



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI

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The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai
is proud to host

The Arizona Town Hall
presentation on

Keeping Arizona's Water Glass Full

Insights and key recommendations are shared with attendees in an effort to educate, inspire and collect more insights on the topic in focus. Program presenters, made up of individuals who participated in the Town Hall discussions, share their thoughts on the recommendations. Audience members are then invited to give their thoughts on the priorities surrounding the topic.

Saturday, March 5, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Las Fuentes Resort Village
1035 Scott Drive, Prescott

Go to <http://www.aztownhall.org/event-2148059> to register!

President's Message

As we enter into the League's 97th year...pause to remember what the women before us fought for and won.

We're gearing up for the March 22nd Presidential Preference Election. I hope you all were able to get yourselves registered in the party of the candidate you'd like to support.



Our March 5th meeting on Water will be very informative and engaging. If you haven't signed up to attend – you can do so now: <http://www.aztownhall.org/event-2148059>. Arizona Town Hall will need a count to know how many brochures and handouts to provide, so please take the time to sign up.

The Legislature has been in full swing, and ballot propositions have been filed left and right. Just to give you an update on what the League is following on www.azleg.gov.

Bill #	Description	Oppose/Support
SB1279	Empowerment Scholarships; expansion; phase-in	Oppose
SB1280	Empowerment Scholarship accounts; eligibility; administration	Oppose
HCR2035	Clean Elections; Lobbying; Rulemaking	Oppose
HB2010	Collection; voted early ballots; limitation	Oppose
HB2016	Early, all-mail ballots; mailing period	Oppose
HB2537	Supreme Court Justices – number	Oppose
HCR2013	Clean Elections Act – Repeal	Oppose
SCR1017	Independent Redistricting Commission; membership	Oppose
HCR2047	Initiatives; referendums; signature requirements; counties	Oppose
SB1516	Campaign Finance amendments	Oppose
SCR1016	Surcharges; Clean Elections; Education Funding	Oppose
SB1519	Early ballots; collection; receipt	Oppose

I'm sure there are some we support – it's just that the alerts we have been receiving are to oppose these particular bills. If you're interested in being an armchair activist, let me know – and I'll get you connected with one of the State League's lobbyists to get you signed up at the Capitol.

In this Voter, there is lots of information about upcoming propositions so you can be informed. We have two speaking engagements lined up on Prop 123, and look forward to educating on the choice to be made in the Special Election on May 17th. Be sure to get a brochure to share with friends at our March 5th meeting.

Ellie Laumark, VP Program, has our three Legislators lined up to speak to us on April 23rd. Mark your calendars and note the afternoon time frame for this update on what happened during this session of the legislature.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our March meeting.

LWVCYC Position on WATER

WATER

LWVCYC Membership Adopted 1999 and Revised in 2006

Summary Statement: The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County encourages and supports the effective use of water and effluent, controlled development and use of alternative water sources (all sources other than ground water) increased water conservation and education and cooperation of communities in Central Yavapai County.

Position: The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County encourages and supports:

1. Public and private accountability of water usage and conservation.
2. Acquisition and development of water and sewage systems by local government.
3. Taxes and cost reduction incentives, which result in water conservation and effluent reuse.
4. The study, development of alternative water sources when effective use of available effluent has been made.
5. Public education that communicates the need for conservation and the results of regional water studies.
6. The regulation and effective use of effluent for recharge and direct public use.
7. Measures that stress or require water conservation in the planning and conversion of developments.
8. The cooperation of communities within Central Yavapai County.
9. The attainment of safe yield in the Prescott Active Management Area no later than 2025.

LWVAZ Position on Water

WATER

Consensus 1975, 1979; Revised 1995, Amended 2009

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports the following goals: Water resource management should ensure:

- The sustainability and long term productivity of water resources of the state and their future availability at reasonable costs. Reasonable cost is defined as costs that fairly and accurately reflect the value of this precious resource.
- The equitable utilization of water resources.
- Conservation of water resources.
- Prevention of harmful contamination of our surface and groundwater supplies from all sources.
- Coordination at all levels of government (federal, state and local) in planning for and managing water resources.
- Availability of detailed information on all groundwater withdrawal and hydraulic characteristics of aquifers.
- Energy consideration to be included as part of any water management plan.
- Public participation at all levels of water resource management planning. Arizona water laws should:
 - Reflect the hydrologic cycle and treat all water as interrelated.
 - Recognize and provide for physical differences between various areas of the state.
 - Define and quantify ground and surface rights.
 - Consider priority of use and coordination of planning for water and land if water rights are transferred.
 - Recognize riparian habitats as beneficial use.
 - Assure that riparian habitats and in stream flows are protected when any new water rights are granted, or when there are water exchanges or changed uses.
 - Clarify and strengthen in stream flow rights.
 - Provide for incentives for stream/habitat restoration.
 - Provide authority to: – Monitor water use; – Limit non-beneficial or wasteful use; – Limit new water uses in areas of long-term shortages; – Decide which users should have priorities in times of shortages.

(The administration of the above should be determined at the state level, with emphasis on implementation and enforcement at the local or regional level.)

-- Require conservation of water by large individual users, such as large industries and agricultural entities, and encourage conservation by all other users. Tax incentives should be utilized.

LWVUS Position on Water

Water Resources

The League supports:

- water resource programs and policies that reflect the interrelationships of water quality, water quantity, ground-water and surface water and that address the potential depletion or pollution of water supplies;
- measures to reduce water pollution from direct point-source discharges and from indirect nonpoint sources; policies to achieve water quality essential for maintaining species populations and diversity, including measures to protect lakes, estuaries, wetlands and in-stream flows;
- stringent controls to protect the quality of current and potential drinking-water supplies, including protection of watersheds for surface supplies and of recharge areas for groundwater.

Proposed Interbasin Water Transfers

Interstate and interbasin transfers are not new or unusual. Water transfers have served municipal supplies, industry, energy development and agriculture.

Construction costs of large-scale water transfers are high, and economic losses in the basin of origin also may be high. Environmental costs of water transfers may include quantitative and qualitative changes in wetlands and related fisheries and wildlife, diminished aquifer recharge and reduced stream flows. Lowered water tables also may affect groundwater quality and cause land subsidence.

As we look to the future, water transfer decisions will need to incorporate the high costs of moving water, the limited availability of unallocated water and our still limited knowledge of impacts on the affected ecosystems.

In order to develop member understanding and agreement on proposals for large-scale water transfer projects, state and local Leagues need to work together. The following guidelines are designed to help Leagues jointly evaluate new proposals for large-scale water transfers.

The process for evaluating the suitability of new proposed interbasin water transfers should include:

- ample and effective opportunities for informed public participation in the formulation and analysis of proposed projects;
- evaluation of economic, social and environmental impacts in the basin of origin, the receiving area and any area through which the diversion must pass, so that decision makers and the public have adequate information on which to base a decision;
- examination of all short- and long-term economic costs including, but not limited to, construction, delivery, operation, maintenance and market interest rate;
- examination of alternative supply options, such as water conservation, water pricing and reclamation;
- participation and review by all affected governments;
- procedures for resolution of inter-governmental conflicts;
- accord with international treaties;
- provisions to ensure that responsibility for funding is borne primarily by the user with no federal subsidy, loan guarantees or use of the borrowing authority of the federal government, unless the proposal is determined by all affected levels of the League to be in the national interest.

KEY POINTS FROM FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL ON “KEEPING ARIZONA’S WATER GLASS FULL”

“I was shocked to find how much power water holds. I am glad to be informed on this issue and learning ways to preserve water.” – Anna Ruiz-Parga, Mesa High School Student

ROLE OF WATER IN OUR DAILY LIVES

- Water is essential to our existence.
- Water is used for everything from personal hygiene to cooking to producing energy.
- Much of our state is dependent on water for agricultural production.
- A continuous supply of clean drinking water must be provided.
- Our natural environment and outdoor recreation are supported by water.

ARIZONA’S UNIQUE RESOURCES, STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES RE: WATER

- The Colorado River, natural aquifers, dams, reservoirs and canals are unique resources.
- Effective utilization of groundwater and underground storage are strengths.
- Drought and limited rainfall present challenges in predicting the supply of surface water.
- The heat and desert environment result in dry conditions in many areas.
- Competing demands from other states for water resources like the Colorado River create challenges.

