



# THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI

LWVCYC.org ♦ LWVCYC@gmail.com ♦ P. O. Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304 ♦ October 2023

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"Our political leaders will know our priorities only if we tell them, again and again, and if those priorities begin to show up in the polls."



offers a presentation  
on

## Medical Aid in Dying

Saturday, October 7, 2023

10:00 a.m. by Zoom

Speaker: Mary Ganapol, Chairperson  
LWVAZ Committee for Concurrence on MAID



Mary Ganapol relocated to Tucson from the San Francisco Bay Area in 1996 and is the Southern Arizona Lead for AZ End of Life Options.

Her responsibilities include education, outreach and advocacy in the eight legislative districts representing Southern Arizona. In her last business venture before retirement in 2017, she left the corporate world to become the owner/operator of a home care franchise in Green Valley, Arizona called Seniors Helping Seniors. Coordinating hospice care in clients' homes gave her firsthand experience with end-of-life issues faced by the dying, their caregivers and their families.



## Potential Ballot Initiatives for 2024

### Proposal would overhaul Arizona elections with nonpartisan open primaries ~ Jeremy Duda for Axios

A campaign to overhaul Arizona's election system by eliminating partisan primaries and opening the door to ranked-choice voting kicked off Tuesday when advocates filed their long-awaited citizen initiative with the secretary of state's office.

Details: The Make Elections Fair Act is a proposed amendment to the Arizona Constitution that would abolish taxpayer-funded partisan primaries and instead create an open primary in which all candidates for partisan offices appear on the same ballot.

- All voters, regardless of party affiliation or lack thereof, would vote on that ballot.
- Signature requirements for candidates to get their names on the primary ballot would be the same, regardless of party.
- Ballots would include statements explaining that candidates' party affiliation doesn't indicate they're endorsed by that party.

How it works: The Legislature would be tasked with deciding how many candidates advance to the general election. For a race in which one candidate is elected, two to five can advance.

- If only two candidates advance to the general, both could be from the same party.
- If more than two candidates advance to the general, the eventual winner would be elected through a form of ranked-choice voting (RCV).
- Under RCV, voters list candidates by preference, and if no candidate gets a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and their second-choice votes are given to the remaining candidates until someone has over 50%.

Of note: The secretary of state would determine how many candidates advance to the general election if the Legislature fails to do so.

- Charter cities that hold nonpartisan elections would decide for themselves how many candidates advance to the general.

Why it matters: Advocates view partisan primaries as discriminatory toward independents, who currently constitute a plurality of registered voters in Arizona.

- Independents can vote in partisan primaries but must specifically request a ballot rather than being sent one automatically.
- Independent candidates don't run in primaries and go straight to the general election ballot but must collect substantially more signatures to qualify than major-party candidates.
- RCV advocates view their system as making it more difficult for more extreme candidates on the right and left to get elected.

Between the lines: The initiative would also ban public funding for presidential preference elections unless they're open to registered independents or voters under parties that don't appear on the ballot.

- It would also ban publicly funded elections for political party officials known as precinct committeemen.

By the numbers: The campaign must collect at least 383,923 valid signatures by July 3, 2024, to qualify for next November's ballot.

What they're saying: Consultant Chuck Coughlin, who's helping to run the campaign, noted that most legislative and congressional districts don't have competitive general elections because they're predominantly Democratic or Republican.

- "What this does is it guarantees general election competition, real competition, not token opposition from some party that never can win one of these safe seats," he told Axios Phoenix.

The other side: Arizona GOP chair Jeff DeWit said the proposal will cause "confusion and voter disenfranchisement," and he called it a "convoluted" voting scheme pushed by "special interest groups" to take away voting power from Arizonans.

- Rep. Austin Smith, R-Wittman, who sponsored a proposal that would protect partisan primaries and that lawmakers referred to the 2024 ballot, wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, the measure is an attempt to stop conservatives from winning primaries in red districts.
- "None of this is about better representation, reducing division or making elections fair. It's about manipulation and one-party control," Smith wrote.



