



# THE VOTER

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI COUNTY**

P. O. Box 25854, Prescott Valley, AZ 86312-5854

March 2010

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**The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County presents**

## **2010 AZ Legislative Update**

**Sen. Steve Pierce,  
Rep. Andy Tobin, and  
Rep. Lucy Mason**

will lead us through the thicket of what's been happening down at the Legislature in Phoenix. Budget woes, insufficient revenues, no-tax promises to a non-Arizonian, one special session after another, constituent groups maintaining that "their" group is the one that shouldn't be cut, loss of Federal matching funds with cuts, closed parks – "*these are the times that try men's souls*" .....(*The American Crisis*, by Thomas Paine, 1776.).

### **Public Welcome!**

**Date:** Saturday, March 13, 2010

**Social Time:** 9:00 – 9:30 A. M.

**Meeting:** 9:30 – 11:30 A. M.

**Location:** Las Fuentes Resort Village, Lower Level  
1035 Scott Drive, Prescott

**RSVP:** [LWVCYC@hotmail.com](mailto:LWVCYC@hotmail.com)  
bv Wednesday, March 10, 2009

## The President's Message



What great programs we have had this year! Many thanks to our outgoing First Vice President for Program, Jo Kelleher. Her persistence in getting commitments from busy speakers has certainly paid off. We all try to keep up with governmental happenings by reading newspapers and online, but there's nothing like hearing it "from the horse's mouth!" Thanks, Jo, we will miss you on Board!

I've also gotten compliments about our Program Planning session in January: "that was the most interesting and invigorating Program Planning I've ever been to," said one seasoned Leaguer. It was great to have that dialogue about what we're doing now and where we should be headed.

Coming up this month is another traditional March League program: "*Legislative Update*", with our three local Legislators. The last year and a half have been truly challenging, with heavy budgetary issues, punctuated by trivial fluff like the "Birther controversy", still continued by some more than a year after Obama's inauguration. I hope you will all come to find out why certain decisions were made (and aren't you glad you weren't the one to have to make them!) Bring your questions.

### **LWVUS 2010 Legislative Priorities**

After a review of congressional action in 2009 and a discussion of expected activity in 2010, the LWVUS Board of Directors has adopted the following Legislative Priorities for 2010: Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Money in Elections (campaign finance reform). On the Legislative Watch List are: Arms Control, DC Voting Rights, Election Reform, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, and UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This Watch List includes issues which need to be monitored for action opportunities in the 111th Congress. It is understood that the Board will have opportunities to review the priorities throughout the year to make changes if the situation requires it. It should also be noted that DC Voting Rights and CEDAW are perennial legislative priorities that the LWV has worked hard for in the past and is committed to working for successful passage.

**The LWVAZ** is recommending a Concurrence at National Convention to change the LWVUS position on **Selection of the President**, adding a statement concerning the **National Popular Vote Compact**: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president, until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

## Biographies of District 1 Legislators



### Sen. Steve Pierce

Elected to the AZ Senate in 2008, Steve is the Senate Majority Whip and serves as Vice Chairman, Natural Resources, Infrastructure and the Public Debt. He is also a member of Rules, and Appropriations.

Steve is a third-generation Arizonan, whose family has been ranching in Arizona since 1915. He was born in Phoenix in 1950, and moved to Prescott while in grade school when his dad, Delbert, acquired the first of several ranches now known as the Las Vegas Ranch. He was raised on the family ranch where he learned the value of hard work at a young age. Steve graduated from Prescott High and from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. He has continued the family tradition of ranching.

Steve and his wife Joan have been married for 35 years. They raised their four children in Prescott, and are now blessed with four grandchildren.

Steve has served in various cattle and agriculture organizations, both locally and nationwide, such as the National Cattlemen's Beef Board, the US Meat Export Federation, and the Arizona Beef Council. In addition, Steve has served on the Board of Directors of County Bank, the Anasazi Foundation and the Central Arizona Partnership. Steve is active with the Yavapai County Republican Party, where he was elected as Chairman, and has been elected to the State Executive Committee for the Arizona Republican Party for the last five years.

