



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI

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

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To be Appointed.

LWVCYC Annual Membership Dues and Early Bird Raffle

It's time once again for league membership renewal. Annual dues cover the time period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. Those members submitting their dues **before July 1** will be automatically entered into an early bird raffle: a **\$100 gift card to El Gato Azul restaurant**. Please send your dues in early to join the raffle. Raffle winner to be announced in the VOTER.

As a member of LWVCYC, you automatically become a member of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters of Arizona (LWVAZ). You can learn more about LWVAZ from the web site www.lwvaz.org and LWVUS from the web site www.lwv.org. Our local league's website is www.lwvcyc.org. We are also on Facebook, please like us!

We hope you enjoy your continued association with the League as it works to inform and influence public policy decisions. During the year, you will be receiving monthly email updates with the VOTER, describing upcoming events. Feel free to email lwvcyc@gmail.com with questions or suggestions.

Please mail in your dues payment with the renewal form to our mailing address: LWVCYC P.O. Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304 or you may use Zelle to submit a payment to lwvcyc@gmail.com.

Donations to our general fund are also welcome to support your league's work to ensure our elections are free, fair and accessible.

Annual dues:

- \$60 One member
- \$90 Two members same household
- \$50 Friends of the League – non voting members
- \$75 Friends of the League family membership – non-voting members

Tax Deductible donations can also be made to the Education Fund or to the Elisabeth Ruffner Scholarship fund to help a local graduating high school senior. Make checks payable to LWVAZ Education Fund. Please write either CYC fund or Ruffner Scholarship on the check notation line. Education Fund donations can also be made directly by PayPal or Zelle through the Ed Fund page on the LWVAZ website at www.lwvaz.org, or by following the join/donate tab through our website at www.lwvcyc.org.

Thank you for renewing your annual membership with the League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County. We are looking forward to another exciting year as we prepare for the next election cycle and are glad you will continue to add your voice to our League.

HAPPENING SOON IN PRESCOTT
KEEP ENGAGED AND VOLUNTEER!

PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS TO HOST COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND INPUT SESSION FOR PROPOSED MASTER PLAN OF RODEO GROUNDS TUESDAY JUNE 6, 5-6 PM.

Prescott Frontier Days, the World's Oldest Rodeo, in partnership with the City of Prescott, will host an informational meeting to review the proposed master plan for the rodeo grounds on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the rodeo grounds, 840 Rodeo Drive in the Mackin Building. Citizens will hear a brief presentation, then a Q & A session. They will be able to see renderings and learn about the long-term plan to improve the grounds, and make it a world class facility for rodeo, equine events, trade shows, meetings, and conferences. The meeting is intended to gather the public's input of the proposed plan, to help achieve the best outcome.

The rodeo grounds are City of Prescott property, and are used for the World's Oldest Rodeo, Yavapai County Fair, and other events throughout the year. Prescott Frontier Days is the non-profit organization that operates the World's Oldest Rodeo and manages the rodeo grounds as part of a long-term lease with the City. For more information about Prescott Frontier Days and the World's Oldest Rodeo, go to <https://worldsoldestrodeo.com/> or call 928-445-4320.



CANDIDATE FORUM

City of Prescott Council Candidates

Thursday, June 28, 2023
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

By Zoom

Candidates

Connie Cantelme	Tony Hamer
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Brad DeVries	Ted Gamboni
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Lois Fruwirth	Cathey Rusing
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Mayoral Candidate Phil Goode



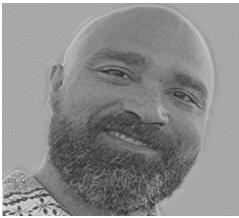
The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education, and advocacy.
For more information contact us at www.LWVCYC.org

LWVCYC needs volunteers for the Question Sorting Committee. The committee will review, and sort questions submitted by the public in advance of the Prescott City mayoral and councilmember candidate forum. The forum will be held via Zoom June 28, 2023, from 5:30-7:30 pm. The public is being asked to submit their questions for the candidates to LWVCYC by June 26. The Question Sorting Committee work will take place on June 27 and/or June 28. Please contact Loraine West if you can assist in this important task.

