



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*Legislative Action Alert from LWVNC and Together NC – State Budget
for June 21, 2009*

The League of Women voters works in coalition with Together NC, who has sent the following Action Alert:

Dear Together NC Supporters,

Now that the House has passed their version of the budget, leaders in the House and Senate are working together on a final state budget proposal. The good news is they seem committed to raising revenue (the current target is \$900 million; the House plan raised \$784 million) allowing them to prevent the most devastating of cuts. But the cuts to education, health and human services, and public safety remain deep and risk rolling back much of the progress we have made over the past decade.

Governor Perdue has recognized that the cuts remaining on the table will have destructive long-term consequences for North Carolina's families and economy. Thankfully, she has taken a strong stand and is now calling on House and Senate members to raise **\$1.5 billion in new revenues** for next year- almost double the amount included in the House plan.

How Can You Help?

Time is of essence. Our legislators need to hear from as many people as possible that it is critical they raise a significant amount of revenues to help us overcome our state's budget crisis. We need to thank House and Senate members who voted to include revenue increases in their budgets, but at the same time ask them to heed to Governor Perdue's call on them to do more.

Please forward the action alert below to your members, networks, friends and family.



PROMOTING
WISE CHOICES
FOR
SHARED
PROSPERITY

It's Time to Come Together!
Action Needed on the State Budget
Take Action!

It's time to come together. The Governor has proposed a budget. The House and the Senate have passed their budget proposals. Now, during this critical time in our state's history, our elected officials must show courage and leadership by coming together and agreeing on a budget that maintains our past investments in North Carolina's families and communities.

Our state leaders must take a balanced approach to the current budget shortfall, and that means raising revenues. Without new revenues, legislators will be forced to make massive cuts that will cause tremendous pain in the short-term, and jeopardize our long-term prosperity. The Governor, the Senate, and the House have all proposed budgets that include new revenues, and that's progress. Last week, the Governor called on the House and Senate to raise \$1.5 billion in new revenues. Now it's time for our state leaders to come together and agree on a budget that's good for all North Carolinians.

What can you do to help? Time is short. Under the state Constitution, lawmakers need to complete work on the budget by June 30. They need to hear from you today. Email your legislators and tell them to say "NO" to devastating budget cuts and "YES" to a balanced solution for the state budget that enacts smart cuts and raises \$1.5 billion in new revenue. If we pull together, we can get through this budget crisis. Let's get to work!

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Best,

Meg Gray and Rob Thompson

For additional information on The League of Women Voters of North Carolina and our policies and partners, please visit www.lwvnc.org.

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LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.