

League of Women Voters Glen Ellyn and League of Women Voters Wheaton

Defend Democracy Issue: Funding for Illinois Public Schools

League of Women Voters IL Position:

The League of Women Voters believes that the government must provide an equitable, quality public education for all children from pre-K through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.¹

Status:

- In 2017 Illinois legislators passed a law to change the way public education is funded.
- Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act (EBF) put in place a formula to equitably distribute new state funds to school districts, taking into account differences in local resources, priorities and need.
- EBF has helped increase funding for K-12 schools while driving resources to the most underfunded districts.
- In 2023 there were 1.3 million Illinois students in underfunded school districts.
- Illinois needs an investment of \$550M in new state funds for EBF in the FY25 budget.
- LWVIL has partnered with Advance Illinois to lobby Governor Pritzker on this issue.

Actions We Are Taking:



Sign your name to this letter from Advance Illinois to Governor Pritzker: <https://advanceillinois.quorum.us/campaign/53888/>



Write and/or call Governor J. B. Pritzker, your state representative, and your state senator: <https://www.lwv.org/take-action/find-your-elected-officials>

Here's a sample statement for your calls and/or postcards, or create your own:
"I support an investment of \$550M in EBF to fully fund Illinois public schools. This will ensure adequate and equitable funding in Illinois public schools, and benefits students."



Post a link to the Advance Illinois letter to your social media account, and ask your friends to sign it before February 21 (the Governor's State of the State Address).

Here's how to do that:

Copy this link (<https://advanceillinois.quorum.us/campaign/53888/>). Paste it into the message box of a new post on your FB page. Add a personal message, such as: "I signed this letter calling on Governor Pritzker to prioritize an increase in evidence-based funding (EBF) for our public schools. Please join me by signing your name to this letter today!"

¹ <https://www.lwv.org/issues/education>

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RESOURCES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Get ready to vote in the March 19, 2024 General Primary Election

- <https://www.lwvge.org/electioninfo>
- <https://my.lwv.org/illinois/wheaton/voting>
- https://www.dupagecounty.gov/elected_officials/election_and_voter_information/

Sign up to attend LWVIL 2024 Issues Briefing

- <https://www.lwvil.org/issues-briefing-2024>