



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area**

December 9, 2018

Mayor Lynette Lee Eng and Members of the City Council
City of Los Altos
1 N.San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022

Re: Agenda Item #7, Council Meeting Dec. 11th – CASA Proposal

Dear Mayor Eng and Members of the City Council:

The LWV supports a regional approach to the affordable housing crisis, just as we have long supported a regional housing plan throughout the Bay Area in order to provide for balanced and equitable housing throughout the area. We also support cooperation and coordination of the county, cities and special districts in Santa Clara County.

For these reasons, we commend the CASA Draft Compact as an important step towards working with our neighboring communities to try to improve the drastic situation we are now experiencing. The LWV supports the basic principles that the CASA plan is based upon: protecting tenants, preserving existing affordable homes, and production of both market-rate and subsidized affordable homes. We also support several of the specific elements of the plan, such as removing regulatory barriers to ADUs, which Los Altos has also supported, and good government reforms to the housing approvals process. We expect some of the elements may be tweaked as local jurisdictions and the State Legislature refine the CASA plan.

Our Bay Area LWV has not taken a position on this CASA proposal yet; as a result, our suggestions are preliminary. We think that initially the City of Los Altos should try to work with other jurisdictions in Santa Clara County. The Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County support cooperation and coordination of the county, cities and special districts in Santa Clara County. By cooperating with nearby jurisdictions, the City should be able to leverage its input to the State Legislature as the Legislature proceeds to implement the plan. The Council has long endorsed a regional approach to the seemingly intractable problem of insufficient housing, especially affordable housing. Cooperation on the CASA plan could be an important vehicle towards finding common ground in a regional approach.

Sue Russell
Co-Chair, Housing Committee
LWV of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area

Cc: Chris Jordan Jon Biggs