

My name is Rivko Knox and I am very pleased to be here today to speak on behalf of the over 800 members of the League of Women Voters of AZ. The League is a very political, progressive AND totally nonpartisan organization, which means we study and take positions on issue but we never support or oppose a candidate.

Both the League and I are passionately committed to the concept that the right to vote is a critical principle of our democracy; that the arc of the American story continues to bend toward providing the vote to an ever broader group of people, in ways that encourage more and more people to exercise that right by making voting accessible, simple and a point of pride for everyone!!! This should not be surprising to those who know the history of the League, which of course began as a struggle to allow women to vote here in this country...a multi year struggle that culminated in the 19th amendment to the US Constitution adopted in 1920-- tho I must proudly say that we here in AZ gave women the vote 8 years earlier!!

Today the President's Commission on Election Integrity, also known as the Pence Kobach Commission, or PCEI, meets for the 2nd time in New Hampshire. This Commission is a flawed entity since it was created, based on an unsubstantiated statement by the President that about 3 million individuals voted illegally in the 2016 Presidential election. However, every single study made by every reputable organization,

institution and university in the United States has shown that intentional voter fraud is very very very very rare. Further, every prior Presidential Commission on voting has been focused on expanding the vote, making it easier for people to vote, and providing federal assistance to states to help them ensure that the voting process is as efficient, fair and accessible to all as possible.

Further, this PCEI, is co chaired by a person, Kris Kobach of Kansas, who has a long history of attempting to suppress voting rights by curtailing registration, early voting, complicating the registration process, losing court cases for suppressing the rights of citizens to vote in his home state of Kansas & the one who created the Interstate Voter registration Crosscheck program that has resulted in the removal of a large number of people supposedly registered in more than one state -- a process that singles out Black, Hispanic and Asian surnames.

Among the prior actions of the PCEI, that lessen faith in its ability to carry out any actions relating to 'voter integrity' was an initial meeting, via telephone, conducted without providing notice, let alone participation by the public, followed by a 'strange' request to all the states for all voter data, including social security numbers, voting histories, party affiliations, with this request issued without any prior consultation with the chief elected officials of any states, who would have immediately explained that this request invaded voters' privacy -- which these chief elected officials are sworn to protect!!!!

This Commission is targeting the wrong issue. WHY this Election Commission is even focused on voter fraud???

When only about 60% of the eligible voting age population in the US voted in 2016, when 34 states have restrictive voter laws, when many people are prohibited from registering because of onerous ID requirements, when some can not make it to the polls because polling locations are difficult to reach, when voters who move too close to an election are prohibited from voting, when those who are out of prison but owe restitution --a form of a poll tax -- are prohibited from registering to vote, when the US ranks 31st out of the 35 nations with functioning democracies in terms of voter turnout - - any Presidential Commission on voting should be targeting barriers to voting, not focused on creating more!!! .

Rather than the federal government spending precious time and funds on this voter suppression commission, the League urges the President and Congress to address the real issues facing voters nationwide, which include: the lack of protection provided by the Supreme Courts action invalidation of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the lack of funds for new, more secure voting equipment and training for voting officials, the lack of encouragement and guidance to all states on how to expand voting by addressing the growing problems of disenfranchisement of too many people, whether ex felons, those who cannot meet restrictive voter ID laws and those who lack transportation to polling places, This Commission should

instead be focused on encouraging states to adopt automatic voter registration, universal registration, permanent portable registration and focusing on increased, easily accessible voter education.