



# THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI

LWVCYC.org ♦ LWVCYC@gmail.com ♦ P. O. Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304 ♦ April 2022

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Kelly Boryca  
402- 305-8150

### 1st Vice President Program

Gerre Carley  
651-230-5410

### 2nd Co-Vice Presidents Membership

Bobbi Boyd  
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Karen Sullivan  
928-713-9207

### Secretary

Tina Boden-Blake  
928-710-9131

### Co-Treasurers

Kate Robbins  
928-445-7734  
Terri Farneti  
928-533-5297

### Director Voter Services:

Open

### Nominating Committee

Tina Blake, Chair  
928-710-9131



Presents

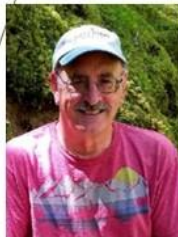
## Climate Change and Water Conservancy

Saturday, April 16, 2022

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**By Zoom**

### With Guest Speakers



Patrick Grady is the Chair of the Yavapai Climate Change Coalition and its PROTECT Campaign as well as a founder of the local Interfaith Climate Action Team. Project PROTECT, stands for "Planning for the Resiliency of our Towns, Environment, Climate and Tourism." His presentation will be about the campaign, and a brief film "Other Side of the Hill" to highlight the need for action.



Kay Sydow is a Water Resource Project Manager with the City of Prescott. Water Conservation is one of her responsibilities with the city. Her topics will include the City Rebate Program and the many ways you can save water to lower your monthly utility bill.

The League of Women Voters® encourages and educates citizens to be active and informed participants in our community, our state, our nation and our world.  
For more information contact us at [www.LWVCYC.org](http://www.LWVCYC.org)

Use this link to join our meeting on climate change and water conservancy!  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88511298648?pwd=ovp1vzbqretaaxeydmp2y3d4yxmxqt09>

Be on the lookout for the Annual Packet in your email April 6<sup>th</sup>.  
It will have all the information you'll need for the business meeting that morning.

## **LWVCYC Annual Meeting**

### **Saturday, May 7, 2022**

### **10:00 a.m.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86722763436?pwd=b1pzZ3p4emhaajlEMW9ENEFCbIFwZz09>**



### **Please consider Joining the Board!**

We could have co-Presidents, if two members are willing to step up and lead our League.

**Communications Chair** creates flyers for programs, designs "The Voter" newsletter, and helps with media releases to promote League programs. It's a fun job.

**Nominating Chair** works with a committee to contact all members for the opportunity to serve on the board in some capacity. Usually a 3-month commitment.

The Board is responsible for the wellbeing and smooth functioning of the League. The authority for the League's operation rests with the Board whose members together make the decisions. Board members assume specific duties, but each also shares a fiduciary responsibility for the organization.

The Board:

1. Leads by the mission of the League of Women Voters of the US
2. Carries out overall planning and decision-making
3. Supports membership and finance activities
4. Represents and interprets the League in the community
5. Embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion
6. Safeguards the League's reputation for non-partisanship
7. Support the Nominating Committee with candidate recruitment and analysis.

**The 2022 52nd Anniversary Earth Day Celebration will be held on**  
**Saturday, April 23rd from 9:00am - 3:00pm**  
**on Cortez St. in downtown Prescott, Arizona**

**Thank you to our League volunteers who will be registering voters!**

Kelly and Emil Boryca  
Cindy and Marc Wagner  
Bill and Joyce Haas

Lorraine West  
Cappi Comba  
Mary Lea Adkins

Cory Shaw  
Karen Sullivan  
Suki Waldenberger

Kate Robbins  
Gary Goddard

## **Talk of the Town: Still confused about water outside city limits?**

**A special to the Daily Courier by Howard Mechanic**

The way Prescott has handled water sales outside city limits has been a huge problem. Most water deals have had three major issues: They have not helped us manage growth, manage our aquifer, or maximize benefits for the city and the community.

Those issues apply to both many annexed areas and to areas not annexed. However, outlawing water sales outside the city, as advocated by the Citizens Water Advocacy Group (CWAG) in its Feb. 18 Talk of the Town, will not solve any of those issues.

