

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



The Voter

**League of Women Voters
Greater Verde Valley
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**P.O. Box 966
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May 2016

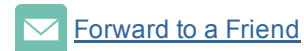
President's Letter

Dear League Members,

If ever the League of Women Voters was an essential organization, now is probably the second most important time since its founding in 1920 to educate women voters about their new right to vote and the responsibilities that go along with it. Today's need to provide men and women voters with information that goes beyond the headlines, tweets and soundbites places the League front and center as the organization providing depth of information on issues to allow voters to cast informed votes. Our voter education series January - April has addressed dark money, education, prisons and public lands. On May 16, our program focuses on the ballot measures coming up to propose legalization of recreational marijuana in Arizona. The series will continue through October. Don't miss it!



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LWVGVV President

Barbara Litrell

Vice President

**Robyn Prudhomme-
Bauer**

Treasurer-Secretary

Mary Gassaway

To learn more about League programs and to have a voice in our 2016-2017 plans and election of officers and board members, be sure to attend the June 4 Annual Meeting. Our guest speaker is Jodi Liggett, currently the Vice President for Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood Arizona, where she oversees reproductive health and rights policy objectives. With a background in law, policy, public relations, human services and nonprofit management, she brings an unusual breadth of experience and knowledge to her work which has led to numerous contributions to media and scholarly research in the areas of poverty, violence against women, homelessness, women's health, women's political participation and voting rights. Her focus for us will be on voting rights. Our state President Shirley Sandelands will be attending our annual meeting and we look forward to her comments as well.

At our Annual Meeting, we will be presenting our first Civic Engagement Leader Awards to three outstanding individuals in our community - Paul Friedman, Andrea Houchard, and Barbara U'ren.

Please email me blitrell@aol.com or call 649-0135 to RSVP to the Annual Meeting Brunch - more details below in this newsletter.

Barbara Litrell

Legalization of Recreational Use of Marijuana is the Topic Program

Arizona voters will likely be voting in the November General Election on whether or not to legalize recreational marijuana. There could actually be two competing ballot measures seeking legalization of marijuana. The Arizona Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act and the Legalization and Regulation of Marijuana Act are being offered as initiatives by separate organizations currently collecting signatures required to make the ballot.

Directors

Kathy Davis

Janet Kissinger



Jodi Liggett, Speaker for
Annual Meeting June 4th

The League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley, in cooperation with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, invites everyone to attend "**The Legalization of Recreational Marijuana in Arizona: Facts and Fiction**," the 5th in a series of voter education programs on Monday, May 16, at Yavapai College. The presentation will take place twice, 9-10:30AM at Yavapai College Sedona, Room 34, and Noon-1:30 PM at Yavapai College Clarkdale, Room G106. The program is free and open to the public.

Our speaker will be Merilee Fowler, Executive Director of two area non-profit agencies, MATFORCE and Community Counts. Under her leadership, MATFORCE has received two prestigious national awards for its work on substance abuse issues.

Call to Annual Meeting 2016

Saturday, June 4, 2016, 10AM-12:15PM

Sedona Elks Lodge, 110 Airport Rd., Sedona

Annual Meeting and Buffet Brunch \$20

Please RSVP by May 28, 2016

Barbara Litrell 649-0135, blitrell@aol.com

9:45 am Registration and Raffle Ticket Sales to Benefit Education Fund

10:00 am Brunch, Welcome, Introductions and Speaker

Voting Rights in Arizona: The State of Our State

Guest Speaker: Jodi Liggett

Jodi Liggett is the Vice President for Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood Arizona, and has worked in law, policy, public relations, human services and nonprofit management. She will be speaking on the topic of voting rights.

11:00 am President of League of Women

Voters AZ Shirley Sandelands



Merilee Fowler, Executive Director of MATFORCE



Mark your Calendar!

League Board

**Third Thursday
Cottonwood
2:00-3:30 p.m.**

May 14th

**Political Book Club
Sedona
1:30-3:30pm**

11:10am Presentation of "2016 Civic Engagement Awards"

11:25am Annual Business Meeting

- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Annual Overview**
 - 3. Approval of 2015 Minutes**
 - 4. Treasurer's Report**
 - 5. Membership Report**
 - 6. Budget Report**
 - 7. Adoption of 2016/2017 Budget**
 - 8. Program Report**
 - 9. Adoption of 2016-2017 Program**
 - 10. Nomination Report**
 - 11. Election of Officers and Director**
- Noon Raffle to Benefit Education Fund**
- 12:15pm Adjournment**

Welcome New Members

We are delighted to welcome these new members to our ranks:

Nita Nettleton, Cottonwood

Carol Rada, Cottonwood

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events!

Special Election, May 17th

On May 17th Arizona voters will be asked to approve Proposition 123 (Education Funding), which would increase the distributions from the State Land Trust Permanent Endowment Fund from 2.5% to 6.9% to benefit Arizona K-12 schools, colleges, and other beneficiary institutions.

Also on the ballot is Proposition 124, which changes Arizona public retirement systems to adjust benefits in the Public Safety personnel system to alleviate underfunding, including a cost of living adjustment indexed for inflation and capped at 2% per year.

