



April 24, 2023

SUBJECT: Pleasant Hill District Elections

Dear City Attorney and City Council Members,

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley is concerned about comments by Mayor Flaherty at the Pleasant Hill district election hearing on April 17, 2023. At the March 20, 2023 hearing Councilmember Noack stated that council members would not share their place of residence or opinions about where district lines should be drawn. City Attorney Coleson, attorney Jim Priest, and the demographer agreed with that guidance to the City Council.

During discussion after the close of public comment at the April 17th hearing, the Mayor shared where he lived and the boundaries of what he sees as his personal community of interest. The law is clear that district lines drawn in consideration of an incumbent is not an appropriate community of interest for drawing district maps. We urge the Mayor and the City Council to make every effort to avoid the appearance of inappropriate influence in the districting process.

A transparent and robust process will increase public trust in our democratic elections. In the interest of full transparency, the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley requests that Pleasant Hill share the public comment and data used by the demographer to draw district maps.

Sincerely,

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