

CALENDAR & COMMENTS, October 2015



C&C ATTACHMENTS Article Gov. Ducey's Classrooms First Council & October 2015 LWVMP Calendar

LWVUS STUDIES & CONSENSUS THIS FALL

At Convention 2014, delegates chose Key Structures of Democracy as the program for the League of Women Voters for the 2014-2016 biennium. Three **national** committees have been selected to collect and disseminate information on **the process of amending the Constitution, money in politics, and redistricting** in the states. This ambitious undertaking will end by June 2016.

READ UP! CLICK THESE LINKS for information on the [Constitutional Amendment Study](#), [Money in Politics Review](#), and [Redistricting](#) including scope of work, suggested readings and timelines from the League Management website. The key structures of democracy operate at all levels of democracy and reform is needed everywhere, not just in Washington, D.C. Last season, local teams hosted presenters. To review white papers for LWVMP by Dr. Anne Schneider on each national topic, click [Constitutional Amendments](#), [Citizen's United](#) or [Redistricting](#).



ATTEND PHOENIX & EAST VALLEY TEAM STUDY & CONSENSUS MEETINGS

Oct. 14 – Combined Phx Metro Team & EV Team. 9:30am at Terraces, 7550 N. 16th St., Phoenix. Information & Consensus Meeting on Constitutional Conventions/Amendment Process

Oct. 15 – EV Team meets at Marge Thornton's, 400 E Alameda, Tempe, for info on Money in Politics

Nov 11 - Combined Phx Metro Team & EV Team. 9:30am at Terraces. Information & Consensus Meeting on Money in Politics

Nov. 19 - EV Team meets at Marge Thornton's for info on Redistricting

Jan. 13 - Combined Phx Metro Team & EV Team. 9:30 a.m. at Terraces. Information & Consensus Meeting on Redistricting (if consensus questions available.)

REVIEW LWVMP Member Guidebook emailed to members on Sept. 14, 2015. Thanks to Alice Stambaugh and the entire LWVMP Administrative Team for this update.

CHECK OUT new LWVMP Member Directory emailed to members in August. Consider a Carpool to Consensus?

CHOOSE what events you will attend! See the LWVMP Calendar, revised October 2015, attached at the end of this C&C.

PLAN or STAFF an event! What **does** your local group or community team want to host this year? Open events looking for hosts include: LWVMP Day at the Capitol & Capitol Museum; voter registration events; speakers for organizations.

UPDATE ISSUES! With lots of information published lately on LWV position issues, researched updates are always helpful! Articles should include LWV position statement, current details, historical summary, and recommendations to contact appropriate officials. Topics could include: Clean Elections; AZ Education; Top-2 Legislation; AZ Election Reform; Voter Suppression; Planned Parenthood; and Maricopa County.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN LWVMP?

TWO NEW MEMBER ORIENTATIONS HOSTED IN SCOTTSDALE IN SEPTEMBER



The Administrative Team would like to thank Kathy Schwarz and Judy Levine for each hosting a new member orientation and all-member social in Scottsdale.

On the evening of September 11, thirteen veteran, new, and prospective LWVMP members met at Kathy's home and discussed what LWV does, organizational structure, and League mission and philosophy.



In attendance were League veterans Jeanine Starrett, Marge Thompson, Katie Wilke, Olga Strickland, Margot Champagne, Judy Levine and her friend Joanne, brand new member Una Thomas, new LWVAZ & MP office manager Jodi Weisberg, LWVMP Admin Team members Barb Robertson, Rivko Knox, and Lucy Kahlstrom, and presenters Alice Stambaugh and Care Lengel.

