



500 St. Mary's Road #14, Lafayette, CA 94549

January 16, 2023

Pleasant Hill City Council
City of Pleasant Hill
100 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

RE: Vacant City Council Member Position

Dear City Council Members,

At your December 4, 2022, meeting the Pleasant Hill City Council voted to make an appointment rather than hold an expensive special election, to replace the vacant seat of Council Member Ken Carlson. Mr. Carlson had just been elected to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

The League of Women Voters believes that voters, the only true voice of the people, should decide who should represent them at all levels of government. In the November 8, 2022, election, Pleasant Hill voters made it clear that Zhanna Thompson was their third-place choice of six candidates to fill two seats on the Council.

The League believes that an application process to fill the vacant position is an unnecessary exercise that will take staff and City Council time and resources.

In 2011, after Karen Mitchoff was elected to the Board of Supervisors, the Pleasant Hill City Council filled her vacant position with the candidate who had the next highest number of votes in that election. This has become an established practice in Pleasant Hill.

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley believes that the Pleasant Hill City Council should follow their traditional process, carry out the will of the voters, and appoint the third-place candidate at the next City Council Meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Anne Granlund
President, League of Women Voters Diablo Valley

We are a 501(c) (3) organization. Your dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please call the office at (925) 283-2235 for information.