May 16th

"Critical Election Issues 2016 - Marijuana Legalization

**Sedona Campus
Yavapai College
9:00-10:30am**

**Clarkdale Campus
Yavapai College
noon-1:30pm**

May 17

**Special Election
Proposition 123,
AZ Education
Financing,
Prop 124
AZ Public Employee
Pensions**

June 4th

**LWVGCV Annual
Meeting, Brunch,
Speaker on Voting
Rights
Elks Lodge,
Sedona
10:00am-12:15pm
RSVP 649-0135**

July 11th

**New Member/
Prospective Member
Meeting/Orientation
5:00-7:00pm
Sedona
RSVP 649-0135**

August 18th

**Women's Right
to Vote Celebration**

Both propositions are Amendments to the Arizona Constitution. The League of Women Voters of Arizona opposes Proposition 123 and urges voters to vote "NO" on Prop.123. The League does not have a position on Prop. 124 and it has few opponents.

On April 27th, the League sponsored a public forum on Proposition 123, Our speaker was Matthew Goodwin, a senior lecturer at NAU's Department of Philosophy, who has studied the language of this legislation in detail. He explained how the bill came about and described many questionable provisions that voters might not realize are there. He sparked a lively conversation among many knowledgeable participants who attended the forum.

Whatever the outcome of the May 17th vote, follow-on action will be needed to assure that funding for education in Arizona is adequate in the long term.

State League News

116 Days of the Arizona Legislature!

The Legislature passed over 100 new bills in this 116 day session. Here is a recap of bills the LWV Arizona tracked and commented on during this past session.

- **HCR2023** Prop 105, legislative authority. Lets Legislature amend any initiative or referendum passed by the voters. It passed in Rules Committee and went nowhere. No Action
- **HCR2043** Initiative & Referendum, voting percentage. Modifies Legislature power to amend, divert funds or supersedes a voter approved ballot initiative and referendum measure. It passed in Rules Committee and went nowhere. No Action
- **SB1516** Campaign finance amendments. It passed the House and Senate and signed by the Governor. **BUMMER!**
- **SB1279** Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Expansion. Vouchers for any kid going to a public school and is on the free or reduced lunch program. It was heard in House COW (committee of the whole) on 3-30 and was held there – No

Vino Di Sedona
5:00-7:00pm

August 30th

Primary Election

November 8th

General Election

National

State

County

Municipal

Ballot Issues



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

action.

- **SB1280** Empowerment Scholarship Accounts, eligibility, administration. Various changes in scholarship empowerment accounts. It had its' 3rd and final reading in the House and was sent to governor and he signed it.
- **SB1457** Empowerment Scholarship Accounts, persons with disabilities, became a strike all bill to pay monies to kids until age 22. It was amended to add KidsCare in House COW (committee of the whole) then sent to the Senate for final reading, and finally sent to the Governor who signed it.
HOORAY For KidsCare!
- **HB2537** Supreme court justices, increase the number. It passed the House and Senate and signed by the Governor. **BUMMER!**
- **HCR2009** IRC, elected membership. Commission members would be elected, not appointed. It passed the Senate Rules on 4-4 but just sat there. No Action.
- **HCR2035** Clean Elections, lobbying, rulemaking. Bars Clean Elections Commission from lobbying. It was heard in Senate COW (committee of the whole) and passed as AMENDED which was to send extra money to the School classrooms. It had its' 3rd Reading and was sent to House for concurrence. The House DID NOTHING. No Action.

Thank you to members who responded to the LWVAZ Action Alerts - you do make a difference!

Also LWVAZ is supporting o the Arizona Clean and Accountable Elections Act Initiative currently gathering signatures for the November ballot. If you are interested in carrying a petitions contact your LWV Greater Verde Valley at lwvgvv@gmail.com.

Voter Services

1. To all voter registration volunteers: Thank you all again for your work on our last voter registration drive throughout the Verde Valley. We will mount our next Voter Registration Drive June 25-July 30 in anticipation

and advocacy.



VOTER REGISTRATION

Let people know that if they have an AZ driver's license they can register to vote or make any needed changes

at:

<https://servicearizona.com>

OR call your County Recorder's

office:

Yavapai: 928-771-3248

Coconino: 928-679-7860

FOR FURTHER INFO:

AZ Secretary of State

www.azsos.gov

OR:



of the August 30 Primary. Voter Registration for the primary ends August 1. Anyone interested and willing to help should let Barbara Litrell (blitrell@aol.com) know as soon as possible; the more workers we have, the easier it is on everyone.

2. We will be holding candidate forums for competitive races in our towns, counties, and legislative and congressional districts. We need members to volunteer to help with this important part of the League mission to educate voters; as we educate others we also educate ourselves.

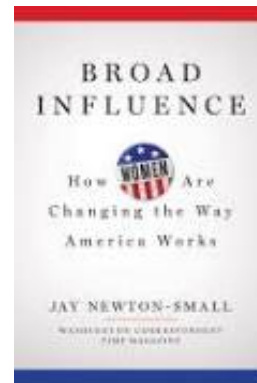
Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer will be having an informational meeting in early June for anyone who might want to help with the forums; there are a variety of tasks involved, including one that will be right for YOU.

Please contact Barbara (blitrell@aol.com) or Robyn (rcpbauer@gmail.com) if you want to sign up or learn more.

Political Book Club

Members of the Political Book Club are finishing up their exploration of "Capital in the 21st Century" on May 14th, and are ready to try something a little lighter. So we are planning to read "Broad Influence: How Women are Changing the Way America Works" by Jay Newton-Small. She is the Washington correspondent for TIME magazine. She's been covering Washington for 14 years, reporting on the White House, Congress, and four presidential campaigns. "Broad Influence," her first book, grew out of her TIME story in October 2013 about the women of the Senate coming together during the government shutdown to help move Congress forward. See what else they have come together to do!

We have room for a few more League members to join in. The meetings are both fun and educational. If you are interested, contact Barbara Litrell (blitrell@aol.com or 649-0135).



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