



House Ways & Means Committee  
The State House  
Boston, MA

August 14, 2020

Dear Chair Michlewitz, Vice-Chair Garlick, and Members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

As you undertake the difficult task of drafting a budget for the Commonwealth in these uncertain times, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts urges you to seriously consider raising taxes to generate additional revenue and not to rely solely on cutting spending to arrive at a final budget.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed serious economic inequalities across our state and nation, including in housing, health care, education, paid sick leave, and many other areas. The League is concerned that any significant budget cuts to vital services will worsen the effects of the economic slowdown and further harm people already suffering disproportionately.

We urge the legislature to look to progressive increased taxes to offset the revenue shortfall, particularly by increasing the tax rate on corporate profits, conforming to federal law for the taxation of domestic profits that are shifted overseas, and increasing the tax rate that investors pay on unearned income. Such tax increases would ease the impact of the pandemic on our most affected citizens, help our schools to better prepare to operate in these times, and increase the chances for an economic recovery.

Now is the time for those most able to contribute to the greater good, to the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Judy Zaunbrecher and Elizabeth Foster-Nolan  
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

Cc: Speaker Robert DeLeo  
Senate President Karen Spilka