



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
GREATER VERDE VALLEY

The VoteR

League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

LWVGCV membership dues should be paid by June 30.

June 2012

Election Season is Underway – Can You Feel It?

(last day to register for the August 28th Primary is July 30th)



President's Message

We all have a warehouse of skills, talents, education, experience that make us what we are.

But, it is –

- Not what we have, but what we use;
- not what we see, but what we choose –
- Those are the things that mar or bless the sum of human happiness (an old Irish saying)

As of June 17, 2012, our League's official name is League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley. We will continue to work to our best ability to move forward as we have in the past, serving our communities and their people in good League ways.

Voter Service

Verde Valley voters will be dealing with long ballots in the upcoming primary (Aug. 28th) and general (Nov. 6) elections this fall. At the federal level, we will be selecting one U.S. Senator and one Congressman; at the State level, we will elect one State Senator, two State Representatives, and three Corporation Commissioners. There will also be a vote on retention of State Supreme Court Justices. At the County level (Yavapai or Coconino), we will be electing the County Attorney, Assessor, Clerk of the Court, Recorder, Sheriff, Superintendent of Schools, Treasurer, our District Supervisors, and Superior Court Judges. Fire District Board candidates will be on the general election ballot only.

The following link will take you to a list of all the statewide candidates who will appear on the August 28th primary election ballot:

<http://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2012/05/31/2012-arizona-statewide-legislative-candidate-campaigns/>

In addition to all of the elected offices that will need to be filled, there will be at least seven – and likely several more – ballot issues to decide on in November. They will be finalized in July.

Time to study up! (The last day to register for the primary election is July 30th.)

UPDATE on PRIMARY ELECTION FORUM

We are in the process of organizing primary election forums for 2 Congressional Districts, 1 Supervisorial District, and 1 Legislative District. Tentatively mark your calendar for a forum for Congressional District 4 Republican and Democratic candidates on August 11 at the Cottonwood Recreation Center. We are in discussions with the candidates on the forum – once they have been confirmed – we will send out a special forum notice!

Zaki Gordon Film Institute Project

Our league has agreed to contribute \$100.00 to the Zaki Gordon Film Institute, which will produce a public service announcement on student voter registration; this endeavor is part of our work as a partner in the the O'Connor House Civic Engagement Project.

Member Information

LWVSVV membership dues should be paid by June 30. At the bottom of this newsletter is a renewal form. PLEASE complete the form and send your dues in today! THANK YOU!!

Note: If you have a problem with the e-mail version of this newsletter, or are unable to open the attachment, please call Kathy Heidepriem and we can send you a paper copy. Or, it can be accessed on our website, www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org. Thank you!

League of Women Voters of the United States

Convention 2012

The 50th Biennial LWVUS Convention was held in Washington, DC from June 8-12, 2012. It was my privilege and pleasure to be a delegate representing the LWV Arizona and all League members in Arizona. We have an exciting program agenda for the next two years focusing on Voting Rights, particularly fighting against voter suppression measures; Campaign Finance Reform with a focus on The Disclose Act and cleaning up campaigns (dealing with the effects of Citizens United); clean air and a review and update of our Agriculture position.

We heard from some wonderful speakers including DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, Annenberg Public Policy Center's Kathleen Hall Jamieson; U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder; Trevor Potter, president, Campaign Legal Center and the man behind Stephen Colbert's Super PAC; former Representative Mickey Edwards (R-OK); political reporter Eleanor Clift; and pollster John Zogby. They were all interesting and very engaging – they all highly respect the League of Women Voters and called on us to continue to be advocates against voter suppression activities and to support efforts to clean up campaigns!

Citizens United and finding ways to fix our broken campaign finance system was to focus of many of our speakers. Did you know that broadcast media does not have to accept deceptive ads from third party campaign organizations (PACs and 501c4)! You as an individual can be an advocate against deceptive campaign ads – check out the website Flackcheck.org!

Every evening several caucuses were held – Arizona hosted or participated in 3 caucuses – one on Leagues experiences with redistricting, one on Ranked Choice Voting, and the last one on National Popular Vote. I did have some fun too – laughed at a pointed political performance of The Capitol Steps and visited the MLK memorial on the mall.

In closing this statement by LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara sums up our call to action:

President Elisabeth MacNamara challenged delegates: "The League is not an end in itself. We are a training ground for democracy. That is what we have always been and that is what we will always be, working together to learn new ways to spread the word and encourage new generations to learn and engage".

Resolution on Action Addressing Citizens' United Decision and Campaign Finance

The following resolution was passed by the delegates at the LWV national convention on June 11, 2012:

"We, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2012 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly **for all appropriate, duly-considered measures** which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which: are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters."

Privatization

Background

The LWVUS Board approved a new position on the Privatization of Government Functions, Services, and Assets at its June 2012 meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 227 Leagues across the country that participated in the Privatization Study. Thanks to the many local and state Leagues and ILOs that held meetings, involved their communities, and worked to reach consensus on this important issue. Committee Chair Janis McMillen (KS) and her Committee: Diane DiIanni (TN), Carole Garrison (VA), Ann Henkener (OH), Cathy Lazarus (CA), Nora Leech (WA), Muriel Strand (CA) and Ted Volskay (SC) are to be commended for their excellent work and leadership.

