



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

February 24, 2019

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

Re: Agenda Item #9, Council Meeting February 26th – City Council 2019 Strategic Priorities

Dear Mayor Lee Eng and Members of the City Council:

The LWV Housing Committee urges the Council to prioritize the affordable housing issues listed in the draft list of priorities prepared by staff, based upon the retreat discussion.

Last year, the Council set affordable housing as a top priority. We applaud the Council for loosening the requirements for ADUs and increasing the percentage of below-market-rate units required in multi-family developments. However, much of the work started by last year's Council remains undone and should be completed, particularly with regards to commercial linkage fees, in-lieu fees and potential uses of these funds. We believe the crisis of affordable housing has only gotten more severe since the Council made affordable housing a key priority last year.

We urge the City to consider options for workforce/affordable housing on City-owned property. Since the City does not have affordable housing funds at this time, allowing the use of City land is one way that Los Altos could make such housing financially feasible. Establishing commercial linkage fees and in-lieu fees is another method for helping to finance such a development.

Exploring ways to incentivize construction of rental units and ways to meet the RHNA requirements are also worthwhile. Los Altos, as is typical, is not achieving its RHNA numbers. Thus, we hope the Council will make the "Housing" items a priority in order to continue the work begun last year.

Thank you for considering our input.

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

Cc: Chris Jordan Jon Biggs