



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS® of METROPOLITAN PHOENIX

AUGUST 2016 Calendar & Comments

Celebrate the 19th Amendment Giving Women the Right to Vote!

**August 26th, 5:30 - 7:30pm
Central High School Auditorium, Phoenix, 4525 N. Central**

August 26th marks the 96th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment. League is a part of the coalition of women's groups hosting this year's grand celebration to honor the suffragists who fought for this right.

AZ Congressional Representative Kyrsten Sinema will speak, and there will be a Town Hall discussion featuring Kate Gallego (Phx Vice-Mayor), Laura Pastor (Phx City Councilwoman, and Kate Brophy McGee (AZ State Representative)

Tickets (food and beverage included) at: <http://bit.ly/29WjPEP>

\$10 purchased through August 25th; \$20 at the door

Help Out the Voters -- Be a Poll-Worker!

Come on -- try something new! As of August 11, several *thousand* more poll workers were still needed for the upcoming election on the 30th.

It's a long day (5:30 am to 8:30 pm -ish). But, you'll be providing a great service! And you'll get a small stipend: \$125. Training is in numerous locations, at numerous times, and takes only a few hours. Sign up online at <http://recorder.maricopa.gov/elections/electionboardworker.aspx> OR call 602-506-1511.

LWVMP Democracy in Action

Ballot Issue Discussion and Optional Speaker Training

Thursday, September 8th, 2 time choices

League is already receiving requests for speakers on the 3 ballot initiatives that will be on the ballot in November (we presume, if approved by the courts)! Would you like to learn more about the ballot issues, and/or perhaps be a speaker? Do you know of organizations that would like to have a speaker?

The issues are: The legalization of recreational marijuana
Limitations on hospital executives' salaries
Increase in minimum wage and requirement for earned sick leave

September 8, Scottsdale Congregational Church, Fellowship Hall

4425 N. Granite Reef, just south of Camelback

9:45 am -- Discussion of the issues (as part of Scottsdale Team meeting) --
ALL ARE WELCOME

10:30 am -- Short speaker training for presenters following above

September 8, Keegan's Grill back room, 3114 E. Camelback (by Wells Fargo)

6:00 pm -- Ballot Issue/Discussion and optional speaker training while you eat and/or enjoy a beverage!

Please R.S.V.P. to Alice at 480-947-2095 or office@karlandalice.name

Running and Winning Event, Tuesday, September 13, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm

Coronado High School, in south Scottsdale.

This all-day workshop encourages high school girls to consider public service/politics as a career, as they interact with women who currently hold or have held elected office, and then work on their own mock "campaigns".

Training for interested volunteer facilitators:

Wednesday, September 7th, 3:00 - 4:00 pm at Coronado, Room B156

Contact Janet Larkin, patjanet@juno.com or 480-949-0285.

Voter Guides

We will be distributing thousands of LWVAZ *Voter Guides* on the upcoming ballot issues. LWVAZ hopes to have the Phoenix Metro "lot" delivered to the Stambaugh residence for further distribution on September 2nd. The guides are in both English and Spanish. We have extras for those who did not order any! Contact Care Lengel.

Radio

Care Lengel produced public service announcements about voting which have been running on the nonprofit, internet Phoenix radio station AZCMF (AZ Community Media Foundation). The station can be reached at **www.radiophoenix.org**

Elections 2016

Primary Election, August 30

General Election, November 8

Voter registration deadline: October 10

Early voting begins -- October 12

On our Website

LWVMP President and Webmaster Care Lengal updates the LWVMP webpages weekly, if not daily. Check out the following pages:

Who's Running for Office? <http://lwvmetrophoenix.org/whosrunning.html>

MANY links, including links to AZ Secretary of State, azcentral Voter Guide, Fact Checkers, and Arizona Justice Alliance Survey of County Attorney candidates

Voting in General: <http://lwvmetrophoenix.org/elections.html>

Registration and polling place links, and more.

Ballots and issues: <http://lwvmetrophoenix.org/Issues1.html>

What propositions are on the ballot?

Perhaps you Have Received More Than One Early Ballot?

Between July 1st and July 31st thousands of people in Maricopa County updated their voter registration: changing party, address, name, etc. Most of those changes occurred *after* the County sent the ballots to be printed. So, those voters were sent a new ballot in alignment with their updated information.

Fortunately, Maricopa does not send a new ballot *without* the first ballot requested being disabled. The Secretary of State's Election Procedure Manual states a voter is allowed up to three ballots in the polling place (in case a person makes a mistake on their ballot, for example). Early voters are treated in this same way.

LWVMP Admin Board News

NEW! Updated Member Guidebook now on Members-Only Page

http://lwvmetrophoenix.org/members_only.html

League Organization from Mission and History to Action

We need a Twitter-er!

Do you love to tweet? Can you tweet for the League? This is a really important function, so if even a tiny bit interested, please give us a call at 480-231-6426.

Update, Citizens' Clean Election Commission (CCEC) Drama, Drama and More Drama

You may be aware of ongoing disagreements between the Clean Elections Commission and various State governing bodies.

