



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI COUNTY

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March 2013

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The League of Women Voters presents:

EYE ON THE LEGISLATURE

Join us for a discussion on what's happening in the Legislature!



Mary Jo Pitzl

Legislative Reporter, AZ Republic
Frequent guest reporter on Friday
night's "Arizona Horizon"
Program on Channel 8

Mary Jo Pitzl will be with us
to discuss bills, take questions
about legislative activity and
lead the discussion.

Come prepared and ask your questions!

Saturday, March 16

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Las Fuentes Lower Level Community Room

1035 Scott Drive, Prescott

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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



President's Message

Our meeting this month will again be a report on the State Legislative actions, told by Mary Jo Pitzl, political reporter from the Arizona Republic. Mary Jo is returning to us, as she spoke to our group last year and gave us both an informative and very entertaining presentation and Q & A session. It is nice to get a first hand insider's take on what is happening. Be sure to attend and show our gratitude for her effort to come from Phoenix to speak to us on a weekend. And this is the type of meeting you will want to bring at *least* one friend.

Our board is in deep preparation for our April Annual Meeting. Look for your Annual Packet to arrive by mail in late March. Please be sure to go over it and bring it with you to the annual meeting. It is imperative that you come to this meeting

in April, as we must have a quorum to establish all of the business of the coming year. There will be some new candidates for the board, a budget that will need approval, a proposed study or two to vote on, and more. To entice you a little, we have decided to make this a really pleasant time. We are calling it our "*Spring Fling Annual Meeting*." There will be a different starting time and we will have the business meeting the first hour followed by a luncheon and fellowship time. You will receive an email invitation from me this week with all of the particulars; please watch for it.

I recently attended a LWVAZ state board meeting. There are some new happenings that will have a positive impact on our local leagues. For instance, state will soon be implementing a national league program for membership and leadership development (MLD). There will be state-wide coaches who will work with the Membership Directors on our boards. From what I perceived this is a true commitment from national both with bodies and funding. Also new with state, will be a fund development program that could, in time, help the local leagues. LWVAZ is also preparing its state convention to take place at the Sheraton Hotel in Tucson. **Very important:** I am looking for delegates to attend. There is some funding available and a hotel room will be provided. Any local member, new or long-standing, is eligible to be a delegate and will find it an intriguing, fun and an educational experience. I will also need a President Alternate to proxy my votes, as I will be in Kansas that weekend for a very important family matter. The dates are May 18 and 19. It will require driving down on Friday the 17th and returning on Sunday the 19th. Please let me know this month by phone or email if you are interested.

I hope you will make an effort to plan to attend both of these meetings and perhaps a weekend in Tucson in May.

Vicky O'Hara, President

Dates to Put on Your Calendar

Sat., March 16	9:00 AM	Legislative Update	Las Fuentes
Sat., April 20	11:00 AM	Annual FUN Luncheon and Meeting	StoneRidge Grille
Sat., May 25	9 -11:30	Teen Violence and Suicide	Las Fuentes

Don't Miss our March 16 meeting
“Eye on the Legislature”
with **Mary Jo Pitzl** from
the Arizona Republic

Mary Jo Pitzl currently covers the Arizona Legislature, state policy and politics in her role as a reporter for The Arizona Republic. Her fresh outlook and calm evaluation of the legislature has entranced many of her readers and also viewers of her frequent appearances on Journalists' Roundtable on Channel 8 Arizona Horizon.

LWVCYC is indeed privileged that she has agreed to speak to us again at our traditional “Legislative Update” meeting. Please tell your friends and invite them to come with you to our public meeting on March 16 at 9 AM at Las Fuentes.

A native Nebraskan, Mary Jo has been at The Republic since before term limits took hold and before Phoenix grew north of the Central Arizona Project canal. She has covered a variety of beats, from Scottsdale police to universities, from Gov. Fife Symington to the environment. She moved to Arizona with degrees in journalism and French and intended to stay long enough to sign on with a wire service so she could be dispatched overseas as a foreign correspondent. Instead, Arizona and its fertile news climate created the ideal situation for setting down roots. The French degree, alas, has had minimal usefulness, other than keeping the other side of her brain working.

