



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI COUNTY

LWVCYC@gmail.com

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

February 2013

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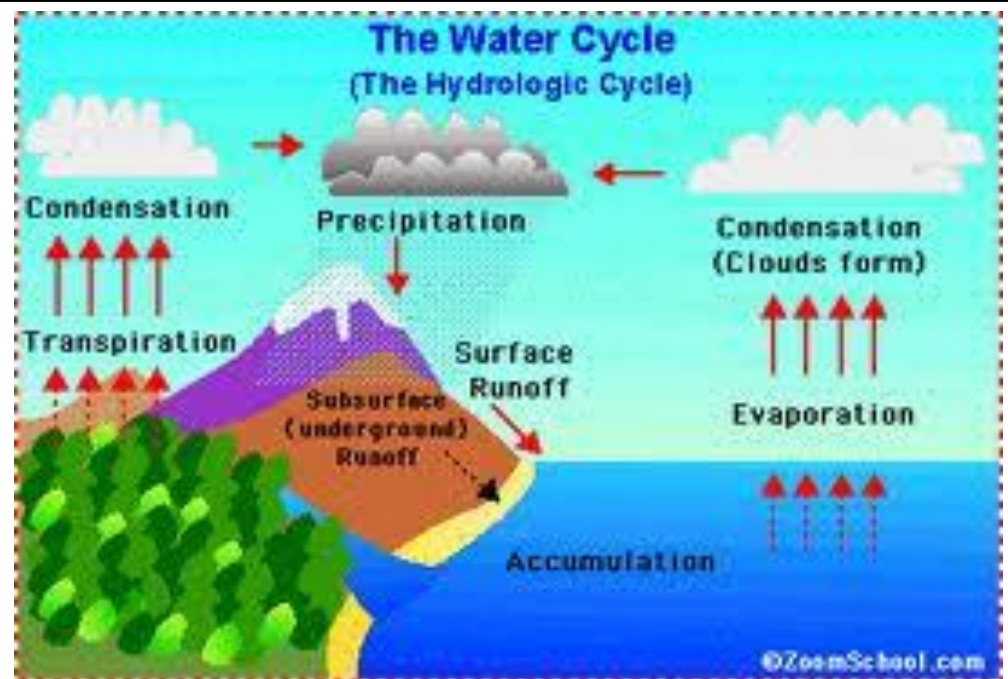
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[443-7683]

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The League of Women Voters presents:

Water Issues in Yavapai County



Dr. Pat O'Hara Hydrology 101

Dr. Gary Beverly Current Water Issues in Yavapai Co.

When: Saturday, February 16, 2013

9 AM Social Time;

9:30 AM Water Issues in Yavapai County

Where: Lower level Community Room,

Las Fuentes Village, 1035 Scott, Prescott

LWVCYC Website: <http://goo.gl/5R9xU>



President's Message

We are starting to get a lot of messages from the LWVAZ regarding the newly proposed state bills, now that our Legislature is back in session. We will be passing relevant information on to you as they come in, especially on the more controversial topics. So, start expecting more emails because it is a primary goal to keep our members informed and alert to what is happening.

Our January meeting went very well, though we all agreed that the study workshop portion had insufficient time to go over local, state and national positions and also try to introduce new study issues. We will address that in the future. It was very pleasing to see how much was accomplished, however. There was agreement to start a study with member, BJ Forshee, volunteering to lead the committee on financing

Education in Yavapai County, with a formalized title once the committee begins. There was also discussion of a definite need in our area for some sort of housing provision for the homeless, and other social issues for the needy in our area. Several members are willing to be on such a study committee but we will need a leader for that group, so if you feel you could participate by leading such a committee, we ask you to step up. You will be as thoroughly mentored as you feel the need. It is very satisfying to accomplish a study and bring it to fruition as a position. We are, after all a group of like minded *participants*, rather than just an audience of like-minded people. The second half of the meeting was presented by a representative from Expect More Arizona, an education advocacy group, and was stimulating and informative. Hope you were able to attend in January.

This month's topic at our general meeting is water, as you can see from our front cover. I am proud that my husband, Pat O'Hara Ph.D., as a professional geologist, will give a down to earth (pun intended) explanation of water in the ground and how it gets there, a "Hydrology 101" quick course. We also have a representative from CWAG, a local water advocacy group, speaking and giving us an update on local water issues. Please make an effort to attend. Our meetings are so well put together by our VP Program, Juliana Goswick and are fresh, informative and stimulating. We always hope to have a good audience attendance for all of our wonderful speakers.

