



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Nominating
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To be Appointed.



Hello Members!

We hope you were able to participate in the City of Prescott Candidate Forum held last Wednesday. The moderator was excellent, the questions were very well written, and Cory did a great job speaking on behalf of our League. If you missed it, here is the link to the YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/VG6whILd6IY>

We are grateful to our moderator, Mary Chicoine from LWV Northern AZ, and the assistance from the LWVAZ with the Zoom technology.

Thank you to all
Members who have
renewed!

The winner of the Early
Bird Dues Renewal
Raffle is:

Nancy Burns



We need a Nominating Committee Chair for our League!

If you're interested, please let our Board know.

A committee of two members and one board member to

begin surveying membership for potential leaders

beginning in early January.

Terri Farneti has stepped up to be the Board representative.

VOTE411.org

VOTE411.org is the league's one-stop-shop voter guide and voter information. On VOTE411.org you can register to vote, verify your registration status, and find what is on your ballot.

If you are a voter in the City of Prescott, you can find the League's Candidate Forum video on VOTE411.org. The candidates for City Council have been asked four questions.

Check out VOTE411.org to read their responses.

League History – Candidate Debates and Forums – Part 1

Since its founding in the 1920s, the League has been dedicated to hosting candidate debates. In 1976, the League sponsored the first televised, nonpartisan debate in a presidential election for Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale. The goal was educating the public about the nominees, their political platforms and what they said they would do if elected. The debate allowed Americans to see the two candidates side by side for the first time, addressing the same issues in a nonpartisan setting. The League received an Emmy award for Outstanding Achievement in Broadcast Journalism for sponsoring the 1976 debate.

Following the success of 1976, the League went on to sponsor the 1980 and 1984 presidential debates, focusing on informing voters through a nonpartisan lens. The League is proud to sponsor debates for Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, John Anderson, Ronald Reagan, Walter Mondale, Robert Dole, George Bush, and Geraldine Ferraro.

(Reference: LWVUS, The League's History Sponsoring Presidential Debates; Blog / Last Updated: May 11, 2023)

Loraine West, LWVVCYC Voter Services Director will be attending the Indigenous Rural Action Summit in Kayenta on July 22nd. Save Our Schools Arizona, Indivisible Arizona, Arizona Native Vote, and partners are hosting the event. It is a free, non-partisan event and open to local community members.

The summit is the first of its kind and is an opportunity for grassroots organizations, local community members, organizers, and leaders to come together to network, learn, and amplify issues related to voting rights, education, outreach, community solutions, elections, and more.

Attendees will learn more about grassroots organizing, the election process in Arizona, updates on voting rights bills, hear directly from county election staff, civic engagement and community leaders, and special guest speakers. The event is also an opportunity for community members to learn how and where they can get involved to make a difference in their community.

League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County Year in Review

During our fiscal year of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, the following programs, meetings, and events were held. It was a busy year.

Volunteers

During the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, 26 of our 53 local members volunteered their time and expertise in providing services to the community for various voter registration services, community education programs, debates/forums and Vote411 presentations including attending a Board of Supervisors Meeting in support of both the Yavapai County Recorder and Yavapai County Elections Director in their decision to resign because of a toxic working environment, last July. Most events were held in person.

Voter Registration

Of the 6 Voter registration/tabling events 1 were held at a local college, four at the Prescott Farmer's Market, two at senior facilities and a table at the Earth Day event.

At these voter registration events, 17 new registrations were completed and turned into the County Voter Registration office, with as many individuals taking the business cards with the QR code to register themselves online. We also received and answered dozens of questions about voting procedures. These events provided opportunities to educate registered voters on the Vote411 website and upcoming 2023 Prescott City Council Election.

A *Follow the Ballot* tour was attended on April 14, 2023, by ten LWVCYC members and provided them with the details on how ballots are created, distributed, collected, and counted.

On April 22, LWVCYC sponsored a booth at the Earth Day Fair on the Prescott town square, where voter registration and information on the upcoming Prescott City Council election were provided.

Debates/Forums

LWVCYC was asked to host 4 candidate forums and 1 debate. Two candidate forums were for Dewey-Humboldt town council elections, and one for the Mayer water district. These were held in two small local community venues in each town. In all, 60 people attended the 2 events. These candidate forums were opportunities to increase awareness of the League in its ability to provide voter education at cost to the citizens. The other candidate forum was held by Zoom for the Prescott City Council on June 28 and 128 people registered for the event.