Prior to her 1980 graduation from the University of Nebraska, she was a staff member on the student newspaper, The Daily Nebraskan, and was recognized as an outstanding student leader by her selection as a member of Mortar Board honorary. She also sang in the University Chorale and was a member of Tassels, the pep club.

Mary Jo loves to get away to hike and backpack in varied locations. She lives in central Phoenix, the current caretaker (and mortgage payer) for a home in Phoenix's FQ Story Historical Neighborhood. When she's not tracking the latest policy debate or traipsing around at the statehouse, she enjoys gardening, running, singing with a women's community chorus and running a journalism contest that promotes the best work in the western states.



Coming Up: Saturday, April 20, 11am to 1:30 pm
ANNUAL MEETING AND SPRING LUNCHEON AND
Annual Meeting at 11am: Officer Election and
Final Program Consensus
Lunch served at Noon

The Grille at StoneRidge
1601 N. Bluff Top Drive
Prescott Valley

Lunch cost of \$15 will include a choice of burger, cobb salad, or soup and half beef and cheese melt, plus non-alcoholic beverage, dessert, tax and tip. (Assorted cookie platter will be served at drink station).
Members are encouraged to make their selection and pay in advance at the regularly scheduled March Meeting.

Coor: Keys To Building A Better Future For Arizona

Az Repub, February 25, 2013, Guest Commentary by Lattie F. Coor

When conversations first began about how to achieve the Arizona we want, we set an ambitious goal: Identify a vision and set goals for Arizona that could mobilize people and communities throughout the state. In 2009, with the help of Gallup, we asked Arizonans to describe the future they want for our state. The objective was never to just capture a picture of what citizens think about life in Arizona communities, it was always to identify a set of common goals that would mobilize people and survive transitions in leadership over time.

“**The Arizona We Want 2.0: The Case for Action**” presents very specific next steps to move us toward that desired future. Those specific steps are organized around eight goals: Education, Job Creation, Environment and Water, Infrastructure, Health Care, Young Talent, Civic Engagement and Community Involvement. Some of these goals are citizen-driven, requiring individual and collective action of citizens everywhere. Others are leader-driven, requiring the collective action of leaders around the state.

Goal 1: Education. We need to increase Arizona’s education performance to meet state, higher education and national goals. This can be achieved by funding and implementing Common Core Standards and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). It should also include the creation of an education funding investment model that is tied to student, teacher, and school performance.

Goal 2: Job Creation. Arizonans want increased job opportunities and higher wages. This can be done through a commitment to training programs and workforce development, increasing research and development spending, and developing incentives to attract entrepreneurs, small businesses, and major companies.

Goal 3: Environment and Water. Arizonans have cited the need for a comprehensive water plan that balances population growth with preserving open spaces. Our plan includes a mix of conservation, forest thinning, and modernizing of our state trust land laws.

Goal 4: Infrastructure. Increase citizen support of municipalities and their efforts to upgrade streets and other public transportation is critical. Organizing Arizona into “economic zones” will allow each region to capitalize on their own distinctive infrastructure opportunities.

Goal 5: Health Care. Build upon the successful parts of the state’s Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) program. Identify strategies and incentives for health providers and employers to help people maintain a healthy lifestyle, so that we can collectively lower costs and improve access.

Goal 6: Young Talent. Young Arizonans want and deserve the best opportunities we can offer. We need to engage them in their communities by valuing their input on the type of city they want to live in and making Arizona an attractive state to live and work.

Goal 7: Civic Engagement. Just 10 percent of Arizonans believe their elected officials represent their interests. This voter apathy can be reduced by starting civic engagement at the local level and promoting the benefits of becoming an active, engaged Arizona citizen.

Goal 8: Community Involvement. According to our study, Arizona is a state whose citizens feel a lack of community connection. We can change this by encouraging associations and foundations to position themselves as “conveners” to support community involvement statewide.

The Arizona We Want 2.0 report provides further detail on all of these goals at www.thearizonawewant.org. We believe that these goals can be achieved if citizens and leaders work together and remain committed over time. The rapid transformation of Arizona is under way. How we respond will be key to building a better future for our state.

