

Daly, Julia Rutherford

From: Vijaya <vijaya@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2017 6:18 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Williams, Das; Wolf, Janet; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve
Subject: BUDGET 2017-2018: Support Funding Programs That Provide Services to People with Behavioral Health Needs and People Experiencing Homelessness
Attachments: LWVSBUDGET17PDF.pdf

Dear County Board of Supervisors,
Please find attached a letter from The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara for your consideration during the budget process. Thank you.
Sincerely,
Vijaya Jammalamadaka
LWVSB Social Policy Committee Co-Chair

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS. OF SANTA BARBARA

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: June 8, 2017
RE: Support Funding Programs That Provide Services to People with Behavioral Health Needs and People Experiencing Homelessness

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 National League of Women Voters (LWV) supports programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families. This includes 1. Income Assistance (support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter) and 2. Support Services (provide essential support services).

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.

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.

For these reasons we support **restoring funding for Warming Centers and Emergency Shelters** (Community Services), **Institute for Mental Disease and hospital beds** (Behavioral Wellness) and **Social Service workers** with CalFresh, CalWORKS, Medi-Cal, In Home Supportive Services, Adult Protective Services, Subsidized Employment, Child Welfare Services, Foster Care and General Relief (Social Services).

Cuts to these programs will harm the most vulnerable and have unintended and possibly costly consequences for our county.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsey Baker
President, League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara