



League of Women Voters of Licking County
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August 18, 2022

Dear members of Granville Village Council,

We are writing in follow-up to Council's unanimous vote to table Ordinance 16-2022 related to regulating solar energy systems in order to make revisions based on the public comments heard at the August 17, 2022 Village Council meeting.

As you may know, the League of Women Voters has long been a champion for protecting the environment at the national, state and local level and has been vocal in its support of action on climate change.

The League shares the concerns outlined by community members that the ordinance, as originally drafted, would be overly restrictive, especially as it relates to prohibition of solar arrays on one-story structures, street-side rooftops in the AROD and ground-mounted systems in all but two districts.

Several of our board members were in attendance at the meeting and spoke to these concerns. We commend Granville Village Council for the civil, respectful and cooperative tenor of the meeting and the way in which public comments were welcomed and respected.

In terms of next steps, the **League of Women Voters of Licking County strongly encourages the Granville Village Council to assemble an ad hoc working group of stakeholders to be part of the solar ordinance revision process.** We believe that this collaborative approach will be the best way to create an ordinance that, as Vice Mayor Johnson described, will be "clear, fair and promote [solar] in a positive way."

We hope that this same working group might also put forth recommendations on innovative ways in which the Village could support solar within the community and available village-owned land and truly "lead by example" as councilmember Keethler Ball stated at the meeting. We recommend that the working group include experienced solar installers with a successful track record of completing solar projects in our community. Those people could include:

Richard Downs, Brandon Kinnard and/or Jeremy King. They have the experience and expertise to answer some of the technical questions related to installation processes, glare, and new technology that were posed by members during the meeting.

We also recommend including an opportunity for community members who are knowledgeable about solar to be a part of the working group. Folks like Jim Reding, Tracee Laing, Carol and Ken Apacki, Evelyn and Tod Froking are all people who would likely serve if asked.

Since the Council previously discussed being part of Power a Clean Future Ohio, which professes to be a community-led effort to reduce the carbon footprint of local communities, reduce energy costs, implement equitable policy solutions and attract clean energy, perhaps this solar working group might also explore what that partnership may entail and to recommend next steps for Council and the community.

Thank you for considering our recommendations. We look forward to your reply and an outline of next steps in the ordinance revision process.

Respectfully,

Board of Directors
League of Women Voters of Licking County

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