



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS® OF CONCORD-CARLISLE**

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Ms. Cheryl Lecesse, Editor
The Concord Journal
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Concord, MA 01742

To the Editor:

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts urges citizens to vote NO November 4 on Ballot Question 1 – a proposed law to reduce the state income tax as of January 2009 and eliminate it entirely in 2010. This is a reckless proposal that would cut \$12 billion from the state's tax base or 40% of the state's \$27 billion budget.

Twelve billion dollars less in state funding for public works projects, public safety, school budgets and other state services, such as Medicaid, will have dire consequences in our communities. Cutting State aid to cities and towns will force municipal governments to roll back services and seek overrides increasing the property tax to maintain basic services.

Statewide public safety will be at risk with fewer police officers, fire fighters, and ambulance crews. Residents can expect longer waits for response to 911 calls and to have streets cleared of snow and ice.

Education cuts will lead to larger class sizes and fewer academic and extra-curricular opportunities for all students. More fees will be imposed by local school districts for transportation, field trips, athletics and other extra-curricular activities.

Infrastructure throughout the state will deteriorate further with less money for roads, bridges and public transportation systems. This means more crumbling roadways, potholes, and repair bills for drivers and a greater risk of train derailments and unsafe bridges.

Reducing or eliminating dollars for healthcare services will negatively impact our senior citizens, working families and people with disabilities. Federal Medicare matching funds will be lost if the state does not contribute its share.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts considers Question 1 an unwise proposal that could increase local property taxes, cause sweeping cuts in education and other basic services, cripple our public safety departments and speed the deterioration of our infrastructure. We encourage all voters to VOTE NO on Question 1 in the interest of preserving vital services for the citizens of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,
Shawna Reid, Co-Chair
Exec. Steering Comm., League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle
Ridgewood Rd., Concord