



Voters Voice of Metropolitan Phoenix, Nov. 11, 2017

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CALENDAR

★ LWVMP Holiday Luncheon

December 9 from 11:30AM to 1:30PM at The Terraces. Cost: \$20. [Register Now Online!](#)
Or call Rivko Knox (H) 602-942-6436.
Pay online, by check or at the door.

Speaker: Jodi Liggett: Vice President of Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood, Inc.; Senior Policy Advisor to Mayor Greg Stanton; Former CEO, Arizona Foundation for Women.



Directions to The Terraces: 7550 N. 16th Street, Phx. North of Glendale; west at light on Morton for 1/2 block. Parking: Parking lot on the south side (look for some fountains.) Also at the office building across the street or one just a short distance further west on Morton.

★ LWVMP Community Team Schedules

Phoenix Community Team Meetings (2nd Wednesdays) at The Terraces.

*Dec. 13 - Phoenix Community Team Mtg. 9:30AM - 11:30AM

Contact Info: Rivko Knox can be reached (H) 602-942-6436

Scottsdale Community Team Meetings (2nd Thursdays) at Judy L's, Hayden/Via Linda

*Dec. 14 - 9:30AM - 11:30AM.

Call Judy L. at 480-907-6800 for address/directions.

East Valley Community Team Meetings (3rd Thursdays)

*Dec. 21 - East Valley Team meeting has been cancelled. Members all plan to go to the LWVMP Holiday Luncheon on December 9, 2017.

Phx Evening Community Team Meetings (3rd Thursdays)

*Dec. 21 – Phx Evening Team meeting is cancelled. Reschedule to Jan. 6 – volunteer at St. Mary's Food Bank.

Jan. 8 , 2018 AZ Legislature Opens

Feb. 7, 2018 League Day at the Legislature. Registration form & agenda coming soon. Attendees will be encouraged to set up a meeting with their own state legislators to provide elected officials or staff with materials & information about LWVAZ and our main legislative priorities for 2018.

YOUR LEAGUE AT WORK

★ LWVMP President Michelle Dorsey Represents LWVUS at UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany: *Aims for Further, Faster Ambition Together*

LWVMP President Dr. Michelle Dorsey answered a call for delegates to the 2017 Climate Change Conference from LWVUS this summer and was selected as NGO Delegate for LWVUS. LWV split up the 2-week conference, with 3 people going the first week and 3 the second week. That means Michelle is there at the end when all the serious negotiation happens. LWVMP congratulates our president, wishes her safe travels, and will await her reports.



UN Climate Change Conference News, Bonn This year's UN Climate Change Conference kicked off with strong, unified calls to hold to the path of the Paris Climate Agreement as this year's background of destructive hurricanes, fires, floods, droughts, melting ice and impacts on agriculture threaten food security. "All over the world, vast numbers of people are suffering – bewildered by the forces ranged against them. Our job as leaders is to respond to the suffering with all means available to us," said newly elected COP23 President, Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama. "This means to meet our commitments in full, not back away from them." Mr. Bainimarama said that Fiji is working to build a "Grand Coalition" throughout the year between governments at every level, civil society, the private sector and faith-based organizations. UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa said: "Together with the Sustainable Development Agenda, we have a clear path forward to truly address climate change and sustainable development."

More on the [Climate Change Conference](#)

★ **Voter Services Providing Voter Registration at Phoenix Indian Medical Center**

Gerry Corey sends kudos to League members who supported PIMC registration events. Two more to go. Can you help [Contact Gerry](#)

- November 18, 2017, 9am - 1pm, 4212 N. 16th St. Phx, AZ 85016
Register voters at PIMC Mega Health Activity Fair on the Patio.
- December 16, 2017, 9am - 1pm, 4212 N. 16th St. Phx, AZ 85016
Register voters with Indian Health for Holiday Indian Market Day.

★ **Observer Corps Keep an Eye on Government. LWVMP Thanks Observers**

Rivko Knox	Clean Elections Commission
Mary Schneider	Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAP)
Joan Powers	Maricopa County Elections/Citizen Academy
Bill Poole	Arizona Corporation Commission
Deb Gain-Bradley	Tempe City Council
Nancy Bell	Glendale City Council
Denise Sanderson	Phoenix City Council
Jana Lynn Granillo	Maricopa Integrated Health System

Mary Schneider, Chairperson Observer Corps, noted Jana Lynn Granillo was October's Most Active Observer Corps Member! Special thanks to Jana Lynn!

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

★ **We the People Nov. 4 Summit with LWVAZ & LWVMP**

Thank you to MP League leaders Rivko Knox and Michelle Dorsey for your contributions to the We the People Steering Committee! All reports are that this Summit was another resounding success!



