



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

February 13, 2015

To: Local League Presidents
Local League Education Chairs

Fr: Eleanor Yick, Chair
LWVCEF State Study Committee
Public Higher Education in California

Dear Presidents and/or Education Chairs,

In December I mailed a letter to all League presidents outlining the process for the LWVCEF study of Public Higher Education in California. I am happy to report that, as of this date, twenty-seven local Leagues have already made a commitment to participate in this very important state study. The goal, of course, is to have 100% of our Leagues participating. It is hoped that those Leagues that have not yet responded will have their local study committee formed and ready to go when the Study Guide is published in August. Input from across the state is needed. An *accessible* public higher education system – one that is efficient, effective and equitable - is vital not only to California's future economy but is also the bedrock upon which democracy is built and sustained.

As outlined in the December letter, starting in mid-February 2015 and continuing through June 2015, at least two articles related to the scope of the study will be posted monthly on the study website (<http://lwvc.org/study/education-0>) and sent out electronically to League presidents and local committee chairs. Local education committee members should read and discuss the articles, as well as the suggested questions (or your own questions) related to the area, in order to develop and enhance their own knowledge base as a committee.

When the Study Guide is posted to the website in August 2015, local Leagues should begin educating their membership about each of the aspects related to the overall scope of accessibility: funding, affordability, preparedness, equity, and opportunities & barriers for success.

This first packet (Packet #1) of background information contains links to one very long report and one shorter report, both of which provide a broad background frame for a discussion on the need and/or rationale for this study.

1. **Little Hoover Commission: A New Plan for a New Economy: Reimagining Higher Education** (October 2013) accessible at:
<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/218/report218.html>
•Full Report: pages 1-61 (suggest breaking into sections)

- *Strongly recommend reading *at least* pages i through 28.
- *Executive Summary pages: i through vi
- *The Challenge pages 1 – 15
- *Need for New Master Plan pages 17- 28
- *Recommendations # 1-10 pages 28-58 for more detailed information:
(#1-3 pages 28-40; #4,5 pages 40-51; #6-10 pages 51-58)
- Conclusions pages 59-61

QUESTION(s):

1. *Who/what is the Little Hoover Commission and what is its mission?*
2. *Why does the Commission recommend a new Master Plan – what problems did it identify in the current system?*
3. *The Little Hoover Commission’s Report is mainly focused on the economic benefits of education. What societal benefits, if any, should be considered?*

II. California Competes: The Road Ahead: Higher education, California’s promise, and our future economy (2013) accessible at:
<http://californiacompetes.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/The-Road-Ahead.pdf>
 •Full report: pages 1-15.

QUESTION(s):

1. *Who/what is California Competes and what is its mission?*
2. *Why does our higher education need to improve?*
3. *What is the purpose of higher education?*

In closing, please feel free to contact me directly (egyick@icloud.com) or any one of the committee members, which are listed on the website, if you have any concerns or questions about the study or suggested readings.

Thank you so much,

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