



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SEATTLE-KING COUNTY

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS URGES “VOTE NO” ON “MOVE SEATTLE” LEVY Good Government Organization Has Doubts About Details and Cost of Transportation Package

Seattle, WA, September 22, 2015– The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County urges voters to reject Seattle’s \$930 million transportation levy in the November general election.

“We understand the urgency of dealing with transportation and infrastructure problems in the City of Seattle. However, after careful reading of the actual ballot language, we have a number of concerns about the measure,” said local League President Amanda Clark. “We urge voters to Vote No on Seattle Proposition 1.”

The primary concerns identified by the League of Women Voters as the basis for its decision are:

1. **Transparency and Accountability:** The lists of desired projects do not list them in order of urgency or specificity.
2. **Allocation and Spending of Funds:** The breakdown of projects is illustrative only, not mandatory, and within a budget year the City can reallocate funds from one program to another without adequate citizen input.
3. **Incomplete Master Plans:** The City is currently updating its Comprehensive Plan for 2035. The Freight Master Plan is also in development. The Transit Master Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, and Bicycle Master Plan are cited as inputs for the projects identified in the levy. We think that all these plans should be completed to have a big picture of our transportation needs.
4. **New, Vastly Different City Council:** There will be a much changed City Council after this fall’s first district elections. This new Council will be responsible for administering the plan. For reasons of good management and fiduciary responsibility, we would prefer that those who will bear the responsibility for the project were the ones who had participated in its design and approval.

Clark further explained that the League recognizes the financial challenges governments and citizens have suffered since the “Bridging the Gap” levy was approved. She stated that the League is very concerned that, though Seattle intends to be a progressive city, it still must rely on inequitable and unsustainable means of

paying for infrastructure improvements, such as special levies.

“The League’s good government positions state that levies should be used for capital projects, not maintenance. Frequent sequential levies demanding more tax revenue from those with and without financial means to pay for them is not a reliable way of funding,” Clark continued.

“As we look into the very near future and see even more levies on the horizon pushing homeowners’ property taxes to unmanageable levels, we are concerned about the ability of even relatively well-off Seattleites to remain in their homes. The League of Women Voters feels that the city needs to go back to the drawing board and address these concerns before another such measure is presented to the voters.”

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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Note to city desk: Attached, please find an expanded statement on the full rationale for the LWV board’s decision in this matter.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Allison Feher/Amanda Clark at 206-329-4848 or email at info@seattlelwv.org.