



# THE VOTER

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

LWVCYC.org [LWVCYC@gmail.com](mailto:LWVCYC@gmail.com) P. O. Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304-1538 March 2014

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*Vivian Perry, chair*  
{830-9165}



## Program Change!

## League of Women Voters of the United States Agriculture Study

- Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector
- Animal Management
- Research and Development
- Food Safety
- Food Labeling

Members will explore various aspects of US agriculture, and will work toward consensus on questions posed by LWVUS.

**When: Saturday, March 1, 2014**  
Coffee at 9 AM, Discussion begins at 9:30 Am

**Where: Las Fuentes, lower level Community Room**



## President's Message

We have warm, very dry but pleasant weather still. It feels like a long spring, while most of the country is in an awful, freezing winter. We will have to wait and see if these trends continue.

We are making a change for our upcoming general meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We were unable to get MaryJo Pitzl, et al., from the Arizona Republic for our meeting date. Although it is a real disappointment that she won't be giving us another great insight into what is happening in the AZ Legislature, it seems it might have been meant to be. In the meantime, I suggest you take advantage of some wonderful broadcasts on the PBS show Horizon, Monday thru Friday at 5:30 pm, especially on Friday when it is a wrap-up of the week in politics given by journalists from various Arizona media.

Since our January meeting, when several were disappointed that we could not follow through on a review of the national study update on agriculture, I have been in contact with both our state president and national president. They urge us to participate. There have been some adjustments made, including an extended review period, and the opportunity to review parts of what is an enormous volume of material done in the study, instead of the whole. It represents a great deal of time and effort that has been done, and since it is timely and worthwhile to review what is happening with GMO's or farm subsidies, for instance, we will do just that at our next meeting.

***I can't stress enough how important it is that you participate.*** Having these sessions on studies is a basic function of league membership. We make the decisions that affect all of our final Positions, local, state and national.

Those of you who were at our January study workshop will not be repeating material since we did not do a review of the study material, and those that missed last month, can join in right from the beginning. We will be sending out some reading material from the study update. Your only homework will be to read the material before the meeting, come in and listen to short reviews of the material, ask questions, and then we will ask the consensus questions for you to agree or not on each. That's it. But what an impact it makes. If LWVUS receives our reports from all 700 local leagues across the nation, they will be able to vote on the update at the national convention in June. If passed, our agriculture position will be stronger and better equipped for lobbying. ***Please join us.*** It will be fun to visit with you again.

Watch for information coming about the meetings for the April and May meetings. There will be some celebrations and fun times, as well as some important business.

Until I see you on March 1<sup>st</sup>, I wish you all well.

Vicky O'Hara, President

## LWVUS Legislative Priorities for 2014

The LWVUS Board established the following as Legislative Priorities for 2014:  
Money in Politics and Voting Rights.

In addition, the following were included as a second tier of focus for 2014:  
Affordable Care Act, Reproductive Choice, Immigration and the Environment.

Other issues, third tier (watch) such as Fiscal Policy/Social and Economic Justice and Gun Safety may be acted on as opportunities arise for League action, if they do not interfere with action on an LWVUS priority, and it appears the LWVUS can make an impact.

# LWVUS to expand Agriculture Position

## Current Agriculture Policy:

*Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.*

In League, positions are reached only after study and consensus. The LWVUS is planning to expand its Agriculture Position, with consensus to be reported to national by April 18. There are 23 papers on the LWVUS website for background information

## Consensus Questions

### Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector

#### 1. *Should government financial support for agriculture be directed to:*

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| a) Subsidized agricultural credit (loans)                                | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| b) Disaster assistance   | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| c) Crop insurance  | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| d) Farms that supply local and regional markets                          | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| e) Subsidized implementation of best management practices                | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| f) Commodity crop programs, e.g., corn, soybeans, sugar, cotton, wheat   | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| g) Commodity livestock program   | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| h) Commodity dairy program   | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| i) Specialty crops, e.g. fruits, vegetables, nuts, etc.                  | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| j) Other production methods, e.g. organic, hydroponic, urban, etc. farms | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |

Comments:

#### 2. *What changes should government make regarding direct payment programs to farm operators?*

Note: Farm operators can be anything between family farms to huge corporations.

