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.Update on activities, events, and plans for the League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley



The Voter

League of Women Voters
Greater Verde Valley
www.lwvverdevalley.com

P.O. Box 966
Sedona, AZ 86339

APRIL 2014 - SPRING IS HERE!

President's Message:

It's been a busy and interesting time in our League's life. Two issue forums and our 2-day participation at Fort Verde Days gave us some powerful times to work within our communities. A moment of real interest came from a youngster about 5 or 6 years old who visited the League's booth at Ft. Verde Days and immediately went to work with crayons on a coloring book type sheet with crayons while her Mom visited with us. It was good for all of us. We need to do more of this kind of community building work. The Yavapai College Master Plan forums were good and of course having them video-taped by Verde Valley TV for showing on cable TV and YouTube afterwards was top notch. Our appreciation to Ryan Nichols of Verde Valley TV for his constant attention to making good videos.

That's about as much out in the public we should be and can be, if we organize ourselves that way. Let's talk about it at the next Board meeting. Or any good ideas come your way, just pass them along.

Our League will be jointly hosting the 2015 LWVAZ State Convention with our sister League - Central Yavapai County. It will be held at Yavapai College Verde Campus in mid-May, 2015. This is our time to shine.

Even if you are not a Board Member, you are invited to attend Board meetings. We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Yavapai County Building – 10 South 6th St., Cottonwood – 2nd Floor, Verde Room (right, around the corner from the elevator).

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LWVGW PRESIDENT
ELLIE BAUER



**LWVGW
CALENDAR 2013-
2014**

In League, Ellie Bauer

[Next League Event is Consensus Meeting on Agriculture Policy](#)

We would like to have as many of our members as possible attend the April 12th gathering to discuss an update to the LWVUS position on Agricultural issues. With the renaissance of local agriculture in the Verde Valley, we do have an interest in the financial health and sustainability of the agricultural sector, current technology, research and development, food safety, and food labeling.

This discussion will give League members a chance to learn more and express their views. Background information is at www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-update, so it's easy to study up a little in advance of the meeting. We will be looking at the economic health of the agriculture sector, agriculture research and development, and food safety and labeling.

Please RSVP and/or direct any questions you may have to [.lwsvv@yahoo.com](mailto:lwsvv@yahoo.com) or to webmaster@lwverdevalley.com. If you decide late or have little time to prepare, do come anyway.

Note on the resources: Focus on the "Overview" articles for the areas you are interested in. At the end of the list are three more general documents that are worth taking a look at.

[Forums on Yavapai College Master Plan](#)

Our two public forums on Yavapai County's 10-year Master Plan included an explanation of the goals of the plan, anticipated changes to the college system, the impact of those changes on the Verde Valley, and the potential for modification as implementation proceeds.

Questions from the audiences prompted further discussion and indicated that this will continue to be a contentious issue. For those unable to attend, both forums are available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/VerdeValleyTV.

[Camp Verde Spring Festival](#)

Thank you to League volunteers Kathy Davis, Ellie Bauer, Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Robyn's husband Bud, Angela LeFevre, Kathy Heidepriem, Ruth Kiessel, Pat George and Robin Whatley for staffing our booth at the Camp Verde Spring Heritage Pecan and Wine Festival. The festival was well attended so we were able to take some voter registrations and to talk with many people about the League of Women Voters.

[Member Information](#)

April 12th

Discussion of Agriculture Study
Mystic Hills Clubhouse,
Sedona
10:00am-1:00pm

April 24th

LWVGW Board Meeting
Yavapai County Bldg,
Cottonwood
2:00pm

May 30th

Annual Membership Meeting/Brunch
Elections and League Business
Speaker Tom O'Halloran
Jerona Cafe, Cottonwood
10:00am - noon

May 17th

State League Council
Workshop Opportunities

June 6-10

National League Convention,
Dallas TX



Our booth at Camp Verde Spring Heritage Festival

1. Welcome new member Robin Whatley, Camp Verde Town Council Member, who has already made a presentation at our anniversary brunch and helped at our Camp Verde Festival booth.

