



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI COUNTY

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI COUNTY

PRESENTS

EDUCATION FINANCE IN ARIZONA

Saturday, October 3, 2015
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Las Fuentes Resort Village, 1035 Scott Drive, Prescott

Speakers:



Jen Darland, Chair, LWV State
Study on Education Funding



Jeramy Plumb, Superintendent,
Mountain Institute JTED #2



Joe Howard, Superintendent,
Prescott Unified School District



Kevin Dickerson
PUSD Finance Director



Krista Carman, JD
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The League of Women Voters® of Central Yavapai County encourages and educates citizens to be active and informed participants in our community, our state, our nation and our world.
For more information contact us at LWVCYC, PO Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304



A Note from the President

Lots of great things happening in our League right now! Our September meeting was a success – and if you are watching the news – another video came out to add fuel to the fire to defund Planned Parenthood. Be sure to write to legislators who will fight this in Congress. Many thanks to the board and members who helped set up and clean up the room that morning. An outcome of the meeting is that 10 people or more signed up to continue the conversation in house parties or as part of the Prescott Sanger Society.

In addition, we have two or three new members! Cory and I hope to have another New Member Orientation soon. If you haven't been through orientation, look out for the invitation to this one. Look for new member profiles in upcoming Voters and be sure to welcome them at the next meeting.

We have two National studies with members participating in the process – many thanks to Sandra Goodwin and Alice Harris for their work as study chairs! This is a great time to see the League in action as we take part in how League positions are formed – and how the grassroots element works. The feedback our League provides to National becomes part of the ultimate position. The Constitutional Amendment Study team has been meeting since Augusts, and the Money in Politics team will meet on October 21 in the Prescott Library Bump Room from 4-5 p.m.. If you're interested in joining the team – contact Alice Harris.

Speaking of which, the 2015-2016 Membership Directory will be available at the October meeting. If you haven't renewed your dues or if you'd like to join – now is the time! See the form in the back of the Voter to get your renewal or new member form in to us.

National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday! If you haven't signed up to volunteer at either Yavapai College or the Prescott Library yet – please contact Joyce Haas to get involved. We had a successful day at Yavapai College on September 9th – with over 11 student registrations! It's a great time to get young people excited about the opportunity to voter for the next President of the United States!

Our October 3rd meeting is going to be another important and timely topic – Education Finance in Arizona. Jen Darland, Chair for the LWVAZ Education Finance study – and a member of the League in Tucson, is dynamic! I can't wait for you all to get inspired by her energy and passion on this topic. At this year's State Convention, she wowed us all in her presentation of the need of this study – and we voted to endorse the study. I plan to participate in the September 26th conference call with the study team. Let me know if you're interested!

I look forward to seeing you all in October – and remember the meetings start at 10:00 now! We can get into the meeting room at 9:30 to set up, there'll be coffee – and we will try to get started by 10:15 a.m.

My apologies to Claudia Resnick in the last Voter! I had her last name as Herwick... a past member! Claudia has been a wonderful volunteer this summer registering voters!

Don't forget – we now will have coffee at 10 AM, and the meeting will begin at 10:30. Meetings will usually be the first Saturday of the month – BUT there will be some exceptions!

Prescott Unified School District budget override, bond: Where will the money go?

Les Bowen, Daily Courier,
9/20/2015

PRESCOTT - School officials in Prescott want voters to give them the go-ahead with a 14-year, \$15 million general obligation bond, combined with a budget override that will add about \$6 million to the district's maintenance and operations budget over seven years.

From day one, district officials said it's a bare-bones proposal. They started by looking at the property tax rate for the district's current bond, which was passed in 2004, and will expire at the end of the 2015-16 fiscal year.

In the final year of the 2004 bond, residential property taxpayers will pay 28 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. That's already a reduction in taxes, as taxpayers paid 35 cents per \$100 of assessed for residential properties in the previous nine years.

If voters reject the district's bond and override, the line for PUSD will disappear from their tax bills. But school officials are asking to keep it, and under the current proposal it will stay below the current year's rates.

"We found a way to do a very small bond and a very small override," PUSD Superintendent Joe Howard said at an early-September forum hosted by the Abia Judd PTA. "We're using the word 'maintain.'"

BUDGET OVERRIDE

When school officials started asking community members for input, they learned many would support an override, as long as taxes didn't go up from current rates, according to district Chief Financial Officer Kevin Dickerson.

The proposal does that by seeking a lower bond amount - about half the amount of the 2004 bond - and spread over 14 years. For the first seven years, school officials are asking voters to allow them to exceed the state's funding formula, with local taxpayers picking up the difference.