Michelle Dorsey, Anne Pyron & Rivko Knox at LWV table

From LWVNWMC, Linda Napier said, “A great day at the We the People Summit! Rivko and Michelle got there early and got a fantastic location for our table directly



*Valerie Ellien, Linda Napier,
Lynne Leonard & Michelle*

in view as people came up the elevator! Adrian Fontes kicked off the Summit with a very inspiring, passionate keynote, to keep going even when things get really tough. The words he asked us to keep top of mind were, ‘If it is to be, it is up to me.’ We all attended fabulous educational and informational sessions during the day, had a great time meeting new people, networking and gaining new members!” LWVMP looks forward to the third We the People Summit coming next year!

★ **With Voice of the People (VPA,) Former AZ Attorney General Terry Goddard Launches Initiative Against Dirty Money**

From AZ Capitol Times & Howard Fischer, “A former state attorney general wants Arizonans to vote to constitutionally ban anonymous donations from political campaigns. Terry Goddard is crafting a ‘right to know’ initiative that would guarantee in the state constitution that voters are entitled to know who is trying to sway their votes on who to elect for everything from statewide offices to school board members. The measure which Goddard hopes to put to voters a year from now, also would impose the same requirements on those pushing future ballot measures. Campaign consultant Bob Grossfeld said the effort starts with redefining for voters exactly what it is they are trying to curb. And that comes down to using new terminology. ‘We’re done with this whole *dark money* nonsense,’ Grossfeld said, ... that’s technically neither a legal term or even one with an actual formal definition. ‘We look at this as *dirty money*,’ he said. ‘This is no different than criminal syndicates who are laundering money...It’s for the same purposes: to hide the people behind it.”

From Terry Goddard, “As we wrote recently, before we launch the huge task of gathering thousands of signatures, we want to be as sure as possible that we got the Outlaw Dirty Money proposition right. The dirty money forces will attack every



misplaced comma. You will see right away that this Initiative Measure is a petition to amend the Arizona Constitution. It will require a minimum of 225,963 valid signatures of Arizona voters! Outlawing Dirty Money is so important, and the majority in the Legislature and most state

officials are so hopelessly committed to protecting Dirty Money, that we decided the extra effort was needed. Let's put this into our Constitution, where they cannot fiddle with it!

"The basic idea is very simple: we have the right to know where all the money in politics came from. Period. This Arizona Constitutional Amendment requires that the person who spends over \$10,000 trying to influence an Arizona election must disclose the original source of the money. Not just who wrote the last check in a long series of transfers designed to hide the real contributor, but who wrote the first check from their own funds. We have the right to know!

"Please read the draft petition text on our [Voice of the People website](#) with a critical eye, considering all the implications... We need your input."

Listen in to interview with [Terry Goddard on NPR](#)

★ LWVAZ, ACLU & Others Demand AZ Secretary of State Correct National Voter Registration Act Violations

Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and other groups have sent a demand letter to the AZ Secretary of State informing her that the office is not compliant with sections of the National Voter Registration Act that requires affirmative steps be taken to ensure those coming to state offices like MVD and DES for services be encouraged to register to vote. Because not all required actions are being taken, the number of persons registering to vote at such state facilities has decreased significantly over the last few years while AZ's population and those seeking assistance at DES and related service offices has greatly increased. LWVAZ will keep members and the public informed of the state's progress toward full compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA.)

★ "Disagreement and Civil Dialogue on American Politics and Civic Culture with former Sens. Tom Daschle & John Kyle - Notes by Alice Stambaugh

On October 12, 2017, **U.S. Senators Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and Tom Daschle (D-SD)** appeared at ASU on the stage of Katzin Concert Hall to engage in a civil discussion on the topic of "Disagreement and Civil Dialogue on American Politics and Civic Culture." The event was second in the "Free Speech & Intellectual Diversity in Higher Education and American Society" series sponsored by the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership and co-sponsored by the Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law at Arizona State University. Below are notes from this event.



Why isn't our democracy working well right now? Both agreed on these items.

- Disagreement about the role of government in America
 - Rigid ideology leading to "stand your ground" vs. "find common ground"
 - Global-engagement fatigue (there are anti-engagement planks in both parties now)
 - Inequality and income stagnation (e.g. huge increase in # of hours needed to work to pay average rent)
 - Emerging cultural divide -- culture drives politics, media and Hollywood and talk shows amplify and appeal to worst of our natures
 - Everything is instantaneous -- no time to think things through
- All of above impacts ability to solve problems/govern: leads to increase in violence and loss of credibility in the world. We **MUST** engage people to participate in our democracy. When we have an informed and engaged citizens, democracy works. Also, we need responsible and engaged leaders.
- NEEDED: The teaching of basic civics

Why isn't Congress working well now? Again, both agreed on these.

