

Background for Consensus

Twenty-nine local Leagues and two provisional leagues met the consensus deadline. Two, Edinburg-McAllen and Deer Park Provisional were late. Denton reported a consensus in their Voter, but I didn't receive a report. Beaumont sent in a report indicating that their meeting had been cancelled due to ice. Leagues not responding were: Brownsville, Harlingen, Pasadena, Plainview-Hale County, San Antonio, Victoria and Wichita Falls. Some 1,079 members were reported as taking part in the meetings.

Eighteen of the Leagues, including Sherman, Edinburg-McAllen, and Deer Park were in favor of full-state funding. These Leagues represented 679 members. Ten Leagues, including Lamar County and Denton were in favor of retaining the Joint-Local system of financing public schools. These Leagues represented 282 members. Seven Leagues, including Beaumont, reported no consensus. Galveston, however, preferred full state funding but thought it politically unfeasible. These Leagues represented 128 members.

Under full state funding, as to ways of raising the revenue, fifteen Leagues preferred a state income tax. Twelve of the fifteen wanted to combine a state income tax with a state corporate profits tax. Seven of the fifteen Leagues mentioned the property tax. Eight did not.

Fifteen of the local Leagues preferred a statewide property tax with state supervision and uniform assessment procedures. Four Leagues mentioned the property tax only. Eleven mentioned a state income tax and corporate profits tax in addition to the property tax. Four Leagues didn't mention taxes at all.

In regard to reforms in the ad valorem tax, twenty-one Leagues recommended assessing property at full market value. Fifteen Leagues wanted to see a state agency created to supervise and enforce equitable assessment and taxation procedures. Nineteen Leagues wanted tax assessors to be professionally trained and supervised.

Eight Leagues and a strong minority of 1 League felt that equalization of school facilities should be included with equalization of other school costs to be funded by the state. Seven additional Leagues and strong minorities in 2 other Leagues felt that there should be some sort of state assistance to local districts for construction of facilities.

Twenty-six of the Leagues wished to see money allocated to the local school districts on a weighted pupil basis.

Ten Leagues and a strong minority of one mentioned that cost of living should be taken into account when allocating the money.

Twelve Leagues mentioned that money should be allocated on the basis of average daily membership rather than average daily attendance.

In regard to retaining the joint state-local method of financing public schools, seventeen Leagues mentioned either dropping or revising the economic index. Eleven Leagues wanted to drop it altogether. Six wanted to revise it.

Fifteen Leagues mentioned the major revision they wanted to see was assessing property at full market value. Thirteen Leagues mentioned professionalizing the tax assessors.

Fifteen Leagues wanted to raise the level of the state's Foundation School Program to a point that would insure quality education for all Texas school children.

Eight Leagues mentioned eliminating the credits against the Local Fund Assignment. Seven wanted to see consolidation of the smaller school districts.

In regard to power equalizing, nine Leagues and a minority of one wished to use this concept in obtaining more funds from the rich districts to help the poor ones.

Twenty local Leagues plus a minority of one mentioned wanting to allow some local enrichment or up to 10% enrichment.

Consensus Statement
on School Financing

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports measures to equalize educational opportunity in the State.

The League supports:

1. ~~Full~~ state funding for public school education in Texas.
2. Raising the revenue from a combination of state taxes, including a statewide property tax, a state income tax, and a state corporate profits tax.
3. Assessing taxable property at full market value.
4. Establishing state supervision of property tax administration to insure equitable and uniform assessment and taxing procedures.
5. Requiring professional training for tax assessor-collectors.
6. Devising a state program to help local districts defray the cost of equalizing facilities.
7. Allocating funds to local school districts on the basis of "weighted" pupil needs.
8. Allowing local districts some leeway to enrich the state program, but not more than 10%.

In regard to revising the present joint state-local system of financing public schools to achieve further equalization of educational opportunity, the League of Women Voters supports:

1. Raising the level of ^{support to} the State's Foundation School Program to insure that all Texas school children receive a basic, ^{high} quality education.
2. Dropping or ~~revising~~ the economic index as a means of computing the local district's share of the Foundation School Program.
3. Computing the Local Fund Assignment on the basis of full market value of the taxable property within the local school district.
4. Allocating funds on a weighted pupil basis, according to educational need.

- La. Full State Funding - Revenue Equalizing Methods
- 14 State agency to equalize local tax rates & assessment values - Amarillo Corsicana
Richardson, Sherman, Waco, Austin, Bay Area, Duving, San Marcos, Denton, Abilene, Midland
 - 12 Assess at full market value - Amarillo Corsicana, Texas City, Duving, Sherman,
Galveston, Hunt Co., Lamar Co., Montgomery Co., Odessa, Denton, Galveston
 - 6 Documentary stamp - Texas City, Duving, Richardson, Duving, Montgomery County, San Marcos, Galveston
 - 15 Personal income tax combined with corporate profits tax - Baytown Brazzport Bogalusa
Dallas, Lubbock, Garland, Midland, Tyler, Waco, Edinburg, Midland, Corpus
 - 1 Personal income tax designated for education only - Brazz County
 - 8 Improved property tax method, if additional money required levy
income & corporate profits tax - Corsicana, Waco, Austin, Bay Area, Lamar Co., Odessa, Denton
 - 7 Prefer income & corporate profits tax, but if ad valorem retained, favor
(a) State central supervision - Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, Garland, Richardson, Tyler, Edinburg
(b) Statewide equalization - Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, Garland, Richardson, Tyler, Edinburg
(c) Uniform assessment standards - Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, Garland, Richardson, Tyler, Edinburg
(d) Exemption on homestead - Garland, Richardson, Bay Area
(e) Made progressive for low income groups - Waco
Against inheritance - Garland, Sherman, Waco, Galveston
 - 1 Gradual implementation of new rates & assessments - Richardson

1.b Full State Funding - Allocation of Funds

- 8 Equalize facilities - Amarillo, Brazzport, Dallas, Midland, Richardson, Sherman
Edinburg, Midland, Houston (min)
- 6 Facilities assistance - Austin, Duving, Montgomery Co., San Marcos, Denton, Tarrant Co. (min)
- 26 Weighted pupil grants - Amarillo, Baytown, Brazzport, Corsicana, Dallas,
Garland (Edinburg min), Houston, Lubbock, Garland, Midland, Richardson, Sherman,
Tyler, Waco, Edinburg, Midland, Bay Area, Corpus, Duving, San Marcos, Montgomery Co., Odessa
Galveston, Galveston, S. Hill Co., Tarrant Co.,
- 11 Consider cost of living variations - Amarillo, Dallas, Texas City, Duving, Midland,
Richardson, Tyler, Montgomery County, Hunt Co., Tarrant Co., Denton, Houston (min)
- 2 Per pupil expenditures related to educational needs - Baytown, Montgomery Co.,
- 4 Study voucher system - Baytown, Dallas, Edinburg-Midland, Odessa
- 1 Allocate on basis of total scholastics rather than ADA - Brazz County
- 4 Some local enrichment permitted with power equalizing - Dallas, Waco, Austin,
Duving
- 1 Flat grant - Garland
- 1 State should set basic standard allowing local districts to
choose own methods of achieving these standards - Houston
- 10 ADM rather than ADA - Texas City, Duving, Lubbock, Garland, Richardson, Waco,
Austin, Duving, Odessa, Denton, Galveston
- 1 Incentive pay to teachers to go to area of greatest need - Richardson
- 1 Per pupil grants plus added for disadvantage - San Marcos

2.a Joint State Local - Revenue Equalizing Changes

- 6 Change economic index - Amarillo, Brazos County, Garland, Tufar, Waco, Tarrant Co.
 - a. Eliminate student census - Amarillo
 - b. Assess property at market value - Amarillo, Bartown, Brazos County, Corsicana, Garland, Midland, Richardson, Sherman, Tufar, Waco, Corsica, Irving, San Marcos, Galveston, Hunt Co.
 - c. Allow no net profit property tax reduction - Brazos County
- 11 Drop economic index - Corsicana, Richardson, Sherman, Tufar, Waco, Corsica, Irving, Loman Co., San Marcos, Galveston, Tarrant Co.
- 5 Eliminate credit - Amarillo, Brazos County, Brazosport, Midland, Corsica, Irving, San Marcos, Tarrant Co.
- 4 Institute power equalizing - Amarillo, Texas City, La Marque, Waco, El Paso
- 13 Professionalize tax assessors - Bartown, Brazos County, Brazosport, Garland, Hearland, Midland, Richardson, Sherman, Irving, Montgomery County, Galveston, Hunt Co., Tarrant Co.
- 1 Earn maximum interest for government school fund - Brazos County
- 1 Place Available School Fund in FSP - Brazos County
- 15 Raise level of FSP to cover entire real cost of education - Brazosport, Houston, Midland, Richardson, Sherman, Waco, Edinburg, Mason, Bay Area, El Paso, Loman Co., Montgomery County, Denton
- 5 Require minimum local effort of all districts - Brazosport, Garland, Midland, El Paso, Loman Co.
- 9 Create state agency to administer property tax uniformly - Brazosport, Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, Tufar, Bay Area, Corsica, Montgomery Co., Denton
- 3 Re-draw district lines to broaden tax base - Garland, Richardson, Abilene
- 7 Consolidation of smaller districts - Hearland, Sherman, Austin, El Paso (minority), Irving, Odessa, Abilene

2.b Joint State Local, Allocation of funds

- 6 Equalization of facilities - Amarillo, Brazosport, Dallas, Houston, (minority), Hearland, Richardson
- 4 Facilities assistance - Bay Area, Irving, Loman Co., Tarrant Co. (minority), Galveston (minority)
- 20 Weighted pupil grants - Amarillo, Brazosport, Corsicana, Dallas, Garland (minority), Houston, Hearland, Richardson, Sherman, Tufar, Waco, Austin, Corsica, Irving, Odessa, Denton, Dickinson, Galveston, Hunt Co., Tarrant Co.
- 1 Weighted pupil grant combined with equal expenditures, adjusted for difference in cost - Bartown
- 2 Teachers should be paid by the state - Brazos County, Brazosport
- 7 Funds should be allocated on enrollment, not ADA - Brazos County, Richardson, Waco, Austin, Irving, Odessa, Galveston
- 5 Permit local enrichment through power equalizing - Dallas, Houston, Texas City, M., Galveston, Hunt Co.
- 1 Flat grant - Garland

Local levyway - 1970 - Amarillo, Brazos County, Richardson, Sherman, Tufar, Edinburg-Mason, Austin, Bay Area

Some - Brazosport (minority), Dallas, Garland, Houston, Lubbock, Waco, Irving, Loman Co., Odessa, San Marcos, Denton, Abilene, Galveston

1953
481
1 1/2

29 local leagues, and 2 Provisional Leagues met the consensus deadline. One, Edinburgh, Mellon was late & Leagues not responding were: Bismarck, Deer Park River, Hardwin, Pasadena, Rainier-Hale County, San Antonio, Victoria & Wichita Falls. (Dexter suggested a consensus in their letter but I didn't receive a report. Beaumont was in a report form indicating that their meeting had been cancelled due to ice.) Some 1,062 members were reported as taking part in the meeting.

Southern of the League including Sherman (prev) and Edinburgh Mellon were in favor of full state funding. These Leagues represented 652 members. Ten Leagues including Bonar County, Bonaville and Dexter, were in favor of retaining the first local system of financing public schools. These Leagues represented 232 members. Seven Leagues including Beaumont, reported no consensus. Johnston, Jansen, published 'full state funding' but thought it politically unfeasible. Five Leagues represented 125 members when first state funding was proposed. (Fifteen local Leagues refused a state school tax. Twelve of the fifteen voted to describe a half measure but with a state corporate property tax. Seven of the fifteen Leagues did not make the property tax, Eight didn't. Fifteen of the local Leagues preferred a statewide property tax with state supervision and uniform assessment procedures. Four Leagues mentioned the growth tax bill. Eleven mentioned a state income tax + corporate property tax in addition to the property tax. Four Leagues didn't mention state at all.

In regard to reforms in the oil uniform tax, twenty-one Leagues recommended assessing property at full market value. Fifteen Leagues wanted to use a state agency created to supervise and enforce uniformity in assessment and taxation guidelines. Twelve Leagues wanted tax revenues to be professionally trained and supervised.

Eight Leagues recommended that the state consider of school facilities should be included with regulation of other state school acts to be funded by the state. Seven Leagues and various minorities in 8 other Leagues felt that there should be some sort of state assistance to local districts for construction of facilities.

Twenty-one of the Leagues wished to use money allocated to the local school districts or a restricted pool state

Ten Leagues and a third minority of one mentioned that cost of living should be taken into account when allocating the money.

Twelve local Leagues mentioned that money should be allocated on the basis of average daily membership rather than average daily attendance.

Statute Law
Range County (prev) & District Board
Ridgely, Shawnee, Tiger, Big Horn, Chisno
Chisno

Qualification of assessment
Dobson, Fowler, Tule County, Windland
Lopez, Elgin, Johnson, El Paso, Dumas,
H. Green, Cedar, Midway, Chisno, Chisno,
San Antonio, Chisno, Chisno, Chisno,
West County, Tule County, Chisno

State agency to regulate assessment & taxes
Orem, (Sagehen), Corvallis, Austin

Range County
Dillon, Wagon, Aubrey, Perry, Orem, Tule County, Elm, El Paso, Houston, Chisno, West Co, Bismarck (prev)

Easton
Greene, Wagon, Dallas, Hall, Wagon
Tanner County, Redwood, Ridge, Elgin, Midway, Sherman, Austin, Quincy, San Antonio
Bismarck, Tule County, Chisno (prev)

3. Preference

- 8 Full-state funding 10% local levy - Amarillo, Bexar County, Midland, Richardson
Donna County, El Paso, Edinburg, Mission
- 9 Full-state funding - Baytown, Brownsville, Corsicana, Garland, Texas City, Sam, Lubbock
Pearsburg, San Antonio
- 2 Full-state funding including capital expenses - Dallas, Richardson
- 2 Full-state funding, some local levy - Dallas, Houston
- 1 Full-state funding negotiable but not politically feasible - Columbia
- 1 Joint state-local with some local surcharge - Austin
- 1 State-local funding 10% local surcharge - Bay Area
- 5 State-local funding - Corpus, El Paso, Irving, Lamar Co., Montgomery Co., Odessa, San Marcos
Hunt County
- 4 No consensus - Abilene, Dickinson, S. Jeff Co (want full st funding), Tarrant County

Consensus Statement

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The League of Women Voters of Texas supports measures to equalize educational opportunity in the State.

The League supports:

Full state funding for public education. Revenue should be raised from ^{a combination of state-wide} ~~state-wide~~ taxes, including a state-wide property tax, a state income tax, and a state corporate profits tax. A statewide property tax should be levied on property assessed at full market value. There should be state supervision to assure equitable and uniform assessment procedures. Assessors should be professionally trained.

In allocation of funds ^{to the local school districts}, consideration should be given to the inclusion of construction costs in addition to instructional, maintenance, transportation, & other costs.

Money should be allocated on a "weighted pupil" basis, according to the educational needs of the pupil, rather than on a flat grant basis.

Local districts should be allowed some leeway to enrich the state program further. This leeway should not exceed 10%.

In regard to revising the present joint state-local system of financing public schools ^{to equalize educational opportunity}, the League of Women Voters of Texas supports:

2. ~~Revising or revising the economic index as a means of computing the local district~~
3. Computing the local fund assignment on the basis of ^{the FSP} full market value of property within a local school district
4. Allocating funds ^{to educational need} on a weighted pupil basis, according
1. Raising the level of the State's Foundation School Program to ensure that all children will receive a good, basic, quality education.

In regard to ~~the~~ retaining the joint state local method of financing public schools seventeen leagues mentioned either dropping or revising the economic index. Seven leagues wanted to drop it altogether. Six wanted to revise it. Fifteen leagues mentioned the major revision they wanted to use was assessing property at full market value. ~~Thirteen leagues mentioned professional appraisal.~~
* Eight leagues mentioned eliminating the credits against the local fund assignment. Seven wanted to use consolidation of the smaller school districts.

* Fifteen leagues wanted to raise the level of the state's Foundation School Program to a point that would ensure quality education for all Texas school children. (top level, good quality districts)

In regard to power equalizing, nine local leagues and a minority of one more wished to use the concept in obtaining more funds from the rich districts to help the poor ones.

Twenty local leagues plus a minority of one more mentioned wanting to allow some or up to 10% local override.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports measures to equalize educational opportunity in the State.

The League supports:

1. Full state funding for public school education.
2. Raising the revenue from a combination of state taxes, including a statewide property tax, a state income tax, and a state corporate profit tax.
3. Assessing property at full market value.
4. Establishing state supervision of property tax administration to insure equitable and uniform assessment & taxing procedures.
5. Requiring professional training for tax assessor-collector.
6. ^{State} Providing a program to help local districts defray the cost of equalizing facilities.
7. Allocating funds to local school districts on the basis of "weighted" pupil needs.
8. Allowing local districts some leeway to enrich the state program, but not more than 10%.

In regard to revising the present joint state-local system of financing public schools to achieve further equalization of educational opportunity, the League of Women Voters supports:

1. Raising the level of the State Foundation School Program to insure that all Texas school children receive a basic, quality education.
2. Dropping or revising the economic index as a means of computing the local district's share of the Foundation School Program.
3. Computing the local fund assignment on the basis of full market value of the property within a local school district.
4. Allocating funds on a weighted pupil base, according to educational need.
5. --

Public School Financing
Consensus Statement

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports measures to equalize educational opportunity in the State.

Specifically, the League believes that:

the level of State support to Texas public schools should be raised to insure that all Texas school children receive a high quality education. Local enrichment funding should be limited to 10% of the state program.

the revenue should be raised by a ~~combination of a statewide~~ ^{unapportioned} property tax, ^{There of} a state income tax, ~~and a~~ state corporate profits tax, ^{or a} ~~or a combination of these~~ ^{taxes.}

In levying ~~the statewide~~ property tax: taxable property should be assessed at full market value; state supervision ~~should be established to insure~~ equitable and uniform assessment and taxing procedures; professional training should be required for tax assessor-collectors.

funds to local school districts should be allocated on the basis of ~~weighted~~ pupil needs.

local district capital outlay should be supplemented by the State to equalize facilities

Clarify weighted pupil concept in position paper.

[illegible]

League	No. of Members	Full State Funding To Raising Revenue	Full market value State agency to regulate	Income tax	Corporate profits equity account shareholders	Excise taxes	1b. Allocation Flat grant Weighted equal grant	Cost of Living Equitable funding grant State local	2a. Raising Revenue Charges economic incentives	Access full right Institute government Eliminate subsidies Preferential access To Allocation	Equalizing formula	Weighted equal grant	ADM State Amendment, preference	3. Reference	Full State Funding Full State Funding incl. capital outlay	grant State local	No Consensus Other
Austin	100	✓	✓	2	2	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		100%	✓	Consolidation
Bay Area	25	✓	✓	2	2	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			100%	✓	
Capehart	30			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
El Paso	40			✓					✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Dallas	20	✓	✓	1	2	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	consolidation
San Antonio	21	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Montgomery	25	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	Single market value
Odessa	17	✓		2				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	consolidation
San Marcos	4	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	T.S.A. plan
Denton		✓	✓	1	2			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	282																
Abilene	35							✓									✓ Admission school district
Beaumont		Cancelled due to ice															✓
Dickinson	12	✓	✓	2	2	✓	✓	✓									✓
Galveston	31	✓	✓	1/2	1/2	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Hunt County	16					✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			grant and state	
Jefferson	10			✓	✓			✓								one city	✓
Tarrant County	44	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
	128																

No response: Plainview-Halt City, Brownsville, Harlingen, Victoria, San Antonio, Deer Park Prov., Wichita Falls, Pasadena,

Specifically the League believe that:

~~The~~ level of ~~state~~ support to Texas public schools should be raised to insure that all Texas school children receive a high quality education. Local ~~enrichment~~ ~~fundraising~~ ~~expenditure~~ should be limited to 10% of the state program.

The revenue should be raised by a combination of ~~the~~ ~~taxes~~ including a statewide property tax, a state income tax, and a state corporate profit tax.

In levying a statewide property tax; taxable property should be assessed at full market value; state supervision should be established to insure equitable & uniform assessment & taxing procedures; professional training should be required for tax assessor-collectors.

~~State~~ funds to local school districts should be allocated on the basis of "weighted" pupil needs.

~~Funding~~ for local district capital outlay should be supplemented by the state to equalize facilities.

situation as possible, or better; toxic material should not be buried

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

JAN 10 1973

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

September 1972
4 copies

CONSENSUS DEADLINE - JANUARY 15, 1973

Please return three copies to the state office.

League of Women Voters of Amarillo

2 unit discussions

Number of meetings held 1 consensus. Number of members participating 13

Types of meetings held Unit discussions

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts? **Majority of members wished an equalization of the local tax rates and assessment ratios by the creation of a State tax agency which would assess at full market value.**
-A minority of the members thought that a State Income Tax should be levied if the state assumed full funding.
-A smaller minority felt that an additional sales tax with certain exemptions would be best to finance full funding.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

There should be weighted pupil grants after an initial equalizing of facilities. There should also be some provision for variation in living costs in different parts of the State.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
**Change the economic index-- eliminate student census from the index, and assess property tax at market value.
Institute power equalizing.
Eliminate credit systems.**

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Equalization of facilities, then ~~then~~ weighted pupil grants.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

The majority of the Amarillo LNV present at these meetings favored full State funding. Most of those wanting State funding preferred that there be a local leeway of no more than 10%.

The Board of the Amarillo League would like to suggest that in future state studies, the bibliography be marked in order of importance. We found ourselves at the end of the study missing some of the more important references, and having a superfluous number of other interesting, but not too useful references. We appreciate that this was an emergency study and that time was at a premium, and wish to complement the "Facts and Issues"--TEXAS SCHOOL FINANCE. It was a most valuable publication. We also appreciate the fact that this is a very complex subject, but during and after the consensus, our members felt that the questions were a little obscure; it was said several times that if simpler words were used in the questions, the meaning of the questions would have been clearer. We do appreciate all the help you have been to us, though.

Katie McDonough,
School Finance Study Chairman
League of Women Voters of Amarillo

DEC 22 1972

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

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League of Women Voters of Baytown, Texas

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 18

Types of meetings held Unit Meetings, 1 morning and 1 night

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Personal income tax in combination with a Corporate Profits Tax.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Per pupil expenditures related to educational needs. Weighted pupil grant. The Voucher system merits more study.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

All taxable property should be assessed at 100% of its fair cash market value. Intangible property, (stocks and bonds) should be taxed. There was one suggestion that Industrial property tax should be divided according to residence of employee. There should be Professional property assessors.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Weighted pupil grant combined with equal expenditures--adjusted for difference in costs. Also some consideration should be given to capital outlay fund.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Full state Funding.

JAN 3 1973

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

League of Women Voters of Brazos County

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 35.

Types of meetings held Unit.

CONSENSUS
PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts? We agreed that Texas schools should be state supported with a maximum of 10% local enrichment. We suggested these forms of taxation: (1) a personal graduated income tax, designated for education only, and (2) a corporate profits tax. If we must continue to use property taxes to support education the reforms listed in question 2 a. should be instituted. An income tax law designating revenue for education should be changed by referendum only.

Minority opinion: a minority of the members supported equitable state property taxes, sales tax on services and severance taxes.

(b) What methods would you consider essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts? It was agreed that money should be allocated on a weighted pupil formula with consideration being given to the cost of educating the disadvantaged child--the physically and mentally disabled and those geographically disadvantaged.

Minority opinion or ideas mentioned and approved at only one unit meeting: Fifty percent of all local enrichment funds should be placed in a state fund and used for equalizing enrichment state-wide. All money from the state should be designated for specific purposes. Total scholastics should be used for allocation purposes rather than ADA.

2. (a) If the present state-local system of financing Texas public school education were retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts? More equitable methods for equalizing revenue would be (1) to certify all tax assessors (2) to revise the Economic Index by including all incomes within a school district and assessing real property at 100% market value, allowing no non-profit property tax exemptions (3) to remove the "budget balance" credits, the government-owned land credits and the maximum tax rate limitation credits from the Local Fund Assignment (4) to earn maximum interest for permanent school fund and (5) to place Available School Funds in the Foundation School Program fund.

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts? It was agreed that the number of pupils in a Classroom Teacher Unit should be lowered and based on enrollment, not ADA. Teachers should be paid by the state. The Minimum Foundation Program should be increased to include teacher workshops, multi-district services, supplementary reading materials, etc.

Minority opinion: The Minimum Foundation Program cannot be made equitable and should be eliminated. The Classroom Teacher Unit should be based on ADA. The state should specify a maximum class size.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain. The first system.

The consensus was reached that we should have state supported schools with a limited enrichment at the local level. The state should be responsible for raising the quality of education throughout the state and for incorporating progressive tax measures to support it.

JAN 15 1973

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
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League of Women Voters of Brazosport

Number of meetings held two. Number of members participating 22 *

Types of meetings held one discussion and one concensus *

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

The state should assume the full realistic cost of education: the entire cost of salaries, operational, transportation, and maintenance expenses as well as building costs and land acquisition costs. The level of education should be as high as is necessary to meet the needs of all the students. One unit ($\frac{1}{2}$ of the members) felt there should be no local enrichment, but rather each district should receive funding for those programs which are necessary to it but not necessary to other districts. (Voc. Ag., Oceanography, etc.) The other unit ($\frac{1}{2}$) felt local enrichment with power equalization should be allowed. Both units felt that state funds should be raised without using the ad valorem tax. One unit ($\frac{1}{2}$)

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts? (see bottom last page.)

Funds should be allocated by weighted pupil or instructional unit grants and should cover actual building costs and transportation costs.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

First raise the level of the MFP to cover the entire real cost of education. Decrease the percentage raised for local enrichment (if any) and increase the the percentage of local funds raised for the MFP local fund assignment. The maximum tax credit and the balance budget credit should be eliminated. Assuming that the ad valorem tax would still be used to raise the local districts share of the cost of the MFP, an independent state agency with trained evaluators and other trained personnel based locally and beholdng only to the state office is needed to enforce uniform evaluation and assessment practices. A minimum tax effort should be required of all districts. ~~The/ed/~~ The economic index should be eliminated. One unit ($\frac{1}{2}$) felt total taxable value within the district should be the basis for assigning local contributions to the ~~local~~ funding of the MFP. The other $\frac{1}{2}$ did not suggest a replacement for the economic index. Again one unit ($\frac{1}{2}$) did not want local enrichment while the other $\frac{1}{2}$ did. Both felt power equalization with a maximum limit was the only fair way to handle local enrichment if you were going to have it allowed. (continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Again, distribution should be based on need with allocation on a weighted pupil or instructional unit basis plus transportation and building and land acquisition costs. The MFP should cover the entire cost of salaries.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We prefer # 1 or full state funding with the costs born by corporate and personal income taxes as explained above.

I would like to add a personal note of thanks to Mrs. Fritz. The F & I was the clearest and most complete paper I read on the subject and I feel like I read them all. It was unbelievably good. The only regret that I have is that I misunderstood the number of unit meetings required and only asked for two at calendar making. (One discussion and one consensus.) Of course the material was so complex and there was so much of it that a minimum of two discussions meetings were necessary. We have 20 extra copies of this fine F & I and we will distribute them in the community this month.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Mikulastik
State Program Chairman
LWV of Brazosport

- * The consensus was taken in two units, one in the morning the other a week later at night. There were eleven voting members at each meeting making a 50-50 split where there was a difference of opinion between the units. The degree of agreement within the units was high with an occasional one man stand.

(continued from quest. 1,b.) would like to see corporate and personal income tax raise the necessary funds. The other $\frac{1}{2}$ would felt the sales tax should be increased as well as a corporate and personal income tax instituted. (One member wanted to see gambling legalized and the taxes used to fund education.) The unit which wanted local enrichment wanted it paid for by a local ad valorem tax evaluated and assessed uniformly throughout the state.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

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League of Women Voters of Corsicana

Number of meetings held 1. Number of members participating 12

Types of meetings held discussion

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

We support full funding by state, with the additional provision of weighted pupil allocation & the provision for assessing & collection of sales tax monies to be done by state agency, eliminating inequities between districts. We like the Bartlett recommendation of Market Value Index rather than County Economic Index.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

See above.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

See above Support Statement.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Again, distribution should be based on need with allocation on a weighted pupil or instructional unit basis plus transportation and building and land acquisition costs. The MFP should cover the entire cost of salaries.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We prefer # 1 or full state funding with the costs born by corporate and personal income taxes as explained above.

I would like to add a personal note of thanks to Mrs. Fritz. The F & I was the clearest and most complete paper I read on the subject and I feel like I read them all. It was unbelievably good. The only regret that I have is that I misunderstood the number of unit meetings required and only asked for two at calendar making. (One discussion and one consensus.) Of course the material was so complex and there was so much of it that a minimum of two discussions/meetings were necessary. We have 20 extra copies of this fine F & I and we will distribute them in the community this month.

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(continued from quest. 1,b.) would like to see corporate and personal income tax raise the necessary funds. The other ~~1/2~~ ~~would~~ felt the sales tax should be increased as well as a corporate and personal income tax instituted. (One member wanted to see gambling legalized and the taxes used to fund education.) The unit which wanted local enrichment wanted it paid for by a local ad valorem tax evaluated and assessed uniformly throughout the state.

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- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

answered in question 1

Remarks: Feelings are divided in our League as to local levy funding. Additional revenue is recommended to be raised through a personal income tax (4% of Fed. income tax) and Corporate profits tax.

(cont)

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- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

answered in question 1

Remarks: Feelings are divided in our league as to local levy funding. Additional revenue is recommended to be raised through a personal income tax (4% of Fed. income tax) and Corporate profits tax.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
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League of Women Voters of Dallas

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 150

Types of meetings held General Meeting Forbis Jordan of NEFP speaker with response panel. Two unit meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

The consensus was that a personal income tax is the most equitable. Suggest also a corporate income tax.

If the ad valorem tax is to be retained as a part of revenue for financing public education, we favor statewide equalization of assessment with effective state control and supervision, to insure uniform assessment standards.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

All units favor the "weighted pupil" concept.

The consensus is that capital expenditure is an essential part of the educational offering. Those capital expenditures should be incorporated in state funding to local school districts.

Eleven of fifteen units feel that local enrichment should be permitted, preferring some power equalizing plan. Devise a "cost of education index".

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Standardize the property tax at a state level.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

All units favor the "weighted pupil". Devise a cost of education index. Include capital expenditures. Permit local enrichment through a power equalization method.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.
Full state funding with a cost of education index and weighted pupil to be used in allocating funds. Capital expenses must be equalized by inclusion in the funding. Local enrichment to be permitted by power equalization.

Over half our units expressed an interest in exploring the voucher system through pilot programs.

Dallas Resource Chairman
Mrs Bryan Williams
3712 Beverly Drive
Dallas Texas 75205
528-2603

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
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League of Women Voters of Garland

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating approximately 35-40 attended

Types of meetings held panel of guests, 2 units 4 consider all 3 meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

The members strongly feel that they did not want a sales tax for school funds, and if funded this way, they would expect a reduction in local property tax.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Flat grant with a strong minority for a weighted pupil.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

1. Assessors should be required to have special training.
2. Property tax should be based on true market value.
3. Redraw district lines to broaden tax base between districts.
4. Have all local tax money for-warded to the state for distribution.

(continued)

5. Limit local enrichment.
6. Each district should supply at least a minimum tax effort.

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

members felt question redundant - see the above.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Prefer full state funding - minority expressed desire for limiting local enrichment.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
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PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

Consensus deadline - January 15, 1973

League of Women Voters of Houston.

Number of meetings held 5. Number of members participating 167 (consensus)

Types of meetings held 2 Discussion - Feb. & May; 1 workshop - April;

1 General meeting - October; and Unit Meetings for Consensus - October.

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Property assessment has to be equalized statewide with uniform assessment standards. The majority prefer a combination of taxes with strong feeling for state personal income tax and corporate profits tax. A minority oppose a sales tax increase. A minority oppose a state personal income tax, and a minority favor earmarking the state income tax or corporate profits tax for education only. Strong majority felt that support for education should be substantially raised--most felt the level should be raised to bring Texas up to or above the national average. Strong majority favored allowing some local enrichment. A small minority favored power-equalizing. No consensus on what limit should be put on local enrichment.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Majority favored weighted pupil grants or categorical grants (with weighted pupil grants slightly favored). A large minority expressed feeling for including various cost differentials such as those relating to size, urban-rural, municipal overburden, cost of living, capital outlay in the formula. Most favor state setting basic standards with local districts being allowed to choose their own methods of achieving those standards.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Strong majority feel that assessment of property should be equalized statewide. Minority favored assessing property at fair market value. Strong minority feel that ability to pay should be measured differently, but no consensus on how it should be changed. Majority feel that the state's share of the cost of education should be greater.

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Strong minority feeling that state funds should be distributed according to need [redacted]. Strong majority feel that the MINIMUM FOUNDATION PROGRAM should be changed with feeling about equally divided that (a) it should be changed to distribute funds as weighted pupil or categorical grants or (b) that other factors should be added (such as capital outlay, urban-rural, size variable, etc.) There was some feeling by the majority in favor of power-equalizing [redacted], but most who favored it also feel that the more affluent districts would not find it acceptable.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Majority would prefer full state funding with some local enrichment allowed.

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League of Women Voters of LA MARQUE AND TEXAS CITY

Number of meetings held ONE Number of members participating
SEVEN

Types of meetings held LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
 - (1) PROPERTY BE ASSESSED AT ITS FULL MARKET VALUE AND A DOCUMENTARY STAMP TAX BE ENACTED. PENALTIES FOR INCORRECT OR FALSE REPORTING OF SALES PRICE SHOULD BE PROVIDED.
 - (2) THE STATE ENACT A CORPORATE PROFITS TAX AND A STATE PROPERTY TAX.
 - (3) THE STATE ENACT A PERSONAL INCOME TAX THAT IS FIXED AT A SPECIFIED (BUT SMALL) PERCENTAGE OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX PAYMENTS.
- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?
 - (1) AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP BE USED RATHER THAN A. D. A.
 - (2) EQUAL EXPENDITURES WITH ADJUSTMENTS MADE FOR AREA COST DIFFERENTIALS AND COST DIFFERENTIALS FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMS.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
 - (1) THE FULL MARKET VALUE OF PROPERTY SHOULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR ATTAINING EQUITY AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN ASSESSING AND COLLECTING TAXES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.
 - (2) THAT THE L.F.A. FOR EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT BE BASED UPON THE RATIO OF FULL MARKET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THAT DISTRICT TO THE TOTAL FULL MARKET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE STATE.

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

- (1) FUNDS BE ALLOCATED ACCORDING TO A.D.M.
- (2) POWER EQUALIZATION

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COMMITTEE REPORT - JANUARY 12, 1972

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League of Women Voters of the State of New York

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain. FULL STATE FUNDING

ELLEN

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

Types of meetings held

- (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public schools, what methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the revenues available to the local school districts?
 - (1) PROPERTY TAX BE ABOLISHED AND THE STATE WOULD HAVE TO DOUBBLE THE STATE TAX BE ABOLISHED. REVENUES FOR INCOME TAX BE ABOLISHED. REPORTING OF SALES TAXES WOULD BE ABOLISHED.
 - (2) THE STATE WOULD A CORPORATE INCOME TAX AND A STATE PROPERTY TAX.
 - (3) THE STATE WOULD A PERSONAL INCOME TAX THAT IS FINED AT A SPECIFIED (BUT SMALL) PERCENTAGE OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX PAYMENTS.
- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?
 - (1) AN ANNUAL BUDGET REVIEW BY THE STATE TO DETERMINE THE COST OF VARIOUS SERVICES AND COST DIFFERENTIALS FOR VARIOUS INCOME LEVELS.

- (a) In the present joint state-local system of financing public school education, what changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the revenues available to the local school districts?
 - (1) THE FULL MARKET VALUE OF PROPERTY SHOULD BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING THE RATIO OF FULL MARKET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY TO THE TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE STATE.
 - (2) THE FULL MARKET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY SHOULD BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING THE RATIO OF FULL MARKET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY TO THE TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE STATE.

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League of Women Voters of Lubbock

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 25 out of approx. 125 members

Types of meetings held Units

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

* Money should come from corporation and personal income tax, with some use of the state property tax- based upon a statewide uniform assessment. Some mention was made of extending sales tax to services.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Weighted pupil grants. Distribution of funds should be on the basis of average daily enrollment.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Equalization of assessments

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

No consensus

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Full state funding. There was considerable disagreement on the amount of local leeway.

(continued)

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League of Women Voters of Midland

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 65

Types of meetings held Dr. June Hyer, speaker
ONE GEN. LUNCHEON MEETING WITH SCHOOL BOARD OTHER OFFICIALS
2 sets of UNITS INCLUDING ONE CONSENSUS TAKING

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

① USE BROAD BASED TAXES TO FUND A BASIC STATE GUARANTEED PROGRAM
② State enact PERSONAL INCOME & CORPORATE PROFITS TAXES
③ Basic STATE PROGRAM MUST BE HIGH QUALITY EQUIVALENT TO THOSE PROVIDED IN TOP GOOD PRACTICE DISTRICTS
④ QUALITY OF FACILITIES SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS ONE DETERMINANT OF THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION. CAPITAL OUTLAY AND DEBT SERVICE SHOULD BE INCORPORATED IN THE STATE GUARANTEED PROGRAM THROUGH SOME PHASED-IN FORMULA AND STANDARDS SET FOR THE QUALITY OF FACILITIES TO BE GUARANTEED (6) A SLIGHT PERFORMANCE FOR UNLIMITED LOCAL ENROLLMENT BUT ALL WOULD ACCEPT 1040 LIMITATION ON THIS.
(FUNDED AT LOCAL DISCRETION)

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

① allocation on ADM basis using weighted - (pup.) formula
② Consideration included for Differential Costs

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

① EACH DISTRICT REQUIRED TO HAVE A MINIMUM PROPERTY TAX BASED ON TRUE MARKET VALUE - THIS AMOUNT TO BECOME THE DISTRICTS LFA
② ALL CREDITS TOWARD LFA ABOLISHED
③ STATE REGULATION OF PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT THROUGH CERTIFICATION OF ASSESSORS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFORM SYSTEMS & REPORTS
④ STATE GUARANTEED PROGRAM MUST BE HIGH QUALITY, EQUIVALENT TO THOSE ENJOYED BY TOP LEVEL GOOD PRACTICE DISTRICTS.
⑤ PHYSICAL FACILITIES BE INCLUDED (continued) IN THE GUARANTEE WITH STANDARDS PRESCRIBED FOR THE QUALITY GUARANTEED

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

- ① funds allocated on ADM using weighted - pop. 1 formula
- ② Consideration included for differential costs

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

This League strongly supports the plan outlined under ①. We emphasize that local enrichment be permitted only if the state funded program is of very high quality. Local control over the tailoring of the program is essential.

League of Women Voters of Midland
Consensus on Public School
Finance & Term

JAN 2 1973

The Midland League of Women Voters strongly supports a high quality State-funded public education program, at least equivalent to those programs now enjoyed by the top "good practice" Districts in Texas. The quality of facilities should be recognized as one determinant of the quality of education, therefore capital outlay and debt service should be incorporated in the State-guaranteed program ~~and~~ ^{as} some phased-in formula and standards should be set for the quality of facilities guaranteed by the State program.

Funding the program should be from broad-based taxes and this League favors State enactment of both corporate profit and personal income taxes for this purpose. If a high quality program is State guaranteed, the organization supports unlimited local enrichment funded at the discretion of local Districts. However, all members agreed to a 10% local enrichment limitation should court approval require it.

Allocation of funds to local districts should be on ADM rather than ADA basis, using a weighted-pupil formula. Consideration must be built in for differential costs.

Should the present State-local system be retained with local fund assignments financed by local property taxes, this League endorses the following components of the system:

Revisions in

1. Each District be required to levy a minimum property tax based on true market value. This amount automatically to become a District's L.F.A.
2. All credits toward L.F.A's must be immediately abolished.
3. The State must regulate property tax assessment through certification of assessors and the establishment of uniform systems and reports.
4. Allocation of funds on ADM basis using weighted-pupil formula.
5. Consideration included for differential costs.
6. Capital outlay and debt service should be included in the basic guaranteed program on some phased-in formula and standards set for the quality of facilities guaranteed.

B. Shuler
ETem Chairman

Copies of this went to
all School Board Members
+ TV + News Paper

+ a covering letter
explaining (quoting from
Ludon Guide) our concern

1/14/73

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

League of Women Voters of Pearland Area

Number of meetings held - 2.

Number of members participating - 10 (25%).

Types of meetings held - 2 discussions (1 speaker from local school board).

Following are the Consensus questions on Public School Financing in Texas as sent to each League, followed by the answers given by the Pearland Area League after two consensus meetings and approved by the Board:

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what Q. methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

A. The group generally endorsed personal income tax because it taxes each person according to his ability to pay. It is also easy to collect.

One person wanted sales tax increase.

Most were opposed to present ad valorem as too flawed. If it were continued, we support (1) state-wide collection and assessment on 100% true market value; (2) training and standards for assessors; and (3) exemption on homestead.

Q. (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local schools?

A. We support ADM (average daily membership) rather than ADA.

We want economic index revised or replaced as there are too many loopholes in the current formula.

Special funds to districts with special children, i. e. handicapped and gifted.

We want consolidation of smaller districts.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public schools

Q. were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

A. We agreed there should be room for local minimal enrichment.

We suggest special state departments be created for school building and maintenance, transportation, since this is where the majority of local funds are now spent. This would be similar to State Highway Department now in existence and use some ratio of state and local funds.

Q. (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts.

A. Same as 1(b).

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please

Q. indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

A. We prefer full state funding and elimination of ad valorem tax.

(The above results will be combined and considered with the results of 43 other Leagues in Texas by the State Board and then - and only then - will we have a state consensus which will provide guidelines under which we will act. Only after this last step do we have a State League position upon which to act.)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
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League of Women Voters of Richardson

2 day unit

Number of meetings held 2 night unit. Number of members participating 24

Types of meetings held panel discussion in November open to the public, plus 2 unit meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

see attached sheets

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Richardson LWV - Consensus Answers to Texas Public School
Financing

1a. Combination of personal income tax, capital gains tax, corporate profits tax, and ad valorem tax.

Statewide ad valorem tax rates to be set by legislature at a per cent of true market value. A statewide system of appraisal, operated by a state agency with trained assessors in each county. Assessment should be re-evaluated periodically in combination with a documentary tax which records the sales price of all property. A new look should be taken at whether or not assessments of different types of property are equitable.

To initiate a statewide uniformity of appraisal quickly, professional assessors (if necessary from out of state) could be used (at least 4 other states have done this - New Jersey, Alabama, California and Tennessee).

Gradual implementation of the tax rate on the newly assessed values should take place over a three to five year period.

Exemptions should exist for low income groups.

A personal income tax based on a percentage of existing federal income tax should also be used, or at least a capital gains tax.

1b. Restructure school districts, where feasible, to optimum size.
(ADM)

Calculate allocations based on Average Daily Membership, not Average

Daily Attendance (ADA). (The members were very emphatic about this point)!
Methods of allocation should consider differences in pupil needs, i.e.

(weighted pupils, including and stressing compensatory needs).

Other things to be considered when allocating funds should be:

1. capital outlays
2. bonded indebtedness
- 3. incentive pay if needed to attract quality teachers to areas of greatest need.
4. recognition of differences in cost of living throughout the state.
5. population sparsity.

MINORITY OPINION- standardized tests should not be used to determine pupil needs. Three people (all teachers) felt this very strongly.

- 2a. The whole system needs to be revised completely. Dispose of the economic index and make the means of financing greatly simplified.

The contribution from wealthier districts should be greater than that from the poorer districts, and the special needs of students (weighted pupil) must be taken into account, as well as, capital outlays.

Any changes should be made in accordance with the spirit of the answers given under question number 1. Every school district should be taxed at the same rate, with the state subsidizing the poorer districts.

The use of Average Daily Membership (ADM), not Average Daily Attendance (ADA).

- 2b. The state must provide a higher minimum foundation program for all, distributed more equitably - taking into account weighted pupil costs, weighted teacher salaries, building needs, bonded indebtedness, cost of transportation. Consider differences in needs for facilities separately.

A minority (20%) felt that school supplies should be provided by the local school districts for elementary pupils (paid for by state money where necessary).

If local enrichment provisions are allowed, a limit of 5-10% should be imposed so that enrichment provisions are not used to circumvent the equalization provisions of the new system of financing.

(the voucher system was discussed and vetoed).

3. The majority of the members preferred full state funding as outlined in questions 1a and 1b.

A minority of 2 preferred joint state-local funding, and 2 other members who preferred full state funding saw merit in joint state-local funding.

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League of Women Voters of Sherman (provisional)

Number of meetings held 1. Number of members participating 25

Types of meetings held Unit meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

A state administered property tax based on full market value of the property. A state tax assessor with a trained professional staff and guidelines to determine values in each district. Other methods of taxation should be considered in the following order: corporate profits, income tax and some consideration to a state-wide lottery. A strong feeling against any increase in the sales tax.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Scrap the economic index and allocate on a weighted pupil basis. Consideration should be given to the poorer districts so that extra funds could be allocated to bring their physical plants up to a set standard within a certain number of years (ten years was suggested.) A strong minority feeling towards more consolidation.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

The feeling was essentially the same as 1(a). A minority suggested that local districts could use other methods of taxation other than the ad ~~valorem~~ ~~valorum~~ tax. Income tax and sales tax were suggested.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Increase the Foundation program to a maximum level. Instead of a fixed percentage for state-local shares, provide a sliding scale BASED on need and effort. (ie: 30-70, 20-80, 50-50- etc)

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

The consensus was in favor of full statefunding. Consensus was not reached regarding a maximum local enrichment ceiling. However, a strong minority felt that there should be a 10% maximum local enrichment and that the law should be written to include features that would allow local districts to retain control over their schools.

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League of Women Voters of Tyler, Texas

Number of meetings held 3 Number of members participating 15

Types of meetings held Unit Discussion

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Our members would prefer a state personal income tax and corporate profits tax in lieu of state property tax. However, if state property tax is used as a source of revenue, we would insist on equal assessing methods, full market value, and a uniform tax rate.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Weighted pupil approach with an adjustment for differences in cost of living-

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Majority agreed on equal property assessment at full market value with a uniform tax rate; but could not agree on what should happen to the excess money a rich district would raise. Members did agree that there should be no enrichment on teacher salaries, except cost of living allowances.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

There should be improvement in the Foundation School Program's formula which rewards the schools that can afford more qualified teachers. Members felt the economic index should be revised or replaced.

No consensus reached on other factors involved.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Members would prefer full state funding of up to 90% or 95% of the cost of education.

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League of Women Voters of Waco

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 15

Types of meetings held workshop (agenda enclosed) and general meeting

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

If property tax retained, it should be thoroughly reformed, i.e., uniform assessment practices adopted, assessors to be licensed, and should be made as progressive as possible (fixed income and low income groups be computed differently).

We recommend that a state income tax and/or corporate profits tax be adopted if additional revenue is needed.

Negative toward increased sales tax.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Allocations should be computed on ADM rather than ADA basis. There should be a weighted pupil approach with a strong recommendation that money allocated on this basis be spent in accordance with enforced state guidelines. There should be carefully monitored minimum standards set. Local enrichment permitted--with reasonable limits.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Complete reform of the property tax and its administration. Eliminate Economic Index, or refine it to the point that it becomes truly representative of the wealth of each district. Require more affluent districts to pay a larger share of cost of own programs. Advocate power equalizing if property tax reformed and local enrichment limited.

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?
Reform Foundation School Program to hopefully achieve its stated goals.
Allocations should be computed on ADM rather than ADA basis.
There should be a weighted pupil approach.
There should be enforceable minimum standards.
The state's share should increase as costs rise.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain and fairly-administered.

Consensus for full state funding which would be carefully and fairly administered.

Added note: The issue of inequality within individual school districts was discussed at the consensus meeting. A local program item, possibly a school survey, may be the logical approach to an examination of this problem.

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League of Women Voters of Edinburg and McAllen

Number of meetings held 4 3 Unit 1 Gen Number of members participating 14

Types of meetings held Unit (3) 1 General

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

We would prefer a local leeway to a maximum of what the court would allow (hopefully about 10%) No local leeway seems to us undemocratic. The local leeway could come in the form of incentive grants which would also be equalizing.

Increased tax revenue should come from A) Corporation tax B) Income tax If property tax is retained it requires complete overhaul to set fair valuations, standardized ratios and efficient collections.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts? (see reverse side)

1 (a) Continued

Equalizing upwards at the \$804 figure seemed best to us, feeling further cost would be staggering. By permitting a 10% local leeway, the other 14% of the school districts would have recourse to up-grade education.

We suggest legislation might be acceptable which would provide for "X" years during which no school district would have to spend less for education than was spent in 1972. This would provide a transitional period--inflation would do the rest.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

We would prefer a system which provides for about 10% local leeway. This could also be in the form of incentive grants which we feel would probably meet the guidelines.

State Funds could come from sources described in 1 A

Incentive Grant with Local Leeway
- Local State State Local

Average

Local state state Local

Wealthy

Local State State Local

Poor

(continued)

Foundation
Program

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

(Same as 1 B) We prefer weighted pupil grants. The complexity of trying to manage a cost-of-living grant for each school district seems fair, but overwhelmingly complex; and would therefore favor a bill unincumbered by cost-of-living unless the differences are enormous.

A combination of ADM and ADA could be used to avoid abuses and promote fairness. ADA encourages districts to have children in school; however schools should not be penalized for legitimate absences of students.

- We are concerned about capital expenses (buildings, etc) Perhaps the state could assist through a "room Use" allotment. The state could pay a flat fee for each classroom utilized with the fee being higher for laboratories, and other special buildings--this would again increase tax need.
3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We would prefer full state funding although a minority opinion feels that the political hazards in such a bold step are so great that we would be better off to rework our present state foundation program to fit our criteria, thereby permitting the change to be less evident to the general public; however since re-vamping a Uniform Property tax is ESSENTIAL, the majority felt it could best be done at the state level.

In any case we should explore greater federal assistance.

Interest in the voucher system was expressed. We feel the state should promote experimentation in this area

JAN 15 1973

Austin Consensus on State School Financing

1. a. Full State Funding. There was no strong consensus for any method of full state funding. Considering that it would cost the state about \$1 billion just to maintain the status quo, most felt that full state funding was not very practical at this time. Under full state funding most felt the property tax should be used with the state establishing an agency to the job with property being assessed at full market value and uniform definitions of property and taxed equally, except for farm land. There was sympathy for the need for a different tax system for farmland that is being used for farming and we recommend a position similar to that of the School Board Association's on farm land. If additional funds are needed, we support a personal income tax and a corporate income tax. There was some feeling that a personal income tax, if needed, should be earmarked for education. A few felt an increase in sales tax to include services, but not food, preferable to an income tax.

Many felt there would be problems in a state administered property tax and also that it is very unrealistic politically at this time. There was quite a strong feeling that full state funding would result in careless use of money and/or a very rigidly controlled education program in the state. With the great diversity in Texas from small rural to large urban problems, it was felt a strong state program is not suitable, unless it is very flexible.

With full state funding we were unsure whether or not it was meant that a discussion of local enrichment should be included. However, the general consensus was that some local enrichment should be allowed because most all doubted whether the state would provide funds for all programs that a district interested in excellent education would want to offer. (See 2b for fuller discussion of local enrichment.)

1.b. Allocation of funds under full state funding. To answer this question it is easier to begin with what we are opposed to. Opposed to flat grants - they do not recognize the diverse needs of the state. We feel the current minimum foundation program is too rigid and with full state funding it would be difficult to introduce the flexibility that is needed. We recognize that Texas is rather unique in having a state salary schedule and that chances are slim that it will be abandoned. Local enrichment now provides the differential in salaries. There are legitimate needs for differences in salaries across the state for various reasons which should be recognized such as cost of living, hardship areas, incentives to teach in difficult areas, new programs, extra assignments, etc. To establish criteria to recognize differences in such a large state might be most difficult and could lead to a very rigid system.

Unanimous support for basing program on ADM rather than ADA. Policy formulation should continue to encourage district consolidation where feasible. There was strong consensus for recognizing various pupil and educational needs. We recommend criteria which would recognize these various needs.

There needs to be a program for facilities assistance from the state. With full state funding it was felt some districts would still need assistance in a building program to come up to adequate standards. Many think of the poorer districts when facilities are mentioned, but rapidly growing suburban areas also have severe building problems.

2.a. Joint state local financing. We discussed the current method of financing and there was unanimous agreement that it should be replaced.

Under local share we assume the property tax is to be retained. We recommend that property be defined uniformly and be assessed at full market value with a tax effort range to be established (i.e. a maximum and a minimum tax rate). Strong support for policy recommendations of tax assessors organization. Favor power equalization as described in covering memo from Genie Fritz on Mauzy Committee alternatives.

We did not discuss in detail the percentage share between state and local - e. g. whether it should be 60-40, 80-20 or whatever. Although it was not stated outright, there was a feeling that it would be difficult to raise property taxes in Austin without raising total educational expenditures for Austin. Again although not explicitly stated at all units, there was general agreement that Austin could not support a program that would result in lower educational expenditures for Austin. (The figure we have is \$785/per pupil.) At one unit it was mentioned that if expenditures were leveled at too low a figure, school districts would probably find ways to provide additional programs through special fees or "private" offerings which might make it difficult for many students to participate. There was a feeling that we should equalize up to include a certain percentage of students. Again there was not strong feeling at what level, but no figure below 90% was mentioned.

If additional state funds are needed to finance education, first preference is a corporate and personal income tax. Strong support to abandon the flat grant aspect of the Available Fund and to treat it as a dedicated tax fund and allocate it as needed. One suggestion made was to use it for a facilities fund.

While we understand that local enrichment is the major culprit in creating great disparities among districts, we also feel that some local enrichment should be allowed. A community that wished to provide superior education for its children as opposed to adequate education should not be penalized. We also feel that limitations should be placed on local enrichment in order to meet requirements of the Rodriguez case. There was general feeling that enrichment should be equalized and that only certain programs should be eligible for enrichment funds and/or only a certain figure should be allowed for enrichment such as 10% as suggested by the Mauzy report.

2.b. Allocation of funds under state local financing. Strong support for power equalization as described in Fritz memo, with a program that recognizes student and educational needs and allows for flexibility and diversity. Unanimous support for basing program on ADM rather than ADA. Discussion in l.a. also relevant here. Mauzy #1 (modified MFP) or Mauzy #2 (modified weighted grants) acceptable. Mauzy #3 probably not realistic.

3. Preference. Favor state local financing with some allowances for local enrichment as discussed in 2.a. and allocated in 2.b. A few felt that full state funding with strong local control would be ideal. Generally we feel that a state program should provide a good quality education with periodic review to see that progress is being made in that direction. We feel that the state should provide assistance in building programs where needed, but unfortunately we do not have solid recommendations on criteria to be used in such a program. There was some feeling that the underlying purpose of the Rodriguez case was to provide a sound educational program to all children in Texas. An over emphasis on finance could overlook a needed evaluation of educational program and what the state should encourage in seeking a sound educational program. We hope that this occasion will be used to evaluate and improve the educational program as well as correct the gross inequities in financing.

2 ^{types} meetings held 1 general 4 units
about 100 members participating

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League of Women Voters of Bay Area

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 25

Types of meetings held unit

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

I. Uniform tax rate (100% assessment) with state administration
II. ^{of same} Return property tax to eliminate exceptions but include tax exemp-
tion for elderly
III Supplement tax sources if necessary:
First → Corporate profits tax on gross profits - no deductions
Second → personal income tax on gross worth - no deductions

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Weighted pupil system with a minority stressing
inclusion of gifted child in special category

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Same as 1. a.

Minority felt that the property tax on Corporations
should be lifted from the local level & taxed
at the state
Local enrichment (with a 10-15% limit)

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

I Weighting of pupils
II Improve Minimum Foundation Program
III State should assume some share of capital expenses

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Majority preferred state - local funding with the stipulation of a limit (10-15%) on local enrichment

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League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi, Texas

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 15 - 30

Types of meetings held 1) speakers 2) unit discussion & speakers 3) unit discuss.

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

To raise necessary funds -
personal income tax - most fair
increase in sales tax - least acceptable

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Needs of the students should be considered in any allocation formula:
weighted pupil - most acceptable approach

Local control of educational policy should be maintained

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Property tax reform:

1. Redefine tax base through constitutional revision
2. State supervision and control over assessment and collection
3. Improve local property tax administration
4. Taxable property should be assessed at 100% of fair market value
5. Eliminate existing loopholes, special subsidies, and differential benefits

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Eliminate present economic index and system of credits-
devise a better system for determining true wealth
of a district

Weighted pupil approach most acceptable - needs of students
should be considered in any allocation formula

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Most preferred to keep some type of state - local system
of finance

Because of the complicated nature of the subject and the
limited time available for this study, we recommend
further study,

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League of Women Voters of El Paso, Texas.

Number of Meetings held 8. Number of members participating 40.

Types of meetings held unit.

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

There was a majority consensus for a state income tax.
There was a strong minority against a state income tax.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local districts?

There was a consensus for raising the amount of money provided by the Minimum Foundation Program.

2. (a) If the present joint-state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to local school districts?

There was a consensus for power equalizing and for improving local property tax administration by setting a statewide minimum tax rate.

There was a majority for a state income tax and a strong minority against it.

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

No consensus was reached.

Strong minority feeling was expressed on each of the following proposals:

A ceiling should be set on the amount of state aid a school district could receive;

Small, non-operating school districts should be consolidated with fully operating ones;

Structured personnell components should be included in the revised Minimum Foundation Program.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

There was a consensus for a revised joint state-local system.

Other ideas mentioned most frequently were:

Corporate income tax; statewide property tax assessment level of 100% of market valuation; replacing the Economic Index as a means of allocating the M.F.P. costs to the local districts; include the cost of school construction in the M.F.P. ; State should contribute a higher percentage of the cost of the M.F.P.

Orville M. Price



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League of Women Voters of ~~Tex~~ Irving

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 20.

Types of meetings held: Unit Meetings

1. (a) Full state funding revenue.

- A. Retain sources of revenue available to public education now.
- B. Tax real property at 100% market value:
 - (1) Set state guidelines for uniform equipment and training of assessors.
 - (2) All tax assessors should be accredited within 3 years of being hired until previously trained assessors are available.
 - (3) State should reassess all property in Texas
 - (4) Enact a documentary stamp tax to facilitate property assessment.
 - (5) State will set tax rates.
- C. Study earmarked state funds in order to loosen restrictions *on them* and discover possible new sources of revenue for education. *corrected funds*
- D. A progressive personal income tax is acceptable if it contains exemptions *for dependents only.*
- E. Local enrichment should be allowed on a power equalized basis. STRONG MINORITY wanted limits set on enrichment.
- F. Building programs and debt service should be gradually assumed by the state (according to the wealth of the district.)
- G. Corporate profits tax.

1. (b) Full state allocation.

- A. Our members were equally divided over flat grants and weighted pupil grants.
- B. If a program similar to the present system is retained consensus was that it should include:
 - (1) distribution on a weighted pupil basis.
 - (2) a facilities component included, to be financed gradually using state guidelines ~~and financed by power equalizing~~ *according to the wealth of the district.*
 - (3) an adequate uniform minimum state salary schedule with local salary enrichment allowed. (A STRONG MINORITY wanted a statewide uniform salary set at a high level and no local salary enrichment allowed)
 - (4) the system should be based on ADM, the average daily membership; not ADA, average daily attendance.

2. (a) State - Local revenue.

- A. Eliminate all credits.
- B. Replace the Economic Index with a local fund assignment based on the full market value of taxable real property within the district.
- C. Local share of funding should be based on a property tax of real property including private boats, ~~min~~ automobiles, and airplanes. Tax rate set locally with a guaranteed return from the state based on the tax rate set.
- D. A progressive personal income tax is acceptable if it contains exemptions for dependents only.
- E. Local enrichment should be allowed on a power equalized basis. STRONG MINORITY wanted limits set on enrichment.
- F. Corporate profits tax.

2.(b) State - Local allocations.

See 1 (b). Our consensus was the same for both.

3. We preferred the state - local method of funding.

We also want more Consolidation of school districts studied and implemented.

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League of Women Voters of Lamar County

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 21, 8, 12

Types of meetings held 1 general, 1 out units

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

- ✓ 2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

1/14/73

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING: CONSENSUS

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts? At what level of total school spending should the state support be? How much local enrichment, if any, should be allowed above that level? By what sort of tax or taxes should the money be raised?

All school systems should be raised to the present state average expenditure of \$700 per pupil.

Local enrichment must be allowed if the public school system is to not be abandoned for private schools by pupils whose families are willing to spend larger amounts for what they consider a quality education. If enrichment is allowed in proportion to tax effort made by the district, the effect should not be as disqualifying as is presently the case.

If the property tax is retained, it must be reformed. Assessment at true market value and general agreement with the guidelines of the state association of assessors and collectors would both be improvements of the present system, but it was felt further study of the property tax was needed. In view of the high cost of administering the property tax and the inequities in its administration, there was universal interest in exploring other taxes. (Almost every possible tax was mentioned, from a levy on soft drinks through personal income tax and increased sales tax, but no consensus was reached on a substitute.)

1. (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Flat grants or weighted pupil grants were preferred, distributed on the basis of ADA (it was felt this could be determined by random checks through the year, rather than detailed daily bookkeeping). Concern was expressed by a minority that weighted pupil grants could be abused to "pad" the rolls.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

The economic index should be discarded as complex, probably inequitable, and failing to automatically adjust to changing conditions in the school districts. We had no data to suggest that a change from the 20/80 ratio of local to state aid be changed, but would like to see state aid in construction of facilities since minimum facilities are part of the educational need and a determining factor in attraction of personnel, as well.

2. (b) What changes would you consider essential in allocating the funds to local school districts?

Lamar County Provisional

1/14/73

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING CONSENSUS (continued)
minimum

An equal/rate of taxation in all districts is essential.

Funds should be distributed on a power-equalizing basis (the Mauzy plan was well liked, but there was concern that allowing districts to keep extra revenue for the same tax effort would not meet court tests) and distributed to each district making the same tax effort on a weighted pupil basis. Districts making more than minimum tax effort would be rewarded accordingly.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate. If not, do you have alternate suggestions?

We definitely prefer some system other than full state financing! Concern was voiced that this was one step from full federal financing. The system described in question 2 would be preferred, with the notation that the report of the Governor's committee on education provides an excellent master plan which should be used, in so far as possible, not just read, and its recommendations always given first consideration. This would include the recommendation of minimum standards for competent districts for both reasons of improved economy and superior educational opportunity.

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League of Women Voters of MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 25

Types of meetings held 1 General; 1 Series of 3 local Units

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

1. Uniform statewide assessment of property at full, fair market value. 3.
2. Documentary stamp tax enacted to keep assessments up to date. 2 Units.
3. Tax assessors trained, licensed by State. 2 Units. State-supervised. 1.
4. State tax agency with power to set assessment guide lines, enforcement, etc. 1 Unit.

~~Expenditure~~

5. Corporate income tax. 1 Unit.

(1 Unit) sources

6. Research best method of adding tax revenue for education from existing

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

1. Determine through research the educational needs of students for allocation purposes. 1 Unit.
2. Allocate funds on basis not of local tax effort but of child's educational needs. 3 Units.
3. Allocate on basis of differing costs such as capital outlay, ed. needs peculiar to an area, etc.; weighted pupil grants. 3 Units.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

1. Consolidation of school districts in county. 1 Unit.
2. Money collected locally, distributed by State. 3 Units.
3. Criteria as in 1.a. 2 Units. (Uniform statewide property valuation, uniform training of Tax Assessors.)

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

1. Enlarged and improved foundation program to assure every Texas school child a good (as opposed to minimum or merely adequate) education. 2.
2. Eliminate local fund assignment. 1 Unit.
3. Larger percentage of omnibus tax fund to go to school foundation fund. 1 Unit.
4. Criteria as in 1b. 2 Units.
5. Retain funds from personal property tax locally, collect & allocate industrial & corporate tax on statewide basis. 1 Unit.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Prefer joint State-local operation. 3 Units.

Prefer because of need to retain local control and because of political feasibility. 1 Unit.

Definitely oppose voucher system. 2 Units.

Strongly recommend school boards be comprised of elected members from single member districts. 1 Unit.

1/14/73

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

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League of Women Voters of San Marcos, Texas

Number of meetings held 4. Number of members participating 2-4

Types of meetings held 4 Local interest groups; 1 General canceled due to ice storm.

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

We don't like full state funding. If there must be full state funding, then we think it should be an allowance on a per pupil basis, equal throughout the state, and there should be provisions made for construction, busing and operating costs. Everything except "enrichment programs" and they should be required to obtain prior permission from the State Board. The tax should be a tax on full market value of real property and personal property, both tangible and intangible with laws set up by state that permit adequate administration, (documentary stamps, State assessors-collectors, etc.)

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Follow the recommendations of State Board and T.S.T.A. i.e. per pupil grants plus added aid for disadvantaged and low income children as the need is clear and established by adequate research. (Both recommended added funds in their reports.)

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

We favor the T.S.T.A. plan.

All property be at full market value. Eliminate Economic Index and substitute an index using property values only. No credits, no allowances, no loopholes. Have a 30% local-70% State division of costs. Each district pays all its local fund assignment into the total fund (no Budget Balance districts) using a statewide tax rate (T.S.T.A. says 47¢/100. The rich districts will pay much more than at present and the poor will pay in accordance with their low property values. (We are in favor of property tax to cover real property and tangible and intangible personal property.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

We think the funds should be allocated in the way suggested by the State Board and the T.S.T.A., on a per pupil basis and the disadvantaged child and the child from low income families also be cared for as suggested, with an additional per pupil allowance.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We prefer the State-Local system because (1) it retains some local control, we will have interested local taxpayers, and (2) it will force the richer districts to contribute directly and will not leave so much opportunity for large scale "enrichment" in these rich districts.

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League of Women Voters of ODESSA

Number of meetings held 4. Number of members participating 17 total

Types of meetings held Open meeting, general and unit

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Property tax - assessment and evaluation— should be made equitable
state wide using true market value
Possibly institute a state income tax if necessary to supplement
ad valorem
More consolidation of school districts

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Continue Minimum School foundation theory —there should be a minimum
state standard with some opportunity for local enrichment
Use of eig- weighted up pupil grants
Base allocations to districts on monthly enrollment, not ADA
Use of student voucher system

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

See 1(a).

Also: Present ratio of 80%-20% retained or ge changed gradually
to 90% - 10%.

Allowance for some local enrichment

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

See 1(b) using ration as in 2(a)

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We prefer #2 keeping as much local control as possible because we feel that local school boards can understand and relate to local needs best.

We feel that federal aid should be taken into consideration for the complete financial picture as related to education in all districts.

(Wording of Question 1(a) was very confusing to our group)

The Denton League is now involved in legislative interviews. On November 29, Debbie Shelton, Rachel Ehrler and Sally Houk met with representative Walt Parker. On December 19, we have scheduled an interview with Senator Tom Crèighton, and plans are being made to meet with Congressman Dale Milford. Our goal is, not only to obtain their opinions regarding legislative issues, but to establish a cordial relationship with the League so that we can maintain communication with our national and state representatives.

Issues at the state level include legislative rules changes, judicial reform, environmental protection, welfare reform, financial disclosure, constitutional revision, accountability and state regulation of single purpose special districts as well as the legislators' own particular interests.

At the national level the issues are home rule and representation for the District of Columbia, congressional reform, the electoral college, and welfare reform.

Title I has been vetoed by President Nixon. Funding outreach programs and continuing education are dependent on Title I for research or adult learning opportunities. Congress will have the opportunity to override this veto, and letters are tallied. If you believe these are important issues, write Dale Milford, Lloyd Bentson, and John Tower.

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

The purpose of the White House Fellows Program is to provide gifted and highly motivated young Americans with experience in government and a sense of personal involvement in the leadership of society. Each year, 15 to 20 men and women are assigned to work for a year with White House staff members, the Vice President, members of the Cabinet and Directors of federal agencies to participate in discussions with officials, leaders and experts from the public and private sector and to travel abroad and in the United States as part of a learning experience.

The program is open to men and women between the ages of 23 - 36 years and is limited to persons who have demonstrated unusual ability, high moral character and a capacity for leadership. White House Fellows receive a government salary of up to \$27,289. If you know someone who might be interested, further information and application forms may be obtained from

The Commission on White House Fellows
Washington, D. C. 20415.

Deadline is Dec. 15.

With great reluctance we say goodbye and best wishes to the Leonard Ehrlers who are leaving for Boulder, Colorado in January. We lose not only a valued friend and Leaguer in Rachel, but our Denton Parks and Recreation Director in Leonard. We will miss you both sorely--but--GOOD LUCK. May the bluebird of happiness nest in your mountain top.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S J O H N I E ! !

Our congratulations go to Johnie Christian. The American Vocational Association has set up a scholarship in her honor.

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Retain property tax, using state supervision and assessment at true market value.

Expand tax base to include other revenues (i.e., personal income tax, corporate profits tax).

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Use ADM (assuming this to mean children enrolled in class rather than attendance record).

Include funding for facilities, supplies, playgrounds and equipment. Standards should be set for these facilities.

Funds should be provided to bring all schools up to these standards.

Minority: use ADA.
use census.
use weighted pupil grant.
have a more realistic educational need including art and music.
have compensatory programs such as reading and bi-lingual offerings.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Reevaluate property tax assessment using state standards and supervision.

Use other taxes (i.e. personal income tax) for school funds.

Minority: More attention should be paid to real and personal property tax.
Consider tax on football tickets.

- (b) What changes would you consider essential in allocating the funds to local school districts?

Use a weighted pupil grant based on enrollment.

State accreditation system, with strong supervision.

Stress student attendance in school.

Set a more realistic standard of educational need for each child with a flexibility which allows for cost of living increase. This standard should include things that are now considered "enrichment" (i.e. music, art, libraries, coaches, counselors, aides, equipment and supplies).

Minority: Use ADA.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING: CONSENSUS cont.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternate suggestions? Please explain.

We prefer a state-local system because we feel that it enables a citizen to be more responsive to school needs. It allows the school district to be more responsive to the citizens' needs also.

Minority: Oppose full state funding if that is to be the only funds available to school districts.

COMMENT

Local districts should not be limited in amount of money that could be raised for special use.

Every school child should be assured a lunch at school.

The state should encourage consolidation wherever practical.

IN SUMMATION

The Denton League of Women Voters feels that it is the duty of the state of Texas to develop and implement a program that insures each child in the Texas Public School system an enriched, quality education!

* * * * *

WE NEED YOU

Your board of directors cannot function without your participation. The nominating committee has just been activated and would appreciate any suggestions for:

President (2 yr.) _____

1st V. Pres. (2 yr.) _____

Secretary (2 yr.) _____

Elected Directors (2 yr. terms)

Presently there are vacancies for chairmen of membership, EQ, and international relations. How about filling in the blanks above and giving the form to Frances Pender, nominating committee chairman.

SOLID WASTE

The unit meetings of December 13 and 14 will be devoted to taking consensus on the question of solid waste management. In preparation, please study the questions and read the pamphlet "Solid Waste--It Won't Go Away". It will be helpful if you bring your VOTER with you.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CONSENSUS QUESTION ON FUTURE FEDERAL ROLE IN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

- I. A - Should the major responsibility for solid waste management remain with the states and localities?
 - B - Should the role of the federal government in solid waste management be expanded?
 - C - If the federal role is expanded, should the federal government have the authority to:
 - issue federal criteria and standards
 - issue regulations based on federal standards
 - offer federal financial assistance to localities
 - intensify Research and Development for new, improved, less expensive methods of collection and disposal
 - By offering financial aid for R&D
 - by offering technical aid for R&D
- II. A - Should the federal government establish national policies and programs to encourage recycling of post-industrial and post-consumer wastes?
 - B - If the federal government were to establish such policies and programs, what priority would your League place on each of the following goals?
 - reduce volume of wastes for which a community must find disposal sites
 - make it possible for a community to recover part of its waste disposal costs
 - increase use of post-industrial wastes, not post-consumer wastes
 - forestall depletion of nonrenewable resources
 - other
 - undecided
- III. A - Should the federal government try to increase demand for secondary materials?
 - B - If the federal government were to work to increase such demand, would your League support
 - equalizing tax treatment of virgin and secondary materials
 - by reducing tax exemptions of extra active industries
 - by increasing tax exemptions of secondary materials industry
 - equalizing transportation rates for virgin and secondary materials
 - increasing fees for use of federal lands to produce virgin materials
 - reducing subsidies on inorganic fertilizers or offering subsidies on compost and sewage sludge
 - revising federal government purchase orders for products made of reclaimed materials
 - modifying federal labelling requirements for products made of reclaimed materials
 - federal stockpiling of recyclable materials

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League of Women Voters of ABILENE, TEXAS

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 30-35

Types of meetings held Member presentation at Unit Meetings with discussion by full membersh ip.

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts? Having the State assume full funding in itself would equalize available revenue. If the State should assume full funding, we could not even agree on what this should or should not include. If the property tax is to be retained, it should be paid to the State and the State should set the assessment ratio and the rate.

(b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts? In the allocation of funds, the weighted pupile plan was preferred over the flat grant approach. However, some felt that the weighted pupil formula could become quite complicated and subject to abuse. Full State funding would necessitate state-wide standardization. State standards for education for every child become particularly complicated at the secondary school level. For example - requiring every district to offer such courses as higher math, advanced sciences, several languages, etc - may be ideal but highly impractical. Consolidation at the high school level, leaving elementary grades to local discretion was suggested. Present variations in size of districts seem to preclude making every district equal; yet, massive*

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts? Regardless of what method of financing is adopted, as much local control should be maintained as possible. Most felt that local districts should be permitted to enrich, perhaps on a limited basis, however.

* consolidation was not favored. (This is a continuation of 1.(b).)

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

No consensus.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We reached no consensus on which system we preferred. We all have a stake in equal education for all; but, education should require that all children learn to read and write before they are passed on to higher grades.

Quality education, as well as equal education, should be our goal; but, we have no information on what types of district produces the highest quality. We know that some districts spend considerably more per pupil than others; however, we do not know how those pupils measure up either in personal social adjustments or scholastically. Standardized tests that measure both are available and already in use in most schools. Perhaps this should be our starting point - an evaluation of quality to determine where and why. Until this can be done, we would submit the following as one alternative (perhaps a temporary one) for our present fiscal problem:

Redraw school district boundaries over the entire state on the basis of available wealth per pupil, making the available wealth equal throughout the state. This should be the sole criteria. Leave the available school fund allocation as it is. Abolish the Minimum Foundation Program completely and drop this whole "can of worms" in the lap of the local districts. If they want quality education, the wealth is there to be taxed; if they don't care, they can lower taxes.

JAN 15 1973

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League of Women Voters of Beaumont

Number of meetings held 1. Number of members participating _____

Types of meetings held _____

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Our January 11 consensus meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. (power failures, ice, school holiday, etc.)

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

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League of Women Voters of Dickinson Area

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating approx 12

Types of meetings held 1 program by school officials, one program given by local member at time of consensus

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Funds should be raised in at least three, and possibly four, of the following ways:

- 1) Retain property tax, but with:
- a) Statewide uniform property valuation set and enforced.
 - b) State wide uniform property tax assessment, uniformity to be enforced, also.
 - c) Local collection of property taxes by school district, taxes retained in district, to help preserve local control.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

A weighted pupil table for allotments should then be used as a guide, with the state making up (equalizing) the amount not raised by local (though still state administered) property taxes from revenues derived from KMAX above items 2, 3 and possibly 4.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Continued , answer to question 1.(a.)

- 2) Increased excise taxes on luxuries such as cigarettes, liquor, etc.
- 3) State corporate profits tax.
- 4) ~~N~~ State income tax. Most of the group was strongly against this tax, however 3 were in favor of it (equally strongly) to help finance ~~KK~~ schools.

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League of Women Voters of Galveston, Texas

1 general 26 (general)
Number of meetings held 2 unit . Number of members participating 31 (units)

Types of meetings held numbers above do not include nine committee meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

1) Both unit groups support the use of a corporate income tax as a first-priority source for new public school revenues. Members of one group asked that instigation of such a tax be accompanied by phasing-out of the current "franchise tax."

2) Second choice for a new tax (by both unit groups) is a personal income tax. The membership generally approved of this tax because it taxes each person according to his ability to pay. Two persons, however, objected to any state personal income tax. (continued)

(b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Allocation of state funds for public education should be on a "weighted pupil" basis, providing money according to the educational needs of children in each school district.

Both unit groups support the use of "average daily membership" to replace ADA in determining fund allocation.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

1) Both groups support at least a 90%-10% state local MPP ratio or a move toward 100% state funding of basic foundation school program supported by one group.

2) General agreement that minimal local leeway (for enrichment of MPP) should be allowed. At least three members felt that there should be no local enrichment allowed.

3) Both unit groups support the use of a corporate income tax as a first priority source for new public school revenues. Members of one group asked that instigation of such a tax be combined with a phasing-out of the present "franchise tax."

Second choice for a new tax (by both groups) is a personal income tax. Members felt that this tax takes into account each person's ability to pay. Two persons objected to any state personal income tax.

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

1) Both unit groups support allocation of state funds on a "weighted pupil" basis, providing money according to the educational needs of children in each district.

2) Both units support the use of an equalizing formula (i.e. percentage or power) in conjunction with local enrichment programs to the end that richer districts, while enriching their own school programs, will be required to contribute in some way toward enriching the programs of poorer districts. Members feel that such a system would help to close the gap created by exercising local enrichment ability. (continued)

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Neither unit group dealt extensively with the concept of full state funding of public school education. General feeling was that full state funding, while perhaps the most reasonable and equitable method, is not a realistic political alternative. Group efforts, therefore, were focused upon methods of achieving a more equitable state-local combination.

CONTINUATION SHEET

1. (a) (State funding - revenue)

3) In the likely event that either a state or local property tax is used to support full state funding of public education, both unit groups support the property tax reforms specified under question 2a.

4) Strong opposition was voiced to further use of the sales tax.

2. (a) (State-local funding - revenue)

3) continued

Both unit groups agreed that the property tax is likely to be retained as one source of public school funds to support wide reforms of the local property tax as it now exists. Principal recommendations include:

- a) assessment statewide on 100% true market value
- b) Uniform state standards for assessment and collection with some degree of state control or auditing of these processes
- c) professionalization of assessing personnel
- d) establishment of a "stamp tax", and
- e) periodic re-assessment of property.

Additionally, one group supports

- f) raising the assessment level on favored classes of property, and
- g) imposing a statewide minimum tax rate.

Both groups expressed opposition to further use of the sales tax.

4) Both groups support abolishment of the present economic index and feel that local ability to pay should be based in some way upon the true market value of property within each school district.

2. (b) (State-local funding - allocation)

3) Both groups support the use of "average daily membership" to replace ADA in determining fund allocation.

4) Additionally, one unit group:

- a) supports establishment of a matching funds program for capital improvements, and
- b) urges investigation of possibilities for consolidation of smaller districts

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League of Women Voters of Hunt County

Number of meetings held 3 Number of members participating 16
~~1 general meeting....9 members present~~

Types of meetings held 2 unit meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
(day) Consider basing funds on enrollment instead of ADA. Determine cost of education in each district; re-evaluate regularly.
(night) Qualified assessors should be used. Tax valuations should be the same all over the State. The tax rates standardized.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

(day) Allocate annual budget..available annually or quarterly as needed.

(night) The needs of the district should be determined by a cost of education index based on ADA rather than enrollment.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

(day) Tax on 100% valuation...re-evaluate property on a periodic basis by certified and qualified property appraisers...pay the same minimum tax rate.

(night) We need to arrive at a state minimum figure of expenditure per student and the state make available whatever funds are necessary above local funds in order to equalize.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Distribute on a basis of need but consider tax effort....
Power Equilization.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Power Equilizing.

(night) The State-local system is preferred, based on ADA.

Note.....There was a difference in opinion as to the meaning of the questions therefore the day and night unit answers are listed separately.

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League of Women Voters of South Jefferson County

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 10

Types of meetings held Regular Unit Meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
The two units feel that new source of taxation would be required to finance full school funding. Possibly state income or corporate tax a state lottery, or a wholesale tax on alcoholic beverages were suggested. Present taxes would be available for local projects and buildings.
- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?
Weighted pupil grant. Question raised is: What provision is made for funds for the enrichment of gifted program?
We note only help for the under achievers.
2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
One unit did not favor the present state-local system. It seem a duplication in collection and administrative cost. If it is continued then the minimum Foundation program needs to be upgraded. The other unit did not reach a consensus.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

One unit favor full state funding. Other unit did not reach a consensus.

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P.m. 1/14

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League of Women Voters of Tarrant County

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 44 in consensus

Types of meetings held 1 unit discussion -- 1 unit consensus (three of eight units did not meet because of ice storm)

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

No consensus for level of state assumption of public school funding. Funds should be raised from a corporate profits tax. A significant minority were in favor of a state personal income tax. Members felt there should be statewide standardization of tax rates, methods of assessment, and collection with proper training and qualification of tax personnel. However there was no direct mention of a statewide ad valorem tax.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

The majority felt that the distribution of funds should be made on the basis of a weighted pupil grant system with adjustments made for differences in costs among districts. A significant minority were in favor of the assumption of some capital expenditures by the state.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Standardization of ad valorem tax rates, methods of assessment, and collection practices.

An upgrading of training for tax assessors and collectors.