The override is earmarked for teacher recruiting and retention. School officials said the bulk will go to teacher salaries.

The average salary for a teacher in PUSD is less than \$37,000. Prescott has one of the lowest rates for teacher salaries in the nation.

Teacher salaries have sunk so low that StartClass.com listed Prescott 14th on its recent publication of "The 25 Worst-Paying Cities for High School Teachers."

Voter lesson plan

THE BOND

Buses: \$4.9 million

Roofs: \$4 million

HVAC: \$3 million

Flooring: \$467,700

Food service: \$245,125

Fire, intercom systems: \$1 million

Add it all up, and the district's list for how to spend the bond comes to more than \$14.6 million, leaving a little over \$300,000 for contingency and inflation.

THE OVERRIDE

The override is earmarked for teacher recruiting and retention. School officials said the bulk will go to teacher salaries.

THE BALLOT

The district will have a total of four items on the November ballot. One is for the override and one for the bond. The other two are asking the voters for approval to sell Washington and Miller Valley schools.

While Arizona ranks 28th in the nation for teacher salaries, PUSD actually falls below 50th ranked South Dakota.

It means teachers can add a couple thousand dollars to their salary by going to schools in Prescott Valley. They get a few thousand dollars more if they go to Phoenix, and the numbers keep rising if they leave Arizona.

It's created an exodus of teachers from PUSD.

"We've lost 50 percent of our teaching staff in the last 3-4 years," Howard said.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

Dickerson said if voters approve the \$15 million bond, the district won't sell all the bond at once. Rather, they'll be spread across the 14-year bond period, meaning the district will sell a portion of the bond and have them nearly paid off before the next bond sale.

School buses make up the biggest piece of the bond proposal. There are enough buses in the district, and they all run, but repair costs are beginning to rise. The average bus in the district's fleet has more than 250,000 miles.

"Our buses are costing us more to maintain than they're worth," Dickerson said, adding that they're safe, but old.

The district's proposal includes 19 standard school buses at an average price of \$173,786, six special needs buses at an average cost of \$178,898 and three special activity buses with an average price of \$176,454. The total price tag for buses: more than \$4.9 million.

Bus purchases are spread over several years to prevent the problem the district now faces. Dickerson said the plan is to buy 10 buses every four years.

The next item on the district's list of bond funding is roofs, again spread over several years. Some roofs, like the high school's main classroom building, need immediate attention, but others have a few more years before they'll need to be replaced.

The most expensive roofing job is the high school, which is actually several buildings, and carries a price tag of more than \$2.2 million. Also on the list: \$325,000 for Abia Judd, \$648,800 for Granite Mountain, \$132,200 for Lincoln and \$227,816 for Mile High.

If the district doesn't sell Washington and Miller Valley schools, the district still needs to keep the buildings in repair. The cost for a new roof at Washington is \$85,400, and at Miller Valley it's \$272,500.

A few other roofs around the district need maintenance and repairs, bringing the total price tag for roofs to nearly \$4 million.

School officials marked \$3 million of the bond for heating and air conditioning upgrades and converting the district to LED lights. Together, Dickerson said he expects the changes will save the district about \$300,000 annually.

Miscellaneous facility upgrades and replacement costs come in at \$1.2 million. The big item is upgrading fire and intercom systems across the district, with a \$1 million price tag. Also on the list: painting and sealing building exteriors for \$154,000, a \$30,000 hydro-scrubber with camera, three lawn mowers at \$22,500 each, a trailer for \$4,500 and a \$6,000 welding machine.

In addition to replacing the roofs and sealing the walls, school officials said they need to replace floors across the district. The total price tag is \$467,700. A breakdown of that figure shows cost estimates of \$60,500 for Abia Judd, \$20,000 for central kitchen, \$10,000 for child study services, \$30,000 for the district offices, \$7,500 for facilities, \$65,000 for Granite Mountain, \$56,000 for Lincoln, \$49,500 for the high school, \$54,000

for Mile High and \$55,200 for Taylor Hicks. School officials also included new flooring at Dexter, if the district doesn't sell it, estimated at \$60,000.

More than a half-million of the bond is marked for technology replacement, again with those costs spread over the 14-year bond period. The list includes replacing Chromebooks, desktop computers, servers, routers, security cameras and a phone system.

District food service's piece of the bond is \$245,125. The list includes warming trays and upgrades to stoves, ovens and refrigerators.

Rounding out the list, the district added repairs to the JTED building at the high school for \$25,000, locker repairs at the middle school for \$155,500, and replacement of desks and chairs for \$102,560.