## **Better Ballot Arizona launches drive for open primary, ranked choice voting**

[Ray Stern](#), Arizona Republic

Election reform advocates launched a drive to put a ranked choice voting and open primary system on the 2024 ballot, which could end up crowded with two other measures addressing similar subjects.

The initiative by Better Ballot Arizona, the political sister group to Voter Choice Arizona, an educational organization operating in Arizona since 2020, would open primary elections to independent voters and go to a ranking system in the general election, said Kazz Fernandes, the group's executive director.

"You'll have five candidates to choose from on your general election ballot and you can vote for who you want, ranking them in order of preference rather than having to vote against who you hate and just voting for the lesser of two evils," he said.

Fernandes said polling shows "favorable numbers" indicating now is the time to try a ballot measure. The group hopes to gather 500,000 voter signatures by the July 3, 2024, deadline, which would give them plenty of room to spare over the minimum of 383,923 valid signatures required.

The group has an "army" of volunteers and has collected contributions from "small-dollar and medium-dollar sources" but doesn't currently have a major financial backer, Fernandes said.

The group hasn't made the planned measure's language public yet. Gilbert resident and activist Blake Sacha is Voter Choice Arizona's president and the chair of Better Ballot Arizona.



## **LWVAZ Ranked Choice Voting Advocacy Team is Seeking Involvement by Members**

Ranked choice voting (RCV), also known as instant runoff voting (IRV) is an innovative and intuitive voting method that gives voters more voice, choice, and power in the political system. By giving voters the option to rank candidates in order of preference, the system guarantees the winner of an election actually has majority support (over 50%) and that voters can express themselves honestly, while providing increased electoral opportunities for underrepresented groups. Ranked Choice Voting is gaining in popularity nationwide. Currently, Alaska and Maine use RCV for state elections, Nevada voted to pass it in 2022 and will have to pass again in 2024 before implementing, and 62 cities and counties across the United States use RCV. There may be an RCV ballot initiative in the next few years in Arizona. The RCV Issue Team invites league members curious about RCV and its potential to benefit Arizona voters to join us and help monitor related legislation and educate others about this important election reform. Contact [BetsyBoggia@gmail.com](mailto:BetsyBoggia@gmail.com) or [Beth.Ballmann@gmail.com](mailto:Beth.Ballmann@gmail.com) to learn more.

## **Arizona Abortion Access Initiative to Start Signature Gathering**

**BY: GLORIA REBECCA GOMEZ – for the Arizona Mirror**

The initiative seeking to make abortion a fundamental right in the Grand Canyon state has officially launched the signature gathering effort necessary to land on the 2024 ballot. Reproductive rights advocates gathered last week to urge Arizonans to support the campaign for the Arizona Abortion Access Act, which aims to enshrine the procedure as a right in the state constitution. To qualify for the 2024 election, it first needs to garner at least 383,923 valid signatures from registered voters who want it on the ballot.

Dr. Jill Gibson, medical director for Planned Parenthood Arizona, which runs four of the state’s nine abortion clinics, said that putting the issue to the voters is the best way to guarantee access to the procedure. “What has become heartbreakingly crystal clear to both providers and patients since the overturn of Roe is that we cannot rely solely on our representatives, our judges or our officials to protect our health care rights,” she said. “It falls to us to fight for our communities and safeguard the right to abortion in Arizona.”

Access to abortion care has been increasingly inhibited across the country and in Arizona after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the protections of Roe v. Wade last year and left the power to restrict access to the procedure up to individual states. Lawmakers in Arizona passed a 15-week limit that is currently in effect, but a court case headed by anti-abortionists threatens to reinstate a near-total ban from 1864. And a separate case is underway over a previously blocked law that includes both a genetic abnormality ban and a declaration of fetal personhood that has the potential to prohibit all abortions.

If voters approve the Arizona Abortion Access Act, all the threats and restrictions against the procedure would be rendered moot. The act would prohibit any law or policy from interfering with a patient’s ability to obtain an abortion before fetal viability unless a “compelling state interest” exists. That state interest must be an evidence-based law that considers the patient’s health and doesn’t “infringe on the individual’s autonomous decision making”. And in cases that arise after the point of fetal viability – generally considered to be around 23 to 24 weeks – the judgment of the health care professional would be held above any outside interference or restriction.