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| a) <i>Eliminate</i> direct payments to farm operators                                      | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| b) <i>Update</i> the rules for direct payments to farm operators to support sustainability | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| c) <i>Broaden</i> the types of farms that are eligible                                     | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| d) <i>Broaden</i> the types of crops that are eligible                                     | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| e) Effectively <i>enforce</i> existing rules   | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |

#### 3. *What changes to current crop insurance programs should government make?*

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| a) Extend to more types of crops  | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| b) Link to the use of conservation practices  | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| c) Limit insurance for the cultivation of marginal and environmentally sensitive land | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| d) Cap amount of premium subsidy to a single farm operator (see note in question 2)   | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |

Comments:

#### 4. *Should government act on any of the following?*

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| a) Revise anti-trust legislation to ensure competitive agricultural markets | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |
| b) Enforce anti-trust laws as they relate to agriculture                    | (Yes, No, No Consensus) |

- c) Promote alternative marketing systems, including regional hub markets, farmer cooperatives, farm markets, etc. (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

### **Animal Management**

#### **5. Which of the following approaches to animal management should government achieve?**

- a) Transparently collect and disclose data about regulated animal feeding operations (AFOs) or aquaculture operations and about the health of animals in such regulated operations

(Yes, No, No Consensus)

- b) Apply and enforce existing clean air and clean water regulations to animal or seafood management facilities

(Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

#### **6. Which of the following approaches to animal waste management should government require or bring about?**

- a) Treat animal waste with environmentally sound technologies for all regulated AFOs

(Yes, No, No Consensus)

- b) Prioritize federal funds to mitigate existing environmental challenges (such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program, cost share, loans, etc.) rather than construction of new facilities

(Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

### **Research and Development**

#### **7. Which of the following approaches to research and development (R&D) should government fund or accomplish?**

Note: For the purpose of these questions and some questions below, “**developed using any new technology**” or “**new technologies**” refer to any of many scientific processes for developing new crops or animals with genetic engineering, nanotechnology or other new techniques, which are not the traditional breeding or hybridization techniques.

- a) Basic research (Yes, No, No Consensus)

- b) Independent third-party (such as an academic institution) risk assessment of products *developed using any new technology* (Yes, No, No Consensus)

- c) Research to assess the impacts of *new technologies* on human health and the environment, prior to their widespread adoption (Yes, No, No Consensus)

- d) Research that advances the continuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems (Yes, No, No Consensus)

- e) Seed banking, research, and other means that promote and preserve genetic diversity (Yes, No, No Consensus)

- f) Both transparency in the reporting of research studies related to approval of new products **and** respect for intellectual property rights of private enterprises engaged in research (Yes, No, No Consensus)

- g) Research on long-term effects of new crops, products and processes (Yes, No, No Consensus)

- h) Development of new practices and technologies to promote conservation for all types of farms (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

### **Food Safety**

#### **8. Which of the following approaches to food safety should government perform or fund?**

- a) Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for new foods and food additives *developed using any new technology* (see note below question 7) (Yes, No, No Consensus)

- b) Require developers to monitor all food products *developed using any new technology* after releasing to the market (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Withdraw marketing approval if products are shown to be unsafe (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) Require post-market monitoring of approved pharmaceutical applications in animal production for human health and environmental impacts (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- e) Require developers of new products to provide data and other materials to independent third-parties (such as academic institutions) for pre- and post-market safety assessment as appropriate (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- f) Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to treat and control disease (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- g) Fund **independent** third-party (such as academic institutions) risk assessment of long-term and multiple \*\*\*\*\*
- h) Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- i) Fund, train and add personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

### **Food Labeling**

#### **9. How sufficient are the following regarding current food labeling?**

- a) Nutrition Facts on food labels (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)
- b) Nutrition Facts on food labels as a means of consumer education (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)
- c) Common allergen labeling (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)
- d) Health and ingredient claims that consumers can understand (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)