I feel so encouraged after meeting some of our new members in an intimate setting at my home for our welcome breakfast and orientation. The League of Women Voters always draws the most interesting and intelligent members, and this year is no exception.

Vicky O'Hara, President Look for some more social events coming up soon. See you on February 16th!

Dates to Put on Your Calendar

Sat., Febr. 16	9:30 AM	Water	Las Fuentes
Sat., March 16	9:30 AM	Legislative Update	Las Fuentes
Sat., April 20	TBD	Annual Meeting and Talk	TBD
Sat., May 25	NOTE CHANGE	9 -12 noon	Las Fuentes

Water Issues in Yavapai County

Patrick F. O'Hara, Ph.D.

Hydrology 101

Dr. O'Hara, as a geochemist, has been a hard mineral exploration consultant for thirty-two years. He received his bachelors and masters degrees in geology at Queens College, CUNY and then came west for his doctorate, at Arizona State University. He has taught at various universities in New York and Arizona, and has had 75 papers and maps published in journals and abstracts associated with International Scientific societies or various governmental agencies. He has lived in Prescott since 1980 and met and married his wife Vicky O'Hara here.

Current Water Issues in Yavapai County

Gary Beverly is a PhD chemist, college instructor, farmer, photographer and environmental activist.



Assistance Needed to Make Democracy Work

The League of Women Voters of the United States was founded as an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. In order to meet these founding ideals, it is essential to have a well- informed membership, and in order to accomplish this step, the Central Yavapai League needs some help from its members.

We would like to monitor all local government meetings, whether in person or by reviewing an upcoming agenda, so that the League can take ACTION as appropriate. Of course the League would need to have a position on the subject in order to submit comments or make a statement, but we can't do either of those actions unless we are informed about meeting content in advance.

If you would like to be involved in this ACTION process, please contact Vicky McLane, vmhmcclane@gmail.com or 445-8511.

AZ Legislature: Social Policy Bills as of Feb 2, 2013

AHCCCS

H2044 AHCCCS, continuation. The statutory life of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System is extended 10 years to July 1, 2023. Retroactive to July 1, 2013. **First Sponsor:** Rep. Carter **1-15 Health; 1-16 Rules; 1-16 Health, DP; 1-16 2nd read;**

H 2352 AHCCCS; EXPANSION; PROHIBITION. Any statutory or administrative expansion of AHCCCS eligibility is prohibited from taking effect until the Joint Legislative Budget Committee certifies to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives that expansion will be budget neutral for the next 20 fiscal years. **First Sponsor:** Rep. Seel **O**

H 2354 AHCCCS; CHILDLESS ADULTS; SERVICES; PROHIBITION. The AHCCCS Administration is prohibited from using any AHCCCS monies to fund services to childless adults. Due to voter protection, this bill requires the affirmative vote of at least 3/4 of each house of the Legislature for passage. **First Sponsor:** Rep. Seel

ABORTION/CONTRACEPTIVE

H 2201 NONPRESCRIPTION CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES; PHARMACIES. Pharmacies are required to keep nonprescription contraception products on store counters that are accessible to customers without assistance. **First Sponsor:** Rep. Gonzales

H2437 Abortion; viability. Except in a medical emergency, a person is prohibited from knowingly performing, inducing or attempting to perform or induce an abortion of a “viable fetus,” instead of if the probably gestational age of the unborn child is at least 20 weeks. **First Sponsor:** Rep. Meyer

H 2507 EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION. Health professionals that provide care to a female of reproductive age who states that she is the victim of rape must provide the patient with medical information about emergency contraception (defined as a drug or device that prevents pregnancy after sexual intercourse) and provide or prescribe emergency contraception at the patient’s request. Health professionals may refer the patient to another provider for forensic medical care and emergency contraception. Licensed pharmacies are required to properly fill valid prescription orders presented to the pharmacy by or for a customer. Pharmacy employees must notify the pharmacy in writing of all categories or types of prescription drugs and devices that the employee would decline to fill because of sincerely held religious beliefs, and the pharmacy must attempt to accommodate the employee if the accommodation can be made without causing undue hardship to the pharmacy or its customers. Also requires the Department of Health Services to administer a program to reduce the risks of unintended pregnancy by improving awareness of emergency contraception. **First Sponsor:** Rep. Steele