My friend, CWAG President Gary Beverly wrote: “Providing water without annexation will promote growth and increase water use.” This blanket statement is inaccurate and is a common misconception. There’s been a lot of confusion around this issue, which is understandable because it is counterintuitive to say that if the City of Prescott sells more water, it could thereby minimize the increase in our overdraft and minimize the increase in growth – while maximizing benefits to the community. To solve the three issues, the solution is not to totally prohibit water sales outside city limits, but instead to provide water the right way.

CWAG claims water without annexation “restricts the city’s ability to manage growth and constrains planning options for roads, open space, and wildlife corridors.” In fact, if water is provided the right way, the truth is quite the opposite. If a property builds in the county on wells, the city has absolutely no ability to manage its growth. But if a property owner requests city water, the city can then tell the property owner that to get city water he or she must agree to limit the number of units on the property and also to provide open space.

The second argument against providing water outside city limits is based on the claim that such a policy will interfere with efforts to manage our aquifer. Quite the opposite is true. If we have the option to provide water to units that would otherwise be on wells and septic, and we require those units to accept strong water conservation measures such as stringent restrictions on outdoor water use – we’ll capture and recharge much of the water and send it back to the aquifer.

In fact, CWAG says a 90% return should be required from new homes. While any new home on city water will increase the overdraft as CWAG states, the increase will be only a fraction of the increase that would happen if the home were on a well and septic (from which recharge is negligible).

The third problem is that past deals haven’t produced maximum benefits for the city and the community. For most water requests, the city never asked for anything. However, in the AED Granite Dells deal, the city asked for — and got — quite a bit. In looking back at the AED deal, we should have learned a big lesson. The lesson is that city water service is extremely valuable to developers who would otherwise have to build with wells and septic. The lesson is that if the city just insists, it will get quite a bit from a developer in exchange for water service. This explains why AED was willing to dedicate 453 acres of valuable land for open space. The water service was that valuable to them. When others come to the city asking for water service — with annexation or not — why isn’t the city asking for benefits to the community?

Some requests for water will be advantageous, and some won’t be. Therefore, the city should consider each request individually – with the option to approve those requests under certain criteria. Properties that are not able to annex under state law or are too small to reasonably go through the annexation process should be able to remain outside city limits and still be able to apply for city water service.

All other properties should be required to annex to get city water – with properties over 250 acres still required to go through Prop. 400 annexation procedures.

For full disclosure: I have donated funds for a planned purchase of a property outside city limits for charity. If purchased, city water will be desired. I will not benefit financially.

***Howard Mechanic helped write and pass the Reasonable Growth Initiative (Prop. 400) and served on three government committees regarding safe yield.***

## **Talk of the Town: Who says we are confused?**

### **A special to the Daily Courier by Cathey Rusing**

Recently, there have been numerous Talk of the Town columns by a local community activist asking if you are “still confused” concerning the issue of providing water outside of Prescott’s city limits.

On Nov. 19, 2019, the previous Prescott City Council approved a new water policy that was very pro-growth, pro-developer, and it eliminated many commonsense elements of the previous water policy.

Last August, at the Primary Election, Prescott voters obviously weren’t confused as to where they stood concerning water, growth and development, and preservation of our quality of life. They let it be known at the ballot box.

In reality, no one is confused. Under the leadership of Mayor Phil Goode, the council and staff are working hard to bring back a water policy that will support sustainable, reasonable, well-managed growth, and a vibrant and economically sound community, now and into the future.

Community members who receive city water have been wonderful stewards of this precious resource by voluntarily participating in conservation efforts promoted by the city. Unfortunately, in the last few years, some people have observed, “The more water we save, the more water you spend.” Now is the time for your elected council members to uphold their end of the bargain and pass a water policy that reflects the spirit of conservation and wise management.

Our city must grow by planned, strategic annexations, and a well-crafted water policy can manage how we grow. Annexation into the City of Prescott is a privilege, not a right. It is also an opportunity to negotiate the best deal possible for the community.