Steve was recognized for his efforts as an excellent steward of the land in 1983 when the Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management named Steve and his father Delbert "Range Managers of the Year".

### Rep. Andy Tobin

Andy was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2006 and became House Majority Whip after reelection in 2008. He was Vice-Chairman of the House K-12 Committee and served on the Environment, Human Services and Retirement Committees. Andy now serves on the Banking and Insurance committee and the Rules Committee.

Andy was recognized as the 2007 Freshman Legislator of the Year by the Arizona School Board Association, 2008 Legislator of the Year by the Arizona School Superintendents, and was later recognized two years in a row as a Champion of the Arizona League of Cities and Town. Andy was just recently recognized as the 2008 Legislator of the Year by the Arizona Small Business Association (SBA), where he had the highest pro business score ever for a state law maker.

Andy was born in New York City, son of a retired New York City Police Lieutenant, and grandson of Irish Immigrants. He moved to Arizona in 1979 and worked in banking and real estate lending for 13 years in the Phoenix Metropolitan area before moving to Dewey 16 years ago to start his own employee benefit company, known as TLC Employee Benefits and Consulting. He specializes in insurance, marketing and public relations. He has been licensed with the Arizona Department of Insurance for over 20 years. Andy has recently expanded his company to offer commercial, workers compensation, liability and personal line insurance to complement his benefits and marketing program.

Andy owned and operated a local Farmers Insurance for six years. He was also CEO of a local aerospace company employing 200 people for three years until 2003.



Andy was elected the National President of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce from 1988 – 1989. In that capacity Andy served as ex-officio board member of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and the Hugh O'Brian Foundation. As President of the United States Junior Chamber, Andy lobbied the Reagan Administration and later the Bush Administration for passage of the Line Item Veto and a Balanced Budget Amendment.

Andy has been married to his wife Jennifer for 23 years. They have lived in their home in Paulden since 2004, where they have been raising their five children, ages 12 thru 21.



## Rep. Lucy Mason

Lucy was elected to the Legislature in 2002, and is currently serving her final term as state representative. She is not able to run in the November 2010 election because term limits law restricts legislators to four consecutive terms.

According to the Courier, Mason was considering a run for Arizona Corporation Commission next year, but decided against it so she could focus on her legislative job during the ongoing budget crisis. "It is clear to me that trying to run for another office would shortchange the office I already hold, and I'm therefore unwilling to focus on anything other than representing District 1 through difficult state budget issues, and to complete my 2010 legislative agenda on water, energy and education," Mason said.

Mason said she is considering industry, university and governmental opportunities related to energy and water issues after leaving office, but she wouldn't be more specific. (Daily Courier, 12/10/2009) She is currently Chairman of the Water and Energy Committee in the House of Representatives. At the Legislature, Mrs. Mason's main concerns are water and energy, education, healthcare, and tax and fiscal policy issues.

She began her political career when she served on the Prescott City Council in 1997, as liaison for all water issues from local to state levels. She is a founding member of the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee, and Board Chairman of the Yavapai Combined Trust for 3000 employees' health insurance.

Lucy's Arizona roots go back four generations in cattle ranching and land management. She is married to Rex, an architect, and together they have four grown children and three grandchildren. Mrs. Mason was educated at Arizona State University, University of Houston, Northern Arizona University, and University of Arizona Masters Watershed Program. In her early career, she was a technical illustrator for the NASA Lunar Landing Missions and for over twenty years she was an architectural illustrator for commercial and institutional projects across the nation. During that time she also owned a small business, earning familiarity with the challenges facing business owners

Mrs. Mason is past Chairman of the Gang Prevention Task Force; graduate and past president of Prescott Area Leadership; Children's Council; Founding member of Youth Counts, and served on Governor Jane Hull's Task Force for K-12 Education.

