



## STATEMENT TO LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

League of Women Voters of Louisville, Pat Murrell, President

(As an introduction, let me thank the council for approving the felony restoration ordinance that we supported, and also reiterate our support for the CEDAW resolution– Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination against Women – that the US League has supported since the 70's.)

Subject: Metro Council Government Accountability & Ethics Committee

The League of Women Voters encourages citizen participation in government and has always supported accountability, transparency, and ethical behavior in government as fundamental to a functioning democracy. Ethics in government is an issue in which the Council, the League, and the public have shown increased interest.

We are here tonight to commend this council and the Government Accountability and Ethics Committee for its hard work and intellectual honesty in the work to amend and improve the Louisville Ethics Ordinance. Last week, the Government Accountability and Ethics committee, voted out this amended ordinance for presentation tonight. The committee vote was 7 – 0 with bi-partisan support. We are here in support of that ordinance, and of the process by which it was achieved.

We commend the committee for going beyond simply addressing procedures, and tackling a policy issue: each Metro officer is responsible for ensuring their private interests do not affect the people's business.

The League also believes in a balance of power among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. We anticipate that the Council will continue to explore its investigatory powers, and will consider the protection of "whistle-blowers."

Diligent work by the Government Accountability committee and by the Ethics Commission inspire public trust in government.

As Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh, and Councilman Jerry Miller, co-chairs of the Government Accountability and Ethics committee, end their service on the Council, we wish to applaud them for their years of dedicated service on the committee and on the Council.