On the morning of September 21, eight prospective and five current members met at Judy Levine's home. They were Barbara Gould, Ethyle Komie, Norma Siegal, Joan Lowell, Jennifer Scott, Bev Loomis, Lillian Barker, Loree Janusz, Sandy Schwartz, Saraly Whitefield, and Doris Perlmutter. Care Lengel introduced LWV structure, studies, services, and Judy began the discussion on which activities this group might choose to focus. Interested in joining this newly forming group? Contact Judy Levine at [judlev2@gmail.com/](mailto:judlev2@gmail.com) to attend next meeting on Oct. 22 at 11:30 a.m. It's exciting to see people hungry for information and involvement, so now it's up to LWVMP to help them find it!

WELCOME NEW LWVAZ & LWVMP OFFICE MANAGER JODI WEISBERG

When the public or members contact the office, a new voice will answer! Please help us welcome Jodi Weisberg! Jodi comes to us with skills in law, public relations, and outreach. She will bring her positive approach and previous experiences to benefit League throughout the state. *Contact Office Manager Jodi at <info@lwvmetrophoenix.org>*



MEMBERSHIP GROWTH CONTINUES

LWV Metro Phoenix is in the middle of a membership boom and rebirth. As of Sept. 24, we have eighty-seven – **that's 87** – members! New members have joined LWV with more expected in October and November and several veteran members becoming more active. Welcome to new summer members Lillian Barker; Una Thomas; Paula McKey from LWV Boulder, CO; and Dale Domzalski from LWV Central Yavapai, AZ. We look forward to working with you all!

PHX COMMUNITY TEAM HEARS CHILDREN'S ACTION ALLIANCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD ED

At the September 9 meeting of the Phoenix Team, all 14 people present – a number that includes several prospective members, largely due to the excellent outreach efforts of our Terraces 'hostess,' Beverly Weiss - listened to a very interesting presentation by Kelly Murphy, Director, Early Childhood Policy, Children's Action Alliance (CAA). Murphy spoke about the status of various children's issues from pre-school through K-12 public education. She also distributed copies of an updated CAA "Questions and Answers About AZ's State Budget and Taxes" publication along with a "Who's For Kids and Who's Just Kidding" 2015 Legislative Wrap-up and Report Card for Kids, and a fact sheet about Preschool Development Grants. All are available at www.azchildren.org.

Here are CAA's starting facts about children's issues and education in Arizona:

- * AZ & Kansas are the only states that are still basing child care assistance rates on market rates in 2000!!
- * AZ has the 3rd largest gap between what we reimburse at and what childcare actually costs!!
- * Because of an enrollment freeze in subsidized child care starting in 2009, children in low income families decline from 29,000 in Feb. 2009 to 11,000 in May 2015 (and how many of you think the drop is because there are really fewer low income families or children??)
- * AZ has the 3rd lowest participation in preschool of any state, with 67% of all preschool age children NOT participating!!
- * In 2014, AZ received a 4-year, \$80 million grant from the US Dept. of Ed of which: 35% is being used to develop a high quality preschool system and 65% will go to actually fund such.
- * A high quality preschool = increased training/education for providers/staff including on mental health issues, special needs training etc. leading to teacher certification; AND meeting ratio/group size requirements, conducting individual child assessments, enhanced staff compensation.
- * AZ's K-12 spending per student is 2/3rd of the national average, i.e., \$7,208 vs. \$10,700!!
- * Between FY 08 & FY 15, AZ's K-12 per student spending (inflation adjusted) was cut by 17.5%, the 3rd highest in the US, with the average cut (among the 30 states that did cut spending) being 9.8%!!
- * Both the Governor's education funding proposal (using the constitutionally mandated Land Trust Fund) nor the Legislature's proposal (using some of that plus sweeping the voter approved 1st Things 1st): a) have any details as yet; & b) do not appear to raise the amount of funds per children anywhere near the national average, i.e., a \$300-\$500 increase per child per year!!
- * Within the relatively newly created Department of Child Safety (DCS) which superseded the section within DES devoted to children), the number of non-active cases (e.g., no case notes or service authorization in the past 60 days) has increased to almost 15,000, more than every in the past!!
- * As \$\$ for in-home services has dropped, the number of children in foster care has increased from 15,608 in June 2013 to 17,810 in April 2015!!
- * As of February 2015, the number of cases assigned to each employee within DCS has continued to outstrip the national average!!!