## Term Limits:

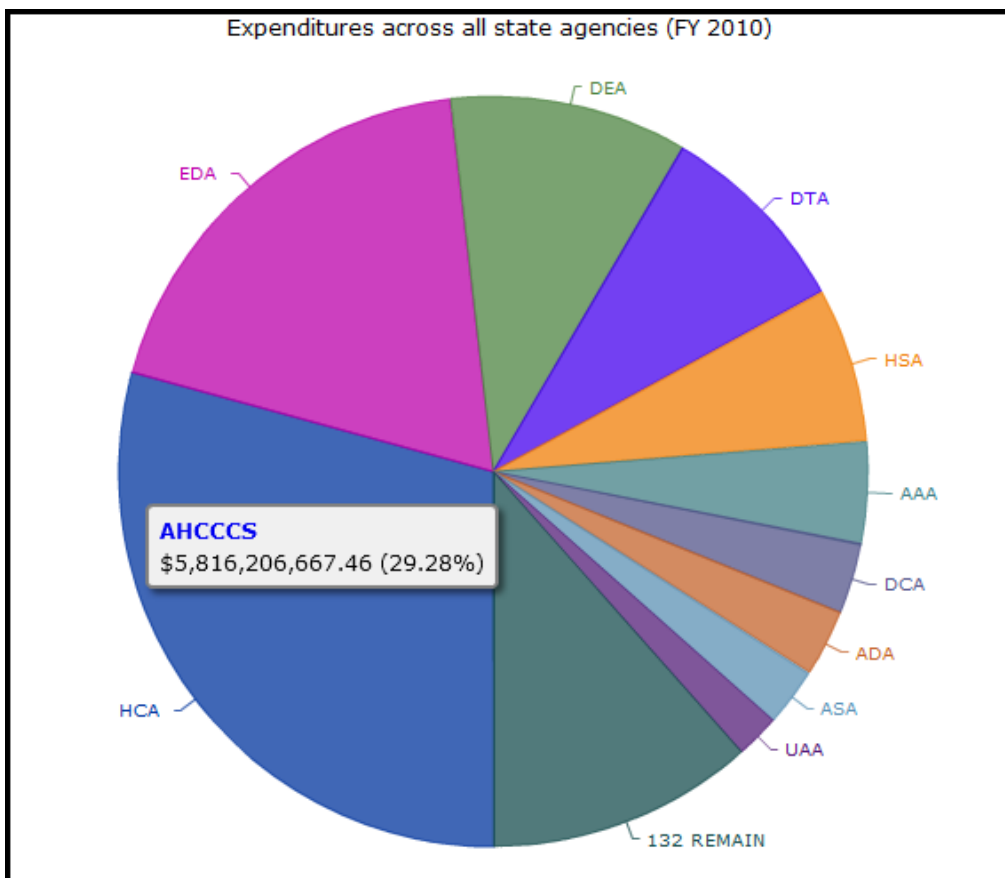
In 1992, Arizona voters amended the State Constitution to impose term limits on state legislators. Currently, both Senators and Representatives may serve only four consecutive terms in their offices. No legislator who has served four consecutive terms (including any part of a term) may serve in that same office again until the person has been out of that office for at least one full term. Only terms beginning on or after January 1, 1993 are counted. (*Arizona Legislative Manual*)

At this writing, the Senate has endorsed repeal of term limits. If the House agrees, the measure will go to the voters in November. **The League has long maintained that elections are the best means of term limit, and that limiting terms deprives the body of valuable institutional knowledge and gives too much influence to unelected lobbyists and legislative aides.**

# Arizona Budget

A new website from the AZ State Treasurer's Office (<http://www.azcheckbook.com/agency>) has some great information and graphics. AZCheckbook.com provides daily status and monthly comparisons of the current status of the "State's Checkbook" called the State Operating Cash Balance. At the top of every page is a snapshot of the daily total deposits and withdrawals from the State's Operating Account. If this number is negative, the State Operating funds are out of money and AZ is selling "IOU's" called Treasurer's Warrant Notes in order to raise the cash needed to pay bills. AZ currently has \$700 million in an external "line of credit" and another \$500 million internal capacity that will be tapped before any IOU's would need to be sent out to the general public.

