



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF KANSAS

To the Kansas Legislature:

The League of Women Voters of Kansas supports an education governance structure that is accountable to the voters and provides for the public good. The various components should work together to assure that the entire governance structure is efficient. Furthermore, the League supports a broad-based state tax system that has diverse sources of revenue and that is equitable, *provides adequate revenue*, and is effectively and economically administered. Kansas should rely more heavily upon a progressive income tax as a source of revenue. The state should promote equity in educational opportunity for all through a school finance mechanism, which makes equivalent resources available to each pupil regardless of the wealth of any particular school district. The state should provide approximately two-thirds of the total operating costs of education in Kansas. Special provision should be made for the rapid correction of deficiencies of those school districts whose per pupil expenditures do not provide an adequate basic education.

Based on the statements of position above, the League of Women Voters of Kansas strongly urges the Legislature, in its current dilemma regarding education funding, to rapidly find the necessary money to keep Kansas schools open (while doing as little damage as possible to other budget areas that finance the public good, including other children's programs and services for the poor); to adequately fund education now and in the future, *using a progressive income tax as one chief and very important means of revenue*; and to work with the courts (instead of defying the Kansas Supreme Court or limiting its powers) to provide an adequate basic education to all public school students in Kansas. It should be noted that the current monetary shortage in Kansas revenues are the direct result of the poorly guided policy of reducing corporate and personal income taxes, which the League and many other government experts have warned against, to no avail. The League supports a reversal in tax policy in Kansas to restore a greater progressive income tax to the state's means of collecting revenue, recognizing that it will take many years to reverse the damage that has already been done to the fiscal health of the State of Kansas during recent years. In summary, the League of Women Voters of Kansas strongly supports full, immediate, and adequate funding of public education, as the State Constitution requires. (Article 6, Section 6, Clause (b): The legislature shall make suitable provision for finance of the educational interests of the State.)

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