



The League of Women Voters of Portland

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DATE: May 28, 2019

TO: Mayor Ted Wheeler, Commissioners Eudaly, Fish, Fritz, and Hardesty

FROM: League of Women Voters of Portland
Debbie Kaye, president
Debbie Aiona, Action Committee chair

RE: Procurement and Contracting Process (Agenda item #501)

The League of Women Voters promotes active and informed participation in government. On Wednesday, May 29, you will vote on proposed changes to the city's procurement and contracting process. We encourage you to ensure the public's right to comment on those decisions prior to posting and again when City Council approves the contractor selection.

The League has a long history of involvement in a number of City of Portland issues, including the police oversight system. We have seen firsthand how public involvement has shaped the outcome of city contracts in a way that better reflects community priorities and values. A few that come to mind include the scope of the 2008 Eileen Luna Firebaugh expert review of the Independent Police Review, the cultural competency of the psychologists hired to evaluate Police Bureau officer candidates, and details related to the OIR Group's future reports on shootings and deaths in custody. The League follows other issues as well, including affordable housing, campaign finance, and the environment. Like other community members and organizations, we have an interest in making sure the contractors the city hires perform their jobs effectively, efficiently, and within budget.

Many organizations and individuals including the League track city policies and implementation closely. We and others have developed a deep understanding of how the city carries out its responsibilities and should be given the opportunity to share our views on proposed contracts and on contractor selections. The League urges you to ensure the community has a say in contracting decisions the city plans to execute-when they come before City Council for approval.