Reproductive rights proponents are confident that Arizonans will deliver a win for the act.

“The majority of Arizona voters, no matter how they personally feel about abortion, agree with us that pregnant people should have the freedom to make decisions about pregnancy and abortion with their trusted health care providers and without government interference,” said Chris Love, the campaign’s spokesperson.

A 2022 poll conducted by the Public Religious Research Institute, a nonpartisan organization, estimated that as much as 62% of Arizonans support legalizing abortion access. The campaign is running both a volunteer and paid signature gathering effort across the state, and while training for the volunteer side is still underway, the latter is set to launch as soon as October. Arizonans interested in volunteering to collect signatures or hoping to sign a petition can visit the campaign’s website to learn more.

As a constitutional amendment, the act has the highest signature threshold to meet, at nearly 400,000 by July 2024. And the likelihood that hundreds of signatures will be thrown out during the verification process means that campaigns commonly aim to collect far above the required amount to ensure a buffer. Love said the Arizona for Abortion Access campaign has its eyes set on more than 600,000 signatures, but she’s confident that the nine-month timeframe will be sufficient to reach that goal.

A similar effort to protect access to abortion in Arizona launched shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* was leaked in May but failed to meet the signature requirement in time. That attempt obtained just 175,000 of the necessary 356,467 signatures in the weeks before the July deadline to make it onto the 2022 ballot.

Love commended the previous initiative’s voter mobilization, but said it was ultimately defeated by a short turnaround time — something this year’s effort doesn’t have to contend with.

“We are encouraged by (their) efforts, but we have the benefit of time,” she said.

Pro-life organizations lashed out at the news on Thursday, denouncing the broad provisions in the act that allow abortions to occur after the point of fetal viability, if a doctor determines it is necessary for the patient’s physical or mental well-being. “Claims made by the campaign mislead voters by portraying the abortion ballot measure as limited, when, in reality, the exemptions will always allow abortion at any stage of development and throughout all nine months of pregnancy as long as the abortion provider signs off on it,” said Cathi Herrod, president of the Center for Arizona Policy Action, in an emailed statement.

The organization has long opposed abortion, and frequently supports legislation to restrict it, including the current gestational limit that prohibits all abortions, even those for reason of incest or rape, past 15 weeks unless the patient’s life is in danger.

On Thursday, Gibson warned that the need for abortion still exists, despite continued roadblocks placed in the paths of Arizonans seeking it. “Since the *Dobbs* decision I’ve managed complications for patients whose care could have, and should have, been extremely straightforward,” she said. “I’ve performed abortions for patients who had to drive across several states with their small children in the back seat to access a procedural abortion — a 5-minute procedure. I’ve helped victims of sexual assault and incest who are further along in their pregnancies get to states where there was not a 15-week abortion ban, one of them suicidal at the prospect of having to continue the pregnancy.”

“Health care providers should not be in this position,” she added. “We should not be legally forbidden from providing the highest quality of care to our patients.”



# WHAT IS THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE ELECTION?

The Presidential Preference Election (PPE), is an election in which voters can choose who they would like to be their presidential candidate in the upcoming General Election. Party winners of the Arizona PPE are officially determined at the party's national convention.

## UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

### 1. REGISTER TO VOTE BY FEBRUARY 20, 2024

#### Participating Parties:

- Only voters registered with the participating parties can vote in the PPE.
- Participating parties will be determined closer to the election.

#### WHY DO I HAVE TO REGISTER AS ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING PARTIES?

The provision for an open primary does not apply to the PPE. This means that only voters of a specific party may vote on that party's ballot. Independent voters may change their voter registration to a designated party by February 18, 2020. After the election, voters may change their registration back to Independent if they so choose.

### 2. ELECTION DAY FOR THE PPE IS MARCH 18, 2024

Make sure your ballot has been cast!

### 3. NOMINEES ARE FINALIZED AT RESPECTIVE PARTY'S NATIONAL CONVENTIONS JULY – AUGUST 2024

Delegates will travel to their party's national convention and cast their vote for which presidential candidate will appear on the General Election ballot.