S 1106 EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION. Health professionals that provide care to a female of reproductive age who states that she is the victim of rape must provide the patient with medical information about emergency contraception (defined as a drug or device that prevents pregnancy after sexual intercourse) and provide or prescribe emergency contraception at the patient’s request. Health professionals may refer the patient to another provider for forensic medical care and emergency contraception. Licensed pharmacies are required to properly fill valid prescription orders presented to the pharmacy by or for a customer. Pharmacy employees must notify the pharmacy in writing of all categories or types of prescription drugs and devices that the employee would decline to fill because of sincerely held religious beliefs, and the pharmacy must attempt to accommodate the employee if the

accommodation can be made without causing undue hardship to the pharmacy or its customers. Also requires the Department of Health Services to administer a program to reduce the risks of unintended pregnancy by improving awareness of emergency contraception. **First Sponsor:** Sen. Tovar **Other Sponsors:** Sen. Bradley, Sen. Cajero Bedford, Sen. Farley, Sen. Gallardo, Sen. Hobbs, Sen. Jackson, Jr., Sen. Landrum Taylor, Sen. Lopez, Sen. McGuire, Sen. Meza, Sen. Pancrazi,

MARRIAGE

S1041 Civil unions. Authorizes two adults who are not related by blood and are competent to enter into a contract to enter into a civil union by submitting a notarized and signed affidavit to the clerk of the superior court with specified information and paying a filing fee. Each party to a civil union is considered to be related by law and has the same responsibilities and benefits relating to the other party as each party to a marriage. The term “spouse” in state statute and rule applies to parties to a civil union. Does not require any religious organization to participate in formalizing a civil union. **First Sponsor:** Sen. Ableser. **1-15 Jud; 1-15 HHS; 1-15 Rules; 1-16 2nd read;**

S1165 Marriage; qualifications. Marriage between persons of the same sex is no longer void and prohibited. Conditionally enacted on the state Constitution being amended by a vote of the people at the 2014 general election to remove the constitutional prohibition relating to same sex marriage. **First Sponsor:** Sen. Gallardo **Other Sponsors:** Sen. Hobbs, Sen. Jackson, Jr., Sen. Lopez
. **1-24 Jud; 1-24 Rules;**

SCR 1004 Marriage; qualifications. The ballot is to carry the question of whether to amend the state Constitution to repeal the provision that only a union of one man and one woman is valid or recognized as marriage in Arizona. **First Sponsor:** Sen. Gallardo **Other Sponsors:** Sen. Hobbs, Sen. Jackson, Jr., Sen. Lopez. . **1-24 Jud; 1-24 Rules;**

DEATH PENALTY/PRISONS

S1048 Death penalty; Repeal. Repeals the death penalty, the Capital Postconviction Public Defender Office, and all related statutes. If the court imposes a natural life sentence, the court is required to order that the defendant not be released on any basis for the remainder of the defendant’s natural life. As session law, the Supreme Court is required to remand each case in which a sentence of death was imposed before the effective date of this legislation to the court in the appropriate county, where that court must strike the death sentence and enter in its place a sentence of natural life. **First Sponsor:** Sen. Ableser **Other Sponsors:** Sen. Gallardo, Sen. Hobbs, Sen. Meza. **1-16 Jud; 1-16 Rules; 1-17 2nd read**

H 2131 PRIVATE PRISONS STUDY COMMITTEE. Establishes a 19-member Private Prison Study Committee to research and report on the impact of private prisons on the safety of the public and prisoners, the economic efficiency of housing prisoners in private facilities, and the provision of constitutionally appropriate services for prisoners at private prisons. The Committee must submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2013. Selfrepeals October 1, 2014. **First Sponsor:** Rep. Campbell **Other Sponsors:** Rep. Alston, Rep. Dalessandro, Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Gabaldon, Rep. Gallego, Rep. McCune-Davis, Rep. Otondo, Rep. Wheeler,

IMMIGRATION

S 1120 IMMIGRATION; LAW ENFORCEMENT; REPEAL. Repeals the following statutes established by Laws 2010, Chapter 113 (S1070): the prohibition on state and local government agencies or governing bodies restricting the enforcement of federal immigration law; the requirement for law enforcement officials to determine the immigration status of a person at any lawful stop or arrest where reasonable suspicion exists that the person is unlawfully present in the U.S.; provisions allowing law enforcement to arrest without warrant any person the officer has probable cause to believe has committed a public offense that makes the person removable from the U.S.; the defense of entrapment for employers found to be

employing unauthorized aliens; the establishment of willful failure to complete or carry an alien registration document, unlawful stopping to hire and pick up passengers for work, and unlawful application for employment or employment by an unauthorized alien as class 1 misdemeanors; the requirement that a vehicle driven in furtherance of the illegal presence of an alien in the U.S. and in violation of a criminal offense be immobilized or impounded; and the establishment of the Gang and Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) Fund. **First Sponsor:** Sen. Gallardo

SR 2002 Immigration reform; principles. The members of the House of Rep. support the principles stated in this Resolution, including the Dream Act, a temporary worker program, strengthening national security, and ensuring family reunification, s a reasonable and human approach to comprehensive immigration reform. Sponsor: Quezada.