The economic index should be revised or exchanged for a more equitable system of determining state-local funding. There were suggestions on this but no consensus.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Revision of the Local Fund Assignment to eliminate inequalities, especially the credit system.

A significant minority were in favor of some plan for assumption of capital expenditures by the state.

A small minority were in favor of power equalizing.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Twenty-four members preferred state-local funding. Nineteen preferred full state funding. The Board did not feel that this was a consensus.

Throughout the recorders notes ran the feeling that minimum state standards should be raised, but that schools with higher standards should be able to maintain them.



THE WACO VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WACO/WACO, TEXAS

President: Mrs. John Flynn, [REDACTED]

Editor: Mrs. Maurice [REDACTED]

DECEMBER/JANUARY CALENDAR

DECEMBER - No more meetings scheduled

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU

JANUARY 3 - Board Meeting - 9:45 A. M.
[REDACTED]

JANUARY 8 -- Discussion Meeting

Task Force on City Government Structure
Red Cross Building Auditorium
7:30 P. M. (Details elsewhere)

JANUARY 10 - Discussion Meeting - 10:00 A. M.

SOLID WASTE consensus
Report from City Government Committee
[REDACTED]

JANUARY 16 - Committee on Local Schools

An exploratory meeting - DO COME!
[REDACTED]

JANUARY 24 - Discussion Meeting - 10:00 A. M.

Local Program-Making. What will we
study next year?
[REDACTED]

CONSENSUS REACHED -----

Thirteen members attended the second meeting on Public School Financing on November 29 and consensus was reached. We believe that there should be full state financing of the public schools with complete reform of the property tax. We think there should be uniform assessment around the state and that assessors should be licensed. We favor adoption of a state personal income tax or a corporate profits tax if additional income is necessary for full state funding.

We think the allocations to the local units should be based on an average daily membership in the schools, a weighted pupil approach and that there should be monitored state guidelines. Local enrichment should be permitted within reasonable limits.

If the present state-local system should be retained, we believe there should be reform of the Foundation School Program, the economic index and the property tax.

Lucy Edwards
Chairman

#####

NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING:

At its December 6 meeting, the Board

-Approved with pleasure two recent appointments: Mrs. Richard (Judy) Butler will serve on the Board as chairman of the national items on International Trade and Representative Government; Mrs. Paul Derrick (Jane) will represent the League on the local EOAC Board.
-Appointed the following as members of a combined budget/bylaws committee: Lucy Edwards, chairman, Martha Garibay, Catherine Gordon, Dorothy Brown and Elli Flynn, ex-officio.
-Appointed Judy Butler and Peggy Smith as Board members of the Nominating Committee.
-Approved the consensus statement following our study of Public School Financing.

PROGRESS REPORT --- CITY GOVERNMENT
STRUCTURE

The City Government Structure Committee invited members of other Waco organizations to join with them in forming a Task Force to plan action on the issue of changing the method of electing councilmen to make the City Council more representative. After the Task Force has been called together, the League members will step out of the leadership role and participate on an equal basis with other members of the Task Force, letting the group decide upon its leadership and structure. So far, members of 15 organizations have said they will participate. Members of 14 others have said maybe or that they are interested in the issue but not in being members of the Task Force. The first meeting of the Task Force will be held January 8 at 7:30 P. M. in the Red Cross Building Auditorium. We expect about 40 to 50 people to attend.

We are quite excited about the possibilities of such an organization. It could set a precedent for League involvement in the future. We think that this is the most promising way to effect change on this controversial issue on which many isolated efforts have been made by individuals and organizations.

Jane Derrick
Chairman

*
* W E L C O M E: NEW MEMBERS
*
* (Please add the following names to
* your Membership List, received with
* last month's VOTER.)
*

* Barrett, Mrs. Marjie C.
* [REDACTED]
*

* Myers, Mrs. Tom (Alice)
* [REDACTED]
*

* Rose, Mrs. Donald (Terry)
* [REDACTED]
*

* Walker, Mrs. C. Eugene (Lois)
* [REDACTED]
*

*
* REMINDERS: The Budget/Bylaws and
* Nominating Committees will be meeting
* in January to carry out their most
* important tasks. If you have any
* suggestions for these committees, you
* are encouraged to call the chairmen.
* The Nominating Committee will be
* choosing a president, first vice-
* president, secretary, three directors.
*

A SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT AND THE STATE REVISION CHAIRMAN ---

"I'M SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOU! Twenty-four years of patience, tenacity, and thousands of woman hours have finally given us our first victory in Texas Constitutional Revision. Be sure and read your next State Board Report because this is only the beginning and there's much work to be done by all of us to assure a new or revised Constitution that will best serve the needs of all the people in Texas."

VETA WINICK, State President

"I could search the dictionary and not find sufficient words to thank the dedicated and determined League members who made our Amendment #4 campaign a success. Now the work really begins - to lobby with our legislators so that qualified people are included on the Revision Commission and to testify before the Commission on what the League would like to have in a good constitution. Thank you for your help."

BETTY CONNER, State Revision Chairman

#

KEEP UP WITH THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE!!

Subscriptions to the Legislative Newsletter and Times for Action, published during the Session by the LWV of Texas are available by direct mail to you. Cost is \$2.50 for the entire Session. Order from state office.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: MOTHER'S DAY OUT
Lake Shore Baptist Church provides a
"Mother's Day Out" nursery service every
Wednesday, 9:00 A. M. to 12:30 P. M. Cost
is \$1 for first child, 50¢ for second.
#

SOLID WASTE: IT WON'T GO AWAY.....CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

We will be discussing the problems facing us in the future (and right now) on the disposal of the solid waste being created in our society. How do we dispose of the mountains of trash that accumulate in the average household every week? Whose responsibility is the planning for this disposal?

At the consensus meeting scheduled for January 10 (see calendar, page 1), the Waco LWV will attempt to propose solutions and will add its voice to those from around the country in other local Leagues as we discuss this national Program item. Deadline for return of our opinions to the national office is January 31. Plan to be at the January 10 meeting to express your views.

The questions with which we are faced are:

If the Federal government supersedes the local authority to manage solid waste, should it encourage industry to take over the management?

Should the Federal government establish national policies to encourage recycling of post-industrial and post-consumer waste?

Should the Federal government try to increase demand for secondary materials?

Should the Federal government help the states and localities develop recycling facilities?

Should the government encourage non-government emphasis on building and operating recycling facilities?

How should recycling plants be funded: taxes, revenue bonds, private capital?

Should the government take measures to reduce the generation of municipal solid wastes?

REPORT ON "NO MAN'S LAND" from Lib Davis, Environmental Quality Chairman

Block Partnership is sponsoring meetings at St. Mary's Baptist Church in NO MAN'S LAND on Monday nights for the purpose of disseminating ideas for the incorporation of that area into the City of Waco. Police protection is rare, crime is increasing. Of the wells tested, 43% were contaminated by coliform bacteria. Some six families have water inside their homes, of the 240 residents! Is there an answer?

THE WACO VOTER
League of Women Voters of Waco, Texas



FIRST CLASS MAIL

A
MERRY
CHRISTMAS!

Mrs. Edward Fritz

1. (b) WHAT METHODS WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE ESSENTIAL IN ALLOCATING THE FUNDS TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

Allocation of state funds for public education should be on a "weighted pupil" basis, providing money according to the educational needs of children in each school district.

Both unit groups support the use of "average daily membership" to replace ADA (average daily attendance) in determining fund allocation.

2. (a) IF THE PRESENT JOINT STATE-LOCAL SYSTEM OF FINANCING TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION WERE TO BE RETAINED, WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE ESSENTIAL IN EQUALIZING THE REVENUE AVAILABLE TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

1. Members support at least a 90%-10% state-local Minimum Foundation Program ratio. One group supported another alternative of moving toward 100% state funding of the basic foundation school program.

2. There was general agreement that minimal local leeway for enrichment of the Minimum Foundation Program be allowed. At least 3 members felt that there should be no local enrichment allowed.

3. Both unit groups agreed that the property tax is likely to be retained as one source of public school funds and supported recommendations for wide reforms of existing local property tax administration. Recommendations include:

- a) assessment statewide on 100% true market value
- b) uniform state standards for assessment and collections with some degree of state control or auditing of these processes
- c) professionalization of assessing personnel
- d) establishment of a "stamp tax"
- e) periodic re-assessment of property

In addition, one group supports (a) raising the assessment level on favored classes of property, and (b) imposing a statewide minimum tax rate.

4. Both groups support abolishment of the present economic index and feel that local ability to pay should be based in some way upon the true market value of property within each school district.

2. (b) WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE ESSENTIAL IN ALLOCATING THE FUNDS TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

1. /See answers to question 1(b) above./

2. Both units support the use of an equalizing formula in conjunction with local enrichment programs to the end that richer districts, while enriching their own school programs, will be required to contribute in some way toward enriching the programs of poorer districts. Members feel that such a system would help to close the gap created by exercising local enrichment ability.

3. In addition, one unit group

- (a) supports establishment of a matching funds program for capital improvements, and
- (b) urges investigation of possibilities for consolidation of smaller districts.

3. WOULD YOU PREFER ONE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED SYSTEMS? IF SO, PLEASE INDICATE WHICH ONE. IF NOT, DO YOU HAVE ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Neither unit group dealt extensively with the concept of full state funding of public school education. General feeling was that full state funding, while perhaps the most reasonable and equitable method, is not a realistic political alternative. Group efforts, therefore, were focused upon methods of achieving a more equitable state-local combination.

LAND USE REPORT/ PLANNING COMMISSION MEETS WITH MARVIN SPRINGER

Sally Larkin and I attended the Planning Commission meeting on Dec. 19 which heard Marvin Springer, consultant, discuss his work in updating the Master Plan. Mr. Springer noted that one of the problems with the last plan was the inaccurate projection for population for the last decade. It was thought that the NASA program would bring more people to the Island, but this large increase never materialized. The 1970 census put our population at 61,000, and Springer noted that, although one can't forecast accurate projections, he wanted the Planning Commission to agree on a reasonable projection which would be the basis of updating the plan.

The census decline for Galveston was contradictory to the enormous growth experienced in the Gulf Coast and Houston area for the same decade. Mr. Springer pointed out that the Houston area contained 41% of all the population growth for Texas in the last decade. He noted that in Galveston a figure of concern was the decline in the Prime Work Force (ages 25-44) from 22,300 to 13,700 in the last 10 years. One factor is the general aging of the population, but also the continued growth on the Mainland of the prime labor force. Mr. Rapp pointed out that the lack of middle income housing is critical for Galveston, and that this is the critical factor in any future life for Galveston.

The subject of the western half of the Island and its effect on the city was brought up and whether figures on its development should be included in the Master Plan for Galveston. Because the plan includes information on roads, housing, etc., it was decided that including this information should be seriously considered. I mentioned to the Planning Commission that the LWV has been concerned with this issue in its Land Use study. It was decided that Mr. Springer would look into the possibility of studying development on the western half of the island and would return to meet with the Commission on Jan. 23. This is an open meeting and any LWVers may attend (City Hall, 5 PM, Jan. 23). Call the Planning Commission secretary on that day to make sure the meeting has not been cancelled.

LAND USE GENERAL MEETING: We are delighted that Mr. Reid, Planning Director, Mr. Parkey, Planning Commission Chairman, and Marvin Springer, consultant, have agreed to be on a panel at our General Meeting on February 13. There will be more details in the February bulletin, but SAVE THE DATE.

--Jan Coggeshall, Land Use Chairman

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS--Galveston Consensus

[The following is a copy of our local League's replies to the consensus questions on Public School Financing in Texas. The Galveston consensus was reached by 31 members who participated in the November unit meetings.]

1. (a) IF THE STATE WERE TO ASSUME FULL FUNDING OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION, WHAT METHODS WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE ESSENTIAL IN EQUALIZING THE REVENUE AVAILABLE TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS?
 1. Both unit groups support the use of a corporate income tax as a first-priority source for new public school revenues. Members of one group asked that instigation of such a tax be accompanied by phasing-out of the current "franchise tax."
 2. Second choice for a new tax is a personal income tax. The membership generally approved this tax because it taxes each person according to his ability to pay. Two persons, however, objected to any state personal income tax.
 3. In the likely event that either a state or local property tax is used to support full state funding of public education, both unit groups support the property tax reforms specified under question 2(a).
 4. Strong opposition was voiced to further use of the sales tax.

MORE---

Galveston Isle Voter

MASS TRANSITHOW YOU CAN HELP

Write your Congressmen and Senators immediately after the holidays---that's NOW! Why? In September, 1972, the U.S. Senate passed an ammendment to the federal-aid highway authorization bill which would have given states discretion to use up to \$800 million a year in urban road funds for the construction of rail rapid transit systems. In trying to seek a compromise between House and Senate, the bill ultimately failed to pass, necessitating action by the Congress early in 1973 in order to keep highway construction programs going. An attempt will again be made to open up the Highway Trust Fund for use by the cities for mass transit. Therefore, all League members are requested to write their congressmen and senators early, early in January and urge the use of some of the highway trust funds for mass transit. (See the October, 1972, Bulletin, Legislative Report section, for more information.)

WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS...

Mrs. J. Bradley Arthaud
Mrs. Bruce E. Bremberg (moved but a member)
Mrs. Antonio Cardona
Mrs. Robert L. Conn
Mrs. J. L. Dees
Mrs. Franklin Gittess
Mrs. John E. Grayshon
Mrs. H. W. Haworth
Mrs. Don D. Hewett
Mrs. Dwight Johnston
Miss Judy Meyer
Mrs. David Sawyer
Mrs. M. F. Spellacy
Mrs. John Stevens
Mrs. Bill B. Terry

Mrs. Bruce Bremberg is continuing her membership in LWV-H despite her move to another city.

+ LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING...

- + Program is the key to a successful League.
- + Relevant program is the key to effective action.
- + Timely program is the key for effective change.
- + Effective program is the key to the League contribution to our democratic society.
- + According to our by-laws, item suggestions for future local program study must be submitted by the members two months before the annual meeting. In April you will vote on the items, choosing from those most frequently suggested at the January units.
- + Come to the January unit meetings to decide which key will best fit the LWV-H for 1972-73.

NOTE TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS...

Houstonians who indicate an interest in joining the League are put on our "Prospect List." They receive the Bulletin for three months thereafter. If they have not joined the League at the end of that period, their name is dropped from the mailing list. To join, they need merely send their check for \$12.50 to League of Women Voters of Houston, 614 Harold, Houston 77006. Prospective members are NOT billed.

+ NOMINATING COMMITTEE...

- + The nominating committee will begin meetings in mid-January for next year's president, two vice presidents and directors. If you would like to serve on the board of LWV-H or wish to suggest someone, please inform one of the committee members:

Madeleine Appel--665-0770
Jackie Cronquist--723-3819
Lila Lerner--771-1179
Jan Wilbur--465-7289
Jane Peterman, chairman--667-0046

FINANCING EDUCATION IN TEXAS: HOUSTON'S CONSENSUS

The League of Women Voters of Houston has reached and sent to the state League the following consensus on financing public education in Texas:

1a. Q. If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

A. Property assessment has to be equalized statewide with uniform assessment standards. The majority prefer a combination of taxes with strong feeling for state personal income tax and corporate profits tax. A minority oppose a sales tax increase. A minority oppose a state personal income tax, and a minority favor earmarking the state income tax or corporate profits tax for education only. Strong majority felt that support for education should be substantially raised--most felt the level should be raised to bring Texas up to or above the national average. Strong majority favored allowing some local enrichment. A small minority favored power-equalizing. No consensus on what limit should be put on local enrichment.

1b. Q. What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

A. Majority favored weighted pupil grants or categorical grants (with weighted pupil grants slightly favored). A large minority expressed feeling for including various cost differentials such as those relating to size, urban-rural, municipal overburden, cost of living, capital outlay in the formula. Most favor state setting basic standards with local districts being allowed to choose their own methods of achieving those standards.

2a. Q. If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

A. Strong majority feel that assessment of property should be equalized statewide. Minority favored assessing property at fair market value. Strong minority feel that ability to pay should be measured differently, but no consensus on how it should be changed. Majority feel that the state's share of the cost of education should be greater.

2b. Q. What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

A. Strong minority feeling that state funds should be distributed according to need. Strong majority feel that the Minimum Foundation Program should be changed with feeling about equally divided that (a) it should be changed to distribute funds as weighted pupil or categorical grants or (b) that other factors should be added (such as capital outlay, urban-rural, size variable, etc.) There was some feeling by the majority in favor of power-equalizing, but most who favored it also feel that the more affluent districts would not find it acceptable.

(cont'd. on p. 7)

3. Q. Would you prefer one of the above-mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

A. Majority would prefer full state funding with some local enrichment allowed.

+++++

DO YOU KNOW HOW WE REACHED THE ABOVE LOCAL CONSENSUS ON FINANCING STATE EDUCATION? Do you know what role it will play in the ultimate consensus reached by the state League? Consensus is a slow, painstaking but ultimately rewarding process. It involves melding various points of view on a given subject into an accurate, cohesive expression--in League terminology, a position. Each of the 13 units in LWV-H reported a "consensus" of the opinions of financing education in Texas as expressed by the members present at their meetings. The education committee studied, tabulated, mulled over, checked and finally formulated, from the unit reports (made on recorder sheets), a cohesive, comprehensive statement. This statement, in turn, was mulled over, checked, amended and finally approved by the Board of Directors of the LWV-H. It will be submitted to the State Board of LWV-Texas as the consensus arrived at by the Houston League. Our results will be considered, scrutinized, weighed and combined with the results from the other 43 leagues in Texas by the state board and then--and only then--will we have a state consensus on financing education which will provide the guidelines under which we will act. It should be emphasized that only after this last step do we have a position upon which to act.

--Jan Wilbur

EDUCATION COMMITTEE...

Even though we have finished taking consensus on financing public school education in Texas, our study is not over. The various agencies and committees which have also been studying this question are now issuing their reports and/or recommendations. The education committee will be studying these and reporting to you on them from time to time. If you want more information, you are welcome to join us at our meetings. Our next session will be Jan. 9 at 9:45 AM at the home of Jan Wilbur, 10130 Whiteside Lane (Phone:465-7289).

Many Houston leaguers indicated a preference for the weighted-pupil-grant form of distributing funds for education. The Texas Education Agency prepared a report for study purposes only for the State Board or Education Committee on Public School Finance which explores this approach. We summarize that report below:

The purpose of the study was to determine the costs of providing quality education for regular programs and for special educational programs for various kinds of pupils in the public schools in Texas.

The study used data from 28 school districts in Texas to determine the pupil weights. The weights illustrate the differences in instructional costs across programs and grade levels.

Weights for a basic educational program are as follows: Elementary is given a weight of 1.00, this represents \$497 spent for each child for one year of instructional cost. For kindergarten, a weight of 1.05 was calculated; this represents a cost of \$522. For early childhood education, preschool, the calculated weight of 1.12 represents \$557. For high school, the calculated

weight of 1.28 represents \$636.

Add-on weights were calculated for students needing special programs such as those for speech handicapped, non-English speaking, migrant, handicapped vocational, etc.

The total instructional expenditures for all 1149 districts in Texas in 1970-71 was approximately \$1.576 billion. Applying the weighted pupil allocation for students being served by the different educational programs, the cost would have been \$1.585 billion. However, some students needing certain types of educational programs are not now being offered them. If each student were being offered the program he needs, the total cost, using the weighted pupil grants, would be approximately \$1.903 billion.

PUBLICATIONS...

If you would like to subscribe to Legislative Newsletter to keep on top of up-to-the-minute happenings at the State Capitol, call Kitty Head (664-6200). A subscription costs only \$2.50 for the regular session which begins in January.

There are still a few 1973 calendars left. If you need one, contact your unit publications chairman, the League office or Ms. Head.

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO HELP STATE LEAGUE FINANCES AND SUBSCRIBE TO THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR.....

The Christian Science Monitor is offering a rebate to state Leagues on new subscriptions, renewals or gifts purchase by League members. The rebate will be 50% of each subscription. If you're interested in ordering the Monitor, send a check for \$33 to the League of Women Voters of Texas, Dickinson Plaza Center, Dickinson, Texas 77539. (Check should be made out to the League; if order is a renewal, enclose your Monitor renewal notice along with your check.) The \$33 buys you one year's worth of the Monitor.

CITY CHARTER: CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

1. Should the League urge the appointment of a city charter commission to completely revise Houston's city charter?
2. What qualifications should the city charter set for the offices of mayor? City Controller? City councilmen?
3. How should the city charter assure the fair compensation of the mayor controller and councilmen?
4. Should new procedures be recommended to improve Houston's fiscal policies?
5. What should be the voting role of the mayor on the city council? What other roles should he perform on the council?
6. What would be the best manner of filling vacancies in elected offices?
7. What new provisions, if any, should be included in the revised state constitution's sections on the state's relationship with municipalities?

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

JAN 28 1973

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

League of Women Voters of Deer Park Provisional League

Number of Meetings Held 4 Number of Members Participating 17

Type of Meetings held Unit Discussions until consensus reached. General

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts

Ans. 1. Lotteries 2. Corporate income tax 3. Tax on value of non religious property owned by churches.
4. State income tax. 5. Re-evaluation of property and some financing from a tax on this real property based on a relative value and ability to pay concept (formula including age and economic value of rural land and productivity.

- (b) What methods would you consider essential in allocating the funds to the local school district?

1. Use highest level now and make priorities of salaries and teaching materials (This essential) 2. Possible voucher system with laws and realities taken into consideration
3. Enrichment (defined as anything not considered by educators as important to a basic education allowed if supported 40% from local funds. 4. Weighted pupil basis of distribution.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

1. Reassessment of property values and basis of taxation based on a formula involving (a) economic value of rural acreage (b) Those owning city or town property being taxed on value plus formula involving less for those over 50: in conjunction with a formula involving state vouchers (as above stated) plus a head tax per pupil for those with children in school in a small amount complete with available information to taxpayers on the local school budgets. (c) Industry pay no less than 10% of its property value as compared to homeowners and small business

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to local school districts. ?

1. Teacher salaries up all over state on basis that highest now should be minimum. (A high salary in each school district. Couple this with (1) An adequate due process of law system for both teachers and students (2) Counselor certified and trained to solve students problems rather than function as high paid clerks. and adjuncts of adminis

JAN 23 1973

tration (Professional immunity) (3) A teacher-administrator as well as a teacher-pupil limit

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have an alternative suggestion?

Full state funding with any needed program available on ~~inter~~ inter or intra school level. Example (1) Sparsely populated schoold districts should be made to work out needs on a regional basis (2) Urban schools made to supply programs demanded and on both accounts transportation to these areas of specialization provided. These programs of couse should be state approved as educationally necessary. (Example..The school of fine arts in Houston and the Medical Careers school in Houston.

Summary

We oppose busing for busing sake. We support adequate educational oppertunities for all students. We feel that the educational syst em should include ways and means for teachers, parents, students and administrators to make their objections and views known to proper authorities. We believe that teachers should be paid more and that they should continue their educational expertise by additional courses or other enriching oppertunities from time to time. We believe that many administrative positions can be cut down and highly paid teachers have more say so and responsibility in the educational process, but due process provided as mentioned above.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

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PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

September 1972
4 copies

CONSENSUS DEADLINE - JANUARY 15, 1973

Please return three copies to the state office.

League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 48

Types of meetings held 1 General, 2 units

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Full State Funding. Fair Market Value used statewide; a.m. unit favored some local enrichment option, perhaps a 5 limit. p.m. wanted training for tax assessors, licensed by state, flat rate income tax. opposed to sales tax. A.M. opposed incometax.

discard economic index basis of minimum foundation. Distribution taking into account the difference between lection and participation classes. p.m. unit wanted districts structured to contain a minimum number of students.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

discard economic index basis of minimum foundation. Distribution taking into account the difference between lecture and participation classes. p.m. unit wanted districts structured to contain a minimum number of students (consolidation?)

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Programs should not benefit rich over poor districts. p.m. unit apposed to enrichment at local level. Require all districts to raise all money available to them. State to determine amount each district must raise and what it may spent. Any surplus to be used in poorer districts.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

State should be responsible for keeping distribution level by seeing that assessments are same statewide and telling district how much it can keep of taxes raised locally. No consensus in either unit as to what criteria should be used specifically, to determine distribution.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We prefer a state-local system and would like school board members elected by single member districts.

I haven't met a deadline yet. We had terrible weather her for a week, and the consensus meetings were re-scheduled. I overlooked the fact that consensus deadline was Jan. 15. If this is too late, I understand.

Barbara Glickman (Mrs. Barney)
1613 Beverly Drive
Wichita Falls, Texas 76309

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

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PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

September 1972
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CONSENSUS DEADLINE - JANUARY 15, 1973

Please return three copies to the state office.

League of Women Voters of VICTORIA

Number of meetings held 1 Number of members participating 15

Types of meetings held unit discussion

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

see note on back

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Note:

Because we were limited to one meeting for this item and although the committee members did an excellent job of condensing and presenting the material, it was the consensus that we did not have enough knowledge to answer the questions. All members involved in the discussion meeting agreed it was a very interesting subject and felt they had a better understanding of the problem, but ~~remained~~ remained unqualified to make judgment on something so involved and farreaching.

(continued)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

JAN 26 1973

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

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CONSENSUS DEADLINE - JANUARY 15, 1973

Please return three copies to the state office.

League of Women Voters of Plainview - Hale Co. (Thurston)

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating approx 15

Types of meetings held 1 panel presentation: League members -

- 1 guest speaker: school supt. - Summary and consensus
1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

fund by sales tax

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

no consensus

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

power equalizing
state and local board to equalize
evaluation and assessment
jointly

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

weighted pupil grants

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

joint state-local system

Background for Consensus

Twenty-nine local Leagues and two provisional leagues met the consensus deadline. Two, Edinburg-McAllen and Deer Park Provisional were late. Denton reported a consensus in their Voter, but I didn't receive a report. Beaumont sent in a report indicating that their meeting had been cancelled due to ice. Leagues not responding were: Brownsville, Harlingen, Pasadena, Plainview-Hale County, San Antonio, Victoria and Wichita Falls. Some 1,079 members were reported as taking part in the meetings.

Eighteen of the Leagues, including Sherman, Edinburg-McAllen, and Deer Park were in favor of full-state funding. These Leagues represented 679 members. Ten Leagues, including Lamar County and Denton were in favor of retaining the Joint-Local system of financing public schools. These Leagues represented 282 members. Seven Leagues, including Beaumont, reported no consensus. Galveston, however, preferred full state funding but thought it politically unfeasible. These Leagues represented 128 members.

Under full state funding, as to ways of raising the revenue, fifteen Leagues preferred a state income tax. Twelve of the fifteen wanted to combine a state income tax with a state corporate profits tax. Seven of the fifteen Leagues mentioned the property tax. Eight did not.

Fifteen of the local Leagues preferred a statewide property tax with state supervision and uniform assessment procedures. Four Leagues mentioned the property tax only. Eleven mentioned a state income tax and corporate profits tax in addition to the property tax. Four Leagues didn't mention taxes at all.

In regard to reforms in the ad valorem tax, twenty-one Leagues recommended assessing property at full market value. Fifteen Leagues wanted to see a state agency created to supervise and enforce equitable assessment and taxation procedures. Nineteen Leagues wanted tax assessors to be professionally trained and supervised.

Eight Leagues and a strong minority of 1 League felt that equalization of school facilities should be included with equalization of other school costs to be funded by the state. Seven additional Leagues and strong minorities in 2 other Leagues felt that there should be some sort of state assistance to local districts for construction of facilities.

