



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
AUSTIN AREA

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Austin Energy Governance

Late Backup

February 14, 2013

The League of Women Voters of the Austin Area urges caution regarding the proposal to appoint an independent board to manage Austin Energy. We think there are more ways to get this wrong than to get it right.

Austinites are rightly proud of AE's leadership in conservation and use of renewable sources of energy. This is not just another electric utility, and few in our city want it to be.

The Austin League's position on energy calls for the continuation of cost-effective energy conservation programs and a lifeline rate for low-income consumers. While our position supports administrative independence for AE, we urge that the powers of eminent domain, rate-making, and bond issuance remain under control of the City Council. Any appointed board should include at least one member representing the public, hold regular public meetings, and must report to City Council on a regular basis. AE's governance should always consider the impact on the funding of city services from AE's transfer to the general fund, environmental impacts, electric service reliability and customer service.

Before making a decision of this importance, we suggest you take all the time needed and hold a number of public meetings across the city to make the case for change and to get feedback from voters/ratepayers.

Stewart Snider
Copresident, LWV Austin