Comments:

#### **10. Which of the following should government achieve regarding marketing and ingredient claims on food labels?**

- a) Define (and approve for use) health and safety marketing terms (e.g. immunity support, humane, pasture-raised, natural, etc.) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Regulate the use of images or other sensory advertising (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Require that ingredient marketing claims accurately represent what is in the required ingredient list (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

#### **11. Recognizing that each food developed using any new technology can be unique, and assuming that required food labeling should be useful to consumers, should the following generalized information relating to how products or components are developed be presented on food labels?**

See note below question 7. All these questions also assume some percentage threshold of new technology ingredients, such as the 0.9% used in the European Union.

- a) Contains ingredients developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)
- b) Does **not** contain ingredients developed using any new technology (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)
- c) If meat, fish, eggs, or dairy products are from animals that have consumed feed developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)

Comments:

## **ALEC Links** **American Legislative Exchange Council**

Following our January LWV meeting, members asked for further information about ALEC:

### **ALEC Quote:**

• "Our members join for the purpose of having a seat at the table. That's just what we do, that's the service we offer. The organization is supported by money from the corporate sector, and, by paying to be members, corporations are allowed the opportunity to sit down at the table and discuss the issues that they have an interest in." -Dennis Bartlett, ALEC, 1997

- See more at: <http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/american-legislative-exchange#sthash.gqY863JR.dpuf>

### **The organization and its areas of interest and sample legislation:**

<http://www.alec.org/task-forces/>

#### **Task Forces**

- Civil Justice
- Commerce, Insurance, and Economic Development
- Communications and Technology
- Education
- Energy, Environment, and Agriculture
- Health and Human Services
- International Relations
- Justice Performance Project
- Tax and Fiscal Policy

### **Videos on YouTube with Bill Movers:**

"The United States of ALEC"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0CaOhS7wJg>

And a followup: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Hmhdv\\_OSvA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Hmhdv_OSvA)

### **Specific information about ALEC activities in Arizona:**

New Report Exposes Extreme ALEC Agenda in Arizona

"ALEC in Arizona" identifies seventeen bills introduced in the 2013 session that appear to reflect ALEC model legislation. These bills would defund Arizona's public school system ([SB 1409](#) and [HB 2617](#)), eliminate collective bargaining rights ([HB 2330](#)), undermine the Affordable Care Act ([HB 2588](#)) and make it more difficult for Arizonans to sue corporations using class action lawsuits ([SB 1452](#)).

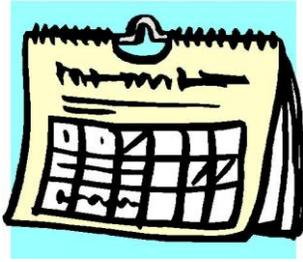
<http://www.prwatch.org/news/2013/04/12045/new-report-exposes-extreme-alec-agenda-arizona>

The 50 page report in its entirety:

[http://www.prwatch.org/files/ALEC In Arizona 2013.pdf](http://www.prwatch.org/files/ALEC%20In%20Arizona%202013.pdf)

### **Goldwater Institute: Report on links to ALEC in Arizona**

[http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Goldwater\\_Institute#cite\\_ref-report\\_1-7](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Goldwater_Institute#cite_ref-report_1-7)



**2014 *Calendar of Events***

**General meetings** open to the public will be held on the first Saturday of the month, usually in the lower level Community Room at Las Fuentes.

Please note the rescheduling of the Meet and Greet to February 27!

