

# **LWVO POSITIONS ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

## **Convention Workshop May 2011**

### **State Board and Department of Education (Adopted 1/83)**

1. The League of Women Voters of Ohio supports the continuation of a State Board of Education which should be elected, rather than appointed.
2. The primary responsibility of the State Board of Education should be policy making/ planning.
3. The primary responsibilities of the State Department of Education should be administrative and regulatory.
4. The LWVO identifies two main areas of State Board of Education operations that need improvement: communications and management of responsibilities.
  - a. Improved direct communication is needed between the State Board of Education and the public, educators, and the legislature to increase public awareness and State Board of Education visibility.
  - b. State Board of Education responsibilities should be reduced and priorities set so that the Board can function effectively and efficiently as a policy making/ planning body.

### **State Education Standards (1/84; updated 5/95) LWVO supports:**

5. The use of state education standards as a method of requiring a general education of high quality.
6. Compliance with the same state standards by all chartered schools.
7. The establishment of guidelines for granting any exceptions to the state education standards by the State Board of Education for good and sufficient reason.
8. The development of a timely, open process for the evaluation and improvement of the state education standards. Standards should include appropriate multiple forms of assessment.

### **Education Finance**

LWVO supports the following principles as the role of the state in funding elementary and secondary education in Ohio:

9. LWVO supports a funding system for public elementary and secondary education that is accountable and responsive to the taxpayers. LWVO believes that public funds should be used only for public schools. (5/94)
10. LWVO supports a guarantee by the state of a realistic level of per pupil expenditure in all school districts, including compensatory education programs where needed. (3/69)
11. The equalizing function of the distribution formula for Foundation Basic Aid should be enhanced by decreasing the use of Basic Aid Guarantees. (1/ 85)
12. Additional state education funding to school districts should be allocated primarily through Foundation Basic Aid, as these moneys are unrestricted in use. (1/85)
13. State aid should be distributed to compensate for variations among school districts in their ability to raise local revenue to fund education. (5/91)

14. The state aid formula should be calculated to reflect the effects of the tax reduction factor on the amount of revenue school districts can raise through property taxes. (5/ 91)

15. The state aid formula should be calculated to reflect income wealth of school districts. (5/91)

16. The state aid formula should be calculated to reflect:

- a. the actual costs to school districts for state-mandated programs;
- b. meeting the educational needs of the children within the district;
- c. consideration of the economic/geographic characteristics of school districts statewide. (5/91)

17. The state should be able to assist school districts in capital improvements and building construction to comply with appropriate codes in order to ensure health and safety. ( 5/91)

18. Tax revenue from commercial/industrial/ mining/public utility property should be distributed to compensate for variations in taxable wealth among school districts. (5/91)

19. The General Assembly should establish a method to minimize fluctuations in state funding for elementary and secondary education programs. (5/91)

20. The state share of the cost of pupil transportation should be separated into two budget line items: public and nonpublic. (1/85)

21. The functions and operations of the county school system should be evaluated for possible action by the State Board of Education and/or the legislature. (1/85)

LWVO supports the following principles as the role of the local community in financing elementary and secondary education in Ohio:

- 1. Individual school districts should be required to assume a reasonable share of the financial burden and should retain the option of increasing per pupil expenditure beyond this level through local taxes. (3/69)
- 2. School districts should be participants in the decision-making process when tax abatements are being considered. (5/91)

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