



## The League of Women Voters of Portland

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Mayor Tom Potter  
1221 SW Fourth Ave.  
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Potter,

The League of Women Voters of Portland has undertaken a recent study of Portland's Neighborhood Association Program which we believe will be of great use to you and your policy staff in the budget and program decisions coming before you in the next several months.

We are enclosing our study documents which include:

- Portland's Neighborhood Associations: Part I History
- Neighborhood Association Survey Results
- Part II: How Portland's Neighborhood Program Works Today

In March, 2007 our League adopted a new advocacy position on the city's Neighborhood Program as a result of these studies and the subsequent discussion and consensus among our members. We support the city's system of Neighborhood Associations and District Coalitions for their work in providing opportunities for civic participation and improving neighborhood livability. We are also enclosing our complete advocacy position on the city's Neighborhood Program.

As part of our research for our study we monitored the Community Connect/ Bureau Innovation Team 8 process which reviewed the city's Neighborhood Program and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. We have reviewed the Community Connect final report, the five-year plan to increase public involvement in Portland, and the phase one implementation program and budget. **We support all of the programs and the budget line items for the first year implementation of Community Connect.** We believe that Community Connect has been a comprehensive and laudable effort in reviewing the complex issue of civic involvement in Portland and that the findings that it brings to the City Council deserve strong support. **We believe that implementation of the Community Connect plan will increase the diversity of public involvement as well as strengthen the capacity of community groups to effectively engage citizens.**

We hope that the Portland City Council will support the work of Community Connect by approving its proposals and thus affirm the importance of this and other community-wide involvement in Portland's public decision-making.

Sincerely,

Carol Cushman, President

Pat Osborn, Neighborhood Association Study Chair