



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

March 15, 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 February, I emailed a letter to all League presidents and/or Education Chairs that contained information about the first Background Packet #1 related to our Study of Public Higher Education in California. I am happy to report that as of this date, thirty-three local Leagues have made the commitment to participate in our study. The goal, of course, is to have 100% of our Leagues participating as input from across our very diverse state is vital to the successful drafting of a League position statement.

As outlined in the February letter, updates with at least two articles related to the scope of the study will be posted around the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month on the study website (<http://lwvc.org/study/education-0>) and sent out electronically to League presidents and/or 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. At my League's first local education study committee meeting, the first two articles elicited strong opinions - both in agreement and disagreement! Data collection methods were also questioned. It was a very worthwhile discussion and a great start for our committee.

This second packet (Packet #2) of background information contains links to 3 short articles about the Master Plan for Higher Education in California and one very recent one about California's Future and Higher Education. Reading and discussing these articles, along with the two read last month, provide an important contrast between the state's need and/or economic benefits of a higher education versus the vision promoted in the Master Plan for Higher Education in California.

**I. Major Features of the California Master Plan for Higher Education** (UC Education Relations Department/UC Office of the President, 2007) accessible at:  
<http://www.ucop.edu/acadinit/mastplan/mpsummary.htm>

**II. The California Master Plan for Higher Education Perspective** (UC Education Relations Department/UC Office of the President, 2007) accessible at:  
<http://www.ucop.edu/acadinit/mastplan/mpperspective.htm>

**III. The California Master Plan for Higher Education** (Regents University of California, 1999) accessible at:  
<http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july02/302attach1.pdf>

QUESTION(s) related to all three articles about the Master Plan:

1. *What significant historical factors led to the development of the Master Plan in 1960?*
2. *Why was it considered revolutionary? What evidence confirms that description?*
3. *Was it successful? What indicators confirm your opinion?*
4. *What significant aspects were addressed or added by later commissions?*

**IV. California's Future: Higher Education** (Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), 2015) accessible at:

[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R\\_215HJR.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_215HJR.pdf)

QUESTION(s):

1. *Why is California facing a crisis in its higher education system?*
2. *What common themes were found in this article as well as in the first two articles read last month?*
3. *Discuss the pros and cons regarding the steps suggested by the authors that the state should take to improve educational outcomes?*

**Lastly, I'd like to mention two other references that might be intriguing to some members of your study committee who want to read even more:**

1. The first, a transcript of President Clark Kerr's long address to the Joint Legislative Committee in 1999, is surprising to read because it's so personal and much of what he mentioned is still relevant today. I really enjoyed reading it! This article can be found at: <http://www.ucop.edu/mastplan/kerr082499.htm>

2. The second is for anyone who really wants to learn all about the Master Plan in depth. It's a book written by John Aubrey Douglass entitled: [The California Idea and American Higher Education 1850 to the 1960 Master Plan.](#)

In closing, please feel free to contact me directly ([egyick@icloud.com](mailto: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.

Thanking you so much for your participation,

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