Add it all up, and the district's list for how to spend the bond comes to more than \$14.6 million, leaving a little over \$300,000 for contingency and inflation.

"We're bare-bones," Howard said. "We don't want fluff in here." He also noted the state allows the district to bond for as much as \$80 million, but school officials are asking for less than one-sixth that amount.

'Maintain' is key word in school district's plea for bond, override As old bond retires, new bond & override will NOT cost taxpayers extra money

ON THE BALLOT

The district will have a total of four items on the November ballot. One is for the override and one for the bond.

Also on the ballot, the district is asking voter approval to sell Washington and Miller Valley schools, both of which closed at the end of the last academic year. If approved, the buildings will be put on the market, along with the already approved district offices and Dexter school. Any revenue from building sale and lease is limited on its use, essentially only for capital purchases.

Letter: Public Schools

9/12/2015 Daily Courier EDITOR:

As a proud 2015 Prescott High School graduate, it saddens me to see the lack of support in our community for our public schools. Cicero once said, "What greater or better gift can we offer the republic than to teach and instruct our youth?" Being able to educate all of our youth is one aspect that makes our city, state and country as great as they are. It is hard for me to understand why our community is unwilling to support the next generations of doctors, lawyers, teachers, politicians and leaders. As a product of the public education system, it makes me feel like the community doesn't have faith in my generation when they refuse to pass bonds and overrides. I have and will happily continue to pay taxes to benefit the public education system because people before me paid for my education, and I feel that it is my responsibility to pay it forward. I personally want to live in a society with an educated citizenry. A public education system doesn't just serve those who are being educated; it serves the society as a whole. The Prescott public schools I attended always taught me that it is important to participate in our democratic government, and I am proud to say that in my first election, I will vote YES for the bond and YES for the override. I urge our community to do the same.

Alexa Scholl

School backers want special legislative session on funding

Associated Press, Sep 3, 2015

PHOENIX - Education advocates on Thursday urged Republican Gov. Doug Ducey to call the Legislature into a special session to settle a school funding lawsuit.

The action came amid growing signs that majority Republicans in the House and Senate may be inclined to come back to address growing public anger over the state of Arizona's schools.

The advocates and Republican leaders remain at odds over how to boost school funding, which is among the lowest per pupil in the nation. Ducey has proposed tapping the state's permanent land trust to add \$1.8 billion in new school funding over five years and smaller amounts in the following five years. Legislative leaders are proposing a mix of trust land funding, general fund spending and a raid on the state's early childhood education fund known as First Things First to add \$5 billion over 10 years.

Advocates who rallied at the Capitol on Thursday mistrust those efforts, which they say fail to fund schools quickly. They note that both plans require voter approval -- which they say the Legislature has ignored already. Instead, they want a settlement first and then are willing to talk about additional funding.

"You'll forgive us if there's some skepticism about putting an initiative on the ballot that requires funding for education, because that's where we are right now," said Jonathan Parker, a teacher at Thunderbird High School in Phoenix who has school-age children.

Months of settlement negotiations between Arizona public school districts and the Legislature failed last week. A court has ordered the Legislature to immediately pay at least an additional \$330 million a year to schools, but House and Senate Republicans are appealing.

A judge ordered the payments in July 2014 after years of litigation over the Legislature's failure to provide annual inflation adjustments for schools as required by a 2000 voter-approved law that boosted the sales tax to pay for the adjustments. Lawmakers quit providing the annual boosts in 2009 as state revenues were decimated by the recession. They began making them again two years ago.

Republican lawmakers have been facing criticism in their districts for this year's state budget, which essentially left school funding flat and did not settle the lawsuit.

"I think a number of people are concerned about what's happened - they want to see more money for public education," said Sen. Steve Pierce, a Prescott Republican who was opposed this year's state budget.

In addition to K-12 funding, there are concerns about cuts to community colleges, universities and technical education high schools called JTEDs.

The Legislature is sitting on a large amount of cash -- \$450 million in its rainy day fund and a \$325 million ending balance in the budget year that ended June 30. Democrats say that money should be tapped to pay for the inflation adjustments for schools.

"We have \$785 million dollars sitting there right now," said Sen. Steve Farley, D-Tucson. "We've got to put that in there, and we have to find the sources to keep it ongoing."

Senate Republicans have been on conference calls with Senate President Andy Biggs to discuss his plan. House Speaker David Gowan plans small group meetings with Republicans in his chamber next week. Both are signs that leaders may be counting votes to see if they can push through a school funding plan.

"I really think what's going on is their members are literally being physically chased out of education town halls, and they're going to their leadership and saying we've got to have some cover on this," Farley said.