AZCheckbook.com also provides you with detailed information on how the State is spending your money, and how much they are receiving from all sources, including the federal government. It will be updated each month as new data is available.



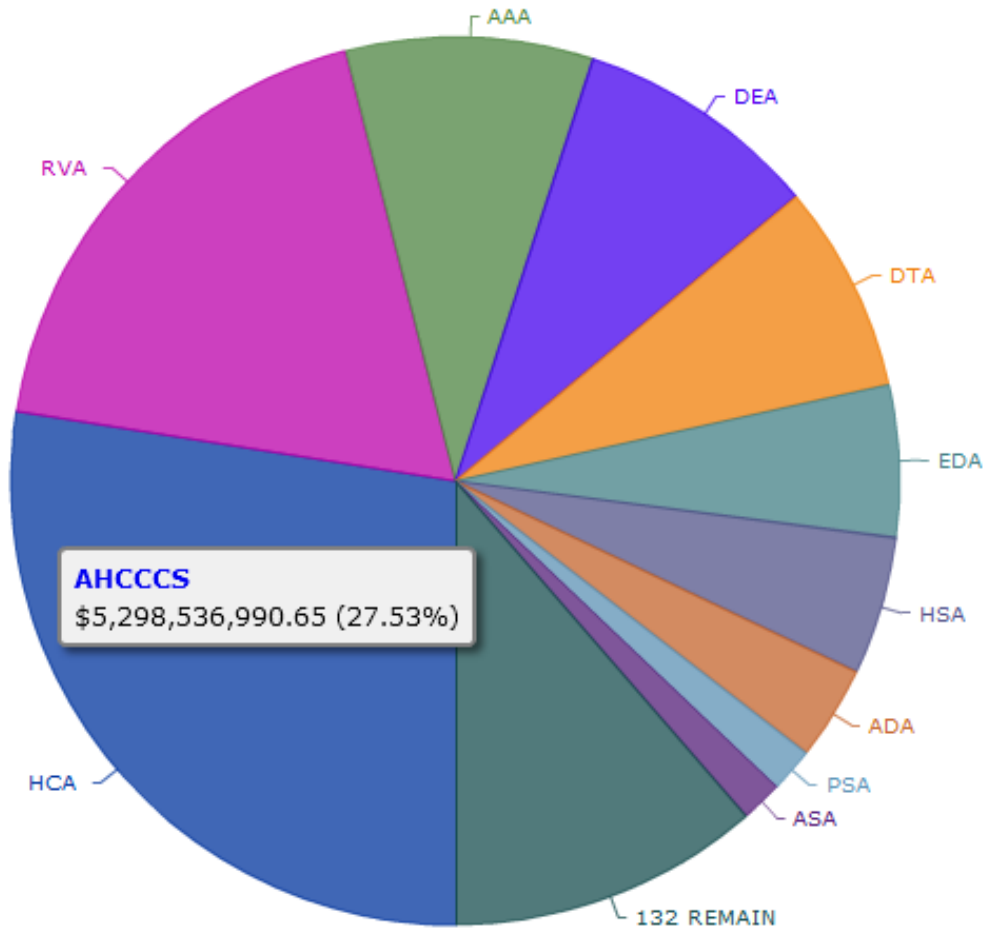
HCA: AHCCS (Medicaid)	29.28%	ADA: Dept of Administration	2.86%
EDA: Dept of Education	18.91%	ASA: AZ State University	2.51%
DEA: Dept of Econ. Security	10.26%	UAA: Univ. of AZ	1.91%
DTA: Dept. of Transportation	8.6%	<u>132 remaining agencies</u>	<u>11.55%</u>
HSA: Dept of Health Services	6.64%	Total: \$19,867,378,314.04	
AAA: General Acctg. Office	4.41%		
DCA: Dept of Corrections	3.08%		

