

**League of Women Voter of Greater Tucson
Position on Education Finance**

This position was reached following study and member consensus in 1994 and 1995.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson supports the following four aspects of funding for public schools:

- A. More sources of funding. All state taxpayers should be responsible for financial support of public schools. There should be less reliance on the residential property tax, but increased use of the income tax, sales tax and lottery money. There should be continued use of land trust monies and increased use of private funds, impact fees on development, and local education taxes. There should be more money spent to educate students for an active working life so there would be less need for money spent on prisons. The new monies should be additional funds, not substituted from present state education funding.

- B. Continued centralized collection and distribution of funding. There should be continued centralized collection of monies for school funding and distribution of those monies to local school districts that should give the funds to local site-based managed schools. This would provide:
 - a certain basic amount of money for each student;
 - financing over and above the basic amount to ensure equal opportunity for each student;
 - equal maintenance of buildings and supplies; and
 - strong leadership and quality teaching.

- C. Basic funding for the classroom. Populations at school sites differ widely; however, basic educational needs are the same and must be met. Mandated programs should be funded by the level of government mandating the programs for the duration of the program. Money, such as that for transportation, social services and special education needs should continue to be figured apart from the base amount. Formulas and budget forms should be the same among districts and schools and should be clarified so that interested citizens, with study, can understand the formulas and forms and be able to comment on them.

- D. No public monies for private schools. Public funds should be used only for public schools and not for vouchers to private schools.