Thursday, Febr. 27	4 – 6 PM	Meet and Greet	Non-Profits and Government Officials
Saturday, Mar. 1	9:30 AM	General Meeting	Agriculture Study (Program Change)
Friday, March 7	11:30 AM	Board Meeting	
Saturday, Apr. 5	9:30 AM	General Meeting	Poverty's Effect on Education
Friday, April 11	11:30 AM	Board Meeting	
Saturday, May. 3	TBA	Members Only	Annual Meeting and Luncheon, 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration

**IMPORTANT WEBSITE REFERENCES**

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

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

LWVCYC Website  
[LWVCYC.org](http://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](http://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.**

## LEAGUE CALLS ON IRS TO STOP “DARK MONEY” *Protection for Truly Nonpartisan Voter Service Essential*

02/19/2014 | by Stephanie Drahan |

**Washington, DC** – Today, the League of Women Voters of the United States [submitted comments](#) to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on their Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for 501(c)(4) organizations. League President Elisabeth MacNamara urged the IRS to “keep pushing to stop the secret ‘dark money’ that has been polluting our elections since *Citizens United*, while at the same time protecting truly nonpartisan work to provide the public with unbiased voter information.”

“The League is commenting on the proposed new IRS rule for two critical reasons,” said MacNamara. “The health of our democracy demands that we rein in the secret ‘dark money’ election spending unleashed by the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2010 *Citizens United* decision. The IRS proposal is a step in the right direction,” she said. “At the same time, any new regulations must continue to allow truly nonpartisan voter service activities by groups like the League,” according to MacNamara.

“Since *Citizens United*, our nation has seen a huge explosion in the sums of money being raised and spent by 501(c)(4) organizations – social welfare organizations – to elect or defeat candidates for public office,” said MacNamara. “This practice is not only contrary to the law regulating how much political activity is allowed by these organizations, but it is done in the dark. The money is not disclosed to the public, which leaves voters unable to judge the credibility and motivation of the advertising and campaigning by these groups.”

“Reforming IRS regulations is our best opportunity to stem the tide of secret cash,” MacNamara said. “The IRS can halt the abuse in its tracks by stopping 501(c)(4) organizations from spending on ‘candidate-related political activity.’ The League urges the IRS to move as soon as possible with a rigorous and clear definition of ‘candidate-related political activity’ which would be barred for (c)(4) organizations,” she said.

“However, the new IRS proposal is too broad, because it would undermine truly nonpartisan voter service activities like those carried out by the League,” MacNamara said. “We urge the IRS to use the standards currently applied to (c)(3) organizations governing nonpartisan election activities and apply them to (c)(4) organizations as well,” she said.

“With nearly 800 local and 50 state Leagues, we conduct truly nonpartisan debates, publish unbiased voter guides, register voters of all political persuasions, and work actively in communities across the nation to encourage all citizens to vote,” MacNamara said. “In fact, in many communities, the Leagues’ voter information is the only truly nonpartisan information available to the public. Unbiased and nonpartisan voter service activities deliver tremendous value to voters, potential voters and our democracy. Thus we believe that truly nonpartisan voter service and voter education activities by a 501(c)(4) organization must be clearly and explicitly allowed,” she said.

“The League commends the IRS for addressing the dark money issue. They must fix that problem while protecting truly nonpartisan voter service and voter education activities. Though the IRS has been attacked from both sides of the political spectrum, we urge the IRS to do what is right,” MacNamara concluded.

# TAKE ACTION

*The IRS has proposed very significant changes in the regulations that govern what kind of political activity and how much of that activity a Section 501(c)(4) organization can carry out. This step is our best chance to rein in the secret “dark money” that has been polluting our elections since the Supreme Court’s terrible decision in Citizens United. At the same time, the current proposal would undermine the League’s ability to conduct truly nonpartisan voter service activities across the country. The national League has submitted comments to the IRS on the proposal, but we need your help!*

[\*Please contact the IRS and urge them to keep pushing to stop the dark money unleashed by Citizens United and to make sure that Leagues can continue our truly nonpartisan voter service work.\*](#)

*Reforming IRS regulations is our single best opportunity to respond to Citizens United, which allowed political operatives like Karl Rove on the right and Bill Burton on the left to raise and spend unlimited amounts of secret money in candidate elections. By stopping 501(c)(4) organizations from spending on “candidate-related political activity,” the IRS can stop the abuse in its tracks.*