Biggs, the senate president, said he believes funding isn't the end-all be-all for schools, pointing to top performing schools doing well today. But he acknowledges that new funding is needed -- if only because school backers have convinced the public it is needed.

"The narrative is out there, and I'm going to say that the other side has won the narrative war. And that is, there's a significant group of people that say hey, we just don't have enough money," Biggs said. "I say to them, how much is enough? We've put out a proposal that I think is a winning proposal."

Arizona's Magic Private School Tax Credits Don't Work

August 05, 2015, By Daniel Luzer

http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/college_guide/blog/arizonas_magic_private_school.php

Arizona was the first state in America to implement a tax credit for private education 18 years ago. School choice advocates loved this idea because it would decouple education from the state and allow for more competition.

But it turns out it doesn't really work so well. According to [this](#) really interesting piece over at the *Arizona Republic*:

A program that legislative budget staff in 1997 estimated would cost \$4.5 million a year now tops \$140 million. And that doesn't include \$50 million in tax credits handed out separately for public-school extracurricular activities. Despite its explosive growth, the program has failed to keep its promise of primarily aiding special-needs and low-income students, and of expanding school choice. Meanwhile, as it grows, critics say, it is further depleting funding for public schools.

There are a few problems with this. In the first place, it's not really clear the program actually worked as it was intended. The way vouchers are supposed to work is that vouchers introduce competition in public education. Since schools have something to lose or gain as a result of the policy, they should be working harder and student performance should improve.

That hasn't happened. Over the 20 years the state's education performance has gotten a little better, but that's also occurred in pretty much every state in the country. The state has seen no significant improvements, either for students in general or ethnic minorities, as a result of the private school fund.

Another problem is that this fund is a way to avoid taxes. People or businesses can take care of their tax budgets by just dropping some money in the education slush fund. And that deprives the state of money it needs to operate. In fiscal 2014, the most recent year available, Arizonans claimed \$84 million in individual tax credits. Corporations claimed another \$39 million. But that's a whole lot of money that they're not paying for other things, funds Arizona needs to operate other programs.

The other, perhaps more serious, result, according to the article, is the state now essentially runs a tax scheme under which people and companies can avoid paying taxes (which pay for public schools) by contributing money into a fund that pays for a few people to pay for private schools.

Only about 3 percent of the money is designated specifically for special-needs students. And 32 percent of the scholarship money given through the individual tax-credit programs goes to children of "low income" families, defined as those earning 185 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$44,862 for a family of four....

The corporate tax credit for “low income” families has a more-generous definition — a family of four can earn as much as \$82,996.

That’s because private school enrollment in the state is actually going down, and public school enrollment is increasing. And meanwhile almost 70 percent of that fund is used to send the children of reasonably affluent people to “a school of their choice,” even though many of them could just afford the tuition on their own. This is how to kill public schools.

Daniel Luzer is the news editor at Governing Magazine and former web editor of the Washington Monthly. Find him on Twitter: @Daniel_Luzer

Some Arizona classrooms have 15-year-old textbooks

Posted: Aug 31, 2015 Updated: Sep 01, 2015

By Morgan Loew, Edward Ayala, Gilbert Zermeno

<http://www.kpho.com/story/29928325/some-arizona-classrooms-have-15-year-old-textbooks>

PHOENIX (CBS5) -

When sixth-graders returned to school in the Casa Grande Elementary district this fall, they were assigned social studies textbooks that contain no mention of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the wars in Afghanistan or Iraq, or the election of Barack Obama, the first African-American president in United States history.

The textbooks were published in 2000, which makes them 15 years old, and explains why so much important American history is left out.

“Having new materials is very, very challenging,” said Barbara Wright, who is the director of curriculum and instruction at the Casa Grande Elementary District, where new textbooks are among the victims of our state’s education budget.

Wright says the money -- millions of dollars -- required to replace the old texts is just not available.

“The bare minimum would be \$3 million and that would be replacing our K-8 social studies books. Our middle school math is from the 1990s,” said Wright.

Her district received a total of \$463,000 from the state for capital expenses like textbooks. But the district has competing needs.

“Do we replace roofs? Or let them leak? Do we replace textbooks and not replace buses?” said Wright.

The Casa Grande District is not the only one dealing with this crisis. CBS 5 Investigates sent questionnaires to schools across the state, from Nogales to Peoria, from Yuma to Tucson. The median age for sixth-grade social studies textbooks was 10 years old.

Many of those books are no longer in print, so districts are scouring Amazon for used copies or asking students to share. Teachers are being asked to research more current events themselves and incorporate their own work into the curriculum. It is work they are not paid for, and work that could result in curriculums that do not meet district or state standards.