FIREARMS

H 2234 FIREARM; DEFINITION. Modifies the statutory definition of “firearm” to exclude weapons manufactured before January 1, 1899, weapons that may readily be converted to expel a projectile by expanding gases, and firearms that are incapable of being fired without mechanical repair by the use of tools or the replacement of parts, instead of excluding firearms in permanently inoperable condition. H2288 State regulation of firearms. The state and state agencies are added to the list of government bodies prohibited from enacting certain rules relating to firearms or requiring licensing or registration of firearms or ammunition. The state and political subdivisions are permitted to limit or prohibit the possession of firearms on public property if the property is a secured facility, signs are posted at all public entrances, and the property is equipped with secure firearm lockers. A person is authorized to file suit for declarative and injunctive relief and for actual and consequential damages for any government regulation or policy in violation of the prohibited firearms regulations. Additionally, entering a public establishment or attending a public event and carrying a deadly weapon after being requested to remove the weapon would have been eliminated from the list of actions constituting misconduct involving weapons. **First Sponsor:** Rep. Smith

H2291 AZ firearms; prohibited enforcement. “Public servants” (defined), federally licensed firearms dealers, and officials and employees of the U.S. government are prohibited from enforcing or attempting to enforce any law or regulation of the U.S. government relating to a personal firearm, a firearm accessory or ammunition that is owned or manufactured commercially or privately in Arizona and that remains exclusively within the borders of this state. Officials or employees of the U.S. government in violation of this prohibition are guilty of a class 6 (lowest) felony. The Attorney General may defend an Arizona citizen who is prosecuted by the U.S. government for a violation of these federal laws. Any federal law, regulation or order that is effective on or after January 1, 2013 is unenforceable within Arizona if it attempts to ban or restrict ownership of a semiautomatic firearm or any magazine of a firearm, or to require any firearm, magazine or accessory to be registered. **First Sponsor:** Rep. Smith

H 2326 FIREARMS; RECORDS; PROHIBITED ACTS. Political subdivisions are prohibited from requiring or maintaining a record of any identifying information of a person who possesses a firearm. Eliminates the exemption from the prohibition on records of the purchase, sale or transfer of a firearm for transactions involving federally licensed firearms dealers. **Sponsor:** Rep. Farnsworth

H 2381 FIREARMS; SALES; TRANSFERS; BACKGROUND CHECKS. If neither party to a prospective “assault weapon” (defined) sale or transfer is a licensed firearms dealer, the parties must complete the transaction through a licensed firearms dealer. Some exceptions. The dealer must process the sale or transfer and comply with all requirements of federal, state and local law as if the dealer were a party to the transaction, including a background check on both parties. If the dealer cannot legally deliver the weapon to the purchaser, the dealer must return the weapon to the seller. If the dealer cannot legally return the weapon to the seller, the dealer must deliver the weapon to law enforcement. The dealer may

charge a fee of up to \$50 for the costs incurred in facilitating the sale or transfer. Violations are a class 1 (highest) misdemeanor. Operators of “firearm shows” are required to notify all firearm exhibitors in writing and post signs at the show stating that a national instant criminal background check must be completed before all firearm sales or transfers. Violators of firearm show regulations are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation. It is a class 1 misdemeanor to sell or transfer a firearm at a firearm show to a person who has not had a background check. **First Sponsor:** Rep. Campbell

H 2455 UNCLAIMED PROPERTY; FIREARMS; DISPOSITION. Firearms that are found and turned over to a government agency may no longer be returned to the person who found and turned it over. For unclaimed firearms, after 30 days notice has been given the owner and the owner has not taken it away, the agency in possession must sell the firearm to an authorized business, instead of the court being required to order the sale of the firearm to an authorized business. **Sponsor:**Rep. Barton

S1049 Firearms, prohibition; postsecondary institutions. Repeals the death penalty, the Capital Postconviction Public Defender Office, and all related statutes. Crimes currently punishable by death are punishable by natural life imprisonment. If the court imposes a natural life sentence, the court is required to order that the defendant not be released on any basis for the remainder of the defendant’s natural life. As session law, the Supreme Court is required to remand each case in which a sentence of death was imposed before the effective date of this legislation to the court in the appropriate county, where that court must strike the death sentence and enter in its place a sentence of natural life. **First Sponsor:** Sen. Ableser