Lattie F. Coor is chairman and CEO of the Center for the Future of Arizona and former president of Arizona State University

LWVAZ Action Alert:
SAVE OUR IMPARTIAL COURTS
Please Oppose HB2600 TODAY

HB 2600 Judicial Nominees came up in COW (House Committee Of the Whole) on Tuesday, March 5

Background: One element of Proposition 115 from this past election, which the League strongly opposed, would have increased the number of names the Appellate Court Judicial Nominating Committees had to forward to a Governor from 3 to 8. The League joined forces with many highly reputable judges and judicial associations to oppose this because experience had shown that often there had been too few applicants that met the superior qualifications required of Appellate Court judges. And that requiring 8 names be forwarded could result in less qualified nominees having their names forwarded just to meet the need for 8 names.

HB 2600 once again threatens this standard of only the most highly qualified names being forwarded to a Governor. It expands the number of nominees from 3 to 5 that once again could allow less qualified candidates to be nominated not because they had the superior qualifications required of Appellate Court judges, but to meet a quota of at least five (5).

Expanding the number would make it possible for less qualified candidates to be nominated and permit appointments based on political patronage or as appreciation of a campaign contribution or support rather than the standard of superior qualifications.

Information from the LWV:

While this may appear to be a compromise and better than the soundly-defeated prop 115, our Impartial Courts Chair, Sandra Goodwin, sees this attempt as a nibbling away at the voters' intent of the original citizen's initiative. We must keep the best quality judges on our benches with the LEAST amount of political scheming.

We need to write all our representatives on this one. The following information should assist you in your e-mails

Points to include in e-mails or an action alert:

The League of Women Voters of Arizona opposes HB 2600 that expands the number of nominees the Judicial Nominating Committees must forward to a Governor from the current three (3) to at least five (5). HB 2600 would increase partisan political influence and could reduce the quality of our judges. Please remember that you are speaking for yourself, not the League. You may use our Action Alert letter that will come up when you click on the link below. Or feel free to edit the letter and use these points for opposition.

1. The reasons for adopting the merit selection system in 1974 included preventing unqualified persons from becoming judges, keeping politics out of our courts, and freeing judges to make decisions based on the law not political aspirations. HB 2600 is a step backwards and should be defeated.
2. HB 2600 dilutes the decades long standard used by Judicial Nominating Committees requiring only the most highly qualified candidates being forwarded to a Governor by increasing the number of nominees that must be forwarded from 3 names to 5 when there might not be 5 candidates that meet the standard.
3. HB 2600 should be defeated because the legislature is tampering with the Arizona Constitution. The Merit Selection System was passed by the people in 1974 and is not a law that the legislature can change.
4. Arizona's Merit Selection System is one of the most respected in the country and if it is to be changed the voters would have to change it not the legislature.
5. The people of Arizona soundly defeated Proposition 115 in this past election. The Legislature should learn from this defeat and quit trying to by-pass the people by changing a Merit Selection System that is firmly set in our Constitution.

Please contact your two District Representatives NOW.

Advocates: AZ Tax Credits Lack Oversight, Accountability

[Public News Service - AZ](#) | [December 2012](#) | [Download audio](#)

- [Budget Policy & Priorities](#)
- [Children's Issues](#)
- [Education](#)

December 10, 2012

PHOENIX - Arizona's tax credit system is out of control, according to three diverse advocacy groups. Children's Action Alliance, the Goldwater Institute and the Arizona Public Interest Research Group (Arizona PIRG) say income tax credits divert more than \$300 million each year from the state's general fund, with little legislative oversight and no accountability.

CAA president Dana Naimark says lawmakers review and vote on the state budget every year, but tax credits are "forever."

"With most tax credits, there never has to be another vote of the full legislature, once they're enacted. And there's very little dialogue about the tradeoffs, and how the costs of the tax credits fit in with our state priorities and our limited resources."

Naimark says there's also a lack of transparency regarding tax credits. She says a legislative oversight committee spent much of its meeting last week behind closed doors.

Naimark proposes that the legislature add sunset dates to each tax credit, in the same manner that state agencies have sunset reviews every five to ten years.

"So, it would require a positive vote by the full legislature to continue the tax credit. That would require more overview and more awareness by every legislator, and really, a reconsideration of the value of that tax credit."