Some districts report that they are moving away from textbooks entirely, using online resources and e-books instead. But that brings up new challenges. How do they ensure that every student has access to

computers or tablets at home? Printing material for an entire school or district can quickly out-price the cost of new textbooks.

“We can look at a lot of scenarios, but what we have to do is act now. The state has the money now. The bill is due now,” said Andrew Morrill, who is the president of the Arizona Education Association.

He is referring to recent news that the state has a budget surplus of \$325 million. Education advocates argue that the surplus, along with the \$457 million in the state’s “rainy day” fund, would go a long way to solve the education funding crisis.

“Is it really OK in Arizona for our teachers to have to scrounge up their own materials and pay for them out of pocket, because the state won’t bring current the level of education funding?” said Morrill.

Several school districts are suing the state Legislature for cutting school funding below the levels mandated by a voter-approved initiative in 2000. A superior court judge has already ruled that the state owes schools more than \$300 million in additional funding for the coming year, and that tab could reach \$1.3 billion if the judge decides the legislators owe the schools additional money for the years they short-changed the schools.

Another group is considering filing a lawsuit against state leaders for failing to pay for adequate capital expenses like roofs, buses and textbooks.

So far, legislators and school officials have been unable to come to a settlement, and state leaders say they are not considering the use of the surplus to help the schools.

Gov. Doug Ducey is pushing his own plan to use additional revenue from the sale of state trust land to boost education funding.

“The first thing we have to do is have the state trust land proposal pass,” he said last week. “If it does pass, I think you’ll be able to see that we’ll make the case that we’ll lead the country in terms of new dollars into the classroom. That’s the best we can do.”

His plan would add \$2 billion over 10 years, but would take at least two years to enact. An even bigger problem, according to critics, is that the governor’s plan would add just \$323 per student per year to the amount the state pays school districts. That would bring Arizona up from 50th in the country in terms of state dollars spent per student, to 49th.

Meantime, students in classrooms across the state are returning to schools where the textbooks say Bill Clinton is still the president.

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Arizona: Historical Background: School Facilities Funding

In 1991, represented by the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest (ACLPI), over 40 low-wealth school districts filed an "equity" suit, claiming that the capital funding portion of the state education finance system violated the uniformity requirements of the state constitution's education clause. In 1994, the Arizona Supreme Court agreed, in *Roosevelt Elementary School District No. 66 v. Bishop*. The court relied on the state's requirements for course-work and its student competency standards to conclude that the financing scheme did

not enable all districts to provide the facilities and equipment necessary to give their students the opportunity to meet those state standards.

In 1998, to meet the court's requirements for a constitutional system, the legislature and governor moved responsibility for funding school construction and other capital items away from local districts to the state and phased out those local property taxes used to support capital expenditures. The new law created a School Facilities Board to administer the system and included technology, transportation, facilities, and equipment. The Board oversees three separate Funds for:

- New Schools
- Building Renewal, and
- Deficiency Correction.

Plaintiffs returned to court to challenge the state's alleged under-funding of the Building Renewal Fund, which is the only source of funds for major repairs and improvements for low-wealth districts. In 2002, the lower court ordered the legislature to restore \$90 million to the fund, but on appeal the state supreme court held that plaintiffs must show that the under funding resulted in facilities that are below standards.

Cave Creek Unified School District v. Martin

In June 2010, five school districts, the Arizona Education Association, the Arizona School Boards Association and several voters filed a special action in the state Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the Legislature's fiscal year 2011 budget, which did not include inflationary adjustments to foundation school funding levels. Petitioners in Cave Creek Unified School District v. Martin argue that the budget fails to fulfill the requirements of Proposition 301, a 2000 ballot initiative that requires the Legislature to annually increase funding by the rate of inflation (or 2%, if it is lower), and consequently, constitutes a violation of Article IV, Part I §I(6), the voter protection clause of the state constitution. That provision bars the Legislature from repealing laws passed through referenda, or amending said laws "unless [it] furthers the purposes of such measure and at least three-fourths of the members of each house of the legislature", or diverting funds set aside for these initiatives."

National Access Network, Teachers College, Columbia University. Copyright 2001-2011.
http://www.schoolfunding.info/states/az/lit_az.php3

LWVAZ Position on Education Funding

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports a funding plan for public education that enhances the equal opportunity of all students. Such a plan should:

- Provide for the equitable distribution of state funds, including capital funding.
- Establish criteria for a quality education for all students prior to determining the formula for the distribution of monies.
- Recognize the differences in the needs of school districts.
- Provide funds for the special needs of school districts.
- Include measures to equalize the ability of school districts to finance those portions of their budgets for which they are responsible on the local level.
- Require governmental entities that establish mandated programs to continue funding for duration of the project.
- Budget for transportation, social services and special education needs separately from base maintenance and operation support.
- Ensure that all schools using public funds, such as Charters are held as fiscally accountable as are schools in regular established public school districts.

