



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO

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To: Honorable City Councilmembers of the Charter Review Committee

From: Beryl Flom, Chair, League of Women Voters Committee on the Charter Review

1) Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

a) The League of Women Voters of San Diego thanks all who were involved for posting the agenda and related documents on the city website a week before this meeting.

b) We like the recommendation for a preamble to the revised City Charter made by another member of the public.

c) Consolidating Articles IV, V, and XV - Articles IV, V and XV all address the executive branch of city government. Article IV addresses the Mayor, Article V addresses executive and administrative services and Article XV addresses the Strong Mayor form of governance. The League of Women Voters recommends that all of these Articles be consolidated into one or at most two Articles. Now that the voters have approved permanently the strong mayor form of government, there is no need for a separate article on this topic and it should be folded in with Article V. And since the Mayor is the head of the executive branch of city government, Article IV conceivably could also be consolidated with Article V.

d) The dollar figures in the City Charter should be deleted because they get out-of-date too quickly. They could be in the municipal code.

e) Every contract shall include enough funding for adequate oversight and monitoring. The contracting process should take into consideration local contractors who may not necessarily have the lowest responsive bid.

2) Testimony on Agenda Items

a) Agenda Item 1:

The League of Women Voters of San Diego feels strongly that the City Auditor should remain independent and not be working for the COO or the CFO.

b) Agenda Item 3-A, Section 69 - Fiscal Year and Manager's Estimate and Agenda item 3-C, Section 71 - Preparation and Passage of Annual Appropriation Ordinance:

Instead of moving sections like 69 and 71 out of Article VII to XV, Article XV should be integrated into Article VII:

c) Agenda item 3-H, Section 77A - Provisions for Zoological Exhibits:

The expenditure of the money collected by the city as a Zoo tax needs to be accounted for by the City Auditor on an annual basis.

d) Agenda item 3-O, Section 90.3 - Voter Approval for Major Public Projects Conferring Significant Private Benefit:

The League of Women Voters of San Diego recommends inserting public benefit into this section as follows:

Subsection (a) - insert the bold words: 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 subsection (b4) as follows and renumber subsequent subsections: **The term "significant public benefit" means that the proposed capital improvement will generate tax revenue for the city which exceeds the cost for the capital improvement over the projected economic life of the project.**

e) Agenda item 3-Q, Section 103.1a - Environmental Growth Fund:

The list of utility franchises could be updated to include communications infrastructure. The money in this fund should continue to be used as currently described in this Section and should not be used for more diverse purposes.

Any franchise where the city creates a monopoly such as cable or commercial trash hauling should either be subject to competitive bidding or have an independent rate review by a newly created rate review commission under Section 103.