

Council Testimony  
Formal Neighborhood Council System  
March 2, 2010

Honorable Mayor and members of the City Council, my name is Joan Donahue and I am President of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Riverside County

We would like to offer our enthusiastic support for the creation of a system of Neighborhood Councils.

At 90 years of age the League of Women Voters is one of the original grassroots political organizations. With over 900 local Leagues across the United States, we are firm believers in an 'inside – out' system of governance.

As neighborhoods are the grass-roots of local government, we support and encourage a system with the potential to increase both neighborhoods access and influence in policy decisions.

Moreover, we hope that this system will encourage neighborhoods that don't have active organizations to create them and share in the opportunity to bring their neighborhood's unique concerns to the table.

All three items on the discussion calendar tonight address smart growth and the League has ongoing as well as historic support for each one.

But this item emphasizes one of our best resources, the citizens of our neighborhoods, and addresses one of League fundamental goals - the development and expansion of citizen's participation in government.

LWV Northwest Riverside County encourages implementation of a Neighborhood Council System, thanks you for your efforts and offers our support and assistance.