



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA BARBARA**

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A-02 - A-01

To: Santa Barbara County Supervisors
From: The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, Social Policy Committee
Contact: Vijaya Jammalamadaka, Social Policy Co-Chair (vijaya@cox.net)
Date: May 8, 2018
RE: Support Funding For Permanent Supportive Housing Including for Justice Involved Individuals

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (LWVSB), a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We only advocate for issues where we have taken positions. In all of these areas we have well developed policy positions.

The LWVSB supports a corrections system with its primary goal being rehabilitation (2012).

For individuals experiencing homelessness this means both housing and supportive services.

When addressing homelessness the LWVSB supports the joint planning and coordination by federal, state, county and city government entities with the private sector, including non-profit and private organizations, the business community and private citizens. The magnitude and diversity of the needs of the homeless require active participation at every level of government with the private sector in Santa Barbara. The LWVSB supports appropriate solutions with adequate financing, to respond to both short-term and long-term needs of homeless people. These include the provision of better access to existing social services, emphasis on affordable housing, including subsidized rentals, and establishment of criteria for shelter services to include counseling and referral of those with special needs.

The LWVSB supports comprehensive, flexible and effective mental health legislation and programs for adults and children needing preventive help, maintenance, treatment and

rehabilitation. We want to see improved financing for locally administered mental health programs.

For these reasons we support funding for permanent housing with supportive services including for justice involved individuals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsey Baker

President, League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara