



# THE VOTER

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

P. O. Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304-1538

February 2011

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The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County  
presents

## Straight Talk from the Superintendents

School Superintendents from Prescott, Chino Valley, & Prescott Valley/Dewey-Humboldt discuss school related issues.



**Paul Stanton, HUSD**  
Prescott Valley &  
Dewey-Humboldt



**Duane Noggle, CVUSD**  
Chino Valley



**David Smucker, PUSD**  
Prescott

(photos from Daily Courier)

### Public Meeting Open to All

When: Saturday, February 12, 2011  
9 AM, Social Time; 9:30-11:30, Program  
Where: Las Fuentes Village,  
Lower level Community Room,  
1035 Scott, in Prescott

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

# STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE SUPERINTENDENTS

Saturday, February 12  
9:00 social time; 9:30-11:30 Program  
Las Fuentes, 1035 Scott, Prescott

Your League is extremely pleased to have school superintendents Duane Noggle, Chino Valley Unified School District, Dave Smucker, Prescott Unified School District, and Dr. Paul Stanton, Humboldt Unified School District, as panelists for the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. This program was conceived during conversations between the superintendents and our members at the **Meet and Greet** in December, where they offered to share what they knew and expected and we eagerly took them up on their offer.

There is much rumor and anticipation surrounding what the Governor and Legislature might or might not do – or have already done - with school funding. **Therefore we welcome the opportunity to hear directly from those whose job it is to deal with the dollars, decisions, dilemmas and directions our schools will take in the next year and into future years.**

This is an “absolutely don’t miss” meeting. Please distribute our flier and invite your friends and neighbors. A League purpose is to participate, inform and educate. This meeting exemplifies that purpose. See you there.

Sandra Goodwin, Vice President/Program

## Key Elements of a School District Budget

- M&O--** Spent on **PEOPLE** (salaries and benefits, supplies, services)
- Capital --** Unrestricted Capital & Soft Capital spent on **THINGS** – (textbooks, technology, furniture, equipment, vehicles, etc.)
- Bond--** Spent on new **SCHOOLS** & improvement of existing **BUILDINGS** (brick and mortar, buses)

## Funding Sources

- State Aid
- Primary and Secondary property taxes
- Grants (only for specific expenditures, can only supplement, not supplant)
- Other (donations, tax credits, etc.)

## Enrollment Decline Will Reduce School District Budgets

Taken from The Prescott Daily Courier 1/28/2011

Prescott tri-city area school district officials do not know how deep the cuts will go as the state tries to balance its budget, but they are anticipating reductions in the money they receive for educational purposes.

Chuck Essings from the Arizona Association of School Business Officials advised districts to **prepare for a 10 percent budget cut.**

While state cuts are unknown, district officials are trying to deal with known factors - such as declining student enrollment. School districts receive money from the state based on average daily membership (ADM) on the 100th day of school - Jan. 25. ADM represents the number of students enrolled in school, not attendance numbers. School districts will receive money for the 2011-12 school year based on the ADM.

Starting with the 2012-13 school year, the state will no longer use ADM to determine school funding. Instead, it will use attendance numbers from four days of the previous school year. This year, however, ADM is still the deciding factor, and it is not looking good for local districts.

The 100-day student counts are early numbers. School districts and the Department of Education must reconcile the ADMs. Each school district uses a base amount to determine how much money they will receive - or lose - per student.

**Humboldt Unified School District** uses a base amount of \$4,000 per student. Prescott and Chino Valley use a base amount of \$5,000 per student

HUSD Human Resources Director Phil Young said that early numbers indicate a decrease in enrollment of 124 students. HUSD's enrollment for the 2009-10 school year was 5,849 students. The early enrollment numbers for the 2010-11 school year is 5,725 students.

Young noted that the enrollment numbers have fluctuated between decreases of 115 to 140 students. What this means for HUSD is an almost \$500,000 base amount per student decrease in state aid.

Young explained there is another variable in state aid - B-weight funding. This is additional per-student money the district receives for special needs students. "The actual ADM hit, with the B-weight in play, appears to be favorable. Instead of being down \$500,000, the decrease may end up closer to \$350,000 to \$400,000. That is better than earlier projections," Young noted.

Young said the reduction in state aid because of decreased enrollment will affect the district budget "before anything else happens. We know we are looking at extra health benefit costs and increases to contributions to the state retirement system."

According to Young, the district is "actively working to determine budget adjustments." He indicated that during the next few weeks, district officials would reach out to the district administrative team and staff members for ideas of how to reduce costs.

**Prescott Unified School District** Superintendent Dave Smucker said "We will plan for the worst and hope for the best. PUSD's decrease of 205 students translates into a \$1 million hit to the 2011-12 budget. According to Renee Raskin, chief financial officer, the early enrollment figures for all PUSD schools decreased from 5,235 students in 2009-10 to 5,030 for 2010-11.

Like HUSD, PUSD is looking at increases in health benefit costs and increases to the state retirement system.

All of this will happen before any of the districts know what the state will do. "We keep hearing that the Legislature will make a decision early," Smucker said. Regardless, PUSD is looking at a total budget cut of about \$1.6 million, and everything is on the table.