LWVCYC needs volunteers to staff a booth at the Prescott Farmers Market on Saturday, June 24, 2023. We will register voters and answer questions from the public regarding voting in the upcoming primary election for the Prescott City mayoral and council races. There are two shifts: 6:30am–9:30am and 9:30am–12:30pm. The Prescott Farmers Market is located at 900 Iron Springs Rd, Prescott, AZ 86305 (parking lot on corner of Iron Springs Rd. and Miller Valley Rd. diagonally across from Yavapai Regional Medical Center). Please contact Loraine West if you are able to assist.

LWVAZ Makes National Voting Rights History

Counsel from Protect Democracy Announce Settlement of Voter Intimidation Suit at Convention!



ORION DANJUMA

One of the proudest moments of my League tenure happened during the LWVAZ annual convention on May 21, 2023, when we learned that the LWVAZ suit protecting Arizona voters at the ballot boxes from intimidation was settled with the defendant agreeing voters should not face intimidation at voting boxes. This Federal case will continue to protect voters throughout the country from observers carrying guns or taking and posting photos or videos of voters or their license plates.



RACHEL HOER

Attorneys Rachel Hoer and Orion Danjuma from Protect Democracy shared their excitement with us at convention. They were so pleased to have this case and credited the stay and overall settlement to the LWVAZ members who garnered the witnesses who provided the firsthand evidence of intimidation that led to the Judge ordering an emergency order and ultimate settlement.

Thanks to our President Pinny Sheoran and the League of Women Voters of the United States for jumping on this issue! You can learn more about the case from www.LWVUS.org. Below is the press release from LWVUS. ~ Ellie Laumark

In October 2022, the League of Women Voters of Arizona (LWVAZ) brought a lawsuit to protect voters from intimidation at ballot drop boxes in Arizona. A federal court found that defendants Melody Jennings and her organization (then known as Clean Elections USA)—as well as individuals working with the defendants—had likely violated voter intimidation laws when they engaged in surveillance and harassment of voters at ballot drop boxes during the 2022 election. The Court ordered them to immediately halt intimidating conduct.

The parties have now settled the case. In so doing, the League and Ms. Jennings agreed to publicly condemn intimidation of any kind in connection with the exercise of the right to vote. The terms and obligations of the settlement are confidential.

“This litigation has been essential to protect the voters of Arizona, who have the right to cast their ballots free from intimidation, threats, or coercion,” said Pinny Sheoran, President of the League of Women Voters of Arizona. “The League of Women Voters of Arizona is proud to have challenged activities that were intimidating voters, and we will continue to defend our democracy against anyone who would interfere with the right to vote.”

“Protect Democracy is honored to represent the League of Women Voters of Arizona in this litigation,” said Orion Danjuma, Counsel at Protect Democracy. “The court’s order in October recognized the importance of ensuring that voters can cast their ballots without fear, and that courts will step in to stop unlawful voter intimidation. This litigation is an important victory for voters’ rights and its resolution will help protect voters from intimidation in the future.”

“There’s no place for voter intimidation of any kind in our democracy,” said Caren Short, Director of Legal & Research at the League of Women Voters of the United States. “We are thrilled that this case has been resolved and will continue our work to protect voters. The League of Women Voters is committed to standing up for voters in the courts to ensure safe and equal access to the ballot.”

For more information about this lawsuit and the League’s litigation, visit our Legal Center. To learn more about this case, visit [here](#). Visit Protect Democracy’s website, which is updated regularly and includes case documents—like the filed complaint, the Court’s order halting Defendants’ harassment and intimidation of voters at drop boxes, and the United States statement of interest—as well as press coverage of the case.

The 2023 State Convention Experience

Cory Shaw

For me, the Convention was a mix of business, information, inspiration and gratitude.

Business – we were able to elect the new State board, update the bylaws (thank you CYC member Kate Robbins), we used a chip voting system to vote on 26 motions in 59 seconds. The pre-convention planning and workshops were so informative, the Convention completed the work in record time.