And Naimark doesn't think the public gets enough information about the effectiveness of tax credits. She cites the private school tax credit as an example.

"I think most Arizona taxpayers would be quite surprised to know that the tax credit dollars per private school student grew 128 percent during the 2000s, while spending per public school student grew less than 1 percent."

She notes that Arizona's tax credits are part of a larger concern about the intentional erosion of the state's tax base through numerous credits and deductions that, for some families and companies, can erase their entire state income tax obligation.

Sequestration cuts will hurt Arizona schools, students

By Melissa Leu The Republic | [azcentral.com](#) Feb 27, 2013

Sequestration is estimated to cut all federally funded education programs by about 5 percent. Federal dollars pay for programs that target the country's most vulnerable children, including English-language learners and low-income, special-education, early education and homeless students. Most cuts would take place next school year, but funding for schools on federal land, such as Indian reservations and military bases, may be cut immediately.

Arizona schools, already squeezed by massive recession-era funding cuts, could see fewer federal dollars for poor and special-needs students. The so-called sequester would slice federal funding for Arizona's schools by about 5 percent.

Arizona Title I funds, which largely support schools with students from low-income families and special education, would be cut by \$27.7 million, according to an Obama administration analysis. That could lead to the layoff of 360 teachers, aides and other staff and affect about 20,000 students, the analysis showed.

The National Education Association puts the loss closer to \$53.9 million, including other federal money that flows to Arizona schools, and it suggested more than 1,000 teachers could be laid off, hurting more than 100,000 students.

The state Education Department is calculating its own estimate. Although Arizona provides most of the funding for its schools, the state expects to receive \$450 million in federal funds for education this fiscal year. The bulk of the cuts would affect schools next school year, but some schools, such as those on Indian reservations or military bases, could lose out immediately.

"It's just one more thing, on top of one more thing, on top of one more thing. We're getting pretty good at doing more with less. But at some point you squeeze the rock, and no more water comes out," said Craig Pletenik, spokesman for Phoenix Union High School District.

"There's no way we can cut those teachers," he said, pointing to a growing population of students with disabilities that require additional, and often costly, support. The district likely would pull from other parts of the budget to pay for those teachers, Ziegler said.

Although most districts wouldn't feel the pinch right away, schools on federal lands, such as Indian reservations and military bases, are already feeling the effects of the uncertainty in Washington. These schools receive federal Impact Aid, which is meant to subsidize their inability to raise property taxes.

On the Navajo reservation in northeastern Arizona, the Piñon Unified School District relies on the federal government for \$7 million annually, about half of its total budget. As part of a resolution that Congress passed in late December to delay sequestration, Piñon has only received 70 percent of its Impact Aid this year, district Superintendent Larry Wallen said.

With sequestration, he said Piñon would lose \$470,416 in Impact Aid this year and \$115,582 more next year from other federal grants. Piñon has put all capital purchases, such as school buses, computers and textbooks, on hold, and will turn to its cash reserves to keep teachers.

"It creates a sense of hopelessness, because we know the Arizona Legislature is not going to increase our funding to make up for Impact Aid. Our only hope is the U.S. Congress," Wallen said.

More Arizona schools rely on Impact Aid than any other state in the country. The potential loss of federal money comes after years of state cuts to education. State funding for public schools fell about \$700 million since fiscal year 2008, according to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

This year, the state may restore a portion of those funds, but state leaders won't approve a budget until later this spring.

More than 24 Arizona school boards urged Congress to stop sequestration, concerned it would increase class sizes, limit course offerings and afterschool activities, reduce the school week to four days and lead to teacher and staff layoffs.

"Sequestration was created to do budget cuts without a lot of thought as to the impact," said Timothy Ogle, executive director of the Arizona School Boards Association. "So now we're staring down the barrel of the gun, and children will be the ones in harm's way."