- Rules and norms have changed re: what is acceptable professional behavior
- Filibustering is easier to do: Instituted double-tracking (*a procedure to keep the Senate going during a filibuster, whereby a disputed bill is temporarily shelved so that the Senate can go on with other business*)

- Increase in virtual filibustering (*a silent or virtual filibuster requires no effort other than telling the Majority Leader that there are 41 members opposed to a bill so that a cloture to end discussion & vote won't work*)
- Airplanes allow leaving on Thursday, returning Monday evening -- 3-day work week
- 50-70% of time spent raising money for next election
- Lack of effort to socialize
- Social media pundits, and also talk radio hosts, make contact with a Congressperson's constituents, often enraging them and threatening legislators' careers
- Constituent base is far more confrontational -- saying "no" to compromise
- C-Span has changed things: good things about it (transparency) but huge contrast in how issues are debated in Congress when C-Span is turned off (more candor, and less fear of retribution)

Biggest Problem: Members being vilified for compromising. So much focus on elections, that Congress can't govern. But 70% of people don't vote!

Fixes (these things were all happening when Daschle and Kyle were in office):

- Require 5-day work weeks three weeks out of every month
- Have more joint caucuses (increases socializing and in-depth discussion)
- Set important votes for Monday mornings.

Debate on pros/cons of carbon taxing -- debate was quite cordial (as they noted, they can be cordial now b/c they're not in office)

Daschle: In favor of carbon tax -- simple, would give us price point, it works and supported by corporations b/c it reduces their taxes (see British Columbia)

Kyle: It doesn't work enough to make any difference in global temps; is a consumption tax and cost is enormous

Daschle recommended a poem by [Archibald McLeash: *The Young Dead Soldiers Do Not Speak*](#)

Final stanzas:

We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning.

We were young, they say. We have died; remember us.

ADVOCACY from LWVUS

★ **League Urges U.S. Senators to Cosponsor We the People Act**

The League sent [a letter to the U.S. Senate](#) urging Senators to cosponsor and support the *We the People Democracy Reform Act of 2017*. This legislation is a comprehensive solution to the issues facing our democracy. The reforms included will empower citizens and remove important roadmap for solving the vital issues facing our political system and serves as a vehicle to help renew Americans' faith that the problems facing our democracy can be solved. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting Senators to address this legislation.

★ **League Supports Honest Ads Act**

The League supports the bipartisan Honest Ads Act, legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate that addresses the need for new rules to expose efforts undertaken by foreign interests to intervene in U.S. elections and that will improve transparency of online political ads. The League joined 27 reform groups calling on Senators to support and cosponsor the legislation.

★ **League Expresses Concerns Over Healthcare.gov Outages**

The League [joined a letter](#) sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regarding scheduled outages of [healthcare.gov](#) during the shortened 2017 open enrollment period. The letter urges the department to restrict outages to typical website management efforts so that consumers shopping for, enrolling, and re-enrolling in Marketplace health insurance are not affected.

GERRYMANDERING

★ **North Carolina Under Court Order to Submit New, Constitutionally Sound, Voting Maps**

[Hear about it: NPR & North Carolina Public Radio](#)

North Carolina's congressional districts have been repeatedly challenged in court. The League of Women Voters has filed five lawsuits since the state was redistricted in 2011; the group wants a nonpartisan



committee to redraw the districts. Gerrymandering is the drawing of districts in a way that gives one party an electoral advantage, spreading the opposition across districts or packing its voters into as few districts as possible. Federal judges ruled in 2016 that two of North Carolina's congressional districts were racially gerrymandered, spurring Republican legislators [to hastily redraw](#) the state's district map. Now *those* districts are being challenged ([including](#) by the League of Women Voters), and a panel of federal judges will rule on their legality in the coming weeks or months.



This map shows the zigzagging line separating North Carolina's 10th and 11th Congressional districts. A Gerrymander 5K run will take place in West Asheville, circled here. ." [Michael Li](#), senior redistricting counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, a nonpartisan law and policy institute said, "North Carolina has some of the worst partisan bias in the country, both under the 2011 and 2016 maps. He told NPR

that the state's congressional districts consistently favor Republicans "to an unnatural degree."

The NC state legislature is now under a court order to submit new maps to a panel of three federal judges. The judges will decide whether the proposed replacement maps pass constitutional muster; if not, the judges can take over the redrawing of districts themselves.