Informative – the first panel on Natural Resources and Environmental Justice was outstanding. The combined depth of knowledge by the panelists was impressive. Being able to ask questions on the varied topics was a gift.

Inspiring – the Youth Panel led by LWVMP President Kara Peletier gave me hope. The five young women were so strong and confident. They have deep roots in their community and are going to change our future for the better.

Gratitude – the lawyers representing the LWVAZ in the Drop Box Intimidation case joined us. Their work made voting by mail utilizing drop boxes safe for all voters in Arizona. Thanks to this case, every registered voter who wants to put their mail-in ballot in a drop box can do so without fear of intimidation. It was nice to say Thank You in person.

Lorraine West

This was my first time attending an LWVAZ convention. I learned more about the operations of the League of Women Voters at both the state and national level. I also gained a better understanding of the Education Fund 501(c) 3. Donations to the Education Fund can be used to fund a range of voter education activities, including candidate forums, voter registration drives, and preparation of voter education materials. These are all activities that LWVCYC undertook in 2022-2023. When I make a tax-deductible donation to the LWVAZ Education Fund, I can designate LWVCYC on the memo line to direct those funds to support critical activities in our local league.

I had the opportunity to speak with delegates from other local leagues and signed up to work on the review of the LWVAZ public policy position on Education. A delegate from local league Northwest Maricopa County presented the case for a review, stating that the current LWVAZ Education position is inadequate to counter the attacks being made on education in recent years and hinders LWVAZ lobbying efforts in the legislature.

Terri Farneti

State Conventions and Council Meetings have been my favorite events as a member of the League of Women Voters. I've been a member for 21 years and have attended council and convention for many of those years. You meet other strong league members doing the work of the League in their Leagues around the state – and at National Conventions and Councils from around the country. I would encourage members to take advantage of an opportunity to attend when our League offers it! We offered to pay the registration to this year's convention.

For this convention, I took our camper and stayed at Dead Horse Ranch State Park – close by where Cory was camping. I managed to get up early both days, too. Having run the Brian Mickelson 10K a few times, I know the park – and the convention was right there near the finish line in the Riverfront Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

The activity for Sunday morning was held in one of the ramadas where the Friends of the Verde Valley gave a presentation about their work. The setting was perfect on a gorgeous morning, and we took a little walk around the lake afterwards and before the voting session at the convention hall.

Thanks to Cory Shaw for the Photos



Bobbi Boyd

LWVAZ State Convention for me was a celebration of the members, what has been accomplished by the State League and recommitment to supporting the League in these turbulent political times. Convention happens because League volunteers make it happen. Although Northern Arizona Leagues are smaller in size, they are mighty when it comes to volunteers and supporting League events. Convention is also a great opportunity to get to know State League policies, and influence policy changes for the future. I came home feeling a part of something larger than myself that is concerned about the right for every citizen to participate in the political process.

The Elisabeth Ruffner scholarship recipient for 2023 is Rome Bassett a senior at Prescott High School. He wrote a compelling essay on getting young people to vote, and the importance of making voting a habit early in life. We will fill you in on his educational aspirations in the next VOTER. Please recognize the members of the Scholarship committee for reading through and scoring the 16 applications that were received: Susan Fleming, Margaret Comba, Toni Denis, Mary Kaye O'Neill, and Cindy Wagner. Toni Denis will be the Elisabeth Ruffner Scholarship Chair for 2024. Please support Toni and volunteer to be on the Scholarship committee spring 2024. Keeping in touch with the mindset of new voters and making a financial contribution to a local graduating senior is a rewarding experience.

The League of Women Voters AZ Updates the Water Public Policy

Recent AZ polls show that over 80% of voters are concerned about water sustainability whether they are dependent on Colorado River Water or water from aquifers. Despite these concerns the 2023 Legislature again failed to address water for a sustainable future.

