorities, providing appropriate planning and implementation, understanding and implementing environmental regulations, facilitating coordination and funding, and promoting public awareness of the procedures for economic development. Support of tourism and recreation as important to the economic development of Humboldt County.

Positions:

1. Local government in Humboldt County should promote economic development which is favorably evaluated using the following criteria: Is acceptable environmentally; is labor intensive; uses existing local labor force; complements present business (including tourist business, arts and artisans); is water and energy efficient; makes best use of native resources (including agricultural and timber lands), renewable resources and waste products.
2. Local governments can become more effective in encouraging economic development by: Completing general plans and implementing general plans; long range capital improvement planning; facilitating the permit process by various procedures, for example: a) check list, b) plan review, c) scoping sessions; supporting transportation development which will enhance prospective economic development; promoting equitable rates and schedules.
3. Local governments should become more effective in coordinating economic development by: Promoting economic planning and development countywide as well as for individual areas; promoting understanding and cooperation between the different entities and agencies involved in economic development; establishing a centralized location in the county for dissemination of information related to economic development, staffed by trained and qualified persons.
4. An effort should be made by the County Board of Supervisors to determine the effectiveness of present promotion and advertising efforts.

Transportation in Humboldt County - 1984

Position Summary: Support of a balanced transportation system which includes rail, water, air and road transportation, and provides for improvement and funding adequate to maintain a coordinated system.

Positions:

1. Encourage improvements of Highway 299 and 101.
2. Public funds should be used if necessary to subsidize roads, public transportation, harbor facilities, airport facilities and railroads.
3. The shortfall in funding for state and county roads should be mitigated by increasing the gas tax. Roads largely serving private benefits should be funded by the property owners benefiting from these roads. A less desirable alternative is for government to abandon roads.
4. The League should help the public understand the need for road maintenance by disseminating information by media, publications, videocassettes and speakers bureau.
5. In planning for road use and maintenance, tourism should receive high consideration. Heavy industry, such as lumber, should be encouraged to use other modes of transportation namely water and rail which will increase cost effectiveness and lessen wear and tear on the roads.
6. Public transportation should be encouraged by improving bus service by such means as coordinating schedules, providing parking facilities, developing promotions and public education, adding bus routes when warranted and meeting tourist needs. Paratransit is an important service to be maintained at an adequate level.
7. Rail service should be increased and maintained for freight and passenger service.
8. Water transportation should be increased and harbor facilities improved. Water transportation should be coordinated with highways and rail. Passenger service into Humboldt Bay is desirable as a seasonal tourist attraction. A full time port director for Humboldt Bay is necessary.
9. Local governments should encourage air carriers by upgrading the airport facility, promoting competitive gasoline prices at the airport and improving economic conditions in Humboldt County.

Eureka Redevelopment Agency Study - 1993

Position Summary: Support for a well-managed Eureka Redevelopment Agency, faithful to its mandates, responsive to the needs of the community, and open to citizen participation.

Positions:

1. There shall be a master plan for the Eureka Redevelopment Agency. The plan shall implement the 1991 Blue Ribbon Committee and the Grand Juries' Reports recommendations. The Redevelopment Agency shall be in compliance with the law.
2. The Eureka Redevelopment Agency is to take the following steps to meet some of the concerns of the 1991 Blue Ribbon Report and the 1991-92 Grand Jury Report:
 - A. Attract businesses where the infrastructure has already been improved.
 - B. Address the problem that the Eureka Redevelopment Agency has not generated the amount of revenue anticipated.
 - C. Compare the Eureka Redevelopment Agency with successful agencies and learn what we can for the remaining years of our agency's existence.
 - D. The annual report shall include progress on the achievements of the plan. It shall be professionally and economically prepared with such features as pagination and indexation, and shall have increased accessibility to the public.
3. The Redevelopment Agency shall increase public participation in oversight and decision-making.
4. A Citizens Advisory Board to the Eureka Redevelopment Agency shall be formed.

5. The composition of the Advisory Board shall attempt to achieve a broad-based and diverse representation of the community while avoiding overrepresentation of any one group or industry. Representation from legal and financial community is desirable. The Eureka Redevelopment Agency Board should appoint one of its members to be a nonvoting liaison to the Citizens Advisory Board.
6. The Citizens Advisory Board shall develop and follow appropriate By-Laws. The Board shall hold regular meetings which are open to the public, and shall comply with the Brown Act, 1994. The meeting schedule should be coordinated with the Agency meetings and with the Housing Advisory Board meetings.
7. The following conditions must be met in order for the citizens to give direction to elected officials regarding extension of the agency:
 - A. Any negotiating meetings between taxing agencies must be well "noticed," and minutes shall be made public.
 - B. The private consultant hired by the Eureka Redevelopment Agency will make reports, which will be part of the public record, at regular Redevelopment Agency meeting.
 - C. Publication of a 20-year synopsis report, with current addenda, on what the agency has accomplished.
 - D. A comprehensive presentation made at a public study session.
 - E. Specific proposals by the agency for the extension period shall be published and made easily available to the public.