BEST WAYS TO SUPPORT A SUSTAINABLE WATER SYSTEM

- Educate children about water conservation through a "Water Wise" program in schools.
- Use incentives and disincentives to encourage less and more efficient usage of water.
- Pursue technological advances for the treatment and reuse of water.
- Support the development of cost-effective desalinization projects.
- Encourage the installation of water-saving landscaping.

MESSAGES FOR ARIZONA’S ELECTED LEADERS

- Make the availability of clean drinking water for all a priority.
- Plan ahead for future water needs.
- Protect Arizona’s water rights nationally and regionally.
- Examine regulations re: water policy, consumption and conservation.
- Set an example individually and in the community for the efficient use of water.

COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

- Take shorter showers and turn off the running water when it is not needed.
- Educate members of our own household on water conservation.
- Talk to people when we see them wasting water and offer a better solution.
- Become more educated about water rights, particularly in our area.
- Start a water club or program in our community to educate others on water issues and usage.



Important Election Dates in 2016



Monday, February 22nd **Deadline to Register to Vote in the Presidential Preference Election (PPE)**

(Note: Those of you NOT registered with a political party will need to register with the political party of your choice if you want to vote in the "closed" PPE. You can always re-register afterwards back to "no party preference", if that's your "thing".)

- Wednesday, February 24th** **Early Voting Begins in the PPE**
- Tuesday, March 22nd** **Arizona Presidential Preference Election**
- Monday, April 18th** **Deadline to register to vote in the May Special Election for Prop. 123 (Education Funding Inflation Adjustment Settlement)**
- Wednesday, April 20th** **Early Voting Begins for Prop. 123**
- Tuesday, May 17th** **Special Election for Prop. 123**
- Wednesday, June 1st** **Last Day to File Candidate Nomination Petitions**
- Thursday, July 7th** **Last Day to File Constitution & Initiative Petitions**
- Wednesday, July 13th** **Last Day to File Arguments For or Against Ballot Measures**
- Thursday, July 21st** **Last Day to File as a Write-In Candidate for the Primary Election**
- Monday, August 1st** **Last Day to Register to Vote in the Primary Election**

(Note: Those of you not registered with a political party will need to request a primary ballot for the party of your choice.)

- Wednesday, August 3rd** **Early Voting Begins in the Primary Election**
- Tuesday, August 30th** **Primary Election Day**
- Thursday, September 29th** **Last Day to File as a Write-In Candidate for the General Election**
- Monday, October 10th** **Last Day to Register to Vote in the General**
- Wednesday, October 12th** **Early Voting Begins in the General Election**
- Tuesday, November 8th** **Election Day**



The Open and Honest Coalition is a diverse group of leaders from across Arizona supporting two constitutional ballot initiatives that will transform the Arizona election system and bring transparency and fairness to every Arizonan participating in the voting process. Learn more at www.OpenandHonestAZ.com.

- **Protect our democracy from corruption:** Under our current system, there is no way to know who is influencing our candidate elections.
- **Demand financial disclosure:** Voters have a right to know who is spending money and how much they are spending to influence our candidate elections.
- **Treat all voters equally:** Voters have a right to participate in all elections (including 1.2 million registered Independents) and should not be prevented from being able to choose the best candidate.
- **Create an even playing field:** All candidates (including Independents) have a right to be treated equally regardless whether they affiliate with a party or not.

Open and Honest Disclosure Amendment

- Requires 24 hour public disclosure of the original source of any expenditure in excess of \$10,000 to influence an Arizona candidate election.
- Original Source is defined as the person or corporation who made a contribution from its own funds (not from contributions or gifts) that ended up helping to finance a campaign in Arizona, regardless of how many times it was passed around.
- Intermediary is defined as a person or corporation who passed along a contribution from an original source that ended up in a campaign in Arizona where it helped to elect or defeat a candidate.
- Disclosure must be made under oath and subject to penalty of perjury.
- Enforcement by filing officers; fines up to 3 times amount not properly disclosed.
- Citizens may also pursue enforcement action.

Open and Honest Elections Amendment

- Every person qualified to vote, regardless of party or lack of party registration, has the right to vote in any election for any candidate.
- level the playing field for all candidates- same requirements for all candidates.
- All candidates compete in an open primary, then two highest vote getters compete in the General Election in November.
- If number of candidates less than or equal to General Election ballot, candidates move directly to the General Election, saving taxpayer expense.
- No more taxpayer funding for private party activities.
- Party affiliation on the ballot is determined by body that governs that election (example: legislature, city, county)
- Ballot party label will match candidate's voter registration (REP, DEM, IND, PRO, GRE).