In cooperation with LWV Northern Arizona, LWVCYC held a series of 2 debates for the 2 candidates for Legislative District One for the Arizona State Senate, in September and October 2022. The Prescott event had 85 people in attendance.

Media Coverage

The Daily Courier published, on July 5, 2022, the open letter to the Board of Supervisors from the Boards of the LWVCYC and LWV Northern Arizona regarding dissatisfaction with events leading up the resignations of the County Recorder and Elections Director. *The Daily Courier* published our media releases for the LD1 Senate Debate, and the Prescott City Council forum. Reporters covered these events with articles soon thereafter.

Board Meetings

LWVCYC held 11 regular monthly board meetings with several ad hoc meetings to address specific events. The majority were held at Kelly Boryca's home, and a few were held by Zoom.

Social Events

Two social events were held for members at the County Seat in downtown Prescott. In January, a holiday social was held at Torme restaurant with guest speaker, Michelle Burchill, Yavapai County Recorder, who spoke of her experiences since taking office.

Public Information Programs

In September 2022, LWVCYC hosted a program of general interest on Homelessness and Housing to an audience of 40 with speakers from the Veterans Housing Association, a local community shelter, and the Prescott Police Department. This program was sponsored by LWVCYC partner, OLLI which is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute affiliated with Prescott College.

OLLI also partnered with LWVCYC to provide a program on Civil Discourse on November 10, 2022.

On February 9, 2023, LWVCYC also partnered with OLLI on a presentation on the Sundog Connector Corridor, a highway between Prescott and Prescott Valley. The meeting was well attended and provided information on the proposal to the attendees.

Throughout the year members were advised of several webinars conducted by other local leagues and groups that were available for league viewing. Several members attended the web presentation from LWV Greater Tucson on the proposed concurrence on the Medical Aid in Dying public policy in Utah, for consideration during the LWWVZ Council in May 2024.

Members of the Committee on the updated LWVAZ Water policy presented the proposed policy on March 23, 2023, to LWVCYC members and the public at the Prescott Public Library. LWVCYC member Ellie Laumark served on the committee. The new Water Policy passed unanimously at the May LWVAZ Convention.

Vote411

Community Education Events included 4 presentations on Vote411 to a total of 97 participants at AAUW, Prescott Indivisible and the Prescott Library.

Representation to LWVAZ and service on state boards

Four of our five 2022-2023 LWVCYC Board members attended the LWVAZ Convention in Cottonwood in May 2023. Ellie Laumark as LWVCYC's new representative (2023-2025) to the Education Fund Board also attended. Bobbi Boyd, as Chair of the LWVAZ Budget Committee and Kate Robbins as Chair of the Bylaws Committee made presentations for adoption of the new Budget and Bylaws at the Convention.

Additionally, Kate Robbins and Kelly Boryca were last year's LWVCYC representatives to the Education Fund Board, while Bobbi Boyd and Terri Farneti served as representatives to the LWVAZ board. Cory Shaw served as a director, appointed by the LWVAZ Board to chair the Historical Committee, and Kate Robbins served as an off-board Chair of the Bylaws Committee. Both will continue in those roles while Bobbi Boyd and Cory Shaw are your LWVCYC representatives on the LWVAZ Board for the next fiscal year (2023-2024).

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee, chaired by Bobbi Boyd, received 16 submissions from local high school seniors. A \$1000 scholarship was awarded to Rome Bassett, from Prescott High School for his essay. He wrote a compelling essay on getting young people to vote, and the importance of making voting a habit early in life. Five members served on the committee to review and evaluate the essays.

Voter

Terri Farneti compiles important information about the League and upcoming events to inform our members in our monthly newsletter, *The Voter*.

Budget Committee

Bobbi Boyd chaired the Budget Committee with Marc Wagner, an LWVCYC member, with assistance from Treasurer, Kate Robbins to formulate a proposed budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The budget was presented and adopted at the Annual Meeting on May 6, 2023, held at the Monday Club in Prescott.

Year-end report from the Treasurer

As promised at our annual meeting, here is the report on our finances as of the end of fiscal year 2022-2023. National, state and our local league end their fiscal years on June 30th of each year.

Below is a three-year comparative chart of income and expenses for LWVCYC.

