



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

SB 859 Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda Kohn, President

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland has conducted three studies of Maryland's Fiscal Policy over the last few decades. Fact Sheets were presented to our members at our local Leagues located on the Eastern Shore, in Southern Maryland, Western Maryland and all of the counties in between. After lengthy discussions among our members, they came to the following consensus on these key principles for Maryland's Fiscal Structure:

- Adequate yield: Adequate and timely revenues are available to finance planned expenditures.
- Equity/Fairness: A graduated tax which will collect a greater percentage of income from those with higher incomes than those with lower income.
- Compatibility with state social and environmental policy: The state's policy and tax structure are working towards the same ends.

Clearly our fiscal structure fails to meet these principles. The League has been proud to support many of the initiatives that the General Assembly has undertaken to improve the quality of life for all Marylanders such as the Blueprint, expansion of affordable health care, increasing access to quality childcare, environmental protection, and more. But now it is time to take the next step and fund these programs.

Our staggering budget shortfall requires bold action. That's why we are asking you to support the Fair Share Act and its various components which together are estimated to raise up to 2 billion dollars once fully implemented while reducing the tax burden on some one million Maryland families with an income of \$106,000 or less. It will require the individuals and corporations who have not been paying their Fair Share, many of whom will likely be granted federal tax breaks, to contribute to a thriving Maryland rather than subjecting its residents to crippling cuts.

We also support some of the revenue enhancements proposed by the Governor and will be submitting supportive testimony on those when the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025 will be heard next week.

Because you have an opportunity to truly address Maryland's structural deficit, instead of nibbling around the edges, **we urge a favorable report on SB 859 Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025.**