

In lieu of a Legislative Newsletter...

Dear Leaguers,

Friday was the cutoff for bills to be heard in the opposite house. Our Lobby Team's policy issues now come down to how they are funded in the budget package before the Legislature. **Your help is needed.**

As we enter the last 6 days of regular session, the League is not asking for new programs during this tough time and wants to encourage Legislators to look to additional revenue to "save" programs. The League takes positions on many policy areas and believes the Legislators will find the right mix for these tough times but they need to know that their constituents support them as they add new revenue into this mix.

Our position is that if the Budget is only cuts, then many very needy folks and children will be in even more dire situations than they are today and the State will not be positioned positively coming out of this recession. The League is asking our legislators to find new revenues close to 1 billion so fewer cuts are made to important programs across the board. We must support the Legislators as corporate lobbyists have descended on Olympia to protect their tax exemptions and loopholes.

So first, **send an email to or phone your legislators** to make their revenue packages bigger.

Why? Here are some of the items the Lobby Team would like to see preserved in our State's funding package:

Early Learning: Revenues to keep the doors open at Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies across the state, revenues so that, parents who get child care subsidies can continue to have child care while they work and revenues so that poor 3 and 4 yr old children can attend ECEAP programs that help prepare them for school.

K-12 Education: Revenues to maintain lower class-size in Grades K-4, provide levy equalization to property-poor school districts and maintain financial aid for college students. Without this revenue, even more will be cut from public education than last year.

Energy and Climate Change: The natural resources agencies took a 25% hit last year and are taking another big hit this year unless we raise enough revenue to ease the situation.

Health Care: The Basic Health Plan (BMP) will be preserved near its present level in the House budget until January 2011, when it will be discontinued in the hopes that Federal Funds will take over. Preventative programs will be reduced or cut including the universal vaccination program, colon screening, child and maternal health programs, area health centers, and the AIDS prevention program. Several mental health programs will be reduced or eliminated.

Next, join our coalition partners this Tuesday. From Rebuilding Our Economic Future:

**"Attend a Candlelight Vigil for our Future Tuesday 6-8pm at the Capitol:** We want to have a presence at the capitol this last week and so are organizing a vigil on Tuesday from 6-8 pm inside the capitol dome to remind legislators in these dark economic times they can "light the way for a brighter future ". We are working on the details but the goal is for this to be a positive and lively event. We plan to hand out glowsticks to legislators that say "Light the way for a better future, Yes on Revenue" that they can wear them on their necks for the final push."

Thank you. Please contact your Legislators today with your support for them as they deal with this tough situation. Your contact makes a difference!

Sincerely,  
Kim Abel  
LWVWA 1st V-P and Action Chair