

# LWV City Council Candidate Forum available online

*By Jay Russell*

On Thursday, September 22 Piedmont's League of Women Voters held an online forum for candidates for City Council in the November 8 General Election. Moderator Nancy Beninati posed questions to the candidates and a recording is available on the League's YouTube Channel: [Youtube.com/watch?v=8wVGNA\\_BAU/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wVGNA_BAU/)

Five of the six candidates were in attendance for the forum; Bridget Harris did not attend, but Beninati read a prepared statement by Harris. Betsy Andersen, Nancy Bostrom, Jennifer Long, Tom

Ramsey, and Jeanne Solnordal answered seven questions posed in advance by Piedmont residents. Questions were selected by LWV members to eliminate duplicate inquiries.

Each candidate delivered a two-minute opening statement and following each question had 90 seconds to provide an answer. The forum ended with each candidate allowed to provide a one-minute closing statement.

The questions asked at the forum were:

1: The city is proposing to renovate or replace Piedmont's government and public safety facilities.

What is your position on this and why? In your answer, please explain the issues surrounding the costs and the potential taxes of such a project.

2: Is the City of Piedmont doing a good job in meeting the mandate for the Regional Housing Needs Allocation and what would you do if elected on that plan?

3: In August 2020, the City Council passed Resolution 60-2020 which commits the City to among other things, "to review and revise its policies. What is your position on this and why? In your answer, please explain the issues surrounding the costs and the potential taxes of such a project."

*See [LWV forum](#) on page 30*



City Council Candidates Jennifer Long (bottom left), Tom Ramsey, Nancy Bostrom, Betsy Andersen (top left) and Jeanne Solnordal (top right) answered questions presented by LWV moderator Nancy Beninati.

# LWV Forum

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cies, procedures, ordinances... through an anti-racism lens..." What specific steps will you take if elected to ensure that this is achieved?

- 4: What will you do to ensure that the City meets its goals set forth in Piedmont's Climate Action Plan 2.0, and as part of your response, please identify any areas that you believe could be improved upon in that plan.
- 5: What challenges do you see facing Piedmont in the next four years and how would you address those challenges you identify?
- 6: What can or should the City Council do with respect to state and national issues such as gun control, immigration, abortion rights, and voting rights?
- 7: What can you do that will enhance the lives of Piedmont residents?

The six candidates are competing for three seats in the council. City Council members are volunteers, serve a four-year term subject to two terms. Betsy Andersen is an incumbent and Jennifer Long served the last year as an appointment member.

City Council elections occur every two years. The three candidates that receive the most votes in November will join current council members Jen Cavanaugh and Conna McCarthy.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in democracy. They aim to empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels.

The League will host an online election forum for school board candidates tomorrow, September 29, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom and is also accessible by searching "Piedmont LWV" on Youtube.