



The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) and of the Pasadena Area (LWVPA) supported the historic, successful passage of AB 392 in 2019. The bill's purpose was to address the high number of killings by police in California when cities and other states adopted ways to reduce police use of deadly force and save lives with no increase in crime.

LWVC supports:

- a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration and re-entry;
- policing practices that promote safety for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve; and
- collaboration between government and community-based programs throughout every stage of the criminal justice system.

We urge immediate action to replace the misleading and confusing language of Lexipol on AB 392 for the following reasons:

- DOJ recommends all policies on use of force be publicly available. Lexipol is proprietary and therefore not available for public review and effective citizen oversight.
- Policies should be clear, and consistent with POST training and compliant with AB 392. However, Lexipol policies create confusion for the officers over the state mandate on elevating the use of force standard to “necessary” and therefore are not compliant with state law or POST training and ultimately put officers’ lives and the lives of community members at greater risk.
- Officer self-identification is not only included in AB 392, it is also consistent with 21st Century Policing Report, DOJ recommendation 2.11.
- Agencies that have adopted elevated Use of Force policies have seen a 25% increase to officer safety.

To be clear, we support the AB 392’s legal standard to authorize police to use deadly force only when “necessary” to save human life. Previously, the law authorized officers to use deadly force, like any other kind of force, when “reasonable”.

In addition, we support the bill’s requirement that the conduct of the officer leading up to the use of deadly force should be part of the totality of the circumstances to evaluate the force.

We therefore call on the city to revise the current use of force policy to reflect the language and intent of AB 392. The Los Angeles Police Department and the Long Beach Police Department are examples of clear language that carry out the intent of the new law.

Yours truly,

Pat Coulter, President
League of Women Voters-Pasadena Area

Ashley Reveche, Policy Director, Criminal Justice
League of Women Voters-California