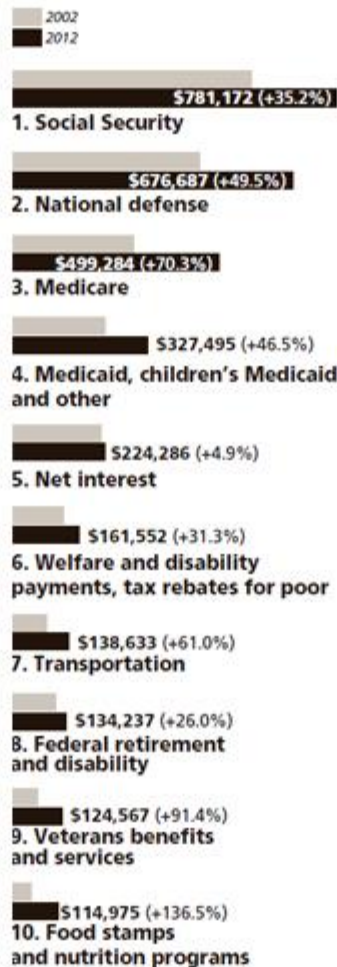
Debt-cutting ideas

In a December 2010 report, the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform said bringing the debt under control should include these components:

- » **Enact tough spending caps** on discretionary spending.
- » **Pursue comprehensive income-tax reform** that would include lower tax rates, a broader tax base and a simpler tax code.
- » **Contain federal health-care costs** by reforming rules that affect physician payments, cost-sharing, malpractice law, prescription-drug costs and more.
- » **Seek savings in mandatory federal programs** by cutting agricultural subsidies, modernizing retirement systems of the military and civil service, reforming student-loan programs and making other changes.
- » **Ensure the solvency of the Social Security system** for an additional 75 years and work to reduce poverty among seniors.
- » **Reform the budget process** to get spending under control and put debt reduction on a stable path.

Where the money goes

Three major entitlement programs — Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security — took up about 44 percent of the federal budget in 2012. Here are the top 10 categories for U.S. spending and the increase over 10 years ago, in billions of dollars.



SOURCE: WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
THE REPUBLIC

Entitlement fixes

Some suggestions to cut costs for entitlement programs:

SOCIAL SECURITY

- » Change the retirement-benefit formula that would slow future benefit increases for high-wage earners.
- » Adopt a new inflation measure to decrease cost-of-living adjustments.
- » Increase the cap for Social Security taxes from the current \$113,700 of earnings.

» Gradually increase the full retirement age to 69. Increase the age at which early Social Security benefits can be taken to 64, from 62 currently (with benefits still available at 62 on a hardship basis).

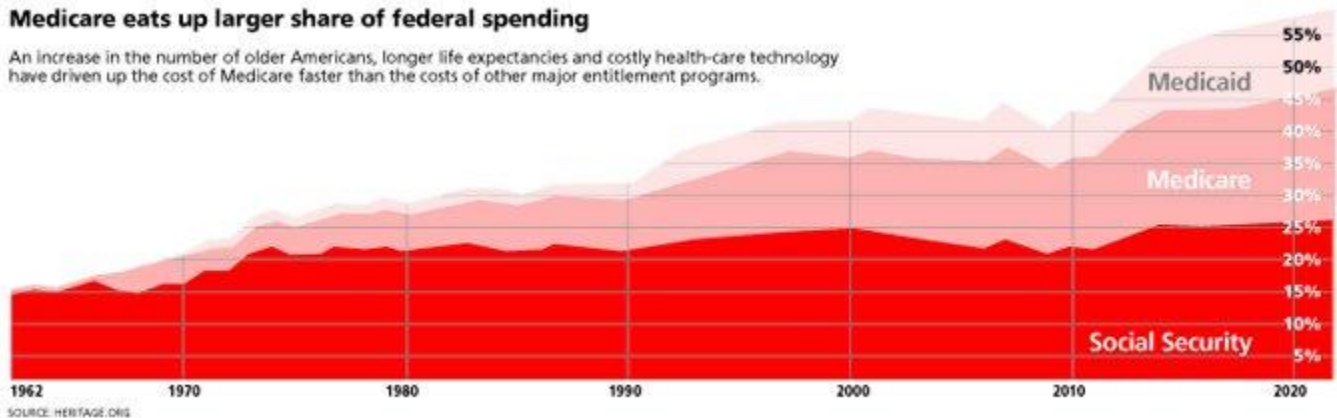
MEDICARE

- » Increase premiums or co-pays.
- » Cut benefits for wealthier retirees.
- » Create incentives so that doctors aren't encouraged to provide unneeded services and patients aren't encouraged to request them.
- » Pay health-care providers a fixed sum per patient. They would determine how best to allocate the money for care.
- » Move to a voucher system. Beneficiaries would get a set sum to be used for purchasing private medical insurance.