### 4. GENERAL ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

Voters will voice their choice and elect the next President of the United States.

**March 19, 2024**  
(Presidential Preference Election - PPE)

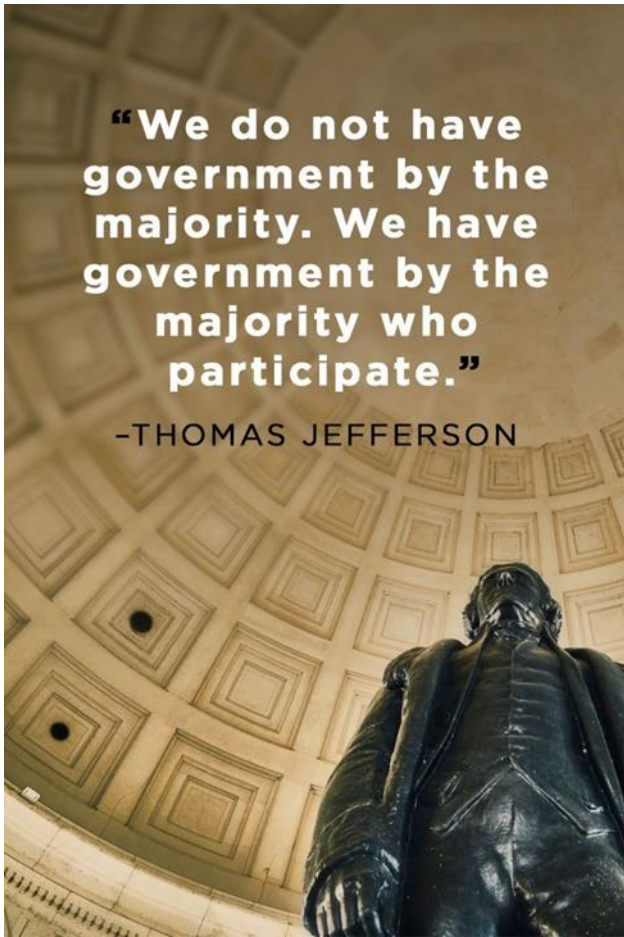
*The date of the PPE may be changed by a proclamation issued by the Governor*

Last day for Governor's Proclamation of Election (180)	September 21, 2023
First day to file nomination papers w/SOS (130)	November 13, 2023 *
Last day to file nomination papers w/SOS (100)	December 11, 2023
Last day to mail UOCAVA ballots (45)	February 3, 2024
Last day to register to vote (29)	February 20, 2024 *
Early Voting Begins (27)	February 21, 2024
Last day to request an early ballot by mail (11)	March 8, 2024
Last day to vote early in person (4)	March 15, 2024



**“We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”**

**-THOMAS JEFFERSON**



**The City of Prescott is accepting applications for the newly formed Civic Enhancement Committee.**

The term is for 3 years, from 12/23 - 12/26. There are five vacancies for this Committee, and residency in the City of Prescott is not required. The application deadline for this Committee is October 30, 2023.

Serving on Boards, Committees and Commissions provide opportunities for citizens to take an active role in their local government. Members are appointed by the City Council upon recommendation from the Council Subcommittee on Appointments following review of applications.

**October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30 – 6:00 p.m.**

**The Center, 1280 East Rosser St.**

The City of Prescott will be hosting a community open house meeting to discuss the State Route 89 (SR89) Roadway & Infrastructure Improvements Project which is currently in the early planning stages by the City of Prescott Public Works Department.

There will be no formal presentation at this meeting, although staff members will be on hand to answer questions. Residents are free to come and go throughout the evening. To receive future project updates, email a request to be notified to [news@sr89improvements.com](mailto:news@sr89improvements.com).

You can also view the conceptual layout, learn more about the project and take the project survey at [www.sr89improvements.com](http://www.sr89improvements.com).

Yavapai County has a new poll worker application - you can use it to sign up to be a potential poll worker or to remove your name from the database from previously signing up to be a potential poll worker.

