



To: Mayor Alan Webber  
Santa Fe City Councilors  
From: League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County  
Date: April 26, 2021  
Re: Salary Commission Ordinance Amendments

Mayor Webber and Councilors:

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County appreciates the efforts of Councilors Garcia, Lindell, Rivera, Romero-Wirth, and Vigil Coppler to amend the Ordinance # 2016-43 which created an Independent Salary Commission to set the Mayor's salary. We have reviewed the two proposed documents as posted on the City website on 4/21/21 which will have public hearings on 4/28 and 5/12. We realize that changes may still be proposed before the Governing Body acts on the issue.

We understand that the current Commission was appointed and serves under the original ordinance to set the Mayor's salary as of the November 2021 election. Due to the change in the timing of the municipal elections since the original ordinance was enacted and because we are now in an election year with the incumbent running for re-election, we agree that revisions to the ordinance are necessary. Specifically, questions related to the Mayor's role in appointing commission members and to the timing this year in relation to the November election have been raised publicly by community members and news organizations.

We support the proposal to give the Ethics and Campaign Review Board the authority to appoint both the Commission members and the Commission chairperson. If this is to be an independent body, the beneficiary of its decision on salary should have no role in making Commission appointments.

We also support the proposal that the salary decision be finalized well in advance of the mayoral election. In addition to separating the salary decision from election season, this allows the budget to accurately reflect the new salary level.

Our support is based on League positions that advocate for high ethical standards, including avoiding any appearance of a conflict of interest.

The first proposal (4/28 hearing) from Councilors Lindell, Rivera and Romero-Wirth includes an application process for members of the Commission. This would open the process to public participation, a move which the League supports. We believe that local governments should encourage public input and participation; an application process would provide these. Our concern with the process outlined in that proposal, however, is that there is no provision for

appointing Commission members should there be no qualified applicants for one or more of the specified positions.

We note that the application process does not appear in the second proposal (5/12) from Councilors Garcia, Lindell and Vigil Coppler. There is no prescribed process for the Ethics and Campaign Review Board to follow in making appointments. We support adding the open application process to this proposal.

Thank you for considering our opinions on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Furlanetto". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Christine Furlanetto, Chair  
LWVSFC Action & Advocacy Committee  
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