2. Please plan to attend our membership meeting on **Saturday, April 12th**, for a discussion of the update of the LWVUS position on agricultural issues. League consensus on policy issues is a fundamental principle of our organization and it is important that as many members as possible offer their questions and views to the process. **Mystic Hills Clubhouse at 108 E. Mallard Drive in Sedona, 10:00am to 1:00pm.**

3. Also save the morning of **Friday, May 30th**, for the annual membership business meeting -- election of officers, adoption of the budget, and approval of our program focus for the upcoming year. Brunch is included and the speaker will be Keep Sedona Beautiful President Tom O'Halloran. Watch for more details and updates in your e-mail, on our website, and on our Facebook page. **Café Jerona in Cottonwood from 10:00-noon.**

4. If you have trouble reading, downloading, or printing this online Voter, a pdf copy is available on our website at www.lwverdevalley.com. If you need to have a pdf version mailed or e-mailed to you as an attachment, please contact Kathy Heidepriem.

League of Women Voters of Arizona

Ongoing: Kobach vs. Election Assistance Commission

A court filing sent to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals challenges a ruling earlier (last) month by U.S. District Judge Eric Melgren in Wichita. Melgren had ordered the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to immediately modify a national voter registration form to add special instructions requiring proof of citizenship for Kansas and Arizona residents (AZBlueMeanie, March 30).

The League filed a motion to stay the decision of the District Court of Kansas pending the appeal. The decision from the District Court allows the states of Arizona and Kansas to require documentary proof of citizenship when citizens register to vote using the federal mail application form. LWVUS is joined by the Leagues of Arizona and Kansas as interveners in this case.

As of this moment there are NO changes in the federal form. We can use either the state form or federal form for registering voters. Also, Arizona will still have in place the two-tier voting system--those without proper "proof of citizenship" when registering will only be entitled to vote for candidates in federal elections (not state).

Primary Elections are just around the corner - local, state and congressional.

August 26 is the primary election day - early voting ballots will be out around July 28. We need to remind all voters to vote in the primary election including those who are "independent". Two focus groups of voters (high engagement and low

LWVGVV Board Members, 2013- 2014

**Ellie Bauer
Donna Pratt
Marian Sjostrom
Robyn Prud'homme-
Bauer
Ruth Kiessel
Kathy Davis**

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



engagement voters, various ages, various political affiliations) were conducted in February 2014. The results showed that virtually no one knew that those not registered to a party (independents) could vote in Primaries and many believed provisional ballots were only counted if the race was close. This misinformation needs to be corrected - LWVAZ is looking at **statewide campaign to encourage independent voters to vote in the primary elections**. So if you have any ideas - please email them to LWVAZ at lwwaz@lwwaz.org.

Save the Date for the
LWVAZ Council Meeting
Saturday, May 17th
at the conference room at the LWVAZ office

Everyone is invited (League member and friends)!

At these bi-yearly Council meetings, the focus is on training in advocacy and voter education for all attendees. Registration at 9:30 and the meeting is from 10 am to 5 pm. The cost is \$15 with lunch, snacks, workshops materials and wine before dinner! The luncheon speaker will be Casey Dreher from Arizona Students' Association speaking about voting rights for college students.

If interested please contact LWVAZ president, Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer or LWVGVV president, Ellie Bauer to say that you want to go!

[LWVUS Reaction to Supreme Court Decision on Campaign Finances](#)

The League of Women Voters of the United States reacted strongly to the recent Supreme Court Decision in the campaign finance case *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*. The Court ruled that aggregate campaign contribution limits are invalid.. The case challenged the limits on the total contributions from an individual donor to candidates and political committees in order to prevent corruption and the appearance of corruption.

According to a League press release, League President Elisabeth MacNamara stated that "This is yet another irresponsible decision on money in politics by the Roberts Court ... The Court has used the *McCutcheon* decision to continue dismantling the wall of protection against corruption – case by case, brick by brick."

The importance of this decision cannot be overstated," MacNamara said. "While *McCutcheon* dealt with a technical and arcane matter of campaign finance law, in the end it is all about more money and more influence. In this decision, as in previous decisions, the Chief Justice ignores the corruption he is turning loose in America's election system."

"In this decision, the Court opens another loophole by allowing our political parties to be further corrupted by big-money contributions from special interests. The party and Political Action Committees now become a huge funnel for corrupting elected officials across the country," MacNamara said.

“The decision simply means more power for big money, more corruption for the rest of us. The Roberts court is saying that big money is more important than the voices of individual citizens, concluded MacNamara.

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