



# The Voter

## The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County

P. O. Box 25854 Prescott Valley, AZ 86312-5854

September, 2009

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Board Appointment  
TBA

E-mail: [LWVCYC@hotmail.com](mailto:LWVCYC@hotmail.com)  
Website: <http://centrallyavapai.az.lwvnet.org>

### The State of Early Childhood Welfare in Arizona and Yavapai County--the First Things First Program

The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County Presents:

## First Things First Arizona





**This meeting is FREE and the public is invited to attend**

NADINE BASHA      MARCIA JACOBSON

FIRST THINGS FIRST founder Nadine Basha and FTF Regional Coordinator for Yavapai County Marcia Jacobson will discuss the goals, mission and status of FIRST THINGS FIRST and how the organization interacts with Yavapai County programs.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**  
**9:30 am—11:30 am**  
**Las Fuentes Resort Village**  
**1035 Scott Drive, Prescott**  
**RSVP: (928) 227-2374**  
**OR [LWVCYC@hotmail.com](mailto:LWVCYC@hotmail.com)**

# The President's Message



Two years ago, I came from a state with a **non-partisan, one house** Legislature - Nebraska. Arizona has left me scratching my head, as the partisan Legislature's failure to come up with an acceptable budget that balances income with outgo has stretched months into the new fiscal year. The Arizona Constitution, Article 9:3, §3, clearly charges the legislature with the duty to "provide by law for an annual tax sufficient, with other sources of revenue, to defray the necessary ordinary expenses of the state for each fiscal year." Instead we have a fiscal crisis in which the proposed budget provides multiple **tax cuts** and sells off State Parks and office buildings, while providing for an almost 39% shortfall in funding (47.5% if you add in the sale of state parks and buildings). How to cover that deficit, at least partially, may be a decision pushed onto the voters sometime in the future, but just what and when isn't very clear at the moment I am writing this.

We have elected legislators supposedly based on their good judgment and character and ability to make tough decisions. Partisan political power should not stand in the way of the legislators' compact with their voters. Hey, LWV, maybe we should start a drive to make the Arizona legislature NON-Partisan!! We've shown in this non-partisan organization that we can ALL work together toward common goals!

I hope you were able to get to the LWV Prescott Mayor and City Council Candidates' Forum on July 30 at Yavapai College. There seems to be a LOT of interest – or, some would say indecision – about who can effectively lead Prescott in these challenging times. The *Courier* says we had 500 to 600 potential voters there to listen to the candidates' views. This was the largest of all the forums, showing confidence in our non-partisan, balanced format. Kudos to Sandra Goodwin, Voters Service Chair, and to her team of helpers!

Coming up:

Our September Program concerns "The State of Early Childhood Welfare in Arizona and Yavapai County." We will center on the First Things First Program, established by citizen's initiative in November 2006. Interestingly enough, this was one of the programs whose funds the Legislature planned to tap for the State budget. However, this move was beaten back in court, as the Arizona Constitution, Article 4:1, §1 provides ... "The legislature shall not have the power to appropriate or divert funds created or allocated to a specific purpose by an initiative measure approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon ... **unless the appropriation or diversion of funds furthers the purposes of such measure** and at least three-fourths of the members of each house of the legislature, by a roll call of ayes and nays, vote to appropriate or divert such funds." Other governmental entities established by initiatives or otherwise constitutionally protected may also resort to the courts to protect diversion of their funding, thus further complicating the state budget deficit.

Plans are for a program on "The Future of Energy" in October, and "Health Care" in November, followed by "Meet and Greet Non-Profits" in early December.

Nancy Shugrue, President LWVCYC

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET..... Your 2009-10 LWV Dues are due NOW!**

## **First Things First**

In November 2006, in a statistical landslide, Arizona voters passed Proposition 203; a citizen's initiative that funds quality early childhood development and health. With its passage, the Proposition created a new state level board known as the Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board. The Board subsequently adopted the name **First Things First** as an uplifting reference to the voter-enacted initiative, and to exemplify the importance of early childhood. See <http://www.azftf.gov>

First Things First exists to improve the lives of children birth through age five in order to ensure their readiness for school, and to support their families in preparing them for a lifetime of success and wellbeing. It continually seeks new innovative activities and approaches in pursuit of achieving the goals set out by statute, which are six areas that have significant impact on young children. Those goals and impact areas include:

1. Quality early care and education,
2. Access to those quality programs, as well as health providers,
3. Early health and screenings,
4. Parent and family information and support,
5. Professional development of early care and education providers,
6. Coordination, documentation and evaluation of early childhood programs and services,
7. Informing the public about the importance of early childhood to establish and reflect a culture of quality that is accountable to young children and their families.

31 Regional Partnership Councils partner with the Board and staff to provide research and opportunities to the over 600,000 children five and under in Arizona

## **Nadine Mathis Basha**

Nadine Mathis Basha has been an advocate for children throughout her career as an educator, small business owner and volunteer. She is responsible for the passage of Proposition 203, which created a funding source for a system of early childhood education. She was the first chair of the First Things First (FTF) Early Childhood Development and Health Board and continues to serve as a board member. The FTF board is in charge of the implementation and oversight of Proposition 203.