S1050 Prohibited weapon; large capacity magazine. The list of prohibited weapons for the purpose of misconduct involving weapons is expanded to include a large capacity ammunition feeding device (defined). **First Sponsor:** Sen. Ableser **1-16 Rules; 1-17 2nd read**

S1112 AZ firearms; prohibited endorsement. “Public servants” (defined), federally licensed firearms dealers, and officials and employees of the U.S. government are prohibited from enforcing or attempting to enforce any law or regulation of the U.S. government relating to a personal firearm, a firearm accessory or ammunition that is owned or manufactured commercially or privately in Arizona and that remains exclusively within the borders of this state. Officials or employees of the U.S. government in violation of this prohibition are guilty of a class 6 (lowest) felony. The Attorney General may defend an Arizona citizen who is prosecuted by the U.S. government for a violation of these federal laws. Any federal law, regulation or order that is effective on or after January 1, 2013 is unenforceable within Arizona if it attempts to ban or restrict ownership of a semiautomatic firearm or any magazine of a firearm, or to require any firearm, magazine or accessory to be registered. **First Sponsor:** Sen. Ward . **1-23 PS; 1-23 Rules; 1-24 2nd read;**

S 1229 LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINE; PROHIBITED WEAPON. The list of prohibited weapons for the purpose of misconduct involving weapons is expanded to include a large capacity ammunition feeding device (defined). **First Sponsor:** Sen. Lopez

SCR 1015 SUPPORT; SECOND AMENDMENT. The members of the Legislature support the right under the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution of individual citizens to keep and bear arms and reject the consideration of new legislation that would infringe on this constitutionally protected right. **First Sponsor:** Sen. Griffin **Other Sponsors:** Sen. Barto, Sen. Burges, Rep. Fann, Rep. Gowan, Sen. Murphy, Sen. Shooter, Rep. Stevens, Sen. Ward,

More Lessons About Charter Schools

New York Times Editorial Published: February 2, 2013 [196 Comments](#)

The charter school movement gained a foothold in American education two decades ago partly by asserting that independently run, publicly financed schools would outperform traditional public schools if they were exempted from onerous regulations. The charter advocates also promised that unlike traditional schools, which were allowed to fail without consequence, charter schools would be rigorously reviewed and shut down when they failed to perform.

With thousands of charter schools now operating in 40 states, and more coming online every day, neither of these promises has been kept. Despite a growing number of studies showing that charter schools are generally no better — and often are worse — than their traditional counterparts, the state and local agencies and organizations that grant the charters have been increasingly hesitant to shut down schools, even those that continue to perform abysmally for years on end.

If the movement is to maintain its credibility, the charter authorizers must shut down failed schools quickly and limit new charters to the most credible applicants, including operators who have a demonstrated record of success.

That is the clear message of continuing analysis from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University, which tracks student performance in 25 states. In 2009, its [large-scale study](#) showed that only 17 percent of charter schools provided a better education than traditional schools, and 37 percent actually offered children a worse education.

A [study](#) released this week by the center suggests that the standards used by the charter authorizers to judge school performance are terribly weak.

It debunked the common notion that it takes a long time to tell whether a new school can improve student learning. In fact, the study notes, it is pretty clear after just three years which schools are going to be high performers and which of them will be mediocre. By that time, the charter authorizers should be putting troubled schools on notice that they might soon be closed. As the study notes: “For the majority of schools, poor first year performance will give way to poor second year performance. Once this has happened, the future is predictable and extremely bleak. For the students enrolled in these schools, this is a tragedy that must not be dismissed.”

The same principles should apply to decisions to allow charter school operators to expand into charter management organizations, which manage several schools under a single organizational umbrella. Permission to expand should be granted only if the schools can demonstrate that they can actually improve student performance.

The study found that minority students and those from poor families fared better in charter management organizations. For example, the Kipp super-network and the Uncommon Schools, two large, established networks, have seen “strong and positive learning gains” for their students.

The study does not explain why these schools perform so well. But the answer is likely that they closely replicate a successful learning program and they keep the level of teaching uniformly high. In any case, the researchers and policy makers need to pay closer attention to how these schools function. For according to the study, Kipp and the Uncommon Schools have actually managed to eliminate the learning gap between poor and higher-income students.

Currently, only 6 percent of all schools are charter schools, and charter networks account for only about one-fifth of that total. States that are in a hurry to expand charter schools should proceed carefully. The evidence of success is not all that ample.



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of Central Yavapai County
P.O. Box 11538
Prescott, AZ 86304-1538**

A nonpartisan membership organization, the League of Women Voters neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates, but encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.