



To: Governor Wolf and Members of the Pennsylvania Legislature

From: Susan Carty, President
Pennsylvania League of Women Voters

Date: November 9, 2015

RE: Pennsylvania League of Women Voters Opposes SB 909

The Pennsylvania League of Women Voters supports equal access to quality public education to be achieved by participation of government and citizens at all levels and by adequate financing based on an equitable and flexible tax system. **We commend the work of the Basic Education Funding Commission in recognizing and attempting to remedy funding inequities across the state and believe the provisions of Senate Bill 909 counteract the final recommendations of the Commission.**

A backend referendum requirement for any property tax increase would be devastating to school districts across the commonwealth. Realistically, rising state and federal mandated costs associated with PSERS and special education would require nearly all districts to go to referendum every year to cover the annual increases in these costs. Without voter approval, many school districts will be forced to cut programs and staff in order to fund those mandated cost increases.

The Pennsylvania League of Women Voters believes all schools must be given the opportunity to achieve with adequate and realistic funding based on the needs of their community. **Thus, we respectfully request implementation and assessment of Pennsylvania's new funding formula before contemplating the passage of legislation such as Senate Bill 909, which will place school districts in the difficult position of having to make cuts to educational programs and services to pay for mandated costs beyond their control.**