



January 29, 2019

VIA Portal to Author and Senate Committee on Public Safety

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1185 (McCarty) - Officer oversight: sheriff oversight board.

Dear Assemblymember McCarty:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to support AB 1185, your legislation that clarifies the authority of a county board of supervisors to establish a sheriff oversight commission or appoint an inspector general to review the actions of a county's sheriff. It also makes clear that the commission or inspector general has subpoena power over the sheriff.

We support promoting police accountability through independent oversight. Effective oversight requires subpoena power to compel documents, records, and the witness testimony necessary to perform a full investigation. The power of county sheriffs over the lives of Californians is enormous. At times, that power has been wielded in ways that damaged the trust between officers and the communities they serve. Significant law enforcement authority requires accountability and transparency. Furthermore, public safety and community trust in is enhanced by robust independent oversight.

Contrary to the argument that the bill is unnecessary, the League believes that it elucidates the law, and is critical to correct situations where counties have inaccurately concluded that oversight might constitute obstruction or assumed that they do not have subpoena authority over the sheriff.

The League of Women Voters of California strongly supports AB 1185. Thank you for your continued leadership on these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Moon Goldberg
President