

**League of Women Voters of Washington records indicate that state taxes have been on the agenda since 1953.**

- Legislature increased the sales tax, business and occupation tax and cigarette tax creating a renewed interest in the tax structure - League's publication, *The Tax Primer* (1957)
- Updated study done in 1965.
- 4 failed attempts to reform taxes by initiatives from 1970-1982.
- Voters approve initiative exempting food from sales tax in 1977. Temporary re-imposition of a tax on food and an increase in most tax rates and fee in 1982.
- By 1987, the tax structure had received only minor modifications, primarily additional tax exemptions.
- In 1989 the League cooperated with Governor Gardner's task force to push for tax reform.
- In 1991 delegates to the state LWV convention again called for an update. In 1992 *The Basic Tax System in Washington* was published in the Spring *VOTER*.
- A one-year study, "A Comparison and Contrast of Tax and Revenue Systems in Washington Counties", was adopted at the 1999 State Convention.
- Delegates at the 2001 LWWVA convention adopted a two-year study on Washington's Tax Structure, an update of our previous studies (1959, 1965, 1992). The goal of the study is to develop a public educational campaign.
- The League has continued to work for its goal of a balanced, adequate, fair, flexible and economically sound tax system by self-education and discussion of tax issues, by monitoring legislation and taking appropriate action, and by participation in coalitions.