

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I'm Joan Donahue, President of Riverside's League of Women Voters.

I'm sure it's no surprise - LWV strongly supports the Voter Participation Act and its goal to increase voter participation in municipal elections.

The majority of government decisions that affect Riversiders' daily lives are made by you.

When more people vote, we create a government that addresses more citizen's concerns, and that builds a better city.

Plus, the Voter Participation Act is refreshing because it puts voters first - not politicians.

For a long time, politicians' chief argument against election consolidation was that local races would be over-shadowed by state and national races.

That argument has been proven wrong. Votes in municipal elections have consistently increased when consolidated with state and national elections.

League of Women Voters Riverside asks that you, council members *and politicians*, enact the Voter Participation Act as quickly as possible and *put voters first*.

Limit your current terms to three years and prove to Riverside voters that you will put their voting rights above your political concerns.

By the June 2018 Election, the City of Riverside can begin to -

- increase awareness of City elections
- let voters start building a habit of voting in city elections
- and begin reducing a major deterrent to voting in municipal elections - voter fatigue.

One of my favorite voting rights quotes comes from Cesar Chavez - "we don't need a perfect political system - we need perfect participation."

The Voter Participation Act - sets us on that path.

We ask that you reduce your current terms to three years, let's begin increasing local voter participation as soon as possible, and together let's start building an even better Riverside