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The League of Women Voters of San Diego's Charter Review Committee is making the following recommendations regarding updating the City Charter for the April 16, 2015 meeting:

**#1) Articles IV, V, and XV should be integrated before they are on the Council's Charter Review Committee's agenda**, so appropriate comments can be made. **The references to the City Manager should be removed from the Charter. The role of the Chief Operating Officer should be established and clarified.**

#2) Public Benefit

Section 90.3 Voter Approval for Major Public Projects Conferring Significant Private Benefit

Insert the bold words in subsection (a): The City may not enter into the agreements necessary for financing, development and construction of a major public project that confers a significant private benefit, unless that project **is found to also confer a significant public benefit and** is submitted to a vote at a municipal election and a majority of those voting in that election approve the project.

Insert in Section 90.3 as subsection (b 4) and renumber subsequent subsections

**b (4) The term "significant public benefit" means that over the projected economic life of the proposed capital improvement will generate tax revenue for the City which exceeds the amount of cost for the capital improvement.**

LWV Position - The League of Women Voters of California's position on tax equity ensures that tax expenditures "are in the interest of the general public and not just a specific group [and] provide social benefits that significantly outweigh the increased tax burden to others.

**#3) Salaries of Council Members and Mayor - Revise Section 12.1 and Section 24.1; Repeal Section 41.1. The salaries of elected city officials should be tied to an independent benchmark and thus the Salary Setting Commission can be abolished.**

League Position - "The League of Women Voters of San Diego believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, [and] adequate financing...." Because of the political implications of the City Council voting increases in its members' salaries, especially when there is a budget deficit, salaries are not keeping up with the economy, with private sector salaries, or with city staff salaries. This may be preventing some people from running for office and/or having elected officials who are the most competent in these important jobs.

**#4) Dollar figures in the City Charter should be deleted** because they get out-of-date too quickly. They could be in the municipal code.

**#5) Every contract shall include enough funding for adequate oversight and monitoring.**

**The contracting process should take into consideration local contractors who may not have the lowest responsible bid.**

League Position - "The League of Women Voters of San Diego supports a city government with structures and procedures that promote responsive, responsible and efficient government with adequate checks and balances of power, [and] with equal opportunities for citizens..."

#6) **Repeal Section 99.1, Stadium** because it is out of date.

#7) Section 26.1 Public Services Required

**Review Basic Municipal Services. We suggest removing public health services and adding trash collection, street maintenance, planning, and public safety.** Public health is the responsibility of the County of San Diego.

#8) Section 41 Commissions (the first paragraph) and Section 41d Ethics Commission.

Since the Ethics Commission could investigate the elected officials of the city, **we recommend that the Ethics Commissioners be appointed by people other than elected representatives, such as retired judges. For this reason, the Ethics Commission should be removed from Section 41 and have its own section similar to 41.1 Salary Setting Commission.**

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