



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The VoteR

League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

SEPTEMBER 2010

President's Letter - Upcoming Events

Our summer hiatus is over and it is time to get back to work. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. During July, we held two candidate forums: one for candidates for the State legislature and one for candidates for the U.S. Congress from our district. September 17th through the 23rd is Constitution Week. We will hold a "Verde Valley Voter Registration Week". We will try to set up tables in Sedona, The Village of Oak Creek, and possibly other Verde Valley locations.

On the agenda for the September Board meeting will be the planning for this year's membership event in October. This is always an important even and we look forward to a good attendance.

We need more volunteers. We have several projects that we need dedicated people to work on. Among these are: immigration reform, review of the National Scenic Area legislation and regional involvement in land use issues. No matter where you stand on these issues, we need your input and your voice. Please let me know of your interest so that we can form committees to study these issues.

- *Fran Levengood*

Board of Directors Meeting September 16th

With the approach of fall, regular meetings of the LWVSVV Board of Directors resume and the first order of business is to plan our work for the upcoming months. The September meeting will take place on Thursday, September 16th, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Oak Creek Valley clubhouse. All members are encouraged to attend board meetings, and this first one of the year would be an ideal one to try. Contact Judy Miller, LWVSVV Secretary, for directions to the clubhouse. And, since we are always looking for new members, feel free to bring a friend who might be interested in learning more about the League.

Constitution Week is Voter Registration Week—Volunteers Needed

Constitution Week is an American observance to commemorate the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. It begins every year on September 17th, which is both Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, and runs to September 23rd. Constitution Week was officially enacted on August 2, 1956, by President Eisenhower based on a congressional resolution petitioned by the

Daughters of the American Revolution. The purpose of the observance is to promote study of and education about the Constitution.

As it happens, September is Voter Registration Month for the League of Women Voters! Our League is planning to make it Voter Registration Week in the Verde Valley as well. Evie Rowland is looking for League members from all of our communities to help at voter registration tables. It looks like we will try to set up tables in Sedona, The Village of Oak Creek, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, and possibly other Verde Valley locations.

The dates scheduled so far are: Walgreens in Sedona, on September 17 from 9:00 to 4:00; and Weber's IGA in The Village of Oak Creek on September 18, from 9:00 to 4:00

If anyone would like to help for a couple of hours, please contact Evie Rowland at 282-0039. We will have help and information available to help make registering voters a pleasant experience !

Voter Service

Candidate Forums: Our Voter Service Committee is planning several fall candidate forums and will be asking the Arizona Secretary of State's Office to provide a forum on November ballot propositions as they have in the past. Dates and locations have not been confirmed yet, but we hope to host forums for U.S. Congressional District 1, State Representatives and State Senators; Sedona Oak Creek Fire District, and Sedona Oak Creek School Board candidates. A forum for Clarkdale-Jerome School District is under consideration. Candidate willingness to participate, of course, is critical to these forums.

Statewide Races: Over the next few weeks, there will be televised debates among candidates for the following statewide offices. Look for them on PBS Channel 8 at 7:00 p.m.

September 15: Superintendent of Public Instruction - J. Huppenthal and P. Kotterman
September 22: Secretary of State - K. Bennett and C. Deschene
September 29: State Treasurer: A. Cherny, D. Ducey, and Thane Eichanaue
October 4: Arizona Corporation Commission – D. Bradley, B. Burns, R. Fowlkes, J. Garcia, T. Gomez, B. Perry, G. Pierce
October 6: Mine Inspector - M. Cruz and J. Hart

Voter Guides: The League of Women Voters of Arizona has prepared a Voters' Guide to the 10 ballot propositions that will be voted upon in November. Our league distributes copies of these guides throughout the Verde Valley, so we may be calling for volunteers to help with this simple but important job. Please step up if you can.

Briefly, the ballot propositions for 2010 are:

PROPOSITION 106 - HEALTH CARE SERVICES; DIRECT PURCHASE

Would amend the Constitution to prohibit any law that requires a person, employer, or health-care provider to participate in a health-care system. It would allow a person or employer to pay a provider directly and would allow a provider to accept direct payments – both without penalty.

PROPOSITION 107 - PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OR DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITION

Would amend the Constitution to prohibit affirmative action programs which provide preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, color ethnicity or national origin in public employment, public education and public contracting. Some programs of affirmative action are exempt from the ban.

PROPOSITION 109 - HUNTING AND FISHING; CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Would amend the Constitution to give Arizona citizens the right to lawfully hunt, fish and harvest the wildlife.

PROPOSITION 110 – STATE LANDS; MILITARY INSTALLATION PRESERVATION

Would amend the Constitution to allow the state to dispose of or manage state trust lands, without advertisement or auction, to avoid uses that would interfere with military installations or operations, and/or to enable military readiness, testing, and training. It would also allow the state to exchange state trust land for other public land. The exchange must be in the best interest of the trust, and either for the purpose of protecting military facilities from encroaching development or for the proper management, protection or public use of state lands. Such an exchange must be approved by the voters at a statewide November general election.

