

A-19



Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - LWV

From: Gail Osherenko <gail.osherenko@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 2:14 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Pamela Flynt Tambo; Vicki Allen; Claire VanBlaricum
Subject: Comment for 4.21.2025 Item A-19 Support for AB 2257
Attachments: AB 2257 (Hart) LWVC Support to Author, A-PUB S..4-13-26.pdf

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Nelson and Supervisors,

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, I am attaching the support letter from our statewide League of Women Voters of California on Assemblymember Gregg Hart's bill, AB 2257.

Our local League fully supports this important bill. A representative of the LWVC will be in Sacramento tomorrow to support a committee vote on it. We urge you also to support AB 2257.

Gail Osherenko
On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara



April 13, 2026

VIA Online Portal to Author and Assembly Committee on Public Safety

The Honorable Greg Hart
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2257 (Hart) — Corrections.— SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Hart:

I write on behalf of the League of Women Voters of California in support of AB 2257, your bill to give counties the option to maintain sheriff-run jails or appoint an official other than the sheriff to operate the county jail system where local leaders determine a different structure is warranted. The bill restores a measure of local choice in jail governance and updates the code to better reflect current practice.

The League of Women Voters of California supported AB 1185 (McCarty) in 2020 because we believe counties should have meaningful tools to promote transparency, oversight, and accountability in sheriff's departments. AB 2257 is consistent with that general principle. It recognizes that counties bear significant responsibility for jail funding, conditions, and outcomes, and that local governments should have options available when existing structures are not producing the level of accountability, coordination, or performance that is needed. Giving boards of supervisors the option to place jail administration under a different county official may provide an additional avenue for oversight and more direct alignment with countywide priorities, including legal compliance, public health, behavioral health, and reentry.

We view AB 2257 as a meaningful, if limited, step toward improving jail governance. Jail systems involve continuous constitutional obligations, complex health and mental health delivery, regulated use of force, and significant exposure to litigation, federal oversight, and costly settlements. We recognize that a change in administrative structure alone may not resolve every structural

Assemblymember Hart
April 13, 2026
Page 2

concern that can arise in county jails, particularly in counties where law enforcement personnel may still play central roles in jail operations and where in-custody death investigations may still be conducted within systems that are not fully independent. We understand that you are considering amendments to address these issues and we encourage those discussions. Recognizing those limits, we nevertheless believe that providing counties with greater flexibility to evaluate and adjust jail management is a constructive reform worth supporting.

This bill moves California forward by giving counties an **option** to address long-persistent jail conditions and strengthen elected-accountability through the county's legislative and budget authorities. It preserves local discretion while creating an option that may help some counties strengthen oversight, clarify responsibility, and better address persistent problems in jail operations. For those reasons, we support AB 2257.

Sincerely,



Dora Rose
Deputy Director