

To: San Diego Metropolitan Transit System
From: League of Women Voters San Diego
Re: Living Wage for Bus Drivers
Date: Feb. 9, 2000

The League of Women Voters San Diego, along with Leagues in cities across the nation, supports the establishment of programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

We feel that government agencies have a special responsibility to lead the way in raising working standards. That is why we endorse the efforts of the Center on Policy Initiatives to set reasonable wage and benefits standards for all MTDB's contracted services. We urge you to reject Policy No. 32 and replace it with a more fair and meaningful living wage policy.

There is also another aspect of this question that deserves some attention. Public transit is destined to play an increasingly important role in the life of our city, given the rate of growth in San Diego. If we are smart, we'll transform our present bus system into a first class, state of the art, affordable, and well-coordinated surface transit system, and we will staff it with top notch drivers working for decent wages and adequate health benefits.

Thank you for your attention.