Fiscal Year: 2010

Type: revenues

Update

Expenditures across all state agencies (FY 2010)



HCA: AHCCCS (Medicaid)	27.53%
RVA: Dept. of Revenue	18.51%
AAA: General Acctg. Office	9%
DEA: Dept of Econ. Security	8.89%
DTA: Dept. of Transportation	7.56%
EDA: Dept. of Education	5.57%
HSA: Dept of Health Services	5.03%
ADA: Dept of Administration	2.86%
PSA: Dept. of Public Safety	1.61%
ASA: AZ State University	1.52%
<u>132 remaining agencies:</u>	<u>11.38%</u>
Total:	\$19,245,841,551.22

## AZ Merit Selection Plan for Judges

Across the nation, Leagues of Women Voters have been instrumental in changes to the method by which judges are chosen, in an effort to remove them from political pressure and felt obligations to reward those who have helped or financed their campaigns for election.

This is known as the “Missouri Plan,” or “Merit Plan for Judicial Selection.” Under the system, nonpartisan commissions, made up of 15 persons, only five of whom are lawyers, review applications for open judgeships, and send the names of the three most qualified candidates to the governor. No more than two of the candidates can be from the same political party. The governor has to select one from that list. At the next general election after 2 yrs in office, the voters decide whether to retain judges or to remove them from office—in other words, judges run against their records for fairness and good judgment, rather than conduct political type campaigns and advertising to attract votes for election and reelection.

In Nebraska, judges at every level, in both rural and urban counties, have been chosen by this method for nearly half a century. Missouri has had the system since 1940. Currently, thirty-two states and the District of Columbia use nominating commissions to help the governor select state judges. The system is recognized by many, including retired US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and Rebecca White Berch, chief justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, as producing well qualified judges.

In Arizona, the system applies only to the Supreme Court, state appellate courts and the superior courts in two counties: Maricopa and Pima. However, following the next census, one or two more counties, perhaps including Yavapai, would also be included in the Merit Selection System, depending on whether they had passed the population mark of 250,000. Counties whose populations are less than 250,000 may adopt merit selection through ballot initiative.

When asked about the role of the courts, Americans consistently express a desire to maintain fair and impartial courts that effectively promote and protect individual rights under the law.

However, the Merit Selection System is under attack here in Arizona. Claiming partisanship in merit selection process and admitting the real goal of having more conservatives appointed to judgeships, the Senate Judiciary Committee has sent out a measure for a full Senate vote that would ask voters in November to repeal the current system, doing away with the nominating commissions, and giving the governor the ability to name anyone, subject only to Senate approval. A proposed measure in last year’s Legislature would have raised the population requirement to 800,000, thus precluding counties other than the original two from adopting the current Merit Selection System.

**Let’s not mess with a system that is working well. Our system has been held up as a national model to eliminate partisanship in the judiciary. The Senate has plenty to do without getting into partisan bickering over the Governor’s appointment of judges, and the nominating committees have multiple requirements that eliminate partisanship while selecting judiciary nominees based on their merit.**

**Let your legislators know that you support the Merit Selection Plan for Judges here in Arizona.**

Nancy Shugrue, President



## 90TH ANNIVERSARY: U.S. Senate Honors League with Resolution

U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) submitted a resolution, co-sponsored by fellow Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), to officially designate February 14, 2010, as “League of Women Voters Democracy Day” in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. An official copy of the proclamation was presented to the League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley (NV) by the office of Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV)

Washington, DC – **U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD)** today congratulated the League of Women Voters on their milestone 90th anniversary. To commemorate their founding on February 14, 1920, Senator Cardin introduced a resolution recognizing the profound impact the League of Women Voters has had on American democracy and our nation’s history. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) co-sponsored the resolution.

