

City Government Position

Approved by the League of Women Voters of Portland Board of Directors
January 6, 2020

The League of Women Voters of Portland believes that a thriving, livable city requires a city government that meets these criteria: accountability, responsiveness, equity, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and nonpartisanship.

Our members believe that to more fully meet these criteria, Portland needs to improve its government structure. The highest priorities for change are to improve citizen representation by increasing the number of commissioners, to institute a city manager, and to establish the City Council as a legislative or policy-setting body. We also support electing some or all city councilors by district.

Within the City Council, the mayor should have the same voting power as the other members, establish the council agenda in collaboration with the other councilors, run the council meetings, prepare a city budget for council consideration, and serve as the formal representative of the city.

We support adequate and thoughtful long-range planning in accordance with other published League positions.

We also support adequate and thoughtful coordination with other local governments in accordance with other published League positions.

We believe city government should solicit broad and inclusive input through fully representative, accessible and robust public involvement processes that reflect best practices. The city should also provide adequate feedback on how community input has been used in its decision-making.