

## **PROPOSAL FOR RESTUDY OF LWVPDX CITY GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Introduction and rationale:** We have gaps in our current City Government position. It should include a more specific definition of standards, structure, roles and responsibilities, and ways to effectively assess proposed changes within city government. Compared to our other positions, the current City Government position lacks desirable guidance for action on possible changes to the City Charter.

**Title:** City Government

**Scope:** A two-year restudy of the current LWVPDX City Government position. The restudy would include learning about the strengths and weaknesses of our current City of Portland government; examining options for the form, function, roles and responsibilities of a city government; and considering the standards that should be applied to determining a government's effectiveness in serving its constituents. The intent is not to recommend specific structures or processes, but to provide meaningful direction on how the city government can be improved to bring about the best possible outcomes for the people of Portland. The resulting position should provide ways to evaluate proposed changes in the City of Portland Charter, so that LWVPDX League members and the public can become advocates for or against such proposals.

### **Outlook for Work:**

The committee will plan a timeline; decide upon questions to be answered; and review, study, and consider materials from sources such as:

- The previous studies leading to the current City Government position and any relevant similar studies by other state and national Leagues
- Articles about various forms and structures for city government
- Appropriate materials from the internet
- Information available from the City of Portland archives regarding the 2005/06 Charter Review Commission that considered many options for improving Portland City Government
- A survey of key people and organizations that make and use Portland's city government
- The work of national and local organizations that work to improve democracy in local government such as the Nat'l League of Cities, Nat'l Civic League, League of Oregon Cities, Rockefeller Institute of Government, etc.
- The resources to be found in Oregon's institutions of higher learning
- The material gleaned from interviews with Portland city leaders and leaders in other Oregon municipalities with other forms of government

After gathering this data, the study committee will:

- Write a final report on their findings
- Present at least one educational program ("Know Your Local Government") to Portland League members and the public
- Prepare consensus questions for the members to discuss
- Assist a Member Agreement Committee in developing a new City Government position