



NEWS RELEASE

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Lawyers Club of San Diego Endorses Two State, Local Ballot Measures

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SAN DIEGO – Lawyers Club of San Diego, which for more than 50 years has advocated for the advancement of women in law and society, endorses two state and local ballot measures that affect the interests of women and people of color – Proposition 16 and San Diego City Measure B.

“Lawyers Club is proud to support Proposition 16 and San Diego City Measure B because both aim to ensure that the humanity of every person in our communities is recognized and acknowledged regardless of their gender, race or ethnicity,” Lawyers Club president Yahairah Aristy said. “The consequence is a community and society that is fair and just to all, not some.”

Lawyers Club issues endorsements in accordance with its Advocacy Policy, which permits advocacy for legislation focused on reproductive rights, gender pay equity, gender discrimination, sexual harassment, or combatting violence against women.

Proposition 16 would repeal the California constitutional amendment added by Proposition 209 in 1996, which banned preferential treatment of individuals or groups on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, education, or contracting. Proposition 209, which enacted Section 31 of Article I of the California Constitution, prohibited the state from using “affirmative action” policies when making decisions in public college admissions, public employment, and the issuance of public contracts. The passage of Proposition 16 would not affect federal law defining the parameters of affirmative action policies.

Supporters of Proposition 16, including lead author Assembly Member Dr. Shirley Weber, argue that Proposition 209 has perpetuated the gender wage gap; allowed discriminatory hiring and contracting processes to continue; allowed the underrepresentation of women as tenured faculty within the University of California system; allowed the underrepresentation of people of color as tenured faculty in all of California’s community colleges and state universities; and caused businesses owned by women and people of color to lose more than \$1.1 billion in government contracts every year.

Because Lawyers Club advocates for gender pay equity and supports the advancement of women as well as people of color, Lawyers Club supports Proposition 16.

San Diego's Measure B would amend the City Charter to dissolve the existing Community Review Board on Police Practices and replace it with an independent Commission on Police Practices. The independent commission would be required to receive and review all complaints against city police officers, review the police department's compliance with reporting laws, and make public reports of its activities. The commission also would be required to independently investigate all deaths occurring in police custody, all deaths resulting from interaction with a police officer, and all police officer-related shootings, and would have discretion to investigate allegations against officers of inappropriate sexual conduct, physical assault, and domestic violence.

Lawyers Club endorses Measure B because it will permit independent and thorough investigation of allegations of inappropriate sexual conduct, physical assault, and domestic violence, as well as improve the transparency of the police department's record of such complaints against police officers. These are issues that impact not just women in the community, but women police officers and domestic partners of police officers.

Lawyers Club also supports Measure B because of the positive impact it is expected to have on investigations into police shootings and other officer-related violence, particularly involving people of color.

"2020 has been a year of revelation as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic," Aristy said. "As a society we have witnessed the inequities that still exist in our community and society, inequities that exist because of a person's gender, race or ethnicity. These ballot measures seek to reduce these inequities and promote equal treatment."

About Lawyers Club of San Diego

Lawyers Club, founded in 1972 with the mission "to advance the status of women in the law and society," has more than 1,100 members comprised of female and male attorneys, judges, elected officials, business owners, law students and others in the San Diego community, who share Lawyers Club's mission and goals. For more information about Lawyers Club, visit www.lawyersclubsandiego.com.

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