HELP WANTED!

With an increase in member involvement, the LWVMP Administrative Team of Five is seeking assistance.

- On-call voter registration teams to work with Anne Pyron, Voter Services Chair. Soon: Two on Oct. 24!!
- Speakers to address groups about LWV or to accompany experienced Leaguers & learn what to say for future presentations
- Volunteers to work on ballot props (education, local & county) for the 2016 elections with the LWVAZ Advocacy team and assist with fund raising
- A Membership chair to contact new/potential members with Lucy Kahlstrom & Rivko Knox
- A LWVMP Liaison to attend LWVAZ quarterly meetings with LWVMP President Barbara Robertson, vote on important issues on behalf of LWVMP, and report to LWVAZ & LWVMP what each is doing.
- An Event coordinator to plan a trip to Arizona Capitol & Museum with Care Lengel
- A Hostess/coordinator to offer another orientation in central/west Phx with Barbara Robertson

Can you help? Know someone who can?

Contact Office Manager Jodi at <info@lwvmetrophoenix.org>

GET ONLINE WITH LWV! JOIN LWV Facebook pages.

Like us, follow & share!



[League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Phoenix](http://www.facebook.com/lwvmetrophoenix) - www.facebook.com/lwvmetrophoenix

[League of Women Voters of Arizona](http://www.facebook.com/LWVAZ) - www.facebook.com/LWVAZ

Education AZ - Contact Care Lengel LWVMembership1@gmail.com to join the Closed **LWVAZ Ed Finance Study Group** on **Facebook**. LWV members who are interested in participating with this study need to search Facebook for the name **LWVAZ Ed Finance Study Group** and request to be added to the group. Members interested in actively participating and owning a share of this work, please request to join. LWVAZ Ed Finance Chair, Jen Darland, and many of this Ed Finance Study Group live in the Greater Tucson area, but LWV Metro Phx members are welcome too. With all the important issues surrounding Arizona education now, this is a great way to get informed and contribute. This group is working to study AZ education finance and to recommend changes to LWVAZ Ed Finance position statements. Using existing LWV positions, it may also recommend for LWVAZ approval, drafts of statements for committee members to use regarding current education issues.

MORE ON AZ EDUCATION

DISTRICT BONDS & OVERRIDE ELECTIONS NOV. 3, 2015

These school districts are known to have override or bond elections on November 3, 2015. If you know of any additional school elections, contact LWVMembership1@gmail.com to get it included online. To learn the specifics of each election, go online to <http://education.maricopa.gov/Page/257> and scroll down to each district's "November 2015 Pamphlets."

Agua Fria Union- Bond

Ajo – Override

Buckeye elementary – Bond

Cave Creek Unified – Override

Chandler Unified – Bond

Deer Valley Unified - Override

Dysart Unified– Override

Flowing Wells – Override

Fowler Elementary – Override

Gilbert Unified – Override

Glendale Union – Bond

Higley Unified – Override

Laveen Elementary – Bond

Liberty Elementary – Override

Littleton Elementary – Bond

Madison Elementary – Bond

Mingus Union – Bond

Unified – Capital Override

Palo Verde Elementary – Override

Paradise Valley Unified – Bond

Pendergast Elementary – Override

Peoria Unified - Override

Phoenix Elementary – Bond

Phoenix Union – Capital Override

Queen Creek Unified – Override

Riverside Elementary – Override

Saddle Mountain Unified – Override

Sunnyside – Override

Tempe Union HS District – Capital Override

Union Elementary – Bond

Wilson Elementary – Override

GOV'S CLASSROOM'S FIRST INITIATIVE COUNCIL ON "BACKPACK PORTABILITY"

This Council met August 27 to hear reports on the state's educational technology, equity, and incentives. Two LWV Metro Phoenix members, Barb Robertson and Care Lengel, attended. To read more and see the Council's September 22 preliminary recommendations, scroll to the article attached at the end of this C&C.

