



The League of Women Voters of Portland

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October 6, 2015

To: Mayor Charlie Hales
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From: League of Women Voters of Portland
Margaret Noel, President

Re: City Council Agenda Item #1027 – Expanded Public Review of City Council
Agenda Items

The League of Women Voters of Portland urges your support for item #1027 on the Wednesday, October 7th City Council agenda.

The League believes that democratic government depends on active and informed participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the public's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible. These principles directly relate to our support for the proposed six-month pilot for City Council agenda items to be available for public review on Thursday afternoon, one day earlier than under current procedures.

We would appreciate being consulted as part of the evaluation of this trial enhancement of City Council agenda public review opportunities. One possible suggestion, for example, is evaluating whether more time for agenda item review would allow for the development and distribution of amendments on a timeline that increases opportunities for public input.

We thank Commissioner Fritz for bringing this pilot proposal to City Council. We also appreciate the work done by Auditor Mary Hull Caballero and her staff to facilitate this effort.

We urge your support for this pilot to expand the time for public review of City Council agenda items.

“To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.”