LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF NORTH CAROLINA

LWVNC Joint Public Education & Tax Policy

Working together in the League

Summary of Caucus plans for 2025 Convention

League Conventions are designed to inform and express members' agreement on public policy positions. League advocacy and action are based on these positions. The **LWVNC Convention will be May 2-4** in Durham

Why these caucuses?

- Both our positions have been updated and these updates need Convention approval. We want to explain reasons for the updates.
- We want League members to be familiar with these positions and how they form a foundation for our advocacy and information.
- To gain support for the LWVNC's recommended
  Issue of Emphasis: Public Education
  Enhance and protect all levels of funding for public schools (including through associated tax policy), provide civics education, oppose shifting public dollars to vouchers for private schools.

How have the positions been changed?

- The Fiscal Policy/Tax Policy position has dropped references to policies that have been adopted.
- The Public Education position re-ordered statements and reduced duplication in order to achieve clarity and brevity.

Positions in brief:

FISCAL POLICY TAX POLICY The League of Women Voters of North Carolina believes that a state and local system of taxation should provide for adequate funding of needed services, be broad-based, and incorporate standards of equity, adequacy, collectability, economic effect, transparency, and consistency.

PUBLIC EDUCATION The League of Women Voters of North Carolina aims to promote quality public education for all students through the secondary level. The LWVNC supports the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan priorities. The LWV opposes shifting public dollars from public schools to private and for-profit school entities.

Where can I read these and other LWV positions?

- A full list of current LWVNC positions is available on the LWVNC website. Follow this link to a handbook of LWVNC positions and how to use them: ***Public Policy Positions | MyLO***

What can I learn from this handbook?

From LWVNC ***Positions for Action: Impact on Issues****, pages 1-2*

An important aspect of LWV is that it speaks with one voice.

- The League of **Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS)** is responsible for setting strategies and action policies for the entire country.
- **State Leagues,** such as LWVNC, are responsible for a consistent state effort.
- **Local Leagues** cooperate to ensure that regional issues are consistently addressed. . . .Local Leagues decide which of the many Public Policy Positions to focus on and how to implement actions effectively in their area.

LWV at all levels engages in

- **education** of and
- **communication** with voters and policy makers through a variety of media;
- **advocacy** through public policy briefs and forums; and
- **lobbying** to influence legislation.

Why Attend a caucus?

- Discover how reduced revenue from tax cuts impacts public education.
- Understand facts about NC fiscal policy and financing of public education.
- Engage in discussions on equity for public schools and funding competition, including private school vouchers.
- Learn about updates to LWVNC positions on public education and tax policy.

Your Voice Matters!

- Help shape our advocacy and action at the upcoming LWVNC Convention.

*The LWVNC **Public Education Action Team**, chaired by Jeanne Smith and Lucy Bond, and the **Tax Policy Review Committee,** chaired by Martha Roblee and Ruth Ann Groh, are working together to explain and promote support for updates to their positions.*

NC Tax Policy Fails Public Education

North Carolina's current tax policy undermines public education. By favoring low/flat income tax rates, reducing/eliminating corporate tax contributions, and relying heavily on sales and property taxes, the state has created a regressive system that disproportionately burdens low-income families—and fails to deliver the investment needed to educate the next generation.

This approach leaves our schools underfunded and our children underserved. More than **43% of NC households earn less than a living wage** (myFutureNC.org), yet our tax system asks them to contribute more, proportionally, than the wealthiest. Meanwhile, critical investments in teacher pay, school facilities, and student support go unmet.

Research consistently shows that **increased state education funding leads to better outcomes**—higher test scores, graduation rates, college attendance, and long-term earning potential. North Carolina has a roadmap for progress: the **Leandro Comprehensive Plan** (NCBudget.org/EveryChildNC.org)., a court-ordered solution rooted in equity and effectiveness. But until the state fully funds this plan, those benefits will remain out of reach.

The **Opportunity Scholarship Program** (school vouchers) worsens the situation by siphoning public dollars into private education—without public oversight. This is especially harmful in rural and small districts, where private alternatives are scarce and public schools lose resources without any real "choice" created.

It doesn't have to be this way. North Carolina must:

- Halt further cuts to individual and corporate income tax rates.
- Restore a graduated income tax structure based on ability to pay.
- Reinvest in public education at levels that match our aspirations for economic growth and social equity.
- Reform the school funding formula to ensure that low-wealth districts get the resources they need.

A regressive tax system that underfunds education is not pro-growth—it's self-defeating. Prosperity begins in the classroom. A strong public education system benefits every student, strengthens our workforce, and drives a healthy economy for all.

From a statement by Dr. John Lee, LWV of Charlotte Mecklenburg, April 2025