

Ethics Council Testimony 9-21-10

Honorable Mayor and members of the City Council. I'm Joan Donahue, President of Riverside's League of Women Voters.

The League strongly supports The Group's recommendation to appoint an independent panel to judge ethics complaints brought against City Council members and members of Boards and Commissions.

We recommend the following process for selection of a citizen's panel to evaluate ethics complaints:

With citizen input, appropriate criteria are put in place to qualify panel members - then citizens are invited to apply for the panel.

Given the criteria, the City Clerk's office validates applicant's qualifications.

All qualified candidates are put into a 'pool.' In the event of the need for a panel to judge an ethics complaint, names are drawn from the qualified applicant's pool and a panel is seated.

On a larger scale, the State of California is using a similar system to seat the new Citizen's Redistricting Commission - with a premium on qualified and unbiased panelists and dedication to transparency though out the process.

We ask you to take this action and send a strong message -

That Council Members are serious about ethics and recognize the need to have a process in place that clearly demonstrates your unbiased interest in enforcing the rules that govern your actions.

Thank you for your attention.

League of Women Voters of Northwest Riverside County