



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO

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To: Honorable City Council Members of the Charter Review Committee

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

Discussion Agenda

Item 1 - Preamble - The League of Women Voters of San Diego prefers the first paragraph of the preamble submitted by a long-standing League member because it is more meaningful and aspirational. It reads:

City government is the steward of the public good. The purpose and intent of the San Diego City Charter is to provide for government effectiveness, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility; ensure government responsiveness to local needs; enable equitable development and environmental justice in our communities; foster transparency, ethics, and accountability in government functions; assure fair citizen participation in the affairs of the City; improve the safety, quality of life, and standard of living of all San Diegans; engage in long-term conservation and sustainable management of our natural resources; protect the integrity of government decision-making; and promote public confidence in city government.

Item 2 - Article V

A) Section 41(c), City Planning Commission

The League of Women Voters of San Diego strongly recommends keeping the composition of the Planning Commission in the Charter as it is currently written. However, the second paragraph of this section could be deleted as it is obsolete. If the composition of the Commission is only in the municipal law, it is too easy to politicize or shrink it. Planning should not be at the whim of a particular mayor or council. A seven-member Commission provides wider diversity in its members.

B) Section 41(d), Ethics Commission

The League of Women Voters of San Diego supports the draft of this section submitted by the Executive Director of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission. However, we recommend that the appointment process be changed (as stated in Section 41(d)). Since it is possible that the Ethics Commission could investigate the elected officials of the city who appoint or confirm them, 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.

Item 3, Article VII

B) Section 103.1A, Environmental Growth Fund

The source of the Environmental Growth Fund is 25% of all moneys derived from the "revenues accruing to the City from any franchises for the transmission and distribution of gas, electricity and steam within the City of San Diego." The League of Women Voters of San Diego recommends that "steam" be removed from this list and that "telecommunications" be added to it. Although we have not seen any proposed change of wording for this section, clearly this fund should be retained to pay off any park and open space bonds and continue to plan and acquire additional environmentally desirable land for open space, parks and recreation.

Item 5C4, Section 144

Although the League of Women Voters of San Diego had no wording for an additional sub-item g codifying the Board of Administration's authority to hire and retain its own independent legal counsel, we support this concept because there could be conflict between SDCERS and the City Council.