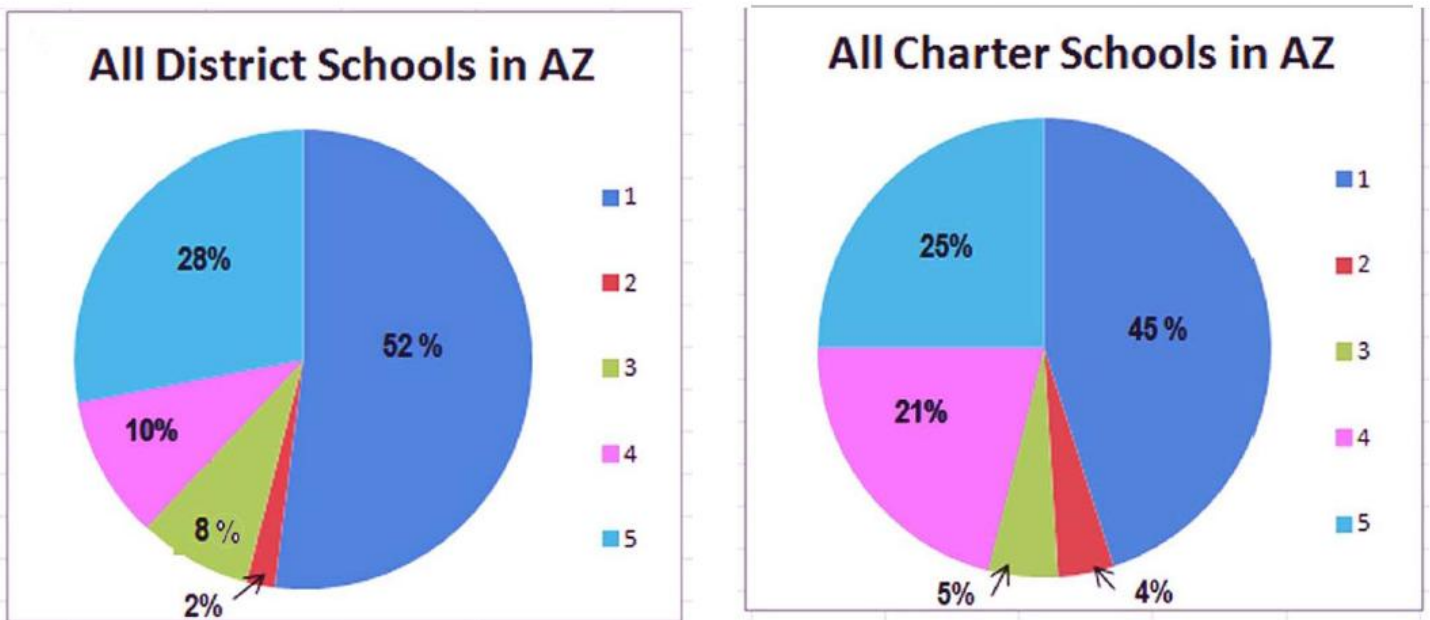
The League of Women Voters of Arizona recognizes the inequities of the local school property tax. Therefore, the League supports these measures:

- Decrease reliance on the local school district property tax.
- Utilize statewide taxes for support of public school education.
- Require development impact fees to be paid to local school districts.
- Continue use of trust land monies.
- Maintain a policy of local control on spending decisions.
- New monies should be additional funds and not supplant present state funding.

The League of Women Voters of Arizona also supports the following aspects of funding for public schools:

- School districts in Arizona retain ability to bond for building or renovation of schools and for capital expenditures.
- School districts retain the ability to hold override elections.
- Bond and override elections are determined by a simple majority vote.
- Legislature levies taxes for schools by a simple majority vote.]
- Realistic allowances are made for inflation.
- Continued centralized collection and distribution of funding to local school districts enabling distribution of these funds to provide: o a certain basic amount of money for each student, o financing over and above the basic amount to ensure equal opportunity for each child, o equal or equivalent maintenance of buildings, o equal or equivalent supplies, o strong leadership and quality teaching.

