



January 14, 2026

Commission Streamlining Task Force  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
Room 263  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Agenda item #5 (1. Ethics Commission) – SUPPORT options 1-3 and OPPOSE options 4-6 regarding the Ethics Commission’s authority to place measures on the ballot

Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

For over 100 years, the League of Women Voters of San Francisco has defended democracy in this city. Our goal, which we hope this Commission shares, is to make sure that all of the people of San Francisco—not insiders, not the politically ambitious, not moneyed interests—have the information, power, and voice they need to participate in government and hold it accountable. That mission has never been more critical than it is right now.

With respect to the Ethics Commission, **the League of Women Voters supports Options 1 through 3** because they preserve a core democratic safeguard: the independent authority of the Ethics Commission to place measures directly before the voters. That power was not an accident. San Francisco voters deliberately granted it in 1993 to ensure the Ethics Commission could act when City Hall would not.

**We strongly oppose Options 4 through 6** because they would strip away that independence and silence the very people the Commission is meant to serve. Removing the Ethics Commission’s ability to go directly to the ballot hands veto

**Empowering voters. Defending democracy.**

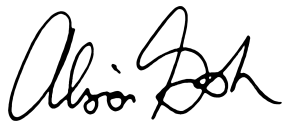
League of Women Voters of San Francisco

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power back to political actors who have every incentive to avoid scrutiny and accountability. That is not reform—it is rollback.

At a moment when voting rights and democratic institutions are under attack nationwide, San Francisco should be reinforcing its commitment to transparency, accountability, and voter power, not weakening it. The League urges the Streamlining Commission to **advance Options 1, 2, or 3 and reject Options 4 through 6** so that San Franciscans retain a truly independent Ethics Commission and a real voice in how their city is governed.

In unity,



Alison Goh

Co-President, League of Women Voters of San Francisco