



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

April 15, 2015

To: Local League Presidents
Local League Education Chairs

Fr: Eleanor Yick, Chair
LWVCEF State Study Committee
Public Higher Education in California

Dear League Presidents and/or Education Chairs,

I hope everyone received Background Packet #2 and is eagerly awaiting Background Packet #3!! I do want to emphasize again that reading and discussing these articles prior to the publication of the Study Guide in August is strictly voluntary for the local Leagues who are participating in the study. Some committees want more detailed information; others have decided to wait till the Study Guide comes out to study the issues.

As outlined in previous letters, updates with at least two articles related to the scope of the study will be posted *around* the 20th of each month on the study website (<http://lwvc.org/study/education-0>) and sent out electronically to League presidents and/or local committee chairs. Reading and discussing these articles is strictly optional at this time. But, local education committee members who want to enhance their own background knowledge are encouraged to read and discuss the articles.

This third packet (Packet #3) of background information contains links to two (2) articles about funding of our Higher Education system and one (1) about **National** Indicators of Inequity. This last report is quite long and is included **only** for those of your members who are very interested in reading and learning about **national** statistics. As you know, access is the overarching theme of our study and equity is thoroughly embedded in that area. Reading and discussing these articles is very timely as numerous articles about funding and access seem to be in the news every day.

1. California Budget Project: Budget Brief – From State to Student: How State Disinvestment has Shifted Higher Education Costs to Students and Families:

http://calbudgetcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/140506_From_State_to_Student_BB.pdf

2. Public Policy Institute of California: Defunding Higher Education: What Are the Effects on College Enrollment:

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_512HJR.pdf

3. Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States: 45 Year Trend Report 2015

<http://www.pellinstitute.org/downloads/publications-Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the US 45 Year Trend Report.pdf>

Some questions that *could* be used to frame a discussion of all three articles:

- 1. What do we know about the funding of higher education in our state after reading these reports?*
- 2. Should California consider public higher education as a top priority for state funding and support?*
- 3. Should California provide adequate state funding to expand access to everyone who can benefit from a college education while keeping fees/tuition low so that costs do not become a barrier to enrollment and completion?*
- 4. Should California revisit the access policies established in the 1960s Master Plan for Higher Education (UC top 12.5%; CSU top 33%; CSU – all other students)?*
- 5. Should California adopt a no fee policy for California community colleges and the rest of public higher education?*
- 6. Should California consider other sources of revenue to increase funding level and stability for our colleges?*
- 7. What do we know about equity in higher education in the United States after reading the 45 Year Trend Report 2015?*

In closing, please feel free to contact me directly (egyick@icloud.com) if you have any concerns or questions about the study or suggested readings.

Thanking you so much for your participation,

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