

1.23.17 - ACTION ALERT

**Legislative Bill#: HCR2004: clean elections repeal;
education funding**

LWVAZ position on this bill: **OPPOSE**

**HCR 2004 (Rep. Vince Leach), which would put on the
ballot a referendum to defund Citizens Clean Elections.**

LWVAZ was instrumental in the creation and then passage of an Initiative to create the Citizens Clean Elections Commission; and has supported it's existence ever since. Now it is time for LWVAZ to stand up and let our Legislators know that we continue that support. Clean Elections not only takes a lot of money out of political races and thus encourage candidates to speak and listen to their constituents – and has allowed a broader more diverse group of candidates run for office – but it also is the leading entity in AZ on voter education efforts, which provides such for often very cash strapped cities, towns, counties, and the Native American community, helping to people understand how to register, how to vote and how to be an informed voter, which is what LWV has always encouraged and stood for. We recognize that this bill would provide more funding to public schools, which LWVAZ has also supported – based on the AZ Constitution which mandates such – but LWVAZ believes that there are many other mechanisms available to the AZ Legislature to provide such increased funding that should not be in conflict with the goals of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission.

For those interested, here's the link to the bill.

<https://apps.azleg.gov/BillStatus/GetDocumentPdf/445475>

Member Action: This bill will be heard Wednesday, January. 25 at 2pm in the House Appropriations Committee, so it's time to make your voices heard! The committee members are:

Chairman Rep. Don Shooter (LD13), [602-926-4139](tel:602-926-4139); Vice-Chairman Rep. David Livingston (LD22), Rep. Russell Bowers (LD25), Rep. Heather Carter (LD15), Rep. Regina Cobb (LD5), Rep. Vince Leach (LD11), Rep. Jill Norgaard (LD18), Rep. Tony Rivero (LD21), and Rep. Michelle Ugenti-Rita (LD23), Ranking Member Rep. Lela Alston (LD24), Rep. Mark Cardenas (LD19), Rep. Ken Clark (LD24), Rep. Charlene Fernandez (LD4), and Rep. Randall Friese (LD 9)

Ways to take action:

1. If you are signed up for the legislature's "Request to Speak" system, please sign in opposed to HCR 2004 before Wednesday afternoon. Your name and opposition to the measure will be read into the legislative record.
2. If you live in one of these members' districts or even if you don't - PLEASE email or call their office and urge them to protect Citizens Clean Elections. Here is the link to the list of state legislators: <http://www.azleg.gov/memberroster/>

Key points to use when making your comments known:

1. Important that Arizona keep a system that has allowed countless candidates to run without having to raise money from lobbyists and special interest groups
2. A leading entity in providing voter education efforts statewide
3. This is not an appropriate trade-off for more funding for education. Adequate and increased education funding

should not be in conflict with the goals of the Citizens Clean Election Act.