Paid for by Open and Honest Disclosure Committee, Yes on C-06-2016 and Open and Honest Elections Committee, Yes on C-07-2016, Major funding provided by Open Primaries (an out-of-state contributor)

LWVCYC Tentative Calendar 2015-16

Day	Date	Time	Activity	Topic/Place
Mon.	Febr. 22		Deadline	Deadline Voter Regist. For Presidential Primary
Tues.	March 1	8:00	Board	Board Meeting
Sat.	March 5th	10:00	Public Meeting	What's our water future?
Tues.	Mar. 22		Election	Presidential Preference Primary
Tues.	Apr. 19	8:00	Board	Board Meeting
Sat.	April 23	10:00	Public Meeting	Legislative Update This is a fourth Saturday.
Tues.	May 3	8:00	Board	Board Meeting
Sat.	May 7	TBA	Members	Annual Meeting and Speaker
TBD			Board	New Board Retreat
Mon.	Aug. 1		Deadline	Voter registration deadline for Primary Election
Tues.	Aug. 30		Election	Primary Election

LWVUS Board Sets 2016 Legislative Priorities

The LWVUS Board set federal legislative priorities for the second session of the 114th Congress at its January board meeting. The League has many positions from which to take action but establishing a focus for our national advocacy is a critical responsibility of the LWVUS Board as it is for every League Board. In setting priorities, the Board considers a number of factors, the most important of which is focusing League effort where it can have the greatest impact.

For 2016, the LWVUS legislative priorities are ranked in two tiers. The first tier priority is **Representative Democracy**, which includes voting rights and election administration, money in politics, redistricting reform and work on a constitutional convention. The second tier is **Climate Change**. And we continue to watch action on several issues including immigration, health care, reproductive rights and environmental protection.



2016 Legislative Update

April 23rd 1:00 PM

**Las Fuentes Resort Village
1035 Scott Drive, Prescott AZ**

Public Invited

**Senator Steve Pierce,
Representatives Karen Fann
and Noel Campbell will give
a summary of Legislative
bills and their status.**

**Come find out about
propositions #123 (School
funding) and #124 (Public
safety Pension system) for
the May ballot referendums.
Find out future plans for all
three of our legislators.
Refreshments provided.**

**Submit your priority questions in
advance (short and sweet) to
Ellie at ellielaumark@gmail.com or
Terri at tfarneti@cableone.net**

Wednesday, February 24, 2016
Yavapai College Library
1100 E. Sheldon Street, Prescott
11:30 a.m.

Members, please come out to support the League's
presentation and voter registration effort!



"Voting Rights: Embracing My Right to Vote"

Next pages: Proposition 123 brochure: fold in thirds.

Problems - continued

PROBLEM: The wording of "large gaps" and "economic slowdown" is not defined and could allow the Legislature to once again cut back on funding public education.

B. The State Land Trust

1. Requires a public vote to make changes in distributions from the land trust.

PROBLEM: With passage by AZ voters, it will also require federal approval to change the Enabling Act for the State Land Trust.

2. Accelerates the land trust withdrawal rate from 2.5 to 6.9 percent for 10 years to fund 59 percent of the court ordered inflation settlement.

PROBLEM: Depending on inflation, at 6.9 percent the settlement could dip into and reduce the principal or corpus of the trust. The risk of invading the corpus of the land trust "is likely to be met with significant legal challenges."¹

C. Expiration of Prop 301

The sales tax increase approved by voters with passage of Prop 301 expires in 2021. However, the Prop 301 provision for an annual inflation adjustment to the Base Level will continue in perpetuity.

PROBLEM: The loss of sales tax monies from the expiration of Prop 301 in 2021 will be another very serious loss to funding of public schools.

¹'State Trust Lands and Education Funding', research report, WP Carey School of Business. Nov. 2015, p 16-17

Prop 123 Special Election May 17, 2016

This is a critically important election addressing the funding of public education both today and in the future. As a part of the elements, it includes a provision involving a change in the Arizona Constitution regarding the State Lands Trust.