Position

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

The League believes that some government provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

The decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. While specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions, the League believes the following considerations apply to most decisions to transfer public services, assets and functions to the private sector:

- On-going and timely communication with stakeholders and the public;
- Statement of the circumstances as they exist and what is to be gained;
- Definition of the quality, level and cost of service expected;
- Assessment of the private market; whether there are providers to assure competitive pricing and delivery; (in some cases there may not be multiple providers if a service is so specialized. i.e. high tech, airports.)
- Cost-benefit analyses evaluating short and long term costs of privatization, including the ongoing costs of contract administration and oversight;
- An understanding of the impact on customers, the broader community, environment and public employees;
- An open, competitive bidding process with clearly defined criteria to be used in selecting a contractor;
- A provision and process to ensure the services or assets will be returned to the government if a contractor fails to perform;
- A data-driven selection of private entities whose goals, purposes, and means are not incompatible with the public well-being;
- The careful negotiation and drafting of the controlling privatization contract; and
- Adequate oversight and periodic performance monitoring of the privatized services by the government entity to ensure that the private entity is complying with all relevant laws and regulations, contract terms and conditions, and ethical standards, including public disclosure and comment.

The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state's jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation of the privatization process should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner;
- A reasonable feasibility study and project evaluation appropriate to the size and scope of the project;
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the private-entity (beyond the lowest cost bid);
- Additional consideration for local bidders in order to support the local economy;

- The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity;
- Allowance for and promotion of opportunities for innovation and collaboration; and,
- Provision for employment, benefits and training plans on behalf of employees displaced as a result of privatization.

Statement of Position as Announced by National Board, June 2012

LWVUS Statement on the Supreme Court decision on the Affordable Health Care Act.

Supreme Court Decision Protects Health Care for Millions of Americans

Washington, DC – The following statement is by Elisabeth MacNamara, national President of the League of Women Voters:

“Today’s decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Florida v. HHS* upholding the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was surprising, but deeply important. This decision protects the health of millions of Americans.

“The Court recognized health care reform for what it is: a legislative response to complex issues threatening the health and well-being of Americans that was best resolved by the elected branch of government – the Congress. The Court upheld this historic, transformative act of Congress.

“Upholding the ACA brings our nation closer to the goals of this law: to provide universal health care for all Americans. There are still threats to these critical reforms and the League will continue its work fighting for progress on many fronts.

“Now that the law has been upheld, children will no longer be denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions, young adults can stay on their parents’ health plans as dependents until age 26, Medicare participants will have annual check-ups and mammograms, and many uninsured Americans will now have health care coverage.

“Leagues throughout the country will continue to educate communities and Americans on the ACA and its pivotal impact on their lives. Health care for all must be the goal as we expand coverage to millions of Americans and preserve the ACA’s transformational reforms.

“We expressed great hope when the ACA passed Congress in 2010 after decades of struggle. Today, we look to a brighter future, a tomorrow that includes health care coverage for all Americans.”

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.

Board Members 2012-2013

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale
President

Judy Miller, Cornville
Vice President

Liz Danbury, Sedona
Treasurer

Donna Pratt, Sedona
Membership

Robyn Prud'homme- Bauer, Clarkdale
State League Vice President

Rita Livingston, Sedona

Ruth Kiessel, Cottonwood
Voter Service

Off-Board
Kathy Heidepriem
Newsletter and Website

Off-Board
Evie Rowland
Voter Registration

Off-Board
Mary Gassaway
Voter Service

LWVSVV CALENDAR	2011-2012
Date	Event
May 15 th , Tuesday	General Elections in Clarkdale, Jerome, and Sedona
May 17 th , Thursday 1:00 – 3:00 pm	LWVGWV Board Meeting Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse
May 19 th -20 th , Saturday and Sunday Phoenix	LWVAZ State Council
June 9 th -12 th , Saturday – Tuesday Washington, DC	LWVUS Convention
August 28 th , Tuesday	Primary Election Day – Last day to register is July 30 th
November 6 th , Tuesday	General Election Day



League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley

MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I want to join the League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership | \$ 60.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household Membership (2 or more) | \$ 70.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Membership | \$ 85.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership | \$ 100.00 |

Special Fund:

Dorothy Hores Memorial Fund/ LWVAZ Education Fund \$_____

(Membership categories above \$70 are tax-deductible if the check is made out to: LWVAZ Education Fund.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (day/eve) _____

Email: _____

*Fill this page out, and mail it with your check to: League of Women Voters
Greater Verde Valley, POB 966, Sedona, AZ 86339*

lwvsvv@yahoo.com
www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.com

When you become a member of the local League, you also become a member of LWV Arizona and LWV of the United States. Membership is open to all women and men. **Join the League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley NOW!**