*For 94 years the League has played a unique role in our elections by providing truly nonpartisan voter services and information to voters across the country. Unfortunately, the IRS proposal as it stands would jeopardize our work because it does not provide any exception for truly nonpartisan voter service activities like those carried out by the League. This is a terrible mistake, both for voters and for our democracy.*

[\*Protect the League’s voter service work and stop dark money from polluting our elections: Submit your comments to the IRS today.\*](#)

*Submitting your comment to the IRS is easy. Here are step-by-step instructions and a sample message:*

1. [\*Click this link to be taken to the page for the IRS Regulation.\*](#)
2. *Copy and paste the following message to the IRS into the comment box. The IRS must stop the “dark money” polluting our elections. Don’t back off. We have seen too much abuse by fly-by-night 501(c)(4) organizations and it is harming our democracy. We need real transparency and tough rules to stop “candidate-related political activity” by these organizations.*

*At the same time, the current IRS proposal must be changed to make sure that truly nonpartisan voter service activities by the League of Women Voters can continue. The existing standards currently applied to 501(c)(3) organizations governing nonpartisan election activities should also be applied to (c)(4) organizations.*

3. *Enter your contact information if you desire.*
4. *Click Continue.*
5. *Select the box next to I read and understand the statement above.*
6. *Click Submit Comment.*

**February 20, 2014**

Dear League Member:

Last November, the IRS proposed very significant changes to the regulations governing political activity by 501C4 organizations, like the League of Women Voters. The proposed new regulations would significantly impact the ability of 501C4 social welfare organizations to use money from undisclosed sources to influence elections, however the proposed regulations would also significantly impact the ability of the League to conduct truly nonpartisan voter service activity. That is because in defining ‘candidate-related activity’ that would be prohibited for 501C4 groups, the IRS included voter guides, voter registration, and candidate events without making any distinction for the truly nonpartisan work.

These are *proposed* regulations and the IRS is currently accepting comments on them. The [LWVUS has submitted comments](#) and we encourage Leagues around the country to do the same. To assist in the process, we have created [an action alert](#) that many of you may already have received. We have also sent a message to every state and local president with links to our comments and the action alert as well as suggested talking points for comments. This rulemaking process is important. Through these regulations, the IRS has the opportunity to force the secret dark money that has been flooding our elections into the open, but it is critical that in doing so, truly nonpartisan election activity that voters depend on is protected.

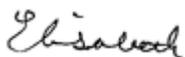
Nearly every League, national, state and local, is organized as a 501C4 social welfare organization. At the national level, in many states and a few localities, the League is also organized as a 501C3 charitable organization. Most of us are accustomed to distinguishing between our advocacy work which we do in the C4 and our voter service work which we do in the C3 or education fund. At the local level, this is true even though the overwhelming majority of our local Leagues do not have their own separate education fund. Nevertheless, when we do candidate debates, voter guides and voter registration, we are scrupulous in following rules established by the IRS for 501C3 organizations. These rules have served us and our communities well for many years. We are asking the IRS to use that definition to distinguish truly nonpartisan voter service work from candidate-related activity for C4s as well.

The 501C4 structure has been abused by those who wish to influence our elections precisely because the current IRS rules do not require C4 organizations to disclose their donors. The code also recognizes tax-exempt 527 organizations designed to engage in candidate activity and required to disclose donors. Our comments urge the IRS to clearly define and restrict candidate related activity for C4s because any group of individuals wishing to engage in this kind of activity can do so through a 527.

While this is a complex subject, our goals are simple: restrict or eliminate the secret money flowing into our elections and guarantee voters the nonpartisan information they have come to depend on. Because of our voter service work, because we do not support or oppose candidates, the League is in a unique position to influence this process. The deadline for comments is next Thursday, February 27. Please respond to [the action alert](#) or send our talking points through the links provided.

This is an important opportunity to protect our elections.

In League,





**League of Women Voters  
of Central Yavapai County  
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**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.**