PROPOSITION 111 - LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, SECRETARY OF STATE

Would amend the Constitution to rename the office of Secretary of State (SOS) as the office of Lieutenant Governor, beginning with the term of office that starts in 2015. The Lieutenant Governor, elected in 2014, would handle all the duties currently performed by the SOS, including assuming the position of Governor if that position is vacated during the term of office. Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor would run separately during the primaries, but in the general election the selected nominees from each party would run on a single ticket.

PROPOSITION 112 - INITIATIVES; FILING DEADLINE

Would amend the Constitution to require that initiative petitions be filed at least six months before the date on which the measure will be voted on. Under current law, initiative petitions must be filed at least four months before the date on which the measure will be voted on. The beginning date allowed for signature collection would not change so the process would be reduced by two months.

PROPOSITION 113 - RIGHT TO VOTE A SECRET BALLOT

Would amend the Arizona Constitution to guarantee the fundamental right to vote by secret ballot where a local, state or federal law permits or requires an election, designation or authorization for employee representation.

PROPOSITION 203 - ARIZONA MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT

Would require the Arizona Department of Health Services to organize and regulate a system of non-profits to maintain and distribute marijuana for medical purposes, as well as a registration system for patients to receive it and a certification system for doctors to recommend it. It thus decriminalizes the distribution and use of medical marijuana.

PROPOSITION 301 - LAND CONSERVATION FUND; REVERSION (GROWING SMARTER ACT)

Would transfer the remaining balance in the Land Conservation Fund (approximately \$123 million) to the general fund to be used to help balance the state's budget. The Land Conservation Fund consists of monies appropriated from the state general fund and monies received as donations. \$20,000 was appropriated annually for 11 years from the general fund. The final appropriation is scheduled in fiscal year 2010-2011. Monies in the fund must be used to award grants to: 1.) acquire and conserve state trust land or development rights in state trust land and 2.) implement conservation based management or reduce production on state lands leased for agricultural purposes.

PROPOSITION 302 - EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT; HEALTH; REPEAL (FIRST THINGS FIRST)

Would repeal the voter-initiated Early Childhood Development and Health Program (First Things First) and redirect its tobacco-tax funding to the state general fund, to be used for health and human services for children. It would transfer any remaining uncommitted monies to the state general fund on December 1, 2010. The purpose is to help balance the State budget.

The LWVAZ Voters' Guide provides plain-English and accurate nonpartisan information on these propositions and can be accessed via our website at www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org.

General Election Information

Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2010; polls open 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Deadline to register: October 4, 2010

Early voting begins: October 7, 2010

Last day to request an Early Ballot: October 22, 2010

Online Voter Registration: www.vote411.org

Arizona Elections and Voter Information: www.azsos.gov

For additional information about LWVSVV candidate and issue forums, contact Voter Service Chair Mary Gassaway via e-mail at lwvsvv@yahoo.com.

Member Information

Thank you to all who have renewed your membership. If you haven't already, please make your check out to LWVSVV at your earliest convenience. We currently have 25 individuals and 7 families who have renewed. This is close to the membership we budgeted for this year: 28 individuals and 11 families. We budgeted to collect \$1975 in dues and have collected \$1625.

We have no new members since the new fiscal year began in July. Please invite people you know who might be interested in our work to consider joining the league. Annual dues are \$45 for an individual and \$65 for a family membership. Checks should be sent to LWV of Sedona-Verde Valley, PO Box 966, Sedona, AZ 86339.

Because our budget is tight again this year and there are many projects we would like to work on, we need to grow our membership. We have lost the small amount of funds we used to receive from Bashas' Shop and Give rebate program (not available this year), so will be looking for new fundraising ideas as well.

Report from the League of Women Voters of Arizona

The League of Women Voters Arizona board meeting was held on August 28 at the new office of LWVAZ in Phoenix. Here are a few highlights from the meeting:

- The **AZ Executive Reorganization study** material will be sent out to local Leagues in November. The study's scope covers the executive branch of the Arizona government including a section on the role of a lieutenant governor. There is a ballot measure on the November ballot – Proposition 111 that would create a lieutenant governor position. The outcome of this proposition will certainly add to the discussion of this issue.
- **LWVAZ PUBLIC ADVOCACY FOR VOTER PROTECTION PROJECT (PAVP)**: The focus of the LWVAZ project is to reach community organizations in areas where DES offices were surveyed in Phase I of the project and ask them to sign on to a letter with LWVAZ and Project Vote. Project Vote has commitments to participate from three large organizations headquartered in the Phoenix area, but with statewide presence. LWVAZ project has focused on more grass roots community organizations cross the state. The intent was to include the smaller local groups directly working with DES clients. To date LWVAZ has commitments from five community organizations and possibly seven more.