Percent of AZ Public School Budget Expenditures by Category



Legend: 1= classroom instruction 2= classroom supplies 3= student support services 4= administration 5= other
 Data Source: AZ State Superintendent's Annual Report for 2013-14
 Dysart USD data- pg. 61; All Dist. Schools - pg. 75; All Charter Schools - pg. 112
www.azed.gov/superintendent/files/2015/01/safr-2014-volume-i.pdf

Federal Role in Public Education Position

The League's History

Convention 2010 delegates voted to embark on a two-year study of the Federal Role in Public Education. Local and state Leagues across the country participated in the study and a position was announced in March 2012.

The League's Position

Statement of Position on Federal Role in Public Education as announced by the National Board in March 2012.

The League of Women Voters believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.

The League believes that the role of the federal government should include the following:

- Provide leadership and vision to promote a quality education for all children;
- Provide broad common standards developed by educational experts upon which states and local education agencies can build;
- Provide a suggested curricular structure or framework as a guide to state and local education agencies to develop their own curricula;
- Provide a national assessment that clearly informs teachers, parents and students about how well individual students have mastered criteria established at the national level;
- Provide a national assessment that informs districts how well their populations compare to other populations similar to theirs; and
- Provide a combination of competitive grants and non-competitive funding to states and local school districts to achieve equity among states and populations.

The League of Women Voters believes that an equitable, quality public education is critical for students. While the League recognizes that there are instances where the federal government's involvement is the only way to achieve universal change (desegregation, special needs population, gender equity), we also recognize that primary responsibility for public education resides with the states. In accordance with the League of Women Voters' position on Equal Rights, the League continues to support equity in public education for all through:

- Broad guidelines for accountability, leaving implementation to the state and local education agencies;
- Adequate funding sources that support the broad goals of national standards; and
- Mechanisms for local and state funding with adequate federal support for mandates that require less burdensome, compliance-based reporting and regulations.

The League of Women Voters believes a basic role of the federal government in funding education should be to achieve equity among states and populations on the basis of identified needs. This should be done with full understanding that equity does not mean equal, given that some populations are more expensive to educate than others and some localities have specific needs.

The League believes that the federal government should be primarily responsible for funding any programs mandated by the federal government on local education agencies. Although the League recognizes equity in education depends on meeting basic human needs of children and of their families, the costs associated with providing equitable access to safe neighborhoods and secure housing do not belong in the education budget. Major programs of federal funding for public education (i.e., Elementary and Secondary Education Act) should be targeted toward children living in poverty and/or children with special needs.

The federal government has the responsibility to monitor and support access to the following:

- High quality teaching and learning, supported by quality current learning materials and well maintained educational facilities; and
- Access to health care needs (i.e., hearing, vision, dental, immunization, school-based health clinics at the secondary level, etc.) and nutritionally adequate food (i.e., school-based meals under "free and reduced meal programs").

The League of Women Voters believes that the first five years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. Additionally, the League believes quality, developmentally appropriate and voluntary early learning experiences should be available to all children, with federally funded opportunities going first to children of poverty and/or with special needs. The League believes that the federal government should support the following:

- Early childhood education programs that include funding for parent education and involve child development, health, nutrition and access to other supportive services such as mental health care for all children and their families;
- Research that documents quality early childhood education programs; and
- Research that demonstrates the importance of linking state and local community partnerships with effective early childhood education programs and services.



National Voter Registration Day—September 22

The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County joins as many as 1,000 organizations nationwide to celebrate the 4th Annual National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 22, 2015. By coordinating efforts, we hope to raise awareness of the importance of voting in a democratic society.

Every year, millions of Americans don't vote because they forget to register or miss their state's voter registration deadline. The LWVYC has been working throughout the year to provide opportunities for Arizona residents to register to vote, and of course we encourage those who have already registered to go to the polls or complete their early voting ballots and mail them in by the posted deadline.

Citizens must register to vote if they have changed their name or address since the last time they voted. Those who are registering to vote for the first time must be 18 years old by the next election day. This year the last day to register to vote for the November 3rd election is October 5.

Volunteers from our League will be present at Yavapai College and the Prescott Public Library during the morning and lunch hour to register voters on September 22. Members of other local organizations will be covering Prescott High School and Prescott College as well. A huge thank you to all who work so hard to help our local citizens be prepared to practice their fundamental right to participate in democracy through voting.

STUDY COMMITTEE FOR MONEY IN POLITICS

Here is your chance to serve on the study committee for the national study on Money in Politics.

The committee will have its first meeting on October 21, 4-5 pm.

If you are interested contact Alice Harris at alicesharris@gmail.com or call 778-6977.

The membership meeting on this study will be January 2, 1916.

