

February 11, 2010

TO: Chairman Haitzuka and Members of the Charter Review Commission
FROM: Helen Hemmes, President,
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RE: Support for CA-16

Dear Chairman Haitzuka and Commission Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii County testified earlier in favor of CA-12, including the use of the four-digit social security number and month and day of birth as the only qualifiers besides the signature. We had always assumed that the county used the signature as the first and most important item of verification. After meeting with Mr. Goodenow and Ms. Nakamoto last week, we understand that their system does not present the signature on screen: that to find the signature requires a microfiche search, which is time-consuming.

Two fields help the County Clerk's office gain entry into data about registered voters for purposes of verifying that persons are registered: 1) the name, and 2) the complete social security number. Petition gatherers cannot ask for the complete social security number on a petition, hence the sole entry to detailed information is by a person's name. The Clerk has said that his office must, according to state law, verify that a person is a registered voter for Hawaii County -- registered and living at the address ON FILE.

For this reason, the League of Women Voters of Hawaii County supports the use of the residence address on petitions, along with the printed name and signature. No other information, including the date of signing, should be included.

We strongly support CA-16, which in respects other than the signature verification requirements, would make the requirements for an elector initiated charter amendment follow the same process and requirements as for initiative and referendum.

Thank you for all the work that you are doing.

Helen Hemmes, President, LWV of Hawaii County