★ LWV of Asheville-Buncombe County, NC took matters to heart with the Gerrymander 5K. More Leagues Look to Their Own Crazy Quilted Districts

The Gerrymander 5k walk/run put on by the League of Women Voters of Asheville-Buncombe was [a huge success](#) with over 350 people registered, over \$9,500 raised and national and international press present, including [NPR](#), [The Guardian](#), and [Slate.com](#)! The planning group has been contacted by people from around the country interested in putting on a similar event and so they are hosting a webinar on their process for putting on the event and to help connect and coordinate groups around the country in organizing similar events. It is November 29th, 5:30 EST. Join the webinar through [this link](#) and/or contact them at info@lwvab.org.

AZ EDUCATION

★ ALL 27 Maricopa County School Bond & Override Measures Passed

Clearly, Maricopa County voters know that districts need more money!! These measures are only temporary help though.

[What are bonds & overrides?](#)



This year all measures passed! [Ricardo Cano with AZ Central:](#)

School districts asking voters to approve bonds and overrides have said the ballot measures are necessary to help counter steep cuts in state education funding for capital expenses.

Capital funding, which pays for things such as school construction, classroom technology, textbooks and school buses, has been cut by about 85 percent since the recession.

While overrides can give school districts an additional boost in funding for classroom or capital expenses, they are not stable funding sources for schools.

Overrides allow districts to increase their classroom budgets by up to 15 percent through property-tax levies.

Overrides last seven years and begin phasing out by thirds in the fifth year, unless voters approve to extend the override. As a result, districts typically ask voters to extend overrides around the fifth year to avoid losing money.

Bonds allow school districts to pay for longer-term projects, such as the construction of new schools or renovating existing ones. Voters approve the sale of bonds to raise money for these projects.

[See what districts get a little extra help.](#)

Special Ed Funding Snafu

Audits at the AZ Dept. of Education have revealed that some districts and charter schools were overfunded or underfunded schools some \$85 million. [Read more...](#)



WHAT'S NEW ON THE LWVMetroPhoenix.ORG WEBSITE?

★ LWV for LIFE

LWVMetroPhoenix.org reaches out to 50-year members for your League stories. While LWV Metro Phoenix has had great growth in the last few years, LWV Metro Phoenix values the contributions of all our elder members. So many LIFE members who have served our League and our community for 30, 40, 50 years or more! Skeet Blakeslee's daughter Care Lengel and Dee Sirkis's daughter Judy Sirkis want to honor your efforts. So please share your story with them!

LWV Life Members, see the [Interview form at LWVMetroPhoenix.org](http://LWVMetroPhoenix.org) (Home page menu & LWV for Life,) contact Judy S. by phone (480-949-0205,) or [email](mailto:) .

★ The LWVMP Show Coming Soon

LWV Metro Phoenix is planning for its **own LWVMP Show** on our website. Regular podcasts will provide viewers with upcoming news, topics, and tips. "Watch for **The LWVMP Show** rollout email will let you know when!

★ View [LWVMP Members Only page](#) with useful Voter Registration & Membership Kits and the MP Member Guidebook.

HELP KEEP US INFORMED – LWVMP EXPANDS RESOURCE LIST

Do you have a favorite non-partisan, non-profit you trust for information & analysis? Send the link to [Care Lengel](#) today! Below are some of our favorites.

Links to Click

[LWVUS News, Media & Blogs](#) Keep up on Issues & what all Leagues are doing.

[Arizona Capitol Times](#) Subscription is required for great political news & analysis on AZ politics.

[Arizona Legislative Alert](#), written and published for Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona Network by Anne L. Schneider, Ph.D. retired political science professor and former Dean of ASU's College of Public Programs and LWV member. To receive this exceptional newsletter, send an [email](#) .

[AZ School Boards Association](#) , sign up for Advocacy newsletter with Chris Kotterman. The Arizona School Boards Association is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization that provides training, leadership and essential services to public school governing boards statewide. More than 240 governing boards, representing nearly 1 million Arizona students, are members of ASBA.

[ASU Morrison Center for Public Policy](#) . Morrison Institute examines AZ issues, offers public dialogue, and recommends improvements. Exceptional research and public input, including the Citizens Initiative Review of ballot propositions.

See [ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy Report on the State of Our State Conference Nov. 7 on Innovation](#)

[Brennan Center for Justice](#) The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law is a nonpartisan law and policy institute that seeks to improve our systems of democracy and justice, to hold our political institutions and laws accountable to the twin American ideals of democracy and equal justice for all.

[VoteSmart](#) Founded by Arizonan Richard Kimball, Vote Smart's mission is to provide free, factual, unbiased information on candidates and elected officials to ALL Americans. For others, see handout at [LWVMP Getting Ready to Vote](#) .

LWVMP Holiday Luncheon

[Register Now Online!](#)