### **Here are 10 reasons why providing water outside the city limits is a bad idea:**

1. No other towns or cities in Arizona provide water outside their boundaries.
2. Our open space policy, parks and trails depend on annexations because, at minimum, 25% of open space is required to be annexed.
3. An unincorporated area receiving city water can be annexed by a neighboring town, such as Prescott Valley. Then, any sales tax generated will flow directly into their coffers, not ours, even though we will be providing the water that generates the sales taxes.
4. In the city limits, we will have a water budget for new residential and commercial uses. We will be able to plan for water allocation to ensure that we will have water, and that we will use it prudently.
5. Since annexations must be contiguous, urban sprawl will not be encouraged.
6. The massive Stringfield Ranch development was provided water while remaining in the county by the previous council and under the 2019 water policy. A Water Improvement District was formed by the developer, thereby circumventing Proposition 400, the “Reasonable Growth Initiative” in the City Charter. City taxpayers are now responsible for not only providing water, we must also repair, maintain and replace all the water and sewer infrastructure there in perpetuity. Since we didn’t have a water budget, water use was only “estimated,” and a fixed amount was not allocated.

7. Water without annexation is contrary to the voter-approved General Plan, which requires “Specific Area Plans” for undeveloped land.
8. We would be unable to control residential encroachment on the airport, jeopardizing airport expansion, ERAU pilot training, and FAA funding.
9. It would fuel unregulated, unmanaged growth, thereby increasing the overdraft even more, and compromise the fragile status of the Verde River. A “plat rush” would be on.
10. There is very minimal public support for water outside the city limits.

Lastly, the proposed Petroglyph Pointe apartment complex in Prescott Lakes was a controversial “administratively approved” project by the city. Under the new policy, “administratively approval” will be more closely regulated. The Prescott City Code will also be amended regarding changes in plat maps so that there will be more transparency.

Recently, NOAA released data that shows 60% of the western continental United States in drought conditions. In the last quarter century, we have been in a cycle of decreasing rain and snowfall, combined with increasing temperatures. Our sole source of water is the Little Chino Aquifer. We must be prepared.

***Cathey Rusing is the Prescott Mayor Pro Tem and chair of the Water Issues Subcommittee.***



The Arizonans for Fair Elections Initiative Will Expand Our Democracy

### **What does the Arizona Fair Elections Act do?**

- ✓ Protects your right to vote by mail. Protects your right to stay on the permanent early voting list. Right now, you can be removed if you miss a few elections.
- ✓ Protects voting access for Tribal voters and voters with disabilities. Requires Tribal input on the location and hours of polling places. Protects voters with disabilities by ensuring access to a variety of voting methods, including curbside.
- ✓ Gives people more time and options for voting. Extends in-person early voting through the day before election day. Allows voters to vote at any polling location in their county.
- ✓ Makes voter registration more accessible and accurate. Automatically updates your registration when you sign up for a driver's license or state ID or when you change your address at the MVD. Allows people to register at a polling place on Election Day before they cast their ballot.
- ✓ Protects voters rights to receive needed assistance. Restores voters' rights to entrust someone to deliver their signed and sealed ballot. Restores people's rights to provide food and hydration to voters waiting in line.
- ✓ Prevents the state legislature from overturning presidential election results. Ensures that the voters decide who wins elections.
- ✓ Keeps your ballot private. Guards against ballots and other election materials being turned over to unaccountable outside entities for improper uses.
- ✓ Safeguards voters' right to pass our own laws. Prevents opponents of citizen-led initiatives from abusing minor technicalities to try to disqualify petition signatures.

**The League supports this initiative – and we have petitions! Please contact Terri Farneti @ [terri.farneti@gmail.com](mailto:terri.farneti@gmail.com) if you'd like a couple petitions to collect signatures.**



## League of Women Voters of Arizona Seeks to Safeguard Early Voting in State Supreme Court Lawsuit

PHOENIX – Today, the League of Women Voters of Arizona filed an amicus brief in the Arizona Supreme Court in the matter of *Arizona Republican Party v. Hobbs* — a case that threatens to end all early voting in the state — and request that the Court dismiss the petition.

The brief states that the petitioners are looking for “a tectonic shift in the way Arizona conducts its elections.” The Arizona Republican Party is requesting that the Court invalidate all early in-person and mail-in voting, which the state has had in some form for more than a century. This change would make Arizona stand alone in the nation as the only state to require all voting to occur in person on Election Day. The League of Women Voters of Arizona contends that doing away with early voting will have a broad, harmful effect on Arizona voters by withdrawing a whole spectrum of easily accessible means for casting and returning ballots, including the use of ballot drop boxes.