COUNTY ELECTIONS SEEKS STEP-UP TEENS TO WORK THE POLLS NOVEMBER 2016

County Elections and Recorder lead a STEP-UP Program, Student Teen Election Poll workers Understanding the Power of civic duty. Step-Up seeks to involve the next generation in the democratic process prior to registering to vote. It allows students at least 16 years-old to work at polling places on Election Day, developing a tradition of civic responsibility both as poll workers and voters. Step-Up says, "On Primary and General Election Days Maricopa County is going to need nearly 5,000 Poll Workers to guarantee integrity in the polling place, while ensuring voters receive good customer service enabling them to cast their vote. Will you STEP UP and help?" Encourage your local district & schools to contact April Snow @ 602-506-1519 asnow@risc.maricopa.gov. For more information, go to <http://recorder.maricopa.gov/elections/teenboardworker.aspx>.

LWVMP PARTNERS WITH OTHER LEAGUES & OTHER GROUPS

LWV NORTHWEST MARICOPA COUNTY EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR LWVMP LEAGUERS

Contact Bonnie Saunders Bonniesaur@aol.com to RSVP to any meeting below.

October 2015: Unit Meeting: **10/13: noon:** "ID Theft," Linda Vitale at the home of Lois Brechner.

General Meeting: **10/29: 9:30 a.m.:** Kick-Off Breakfast at Jeana's: Information on LWV/US Study on "Constitutional Processes: Amending the U.S. Constitution" at the home of Jane Merritt – Speaker: Dr. Anne Schneider of the LWV/MP.

November 2015: Unit Meeting: **11/10: noon:** Consensus on LWV/US Study on "Constitutional Processes: Amending the U.S. Constitution" at the home of Bonnie Boyce-Wilson.

General Meeting: **11/19: 7:00 p.m.:** Information on LWV/US Review/Update on "Money in Politics." Speakers: Sharon Wolcott, Moderator; Thomas Collins, Executive Director of the Clean Elections Commission; Jim Pullaro of the Grand Coalition; Tara Jackson, Arizona Town Hall -- at the Surprise City Council Chambers.

December 2015: Holiday Party: **12/3: 4:00 p.m.:** at the home of Patty Lang.

January 2016: Unit Meeting: **1/12: noon:** Consensus on LWV/US Review/Update on "Money in Politics" at the home of Judy Dreskin.

General Meeting: **1/28: 7:00 p.m.:** Speaker on Early Childhood Education – organized by Joyce and John Kohl – Dysart HQ

LWV SUPPORTS JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW & MERIT SELECTION.

Arizona Judicial Performance Review Commission evaluates judges statewide. Only 34 Commissioners serve on this important committee. To apply to serve and help maintain excellence in our courts, go to <http://www.azjudges.info> under contacts to download an application.

LWV CENTRAL YAVAPAI COUNTY & PRESCOTT VOTER SERVICE, BARBARA LITRELL

According to Voter Registration office in Prescott about the March 22 Presidential Preference Election, those not registered to a party cannot request a ballot for a party before the March 22 election. One must be registered to a party able to vote in that election. Pass this on to registered independents.

LWV METRO PHOENIX MEMBERS & AZ WOMEN'S PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF 19TH AMENDMENT AND WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

LWV Metro Phoenix Members celebrated the *95th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment and Women's Right to Vote* at the National Bank of Arizona Conference Center on August 26 in coalition with Arizona Women's Partnership (AWP) www.azwp.org/home.php and other groups.



Suffragists demonstrate in front of White House sometime between 1917 and 1919. Source: Wikipedia

Kathy Schwarz and Judy Levine were present to register voters and LWVMP members Barbara Robertson, Rivko Knox, Anne Pyron, Jeanine Starrett, and Marge Thornton also attended.

All agreed that the address by coordinator and AWP founder Paula Cullison was inspirational. Therefore, with permission of the author, we present that speech in its entirety.

