

.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](http://www.lwvverdevalley.com)

P.O. Box 966  
 Sedona, AZ 86339


**SEPTEMBER 2013**

## President's Message:

Would you believe that August 6<sup>th</sup> was the 48<sup>th</sup> birthday of the signing into law of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965? And even though it has been a very effective civil rights legislation, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a very basic and important part of the VRA, known as Section 4. This Section provided basic protection against racial discrimination in voting for just about one half of a century. *The Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder* decision helped the U.S. Department of Justice block over 700 racially discriminatory voting measures between 1982 and 2006. At its last re-authorization in 2006, with overwhelming bipartisan support, Congress declared that without the VRA protections, "racial and language minority citizens will be deprived of the opportunity to exercise their right to vote."

The impact of this decision by the Supreme Court will be significant and far-reaching. It will be a shot in the arm for those who are looking for ways to create road blocks (sometimes insurmountable) to voters' rights.

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Ellie Bauer, Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, and Liz Danbury of LWVGCV joined other Arizona LWV leaders at the Membership Leadership Development Conference in Phoenix



## Member Information

**LWVGCV Board Meetings to Resume: The next meeting of the LWVGCV Board will take place on Thursday, September 19th, at 2:00**

As soon as this Supreme Court decision was handed down, several states beat a path to implementing anti-voter laws that will negatively impact rich and poor, young and old. These types of activities are underway in several states where the League of Women Voters had previously succeeded in blocking voter restrictions in the courts and state legislatures. This is only the beginning, unfortunately, for without a strong Voting Rights Act, the ability to keep anti-voter legislation at bay and keep our elections free, fair and accessible is significantly weakened.

We will be advocating for Congress to fix this – to restore the Voting Rights Act to its full strength. And what are we, as the LWV Greater Verde Valley going to do?? Time to get unlazy! Contact me, Liz Danbury, Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Donna Pratt, Kathy Davis and other members of the board.

Volunteer your time, an idea, a job you'll do. The American Dream is shareable. It gets better with each person who has access to it!

### **League Begins Study on Funding of Arizona's State and Local Government**

Our league is participating in an important LWVAZ program to study state and local revenues and how those revenues are allocated. This is a challenging project, but the subject is critical to understanding current governance (and politics). Why not take advantage of this opportunity to learn more? A tentative outline for the study has been developed and a fair amount of background information has been put together. We hope to host some events to further educate ourselves and the public. A study committee is being formed. If you'd like to learn more and possibly to work on this, contact Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, who can also provide League members with the resources currently available. Among them are reports that other State leagues have prepared on this subject.

p.m. at the Yavapai County Complex in Cottonwood, 10 South 6<sup>th</sup> St. (second floor), the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Mingus Ave. All members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. Call Ellie Bauer for information and directions.

**Dues are overdue.**  
**If you have not paid your dues for 2013-2014,**  
**PLEASE send your dues in today! THANK YOU!!**



### **Elections**

**There will be no municipal elections in the Verde Valley this fall, but there are several special budget override elections: Mingus Union High School District, Cottonwood Oak Creek School District and Sedona-**

## League of Women Voters of Arizona

**LWVAZ Talks!** Join our **NEW ON-LINE DISCUSSION** list just for LWV members in Arizona. It is easy to do and you will be able to contact, share and discuss on the list as soon as you are officially 'invited'.

To be invited send an email to Barbara Klein ([drbarbaraklein@120years.com](mailto:drbarbaraklein@120years.com)) or Mary Gresham ([mfgresham1@yahoo.com](mailto:mfgresham1@yahoo.com)) or Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer ([rcpbauer@gmail.com](mailto:rcpbauer@gmail.com)). Please just contact ONE of us.

In the subject line put: Invite to LwvazTalks.

In the body of the email write:

1. Your name;
2. Name of your local League if you are near a Local League ;
3. AND your email address.

Please remember ALWAYS that this is civil discussion and we try to practice non-partisanship. Sign ALL your messages with your name and local League

### **Judicial Selection Law**

*Source: "Capitol Times"*

The Arizona Supreme Court has agreed to fast-track a legal challenge to a law giving the governor a larger selection in appointing judges. The court held its monthly meeting . . . for determining which cases to hear and took the case under advisement, meaning there will be no more briefings or oral arguments.

The law is scheduled to take effect Sept. 12. ...The law increases the minimum number of nominees the Commission on Appellate Court Appointments must send to the governor from three to five. The commission can by a two-thirds vote send just three. Four members of the commission, represented by a "Dream Team" of lawyers that includes six former state Supreme Court justices, sued the state, alleging that the change had to come from voters, not lawmakers. The state (AZ) countered in court filings that the law was simply procedural change to merit selection and the four commissioners have no standing to bring a claim.

**Oak Creek School District of Coconino and Yavapai Counties will conduct all-mail-in only special budget override election on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Voters must be registered by October 7<sup>th</sup> to participate in these elections and ballots will be mailed beginning on October 10<sup>th</sup>.**



## **LWVGWV CALENDAR 2013-2014**

### **September 17**

Constitution Day

### **September 19**

Meeting of LWVGW Board of Directors, Yavapai County Complex, 10 South Sixth Street, Cottonwood. Mingus Room.

### **September 24**

National Voter Registration Day

### **November 5**

Mail in only budget override elections – Sedona Oak Creek, Mingus Union High School and Cottonwood – Oak Creek districts

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**Project Civil Discourse Event Sept. 25th  
Healthy Communities: Conversations Focusing on  
Mental Health**

Join the conversation on the importance of mental health for building healthy communities. A panel of experts will provide background information from three distinct perspectives: advocacy, service provision and the law. Participants will engage in round table discussions to share information and explore challenges.

The Sedona discussion will take place at Sedona Center for Arts and Technology.

Location: 4215 Arts Village Drive, Room #34, Sedona 86336

Contact: Barbara Litrell blitrell@aol.com

**From LWVUS - Your Urgent Action is Needed: Tell Congress to Fix the Voting Rights Act!**

Earlier this summer the U.S. Supreme Court erased fundamental protections against racial discrimination in voting that have been critical in protecting our democracy. The damage to the VRA can and must be fixed – Congress has the power to act swiftly to restore the effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act.

Before adjourning for the August recess, both the Senate and the House of Representatives held hearings to begin discussing solutions to discrimination at the polls and the path forward for the VRA. We were encouraged by what we witnessed, but we need to let our Senators and Representatives know that it is time to act.

**Join with the League of Women Voters and encourage your elected officials to work quickly to restore the VRA to its full strength.**



***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.***

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