Source: Republic research

Medicare eats up larger share of federal spending

An increase in the number of older Americans, longer life expectancies and costly health-care technology have driven up the cost of Medicare faster than the costs of other major entitlement programs.



SOURCE: HERITAGE.ORG

Will Legislature require disclosure of campaign funds?

Column [February 8, 2013](#) by [Laurie Roberts](#), *The Arizona Republic*

Last year, a red-white-and-blue sounding group called Americans for Responsible Leadership spent \$1.5 million to kill proposals that would have raised taxes and changed the way we elect our leaders.

Who, we all wondered, were these Americans who bankrolled the defeat of the two Arizona initiatives?

In 2011, a group called Phoenix Citizens United dumped more than \$190,000 into a campaign to make sure that Wes Gullett – a guy who threatened to shake up Phoenix city hall – didn't get elected mayor. Meanwhile, Arizona Citizens United mounted its own \$107,000 campaign to ensure that Greg Stanton – an city hall insider likely to continue business as usual — didn't get the job.

Voters were bombarded by pleas from these and other well-heeled non-profit corporations, explaining why you should vote a particular way. There was, however, one closely-guarded piece of information you never got.

Who they were – which might have explained why they really wanted you to vote a certain way.

Such is the state of campaign finance in Arizona, where the only thing transparent in recent years has been our leaders' reluctance to open up the black-out curtains, so you can see who is trying to influence your vote.

Is this, finally, the year that will change? We'll soon know, as we wait to find out whether Senate Bill 1265 gets a hearing in the Legislature.

Sen. Steve Farley, D-Tucson, filed the bill, hoping to rip away the shield that has allowed dark money to flourish in Arizona campaigns since a landmark 2010 Supreme Court decision.

Since then, there has been an explosion of groups like Americans for Responsible Leadership – a non-profit formed by Robert Graham, who now heads the Arizona Republican Party. ARL not only contributed \$1.5 million to kill two Arizona propositions last year, it funneled \$11 million into two California campaigns.

Because California law requires at least some disclosure, we know that Americans for Responsible Leadership got the \$11 million from Americans for Job Security which got the money from the Center to Protect Patients' Rights which got its money from

Well, we don't know where the money really came from. All we do know is that the two intermediaries were set up by GOP strategist Sean Noble and he isn't talking.

Under Farley's bill, Americans For Responsible Leadership would have had to disclose its donors, both the intermediaries and the original source of the cash. Any candidate or campaign that received a contribution from ARL would also have had to disclose the intermediaries and original donor or risk a class-six felony.

Farley says his bill is a non-partisan attempt to compel disclosure from groups supporting the right and the left, both union and corporate money.

“We’ve got to get back to the point where the people who spend the money to change the outcome of our elections have to be revealed so we can make our own decision about what interests they may have,” he said.

First, however, we’ve got to get to the point where the Legislature hears Farley’s bill.

Senate Elections Chairman Michele Reagan, R-Scottsdale, sounds iffy about whether she’ll schedule it for a vote before the Feb. 19 deadline for hearings in her committee.

That’s disappointing. Reagan, who has her eye on running for secretary of state in 2014, has spent a fair amount of time recently talking about the need for transparency as she offers her own set of election reforms. None of her bills, however, is aimed at dark money.

She says that while she agrees with Farley’s intent, she’s not sure there’s a legal way to force disclosure.

“If something like this was to pass and hold up (in court), then if you’re a group of, for example, firefighters, wouldn’t you then transfer the funds to another IE (independent expenditure committee) and then send them to another IE, which Sean Noble does and the unions do so well?” she said. “And then in that case, how do you get the ID of the original donor? You don’t.”

Farley says there’s an easy answer. If a non-profit refuses to identify the real source of a contribution to your campaign, just don’t take it.

“People increasingly in the public are going to start to judge the people they’re electing based on whether they are perceived to be in the hip pocket of some special interest or serving the general interest of the people of Arizona,” he said. “It’s our responsibility to show where our sources of support are coming from.”