Income	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Operating Income *	3675.69	6116.66	7789.58
Operating Expense	3711.33	6153.03	6765.19
Net Income From Operations	(35.64)	(36.37)	1024.39
Restricted Ed Fund Income - Scholarship	1260.00	830.00	735.00
Restricted Ed Fund Expense - Scholarship	0.00	(500.00)	(1000.00)
Net Income Restricted Ed Fund- Scholarship	1260.00	330.00	(265.00)
Unrestricted Ed Fund Income	286.28	175.00	90.00
Unrestricted Ed Fund Expense	5.64	(6.32)	(294.58)
Net Income Unrestricted Ed Fund	280.64	168.68	(204.58)
Total Net income - All Sources	1505.00	462.31	554.81
* Includes Income from LWVAZ Grants of	0.00	1500.00	2500.00

Below is a three-year comparative chart of year end asset totals.

All Assets	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Cash In Bank	5779.02	6140.61	7165.00
Restricted Ed Fund- Scholarship	1231.28	1590.00	1325.00
Unrestricted Ed Fund - General	1708.06	1848.70	1644.12
Non- Cash Assets - Tote Bags	1000.00	600.00	600.00
Total Assets	9718.36	10179.31	10734.12

Voting organizers are breathing ‘a deep sigh of relief’ over Supreme Court rulings on elections — for now

Without voting policy on the state and federal level, experts are concerned about big ramifications for how voters will be able to weigh in on issues like abortion, the economy and gun violence.

Barbara Rodriguez, State Politics and Voting Reporter, The 19th News

Two Supreme Court rulings on elections last month brought on a wave of cheers from voting organizers and democracy experts, who believe the cases will uphold key democratic norms going into the 2024 presidential election — but they still worry about an ongoing erosion of access to the ballot box.

Legal experts had been closely observing the potential outcomes of the cases under a new and more conservative court: [Allen v. Milligan](#) — a case about the Voting Rights Act that was decided on June 8 — and [Moore v. Harper](#), a case about a fringe theory on state legislatures’ power in running elections that was decided on June 27. A majority of the justices ultimately tossed out the challenge to the pivotal 1965 law that prohibits racial discrimination in voting and rejected the fringe theory.

“The right to vote and to have your vote counted — one person, one vote — is central for protecting the other rights that Americans care about, including gender equity, including LGBTQ rights,” said Eliza Sweren-Becker, counsel in the democracy program of the [Brennan Center for Justice](#). “When people are less able to access their voting rights, that means they’re less able to protect the other things that they care about, to protect the other rights that they hold dear.”

Sindy Benavides, executive director of the [Latino Victory Fund](#), called the back-to-back rulings “a moment of reflection” on the long fight toward a multi-racial democracy. She noted the historic impact of Reconstruction-era amendments that aimed to establish racial equality in the Constitution.

“I think of all the individuals that have fought for 150 years so that every eligible citizen who has that constitutional right to vote is able to vote regardless of their race,” she said. “For us, we were closely watching the SCOTUS decisions, because clearly they have an impact on elections. And for us, it was a deep sigh of relief.”

In its 6-3 ruling in Moore, the court rejected what’s known as the independent state legislature theory, an idea that state legislatures have the sole authority to create rules for federal elections, including determining congressional maps without state court oversight. If the Supreme Court had approved this theory, legal experts believe it would have raised fundamental questions about checks and balances in elections administration.

The ruling was in response to a North Carolina case in which [the state’s supreme court struck down](#) congressional redistricting maps drawn by Republicans that overwhelmingly favored the party.

Chavi Khanna Koneru, co-founder and executive director of [North Carolina Asian Americans Together](#), a group that organizes the AAPI community, said the ruling doesn’t immediately change the voting landscape in North Carolina, where a Republican-led legislature has signaled plans to pass restrictive voting measures and [a newly conservative state supreme court](#) is expected to uphold partisan state and congressional maps.

Still, Koneru tried to strike an optimistic tone about the Moore ruling.

“It’s a great decision, and it makes us feel like there is some hope for democracy, but on the ground today for the municipal elections, it doesn’t change much for us,” she said.

The 5-4 Allen ruling upheld Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act that prohibits election practices that deny or abridge the right to vote based on race. It is linked to [a case out of Alabama](#) in which the legislature was accused of diluting the political power of Black residents by not drawing a second majority-Black congressional voting district.