The League believes that Arizona should pursue policies that halt declining groundwater levels throughout the state, protect our watersheds and riparian natural habitats from degradation, require conservation by all water users, uphold our commitments to the Colorado River compact and reconcile competing claims on our finite water supply for the benefit of all citizens. The League believes that a strong statewide water management policy is essential to ensure Arizona's future quality of life and the economic well-being of our state. To reach these goals, the League supports immediate and sustained action by the Arizona Legislature and the Executive branch to develop and implement statutes, policies and programs that promote comprehensive long-range planning to regulate and sustainably manage all water resources in the state and to ensure their equitable use.

These new policies adopted May 21, 2023 provide a common base of objectives for Advocacy and Action. To get a copy of the LWVAZ Updated Policy LWVAZ.org "Public Policy Positions." Feel free to use this new water policy to talk to your Legislators.

History of the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle.

The League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy. From the beginning, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. It was then, and is now, a nonpartisan organization. League founders believed that maintaining a nonpartisan stance would protect the fledgling organization from becoming mired in the party politics of the day. However, League members were encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation.

In future VOTER publications, let's explore the history of the League of Women Voters.

Remaining Nonpartisan in Hyper-partisan Times

“The League of Women Voters of the United States is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.” ~ Virginia Kase Solomon

So many issues today are framed in partisan terms that it can feel impossible to communicate at all without being accused of taking a side. “If you believe this, then you must be a progressive.” “If you oppose that, then you align with conservatives.” Being painted into ideological corners because of a stance our organization takes is not a new phenomenon, but it continues to be one that undermines a vibrant democracy: discussion, discourse, and listening to other points of view are what makes democracy work.

More than 100 years ago, the League of Women Voters of the US was founded to be a nonpartisan voice for American women who wanted free, fair, and open elections, above all else. Our founders believed that voters must always have the facts, no matter how difficult those facts could be to accept, especially when it challenges one’s deeply held beliefs about a candidate or political party. Our founders were attacked for taking positions rooted in fact back then, and today, not much has changed. League leaders continue to face this challenge and often stand accused of being partisan for our efforts to advance democracy.

ISSUES ARE NOT PARTISAN

The League’s advocacy work is issue based, and we arrive at our positions based on careful study and input from our members in communities across the country. We never derive our positions from politicians, and even when candidates or parties support the same issue, we never endorse them. Issues may evolve over the years, but our allegiance will always be first and foremost to the voters. If a party changes its position on an issue, that doesn’t mean the League has to change our position to remain neutral. And one politician taking a similar position to the League on any one issue does not make the issue or the League partisan.

However, in this hyper-partisan environment, political connections and assumptions are made that simply aren’t accurate. Supporting the democratic processes of registering eligible voters and casting and counting ballots is seen by some as subverting one political party, even though these are sacred tools of our democracy. Likewise, empowering voters who previously have been left out of the process and supporting the anti-racism movement does not mean we are in alliance with one ideological segment of American government; rather, it means we are doing what we were founded to do: stand up for what is right.

Wanting every eligible voter to have equal access to the ballot box is not partisan. Wanting a robust democracy in which everyone has an equal voice and equal representation is not partisan. Wanting to see more elected officials that reflect the diverse makeup of our country is not partisan – it is American.

No party has a claim on any particular issue. Sometimes a candidate or political party agrees with our position—they may even champion them—but that doesn’t make the issue or the League partisan. We have seen an evolution of popular support and public opinion shift on issues over time, and the League has reevaluated and shifted priorities—but we have never compromised our values.

NONPARTISAN DOES NOT MEAN APOLITICAL

In the hundred years of the League’s existence, we have endured challenges to our democratic principles, policies, and practices. We witnessed in live video the violation and prevention of rights of American citizens due to racial and structural inequities, and the growing anti-racism movement responding to it. We’ve observed the pandemic obstacles faced and overcome by our election processes, resulting in secure, effective elections across the country.

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/remaining-nonpartisan-hyper-partisan-times>



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.

Voting Member(s)

Non-Voting Member(s)

_____ \$60/yr Individual Membership
 _____ \$90/yr Household Membership

\$ _____ Associate/ Friend of the League
 \$ _____ 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 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)