Twenty-six of the Leagues wished to see money allocated to the local school districts on a weighted pupil basis.

Ten Leagues and a strong minority of one mentioned that cost of living should be taken into account when allocating the money.

Twelve Leagues mentioned that money should be allocated on the basis of average daily membership rather than average daily attendance.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TEXAS

March 31, 1966

CAMERON M. TALBERT, JR.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
WACO, TEXAS

In regard to retaining the joint state-local method of financing public schools, seventeen Leagues mentioned either dropping or revising the economic index. Eleven Leagues wanted to drop it altogether. Six wanted to revise it.

Fifteen Leagues mentioned the major revision they wanted to see was assessing property at full market value. Thirteen Leagues mentioned professionalizing the tax assessors.

Fifteen Leagues wanted to raise the level of the state's Foundation School Program to a point that would insure quality education for all Texas school children.

Eight Leagues mentioned eliminating the credits against the Local Fund Assignment. Seven wanted to see consolidation of the smaller school districts.

In regard to power equalizing, nine Leagues and a minority of one wished to use this concept in obtaining more funds from the rich districts to help the poor ones.

Twenty local Leagues plus a minority of one mentioned wanting to allow some local enrichment or up to 10% enrichment.



Consensus Statement
on School Financing

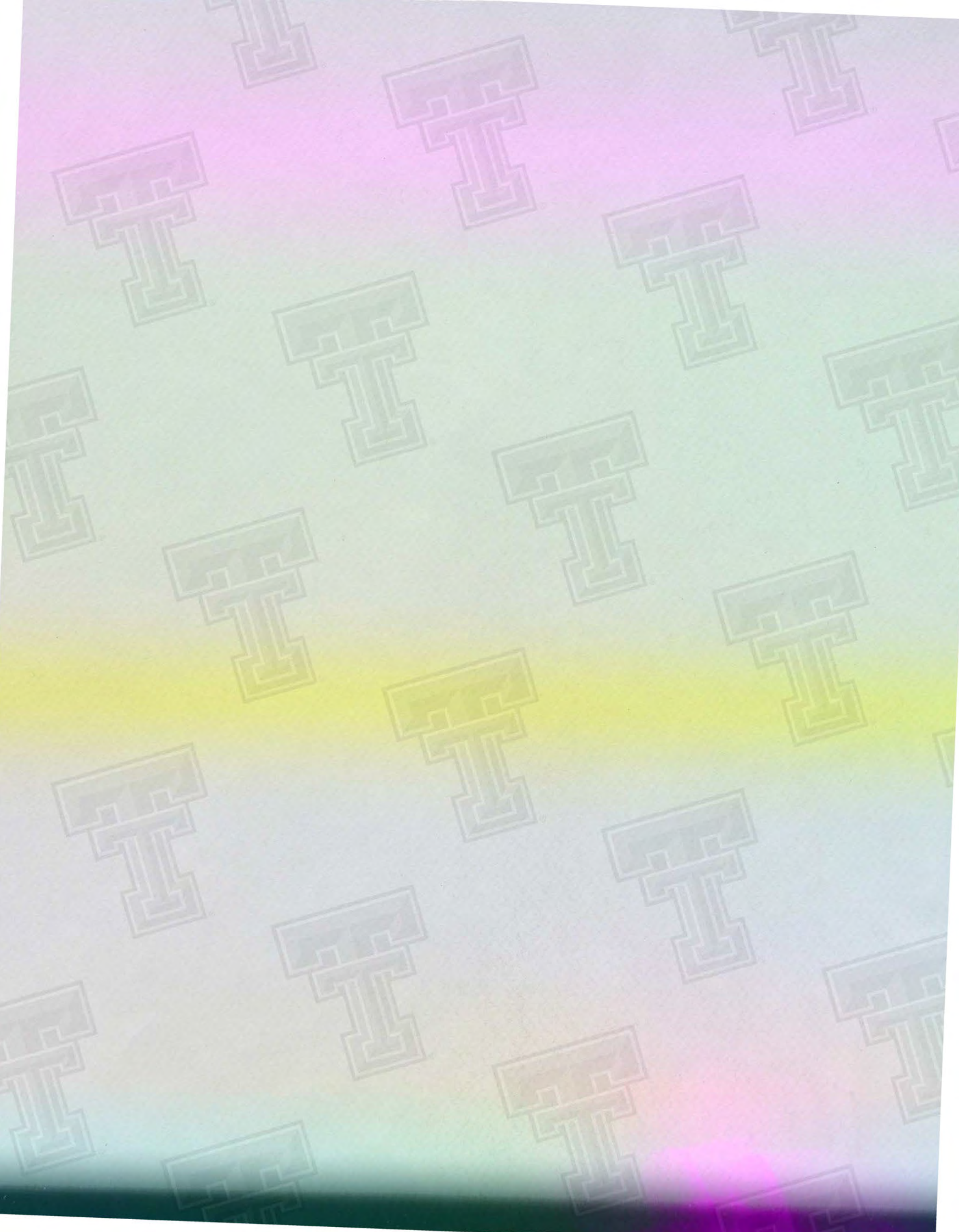
The League of Women Voters of Texas supports measures to equalize educational opportunity in the State.

The League supports:

1. ~~Full~~ state funding for public school education in Texas.
2. Raising the revenue from a combination of state taxes, including a statewide property tax, a state income tax, and a state corporate profits tax.
3. Assessing taxable property at full market value.
4. Establishing state supervision of property tax administration to insure equitable and uniform assessment and taxing procedures.
5. Requiring professional training for tax assessor-collectors.
6. Devising a state program to help local districts defray the cost of equalizing facilities.
7. Allocating funds to local school districts on the basis of "weighted" pupil needs.
8. Allowing local districts some leeway to enrich the state program, but not more than 10%.

In regard to revising the present joint state-local system of financing public schools to achieve further equalization of educational opportunity, the League of Women Voters supports:

1. Raising the level of ^{support to} the State's Foundation School Program to insure that all Texas school children receive a basic, ^{high} quality education.
2. Dropping ~~or revising~~ the economic index as a means of computing the local district's share of the Foundation School Program.
3. Computing the Local Fund Assignment on the basis of full market value of the taxable property within the local school district.
4. Allocating funds on a weighted pupil basis, according to educational need.



Reese
Green

1.a. Full-State Funding - Revenue Equalizing Methods

- 14 State agency to equalize local tax rates & assessment values - Amarillo Corsicana
Richardson Sherman, Waco, Austin, Bay Area, DFW, San Marcos, Denton, Abilene, Edinburg
- 12 Assess at full market value - Amarillo Corsicana Texas City, Marquette, Sherman,
Austin, Bay Area, DFW, Denton, Odessa, Edinburg
- 6 Documentary stamp - Texas City, S.M., Richardson, DFW, Montgomery County, San Marcos, Galveston
- 15 Personal income tax combined with corporate profits tax - Baytown Brazzport, Odessa,
Dallas, Lubbock, Garland, Midland, Tufar, Waco, Edinburg, Midland, Corpus
- 1 Personal income tax segregated for education only - Brazos County
- Improved property tax method, if additional money required levy
income & corporate profits tax - Corsicana, Waco, Austin, Bay Area, Denton, Odessa, Edinburg
- 7 Higher income & corporate profits tax, but if ad valorem retained, favor
(a) State control & supervision - Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, Garland, Richardson, Tufar, Edinburg
(b) Statewide equalization - Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, Garland, Richardson, Tufar, Edinburg
(c) Uniform assessment standards - Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, Garland, Richardson, Tufar, Edinburg
(d) Exemption on homestead - Garland, Richardson, Bay Area
(e) Made progressive for low income groups - Waco
- 4 Against inheritance - Garland, Sherman, Waco, Galveston
- 1 Gradual implementation of new rates & assessments - Richardson

1.b Full-State Funding - Allocation of Funds

- 8 Equalize facilities - Amarillo, Brazzport, Dallas, Midland, Richardson, Sherman
Edinburg, Midland, Houston (inner)
- 6 Facilities assistance - Austin, DFW, Montgomery Co., San Marcos, Denton, Tarrant Co. (inner)
- 26 Weighted pupil grants - Amarillo, Baytown, Brazzport, Corsicana, Dallas,
Garland, Odessa (inner), Houston, Lubbock, Garland, Midland, Richardson, Sherman,
Tufar, Waco, Edinburg, Midland, Bay Area, Corpus, DFW, Denton, Odessa,
Austin, Galveston, S.M., Tarrant Co.,
- 11 Consider cost of living variations - Amarillo, Dallas, Texas City, S.M., Midland,
Richardson, Tufar, Montgomery County, Hunt Co., Tarrant Co., Denton, Houston (inner)
- 2 Per pupil expenditures related to educational needs - Baytown, Montgomery Co.,
- 4 Study voucher system - Baytown, Dallas, Edinburg-Midland, Odessa
- 1 Allocate on basis of total scholarship rather than ADA - Brazos County
- 4 Some local enrichment permitted with power equalizing - Dallas, Waco, Austin,
DFW
- 1 Flat grant - Garland
- 1 State should set basic standard allowing local districts to
choose own methods of achieving those standards - Houston
- 10 ADM rather than ADA - Texas City, S.M., Lubbock, Garland, Richardson, Waco,
Austin, DFW, Odessa, Denton, Galveston
- 1 Incentive pay to teachers to go to area of greatest need - Richardson
- 1 Per pupil grants plus added for disadvantaged - San Marcos

2.a Joint-State Local - Revenue Equalizing Changes

- 6 Change economic index - Amarillo, Brazos County, Garland, Tufert, Waco, Tarrant Co.
 - a. Eliminate student census - Amarillo
 - b. Assess property at market value - Amarillo, Baylor, Brazos County, Corsicana, Garfield, Midland, Richardson, Sherman, Tufert, Waco, Corsica, Brown, Lomax Co., San Marcos, Galveston, Tarrant Co.
 - c. Allow no high profit property tax reduction - Brazos County
- 11 Drop economic index - Corsicana, Richardson, Sherman, Tufert, Waco, Corsica, Brown, Lomax Co., San Marcos, Galveston, Tarrant Co.
- 5 Eliminate credits - Amarillo, Brazos County, Brazosport, Midland, Corsica, Brown, San Marcos, Tarrant Co.
- 4 Institute power equalizing - Amarillo, Texas City, La Marque, Waco, El Paso
- 13 Professionalize tax assessors - Baylor, Brazos County, Brazosport, Garland, Garland, Midland, Richardson, Sherman, Brown, Montgomery County, Galveston, Hunt Co., Tarrant Co.
- 1 Earn maximum interest for permanent school fund - Brazos County
- 1 Place Available School Fund in FSP - Brazos County
- 15 Raise level of FSP to cover entire real cost of education - Brazosport, Houston, Midland, Richardson, Sherman, Waco, Edinburg, Austin, El Paso, Lomax Co., Montgomery County, Denton
- 5 Require minimum local effort of all districts - Brazosport, Garland, Midland, El Paso, Lomax Co.
- 9 Create state agency to administer property tax uniformly - Brazosport, Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, Tufert, Bay Area, Corsica, Montgomery Co., Denton
- 3 Re-draw district lines to broaden tax base - Garland, Richardson, Abilene
- 7 Consolidation of smaller districts - Garland, Sherman, Austin, El Paso (mostly), Brown, Odessa, Abilene

2.b Joint-State Local, Allocation of funds

- 6 Equalization of facilities - Amarillo, Brazosport, Dallas, Houston (mm), Garland, Richardson
- 4 Facilities assistance - Bay Area, Brown, Lomax Co., Tarrant Co. (mm), Galveston (mm)
- 20 Weighted pupil grants - Amarillo, Brazosport, Corsicana, Dallas, Garland (Lubbock mostly), Houston, Garland, Richardson, Sherman, Tufert, Waco, Austin, Corsica, Brown, Odessa, Denton, Dickinson, Galveston, Hunt Co., Tarrant Co.
- 1 Weighted pupil grant combined with equal expenditures, adjusted for difference in cost - Baylor
- 2 Teachers should be paid by the State - Brazos County, Brazosport
- 7 Funds should be allocated on enrollment, not ADA - Brazos County, Richardson, Waco, Austin, Brown, Odessa, Galveston
- 5 Permit local enrichment through power equalizing - Dallas, Houston, Texas City, M., Galveston, Hunt Co.
- 1 Flat grant - Garland

Local delivery - 1970 - Amarillo, Brazos County, Richardson, Sherman, Tufert, Edinburg-Midland, Austin, Bay Area

Some - Brazosport (mm), Dallas, Garland, Houston, Lubbock, Waco, Brown, Lomax Co., Odessa, San Marcos, Denton, Abilene, Galveston

156² 29 dead beavers and 2 Provisioned beavers met the common
deadline. One, Edmund Moller was late & beavers not responding
were: Beersville, Deer Park River, Hurlingham, Pasadena, Rainier-Hale County
San Antonio, Victoria & White Falls. (Dexter suggested a consensus
in their Deer Park & didn't receive a report. Beaumont not in a report
form indicating that their meeting had been cancelled due to ice.)
Score 1, 0 & 2 members were suggested as taking part in the meeting.

Eastern of the League including Sherman (prior) and Editha-Miller
 were in favor of full state funding. These Leagues represented 652
 members. Ten Leagues including Lamar County Board and Dalton, were
 in favor of retaining the present local system of financing public schools.
 These Leagues represented 322 members. Seven Leagues including Boardman
 reported no consensus. Quicker however, preferred full state funding
 and thought it politically unfeasible. These Leagues represented 128 members
 when first met.
 During 1935 to many of joining the separate (Fifteen local Leagues)
 preferred a state single tax. Twelve of old fifteen combined to combine
 a single income tax with a state corporate single tax. Seven of the
 fifteen Leagues did not mention the property tax. Eight did not.
 Fifteen of the local Leagues preferred a statewide property tax with
 state supervision and uniform assessment procedures. Four Leagues
 mentioned the property tax only. Eleven mentioned a state income
 tax + corporate single tax in addition to the property tax. Four
 Leagues didn't mention taxes at all.

The proposal to transform in the ad valorem tax; twenty-one leagues recommended assessing property at full market value. Fifteen leagues wanted to see a state agency created to supervise and enforce uniformity in assessment and taxation procedures. Nineteen leagues wanted tax revenues to go primarily toward aid highways.

Eighty-two per cent of the respondents favored the proposed changes.

be included with consideration of other ~~separate~~ ^{additional} added costs to be borne by the State. ~~These~~ ^{These} ~~beverages~~ ^{beverages} and ~~other~~ ^{other} ~~various~~ ^{various} ~~varieties~~ ^{varieties} in a other known fact that there should be some sort of ~~state~~ ^{state} ~~assistance~~ ^{assistance} to local ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} for construction of facilities.

Insufficient use of the facemask resulted in more money allocated to the local school districts & an increased pupil head count

The Bureau and a Street Commission of a member of the City of New York should be placed on the account of the Bureau of the New York.

space of overway early membership within that summer.

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Acad. Equine, Tinsford, Norfolk

State agents in charge, Massachusetts & United
Criminals, Boston, Providence, Portland, Seattle

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El Paso, New Mexico

Colchester, Mass Co., Braintree (Mass.)

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Mt Co. Station
San Francisco

3. Preference

- 8 Full-state funding 10% local levy - Amarillo, Brazos County, Midland, Richardson
Lamar County, Tipton, Waco, Edinburg, Mission
 - 9 Full-state funding - Baytown, Brownsville, Corsicana, Gladland, Texas City, Sam, Lubbock
Pearland, Houston, Pigeo
 - 2 Full-state funding including capital expenses - Dallas, Richardson
 - 2 Full-state funding, some local levy - Dallas, Houston
 - 1 Full-state funding negotiable but not politically feasible - Columbia
 - 1 Joint state-local with some local surcharge - Austin
 - 1 State-local funding 10% local surcharge - Bay Area
 - 8 State-local funding - Corpus, El Paso, Brown, Lamar Co., Montgomery Co., Odessa, San Marce
Hunt County
 - 4 No concessions - Abilene, Dickinson, S. Jeff. Co (w/out full st funding), Tarrant County
-

Consensus Statement

①

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports measures to equalize educational opportunity in the state.

The League supports:

Full state funding for public education. Revenue should be raised from ^{a combination of state-wide} ~~various~~ taxes, including a state-wide property tax, a state income tax, and a state corporate profits tax. A statewide property tax should be levied on property assessed at full market value. There should be state supervision to assure equitable and uniform assessment procedures. ^{for} Assessors should be professionally trained.

In allocation of funds ^{to the local school districts}, consideration should be given to the inclusion of construction costs in addition to instructional, maintenance, transportation, & other costs.

Funds should be allocated on a "weighted pupil" basis, according to the educational needs of the pupil, rather than on a flat grant basis.

Local districts should be allowed some leeway to enrich the state program further. This leeway should not exceed 10%.

In regard to revising the present joint state-local system of financing public schools ^{to equalize educational opportunity}, the League of Women Voters of Texas supports:

2. Raising or revising the economic index as a means of computing the local district's share of the FSP
3. Computing the local fund assignment on the basis of full market value of property within a local school district
4. Allocating funds ^{to educational need} on a weighted pupil basis, according
1. Raising the level of the state's Foundation School Program to ensure that all children will receive a good, basic, quality education.

In regard to ~~the~~ retaining the joint state local method of financing public schools, seventeen leagues mentioned either dropping or revising the economic index. Eleven leagues wanted to drop it altogether. Six wanted to revise it. Fifteen leagues mentioned the major revision they wanted to use was assessing property at full market value. ~~Thirteen leagues mentioned professionalizing the other question.~~
* Eight leagues mentioned eliminating the credits against the local fund assignment. Seven wanted to use consolidation of the smaller school districts.

* Fifteen leagues wanted to raise the level of the state's Foundation School Program to a point that would ensure quality education for all Texas school children. (top level, good quality districts)

In regard to power equalizing, nine local leagues and a minority of one more wished to use the concept in obtaining more funds from the rich districts to help the poor ones.

Twenty local leagues plus a minority of one more mentioned wanting to allow some or up to 10% local enrichment.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports measures to equalize educational opportunity in the State.

The League supports:

1. Full state funding for public school education.
2. Raising the revenue from a combination of state taxes, including a statewide property tax, a state income tax, and a state corporate profit tax.
3. Assessing property at full market value.
4. Establishing state supervision of property tax administration to insure equitable and uniform assessment & taxing procedures.
5. Requiring professional training for tax assessor-collectors.
6. Devising a program to help local districts defray the cost of equalizing facilities.
7. Allocating funds to local school districts on the basis of "weighted" pupil needs.
8. Allowing local districts some leeway to enrich the state program, but not more than 10%.

In regard to revising the present joint state-local system of financing public schools to achieve further equalization of educational opportunity, the League of Women Voters supports:

1. Raising the level of the State's Foundation School Program to insure that all Texas school children receive a basic, quality education.
2. Dropping or revising the economic index as a means of computing the local districts' share of the Foundation School Program.
3. Computing the local fund assignment on the basis of full market value of the property within a local school district.
4. Allocating funds on a weighted pupil basis, according to educational need.
- 5.

Public School Financing
Consensus Statement

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports measures to equalize educational opportunity in the State.

Specifically, the League believes that:

the level of State support to Texas public schools should be raised to insure that all Texas school children receive a high quality education. Local enrichment funding should be limited to 10% of the state program.

the revenue should be raised by a ~~combination of a statewide~~ ^{unapproved} property tax, ^{There of} a state income tax, ~~and a~~ state corporate profits tax, ^{or a} ~~combination of these~~ ^{Taxes}

In levying ~~the statewide~~ property tax: taxable property should be assessed at full market value; state supervision ~~should be established to insure~~ equitable and uniform assessment and taxing procedures; professional training should be required for tax assessor-collectors.

funds to local school districts should be allocated on the basis of ~~weighted~~ pupil needs.

local district capital outlay should be supplemented by the State to equalize facilities

Clarify weighted pupil concept in position paper.

[illegible]

County	No. of Members	Full State Fund To Raising Revenue	Full market value State agency to regulate	Income Tax	Corporate profits Equity account adjustments	Excise taxes	16. Allocation Est. grant	Weighted equal quot	Cost of Living	Equitable factors	17. State local Raising Revenue	18. Economic incentive	Access full mkt Institute government Eliminate credit Influencing income To allocate	Equalizing facilities	Weighted equal quot	ADP	State Amendment, power quality	3. Response	Full State Fund Full State Fund and equalizing quot State local	No Consensus	Other
Austin	100	✓	✓	2	2	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		100	✓	Consolidation
Bay Area	25	✓	✓	2	2	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓				100	✓	
Congress	30			✓				✓				✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	
El Paso	40			✓									✓	✓	✓					✓	
Living	20	✓	✓	1	2	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	Consolidation
San Antonio	21	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	
Montgomery	25	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓	State income tax
Odessa	17	✓		2				✓					✓			✓				✓	Consolidation
San Marcos	4	✓	✓			✓			✓			✓	✓							✓	T.S.A. plan
Denton		✓	✓	2	2			✓	✓	✓			✓			✓				✓	
	382																				
Abilene	35							✓												✓	Reform and local
Beaumont		Cancelled due to ice																		✓	
Dickinson	12	✓	✓	2	2	✓	✓	✓												✓	
Galveston	31	✓	✓	1/2	1/2	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Hunt County	16					✓			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	might not do it
Shafter	10			✓	✓			✓												✓	
Tarrant County	44	✓	✓	2	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓							✓	
	128																				

No response: Plainview-Halt City, Brownsville, Harlingen, Victoria, San Antonio, Deer Park Prov, Wichita Falls, Pasadena,

Specifically the League believes that:

The level of state support to Texas public schools should be raised to insure that all Texas school children receive a high quality education. Local government ~~financing~~ ~~expenditure~~ should be limited to 10% of the state program.

The revenue should be raised by a combination of ~~the~~ ~~taxes~~ including a statewide property tax, a state income tax, and a state corporate profit tax.

In levying a statewide property tax; taxable property should be assessed at full market value; state supervision should be established to insure equitable & uniform assessment & taxing procedures; professional training should be required for tax assessor-collectors.

~~State~~ funds to local school districts should be allocated on the basis of "weighted" pupil needs.

~~Funding~~ for local district capital outlay should be supplemented by the state to equalize facilities.

situation as possible, or better; toxic material should not be buried

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League of Women Voters of Amarillo
2 unit discussions
Number of meetings held 1 consensus. Number of members participating 13
Types of meetings held Unit discussions

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts? **Majority of members wished an equalization of the local tax rates and assessment ratios by the creation of a State tax agency which would assess at full market value. -A minority of the members thought that a State Income Tax should be levied if the state assumed full funding. -A smaller minority felt that an additional sales tax with certain exemptions would be best to finance full funding.**

(b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?
There should be weighted pupil grants after an initial equalizing of facilities. There should also be some provision for variation in living costs in different parts of the State.
2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
Change the economic index-- eliminate student census from the index, and assess property tax at market value. Institute power equalizing. Eliminate credit systems.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Equalization of facilities, then ~~xxxxxxx~~ weighted pupil grants.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

The majority of the Amarillo LWV present at these meetings favored full State funding. Most of those wanting State funding preferred that there be a local leeway of no more than 10%.

The Board of the Amarillo League would like to suggest that in future state studies, the bibliography be marked in order of importance. We found ourselves at the end of the study missing some of the more important references, and having a superfluous number of other interesting, but not too useful references.

We appreciate that this was an emergency study and that time was at a premium, and wish to complement the "Facts and Issues"--TEXAS SCHOOL FINANCE. It was a most valuable publication.

We also appreciate the fact that this is a very complex subject, but during and after the consensus, our members felt that the questions were a little obscure; it was said several times that if simpler words were used in the questions, the meaning of the questions would have been clearer. We do appreciate all the help you have been to us, though.

Katie McDonough,
School Finance Study Chairman
League of Women Voters of Amarillo

DEC 22 1972

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League of Women Voters of Baytown, Texas

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 18

Types of meetings held Unit Meetings, 1 morning and 1 night

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Personal income tax in combination with a Corporate Profits Tax.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Per pupil expenditures related to educational needs. Weighted pupil grant. The Voucher system merits more study.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

All taxable property should be assessed at 100% of its fair cash market value. Intangible property, (stocks and bonds) should be taxed. There was one suggestion that Industrial property tax should be divided according to residence of employee. There should be Professional property assessors.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Weighted pupil grant combined with equal expenditures--adjusted for difference in costs. Also some consideration should be given to capital outlay fund.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Full state Funding.

JAN 3 1973

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

League of Women Voters of Brazos County

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 35.

Types of meetings held Unit.

CONSENSUS
PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts? We agreed that Texas schools should be state supported with a maximum of 10% local enrichment. We suggested these forms of taxation: (1) a personal graduated income tax, designated for education only, and (2) a corporate profits tax. If we must continue to use property taxes to support education the reforms listed in question 2 a. should be instituted. An income tax law designating revenue for education should be changed by referendum only.

Minority opinion: a minority of the members supported equitable state property taxes, sales tax on services and severance taxes.

(b) What methods would you consider essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts? It was agreed that money should be allocated on a weighted pupil formula with consideration being given to the cost of educating the disadvantaged child--the physically and mentally disabled and those geographically disadvantaged.

Minority opinion: or ideas mentioned and approved at only one unit meeting: Fifty percent of all local enrichment funds should be placed in a state fund and used for equalizing enrichment state-wide. All money from the state should be designated for specific purposes. Total scholastics should be used for allocation purposes rather than ADA.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts? More equitable methods for equalizing revenue would be (1) to certify all tax assessors (2) to revise the Economic Index by including all incomes within a school district and assessing real property at 100% market value, allowing no non-profit property tax exemptions (3) to remove the "budget balance" credits, the government-owned land credits and the maximum tax rate limitation credits from the Local Fund Assignment (4) to earn maximum interest for permanent school fund and (5) to place Available School Funds in the Foundation School Program fund.

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts? It was agreed that the number of pupils in a Classroom Teacher Unit should be lowered and based on enrollment, not ADA. Teachers should be paid by the state. The Minimum Foundation Program should be increased to include teacher workshops, multi-district services, supplementary reading materials, etc.

Minority opinion: The Minimum Foundation Program cannot be made equitable and should be eliminated. The Classroom Teacher Unit should be based on ADA. The state should specify a maximum class size.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain. The first system.

The consensus was reached that we should have state supported schools with a limited enrichment at the local level. The state should be responsible for raising the quality of education throughout the state and for incorporating progressive tax measures to support it.

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League of Women Voters of Brazosport

Number of meetings held two . Number of members participating 22 *

Types of meetings held one discussion and one consensus *

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

The state should assume the full realistic cost of education: the entire cost of salaries, operational, transportation, and maintenance expenses as well as building costs and land acquisition costs. The level of education should be as high as is necessary to meet the needs of all the students. One unit ($\frac{1}{2}$ of the members) felt there should be no local enrichment, but rather each district should receive funding for those programs which are necessary to it but not necessary to other districts. (Voc. Ag., Oceanography, etc.) The other unit ($\frac{1}{2}$) felt local enrichment with power equalization should be allowed. Both units felt that state funds should be raised without using the ad valorem tax. One unit ($\frac{1}{2}$)

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts? (see bottom last page.)