-- One disagreement has to do with whether the Legislature's recently passed bill, SB1516--which made some major changes in campaign finance law--is legal in regard to the changes it has made in the Commission's ability to enforce the Clean Elections Act and to regulate disclosure of campaign donations. The Commission is asking for public comment re: three options for how it should respond.

LWVAZ has issued a formal comment, urging the CCEC *not* to change its rules (Option 2) based on SB1516, because it is felt that to do so would violate the Voter Protection Act: in other words, voters passed the Clean Elections Act for a reason, and SB1516 neither furthers the intent of that law, nor was it passed by 3/4 of the legislature as required.

You, too, may comment as an individual. Click on [this link](#) and then choose "The Public Can Still Send Comments . . ." for further information.

-- Another disagreement concerns Governor Ducey's recent Executive Order banning the hiring of lobbyists by state agencies etc., and the Commission's position that as it was created by an Initiative, it's authority comes from the initiative/law and cannot be impacted by Executive Orders.

As our Advocacy Chair Rivko Knox says, "In reality this is part of an almost year long intense disagreement between the CCEC and the Executive Branch, i.e., the Governor, his Regulatory Review Commission (GRRC) and the Secretary of State's (SOS) Office over the Commission's authority".

In the August 5, 2016 *Capitol Times*, Jeremy Duda reports that a form "was sent out (by the Dept. of Administration) to all agencies that hire lobbyists asking them to sign it". The Commission has decided not to sign and to request an exemption. We'll see how THAT goes! The Governor has stated that exemptions would be rare.

Rivko Knox attends the CCEC meetings on League's behalf, which we much appreciate.

In the News

Recent items related to LWV positions on elections and education

Voter Fraud?

** "There is a battle for the ballot box that's being fought in the nation's courtrooms: Voter fraud vs. voter suppression." Who's scoring victories? See the article in the Morrison Institute newsletter.

https://morrisoninstitute.asu.edu/blog/battle-over-ballot-box-voter-fraud-vs-voter-suppression?utm_campaign=SFMC_NEWSLETTER+

** In the same newsletter (link above): The County Recorder will not enforce Arizona's new law banning "ballot harvesting" practice.

Automatic Voter Registration

(The LWVAZ will be considering this item as it studies updating its election-law positions this year.)

Several Congressional leaders have recently introduced a bill that would automatically register eligible citizens to vote. "Under the plan, when a citizen interacts with a government agency — for example, to get a driver's license, apply for public services, apply for a license for a firearm, register for classes at a public university, or when becoming a naturalized citizen — she is automatically signed up to vote, unless she declines." <https://www.brennancenter.org/press-release/congressional-democrats-introduce-transformative-automatic-voter-registration-bill#>

8 New Arizona Education Laws Parents Should Know About

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/arizona-education/2016/05/25/new-arizona-education-laws-2016/82619328/>

Statewide Property Tax Among School Funding Proposals for Arizona

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/arizona-education/2016/07/10/statewide-property-tax-among-school-funding-proposals-arizona/86532628/>

Subscribe to LWVUS *The Leaders' Update* found at LWV.org:

Send an email to: database@lww.org

with the Subject Line "Subscribe to Leaders' Update".

[New LWV Positions](#)

In 2016, the National League (LWVUS) adopted 4 positions after in-depth study by state Leagues across the country, or by consensus at the 2016 Convention. To read about *all* of these, go to this link: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/new-and-updated-lwvus-positions-adopted-2016>

Spotlight on Redistricting

One of the major problems in redrawing legislative and congressional districts every 10 years, after the U.S. census, has been that of *gerrymandering*. In gerrymandering, a body with a conflict of interest--usually a state legislature--redraws the electoral districts to favor the party in power. They want to protect their own seats, or maximize the number of seats their party wins, by making sure voters of one party are the majority in as many districts as possible. The result of this gerrymandered system is that rather than having voters selecting their representatives, we frequently have representatives choosing their voters via partisan or bi-partisan gerrymandering. Thus, elections are effectively swayed before they even take place.

Allowing legislators to draw their own maps has long been a concern of many voters and the LWV.

Recently, the LWVUS task force on redistricting reform, on which former LWVAZ president Barbara Klein served, worked on the background and ideas surrounding redistricting, as well as positions that were already adopted by state Leagues. The task force concentrated on the issue of INDEPENDENT commissions to draw lines. The statement prepared by the task force (using language of state leagues) was approved by the board and voted for by concurrence at the 2016 National Convention.

This national position does not supersede any existing state League redistricting position. Instead, it allows state Leagues without a redistricting position to advocate for, or show support of, independent redistricting efforts. The full national position is on the next page.