We urge you to become informed and exercise your voice by voting.

The Choice

If Prop 123 is approved by voters and the Enabling Act change is approved by the U.S. Government, the unrestricted inflationary back payment monies will immediately flow to public schools and "would increase total K-12 spending by approximately \$278 per student.leaving AZ spending almost 30 percent less than the national average on K-12 education."¹

If Prop 123 is rejected by voters, the court settlement standoff resumes and AZ public education funding for the benefit of all students remains grossly underfunded.



**Be Informed
Be Heard**

**Your Vote is
Your Voice**

The League of Women Voters of Arizona
www.lwvaz.org

K-12 Public Education and Proposition 123

The Premise

The Problems

The Choice

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ARIZONA

February 1, 2016

The Background:

- The Arizona Constitution states "the legislature shall make such appropriations to be met by taxation as shall insure the proper maintenance of all state educational institutions and shall make such special appropriations as shall provide for their development and improvement."
- Prop 301. In 2000 by public vote, the Legislature was directed to adjust the "base level education funding formula" each year in accordance with inflation. The increase raised the state sales tax from 5.0 to 5.6 percent through 2021.
- State Land Trust Fund. Federal land was given to the state for the purpose of education. The 1910 Enabling Act set forth how monies derived from the sale, rent or transfer of the lands shall be used.
- Lawsuit. After the Legislature failed to adjust the "base level education funding formula" each year in accordance with inflation in the fiscal 2011 budget and again in FY 2012 and FY2013, the lawsuit, Cave Creek vs Ducey, et. al, was filed.

In 2013, the State Supreme Court ruled that the state legislature had violated the voter mandate by only partially funding the inflation adjustments for three years. They ruled the adjustments in Prop 301 could not be undercut by legislative action, saying the Legislature had run afoul of the Voter Protection Act and its limits on changes to laws approved by voters.

In Aug. 2014, the Superior Court ordered the Legislature to fund the student base level by an average of \$348 million per year through 2026. Prop 123 is simply the proposed settlement between the parties in the lawsuit.

The settlement funds a portion of the lost school funding authorized by passage of Prop 301 but withheld by the Legislature.

What Prop 123 purports to do:

- Ends the inflation lawsuit and provides some of the lost funding authorized by voters with passage of Prop 301.
- Appropriates an average of \$348 million to public school budgets for past inflation payments each year for 10 years (\$206 million from the state land trust distributions, \$80 million from current state funding, and \$62 million in general fund money).
- Provides 70 percent of the dollar inflation suit payment ordered by the court.
- Partially meets the intent of the lawsuit by increasing the base level of funding per student based on market factors.
- Provides an additional \$300 per student for the first five years and an additional \$150 per student for the next five years.
- Increases the distribution from the State Land Trust from 2.5 percent annually to 6.9 percent each year for 10 years through a change in the Arizona Constitution. It allows trust fund disbursements to be counted toward 59 percent of the inflation settlement.
- Mandates suspending the inflation factor for the year if sales tax revenues and enrollment growth are less than one percent.
- Permits schools to use the funding to meet their greatest needs.

The Problems

Prop 123 contains triggers that affect the settlement and ultimate outcome for funding of all public schools.

A. Triggers

1. Mandates that sales tax revenues must be greater than one percent of the previous year or the inflation factor will not apply.

PROBLEM: There is no guarantee of stability of school financing by the legislature from year to year. Sales tax growth can be altered by sales tax exemptions/credits given to businesses.

2. Permits the Legislature to suspend the inflation factor agreement for monies during the year if sales tax and employment growth is between one and two percent. When the trigger period ends, the base level per student will reset with compounding as if there had been no inflation factor suspension.

PROBLEM: Adds an additional degree of budget uncertainty for education. Schools might not be funded as required by law and court decree.

3. Caps the K-12 Funding at 49 percent of the general fund as of 2026.

PROBLEM: The Legislature is able to alter general fund revenues by the diversion of general fund monies through tax cuts, tuition tax credits (empowerment scholarships to subsidize private schooling), etc. In addition, the legislative body says it cannot commit succeeding legislative bodies to funding levels.

4. The Legislature can cut back on school funding if there are large gaps in the Land Trust earnings or a major economic slowdown occurs.

(continued next panel)