"Our focus is on how we will make decisions, how we continue programs for kids and how we do our best for kids so that when they leave PUSD they are prepared to meet their dreams," Smucker said. "We are doing a lot of work with the district leadership team and the governing board. But a lot of things depend on what the state does."

Smucker indicated that whatever the district does, "it will have an impact on the children in this community. We have to look at where our labels come from, core classes and professional development."

According to Smucker, the good side of the budget dilemma is that the district has to take a hard look at what it is doing. "The hard part is that we have to look at things and ask if we can afford them," Smucker stated.

The situation in the **Chino Valley Unified School District** is a little different - but only because of the date of the 100th day of school. Since CVUSD went to a four-day school week, its 100th day is later than other local districts.

Superintendent Duane Noggle reported that CVUSD's 100th day is March 2. Noggle anticipates the ADM will be down about 170 students. "That is a huge impact. We anticipate a \$850,000 hit even without any other budget cuts," Noggle said.

The CVUSD superintendent indicated that the district would consider any staff or program reductions "based on our staffing model."

School districts are submitting their 100-day ADM reports to the Department of Education for reconciliation. Reports of ADM for other districts around the state are not yet available.

## **But What About Prop 100?**

**The following information is specific to the Prescott Unified School District only:**

*Even with the passage of Prop 100, PUSD still experienced a loss of funding of \$3.7 million from this year's budget. Some of the cuts were:*

- Reduction of positions in administrators, teachers, counselors, office staff, and instructional assistants.
- Reductions in supplies and purchased services.
- Restructuring of athletics programs and an increase in "pay to play."
- Loss of 80% of funds to purchase student materials such as : textbooks, technology, furniture, buses, and equipment (nearly \$2 million over the past two years).

*Prop 100 helped – here are some of the items PUSD DIDN'T have to cut this year:*

- Art, Music, and P.E. at elementary schools, and reduction of electives at secondary schools.
- Teachers, Nurses, Computer Techs, Librarians, Assistant Principals, Behavior Coaches
- Increases in class size, with transfer of students from school to school to accommodate reduced sections.
- PE graduation requirement and the PE program at PHS.
- World Geography graduation requirement and classes at PHS.
- District-wide reduction in salaries for all staff.

**Other districts have already had to cut some of these programs. Chino Valley USD has gone to a four day school week. Humboldt USD has moved 6<sup>th</sup> grade into the elementary schools.**

## **Present and Future Challenges in PUSD:**

- Declining enrollment: enrollment is down by 230 students, which equals over \$1 million in lost revenue.
- The State is projecting further cuts: in 2011 \$800-900 million in cuts; in 2012, \$1.4 billion in cuts.
- PUSD has already experienced over \$4,000,000 in cuts over the last three years: Additionally, soft capital funding has been reduced by almost \$2 million over the past two years.
- Insurance premiums are increasing: we are projecting an increase of \$500,00.
- Arizona State Retirement Systems are increasing: increase in 2011 will be \$120,000.
- Possible mid-year cut.

Prop 100 (temporary 1 cent sales tax) was projected to raise \$1 billion in revenues. Actual revenues are falling below projections, and are only bringing in between \$800 and \$880 million.

ARRA Stimulus dollars expire June, 2011.

## **Arizona 3-Year Economic Projections (AZ Joint Legislative Budget Committee)**

### **2010-2011**

- Projected Shortfall -- \$825 million.
- Of the \$825 million, \$100 million is shortfall in K-12 Budget. State may backfill \$100 million from \$211 in Education Jobs Federal funding.
- Education Sales Tax and Trust Land Earning monies (Prop 301 passed in 2000)~9.1% below last year.

### **2011-2012**

- Projected Shortfall: \$1.4 billion.
- Possible \$111 million in Federal funding remains from Education Jobs Bill (anticipating that State may use to backfill where needed).

### **2012-2013:**

- Projected Shortfall: \$1.275 billion.

### **2013-2014**

- Projected Shortfall: \$1.9 billion.

## **State: New Report Says Arizona's Budget Woes Run Deep *Red Ink Caused by 'self-inflicted damage'***

By PAUL DAVENPORT, 1/4/2011, The Associated Press

PHOENIX - Arizona's budget troubles run deeper than the Great Recession and the collapse of the real estate market.

The state's long-term fiscal condition has been undermined by decisions by voters and the politicians they elected to cut taxes and expand state programs, leaving the state with a chronic imbalance between revenue and spending - a "structural deficit" that requires changes on a variety of fronts, according to report being released Wednesday by a university think tank.

Those changes should include budgeting process improvements as well as balanced approach for both cuts to state programs to check spending and tax increases to expand state revenue, the report released by Arizona State University's Morrison Institute said.

"Arizona's deep fiscal imbalances owe mostly to self-inflicted damage to the state's revenue system and related policy changes," the report stated.

The report was produced by Morrison and Brookings Mountains West, a partnership of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the Washington-based Brookings Institution.