Child Protection Attorneys Leaving due to Double Caseloads and Low Salaries

AzRepublic, 9/14/2015, ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is requesting \$1 million to help pay for a surge in child-welfare cases, as well as an additional \$9 million for fiscal 2017.

Attorneys are leaving the Child and Family Protection Division, citing factors such as poor wages and extreme caseloads, Attorney General Mark Brnovich's spokesman, Ryan Anderson, told the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Anderson said each attorney oversees an average of 146 cases, more than double what the American Bar Association recommends for child-welfare attorneys.

The attorneys represent the state Department of Child Safety whenever the agency removes a child from a home. The lack of attorneys could back up the child-welfare system and cause greater delays in finding permanent homes for children, said Beth Rosenberg, director of child welfare and juvenile justice for the non-profit advocacy group Children's Action Alliance.

"What you get is delays in court hearings because the attorneys can't be in the courtroom when they need to be in the courtroom — you get delays in filing petitions for severing parental rights," Rosenberg said.

Brnovich requested the additional money as part of an effort to carve out a budget for 2017.

While attorneys are leaving, neglect and abuse reports are increasing and more children are entering the fostercare system. More than 17,000 children are in the system, the highest number in more than a decade.

"Kids are coming in, but they're not leaving," Rosenberg said.

Once again this year, we would like to publish a Membership Directory. To ensure your name is in the directory, please have your dues renewal received by September 30th. The Directory will be available at the October meeting. If you have any questions regarding how to renew your membership, or if you have friends who would like to join, please refer to our website *League of Women Voters of Yavapai County* or contact me at cmshaw0430@aol.com.

LWVCYC Tentative Calendar 2015-16

Day	Date	Time	Activity	Topic/Place
Tues.	Sept. 29	TBA	Board	Board Meeting
Sat.	Oct 3rd	10:00	Public Meeting	School funding and School bonds
Tues.	Nov. 3		Election	General Election
Tues.	Nov. 10	8:00	Board	Board Meeting
Sat.	Nov 14th	10:00	Public Meeting	Constitutional Amendment consensus ---This is a second Saturday meeting.---
Tues.	Dec. 1	8:00	Board	Board Meeting
Sat.	Dec. 5		Members	Holiday Luncheon at Augies
Tues.	Dec. 29	8:00	Board	Board Meeting
Sat.	Jan 2nd, 2016	10:00	Public Meeting	Money in Politics
Tues.	Feb. 2	8:00	Board	Board Meeting
Sat.	February 6th	10:00	Public Meeting	Program Planning
Mon.	Febr. 22		Deadline	Deadline Voter Regist. For Presidential Primary
Tues.	March 1	8:00	Board	Board Meeting
Sat.	March 5th	10:00	Public Meeting	What's our water future?
Tues.	Mar. 22		Election	Presidential Preference Primary
Tues.	Apr. 19	8:00	Board	Board Meeting
Sat.	April 23	10:00	Public Meeting	Legislative Update This is a fourth Saturday.
Tues.	May 3	8:00	Board	Board Meeting
Sat.	May 7	TBA	Members	Annual Meeting and Speaker
TBD			Board	New Board Retreat
Mon.	Aug. 1		Deadline	Voter registration deadline for Primary Election
Tues.	Aug. 30		Election	Primary Election

IMPORTANT WEBSITE REFERENCES

LWVUS Website
www.lwv.org

LWVAZ Website
www.lwvaz.org

LWVCYC Website
LWVCYC.org

We recommend that you check these out monthly, or more often. Lots of good information! Bookmark them to save on typing, or go to lwvaz.org, where there are links to click on. Or Google LWVCYC!

Our website includes current and past VOTERS, and other great material. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Reminder – Members are always welcome to attend Board meetings.

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

LWV MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

2015-2016

Membership in the LWV is open to any person 18 and over who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the LWVUS. Dues for 2015-16 cover payment for local (\$16.00), state (\$13), and national (\$31.00) memberships.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Note type of membership, and make check to “LWVCYC”:

_____ \$60/Yr Individual Membership

_____ \$90/Yr Household Membership

Plus suggested donation:

\$_____ Contribution to League (not tax deductible)

\$_____ *Contribution to Education Fund (tax deductible)

*Donations to the LWVAZ Education Fund must be made by separate check, to preserve tax deductibility. This supports our Webpage and Voter Service activities. Thank you!

Both new and renewal members, please include this form with your check.

New: _____

Renewal: _____

OR

Be a “Friend” of LWVCYC (non-voting):

_____ \$50/Yr Individual or _____ \$75/Yr Household
(open to businesses and individuals)

Please mail this form and all checks to:

**LWVCYC
PO Box 11538 Prescott, AZ 86304-1538**