



March 22, 2019

Anoka County Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah  
Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte  
Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West  
Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look  
Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad  
Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner  
Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache  
Anoka County Board of Commissioners  
325 East Main Street  
Anoka, Minnesota 55303

Commissioners:

I am writing to you on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids Area, regarding two Resolutions that will be before the Board on Tuesday, March 26. These two Resolutions are #2019-30, the Hiring Process for the County Administrator Position – Internal, and #2019-31, Appointment of the Position of the County Administrator for Anoka County. LWV ABC supports having an open and fair process for selection of a new County Administrator; of the two options offered here, we support Resolution #2019-30.

The League of Women Voters ABC is a grassroots organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWV ABC advocates on issues but never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. LWV ABC is part of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Throughout our country, LWV believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

LWV's Observer Corps members have been attending Anoka County Board meetings since 2015. We have raised concerns with the Board relative to the lack of openness in Anoka County decision making, documented in the August 29, 2017 letter sent to the Board from then LWV ABC President, Jeorgette Knoll. This letter can be found on the LWV ABC website at <http://lwvabcmn.org/Observer.html>. LWV members subsequently met with County Board members on October 31, 2017; a summary of that meeting is also provided on the LWV ABC website. As you can see, openness in Anoka County Government has been a long-standing concern of LWV ABC.

To the point of Resolutions #2019-30 and #2019-31, LWV ABC urges the County Board to vote in favor of #2019-30 and allow a more open and transparent process to be used in selecting a new County Administrator. Our county peers in the Metro area, specifically Hennepin, Ramsey and Dakota Counties, have followed open and competitive processes for finding a new County Administrator. Anoka County citizens should know that a fair process was used and that the selected candidate truly is the best choice for our county.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Sabel, President

League of Women Voters of Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids Area  
3540 153<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW, Andover MN 55304

cc: Anoka County Administrator Jerry Soma