

NOW IS THE TIME FOR TAX REFORM

Kentucky is facing a crisis on many fronts because of inadequate funds to address critical needs. Cash-strapped public school districts, an opioid epidemic, rising tuition rates at state-funded universities/colleges, affordable health care, clean drinking water, and teacher and state employee pension systems are examples of real and pressing needs for new revenue sources.

No one likes the idea of paying more taxes, but there is truth in the old saying “penny wise and pound foolish.” There is a cost to not adequately paying for needed programs. Kentucky, for example, suffers from the economic impact of a less educated and/or opioid-dependent workforce, as well as the cost of increased incarceration rates. It will require more money to repair our pension systems than would have been necessary if sufficient funding had been provided earlier.

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky believes that now is the time to support tax reform in Kentucky that will produce additional revenue. We support measures that are progressive, asking more from those most able to afford it. We also support an increase in the cigarette tax which, in addition to bringing in more revenue, would provide health benefits by decreasing the number of smokers.

We look forward to working with the governor, legislators and other concerned citizens to reform Kentucky’s tax structure so that the Commonwealth can responsibly meet the economic challenges it faces.

Wanda B. Lynch, President
League of Women Voters of Kentucky
kentuckylwv@gmail.com

2/23/2018