



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN

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Governor Jim Doyle
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Doyle,

In your second term, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin looks forward to continuing to work with your office to ensure good public policy that protects and benefits all Wisconsin residents.

As a partner of Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools, the League is concerned that the education and the futures of Wisconsin children are in great jeopardy because of the way fund our public schools are funded. Your record of concern for Wisconsin's children and support of quality public education makes us confident that you will agree that something must be done immediately. We hope you will stand up for our children as you have in the past.

As you know, the League represents over 2,000 civic activists, both men and women, around the state. Our positions are informed by in-depth policy studies and adopted through member agreement. We believe that educational quality throughout the state is eroding. Insufficient revenue and inadequate public funding are resulting in staff layoffs, increasing class sizes and cuts to important programs and services. Music, language and sports are progressing toward becoming programs available only to children in wealthy school districts.

Wisconsin needs a system of school financing which ensures that a child's opportunity for a good education is not limited by the fiscal ability of the local school district. In this year's budget the state must assume a significant amount of education financing and include substantial increases in categorical aids. Special education resources, bilingual programs, transportation services, SAGE and rural school districts are all in need of immediate and significant state aid. The state must maintain a two-thirds state funding structure to keep schools from closing, especially in districts with declining enrollment.

As a partner in WAES, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is committed to fighting for increased categorical aid to address the critical short-term needs in all school districts. We thank you for your ongoing support of education in Wisconsin, and we look forward to working with you, other education stakeholders, and the Legislature to begin comprehensive reform of the school-funding system in 2007.

If we cannot adequately invest in our children, what kind of future can we expect for our state?

Sincerely,

Melanie Ramey, President