Brewer rallies support for Medicaid-expansion plan

By Mary K. Reinhart The Republic | azcentral.com Wed Mar 6, 2013 3:33 PM

The battle over Medicaid expansion heated up Tuesday as Gov. Jan Brewer led a rally outside the Capitol in support of her plan, joined by some of the state’s top medical professionals but dogged by a dozen placard-waving protesters.

Facing opposition from key lawmakers in her party, the Republican governor reiterated her key reasons for embracing expansion: Broadening eligibility for the state-federal insurance program for the poor under federal health reform would save taxpayer money, save lives and ease the burden on hospitals caring for a growing number of uninsured patients.

And she warned that, without Medicaid expansion, 50,000 Arizonans would lose their health coverage Jan. 1, “even if they’re in the middle of their treatment.”

“The human cost of this tragedy can’t be calculated,” Brewer said. “Remember, there is no Plan B.”

But opponents at the rally, many of them local GOP officials dressed in black to signify mourning, said the governor has betrayed her party and warned Republican lawmakers that supporting Medicaid expansion could end their political careers.

“All she’s trying to do is increase the federal government’s hold on Arizona,” Karen Horne, a GOP precinct committeewoman from the southeast Valley’s Legislative District 17, said of Brewer. “I

voted for her. I campaigned for her. I worked very hard the last few years getting Republicans elected, and I feel betrayed,” Horne said.

Speaking to reporters after the rally, the governor said she’s confident there will be enough legislative support to approve the plan.

But key legislative leaders generally oppose Medicaid expansion, and Brewer’s office has yet to release details of the bill. A broad coalition of special interests is lobbying lawmakers — and bankrolling a statewide media campaign — to try to win votes for the governor’s proposal in the Legislature.

“I’m hopeful that they will listen to their constituents and that they will do the math. Because it’s the right thing to do,” Brewer said.

Brewer, a vocal critic of the federal health law who sued to repeal it, stunned most observers in January when she announced her support for expanding the state’s Medicaid program, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, to those making up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level, or just under \$15,000 a year.

The Governor’s Office is pushing a plan that would impose a tax on hospitals to qualify for additional federal funding to cover the state’s share of implementing the program, and that includes a “circuit breaker” that would roll back the expanded coverage if federal matching funds fell short.

Federal funds would pay for nearly all the early costs of Medicaid expansion, bringing \$1.6 billion to Arizona in fiscal 2015 and covering an estimated 300,000 additional people, including about 250,000 childless adults whose incomes fall below the poverty level and whose coverage was frozen in 2011 to help balance the state budget.

But the protesters, and many GOP lawmakers, say they don’t believe that the money will last and, in any case, the federal government and taxpayers can’t afford it. They say Brewer can support Medicaid expansion because this is her last term in office, but legislators who want to keep their seats had better not.

“They’re not going to vote for it,” predicted Van Steenwyk, a conservative GOP commentator. “Because they want to keep their jobs, and she’s done.”

Sen. Kelli Ward, R-Lake Havasu City and a family physician, attended the Medicaid rally with her husband, an emergency-room doctor. Both are osteopaths and oppose Medicaid expansion.

Ward, wearing black like the protesters, stood apart from the other white-coated health-care professionals and said it was difficult to be at odds with the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association, which backs Brewer’s proposal and whose Arizona president spoke at Tuesday’s rally.

“That’s my group,” she said. “But right now, on this issue, the organization and I differ.”

Osteopathic physicians, who had planned to be at the Capitol on Tuesday to visit lawmakers, were joined at the Medicaid rally by more than 100 pediatricians, internists, nurse practitioners and other medical specialists.

“AHCCCS is not a ‘red issue’ or a ‘blue issue’ to doctors. It is a patient-care, humanitarian issue,” Dr. Bill Thrift, a Prescott family physician and president of the Arizona chapter of the American Medical Association, told the crowd.

Thrift said he sees patients on a daily basis who work hard but can’t afford insurance. They delay care until complications arise, making it more expensive to treat their condition and resulting in unnecessary human suffering. Sometimes, he said, “we see them too late.”

“I want to see my fellow Arizonans receive the care and consideration they deserve,” he said.



**League of Women Voters
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.