



TESTIMONY TO THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COUNCIL

RE: Resolution No. 18-19, Charter Amendment – Budgetary and Fiscal Procedures – Income Tax.

POSITION: Oppose

DATE: May 20, 2019

BY: Alfa Stevens, President

The League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County strongly opposes Resolution No. 18-19, Charter Amendment – Budgetary and Fiscal Procedures – Income Tax.

The League believes flexibility in fiscal policy is necessary to meet the needs of the County and is opposed to any amendment proposed to limit taxes and spending. A tax cap could have serious consequences and would prevent the County from raising money needed to provide services and programs to make our County “the best place” to live.

In 2004, our League adopted a position on fiscal policy which supports a more equitable and efficient fiscal structure and opposes any constitutional amendment proposed to limit taxes and spending. The League position further states support for: “a progressive income tax (as) the first choice if a revenue increase is necessary.”

Taxes should be determined by careful consideration, debate and deliberation, and not by an arbitrary number. As Council members, you were elected by us to govern and to act in the best interest of your constituents and the County — to keep this county a great place – “the best place”, to live. Per our County charter, it is the **job** of County Council to levy taxes when needed. If this amendment were adopted, Council would be limiting the authority granted them by the Charter.

Further, support of such an amendment would restrict the ability of this County Council (and future councils) to respond to community needs and opportunities. We, the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County, do not support this amendment or any legislation that would restrict the ability of the County government to make decisions about how to fund the services that our County might need and value.

We, therefore, urge the County Council to defeat Resolution No. 18-19.