Paula Cullison “One Noted anthropologist, Margaret Mead, once said: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” In recognition of the 95th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, which granted women the right to vote, I want to honor our foremothers and sisters with you.

Let us always remember them: Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Alice Paul and the hundreds of others who showed an enormous strength of courage in the face of adversity. They never gave up. Harassed, attacked, imprisoned and force-fed when they went on a hunger strike, they stood firm. They never lost hope that women would be given the right to vote. President Wilson ‘caved in’ because the public opinion was turning against him. The amendment finally passed by one vote in 1920.

Remember that many of the suffragists were abolitionists first ...they fought to end slavery. Social justice was in the forefront of their minds. The suffragists also set the stage for the labor union movement most notably the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU). Their concerns were for fair wages and working conditions. As it happens, my mother was a member of ILGWU.

Most do not realize that the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was originally introduced in 1923 by Alice Paul. It was finally headed for passage in 1972 until the right-wing conservative moment stop-gapped it. We were only three states short of getting it passed. Unfortunately, the movement for the ERA died in 1982, as it was not reintroduced in Congress.

We gave up, but the suffragists would not have given up. And I say, shame on us for giving up. Momentum for the ERA is building again and it’s up to us to get it passed. The time is now. We deserve it. In the USA, ALL men and women are created equal. In 1979, the world was in awe when the UN presented the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), an incredible, all-encompassing document. To date, 190 nations have ratified it, but unfortunately, we can’t seem to get it through the U.S. Congress. The U.S. is one of the few countries in the world that have not ratified it. Shame on Us for giving up.

A new grassroots movement is afoot called Cities for CEDAW, which aims to “implement a CEDAW ordinance in 100 or more cities at the municipal level by 2016.” We must work to ratify CEDAW, and the time is now. We must work together and see that cities in my state of Arizona (like Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe, Tucson, and Flagstaff)—and cities in your state—are added to the ever-growing list of Cities for CEDAW. Join me to make this happen.

It was Bella Abzug, the former Congresswoman from New York, who was instrumental in having congress designate Aug 26th as Women’s Equality Day. Twenty-four years ago, I invited Bella Abzug to speak in Phoenix on the politics of the environment and eco-feminism. She admonished us: don’t walk softly and carry a lipstick. It’s time for action. Bella emphasized that women must be half of all the decision-makers in all areas: government, business, education, military, peace negotiations, and environmental issues.

Equal pay for equal work is a human right. We must not rest until there is parity. Furthermore, women deserved to be fully recognized. We deserve the ERA and CEDAW. We must not settle for less, and we must not give up. We have work to do, and the time is now. Let us not forget our sisters in their struggle for equality, no matter where they live. As Gandhi said: We must be the change that we want to see in the world.



About the Author

Paula Cullison is the President and Founder of the Arizona Women's Partnership, a nonprofit organization that provides grants to qualified charities that assist underserved women and children in Arizona. She is a freelance travel writer and photographer who is passionate about encouraging students to travel so they can fully understand the interconnectedness of all people. Her photography exhibit, Have Passport—Will Travel, is making the rounds at college campuses. To

learn more about Cullison’s work, visit her website at www.paulacullison.com.

EDITORIALS



Aha! Nuggets or What I Learned This Week *by Care Lengel*

AZ Education: Politics aside, the technology department of the Arizona Department of Education has successfully improved the computer systems used to track school results, student achievement and progress, and funding to districts and schools. That's good news.

With full implementation coming up, new procedures would elicit more accuracy. Now however, it looks like Governor Ducey's hand-picked Classrooms First Council, half from charter schools and half from districts, is following its marching orders toward "backpack portability," making a right turn in the funding formulae so that money will follow an individual child rather than successful programs and schools. The technology department warned that, depending on details, such a change could necessitate big bucks outlay for IT personnel and time to revamp all systems yet again. The Council made its recommendations. Check them out. [Preliminary Recommendations](#) Sept. 22, 2015. See full article below. And be sure to join the LWVAZ Ed Finance Study Group on Facebook.

