



June 14, 2019

VIA Online Portal to Author and Senate Committee on Education and Senate Committee on Governance and Finance

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4001
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 48 (O'Donnell) – Education finance: school facilities: Kindergarten-Community Colleges Public Education Facilities Bond Acts of 2020 and 2022 -- SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to **support AB 48, but only if amended to ensure an equitable system of funding K-12 facilities**. One way of accomplishing that goal would be to include a matching requirement tied to a district's assessed value per pupil.

The League of Women Voters of California has consistently advocated for adequate and equitable funding of K-12 Education in California. In fact, we have supported every K-14 state facilities bond measure that has been put before the voters in the last 30 years, believing that a good physical environment is crucial to learning.

Unfortunately, the current allocation system for the School Facilities Program (SFP) does not sufficiently account for differences in property wealth between districts. Wealthier districts find it easier to raise bond money, which then gives them access to money from the SFP. A recent study¹ documents that over a ten-year period the most property-rich districts in the state not only spent the most money per pupil on facilities, but also received the largest amount of money per pupil from the SFP. One step to help correct this inequity would be to replace the fixed match percentages currently required under the program with a sliding scale that takes into account the district's tax base per pupil.

The State of California is already operating under the principle that access to quality instruction should not depend on the wealth of the surrounding community. It should apply that same principle to school facilities. The League of Women Voters of California would support AB 48 wholeheartedly if it were amended to ensure that funding for school facilities is equitable. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg".

Carol Moon Goldberg
President

¹ [Eric J. Brunner and Jeffrey Vincent, *Financing School Facilities in California: A 10-Year Perspective, 2018*, accessed at \[bit.ly/FinancingCASchoolFacilities\]\(http://bit.ly/FinancingCASchoolFacilities\)](#)