Arizona saw its revenue plunge by about a third with the recession and the housing collapse, leading the state to use a temporary sales tax increase, program cuts, borrowing, raids on special funds, delays in school funding, layoffs of nearly 2,000 state employees, and federal stimulus dollars to close three years of budget gaps.

But those steps haven't balanced the state's ongoing spending with its ongoing revenue, the report said.

It said past policy actions have compounded the state's troubles.

The report said tax cuts in the past two decades add up to \$2.9 billion in current annual revenue. A 2006 two-step reduction of the individual income tax by a combined 10 percent helped the structural deficit climb from 18 percent in 2007 to 21 percent currently, the report said.

However, the report also cited spending decisions in the past decade by lawmakers and voters, respectively, to mandate major new outlays for school construction and health care for low-income people, leaving the state pressed to pay for the increases.

While the report's recommendations largely focused on revenue increases to preserve state services, majority Republican lawmakers say additional tax increases would hurt the ailing economy.

The report was being released prior to a Friday conference on the state's budget troubles. The Legislature's 2011 regular session begins Monday, with lawmakers facing a \$825 million shortfall in the current \$8.5 billion budget and a projected \$1.4 billion in the next one.



**County Supervisors To Add 'Call To Public' To Agendas**  
*General plan, budget also topics at retreat*

From Daily Courier, 1/26/2011

JEROME - Yavapai County Supervisor Carol Springer has added a "call to the public" to board agendas while it's her turn to chair the board this year. The "call to the public," usually at the start of a public meeting, allows citizens to bring up issues that are not on the supervisors' meeting agendas.

The supervisors briefly talked about a wide range of other issues at their Jerome Town Hall retreat, including:

- A timetable for updating the county's general plan, which it now will call a comprehensive plan. The plan guides a wide range of land-use decisions. The county created the current plan in 2003 after a series of public workshops and meetings. State law requires local governments to update these plans every 10 years, although the state made a special exception on the next update to give local governments an extra five years.

Work on the new plan will start with a series of nine informational kick-off meetings throughout the county in mid-February through March, said principal planner Elise Link of the Development Services Department. County officials will schedule these meetings so they are several weeks apart from a series of public meetings about the county redistricting process.

Citizens can apply to be part of four citizen advisory committees that will each help the county work on two major elements of the plan. Information on the planning process also will be updated on the county's website at [www.co.yavapai.az.us](http://www.co.yavapai.az.us). County officials hope to finish the plan by August 2012.

The county budget for the fiscal year that starts in July. As the nationwide economic downturn continues, the county is again concerned about how the state budget will affect it because the Arizona Legislature is short on revenues.

Springer said she's especially concerned about House Bill 2186 that would require all 15 counties to produce annual reports about how much money they have remaining in their coffers at the end of each fiscal year. The bill could be a prelude to raiding county funds, Springer said. The County Supervisors Association successfully fought it last year, she said.

Gov. Jan Brewer's budget proposal would directly reduce Yavapai County revenues by \$806,000, County Administrator Julie Ayers said. The supervisors will start working on next year's budget in detail later this month.

- Revival of a major job reclassification effort for the county's 1,800 employees. The Human Resources Department completed new job descriptions for all the employees in 2008, with 491 different descriptions, HR Director Alan Vigneron said. HR is recommending reclassifying 162 positions upward and reclassifying 72 positions downward in pay. HR also is recommending reducing the 32 pay steps to 10, with a 3 percent pay raise between them.

Step increases would take place more frequently during an employee's early years as an incentive to keep employees. HR also is recommending reducing annual vacation carryover hours to two weeks and eliminating catastrophic family leave time, among other things. The supervisors said they generally like the proposal and will discuss it further.



## ***Calendar of Events***

# 2011

Wednesday, February 2

Board Meeting: 5:30, Nancy Shugrue's, PV

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

**STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE SCHOOL  
SUPERINTENDENTS  
9 AM, Las Fuentes**

Wednesday, February 23

Board Meeting: 5:30, Step One, PV

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
9 AM, Las Fuentes**

Wednesday, March 30

Board Meeting: 5:30, Step One, PV

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9**

**ANNUAL LUNCHEON & BUSINESS MEETING  
9 AM, Las Fuentes**

Wednesday, April 27

Board Meeting: 5:30, Step One, PV

**SATURDAY, May 14**

**POVERTY IN YAVAPAI COUNTY  
9 AM, Las Fuentes**

To be scheduled

Board retreat

Let's all make a special attempt to increase our membership. Show your friends our newsletter. Invite them to come with you to meetings!



**IMPORTANT WEBSITE REFERENCES**

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/>

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](http://lwvaz.org), where there are links to click on. Or Google LWVCYC!

Our website includes current and past VOTERS, Pros and Cons of Ballot Initiatives, Directory of Elected Officials, and other great material.

*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 the LWVCYC President a week in advance.*

**LWV MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**  
**2010-2011**

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

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

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

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

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

Please check type of membership:

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

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

Plus

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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, 2011.

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 (\$15.30), state (\$10), and national (\$29.70) 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 11538 Prescott, AZ 86304-1538



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