

League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area

Agenda for Action – Public Policy Positions

September 2012

Transportation – Richland County Transportation sales tax increase

The LWV of the Columbia Area supports the ordinance to levy and impose a 1% sales and use tax, within Richland County, to finance the costs of county transportation-related projects, including mass transit systems, highways, roads, greenways, bike paths, and sidewalks.

The LWV of Columbia also supports the issuance by Richland County of general obligation bonds not to exceed \$450 million, payable from the 1% sales and use tax, to fund the county transportation-related projects.

Background/Action: This position was adopted and approved by the Board of Directors of LWVCA in September 2012. The Transportation Penny (Special Sales and Use Tax) was passed by the voters of Richland County on November 6, 2012.

The Transportation Penny is being used to complete more than a billion dollars' worth of major road, bike and pedestrian greenway projects, plus provide over two decades of funding for the bus service and transportation services for the community.

Richland County has listed more than 40 road projects as part of their roadway improvement plans, and those projects make up more than sixty percent of the money that will be collected from the tax.

A little less than 30 percent of the funds are planned to improve the COMET bus system, with the remaining money going to bike paths and greenways.

See <http://www.richlandpenny.com/> for lists of projects and completion dates.

