



**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE CARY HOUSING PLAN**  
**November 9, 2021**

The League of Women Voters of Wake County ("Wake LWV") has reviewed the Cary Housing Plan ("Plan"), heartily endorses it on behalf of our Cary members, and encourages the Cary Town Council to endorse it too. The nationwide housing crunch has come to Cary and especially affects those of modest means, whether they be younger folks embarking on their careers, senior citizens in retirement, public service workers such as teachers and police officers, or service employees in our many businesses. Wake LWV applauds the Plan for recognizing the importance of tailoring the town's land use and development priorities so that affordable, safe, convenient housing is within reach for a population that is becoming steadily more diverse -- in age, income, family type and lifestyle -- as Cary matures.

The Plan highlights imbalances in the housing supply that can only be expected to grow more severe if not addressed. New construction now is pitched to those seeking to buy or rent toward the upper end of the price range. While neighborhoods and developments of this kind are Cary's backbone and contribute greatly to its attractiveness, the Plan makes crystal-clear that there needs to be a broader selection of affordable housing types, both owner-occupied and rental. We all know how Cary has evolved in recent years, with careful planning enabling it to take full advantage of a good location and a thriving regional economy and the Plan continues that approach. It acknowledges that the town's current growth trajectory poses challenges that must be addressed to avoid growth to undermine Cary's overall health as a community. These challenges have to do with the short supply of housing that meets the needs of all those who wish to call Cary their hometown.

Wake LWV is greatly encouraged by the Plan's comprehensive recommendations for diversifying the town's housing supply. More coordination with prospective developers and advocates in pursuit of affordable housing goals, as the Plan calls for, surely is one promising strategy. The Plan also is forthright in describing ways that further public investment can be brought to bear. An example is the proposal for loan programs targeted at the upkeep of older properties so they remain viable and affordable options while guarding against neighborhood decay. Direct public support via a dedicated housing fund that could pool various funding streams is a bold, timely suggestion that Wake LWV sees as a keystone to Cary's affordable housing efforts.

North Carolina's seventh-largest city has much to celebrate as a place that continues to attract new residents and businesses while its civic fabric grows richer. The Plan, if adopted, would help Cary sustain its livability and promote equity in policies that will shape the town's future. That makes the Plan another example of how to meet the sometimes elusive goal of doing well by doing good. Kudos to the town council and staff for meeting your affordable housing challenges head on and with creativity.