



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® PASADENA AREA

CITY CLERK

18 JAN 08 04:14 PM

Alhambra Altadena Arcadia Bradbury Duarte LaCañada Flintridge Monrovia Monterey Park  
Pasadena San Gabriel San Marino Sierra Madre South Pasadena

January 8, 2018

Dear Pasadena City Council Members,

I am speaking to the Agenda item which is directing staff to prepare appropriate Charter Amendment Ballot Measure language on the Future Format of City Elections that are consistent with the California Voter Participation Rights Act. to be submitted for Voter Approval at the June 5, 2018 Statewide Primary Election

The purpose of the CVPRA legislation is to afford opportunities for all residents to vote by requiring that all elections be on the same calendar as the state/national elections. The expected outcome is that there will be a greater voter turnout for elections, as local ballots are included with the state and national ballots

The League of Women Voters, Pasadena Area spoke to the issue of supporting any initiative that would increase the number of residents who vote.

Another part of your deliberations will determine the voting process. Two models are presented in your agenda: OPTION A Majority Vote (50 + 1) or OPTION B, Plurality Vote (highest vote determines the winner).

## OPTION A

If Pasadena keeps its present model: Majority Vote, the result will be that the campaign for candidates seeking office will most likely require a second election – a run-off election. The election would be in March with the runoff 8 months later in the November General election.

The League's concern is that this is a long period to keep the electorate involved and can require a great increase in money needed to be raised by each candidate. The result could be that only those candidates who can raise such funds will be able to run for office. It is costlier to the city to have two elections (if a run-off is needed).

If the Council chooses this model, then it must find a way to control the amount of money that will be used by any candidate who is running for office.

## OPTION B

The second voting model is Plurality Vote. This model is used by the vast majority of cities in California. The concern of using this model is that a candidate can win the election with a small percentage of votes, even though the count is greater than those of other candidates. It is less expensive, requiring only one election.

Whichever model is presented to the voters, it is essential that coinciding with new elections, a study be conducted to collect relevant data such as:

01/08/2018  
Item 20

Voter turnout as compared with previous years  
Expenses for each candidate's race.  
City costs for elections  
Need for a run-off election  
Voter response to the new model:

Thank you for considering our concerns in your deliberations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dorothy Keane". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dorothy Keane, Ed.D.  
President, LWV-PA