



League of Women Voters of Sacramento County Position on City Governance

November 23, 2009

Sacramento as a city of neighborhoods is better suited for a collaborative council-manager form of government, where the mayor participates with the council as a city-wide representative. This structure gives the public equal access to the mayor and council. It is important for the both mayor and council members to hear public testimony.

It is reasonable for a city to change its form of government only when there is a clear body of evidence that shows there are structural problems which can be solved by altering the form of government and that such change will address demonstrated problems

The council, including the mayor, should have the power to appoint and remove the charter officers: the city manager; city attorney; city clerk and city treasurer. It is important that these officers are chosen for their professional qualifications and experience.

Changes in the budget process can be made to incorporate best practices without changing the city charter. The public should be engaged early in the priority setting stage of the budget process as well as in ongoing deliberations.

The council should continue to hold the powers not explicitly delegated in the city charter.