

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County Observer Corps

Name of Agency: City of Tacoma-Board of Ethics Date: 9/62018
Observer Reporting: Ann Williams Length of Meeting: 1 hour
Members Present/Absent: Lowry Atkinson , Baird, McCarty, present; Bateway excused
Others Present (i.e., media, public):
Deputy city attorney, one witness, 2 other members of the public

Content (What is being discussed): i.e., *Did they approve some action? Does anything relate to League priorities or positions? If so, do you recommend local league action? Was access to materials for certain agenda items limited or excluded from you? Was background material available to the public?*

A large information packet was distributed to board members only. No action was taken during public portion. On closing it was announced that no decision would be available the evening of the closed session.

Public Meetings of interest to League - i.e., *Were there any public meetings announced that you think League members may be interested in attending and/or becoming involved with the issue?*

No

Process & Protocol (Observations about participants, conduct, and procedures of the meeting, and appropriate accommodations for disabled in sight hearing and physical):

i.e., *Did the members appear to have done their "homework"? Were members courteous to each other and the public? How does the group respond to your presence?*

This was a special meeting requested by a city council member against whom an ethics complaint had been filed. He is accused of using his public position for personal gain. There was a definite process of opening statement, witness questioning by the accused, board members questioning the witness and the accused and closing statement followed by further questioning of the accused by board members. Members were polite and welcoming. At the end, the meeting was closed to the public for deliberation. I could not assess accommodation for disabilities.

Reminders 😊

The purpose of the LWV Observer Corp is:

1. To promote public interest in local government and to be a "presence" to elected officials.
2. To alert the League Board to upcoming agenda items on which we have program positions on which we can speak.
3. To identify areas for future LWV study and action.

Observers play an important role as they learn about issues and processes and are in touch with what is happening in our community. A LWV Observer is impartial, silent, and respectful. It is, however, appropriate to ask questions for clarification. Remember to wear your Observer ID Badge.