Funds should be allocated by weighted pupil or instructional unit grants and should cover actual building costs and transportation costs.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

First raise the level of the MFP to cover the entire real cost of education. Decrease the percentage raised for local enrichment (if any) and increase the percentage of local funds raised for the MFP local fund assignment. The maximum tax credit and the balance budget credit should be eliminated. Assuming that the ad valorem tax would still be used to raise the local districts share of the cost of the MFP, an independent state agency with trained evaluators and other trained personnel based locally and beholdng only to the state office is needed to enforce uniform evaluation and assessment practices. A minimum tax effort should be required of all districts. ~~The/ed/~~ The economic index should be eliminated. One unit ($\frac{1}{2}$) felt total taxable value within the district should be the basis for assigning local contributions to the ~~ed/ed/~~ funding of the MFP. The other $\frac{1}{2}$ did not suggest a replacement for the economic index. Again one unit ($\frac{1}{2}$) did not want local enrichment while the other $\frac{1}{2}$ did. Both felt power equalization with a maximum limit was the only fair way to handle local enrichment if you were going to have it allowed. (continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Again, distribution should be based on need with allocation on a weighted pupil or instructional unit basis plus transportation and building and land acquisition costs. The MFP should cover the entire cost of salaries.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We prefer # 1 or full state funding with the costs born by corporate and personal income taxes as explained above.

I would like to add a personal note of thanks to Mrs. Fritz. The F & I was the clearest and most complete paper I read on the subject and I feel like I read them all. It was unbelievably good. The only regret that I have is that I misunderstood the number of unit meetings required and only asked for two at calendar making. (One discussion and one consensus.) Of course the material was so complex and there was so much of it that a minimum of two discussions meetings were necessary. We have 20 extra copies of this fine F & I and we will distribute them in the community this month.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Mikulastik
State Program Chairman
LWV of Brazosport

- * The consensus was taken in two units, one in the morning the other a week later at night. There were eleven voting members at each meeting making a 50-50 split where there was a difference of opinion between the units. The degree of agreement within the units was high with an occasional one man stand.

(continued from quest. 1,b.) would like to see corporate and personal income tax raise the necessary funds. The other ~~1/2~~ ~~1/2~~ felt the sales tax should be increased as well as a corporate and personal income tax instituted. (One member wanted to see gambling legalized and the taxes used to fund education.) The unit which wanted local enrichment wanted it paid for by a local ad valorem tax evaluated and assessed uniformly throughout the state.

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League of Women Voters of Corsicana

Number of meetings held 1. Number of members participating 12

Types of meetings held discussion

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

We support full funding by state, with the additional provision of weighted pupil allocation & the provision for assessing & collection of other monies to be done by state agency, eliminating inequities between districts. We like the Battelle recommendation of Market Value Index rather than County Economic Index.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

See above.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

See above Support Statement.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Again, distribution should be based on need with allocation on a weighted pupil or instructional unit basis plus transportation and building and land acquisition costs. The MFP should cover the entire cost of salaries.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We prefer # 1 or full state funding with the costs born by corporate and personal income taxes as explained above.

I would like to add a personal note of thanks to Mrs. Fritz. The F & I was the clearest and most complete paper I read on the subject and I feel like I read them all. It was unbelievably good. The only regret that I have is that I misunderstood the number of unit meetings required and only asked for two at calendar making. (One discussion and one consensus.) Of course the material was so complex and there was so much of it that a minimum of two discussions/meetings were necessary. We have 20 extra copies of this fine F & I and we will distribute them in the community this month.

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Sally A. Mikulastik
State Program Chairman
LWV of Brazosport

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(continued from quest. 1,b.) would like to see corporate and personal income tax raise the necessary funds. The other ~~1/2~~ ~~would~~ felt the sales tax should be increased as well as a corporate and personal income tax instituted. (One member wanted to see gambling legalized and the taxes used to fund education.) The unit which wanted local enrichment wanted it paid for by a local ad valorem tax evaluated and assessed uniformly throughout the state.

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- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

answered in question 1

Remarks: Feelings are divided over the question as to local levy funding. Additional revenue is recommended to be raised through a personal income tax (4% of Fed. income tax) and Corporate profits tax.

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- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

answered in question 1

Remarks: Feelings are divided in our League as to local levy funding. Additional revenue is recommended to be raised through a personal income tax (4% of Fed income tax) and Corporate profits tax.

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League of Women Voters of Dallas

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 150

Types of meetings held General Meeting Forbis Jordan of NEFP speaker with response panel. Two unit meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

The consensus was that a personal income tax is the most equitable. Suggest also a corporate income tax.

If the ad valorem tax is to be retained as a part of revenue for financing public education, we favor statewide equalization of assessment with effective state control and supervision, to insure uniform assessment standards.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

All units favor the "weighted pupil" concept.

The consensus is that capital expenditure is an essential part of the educational offering. Those capital expenditures should be incorporated in state funding to local school districts.

Eleven of fifteen units feel that local enrichment should be permitted, preferring some power equalizing plan. Devise a "cost of education index".

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Standardize the property tax at a state level.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

All units favor the "weighted pupil". Devise a cost of education index. Include capital expenditures. Permit local enrichment through a power equalization method.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.
Full state funding with a cost of education index and weighted pupil to be used in allocating funds. Capital expenses must be equalized by inclusion in the funding. Local enrichment to be permitted by power equalization.

Over half our units expressed an interest in exploring the voucher system through pilot programs.

Dallas Resource Chairman
Mrs Bryan Williams
3712 Beverly Drive
Dallas Texas 75205
528-2603

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League of Women Voters of Garland

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating approximately 35-40 attended

Types of meetings held panel of guests, 2 units 4 consider all 3 meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

The members strongly feel that they did not want a sales tax for school funds, and if funded this way, they would expect a reduction in local property tax.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Flat grant with a strong minority for a weighted pupil.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

- 1. Assessors should be required to have special training.*
- 2. Property tax should be based on true market value.*
- 3. Redraw district lines to broaden tax base between districts.*
- 4. Have all local tax money for-*

(continued)

warded to the state for distribution.

5. Limit local enrichment.
6. Each district should supply at least a minimum tax effort.

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

members felt question redundant - see the above.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Prefer full state funding - minority expressed desire for limiting local enrichment.

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DEC 18 1972

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

Consensus deadline - January 15, 1973

League of Women Voters of Houston.

Number of meetings held 5. Number of members participating 167 (consensus)

Types of meetings held 2 Discussion - Feb. & May; 1 workshop - April;
1 General meeting - October; and Unit Meetings for Consensus - October.

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Property assessment has to be equalized statewide with uniform assessment standards. The majority prefer a combination of taxes with strong feeling for state personal income tax and corporate profits tax. A minority oppose a sales tax increase. A minority oppose a state personal income tax, and a minority favor earmarking the state income tax or corporate profits tax for education only. Strong majority felt that support for education should be substantially raised--most felt the level should be raised to bring Texas up to or above the national average. Strong majority favored allowing some local enrichment. A small minority favored power-equalizing. No consensus on what limit should be put on local enrichment.

-
- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Majority favored weighted pupil grants or categorical grants (with weighted pupil grants slightly favored). A large minority expressed feeling for including various cost differentials such as those relating to size, urban-rural, municipal overburden, cost of living, capital outlay in the formula. Most favor state setting basic standards with local districts being allowed to choose their own methods of achieving those standards.

-
-
2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Strong majority feel that assessment of property should be equalized statewide. Minority favored assessing property at fair market value. Strong minority feel that ability to pay should be measured differently, but no consensus on how it should be changed. Majority feel that the state's share of the cost of education should be greater.

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Strong minority feeling that state funds should be distributed according to need [redacted]. Strong majority feel that the MINIMUM FOUNDATION PROGRAM should be changed with feeling about equally divided that (a) it should be changed to distribute funds as weighted pupil or categorical grants or (b) that other factors should be added (such as capital outlay, urban-rural, size variable, etc.) There was some feeling by the majority in favor of power-equalizing [redacted], but most who favored it also feel that the more affluent districts would not find it acceptable.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Majority would prefer full state funding with some local enrichment allowed.

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League of Women Voters of LA MARQUE AND TEXAS CITY

Number of meetings held ONE . . . Number of members participating
SEVEN .

Types of meetings held LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
 - (1) PROPERTY BE ASSESSED AT ITS FULL MARKET VALUE AND A DOCUMENTARY STAMP TAX BE ENACTED. PENALTIES FOR INCORRECT OR FALSE REPORTING OF SALES PRICE SHOULD BE PROVIDED.
 - (2) THE STATE ENACT A CORPORATE PROFITS TAX AND A STATE PROPERTY TAX.
 - (3) THE STATE ENACT A PERSONAL INCOME TAX THAT IS FIXED AT A SPECIFIED (BUT SMALL) PERCENTAGE OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX PAYMENTS.
- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?
 - (1) AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP BE USED RATHER THAN A. D. A.
 - (2) EQUAL EXPENDITURES WITH ADJUSTMENTS MADE FOR AREA COST DIFFERENTIALS AND COST DIFFERENTIALS FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMS.
2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
 - (1) THE FULL MARKET VALUE OF PROPERTY SHOULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR ATTAINING EQUITY AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN ASSESSING AND COLLECTING TAXES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.
 - (2) THAT THE L.F.A. FOR EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT BE BASED UPON THE RATIO OF FULL MARKET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THAT DISTRICT TO THE TOTAL FULL MARKET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE STATE.

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

- (1) FUNDS BE ALLOCATED ACCORDING TO A.D.M.
- (2) POWER EQUALIZATION

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Please review these notes to the state office.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain. FULL STATE FUNDING

(a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the revenue available to the local school districts? PROPERTY BE ASSESSED AT THE SAME RATE AS THE STATE PROPERTY TAX. REPORTING OF SALES SHOULD BE PROVIDED. THE STATE ENACT A CORPORATE INCOME TAX AND A STATE PROPERTY TAX. THE STATE ENACT A PERSONAL INCOME TAX THAT IS FIXED AT A SPECIFIC PERCENTAGE OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX PAYMENTS.

(b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

(1) A STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PLAN WITH A STATE FUNDING PLAN FOR THE STATE AND LOCALS TO SHARE THE COSTS OF THE PROGRAM.

(2) A STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PLAN WITH A STATE FUNDING PLAN FOR THE STATE AND LOCALS TO SHARE THE COSTS OF THE PROGRAM.

3. (a) In the present joint state-local system of financing public school education, what changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the revenue available to the local school districts?

(1) THE FULL MARKET VALUE OF PROPERTY SHOULD BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SHARE OF THE STATE FUNDING PLAN.

(2) THAT THE STATE, FOR EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT, BE BASED UPON THE RATIO OF FULL MARKET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THAT DISTRICT TO THE FULL MARKET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE.

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League of Women Voters of Lubbock

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 25 out of approx. 125 members

Types of meetings held Units

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

✕ Money should come from corporation and personal income tax, with some use of the state property tax- based upon a statewide uniform assessment. Some mention was made of extending sales tax to services.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Weighted pupil grants. Distribution of funds should be on the basis of average daily enrollment.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Equalization of assessments

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

No consensus

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Full state funding. There was considerable disagreement on the amount of local leeway.

(continued)

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League of Women Voters of MIDLAND

Number of meetings held 3 Number of members participating 65

Types of meetings held Dr. June Hyer, speaker
ONE GEN. LUNCHEON MEETING WITH SCHOOL BOARD OTHER OFFICIALS
2 SETS OF UNITS INCLUDING ONE CONSENSUS TAKING

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

① USE Broad BASED TAXES TO FUND a BASIC STATE guaranteed Program ② State enact personal income & corporate profits taxes ③ Basic state program must be high quality equivalent to those provided in top good practice districts ④ quality of facilities should be recognized as one determinant of the quality of education. Capital outlay and debt service should be incorporated in the state guaranteed program through some phased-in formula and standards set for the quality of facilities to be guaranteed (b) a slight perfunctory, for unlimited local enrollment but would accept 100% limitation on this.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

① allocation on ADM basis using weighted - pop. formula
② Consideration included for Differential Costs

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

① EACH DISTRICT Required to levy a minimum property Tax based on true market value - this amount to become the districts LFA
② ALL credits toward LFA abolished
③ State regulation of property Tax assessment through certification of assessors and the establishment of uniform systems & reports
④ STATE guaranteed program must be high quality, equivalent to those enjoyed by top level good practice districts.
⑤ physical facilities be included (continued) in the guarantee with standards prescribed for the quality guaranteed

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

- ① funds allocated on ADM using weighted - pop. 1 formula
- ② Consideration included for differential costs

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

This League strongly supports the plan outlined under ①. We emphasize that local enrichment be permitted only if the state funded program is of very high quality. Local control over the tailoring of the program is essential.

League of Women Voters of Midland
Consensus on Public School
Finance & Term

JAN 2 1973

The Midland League of Women Voters strongly supports a high quality State-funded public education program, at least equivalent to those programs now enjoyed by the top "good practice" Districts in Texas. The quality of facilities should be recognized as one determinant of the quality of education, therefore capital outlay and debt service should be incorporated in the State-guaranteed program ~~and~~ ^{as} some phased-in formula and standards should be set for the quality of facilities guaranteed by the State program.

Funding the program should be from broad-based taxes and this League favors State enactment of both corporate profit and personal income taxes for this purpose. If a high quality program is State guaranteed, the organization supports unlimited local enrichment funded at the discretion of local Districts. However, all members agreed to a 10% local enrichment limitation should court approval require it.

Allocation of funds to local districts should be on ADM rather than ADA basis, using a weighted-pupil formula. Consideration must be built in for differential costs.

Should the present State-local system be retained with local fund assignments financed by local property taxes, this League endorses the following ~~components of~~ ^{REVISIONS IN} the system:

1. Each District be required to levy a minimum property tax based on true market value. This amount automatically to become a District's L.F.A.
2. All credits toward L.F.A.'s must be immediately abolished.
3. The State must regulate property tax assessment through certification of assessors and the establishment of uniform systems and reports.
4. Allocation of funds on ADM basis using weighted-pupil formula.
5. Consideration included for differential costs.
6. Capital outlay and debt service should be included in the basic guaranteed program on some phased-in formula and standards set for the quality of facilities guaranteed.

B. Shuler
ETem Chairman

Copies of this went to
all School Board Members
+ TV + News Paper

+ a covering letter
explaining (quoting from
Lubbock Tribune) our concern

1/14/73

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

League of Women Voters of Pearland Area

Number of meetings held - 2.

Number of members participating - 10 (25%).

Types of meetings held - 2 discussions (1 speaker from local school board).

Following are the Consensus questions on Public School Financing in Texas as sent to each League, followed by the answers given by the Pearland Area League after two consensus meetings and approved by the Board:

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what Q. methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

A. The group generally endorsed personal income tax because it taxes each person according to his ability to pay. It is also easy to collect.

One person wanted sales tax increase.

Most were opposed to present ad valorem as too flawed. If it were continued, we support (1) state-wide collection and assessment on 100% true market value; (2) training and standards for assessors; and (3) exemption on homestead.

Q. (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local schools?

A. We support ADM (average daily membership) rather than ADA.

We want economic index revised or replaced as there are too many loopholes in the current formula.

Special funds to districts with special children, i.e. handicapped and gifted.

We want consolidation of smaller districts.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public schools

Q. were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

A. We agreed there should be room for local minimal enrichment.

We suggest special state departments be created for school building and maintenance, transportation, since this is where the majority of local funds are now spent. This would be similar to State Highway Department now in existence and use some ratio of state and local funds.

Q. (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts.

A. Same as 1(b).

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please

Q. indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

A. We prefer full state funding and elimination of ad valorem tax.

(The above results will be combined and considered with the results of 43 other Leagues in Texas by the State Board and then - and only then - will we have a state consensus which will provide guidelines under which we will act. Only after this last step do we have a State League position upon which to act.)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

1/14/73

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League of Women Voters of Richardson

2 day unit

Number of meetings held 2 night unit. Number of members participating 24

Types of meetings held panel discussion in November open to the public, plus 2 unit meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

see attached sheets

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Richardson LWV - Consensus Answers to Texas Public School
Financing

1a. Combination of personal income tax, capital gains tax, corporate profits tax, and ad valorem tax.

Statewide ad valorem tax rates to be set by legislature at a per cent of true market value. A statewide system of appraisal, operated by a state agency with trained assessors in each county. Assessment should be re-evaluated periodically in combination with a documentary tax which recrods the sales price of all property. A new look should be taken at whether or not assessments of different types of property are equitable.

To initiate a statewide uniformity of appraisal quickly, professional assessors (if necessary from out of state) could be used (at least 4 other states have done this - New Jersey, Alabama, California and Tennessee).

Gradual implementation of the tax rate on the newly assessed values should take place over a three to five year period.

Exemptions should exist for low income groups.

A personal income tax based on a percentage of existing federal income tax should also be used, or at least a capital gains tax.

1b. Restructure school districts, where feasible, to optimum size.
(ADM)

Calculate allocations based on Average Daily Membership, not Average

Daily Attendance (ADA). (The members were very emphatic about this point)!
Methods of allocation should consider differences in pupil needs, i.e.

(weighted pupils, including and stressing compensatory needs).

Other things to be considered when allocating funds should be:

1. capital outlays
2. bonded indebtedness
3. incentive pay if needed to attract quality teachers to areas of greatest need.
4. recognition of differences in cost of living throughout the state.
5. population sparsity.

MINORITY OPINION- standardized tests should not be used to determine pupil needs. Three people (all teachers) felt this very strongly.

- 2a. The whole system needs to be revised completely. Dispose of the economic index and make the means of financing greatly simplified.

The contribution from wealthier districts should be greater than that from the poorer districts, and the special needs of students (weighted pupil) must be taken into account, as well as, capital outlays.

Any changes should be made in accordance with the spirit of the answers given under question number 1. Every school district should be taxed at the same rate, with the state subsidizing the poorer districts.

The use of Average Daily Membership (ADM), not Average Daily Attendance (ADA).

- 2b. The state must provide a higher minimum foundation program for all, distributed more equitably - taking into account weighted pupil costs, weighted teacher salaries, building needs, bonded indebtedness, cost of transportation. Consider differences in needs for facilities separately.

A minority (20%) felt that school supplies should be provided by the local school districts for elementary pupils (paid for by state money where necessary).

If local enrichment provisions are allowed, a limit of 5-10% should be imposed so that enrichment provisions are not used to circumvent the equalization provisions of the new system of financing.

(the voucher system was discussed and vetoed).

3. The majority of the members preferred full state funding as outlined in questions 1a and 1b.

A minority of 2 preferred joint state-local funding, and 2 other members who preferred full state funding saw merit in joint state-local funding.

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League of Women Voters of Sherman (provisional)

Number of meetings held 1. Number of members participating 25

Types of meetings held Unit meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

A state administered property tax based on full market value of the property. A state tax assessor with a trained professional staff and guidelines to determine values in each district. Other methods of taxation should be considered in the following order: corporate profits, income tax and some consideration to a state-wide lottery. A strong feeling against any increase in the sales tax.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Scrap the economic index and allocate on a weighted pupil basis. Consideration should be given to the poorer districts so that extra funds could be allocated to bring their physical plants up to a set standard within a certain number of years (ten years was suggested.) A strong minority feeling towards more consolidation.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

The feeling was essentially the same as 1(a). A minority suggested that local districts could use other methods of taxation other than the ad ~~valorem~~ valorum tax. Income tax and sales tax were suggested.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Increase the Foundation program to a maximum level. Instead of a fixed percentage for state-local shares, provide a sliding scale BASED on need and effort. (ie: 30-70, 20-80, 50-50- etc)

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

The consensus was in favor of full statefunding. Consensus was not reached regarding a maximum local enrichment ceiling. However, a strong minority felt that there should be a 10% maximum local enrichment and that the law should be written to include features that would allow local districts to retain control over their schools.

P.M. 1/15/73

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League of Women Voters of Tyler, Texas

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 15

Types of meetings held Unit Discussion

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Our members would prefer a state personal income tax and corporate profits tax in lieu of state property tax. However, if state property tax is used as a source of revenue, we would insist on equal assessing methods, full market value, and a uniform tax rate.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Weighted pupil approach with an adjustment for differences in cost of living-

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Majority agreed on equal property assessment at full market value with a uniform tax rate; but could not agree on what should happen to the excess money a rich district would raise. Members did agree that there should be no enrichment on teacher salaries, except cost of living allowances.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

There should be improvement in the Foundation School Program's formula which rewards the schools that can afford more qualified teachers. Members felt the economic index should be revised or replaced.

No consensus reached on other factors involved.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Members would prefer full state funding of up to 90% or 95% of the cost of education.

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League of Women Voters of Waco

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 15

Types of meetings held workshop (agenda enclosed) and general meeting

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

If property tax retained, it should be thoroughly reformed, i.e., uniform assessment practices adopted, assessors to be licensed, and should be made as progressive as possible (fixed income and low income groups be computed differently).

We recommend that a state income tax and/or corporate profits tax be adopted if additional revenue is needed.

Negative toward increased sales tax.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Allocations should be computed on ADM rather than ADA basis. There should be a weighted pupil approach with a strong recommendation that money allocated on this basis be spent in accordance with enforced state guidelines. There should be carefully monitored minimum standards set. Local enrichment permitted--with reasonable limits.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Complete reform of the property tax and its administration. Eliminate Economic Index, or refine it to the point that it becomes truly representative of the wealth of each district. Require more affluent districts to pay a larger share of cost of own programs. Advocate power equalizing if property tax reformed and local enrichment limited.

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?
Reform Foundation School Program to hopefully achieve its stated goals.
Allocations should be computed on ADM rather than ADA basis.
There should be a weighted pupil approach.
There should be enforceable minimum standards.
The state's share should increase as costs rise.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please fully and fairly administer.

Consensus for full state funding which would be carefully and fairly administered.

Added note: The issue of inequality within individual school districts was discussed at the consensus meeting. A local program item, possibly a school survey, may be the logical approach to an examination of this problem.

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League of Women Voters of Edinburg and McAllen

Number of meetings held 4 3 Unit 1 Gen Number of members participating 14

Types of meetings held Unit (3) 1 General

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

We would prefer a local leeway to a maximum of what the court would allow (hopefully about 10%) No local leeway seems to us undemocratic. The local leeway could come in the form of incentive grants which would also be equalizing.

Increased tax revenue should come from A) Corporation tax B) Income tax If property tax is retained it requires complete overhaul to set fair valuations, standardized ratios and efficient collections.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts? (see reverse side)

1 (a) Continued

Equalizing upwards at the \$804 figure seemed best to us, feeling further cost would be staggering. By permitting a 10% local leeway, the other 14% of the school districts would have recourse to up-grade education.

We suggest legislation might be acceptable which would provide for "X" years during which no school district would have to spend less for education than was spent in 1972. This would provide a transitional period--inflation would do the rest.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

We would prefer a system which provides for about 10% local leeway. This could also be in the form of incentive grants which we feel would probably meet the guidelines.

State Funds could come from sources described in 1 A

Incentive Grant with Local Leeway
- Local State State Local

Average

Local state state Local

Wealthy

Local State State Local

Poor

(continued)

Foundation
Program

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

(Same as 1 B) We prefer weighted pupil grants. The complexity of trying to manage a cost-of-living grant for each school district seems fair, but overwhelmingly complex; and would therefore favor a bill unincumbered by cost-of-living unless the differences are enormous.

A combination of ADM and ADA could be used to avoid abuses and promote fairness. ADA encourages districts to have children in school; however schools should not be penalized for legitimate absences of students.

- We are concerned about capital expenses (buildings, etc) Perhaps the state could assist through a "room Use" allotment. The state could pay a flat fee for each classroom utilized with the fee being higher for laboratories, and other special buildings--this would again increase tax need.
3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We would prefer full state funding although a minority opinion feels that the political hazards in such a bold step are so great that we would be better off to rework our present state foundation program to fit our criteria, thereby permitting the change to be less evident to the general public; however since re-vamping a Uniform Property tax is ESSENTIAL, the majority felt it could best be done at the state level.

In any case we should explore greater federal assistance.

Interest in the voucher system was expressed. We feel the state should promote experimentation in this area

JAN 15 1973

Austin Consensus on State School Financing

1. a. Full State Funding. There was no strong consensus for any method of full state funding. Considering that it would cost the state about \$1 billion just to maintain the status quo, most felt that full state funding was not very practical at this time. Under full state funding most felt the property tax should be used with the state establishing an agency to the job with property being assessed at full market value and uniform definitions of property and taxed equally, except for farm land. There was sympathy for the need for a different tax system for farmland that is being used for farming and we recommend a position similar to that of the School Board Association's on farm land. If additional funds are needed, we support a personal income tax and a corporate income tax. There was some feeling that a personal income tax, if needed, should be earmarked for education. A few felt an increase in sales tax to include services, but not food, preferable to an income tax.

Many felt there would be problems in a state administered property tax and also that it is very unrealistic politically at this time. There was quite a strong feeling that full state funding would result in careless use of money and/or a very rigidly controlled education program in the state. With the great diversity in Texas from small rural to large urban problems, it was felt a strong state program is not suitable, unless it is very flexible.

With full state funding we were unsure whether or not it was meant that a discussion of local enrichment should be included. However, the general consensus was that some local enrichment should be allowed because most all doubted whether the state would provide funds for all programs that a district interested in excellent education would want to offer. (See 2b for fuller discussion of local enrichment.)

1.b. Allocation of funds under full state funding. To answer this question it is easier to begin with what we are opposed to. Opposed to flat grants - they do not recognize the diverse needs of the state. We feel the current minimum foundation program is too rigid and with full state funding it would be difficult to introduce the flexibility that is needed. We recognize that Texas is rather unique in having a state salary schedule and that chances are slim that it will be abandoned. Local enrichment now provides the differential in salaries. There are legitimate needs for differences in salaries across the state for various reasons which should be recognized such as cost of living, hardship areas, incentives to teach in difficult areas, new programs, extra assignments, etc. To establish criteria to recognize differences in such a large state might be most difficult and could lead to a very rigid system.

Unanimous support for basing program on ADM rather than ADA. Policy formulation should continue to encourage district consolidation where feasible. There was strong consensus for recognizing various pupil and educational needs. We recommend criteria which would recognize these various needs.

There needs to be a program for facilities assistance from the state. With full state funding it was felt some districts would still need assistance in a building program to come up to adequate standards. Many think of the poorer districts when facilities are mentioned, but rapidly growing suburban areas also have severe building problems.

2.a. Joint state local financing. We discussed the current method of financing and there was unanimous agreement that it should be replaced.

Under local share we assume the property tax is to be retained. We recommend that property be defined uniformly and be assessed at full market value with a tax effort range to be established (i.e. a maximum and a minimum tax rate). Strong support for policy recommendations of tax assessors organization. Favor power equalization as described in covering memo from Genie Fritz on Mauzy Committee alternatives.

We did not discuss in detail the percentage share between state and local - e. g. whether it should be 60-40, 80-20 or whatever. Although it was not stated outright, there was a feeling that it would be difficult to raise property taxes in Austin without raising total educational expenditures for Austin. Again although not explicitly stated at all units, there was general agreement that Austin could not support a program that would result in lower educational expenditures for Austin. (The figure we have is \$785/per pupil.) At one unit it was mentioned that if expenditures were leveled at too low a figure, school districts would probably find ways to provide additional programs through special fees or "private" offerings which might make it difficult for many students to participate. There was a feeling that we should equalize up to include a certain percentage of students. Again there was not strong feeling at what level, but no figure below 90% was mentioned.