Arizona was the first state to have an independent redistricting commission (IRC), via Proposition 106 in 2000. "The Independent Redistricting Commission's mission is to redraw Arizona's congressional and legislative districts to reflect the results of the most recent census. The concept of one-person, one-vote dictates that districts should be roughly equal in population. Other factors to be considered are the federal Voting Rights Act, district shape, geographical features, respect for communities of interest and potential competitiveness. The state Constitution requires the commissioners – two Republicans, two Democrats and an independent chairwoman – to start from scratch rather than redraw existing districts." See <http://azredistricting.org>

To create the IRC, a Commission on Appellate Court Appointments creates a pool of 25 nominees, ten from each of the two largest parties and five not from either of the two largest parties. The highest-ranking officer of the House appoints one from the pool, then the minority leader of the House appoints one, then the highest-ranking officer of the Senate appoints one, then the minority leader of the Senate appoints one. These four appoint a fifth from the pool, not a member of any party already represented on the commission, as chair. If the four deadlock, the Commission on Appellate Court Appointments appoints the chair.

LWVUS Redistricting Position in Brief: (Concurrence 2016)

Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

Redistricting Position:

1. Responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.
2. Every redistricting process should include:
 - a. Specific timelines for the steps leading to a redistricting plan;
 - b. Full disclosure throughout the process and public hearings on the plan proposed for adoption:
 - i. Redistricting at all levels of government must be accomplished in an open, unbiased manner with citizen participation and access at all levels and steps of the process,
 - ii. Should be subject to open meeting laws;
 - c. A provision that any redistricting plan should be adopted by the redistricting authority with more than a simple majority vote;
 - d. Remedial provisions established in the event that the redistricting authority fails to enact a plan. Specific provisions should be made for court review of redistricting measures and for courts to require the redistricting authority to act on a specific schedule:
 - i. Time limits should be set for initiating court action for review,
 - ii. The courts should promptly review and rule on any challenge to a redistricting plan and require adjustments if the standards have not been met.
3. The standards on which a redistricting plan is based, and on which any plan should be judged, must:
 - a. Be enforceable in court;
 - b. Require:
 - i. Substantially equal population,
 - ii. Geographic contiguity, and
 - iii. Effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities.
 - c. Provide for (to the extent possible):
 - i. Promotion of partisan fairness,
 - ii. Preservation and protection of “communities of interest,” and
 - iii. Respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties.
 - d. Compactness and competitiveness may also be considered as criteria so long as they do not conflict with the above criteria
 - e. Explicitly reject:
 - i. Protection of incumbents, through such devices as considering an incumbent’s address, and
 - ii. Preferential treatment for a political party, through such devices as considering party affiliation, voting history and candidate residence.

This position does not supersede any existing state League redistricting position.

Calendar and Website

The Calendar is constantly updated on our website at lwvmetrophoenix.org. Click on 'calendar' in the left side menu. Or click here: <http://lwvmetrophoenix.org/calendar.html>

Highlights

Ballot Issue Training

Thursday, September 8th (see article this issue)

Running and Winning Event

September 13, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm (see article this issue)

LWVMP Facebook Event: U.S. Constitution Day.

Celebrate the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

Saturday, September 17th. More info to come.

LWVMP Facebook and Twitter Event: National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday, September 27th

Visit LWVMetroPhoenix.org and click to see us on Facebook or Twitter for the Metro Phoenix Voter Registration events online and in-person! More info to come.

Public Forum for Candidates for U.S. Senate

Monday, October 10, 6 pm

Performing Arts Center, Mesa Community College

Hosted by LWVAZ and broadcast partners

Broadcast live statewide on radio and television

A small number of volunteers will be needed to help with the event: front door/lobby area; green room; media room; stage coordinator; theater and timekeepers.

To volunteer or to learn more, go to <http://2016.lwvaz.com>.

Volunteer training will occur the evening of the event.

If you have any questions, please email Bob Richardson at 2016@lwvaz.com

There will be questions -- both from a panel of journalists and questions submitted by Arizonans as solicited through LWV websites and the websites of our broadcast partners *prior* to the event only. The moderator will select those questions.

LWVMP Community Team Meetings – All may attend anywhere!

East Valley

1) Convening a "What's Next for the East Valley League?" Meeting

Thursday, September 22nd, at 11:30 a.m. (brown bag lunch)

Marge Thornton's home, 400 E. Alameda, Tempe, 480-966-6053 for more info.

2) Hosting Book Discussion Group -- All are Welcome!

Thursday, September 29th, at 11:30 a.m. (brown bag)

Marge Thornton's home, 400 E. Alameda, Tempe, 480-966-6053 for more info.

The book is *Notorious RBG* by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik. RBG stands for Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Supreme Court Justice.

Scottsdale Team Meeting

Thursday, September 8, 9:30 am

Scottsdale Congregational Church, 4425 N. Granite Reef

We will be learning about the ballot initiatives that will be on the November ballot. Call Judy Levine (480-907-6800) for more info.

Phoenix Community Team Meeting

Wednesday, September 14th, 9:30 am refreshments, 10 am program

The Terraces, 16th St. between Glendale Ave. and Northern (turn west on Morten: 7550 N. 16th St.)

Speaker and League member Bonnie Saunders will discuss the recent National Convention.