

To: Letters Editor, San Diego Union-Tribune
From: League of Women Voters, San Diego
Date: September 1, 2004
Re: Special Election, District 4

San Diego's League of Women Voters has strong concerns over postponing the special election to fill the District 4 City Council seat, necessitated by the untimely death of Councilmember Charles Lewis. From the perspective of good and ethical government as well as practicality, we can find no justification worthy enough to refuse to go forward with the D4 election on the November 2 general election date.

Putting off this special election injures the entire city, not only District 4 residents. Any arbitrary governmental action that would reduce the likelihood of voter turnout -- and a late November date is guaranteed to do just that -- is deleterious and violates the public trust. Whatever the reasoning behind such a postponement, we can only conclude that the public would be badly served by this decision.

In times like these, we have the right to expect that our elected officials will respond quickly and responsibly to all types of unexpected circumstances. It is an embarrassment and great disappointment that it might take court action to force our local politicians to do their job in a respectful and professional manner. It's time to stop needing legal action to get the city to do the right thing.

Norma Damashek, VP
LWV