County Property Tax Bill Increase: Have you received your Maricopa County tax assessment bill yet? Did you read the enclosed letter from Maricopa County Treasurer Charles Hoskins? Wow! Hos places the blame on Arizona State Legislators for shifting taxes from commercial to residential properties. He says, "This burden shift to residential properties caused by both market changes and special interest legislation will be locked in for many years due to passage of Proposition 117 in 2012. Sixty-one of the ninety legislators voted to put Prop 117 on the 2012 ballot and the campaign supporting it was paid for by members of the Arizona Tax Research Association. ATRA membership is comprised of lobbyists for owners of high value properties, and they have been very successful in persuading legislators to give tax breaks to their special interest clients." Hos goes on to repeat, "**Voicing your opinion to anyone other than your legislators will change nothing**" (bold, Hos) and provides the links, address, and phone numbers for the public to respond to their twenty to thirty percent higher tax bills this year. Definitely worth a careful read!



Clean Elections *by Rivko Knox*

LWVMP has begun to attend Citizens Clean Election Commission (CCEC) meetings on behalf of LWVAZ (as our geographic location makes it most convenient for MP to do this.) Thus, LWVMP did have an observer at the August 24 and September 29 meetings, and as a result LWVAZ did submit a public comment regarding proposed rule changes.

Others may do so also by going to <http://www.azcleelections.gov/> In addition to the proposed rule change, the CCEC is focusing on voter education, convening focus groups and conducting surveys to find out what people think about the concept of voting. The comments about the concept have been very positive overall with people using the words "civic pride, important, my duty, my right, my responsibility. However at same time respondents said that the barriers to voting/educated voting are 'overwhelming' to include: too much information, too much noise, too much time (too long a campaign season), no way to easily obtain short, simple, non legalize about candidates/ballot measures. This results in people honestly saying that they don't vote, they 'just guess' or they don't complete the ballot!!! As a result CCEC staff are preparing a smart phone application with voter education at the touch of a fingertip, i.e., dates, polling places and time, links to the Candidate Statements book. They are also working with ASU's Morrison Institute t: a) conduct a study of independent voters – how do they differ from those who select a party & why plus their overall attitudes on issues as compared to those registered within a party; b) find a way to educate voters on ballot measures in a way that 'meets them where they are' & c) revise the Candidate Statement book to make it more relevant & yet include additional information about federal, county, and school district races.

HAVE YOUR OWN AHA! NUGGET EDITORIAL? Send a letter to Jodi Weisberg at the LWVMP Office info@lwwmetrohoenix.org

GOV'S CLASSROOM'S FIRST INITIATIVE COUNCIL ON "BACKPACK PORTABILITY" by Care Lengel

Gov. Ducey's "Classroom's First Initiative" Council met August 27 to hear reports on the state's educational technology, equity, and incentives. Two LWV Metro Phoenix members, Barb Robertson and Care Lengel, attended.

This Council is charged by the governor with "simplifying and modernizing the current school finance code to ensure more funding for teachers and classroom instruction." Specifically, the council asked questions that reflected the governor's intention to move to so-called "backpack" portability, to determine how funding can follow a student to any school of choice. This goal, experts explained, is partly feasible but will require clear definitions and changes in legislation, technology, and policy, and providing that FERPA privacy regulations are included. Also, any changes would need to serve Arizona's 15 county agencies, 230 districts, 1500 district schools, 500 charters, and "over one million students." (ADE)

Mark Masterson, CIO of ADE's Information Technology Division, reported that improvements to the computer system that counts Arizona school students with 25% movement per year; tracks student classes, special needs, and achievement; reports to the state, counties, schools, and teachers; and calculates ADM and payments for public schools had been recreated to better accomplish all tasks. As of this school year, training for all schools will be complete and the old SASE system will be discontinued in favor of the new and improved AzEDS.