“Arizona has a long history of early voting periods that ensure all voters across the state can vote,” said Pinny Sheoran, president-elect of the League of Women Voters of Arizona. “Eliminating early voting severely hinders voter access for those in underserved communities, including the elderly, voters with disabilities, and those who live in rural communities or lack reliable transportation to the polls. The League strongly advocates equal access to the ballot for all, and we will fight any efforts to make voting more difficult for the people of Arizona.”

“It is improper for Petitioners to seek such extreme changes to long-standing Arizona voting laws just three months before ballots will go out for the August primary,” said Jon Sherman, litigation director and senior counsel at Fair Elections Center. “This lawsuit could have been brought at any time last year like a normal case in trial court. Petitioners’ effort to bypass much of the state court system and upend voters’ and election officials’ settled expectations at the 11th hour should be firmly rejected by the Supreme Court of Arizona.”



### Advocacy this Summer!

This summer, our league and the State Advocacy Committee will continue to engage in Voter Education and Voter Registration. The LWVCYC VOTE411 team will be working on mayoral and council elections in Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, and Dewey-Humboldt. In addition, there will be positions open on the School Board. The Arizona VOTE411.org site will host local, state, and federal election information.

If you are interested in remaining engaged this summer, send your name to the LWVCYC email: [lwvcyc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcyc@gmail.com). We will continue the monthly Voter and will have Voter Education and Registration events that will need participants.

Your involvement this summer will help the League of Women Voters continue to Make Democracy Work.

The League of Women Voters of Arizona are represented by Fair Elections Center and the Law Firm of Mitchell Stein Carey Chapman.



## CALL TO COUNCIL 2022

Friday May 20th & Saturday May 21, 2022

Council is an opportunity for the league to grow league leadership. This year, Friday workshops will be held via zoom.

The Saturday Council meeting will be a hybrid event. All League members are welcome to register and attend the Council.  
Delegates selected by Local Leagues can vote during the business meeting.

### Registration Fee:

In person attendees: **\$125.00** per attendee

Virtual attendee: **\$75.00**

You will receive Zoom links upon receipt of council registration fee.

### Registration Link and More Information:

[2022 COUNCIL AND ANNUAL MEETING - REGISTRATION FORM | MyLO \(lww.org\)](#)

**Friday, May 20 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Leadership workshops**

On Friday, league members will have the opportunity to attend 4 leadership development workshops via zoom. Workshops will cover topics such as DEI, Legislation and Advocacy, Voter engagement & GOTV, and more. You can attend one or all the four ZOOM virtual presentations. All attendees will receive a zoom link to register for the Friday events upon receipt of council registration fee.

**Saturday, May 21, 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. Hybrid Council Meeting**

The hybrid meeting will allow delegates and members to attend either in person or via zoom. Zoom attendees will receive the zoom link upon receipt of payment of council registration fee.

## Thank you for your Membership!

### IMPORTANT WEBSITE REFERENCES

**LWVUS** [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
**LWVAZ** [www.lwvaz.org](http://www.lwvaz.org)  
**LWVCYC** [www.lwvcyc.org](http://www.lwvcyc.org)

- ♦ We recommend you check these out —lots of great information to help you with learning about the League of Women Voters.
- ♦ Our website includes current and past Voters, an Elected Official Guide and more!



We are also on Facebook and Twitter  
—if you'd like to follow us!

Help us **Get out the Vote for 2022!**



### LWV MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION 2022-2023

Membership in the LWV is open to any person 18 and over who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the LWVUS. Dues for 2022-2023 cover payment for local (\$15.00), state (\$13), and national (\$32.00) memberships. The LWVCYC fiscal year is July—June. We offer a discounted rate between Feb—May, but full dues are paid for the new fiscal year.

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

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

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

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

Note type of membership, and make check to "LWVCYC" - or pay online with Pay Pal at [LWVCYC.org](http://LWVCYC.org)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60/yr Individual Membership      \_\_\_\_\_ \$40/yr for members under 40  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$90/yr Household Membership      \_\_\_\_\_ **Free** for students under 26

Plus, suggested donation:

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

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

\* Donations to the LWVAZ Education Fund must be made by separate check, to preserve tax deductibility. These donations support our webpage and Voter Service activities. Thank you!

Please include this form with your check New member \_\_\_\_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form and all checks to: LWVCYC, PO Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304

Membership Renewals can be made after the Annual Meeting!  
We prefer checks, but you can pay using PayPal on our website: [LWVCYC.org](http://LWVCYC.org)