If additional state funds are needed to finance education, first preference is a corporate and personal income tax. Strong support to abandon the flat grant aspect of the Available Fund and to treat it as a dedicated tax fund and allocate it as needed. One suggestion made was to use it for a facilities fund.

While we understand that local enrichment is the major culprit in creating great disparities among districts, we also feel that some local enrichment should be allowed. A community that wished to provide superior education for its children as opposed to adequate education should not be penalized. We also feel that limitations should be placed on local enrichment in order to meet requirements of the Rodriguez case. There was general feeling that enrichment should be equalized and that only certain programs should be eligible for enrichment funds and/or only a certain figure should be allowed for enrichment such as 10% as suggested by the Mauzy report.

2.b. Allocation of funds under state local financing. Strong support for power equalization as described in Fritz memo, with a program that recognizes student and educational needs and allows for flexibility and diversity. Unanimous support for basing program on ADM rather than ADA. Discussion in 1.a. also relevant here. Mauzy #1 (modified MFP) or Mauzy #2 (modified weighted grants) acceptable. Mauzy #3 probably not realistic.

3. Preference. Favor state local financing with some allowances for local enrichment as discussed in 2.a. and allocated in 2.b. A few felt that full state funding with strong local control would be ideal. Generally we feel that a state program should provide a good quality education with periodic review to see that progress is being made in that direction. We feel that the state should provide assistance in building programs where needed, but unfortunately we do not have solid recommendations on criteria to be used in such a program. There was some feeling that the underlying purpose of the Rodriguez case was to provide a sound educational program to all children in Texas. An over emphasis on finance could overlook a needed evaluation of educational program and what the state should encourage in seeking a sound educational program. We hope that this occasion will be used to evaluate and improve the educational program as well as correct the gross inequities in financing.

2 ^{types} meetings held 1 general 4 units
about 100 members participating

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League of Women Voters of Bay Area

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 25

Types of meetings held unit

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

I. Uniform tax rate (100% assessment) with state administration of same
II. Reform property tax to eliminate exceptions but include tax exemption for elderly
III Supplement tax sources if necessary:
First → Corporate profits tax on gross profits - no deductions
Second → personal income tax on gross worth - no deductions

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Weighted pupil system with a minority stressing inclusion of gifted child in special category

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Same as 1. a.

Minority felt that the property tax on Corporations should be lifted from the local level & taxed at the state

Local enrichment (with a 10-15% limit)

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

I Weighting of pupils
II Improve Minimum Foundation Program
III State should assume some share of capital expenses

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Majority preferred state-local funding with the stipulation of a limit (10-15%) on local enrichment

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League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi, Texas

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 15 - 30

Types of meetings held 1) speakers 2) unit discussion & speakers 3) unit discuss.

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

To raise necessary funds -
personal income tax - most fair
increase in sales tax - least acceptable

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Needs of the students should be considered in any allocation formula:
weighted pupil - most acceptable approach

Local control of educational policy should be maintained

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Property tax reform:

1. Redefine tax base through constitutional revision
2. State supervision and control over assessment and collection
3. Improve local property tax administration
4. Taxable property should be assessed at 100% of fair market value
5. Eliminate existing loopholes, special subsidies, and differential benefits

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Eliminate present economic index and system of credits-
devise a better system for determining true wealth
of a district

Weighted pupil approach most acceptable - needs of students
should be considered in any allocation formula

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Most preferred to keep some type of state - local system
of finance

Because of the complicated nature of the subject and the
limited time available for this study, we recommend
further study.

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League of Women Voters of El Paso, Texas.

Number of Meetings held 8. Number of members participating 40.

Types of meetings held unit.

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

There was a majority consensus for a state income tax.
There was a strong minority against a state income tax.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local districts?

There was a consensus for raising the amount of money provided by the Minimum Foundation Program.

2. (a) If the present joint-state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to local school districts?

There was a consensus for power equalizing and for improving local property tax administration by setting a statewide minimum tax rate.

There was a majority for a state income tax and a strong minority against it.

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

No consensus was reached.

Strong minority feeling was expressed on each of the following proposals:

A ceiling should be set on the amount of state aid a school district could receive;

Small, non-operating school districts should be consolidated with fully operating ones;

Structured personnell components should be included in the revised Minimum Foundation Program.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

There was a consensus for a revised joint state-local system.

Other ideas mentioned most frequently were:

Corporate income tax; statewide property tax assessment level of 100% of market valuation; replacing the Economic Index as a means of allocating the M.F.P. costs to the local districts; include the cost of school construction in the M.F.P. ; State should contribute a higher percentage of the cost of the M.F.P.

Indira M. Price



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1/15/73

public school financing in Texas consensus questions

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League of Women Voters of ~~Tex~~ Irving

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 20.

Types of meetings held: Unit Meetings

1. (a) Full state funding Revenue.

- A. Retain sources of revenue available to public education now.
- B. Tax real property at 100% market value:
 - (1) Set state guidelines for uniform equipment and training of assessors.
 - (2) All tax assessors should be accredited within 3 years of being hired until previously trained assessors are available.
 - (3) State should reassess all property in Texas
 - (4) Enact a documentary stamp tax to facilitate property assessment.
 - (5) State will set tax rates.
- C. Study earmarked state funds in order to loosen restrictions *on them* and discover possible new sources of revenue for education. *Committee funds*
- D. A progressive personal income tax is acceptable if it contains exemptions *for dependents only.*
- E. Local enrichment should be allowed on a power equalized basis. STRONG MINORITY wanted limits set on enrichment.
- F. Building programs and debt service should be gradually assumed by the state (according to the wealth of the district.)
- G. Corporate profits tax.

1. (b) Full state allocation.

- A. Our members were equally divided over flat grants and weighted pupil grants.
- B. If a program similar to the present system is retained consensus was that it should include:
 - (1) distribution on a weighted pupil basis.
 - (2) a facilities component included, to be financed gradually using state guidelines ~~and financed by power equalizing~~ *according to the wealth of the district.*
 - (3) an adequate uniform minimum state salary schedule with local salary enrichment allowed. (A STRONG MINORITY wanted a statewide uniform salary set at a high level and no local salary enrichment allowed)
 - (4) the system should be based on ADM, the average daily membership; not ADA, average daily attendance.

2. (a) State - Local revenue.

- A. Eliminate all credits.
- B. Replace the Economic Index with a local fund assignment based on the full market value of taxable real property within the district.
- C. Local share of funding should be based on a property tax of real property including private boats, ~~xxx~~ automobiles, and airplanes. Tax rate set locally with a guaranteed return from the state based on the tax rate set.
- D. A progressive personal income tax is acceptable if it contains exemptions ☒ for dependents only.
- E. Local enrichment should be allowed on a power equalized basis. ~~STRONG MINORITY~~ wanted limits set on enrichment.
- F. Corporate profits tax.

2.(b) State - Local allocations.

See 1 (b). Our consensus was the same for both.

3. We preferred the state - local method of funding.

We also want more Consolidation of school districts studied and implemented.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

1/14/73

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

September 1972
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League of Women Voters of Lamar County

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 21, 8, 12

Types of meetings held 1 general, 1 set units

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

- ✓ 2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

1/14/73

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING: CONSENSUS

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts? At what level of total school spending should the state support be? How much local enrichment, if any, should be allowed above that level? By what sort of tax or taxes should the money be raised?

All school systems should be raised to the present state average expenditure of \$700 per pupil.

Local enrichment must be allowed if the public school system is to not be abandoned for private schools by pupils whose families are willing to spend larger amounts for what they consider a quality education. If enrichment is allowed in proportion to tax effort made by the district, the effect should not be as disqualifying as is presently the case.

If the property tax is retained, it must be reformed. Assessment at true market value and general agreement with the guidelines of the state association of assessors and collectors would both be improvements of the present system, but it was felt further study of the property tax was needed. In view of the high cost of administering the property tax and the inequities in its administration, there was universal interest in exploring other taxes. (Almost every possible tax was mentioned, from a levy on soft drinks through personal income tax and increased sales tax, but no consensus was reached on a substitute.)

1. (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Flat grants or weighted pupil grants were preferred, distributed on the basis of ADA (it was felt this could be determined by random checks through the year, rather than detailed daily bookkeeping). Concern was expressed by a minority that weighted pupil grants could be abused to "pad" the rolls.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

The economic index should be discarded as complex, probably inequitable, and failing to automatically adjust to changing conditions in the school districts. We had no data to suggest that a change from the 20/80 ratio of local to state aid be changed, but would like to see state aid in construction of facilities since minimum facilities are part of the educational need and a determining factor in attraction of personnel, as well.

2. (b) What changes would you consider essential in allocating the funds to local school districts?

Lamar County Provisional

1/14/73

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING CONSENSUS (continued)
minimum

An equal/rate of taxation in all districts is essential.

Funds should be distributed on a power-equalizing basis (the Mauzy plan was well liked, but there was concern that allowing districts to keep extra revenue for the same tax effort would not meet court tests) and distributed to each district making the same tax effort on a weighted pupil basis. Districts making more than minimum tax effort would be rewarded accordingly.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate. If not, do you have alternate suggestions?

We definitely prefer some system other than full state financing! Concern was voiced that this was one step from full federal financing. The system described in question 2 would be preferred, with the notation that the report of the Governor's committee on education provides an excellent master plan which should be used, in so far as possible, not just read, and its recommendations always given first consideration. This would include the recommendation of minimum standards for competent districts for both reasons of improved economy and superior educational opportunity.

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League of Women Voters of MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Number of meetings held 2 . Number of members participating 25

Types of meetings held 1 General; 1 Series of 3 local Units

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

1. Uniform statewide assessment of property at full, fair market value. 3.
2. Documentary stamp tax enacted to keep assessments up to date. 2 Units.
3. Tax assessors trained, licensed by State. 2 Units. State-supervised. 1.
4. State tax agency with power to set assessment guide lines, enforcement, etc. 1 Unit.

~~xxxxxx~~

5. Corporate income tax. 1 Unit. (1 Unit) sources
6. Research best method of adding tax revenue for education from existing
(b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

1. Determine through research the educational needs of students for allocation purposes. 1 Unit.
2. Allocate funds on basis not of local tax effort but of child's educational needs. 3 Units.
3. Allocate on basis of differing costs such as capital outlay, ed. needs peculiar to an area, etc.; weighted pupil grants. 3 Units.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

1. Consolidation of school districts in county. 1 Unit.
2. Money collected locally, distributed by State. 3 Units.
3. Criteria as in 1.a. 2 Units. (Uniform statewide property valuation, uniform training of Tax Assessors.)

(continued)

Lamar County Provisional

1/14/73

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING CONSENSUS (continued)
minimum

An equal/rate of taxation in all districts is essential.

Funds should be distributed on a power-equalizing basis (the Mauzy plan was well liked, but there was concern that allowing districts to keep extra revenue for the same tax effort would not meet court tests) and distributed to each district making the same tax effort on a weighted pupil basis. Districts making more than minimum tax effort would be rewarded accordingly.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate. If not, do you have alternate suggestions?

We definitely prefer some system other than full state financing! Concern was voiced that this was one step from full federal financing. The system described in question 2 would be preferred, with the notation that the report of the Governor's committee on education provides an excellent master plan which should be used, in so far as possible, not just read, and its recommendations always given first consideration. This would include the recommendation of minimum standards for competent districts for both reasons of improved economy and superior educational opportunity.

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

1. Enlarged and improved foundation program to assure every Texas school child a good (as opposed to minimum or merely adequate) education. 2.
2. Eliminate local fund assignment. 1 Unit.
3. Larger percentage of omnibus tax fund to go to school foundation fund. 1 Unit.
4. Criteria as in 1b. 2 Units.
5. Retain funds from personal property tax locally, collect & allocate industrial & corporate tax on statewide basis. 1 Unit.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Prefer joint State-local operation. 3 Units.

Prefer because of need to retain local control and because of political feasibility. 1 Unit.

Definitely oppose voucher system. 2 Units.

Strongly recommend school boards be comprised of elected members from single member districts. 1 Unit.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
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1/15/73

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League of Women Voters of ODESSA

Number of meetings held 4. Number of members participating 17 total

Types of meetings held Open meeting, general and unit

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Property tax - assessment and evaluation— should be made equitable
state wide using true market value
Possibly institute a state income tax if necessary to supplement
ad valorem
More consolidation of school districts

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Continue Minimum School foundation theory —there should be a minimum
state standard with some opportunity for local enrichment
Use of eig- weighted up pupil grants
Base allocations to districts on monthly enrollment, not ADA
Use of student voucher system

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

See 1(a).

Also: Present ratio of 80%-20% retained or ~~ge~~ changed gradually
to 90% - 10%.
Allowance for some local enrichment

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

See 1(b) using ration as in 2(a)

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We prefer #2 keeping as much local control as possible because we feel that local school boards can understand and relate to local needs best.

We feel that federal aid should be taken into consideration for the complete financial picture as related to education in all districts.

(Wording of Question 1(a) was very confusing to our group)

1/14/73

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
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PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

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League of Women Voters of San Marcos, Texas

Number of meetings held 4. Number of members participating 2-4

Types of meetings held 4 Local interest groups; 1 General canceled due to ice storm.

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

We don't like full state funding. If there must be full state funding, then we think it should be an allowance on a per pupil basis, equal throughout the state, and there should be provisions made for construction, busing and operating costs. Everything except "enrichment programs" and they should be required to obtain prior permission from the State Board. The tax should be a tax on full market value of real property and personal property, both tangible and intangible with laws set up by state that permit adequate administration, (documentary stamps, State assessors-collectors, etc.)

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Follow the recommendations of State Board and T.S.T.A. i.e. per pupil grants plus added aid for disadvantaged and low income children as the need is clear and established by adequate research. (Both recommended added funds in their reports.)

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

We favor the T.S.T.A. plan.

All property be at full market value. Eliminate Economic Index and substitute an index using property values only. No credits, no allowances, no loopholes. Have a 30% local-70% State division of costs. Each district pays all its local fund assignment into the total fund (no Budget Balance districts) using a statewide tax rate (T.S.T.A. says 47¢/100. The rich districts will pay much more than at present and the poor will pay in accordance with their low property values. (We are in favor of property tax to cover real property and tangible and intangible personal property.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

We think the funds should be allocated in the way suggested by the State Board and the T.S.T.A., on a per pupil basis and the disadvantaged child and the child from low income families also be cared for as suggested, with an additional per pupil allowance.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We prefer the State-Local system because (1) it retains some local control, we will have interested local taxpayers, and (2) it will force the richer districts to contribute directly and will not leave so much opportunity for large scale "enrichment" in these rich districts.

The Denton League is now involved in legislative interviews. On November 29, Debbie Shelton, Rachel Ehrler and Sally Houk met with representative Walt Parker. On December 19, we have scheduled an interview with Senator Tom Craighton, and plans are being made to meet with Congressman Dale Milford. Our goal is, not only to obtain their opinions regarding legislative issues, but to establish a cordial relationship with the League so that we can maintain communication with our national and state representatives.

Issues at the state level include legislative rules changes, judicial reform, environmental protection, welfare reform, financial disclosure, constitutional revision, accountability and state regulation of single purpose special districts as well as the legislators' own particular interests.

At the national level the issues are home rule and representation for the District of Columbia, congressional reform, the electoral college, and welfare reform.

Title I has been vetoed by President Nixon. Funding outreach programs and continuing education are dependent on Title I for research or adult learning opportunities. Congress will have the opportunity to override this veto, and letters are tallied. If you believe these are important issues, write Dale Milford, Lloyd Bentson, and John Tower.

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

The purpose of the White House Fellows Program is to provide gifted and highly motivated young Americans with experience in government and a sense of personal involvement in the leadership of society. Each year, 15 to 20 men and women are assigned to work for a year with White House staff members, the Vice President, members of the Cabinet and Directors of federal agencies to participate in discussions with officials, leaders and experts from the public and private sector and to travel abroad and in the United States as part of a learning experience.

The program is open to men and women between the ages of 23 - 36 years and is limited to persons who have demonstrated unusual ability, high moral character and a capacity for leadership. White House Fellows receive a government salary of up to \$27,289. If you know someone who might be interested, further information and application forms may be obtained from

The Commission on White House Fellows
Washington, D. C. 20415.

Deadline is Dec. 15.

With great reluctance we say goodbye and best wishes to the Leonard Ehrlers who are leaving for Boulder, Colorado in January. We lose not only a valued friend and Leaguer in Rachel, but our Denton Parks and Recreation Director in Leonard. We will miss you both sorely--but--GOOD LUCK. May the bluebird of happiness nest in your mountain top.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S J O H N I E ! !

Our congratulations go to Johnie Christian. The American Vocational Association has set up a scholarship in her honor.

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Retain property tax, using state supervision and assessment at true market value.

Expand tax base to include other revenues (i.e., personal income tax, corporate profits tax).

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Use ADM (assuming this to mean children enrolled in class rather than attendance record).

Include funding for facilities, supplies, playgrounds and equipment. Standards should be set for these facilities.

Funds should be provided to bring all schools up to these standards.

Minority: use ADA.
use census.
use weighted pupil grant.
have a more realistic educational need including art and music.
have compensatory programs such as reading and bi-lingual offerings.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Reevaluate property tax assessment using state standards and supervision.

Use other taxes (i.e. personal income tax) for school funds.

Minority: More attention should be paid to real and personal property tax.
Consider tax on football tickets.

- (b) What changes would you consider essential in allocating the funds to local school districts?

Use a weighted pupil grant based on enrollment.

State accreditation system, with strong supervision.

Stress student attendance in school.

Set a more realistic standard of educational need for each child with a flexibility which allows for cost of living increase. This standard should include things that are now considered "enrichment" (i.e. music, art, libraries, coaches, counselors, aides, equipment and supplies).

Minority: Use ADA.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING: CONSENSUS cont.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternate suggestions? Please explain.

We prefer a state-local system because we feel that it enables a citizen to be more responsive to school needs. It allows the school district to be more responsive to the citizens' needs also.

Minority: Oppose full state funding if that is to be the only funds available to school districts.

COMMENT

Local districts should not be limited in amount of money that could be raised for special use.

Every school child should be assured a lunch at school.

The state should encourage consolidation wherever practical.

IN SUMMATION

The Denton League of Women Voters feels that it is the duty of the state of Texas to develop and implement a program that insures each child in the Texas Public School system an enriched, quality education!

WE NEED YOU

Your board of directors cannot function without your participation. The nominating committee has just been activated and would appreciate any suggestions for:

President (2 yr.) _____

1st V. Pres. (2 yr.) _____

Secretary (2 yr.) _____

Elected Directors (2 yr. terms)

Presently there are vacancies for chairmen of membership, EQ, and international relations. How about filling in the blanks above and giving the form to Frances Pender, nominating committee chairman.

SOLID WASTE

The unit meetings of December 13 and 14 will be devoted to taking consensus on the question of solid waste management. In preparation, please study the questions and read the pamphlet "Solid Waste--It Won't Go Away". It will be helpful if you bring your VOTER with you.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CONSENSUS QUESTION ON FUTURE FEDERAL ROLE IN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

- I. A - Should the major responsibility for solid waste management remain with the states and localities?
 - B - Should the role of the federal government in solid waste management be expanded?
 - C - If the federal role is expanded, should the federal government have the authority to:
 - issue federal criteria and standards
 - issue regulations based on federal standards
 - offer federal financial assistance to localities
 - intensify Research and Development for new, improved, less expensive methods of collection and disposal
 - By offering financial aid for R&D
 - by offering technical aid for R&D
- II. A - Should the federal government establish national policies and programs to encourage recycling of post-industrial and post-consumer wastes?
 - B - If the federal government were to establish such policies and programs, what priority would your League place on each of the following goals?
 - reduce volume of wastes for which a community must find disposal sites
 - make it possible for a community to recover part of its waste disposal costs
 - increase use of post-industrial wastes, not post-consumer wastes
 - forestall depletion of nonrenewable resources
 - other
 - undecided
- III. A - Should the federal government try to increase demand for secondary materials?
 - B - If the federal government were to work to increase such demand, would your League support
 - equalizing tax treatment of virgin and secondary materials
 - by reducing tax exemptions of extra active industries
 - by increasing tax exemptions of secondary materials industry
 - equalizing transportation rates for virgin and secondary materials
 - increasing fees for use of federal lands to produce virgin materials
 - reducing subsidies on inorganic fertilizers or offering subsidies on compost and sewage sludge
 - revising federal government purchase orders for products made of reclaimed materials
 - modifying federal labelling requirements for products made of reclaimed materials
 - federal stockpiling of recyclable materials

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
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League of Women Voters of ABILENE, TEXAS

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 30-35

Types of meetings held Member presentation at Unit Meetings with discussion by full membersh ip.

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts? Having the State assume full funding in itself would equalize available revenue. If the State should assume full funding, we could not even agree on what this should or should not include. If the property tax is to be retained, it should be paid to the State and the State should set the assessment ratio and the rate.

(b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts? In the allocation of funds, the weighted pupile plan was preferred over the flat grant approach. However, some felt that the weighted pupil formula could become quite complicated and subject to abuse. Full State funding would necessitate state-wide standardization. State standards for education for every child become particularly complicated at the secondary school level. For example - requiring every district to offer such courses as higher math, advanced sciences, several languages, etc - may be ideal but highly impractical. Consolidation at the high school level, leaving elementary grades to local discretion was suggested. Present variations in size of districts seem to preclude making every district equal; yet, massive*

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts? Regardless of what method of financing is adopted, as much local control should be maintained as possible. Most felt that local districts should be permitted to enrich, perhaps on a limited basis, however.

* consolidation was not favored. (This is a continuation of 1.(b).)

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

No consensus.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We reached no consensus on which system we preferred. We all have a stake in equal education for all; but, education should require that all children learn to read and write before they are passed on to higher grades.

Quality education, as well as equal education, should be our goal; but, we have no information on what types of district produces the highest quality. We know that some districts spend considerably more per pupil than others; however, we do not know how those pupils measure up either in personal social adjustments or scholastically. Standardized tests that measure both are available and already in use in most schools. Perhaps this should be our starting point - an evaluation of quality to determine where and why. Until this can be done, we would submit the following as one alternative (perhaps a temporary one) for our present fiscal problem:

Redraw school district boundaries over the entire state on the basis of available wealth per pupil, making the available wealth equal throughout the state. This should be the sole criteria. Leave the available school fund allocation as it is. Abolish the Minimum Foundation Program completely and drop this whole "can of worms" in the lap of the local districts. If they want quality education, the wealth is there to be taxed; if they don't care, they can lower taxes.

JAN 15 1973

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League of Women Voters of Beaumont

Number of meetings held 1. Number of members participating _____

Types of meetings held _____

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Our January 11 consensus meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. (power failures, ice, school holiday, etc.)

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

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League of Women Voters of Dickinson Area

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating approx 12

Types of meetings held 1 program by school officials, one program given by local member at time of consensus

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Funds should be raised in at least three, and possibly four, of the following ways:

- 1) Retain property tax, but with:
- a) Statewide uniform property valuation set and enforced.
 - b) State wide uniform property tax assessment, uniformity to be enforced, also.
 - c) Local collection of property taxes by school district, taxes retained in district, to help preserve local control.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

A weighted pupil table for allotments should then be used as a guide, with the state making up (equalizing) the amount not raised by local (though still state administered) property taxes from revenues derived from KNAX above items 2, 3 and possibly 4.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Continued , answer to question 1.(a.)

- 2) Increased excise taxes on luxuries such as cigarettes, liquor, etc.
- 3) State corporate profits tax.
- 4) M State income tax. Most of the group was strongly against this tax, however 3 were in favor of it (equally strongly) to help finance
KK schools.

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League of Women Voters of Galveston, Texas

1 general 26 (general)
Number of meetings held 2 unit . Number of members participating 31 (units)

Types of meetings held numbers above do not include nine committee meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

1) Both unit groups support the use of a corporate income tax as a first-priority source for new public school revenues. Members of one group asked that instigation of such a tax be accompanied by phasing-out of the current "franchise tax."

2) Second choice for a new tax (by both unit groups) is a personal income tax. The membership generally approved of this tax because it taxes each person according to his ability to pay. Two persons, however, objected to any state personal income tax. (continued)

(b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Allocation of state funds for public education should be on a "weighted pupil" basis, providing money according to the educational needs of children in each school district.

Both unit groups support the use of "average daily membership" to replace ADA in determining fund allocation.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

1) Both groups support at least a 90%-10% state local MPP ratio or a move toward 100% state funding of basic foundation school program supported by one group.

2) General agreement that minimal local leeway (for enrichment of MPP) should be allowed. At least three members felt that there should be no local enrichment allowed.

3) Both unit groups support the use of a corporate income tax as a first priority source for new public school revenues. Members of one group asked that instigation of such a tax be combined with a phasing-out of the present "franchise tax."

Second choice for a new tax (by both groups) is a personal income tax. Members felt that this tax takes into account each person's ability to pay. Two persons objected to any state personal income tax.

(continued)

(b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

1) Both unit groups support allocation of state funds on a "weighted pupil" basis, providing money according to the educational needs of children in each district.

2) Both units support the use of an equalizing formula (i.e. percentage or power) in conjunction with local enrichment programs to the end that richer districts, while enriching their own school programs, will be required to contribute in some way toward enriching the programs of poorer districts. Members feel that such a system would help to close the gap created by exercising local enrichment ability. (continued)

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Neither unit group dealt extensively with the concept of full state funding of public school education. General feeling was that full state funding, while perhaps the most reasonable and equitable method, is not a realistic political alternative. Group efforts, therefore, were focused upon methods of achieving a more equitable state-local combination.

CONTINUATION SHEET

1. (a) (State funding - revenue)

3) In the likely event that either a state or local property tax is used to support full state funding of public education, both unit groups support the property tax reforms specified under question 2a.

4) Strong opposition was voiced to further use of the sales tax.

2. (a) (State-local funding - revenue)

3) continued

Both unit groups agreed that the property tax is likely to be retained as one source of public school funds to support wide reforms of the local property tax as it now exists. Principal recommendations include:

- a) assessment statewide on 100% true market value
- b) Uniform state standards for assessment and collection with some degree of state control or auditing of these processes
- c) professionalization of assessing personnel
- d) establishment of a "stamp tax", and
- e) periodic re-assessment of property.

Additionally, one group supports

- f) raising the assessment level on favored classes of property, and
- g) imposing a statewide minimum tax rate.

Both groups expressed opposition to further use of the sales tax.

4) Both groups support abolishment of the present economic index and feel that local ability to pay should be based in some way upon the true market value of property within each school district.

2. (b) (State-local funding - allocation)

3) Both groups support the use of "average daily membership" to replace ADA in determining fund allocation.

4) Additionally, one unit group:

- a) supports establishment of a matching funds program for capital improvements, and
- b) urges investigation of possibilities for consolidation of smaller districts

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

JAN 15 1973

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

September 1972
4 copies

CONSENSUS DEADLINE - JANUARY 15, 1973

Please return three copies to the state office.

League of Women Voters of Hunt County

Number of meetings held 3 : Number of members participating 16
~~1 general meeting....9 members present~~
Types of meetings held 2 unit meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
(day) Consider basing funds on enrollment instead of ADA. Determine cost of education in each district; re-evaluate regularly.
(night) Qualified assessors should be used. Tax valuations should be the same all over the State. The tax rates standardized.
- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?
(day) Allocate annual budget..available annually or quarterly as needed.
(night) The needs of the district should be determined by a cost of education index based on ADA rather than enrollment.
2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
(day) Tax on 100% valuation...re-evaluate property on a periodic basis by certified and qualified property appraisers...pay the same minimum tax rate.
(night) We need to arrive at a state minimum figure of expenditure pre student and the state make available whatever funds are necessary above local funds in order to equalize.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Distribute on a basis of need but consider tax effort....
Power Equilization.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Power Equilizing.