Backpack portability, which one council member noted was a term they were no longer to use, could be feasible, if aggregate information required meets the parameters of the new AzEDS system with specific details already collected. However, information about giftedness and transportation are not collected, and other data fields like the number of kids in seats on specific days and changes in special education IEP's are not collected often enough.

Of interest to the council were the report regarding equitable funding. In a new plan, "weighted" school counts, would adjust the algorithm for grade level 6-8 (who attend 1000 hours per year) and 9-12 (who attend 720 hours per year) with none for primary grades; specific school quality or performance; "catastrophic" weights for some SpEd students; and poverty level weights increasing by the number of students in poverty or by school gains. By 2030, 58% of Arizona students will live in poverty and will qualify for free or reduced lunch. The drafted suggestion gave highest weights to high performing schools with the highest poverty levels.

In the end, it was noted that a multiple measure mechanism, which reports more than school demographics as the previous system did in an annual snapshot, would require another overhaul of technological systems with considerable additional staff. But those issues would have to wait for both statutory and regulatory changes.

Want to know more? Read Preliminary Recommendations from the Council on page 2 below.

Have an opinion? Want to speak up? Want to hear what's happening? Attend the following meetings at the State Capitol Bldg. See chart below.

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 2:30 pm 1700 West Washington Phoenix, AZ 85007, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Preliminary recommendations will be presented.

Thursday, October 8, 2015 2:30 pm 1700 West Washington 2nd Floor Conference Room

Thursday, October 29, 2015 2:30 pm 1700 West Washington Floor Conference Room

Thursday, November 19, 2015 2:30 pm 1700 West Washington 2nd Floor Conference Room

Wednesday, December 2, 2015 2:30 pm 1700 West Washington Floor Conference Room

Final recommendations will be presented.

Preliminary Recommendations (AZ Republic, Sept. 22, 2105)

- Eliminate separate funding for higher functioning special-needs students such as those with dyslexia or a speech impairment. The [funds currently dedicated to these students](#) would be moved into the base funding level for all students.
- Fund students with more serious special needs based on the costs determined in the [most recent audit](#) from 2007.
- Fund the existing Extraordinary Special Needs Fund so schools can request emergency help serving high-cost students.
- Create a website where parents can calculate how much their child generates in school funding.
- Eliminate additional funding to districts for experienced teachers; possibly rolling that money into the base amount allocated per student.
- Develop policies to better recruit and retain teachers.
- Continue to rate schools on the A-F letter grade system currently being revised.
- Provide additional funding to A-rated schools as well as B and C schools that have shown significant gains. Higher-performing schools with more low-income students would get more money than schools with fewer low-income students.
- Reward A-rated schools with exemptions from some financial requirements, including annual audits and procurement regulations.
- Require schools to provide financial data at the school level instead of just the district level.

In addition to these recommendations, the council laid out a number of areas it wants to continue discussing: the base-level funding each student gets; additional per-student funding for things such as grade level or rural schools; changing districts' ability to raise money using bonds and overrides; allowing the sale or lease of unused district land or buildings without voter approval; and streamlining teacher certification.

Classrooms First Council Members:

- Governor Doug Ducey Co-Chair
- Jim Swanson, Co-Chair, President/CEO Kitchell
- Alicia Alvarez, Principal, Leona Group, LLC.
- Brian Capistran, School Superintendent, Glendale Unified School District
- Tim Carter, County School Superintendent, Yavapai County
- Susan Chan, Charter Operator, Kingman Academy
- Janna Day, President, State Board for Charter Schools
- Diane Douglas, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Arizona Department of Education
- Annie Gilbert, Director of School Operations & Finance, Ball Charter Schools
- Kenneth Hicks, Chief Financial Officer, Peoria Unified School District
- Beth Maloney, Teacher, Dysart Unified School District
- Greg Miller, President, State Board of Education
- Dawn Wallace, Education Policy Advisor, Governor's Office