



LWVN Position Statement

The Transparency of City of Naperville's System for Making and Confirming Appointments to Municipal Boards and Commissions

League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends on informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible. ([Impact on Issues 2022-2024](#), page 10)

The League of Women Voters of Naperville supports an open and transparent system for making nominations and appointments to all municipal boards and commissions. An open and transparent process protects our democracy by allowing informed and active participation by all citizens in our municipal government.

Adopted Date - April 24, 20203

Full Position

1. Our League supports requiring an application for all appointees to municipal boards and commissions.
2. The application process should be well understood by and accessible to all eligible Naperville residents.
3. Our League supports a process where members of the city council would be able to see applications to municipal boards and commissions.
4. Our League strongly recommends that stakeholders have input in the mayor's process for making nominations to municipal boards and commissions.
5. Our League supports limited public availability of application information.
6. Our League supports a standardized and well-defined interview process as a requirement for nominees to municipal boards and commissions.

Background to Position

Naperville currently has 19 municipal boards and commissions. These boards and commissions are advisory. Appointees to municipal boards and commissions are required to be residents of Naperville.

By [municipal code](#), appointments to Naperville boards and commissions are made by the mayor and confirmed by the council. Municipal code mentions applications, but existing municipal code does not appear to have any requirement for an appointee to submit an application or to be interviewed.

Naperville's current municipal code for boards and commissions was written in 2004 and 2005 with minor updates in 2022 for gender neutral pronouns.

Applications are submitted online. Council members do not have access to the pool of applications submitted for municipal boards and commissions.

We examined extensive application, attendance, and appointment data provided by the city through FOIA requests. We conducted interviews with the mayor and members of the city council.

In addition, we conducted a survey of fourteen comparable communities which indicates that most other communities allow other people in addition to the mayor to review applications to municipal boards and commissions. A review of these benchmark communities suggests that Naperville's process is not in keeping with best practice for other communities of its size and stature.

This League position provides a baseline and a springboard to educate ourselves and Naperville citizens about the process of making nominations and appointments to municipal boards and commissions and to advocate for change and improvement in the process for making nominations and appointments to municipal boards and commissions, in keeping with democratic principles.