



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN
EDUCATION FUND**

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Revenue is Key to a Balanced Budget and Our Quality of Life

There are now four versions of the 2007-09 State Budget, proposed by the Governor, the Joint Committee on Finance, the Senate and the Assembly. While there are significant differences among the versions, all leave a very substantial Structural Deficit to be passed on to the next biennium. The Assembly version has the greatest deficit, a mind-boggling \$877 million, and it also proposes the greatest reduction in General Purpose Revenue. This is not a coincidence; insufficient revenues naturally result in deficits.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is concerned that this budget will continue a dangerous pattern of under-funding the services we all rely on, such as our roads and bridges, clean air and water, state parks and open space, high quality education, and standards for hospitals and public health. These services are vital to our quality of life.

Each budget that is passed without sufficient revenue adds to the deficit that will burden future generations of Wisconsin taxpayers. We advocate raising sufficient revenue to create a balanced budget. Of the many revenue options available, we strongly support the progressive income tax, which is the best tax to use if ability to pay is a goal.

It is unfortunate that many elected officials are afraid to raise the income tax for their current constituents but do not worry about our children and grandchildren.

LWVWI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan political organization that promotes informed and active participation in government. Through member-led research, public education and direct advocacy, the League works to improve public participation in the democratic process and to champion public policy goals that are beneficial to all.

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