Ms. Mathis Basha has served on numerous boards and committees in conjunction with state and community services. Her accomplishments in the field of early childhood have been acknowledged by the countless awards she has received over the years.

Ms. Mathis Basha holds an Honorary Doctorate in Education from Northern Arizona University. She received her B.S. Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Kansas and an M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from Arizona State University.

## **Selected LWV Positions Concerning Early Childhood Development**

### **LWVUS - SOCIAL POLICY**

**Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.**

#### **Meeting Basic Human Needs**

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

#### **Child Care**

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

#### **Early Intervention for Children at Risk**

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

### **LWVAZ - SOCIAL POLICY, HUMAN NEEDS**

The League of Women of Arizona supports a state system that provides for a positive program to assist the economically disadvantaged in obtaining a greater measure of financial, physical and personal well-being, with emphasis on meeting basic human needs rather than on maintaining minimum expenditures.

In order to assist persons in need, to assure the basic essentials of health and adequate standards of living, reduce dependency, and break the welfare cycle, the state of Arizona should:

- Assure supportive programs and services integrated with those for the general public on an available-to-pay basis, including legal services, comprehensive health care, child care, transportation, family planning, home management, family counseling, vocational training, and educational enrichment.

### **LWVCYC - JUVENILE JUSTICE AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

Summary Statement: The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County encourages and supports the continuance and introduction of programs for children (birth to age 18) in the areas of health, mental health, care and supervision that are provided by parents, public, and voluntary agencies. These programs must be funded, timely, appropriate, coordinated, available, and accessible by public transportation.

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

1. Funding of all mandated health, inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance abuse programs for underinsured and uninsured children.
2. Preventive and treatment programs for children in health, mental health care and substance abuse that are easily accessible, timely and appropriate.
3. Program of parent education and involvement, both in groups and individually, providing understanding of parenting skills, health and mental health of children and youth, sex education programs, educational programs for pregnant teenagers, teen development programs and classes in parenting skills.
5. Programs that provide protection and services to children. Such programs must be easily accessible by citizens and professionals, provide sufficient foster home placements for children and juveniles with different needs, enforce state laws, provide shelters for youths and stipends for older teens.
6. Policies and programs which treat all juvenile offenders with special consideration to age appropriate needs for mental and physical health care and treatment, safety and protection, and education with emphasis on rehabilitative services.

## **Letter from LWVUS President concerning Health Care Reform**

July 16, 2009

To: Members of the House of Representatives

From: Mary G. Wilson, President LWVUS

Re: Comprehensive Health Care Reform Legislation

The League of Women Voters welcomes the introduction of America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 in the House of Representatives and we urge you to support quick action on this essential legislation. We believe that it is imperative for Congress to send real health care reform to the President for his signature as soon as possible.

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million of us without any coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health, and voters have made it clear that they want change. According to a study reported in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 70 percent of Americans surveyed believe the health care system needs major changes, if not a complete overhaul.

All Americans must have health care coverage, including the choice of a quality, affordable public insurance plan. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system. We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents.

But coverage is not enough. We need to provide for quality and safety in the health care system. We believe that health care legislation must establish a system-wide program to coordinate information, establish best practices and provide consumers the information they need to protect themselves and their families. It is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions and so costs can be controlled.

The federal government needs to take additional strong action to reduce the costs of health care for individuals, businesses and communities. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last three decades, increases in the amount we spend on health care have consistently risen faster than wages and inflation. If nothing is done to control costs, we could be spending \$3 trillion for health care by 2011 and \$4.2 trillion by 2016.

The League believes that cost containment measures must take place in the context of overall health care reform. We must reduce or eliminate the cost-shifting that currently exists in health care financing and work to streamline the system. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans will be key.

To achieve this kind of comprehensive, system-wide reform will take a shared effort by citizens and Congress. The League of Women Voters is ready to work with you to reach this goal.

**Resource provided by the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force, 2009.**



**ACTION ALERT:**  
**Climate Change Battle**  
**Moves on to the Senate!**

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation and our world. The passage of America's Clean Energy and Security Act in the House means the fight for strong climate change legislation moves onto the Senate.

As the world's largest per capita source of greenhouse gas emissions, the United States must set a firm limit, or cap, on greenhouse gas emissions. The cap must decline over time to meet pollution-reduction goals based on the best scientific information. Enforceable interim and long-term goals are needed to compel early and effective action and guard against irreversible damage.

The scientific evidence is clear that climate change, caused largely by human emissions of greenhouse gases, is here now, already causing increasingly severe droughts and heat waves in some areas, intensifying floods and hurricanes in others, and triggering more wildfires. Climate change can devastate crops, create drinking water shortages, displace millions of people because of floods and increase the spread of diseases like malaria.

Establishing the declining cap, based on science and without loopholes, is the single most important issue in climate change and energy legislation. It is our nation's responsibility to take immediate action to curb the environmental and public health damages we are already experiencing from greenhouse gas emissions, as well as those that threaten the future vitality of the Earth.

Take action today to encourage your Senators to support strong global climate change legislation!

#### TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Senators now, by phone or by email, and tell them to support strong climate change legislation. Tell them that global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation and our world.
2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens - your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Senators today!

#### BACKGROUND

[Learn more](#) about what the League is doing to protect against global climate change.

[Sign up](#) to receive Action Alerts directly by email. Don't miss an opportunity to take action!

It's easy to sign up and the League will never share your email with others:

<http://takeaction.lwv.org/lwv/mlm/signup/>.

**IMPORTANT WEBSITE  
REFERENCES**

**League of Women Voters  
Websites**

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

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

**LWVCYC Website**  
<http://centralvavapai.az.lwvnet.org/>

**Reminder – Members are always welcome to attend Board meetings. Regular meeting times will be on the calendar.**

**To request placement of an item on the Board agenda and/or to receive the Board agenda packet, contact President Nancy Shugrue a week in advance.**

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**ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP DUES  
ARE DUE NOW!**

**THANKS TO ALL OUR  
GREAT MEMBERS!**

**LWV MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**  
**2009-2010**

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

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

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

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

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

**Please check type of membership:**

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

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to League (not tax deductible)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to Education Fund (tax deductible)

**Please make donations to LWVAZ Education Fund by *separate* check, to preserve tax deductibility. This supports our Webpage and Voter Service activities. Thank you!**

**Dues cover membership through June 30, 2010.**

**Both new and renewal members, please include this form with your check. Thank you!**

New: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership in the LWV is open to any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the LWVUS. These dues cover payment for local (\$16.80), state (\$9), and national (\$29.20) memberships.**

**OR**

**Be a "Friend" of LWVCYC**

\_\_\_ \$50/Yr Individual or \_\_\_ \$75/Yr Household

**Please mail this form and all checks to:**

**LWVCYC  
PO Box 25854 Prescott Valley, AZ 86312**

## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new member Linda Hatch, newly elected member of the Chino Valley Town Council! Her wide variety of life experiences and training should enrich the LWV in many ways.



Linda Hatch retired to Chino Valley in 2005, because her family has lived in the area for over 15 years.

Linda began working in a city library at age 15 and worked her way through school, obtaining bachelors, masters, MBA and law degrees. Immediately upon completion of her bachelor's degree, Linda volunteered for the Peace Corps and served in Peru and in Liberia as an education volunteer. While in the Peace Corps, Linda developed an interest in the medical field and became a licensed clinical laboratory technologist. She was employed full and part time in hospitals and clinics for 14 years.

During that time period, Linda also taught two years full time in inner-city Los Angeles working with gang members. It was also during this time period that she graduated from Law School and passed the CA Bar. She retired in 2005 after 14 years as a staff counsel for a CA state agency.

Linda has a long history as a volunteer including the following: HOA President, Treasurer, and Board of Directors, pro-bono work with the Los Angeles County Bar Association Aids/Hospice project, Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts in Bakersfield, Volunteer Hyperbaric Chamber Crew (treatment of diving accidents), coaching softball and basketball teams, was appointed to the Chino Valley Board of Adjustment in 2006, and was elected to Chino Valley Town Council in 2009.

Linda is licensed to practice law in CA, before the US Central District Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. Linda is not licensed to practice law in AZ.

We look forward to welcoming Linda at our meetings and involving her in program and studies!

## Calendar

<b>5:30,Sept 2</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Nancy Shugrue's</b>
<b>9:30,Sept 12</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Las Fuentes</b>
<b>5:30,Oct. 7</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Nancy Shugrue's</b>
<b>9:30,Oct.10</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Las Fuentes</b>
<b>Nov.3</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Prescott General Election</b>	
<b>5:30,Nov.4</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Nancy Shugrue's</b>
<b>9:30,Nov.14</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Las Fuentes</b>
<b>5:30,Dec.3</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Meet and Greet Non-Profits</b>	<b>Las Fuentes</b>

**Notices:**

1. Annual Membership **Dues** are due NOW!
2. Changes in **email** addresses or members who have acquired email but are still receiving VOTERS by snail mail, please call Alice or Nancy with their current email addresses.

**Only VOTER newsletters are mailed to home addresses of members without email capability. Other items of great interest are available on LWV Websites. Please use library computers to access the new LWVAZ Health Care study on either the LWVAZ or LWVCYC websites. An updated Elected Officials Directory will be posted on the LWVCYC site after the September 2 Prescott election. LWVUS, LWVAZ, and LWVCYC Websites also include Positions and other interesting information. Many thanks to our own website manager, Terri Farneti.**

3. The LWVCYC sponsored Prescott Mayor and City Council **Candidates Forum** was broadcast on Prescott Access 13 on Wednesdays at 10 AM and Mondays at 10 PM. Many thanks to Monika Bishop, Station Manager!
4. Are you looking for an interesting **DVD** to rent? **“Sicko”**, made in 2007 by Michael Moore, is an Oscar nominated documentary that examines the plight of the uninsured, underinsured, and those having insurance but denied coverage, plus talks with Americans living in other countries who are covered by government health care. I haven't been a big fan of Michael Moore in the past, but this is a good one!