

We are writing on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County, which has more than 200 members from throughout the county. The League has long supported procedures that enable informed citizen participation in government decision-making. The change proposed in item 11-B-20-OB is an important improvement in this regard, and it also will contribute to efficient decision-making.

Basically, the proposed amendment to Article III, Section 9.B of the commission's bylaws provides that in a contested case, opponents will always speak after the applicant's initial statement. Adopting this amendment will improve the procedure in several ways:

The amended procedure will be more straightforward and streamlined.

It will follow the procedures used by the Knoxville City Council and the Knox County Commission, as well as planning commissions elsewhere.

Finally, it will be fairer and more logical ... it will ensure that opponents have heard the current details of the applicant's case before commenting.

Thank you for considering our comments, and for your service to local government.

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