

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council members
From: Kay Ragan, President, League of Women Voters of San Diego
Re: Item – S402 Appointment to the San Diego Planning Commission
Date: February 14, 2005

The League of Women Voters is consistently careful never to endorse particular candidates for elected positions. We also avoid expressing preference for one individual over another in the case of political appointments to committees, boards, commissions, etc.

Instead, we direct our attention to policies and issues that coincide with League positions. Good city planning has always been a high priority on our list.

The San Diego Planning Commission plays a key role in shaping our city's growth and development. It shoulders a great deal of responsibility for both public and private interests. We have often been impressed by the sound judgment of past Planning Commissions as they attempted to balance conflicting land-use desires of community, developer, environmental, property owner, and business factions.

The reputation and effectiveness of the Planning Commission are highly dependent on whether it is a well-balanced group in terms of planning expertise, professional perspectives, and public representation. All appointments should be made with this goal in mind.

It will be destructive to the long-term interests of the city to have a skewed Planning Commission with disproportionate representation from any single special interest. We hope you will keep this in mind when you discuss Planning Commission appointments at this afternoon's council hearing.