

The League of Women Voters of Cook County

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July 17, 2017

To the Cook County Board of Commissioners, via email

re: Item 17-3293, Proposed Ordinance Amendment for the Rules of Organization and Procedure

Dear Commissioners:

The League of Women Voters of Cook County supports Item 17-3293, as well as the proposed substitute, that is scheduled to be voted on at the July 19, 2017 meeting of the Rules and Administration Committee and the Board meeting later that day.

This amendment will provide people what should be a fairly simple method of informing you, our representatives, as to whether someone supports or opposes an item up for consideration. The use of "Witness Slips" for items being considered by committees of the Illinois House and Senate, without having to appear in person before a committee, has proved effective. We expect that the same will be true at the County. We are pleased that this proposal will also apply to items before the full Board, and not just to Committees, despite the fact that the name of the form refers to "Committee."

Our support is with our understanding, based on a conversation with Commissioner Suffredin's staff, that the Secretary to the Board will assist people who may not have access to a computer to satisfy the requirement that a "Record of Committee Witness" form be submitted electronically. We also understand that the requirement that this form be submitted 24 hours in advance of the meeting will be liberally waived. Again, not everyone may have access to a computer, and it is not uncommon for items to be added to the agenda less than 24 hours prior to a meeting.

With this understanding, we urge passage of this Item.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marcus and Peggy Kell, Co-Presidents

The League of Women Voters of Cook County is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The Cook County League is composed of all the members of the 13 local Leagues within Cook County.