



October 25, 2020

Mayor Abe-Koga and Members of the City Council
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

Re: Council Meeting October 27, Agenda #9.1, Rental Housing Committee Appointments

The League of Women Voters of the Los Altos/Mountain View Area support rent stabilization programs and just cause programs that are fair and reasonable to landlords, tenants and the community. Based upon this position, we have supported rent stabilization, or CSFRA, in Mountain View. Also, based on this position we opposed Measure D, which was put on the ballot by the present Council, because we believed it would have weakened some of the key provisions of CSFRA. Voters soundly defeated Measure D, indicating strong continued support for CSFRA's renter protections.

We are **concerned about the proposal to move-up the appointment timeline** for new Rental Housing Committee (RHC) members before the new Council is seated. Having the new Council make the appointments should better reflect the will of the voters. Because several rent-control related issues have been brought up during the election, the new Council should be in tune with community sentiment related to CSFRA. There is no urgency to these appointments as the terms of the current RHC members do not expire until April 2021. Thus, we support recommendation #2.

Moving up this appointment process could lead to an RHC that does not represent the wishes of Mountain View's citizens who have repeatedly voted to support renter protections. It is also not consistent with LWVUS' support of transparency in government, protection of the citizen's right to know, and facilitating citizen participation in decision-making. We encourage Council to not move up the appointments in order to allow for a more deliberative process, ensure a diverse pool of qualified applicants, safeguard renter protections, and secure the smooth implementation of CSFRA in Mountain View.

Donna Yobs
Co-Chair, Housing Committee, LWV of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area

Cc: Kimbra McCarthy Anky van Deursen