<https://us.openforms.com/.../29877395->

**Voter Registration Events in Run Up to November 2024 General Election**

If you know a high school student, parent, or teacher in Central Yavapai County and would like LWVCYC to contact them to see about setting up a voter registration event at their high school or to provide training and materials to students at the high school to lead their own voter registration event, please send their name and contact information to Loraine West, Director of Voter Services – [Loraine\\_west@yahoo.com](mailto:Loraine_west@yahoo.com). Loraine will reach out to them to follow up.

## Calendar of League Events

### Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

Medical Aid in Dying

10:00 a.m. by Zoom

Speaker: Mary Ganapol

\*Link to Zoom will be sent to members a few days prior to event.

### Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

Request to Speak Training by Zoom

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Registration Link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8920Kj8p0QR6wSCylrYtzRg\\_](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8920Kj8p0QR6wSCylrYtzRg_)

### Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

PUSD Update with Clark Tenney,

Superintendent

with OLLI at Yavapai College

Building 3, Room 119

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

### Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Request to Speak Training by Zoom

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Registration Link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8920Kj8p0QR6wSCylrYtzRg\\_](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8920Kj8p0QR6wSCylrYtzRg_)

### January 2024 Program

Date TBD, by Zoom

Update on Prop 211 with Terry Goddard

Friday, January 12, 2024

After Holiday Luncheon

More details soon!!

## Use Request to Speak (RTS) to Influence the Outcome of Legislation

Request to Speak (RTS) is an online real-time system that allows the public to register opinions on bills being heard in committee. You can:


- Indicate whether you are “for” or “against” the bill.
- Write a brief comment explaining your position.
- Register your willingness to speak (testify) during the committee hearing.

We encourage you to use this powerful tool to make your voice heard at the legislature.

If you do not have an RTS account, please complete this form, and a league volunteer will register your account at the Capitol. We will create your account with a generic password. Once you receive an email from us that your account has been set up, we advise that you change your password immediately. Please note that you cannot register online for RTS.


<https://forms.gle/kf1TetzHnbzs9vTEA>

The 2024 legislative session starts on Jan 8, 2024. Be prepared!




LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI COUNTY


PRESCOTT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
UPDATE  
A Conversation  
with PUSD Superintendent  
Clark Tenney



November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
A Lunch and Learn Program  
12:30 – 1:45 p.m.  
Yavapai College  
Building 3, Room 119



OTHER  
LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
INSTITUTE  
AT YAVAPAI COLLEGE  
PRESCOTT | SEDONA | VERDE VALLEY







Mail Address: P.O. Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304  
 Web: LWVCYC.ORG Email address: lwvcyc@gmail.com

**2023-2024 LWVCYC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**

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

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Member information – Note type of membership and make check to LWVCYC.**

<i>Voting Member(s)</i>	<i>Non-Voting Member(s)</i>
_____ \$60/yr Individual Membership	\$_____ Associate/ Friend of the League
_____ \$90/yr Household Membership	\$_____ Contribution to our local League operations

Local League membership dues and donations are **not** tax deductible. Your support helps our Voter Service and local program activities! Please include this form with your check(s). Membership can also be renewed using Zelle at [lwvcyc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcyc@gmail.com) or through PayPal at our website, LWVCYC.org using the join/donate tab.

**Donations to the LWVAZ Education Fund and Elisabeth Ruffner Scholarship**

**Fund.** Make check out to LWVAZ Education fund with notation as to where it is to be used. Contributions to 501 (c) 3 funds are tax deductible and must be made by **separate check** to preserve tax deductibility. Thank You

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to LWVAZ Elisabeth Ruffner Scholarship Fund 501(c)3. *The funds you contribute under this program will be used for the Scholarship program.*

Make Ruffner Scholarship Fund check payable to: **LWVAZ Education Fund** write on notation line: **CYC-Scholarship**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to LWVAZ Education Fund 501(c) 3 *The funds you contribute to the League of Women Voters Education Fund under this program may be used to support the charitable and educational activities of our League.* Make Education Fund check payable to: **LWVAZ Education Fund** write on notation line: **CYC General**

You may also make donations to the Education Funds through PayPal or Zelle by following the donation link on our website: LWVCYC.org

For Membership Use: Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership / Renewal form (05/12/2023)