The Dept. of Justice has issued new guidance on the implementation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). LWVUS staff said that the efforts in AZ of the League and Project Vote were instrumental in this happening. LWVUS reported that the new census count is also important for this project.

- **LWVAZ** has joined a group, created by AZ Public Interest Research Group (AZ PIRG), which supports more transparency in where taxpayer money is going. The group is also pushing for a central website where citizens can search all state revenues and expenditures.
- **LWVUS President** Elisabeth MacNamara will be in Arizona on September 16-18. President MacNamara will be visiting a LWV Metro Phoenix forum on Constitutional issues on Thursday night, September 16, then travel to Tucson for a community meeting being hosted by LWV Greater Tucson.
- **Independent Voter Project: LWVAZ Education Fund** is participating in a voter education project in three districts in the Tucson area where 66,000 postcards were mailed out to “Independent” registered voters to remind them that they can vote in the primaries. This project is a campaign to remind voters registered as independent their options for voting in a primary election.

NEWS from National League (LWVUS)

National Convention: Local leagues assembled at the National Convention in Atlanta in June to elect new officers and to adopt new program items and policy positions. For a detailed and intriguing report on the convention written by a delegate from the League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County, see <http://nwmc.az.lwvnet.org/ConventionReport.html#Report>. It is highly informative and entertaining reading, less formal than what is usually available from the national level.

Another report from the convention, which appeared in the LWV Greater Tucson Voter, gives a slightly different slant and was prepared by Gini McGirr. She is very active with LWVAZ and a former National League board member. Her report can be read at: http://www.timetovote.info/Newsletter_Aug%202010.pdf. If you have trouble accessing either of these reports, please contact Kathy Heidepriem for an e-mailed copy.

At convention, two new national studies were approved. One of these, the “Federal Role in Public Education,” will focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. Local leagues will have the opportunity to participate in this study if they choose to do so. The subject of the other study is “Privatization” and concerns the contracting out of government work. It likely will have a later start than the education study.

New LWVUS President. The newly elected president of the LWVUS and chair of its Education Fund is Elisabeth MacNamara. Ms MacNamara joined the League in 1983 and has served in leadership roles at all levels – local, state, and national. She served as the Courts/Criminal Justice Chair, Education Chair, and Secretary for the Georgia League, in addition to numerous positions, including President, with the DeKalb League. Professionally, Ms. MacNamara is an attorney, recently retired as deputy chief assistant district attorney in DeKalb County. Ms. MacNamara graduated from Emory University with a B.A. in 1976 and a J.D. in 1979.

Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project (PAVP): This project of the LWVUS Education Fund is gaining visibility on a national scale with its promotion of advocacy on the state and local level to prevent the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens, particularly underserved populations. It calls upon state and local leagues to become familiar with and involved with election offices, procedures and policies in their own jurisdictions. The LWVUS is providing guidance and models showing what problems to look for and how to seek remedies.

Background: In 2002, in the wake of the tumultuous 2000 election, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (“HAVA”) to modernize the nation’s election processes and to help ensure that eligible voters are no longer deprived of the franchise due to administrative errors.

Unfortunately, in many states, politicians have seized on this opportunity as a means of disenfranchising targeted voters through changes in election laws. These new measures have the potential of disenfranchising more Americans than any Election Day problems we have seen in the past: In an effort to fight back, the League of Women Voters is focusing on five specific issues:

1. Oppose ID and positive documentary proof of citizenship.
2. Improve administration of statewide database systems.
3. Guard against undue restrictions on voter registration.
4. Improve polling place management.
5. Improve poll worker training and strengthening poll workers

Special Book Offer and Article from 2010 Convention. Banquet Speaker Robert Cooney, Jr., in celebration of the League’s 90th Anniversary, author Robert Cooney has provided an article, based on the presentation he made at the League's biennial Convention in Atlanta, about the roots of the League in the woman suffrage movement. The article is an easy way to refamiliarize ourselves with the heritage of our historic organization and the brave women who fought for and won the right to vote. Also, for a limited time, Mr. Cooney and American Graphic Press are making available to members and friends of the League autographed copies of his award-winning, richly illustrated history, *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement* (no charge for shipping). [More information and the article are here.](#)

LWVSVV Board Members 2010-2011

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| Francine Levensgood, VOC President | Judy Miller, Cornville Secretary |
| Liz Danbury, Sedona Treasurer | Donna Pratt, Sedona Membership |
| Robyn Prud'homme Bauer, Clarkdale Representative to LWVAZ | Kathy Heidepriem, Sedona Newsletter and Website |
| Pat George, Camp Verde | Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale |
| Voter Service Chair (off board) Mary Gassaway | Voter Registration (off board) Evie Rowland |

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.