



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

December 3, 2015

Governor Rick Snyder
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor:

The League of Women Voters of Michigan and the League of Women Voters of Flint are very concerned about the water crisis situation in Flint. Safe drinking water and appropriate attention to infrastructure systems should be a standard that is never compromised – anywhere in the State of Michigan.

While the nationwide financial crisis created numerous serious challenges for states and communities alike, the decision making system and oversight that was employed by the State of Michigan left Flint citizens, particularly children, at risk for lifetime and generational health issues. This is a population that has suffered many losses and, quite frankly, needed leadership that protected them from further economic, health and emotional harm.

The citizens of Flint have, clearly, been victimized by the public system that is supposed to protect and serve them. While we cannot turn back the clock, it is our hope that you and your staff fully support and cooperate with the state and federal investigation committees. A complete and open investigation will help ensure that mistakes of judgement and voids in process are less likely to occur in the future – especially in situations that have the potential for serious public harm.

The LWV is pleased that you appointed an independent investigation committee and encourage you to ensure that the process is thorough and transparent – with government employee cooperation and transparency. It is only through an independent process that the people of Flint and the citizens of Michigan can trust the results and any proposed remedies. Aside from functional processes that need review, there are considerations that the LWV encourages the state to address: short and long term health testing and remediation; education and behavioral monitoring and remediation; plumbing inspections and remediation; whether the lead contamination has brought further harm to the Flint River and its role as habitat; and economic considerations from business losses, home abandonment, and expenses relative to the water crisis.

We have confidence that the State of Michigan will do everything necessary and appropriate to help Flint residents recover from this grave public health episode.

Sincerely,

Judith Karandjeff, President

cc: Ken Sikkema, Chris Kolb