



## League of American Bicyclists Policy Statement on Electric Bicycles

Bicycles continue to be the vehicle of the future. Electric assistance can help more people realize the many benefits of bicycling. The League believes in the power of bicycling, and looks forward to how bicycles, of all types, can make America a healthier, economically stronger, environmentally cleaner, and more energy independent nation. Thanks to improvements in mobility, cargo utility, and physical accommodation made possible by e-bikes, the opportunity exists to expand the populations that can utilize bicycles for transportation and recreation. Public policy should encourage the expanded use of bicycles and e-bikes.

Bicycles have numerous environmental, health, and safety advantages when compared with passenger motor vehicles. Regulations of e-bikes should recognize that e-bikes provide similar opportunities to improve the environment, health, and safety of transportation systems by offering an alternative to cars and trucks. Both standard bicycles and e-bikes should be promoted as part of public policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reach zero traffic deaths, and increase physical activity.

The League believes that e-bikes have a right to use the road and in the consistent and fair treatment of e-bike users under the law. In most cases, vehicle-neutral laws are likely to be easier to consistently and fairly administer than vehicle-class-based laws. An example of vehicle-neutral policy would be to have speed limits on shared use paths rather than class-based vehicle bans. The design of facilities and behaviors of road users are the most important things for making sure that all people are safe on our roadways and trails.

The League opposes policies and programs that discourage or suppress bicycling. Justifiable public policy for certain types of electric bicycles on issues such as licensing and registration, mandatory use of helmets, or restrictions on where electric bicycles travel should be narrowly tailored to not discourage or suppress the use of standard bicycles or functionally similar low-speed electric bicycles.

The League Supports:

- Electric bicycles giving more transportation options to people.
- Policies that center the experience of under-represented people and seek to extend the safe mobility options of people with lower incomes, Black and Brown people, older adults, people with disabilities and others who have historically had mobility options limited. Where experience shows that e-bike policies result in disproportionate impacts for some groups, policymakers should re-examine their policies.
- Bicycle clubs welcoming e-bike riders.
- The 3-Class System for e-bikes as adopted by many states:



## Overview of the 3-Class System for E-bikes

	Characteristics		Regulations
<b>Class 1 E-bike</b>	Provides Assistance:	Only when pedaling	Generally treated like a standard bicycle.
	Top Assisted Speed:	20 mph	
<b>Class 2 E-bike</b>	Provides Assistance:	When pedaling or by throttle	Generally treated like a standard bicycle. May be restricted from shared use paths or trails.
	Top Assisted Speed:	20 mph	
<b>Class 3 E-bike</b>	Provides Assistance:	Only when pedaling	More likely to be restricted from shared use paths or trails. May require use of a helmet, have minimum age requirements, or be subject to other regulation.
	Top Assisted Speed:	28 mph	

The League recommends:

- Government efforts to provide financing, credits, or other financial assistance to allow all people to have access to bicycles, including low-speed electric bicycles.
- Electric bicycles and bicycling groups being included in vehicle electrification policy forums. Electric bicycles provide many of the same benefits as electric vehicles and provide additional benefits due to their smaller size and physical activity-related health benefits.
- Research into how both standard bicycles and electric bicycles can beneficially impact the health, economic, environmental, and energy needs of our communities in a positive manner, and government support for maximizing demonstrated benefits.