“For the past 90 years, the League of Women Voters has played an active role in educating not just women, but the entire American public about our democracy and about those individuals who are candidates for elective office. Through its more than 850 chapters nationwide – including 16 in Maryland – the League has helped make our democracy stronger by sponsoring debates that educate citizens and by making voter and public policy information easily accessible. The League also has been instrumental in promoting democracy and civil society abroad.

“Throughout my career in public service, I have participated in many debates sponsored by the League of Women Voters, and I have seen first-hand the impact that the League has had on educating the voters about the issues that most directly affect them. We are a stronger democracy thanks to the continuing efforts of the League of Women Voters and we are fortunate such an organization exists.” *The full text of Senator Cardin’s resolution follows.*

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES** Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution;

**RESOLUTION Designating February 14, 2010, as “League of Women Voters Democracy Day”**, in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters.

**Whereas** on February 14, 1920, during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Chicago, Illinois, the League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt and many of the other female leaders who played instrumental roles in the women’s suffrage movement;

**Whereas** since its founding, the League of Women Voters has played an active role in educating the citizens of the United States about our Nation’s democratic system and the candidates who run for elected office;

**Whereas** the League of Women Voters continues to play an important role in helping to shape public policy by ensuring that citizens are well informed;



**Whereas** the League of Women Voters has helped to strengthen our democratic system by sponsoring debates that educate citizens and by making voter information more easily accessible to all individuals;

**Whereas** the League of Women Voters has developed an election information website, [vote411.org](http://vote411.org), that serves as an invaluable resource for many citizens, providing critical information on voter registration and on local, State, and Federal issues;

**Whereas** the enduring vitality and resonance of the League of Women Voters stems from its unique decentralized structure as a strictly non-partisan and wholeheartedly grassroots political organization;

**Whereas** there are chapters of the League of Women Voters in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Hong Kong, in addition to the hundreds of local chapters across the Nation;

**Whereas** the League of Women Voters is one of the original grassroots citizen networks, directed by the consensus of its members throughout the United States;

**Whereas** the League of Women Voters remains true to its basic purpose of making democracy work for all citizens;

**Whereas** the League of Women Voters has been an instrumental force in the spread of democracy around the world, as it helped lead efforts to establish the United Nations and became one of the first organizations in this Nation to be officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization; and

**Whereas** the League of Women Voters makes a difference in the lives of citizens because of the energy and passion of thousands of members that are committed to its principles:

**Now, therefore, be it Resolved**, That the Senate— (1) designates February 14, 2010, as “League of Women Voters Democracy Day”, in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters; and (2) requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution for appropriate display to the national headquarters of the League of Woman Voters, as an expression of the best wishes of the Senate for a wonderful year of celebration.



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## ***Calendar of Events***

<b>Wednesday, March 3</b>	<b>LWVCYC Board, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M., 1146 Hobble Strap Street, Prescott Valley</b>
<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 13</b>	<b>GENERAL MEETING 9:00 – 11:30 A.M., Las Fuentes Resort Village, Lower Level</b>
<b>Wednesday, April 7</b>	<b>LWVCYC Board, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M., 1146 Hobble Strap Street, Prescott Valley</b>
<b>SATURDAY, APRIL 10</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING 9:00 – 11:30 A.M., Las Fuentes Resort Village, Lower Level</b>
<b>Wednesday, April 28</b>	<b>LWVCYC Board, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M., Step One Community Center, Prescott Valley</b>
<b>SATURDAY, MAY 8</b>	<b>GENERAL MEETING 9:00 – 11:30 A.M., Las Fuentes Resort Village, Lower Level</b>
<b>To be scheduled</b>	<b>New Board Retreat</b>

**ADVOCACY: League Urges Senate to Pass Critically Important Campaign Finance Law (NEW)**  
In response to the Supreme Court's decision in the *Citizens United* case, League President Mary G. Wilson sent a [letter](#) to the Senate urging them to update campaign finance laws, with particular attention to requirements governing corporate and union spending. Lobby Corps members are visiting key Senate offices this month to discuss legislation. Mary also sent an [email](#) yesterday reminding members and supporters that her Congressional testimony from earlier this month is available in [webcast](#) format online, and pointing to a new nationwide [ABC News-Washington Post poll](#) showing that the League is not alone in this fight: 80 percent of Americans of both parties oppose the Court's decision.