(night) The State-local system is preferred, based on ADA.

Note.....There was a difference in opinion as to the meaning of the questions therefore the day and night unit answers are listed separately.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

JAN 8 1973

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

September 1972
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CONSENSUS DEADLINE - JANUARY 15, 1973

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League of Women Voters of South Jefferson County

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 10

Types of meetings held Regular Unit Meetings

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
The two units feel that new source of taxation would be required to finance full school funding. Possibly state income or corporate tax a state lottery, or a wholesale tax on alcoholic beverages were suggested. Present taxes would be available for local projects and buildings.
- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?
Weighted pupil grant. Question raised is: What provision is made for funds for the enrichment of gifted program?
We note only help for the under achievers.
2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?
One unit did not favor the present state-local system. It seem a duplication in collection and administrative cost. If it is continued then the minimum Foundation program needs to be upgraded. The other unit did not reach a consensus.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

One unit favor full state funding. Other unit did not reach a consensus.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

JAN 16 1973
P.m. 1/14

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

September 1972
4 copies

CONSENSUS DEADLINE - JANUARY 15, 1973

Please return three copies to the state office.

League of Women Voters of Tarrant County

Number of meetings held 2. Number of members participating 44 in consensus

Types of meetings held 1 unit discussion -- 1 unit consensus (three of eight units did not meet because of ice storm)

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

No consensus for level of state assumption of public school funding. Funds should be raised from a corporate profits tax. A significant minority were in favor of a state personal income tax. Members felt there should be statewide standardization of tax rates, methods of assessment, and collection with proper training and qualification of tax personnel. However there was no direct mention of a statewide ad valorem tax.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

The majority felt that the distribution of funds should be made on the basis of a weighted pupil grant system with adjustments made for differences in costs among districts. A significant minority were in favor of the assumption of some capitol expenditures by the state.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Standardization of ad valorem tax rates, methods of assessment, and collection practices.

An upgrading of training for tax assessors and collectors.

The economic index should be revised or exchanged for a more equitable system of determining state-local funding. There were suggestions on this but no consensus.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

Revision of the Local Fund Assignment to eliminate inequalities, especially the credit system.

A significant minority were in favor of some plan for assumption of capital expenditures by the state.

A small minority were in favor of power equalizing.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Twenty-four members preferred state-local funding. Nineteen preferred full state funding. The Board did not feel that this was a consensus.

Throughout the recorders notes ran the feeling that minimum state standards should be raised, but that schools with higher standards should be able to maintain them.



THE WACO VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WACO/WACO, TEXAS

President: Mrs. John Flynn, 772-5565

December, 1972

Editor: Mrs. Maurice Brown, 772-2953

DECEMBER/JANUARY CALENDAR

DECEMBER - No more meetings scheduled

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU

JANUARY 3 - Board Meeting - 9:45 A. M.
1007 Cindy Circle

JANUARY 8 -- Discussion Meeting
Task Force on City Government Structure
Red Cross Building Auditorium
7:30 P. M. (Details elsewhere)

JANUARY 10 - Discussion Meeting - 10:00 A. M.
SOLID WASTE consensus
Report from City Government Committee
1416 Royal Oaks Drive

JANUARY 16 - Committee on Local Schools
An exploratory meeting - DO COME!
3800 Morrow Avenue - 7:30 P. M.

JANUARY 24 - Discussion Meeting - 10:00 A. M.
Local Program-Making. What will we
study next year?
3221 Windsor

CONSENSUS REACHED -----

Thirteen members attended the second meeting on Public School Financing on November 29 and consensus was reached. We believe that there should be full state financing of the public schools with complete reform of the property tax. We think there should be uniform assessment around the state and that assessors should be licensed. We favor adoption of a state personal income tax or a corporate profits tax if additional income is necessary for full state funding.

We think the allocations to the local units should be based on an average daily membership in the schools, a weighted pupil approach and that there should be monitored state guidelines. Local enrichment should be permitted within reasonable limits.

If the present state-local system should be retained, we believe there should be reform of the Foundation School Program, the economic index and the property tax.

Lucy Edwards
Chairman

#####

NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING:

At its December 6 meeting, the Board

-Approved with pleasure two recent appointments: Mrs. Richard (Judy) Butler will serve on the Board as chairman of the national items on International Trade and Representative Government; Mrs. Paul Derrick (Jane) will represent the League on the local EOAC Board.
-Appointed the following as members of a combined budget/bylaws committee: Lucy Edwards, chairman, Martha Garibay, Catherine Gordon, Dorothy Brown and Elli Flynn, ex-officio.
-Appointed Judy Butler and Peggy Smith as Board members of the Nominating Committee.
-Approved the consensus statement following our study of Public School Financing.

PROGRESS REPORT --- CITY GOVERNMENT
STRUCTURE

The City Government Structure Committee invited members of other Waco organizations to join with them in forming a Task Force to plan action on the issue of changing the method of electing councilmen to make the City Council more representative. After the Task Force has been called together, the League members will step out of the leadership role and participate on an equal basis with other members of the Task Force, letting the group decide upon its leadership and structure. So far, members of 15 organizations have said they will participate. Members of 14 others have said maybe or that they are interested in the issue but not in being members of the Task Force. The first meeting of the Task Force will be held January 8 at 7:30 P. M. in the Red Cross Building Auditorium. We expect about 40 to 50 people to attend.

We are quite excited about the possibilities of such an organization. It could set a precedent for League involvement in the future. We think that this is the most promising way to effect change on this controversial issue on which many isolated efforts have been made by individuals and organizations.

Jane Derrick
Chairman

*
* W E L C O M E: NEW MEMBERS
*
* (Please add the following names to
* your Membership List, received with
* last month's VOTER.)
*
* Barrett, Mrs. Marjie C.
* [REDACTED]
*
* Myers, Mrs. Tom (Alice)
* [REDACTED]
*
* Rose, Mrs. Donald (Terry)
* [REDACTED]
*
* Walker, Mrs. C. Eugene (Lois)
* [REDACTED]
*

*
* REMINDERS: The Budget/Bylaws and
* Nominating Committees will be meeting
* in January to carry out their most
* important tasks. If you have any
* suggestions for these committees, you
* are encouraged to call the chairmen.
* The Nominating Committee will be
* choosing a president, first vice-
* president, secretary, three directors.
*

A SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT AND THE STATE REVISION CHAIRMAN ---

"I'M SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOU! Twenty-four years of patience, tenacity, and thousands of woman hours have finally given us our first victory in Texas Constitutional Revision. Be sure and read your next State Board Report because this is only the beginning and there's much work to be done by all of us to assure a new or revised Constitution that will best serve the needs of all the people in Texas."

VETA WINICK, State President

"I could search the dictionary and not find sufficient words to thank the dedicated and determined League members who made our Amendment #4 campaign a success. Now the work really begins - to lobby with our legislators so that qualified people are included on the Revision Commission and to testify before the Commission on what the League would like to have in a good constitution. Thank you for your help."

BETTY CONNER, State Revision Chairman

#

KEEP UP WITH THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE!!

Subscriptions to the Legislative Newsletter and Times for Action, published during the Session by the LWV of Texas are available by direct mail to you. Cost is \$2.50 for the entire Session. Order from state office.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: MOTHER'S DAY OUT
Lake Shore Baptist Church provides a
"Mother's Day Out" nursery service every
Wednesday, 9:00 A. M. to 12:30 P. M. Cost
is \$1 for first child, 50¢ for second.
#

SOLID WASTE: IT WON'T GO AWAY.....CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

We will be discussing the problems facing us in the future (and right now) on the disposal of the solid waste being created in our society. How do we dispose of the mountains of trash that accumulate in the average household every week? Whose responsibility is the planning for this disposal?

At the consensus meeting scheduled for January 10 (see calendar, page 1), the Waco LWV will attempt to propose solutions and will add its voice to those from around the country in other local Leagues as we discuss this national Program item. Deadline for return of our opinions to the national office is January 31. Plan to be at the January 10 meeting to express your views.

The questions with which we are faced are:

If the Federal government supersedes the local authority to manage solid waste, should it encourage industry to take over the management?

Should the Federal government establish national policies to encourage recycling of post-industrial and post-consumer waste?

Should the Federal government try to increase demand for secondary materials?

Should the Federal government help the states and localities develop recycling facilities?

Should the government encourage non-government emphasis on building and operating recycling facilities?

How should recycling plants be funded: taxes, revenue bonds, private capital?

Should the government take measures to reduce the generation of municipal solid wastes?

REPORT ON "NO MAN'S LAND" from Lib Davis, Environmental Quality Chairman

Block Partnership is sponsoring meetings at St. Mary's Baptist Church in NO MAN'S LAND on Monday nights for the purpose of disseminating ideas for the incorporation of that area into the City of Waco. Police protection is rare, crime is increasing. Of the wells tested, 43% were contaminated by coliform bacteria. Some six families have water inside their homes, of the 240 residents! Is there an answer?

THE WACO VOTER
League of Women Voters of Waco, Texas



FIRST CLASS MAIL

A
MERRY
CHRISTMAS!

Mrs. Edward Fritz

1. (b) WHAT METHODS WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE ESSENTIAL IN ALLOCATING THE FUNDS TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

Allocation of state funds for public education should be on a "weighted pupil" basis, providing money according to the educational needs of children in each school district.

Both unit groups support the use of "average daily membership" to replace ADA (average daily attendance) in determining fund allocation.

2. (a) IF THE PRESENT JOINT STATE-LOCAL SYSTEM OF FINANCING TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION WERE TO BE RETAINED, WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE ESSENTIAL IN EQUALIZING THE REVENUE AVAILABLE TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

1. Members support at least a 90%-10% state-local Minimum Foundation Program ratio. One group supported another alternative of moving toward 100% state funding of the basic foundation school program.

2. There was general agreement that minimal local leeway for enrichment of the Minimum Foundation Program be allowed. At least 3 members felt that there should be no local enrichment allowed.

3. Both unit groups agreed that the property tax is likely to be retained as one source of public school funds and supported recommendations for wide reforms of existing local property tax administration. Recommendations include:

- a) assessment statewide on 100% true market value
- b) uniform state standards for assessment and collections with some degree of state control or auditing of these processes
- c) professionalization of assessing personnel
- d) establishment of a "stamp tax"
- e) periodic re-assessment of property

In addition, one group supports (a) raising the assessment level on favored classes of property, and (b) imposing a statewide minimum tax rate.

4. Both groups support abolishment of the present economic index and feel that local ability to pay should be based in some way upon the true market value of property within each school district.

2. (b) WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE ESSENTIAL IN ALLOCATING THE FUNDS TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

1. /See answers to question 1(b) above./

2. Both units support the use of an equalizing formula in conjunction with local enrichment programs to the end that richer districts, while enriching their own school programs, will be required to contribute in some way toward enriching the programs of poorer districts. Members feel that such a system would help to close the gap created by exercising local enrichment ability.

3. In addition, one unit group

- (a) supports establishment of a matching funds program for capital improvements, and
- (b) urges investigation of possibilities for consolidation of smaller districts.

3. WOULD YOU PREFER ONE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED SYSTEMS? IF SO, PLEASE INDICATE WHICH ONE. IF NOT, DO YOU HAVE ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Neither unit group dealt extensively with the concept of full state funding of public school education. General feeling was that full state funding, while perhaps the most reasonable and equitable method, is not a realistic political alternative. Group efforts, therefore, were focused upon methods of achieving a more equitable state-local combination.

LAND USE REPORT/ PLANNING COMMISSION MEETS WITH MARVIN SPRINGER

Sally Larkin and I attended the Planning Commission meeting on Dec. 19 which heard Marvin Springer, consultant, discuss his work in updating the Master Plan. Mr. Springer noted that one of the problems with the last plan was the inaccurate projection for population for the last decade. It was thought that the NASA program would bring more people to the Island, but this large increase never materialized. The 1970 census put our population at 61,000, and Springer noted that, although one can't forecast accurate projections, he wanted the Planning Commission to agree on a reasonable projection which would be the basis of updating the plan.

The census decline for Galveston was contradictory to the enormous growth experienced in the Gulf Coast and Houston area for the same decade. Mr. Springer pointed out that the Houston area contained 41% of all the population growth for Texas in the last decade. He noted that in Galveston a figure of concern was the decline in the Prime Work Force (ages 25-44) from 22,300 to 13,700 in the last 10 years. One factor is the general aging of the population, but also the continued growth on the Mainland of the prime labor force. Mr. Rapp pointed out that the lack of middle income housing is critical for Galveston, and that this is the critical factor in any future life for Galveston.

The subject of the western half of the Island and its effect on the city was brought up and whether figures on its development should be included in the Master Plan for Galveston. Because the plan includes information on roads, housing, etc., it was decided that including this information should be seriously considered. I mentioned to the Planning Commission that the LWV has been concerned with this issue in its Land Use study. It was decided that Mr. Springer would look into the possibility of studying development on the western half of the island and would return to meet with the Commission on Jan. 23. This is an open meeting and any LWVers may attend (City Hall, 5 PM, Jan. 23). Call the Planning Commission secretary on that day to make sure the meeting has not been cancelled.

LAND USE GENERAL MEETING: We are delighted that Mr. Reid, Planning Director, Mr. Parkey, Planning Commission Chairman, and Marvin Springer, consultant, have agreed to be on a panel at our General Meeting on February 13. There will be more details in the February bulletin, but SAVE THE DATE.

--Jan Coggeshall, Land Use Chairman

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS--Galveston Consensus

[The following is a copy of our local League's replies to the consensus questions on Public School Financing in Texas. The Galveston consensus was reached by 31 members who participated in the November unit meetings.]

1. (a) IF THE STATE WERE TO ASSUME FULL FUNDING OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION, WHAT METHODS WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE ESSENTIAL IN EQUALIZING THE REVENUE AVAILABLE TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

1. Both unit groups support the use of a corporate income tax as a first-priority source for new public school revenues. Members of one group asked that instigation of such a tax be accompanied by phasing-out of the current "franchise tax."

2. Second choice for a new tax is a personal income tax. The membership generally approved this tax because it taxes each person according to his ability to pay. Two persons, however, objected to any state personal income tax.

3. In the likely event that either a state or local property tax is used to support full state funding of public education, both unit groups support the property tax reforms specified under question 2(a).

4. Strong opposition was voiced to further use of the sales tax.

MORE---

Galveston Isle Voter

MASS TRANSITHOW YOU CAN HELP

Write your Congressmen and Senators immediately after the holidays--that's NOW! Why? In September, 1972, the U.S. Senate passed an ammendment to the federal-aid highway authorization bill which would have given states discretion to use up to \$800 million a year in urban road funds for the construction of rail rapid transit systems. In trying to seek a compromise between House and Senate, the bill ultimately failed to pass, necessitating action by the Congress early in 1973 in order to keep highway construction programs going. An attempt will again be made to open up the Highway Trust Fund for use by the cities for mass transit. Therefore, all League members are requested to write their congressmen and senators early, early in January and urge the use of some of the highway trust funds for mass transit. (See the October, 1972, Bulletin, Legislative Report section, for more information.)

WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS...

Mrs. J. Bradley Arthaud
Mrs. Bruce E. Bremberg (moved but a member)
Mrs. Antonio Cardona
Mrs. Robert L. Conn
Mrs. J. L. Dees
Mrs. Franklin Gittess
Mrs. John E. Grayshon
Mrs. H. W. Haworth
Mrs. Don D. Hewett
Mrs. Dwight Johnston
Miss Judy Meyer
Mrs. David Sawyer
Mrs. M. F. Spellacy
Mrs. John Stevens
Mrs. Bill B. Terry

Mrs. Bruce Bremberg is continuing her membership in LWV-H despite her move to another city.

+ LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING...

- + Program is the key to a successful League.
- + Relevant program is the key to effective action.
- + Timely program is the key for effective change.
- + Effective program is the key to the League contribution to our democratic society.
- + According to our by-laws, item suggestions for future local program study must be submitted by the members two months before the annual meeting. In April you will vote on the items, choosing from those most frequently suggested at the January units.
- + Come to the January unit meetings to decide which key will best fit the LWV-H for [REDACTED]

NOTE TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS...

Houstonians who indicate an interest in joining the League are put on our "Prospect List." They receive the Bulletin for three months thereafter. If they have not joined the League at the end of that period, their name is dropped from the mailing list. To join, they need merely send their check for \$12.50 to League of Women Voters of Houston.

+ NOMINATING COMMITTEE...

- + The nominating committee will begin meetings in mid-January for next year's president, two vice presidents and directors.
- + If you would like to serve on the board of LWV-H or wish to suggest someone, please inform one of the committee members:

Madeleine Appel--[REDACTED]
Jackie Cronquist--[REDACTED]
Lila Lerner--[REDACTED]
Jan Wilbur--[REDACTED]
Jane Peterman, chairman--[REDACTED]

FINANCING EDUCATION IN TEXAS: HOUSTON'S CONSENSUS

The League of Women Voters of Houston has reached and sent to the state League the following consensus on financing public education in Texas:

1a. Q. If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

A. Property assessment has to be equalized statewide with uniform assessment standards. The majority prefer a combination of taxes with strong feeling for state personal income tax and corporate profits tax. A minority oppose a sales tax increase. A minority oppose a state personal income tax, and a minority favor earmarking the state income tax or corporate profits tax for education only. Strong majority felt that support for education should be substantially raised--most felt the level should be raised to bring Texas up to or above the national average. Strong majority favored allowing some local enrichment. A small minority favored power-equalizing. No consensus on what limit should be put on local enrichment.

1b. Q. What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

A. Majority favored weighted pupil grants or categorical grants (with weighted pupil grants slightly favored). A large minority expressed feeling for including various cost differentials such as those relating to size, urban-rural, municipal overburden, cost of living, capital outlay in the formula. Most favor state setting basic standards with local districts being allowed to choose their own methods of achieving those standards.

2a. Q. If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

A. Strong majority feel that assessment of property should be equalized statewide. Minority favored assessing property at fair market value. Strong minority feel that ability to pay should be measured differently, but no consensus on how it should be changed. Majority feel that the state's share of the cost of education should be greater.

2b. Q. What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

A. Strong minority feeling that state funds should be distributed according to need. Strong majority feel that the Minimum Foundation Program should be changed with feeling about equally divided that (a) it should be changed to distribute funds as weighted pupil or categorical grants or (b) that other factors should be added (such as capital outlay, urban-rural, size variable, etc.) There was some feeling by the majority in favor of power-equalizing, but most who favored it also feel that the more affluent districts would not find it acceptable.

(cont'd. on p. 7)

3. Q. Would you prefer one of the above-mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

A. Majority would prefer full state funding with some local enrichment allowed.

+++++

DO YOU KNOW HOW WE REACHED THE ABOVE LOCAL CONSENSUS ON FINANCING STATE EDUCATION? Do you know what role it will play in the ultimate consensus reached by the state League? Consensus is a slow, painstaking but ultimately rewarding process. It involves melding various points of view on a given subject into an accurate, cohesive expression--in League terminology, a position. Each of the 13 units in LWV-H reported a "consensus" of the opinions of financing education in Texas as expressed by the members present at their meetings. The education committee studied, tabulated, mulled over, checked and finally formulated, from the unit reports (made on recorder sheets), a cohesive, comprehensive statement. This statement, in turn, was mulled over, checked, amended and finally approved by the Board of Directors of the LWV-H. It will be submitted to the State Board of LWV-Texas as the consensus arrived at by the Houston League. Our results will be considered, scrutinized, weighed and combined with the results from the other 43 leagues in Texas by the state board and then--and only then--will we have a state consensus on financing education which will provide the guidelines under which we will act. It should be emphasized that only after this last step do we have a position upon which to act.

--Jan Wilbur

EDUCATION COMMITTEE...

Even though we have finished taking consensus on financing public school education in Texas, our study is not over. The various agencies and committees which have also been studying this question are now issuing their reports and/or recommendations. The education committee will be studying these and reporting to you on them from time to time. If you want more information, you are welcome to join us at our meetings. Our next session will be Jan. 9 at 9:45 AM at the home of Jan Wilbur, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Many Houston leaguers indicated a preference for the weighted-pupil-grant form of distributing funds for education. The Texas Education Agency prepared a report for study purposes only for the State Board or Education Committee on Public School Finance which explores this approach. We summarize that report below:

The purpose of the study was to determine the costs of providing quality education for regular programs and for special educational programs for various kinds of pupils in the public schools in Texas.

The study used data from 28 school districts in Texas to determine the pupil weights. The weights illustrate the differences in instructional costs across programs and grade levels.

Weights for a basic educational program are as follows: Elementary is given a weight of 1.00, this represents \$497 spent for each child for one year of instructional cost. For kindergarten, a weight of 1.05 was calculated; this represents a cost of \$522. For early childhood education, preschool, the calculated weight of 1.12 represents \$557. For high school, the calculated

weight of 1.28 represents \$636.

Add-on weights were calculated for students needing special programs such as those for speech handicapped, non-English speaking, migrant, handicapped vocational, etc.

The total instructional expenditures for all 1149 districts in Texas in 1970-71 was approximately \$1.576 billion. Applying the weighted pupil allocation for students being served by the different educational programs, the cost would have been \$1.585 billion. However, some students needing certain types of educational programs are not now being offered them. If each student were being offered the program he needs, the total cost, using the weighted pupil grants, would be approximately \$1.903 billion.

PUBLICATIONS...

If you would like to subscribe to Legislative Newsletter to keep on top of up-to-the-minute happenings at the State Capitol, call Kitty Head (664-6200). A subscription costs only \$2.50 for the regular session which begins in January.

There are still a few 1973 calendars left. If you need one, contact your unit publications chairman, the League office or Ms. Head.

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO HELP STATE LEAGUE FINANCES AND SUBSCRIBE TO THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR.....

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CITY CHARTER: CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

1. Should the League urge the appointment of a city charter commission to completely revise Houston's city charter?
2. What qualifications should the city charter set for the offices of mayor? City Controller? City councilmen?
3. How should the city charter assure the fair compensation of the mayor controller and councilmen?
4. Should new procedures be recommended to improve Houston's fiscal policies?
5. What should be the voting role of the mayor on the city council? What other roles should he perform on the council?
6. What would be the best manner of filling vacancies in elected offices?
7. What new provisions, if any, should be included in the revised state constitution's sections on the state's relationship with municipalities?

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

JAN 28 1973

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

League of Women Voters of Deer Park Provisional League

Number of Meetings Held 4 Number of Members Participating 17

Type of Meetings held Unit Discussions until consensus reached. General

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts

Ans. 1. Lotteries 2. Corporate income tax 3. Tax on value of non religious property owned by churches.
4. State income tax. 5. Re-evaluation of property and some financing from a tax on this real property based on a relative value and ability to pay concept (formula including age and economic value of rural land and productivity.

- (b) What methods would you consider essential in allocating the funds to the local school district?

1. Use highest level now and make priorities of salaries and teaching materials (This essential) 2. Possible voucher system with laws and realities taken into consideration
3. Enrichment (defined as anything not considered by educators as important to a basic education allowed if supported 40% from local funds. 4. Weighted pupil basis of distribution.

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

1. Reassessment of property values and basis of taxation based on a formula involving (a) economic value of rural acreage (b) Those owning city or town property being taxed on value plus formula involving less for those over 50: in conjunction with a formula involving state vouchers (as above stated) plus a head tax per pupil for those with children in school in a small amount complete with available information to taxpayers on the local school budgets. (c) Industry pay no less than 10% of its property value as compared to homeowners and small business

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to local school districts. ?

1. Teacher salaries up all over state on basis that highest now should be minimum. (A high salary in each school district. Couple this with (1) An adequate due process of law system for both teachers and students (2) Counselor certified and trained to solve students problems rather than function as high paid clerks. and adjuncts of adminis

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tration (Professional immunity) (3) A teacher-administrative as well as a teacher-pupil-limit

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have an alternative suggestion?

Full state funding with any needed program available on ~~inter~~ inter or intra school level. Example (1) Sparsely populated school districts should be made to work out needs on a regional basis (2) Urban schools made to supply programs demanded and on both accounts transportation to these areas of specialization provided. These programs of course should be state approved as educationally necessary. (Example..The school of fine arts in Houston and the Medical Careers school in Houston.

Summary

We oppose busing for busing sake. We support adequate educational opportunities for all students. We feel that the educational system should include ways and means for teachers, parents, students and administrators to make their objections and views known to proper authorities. We believe that teachers should be paid more and that they should continue their educational expertise by additional courses or other enriching opportunities from time to time. We believe that many administrative positions can be cut down and highly paid teachers have more say so and responsibility in the educational process, but due process provided as mentioned above.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
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DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

FEB 5 1973

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

September 1972
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CONSENSUS DEADLINE - JANUARY 15, 1973

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League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating 48

Types of meetings held 1 General, 2 units

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Full State Funding. Fair Market Value used statewide; a.m. unit favored some local enrichment option, perhaps a 5 limit. p.m. wanted training for tax assessors, licensed by state, flat rate income tax. opposed to sales tax. A.M. opposed incometax.

discard economic index basis of minimum foundation. Distribution taking into account the difference between lecture and participation classes. p.m. unit wanted districts structured to contain a minimum number of students.

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

discard economic index basis of minimum foundation. Distribution taking into account the difference between lecture and participation classes. p.m. unit wanted districts structured to contain a minimum number of students (consolidation?)

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Programs should not benefit rich over poor districts. p.m. unit apposed to enrichment at local level. Require all districts to raise all money available to them. State to determine amount each district must raise and what it may spent. Any surplus to be used in poorer districts.

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

State should be responsible for keeping distribution level by seeing that assessments are same statewide and telling district how much it can keep of taxes raised locally. No consensus in either unit as to what criteria should be used specifically, to determine distribution.

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

We prefer a state-local system and would like school board members elected by single member districts.

I haven't met a deadline yet. We had terrible weather her for a week, and the consensus meetings were re-scheduled. I overlooked the fact that consensus deadline was Jan. 15. If this is too late, I understand.

Barbara Glickman (Mrs. Barney)

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Number of meetings held 1. Number of members participating 15

1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

Note:

Because we were limited to one meeting for this item and although the committee members did an excellent job of condensing and presenting the material, it was the consensus that we did not have enough knowledge to answer the questions. All members involved in the discussion meeting agreed it was a very interesting subject and felt they had a better understanding of the problem, but ~~remained~~ remained unqualified to make judgment on something so involved and farreaching.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
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PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING IN TEXAS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

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League of Women Voters of Plainview - Hale Co. (Thurmond)

Number of meetings held 3. Number of members participating approx 15

Types of meetings held 1 panel presentation: League members -

- 1 guest speaker: school supt. - Summary and consensus
1. (a) If the state were to assume full funding of public school education, what methods would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

Fund by sales tax

- (b) What methods would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

no consensus

2. (a) If the present joint state-local system of financing Texas public school education were to be retained, what changes would you consider to be essential in equalizing the revenue available to the local school districts?

power equalizing
state and local board to equalize
evaluation and assessment
jointly

(continued)

- (b) What changes would you consider to be essential in allocating the funds to the local school districts?

weighted pupil grants

3. Would you prefer one of the above mentioned systems? If so, please indicate which one. If not, do you have alternative suggestions? Please explain.

joint state-local system