## **Letter from LWVUS President to Members of the U.S. Senate**

February 18, 2010

### **RE:                    Updating Campaign Finance Laws for the 2010 Elections**

With the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, it is critically important for Congress to update campaign finance laws, especially disclosure requirements governing corporate and union spending. With the 2010 elections fast approaching, delay is simply not a viable option.

The Court's decision in *Citizens United* allows corporations to make unlimited independent expenditures in candidate elections, thus changing the foundation on which decades of congressional enactments on campaign finance are built. Such fundamental change requires a considered response from Congress. We support a variety of approaches, but we do not expect legislation adopted this year to address every possible issue. However, some steps clearly are vital to govern the conduct of the 2010 elections.

After *Citizens United*, we urgently need enhanced disclosure. This is the most basic step toward protecting the role of the voter in making decisions in elections. It is now possible for corporations to secretly provide funds that another corporation uses to intervene directly in an election. This is simply unacceptable.

The Court pointed in the direction of enhanced disclosure when it said that disclosure is important to "providing the electorate with information." It also supported disclaimer requirements "so that the people will be able to evaluate the arguments to which they are being subjected." We couldn't agree more.

After providing enhanced disclosure, the next most important step for Congress is to do no further harm. A decision as far-reaching as *Citizens United* will provoke proposals that could make our election system and government processes even worse. Such steps as raising contribution limits to candidates and PACs, or allowing corporations and unions to donate huge sums to political parties or even to candidates, could increase corruption or the appearance of corruption and further distort our political processes.

Senator Schumer and Rep. Van Hollen have released a legislative framework providing for heightened disclosure, more complete disclaimers, barring election spending by foreign corporations, barring election ads by government contractors, clarifying coordination rules, and ensuring candidates can afford to respond to heavy corporate or union spending. We believe this is a responsible and balanced approach.

Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy. Congress must act quickly in addressing the Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*.

**IMPORTANT WEBSITE  
REFERENCES**

**League of Women Voters  
WEBSITES**

LWVUS Website  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

LWVAZ Website  
[www.lwvaz.org](http://www.lwvaz.org)

LWVCYC Website  
<http://centralyavapai.az.lwvnet.org/>

**Reminder – Members are always welcome to attend Board meetings. Regular meeting times will be on the calendar.**

**To request placement of an item on the Board agenda and/or to receive the Board agenda packet, contact LWVCYC President Nancy Shugrue a week in advance.**

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**LWV MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**  
**2009-2010**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check type of membership:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55/Yr Individual Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$82.50/Yr Household Membership

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to League (not tax deductible)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to Education Fund (tax deductible)

**Please make donations to LWVAZ Education Fund by separate check, to preserve tax deductibility. This supports our Webpage and Voter Service activities. Thank you!**

**Dues cover membership through June 30, 2010.**

**Both new and renewal members, please include this form with your check. Thank you!**

New: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership in the LWV is open to any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the LWVUS. These dues cover payment for local (\$16.80), state (\$9), and national (\$29.20) memberships.**

**OR**

**Be a “Friend” of LWVCYC:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50/Yr Individual or \_\_\_\_\_ \$75/Yr Household

**Please mail this form and all checks to:**

**LWVCYC  
PO Box 25854 Prescott Valley, AZ 86312-5854**



**League of Women Voters  
of Central Yavapai County  
P.O. Box 25854  
Prescott Valley, AZ 86312-5854**