Khadidah Stone is an Alabama resident and a plaintiff in the Allen case. She said she burst into tears when hearing about the ruling, which will effectively allow people to continue challenging voting maps in court that are racially discriminatory.

It is already having an effect in [other pending cases around gerrymandered maps](#) and could play [a role in which party controls Congress](#).

“It does feel like a weight has been lifted,” Stone said. “There are things that are being done in this country that are making it look like we’re back in the times of the civil rights movement. [You can’t pass water bottles while people are trying to vote](#). You can’t let people go vote early. There are questionable things like obvious voter suppression tactics that are happening across this country. So for these voting rights cases that have been coming out ... it’s a beacon of hope.”

But organizers and experts say there is more work to do on the state and federal levels to ensure voters have equal access to the ballot box. Some pointed to the 10-year anniversary of [Shelby County v. Holder](#), which paved the way for conservative-leaning statehouses to introduce bills that restrict voting, as a sign of the uneven landscape for future ballot access.

For decades, a section of the Voting Rights Act required states with a history of racial discrimination to get approval from the federal government before changing their voting laws.

Justices on the high court ruled that the formula used to determine which states require preclearance was unconstitutional. Within days of the Shelby ruling, states that had previously been closely monitored if they attempted to pass potentially discriminatory voting policy did just that, including voter ID legislation.

At least 29 states have passed nearly 100 restrictive voting laws since the ruling, [according to a recent report](#) from the Brennan Center.

“‘Shelby County’ had a pretty profound effect on how people are able to exercise their right to vote,” said Valencia Richardson, legal counsel for the nonprofit Campaign Legal Center, and an organizer who addresses election compliance of the Voting Rights Act in the Deep South.

Richardson described a “whack-a-mole” of harmful voting laws without the previous preclearance process in place. “The burden has totally been shifted from the government to the voter in a way that has really, really hampered voting rights enforcement, particularly at the local level,” she said.

Many believe that the onslaught of voting restrictions brought on by Shelby over the past decade has impacted how voters are able to weigh in on issues like abortion, the economy and gun violence — policy areas that have a disproportionate effect on women. June also marked the one-year anniversary of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, a ruling that overturned the federal right to abortion.

“It’s just an accumulation of harm to voting rights and a sort of death-by-a-thousand-cuts approach to voting access, particularly for voters of color, that we have seen in many states across the country,” Sweren-Becker said. “So 10 years later, we face a very challenging environment for voters to overcome. And there is a need and an opportunity for Congress [to step in and restore the Voting Rights Act](#), and mitigate the harms that state legislatures have undertaken over the last decade.”

Kendra Cotton, CEO of the New Georgia Project, a voting rights organization, said she is encouraged by the recent court rulings. But she is also mindful that people who are trying to restrict voting access will not stop. She feels frustration at the persistent efforts to disenfranchise communities of color.

“It just simply doesn’t have to be this way,” she said. “What we’re asking for is equity and fairness. And we recognize that may not manifest in outcome, but it should, at the very least, occur in the process.”

Take Action

Get involved! There are many ways to have your voice heard by elected officials and policy makers. Take Action on League priorities today.



In the United States, the freedom to vote is one of the most basic promises of our democracy. Protecting the right to vote is a constant endeavor that requires us to address any barriers that prevent eligible voters from casting their ballots and having them counted.

This Congress, Republicans and Democrats are working on legislation that would impact voting. But for any of these bills to pass, they will require bipartisan cooperation.

The history of voting rights is largely bipartisan. For example, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) has always been reauthorized with bipartisan support from members of Congress and Presidents from both political parties. This landmark civil rights legislation responded to barriers at the state and local levels that prevented Black voters from exercising their right to vote and remains necessary to this day to prevent voter discrimination.

Tell Democrats and Republicans to work together on voting rights.

There are many ways Republicans and Democrats can come together to act on voting rights. Both sides are making efforts to advance legislation that would codify their priorities on voting. The League would like to see the introduction of bipartisan legislation that includes expanding early voting, allowing no-excuse absentee voting, implementing automatic and online voter registration, improving operations of the Election Assistance Commission, improving language access, and ensuring proper voter list maintenance.

Increased accessibility to the electoral process is integral to ensuring that every eligible voter can exercise their freedom to vote. While we have made progress in expanding voter access, many people still face challenges to participating in elections due to factors including income, health, age, race, disability, and gender. Voting is a fundamental right, and all Americans deserve an equal opportunity to make their voices heard in our democracy.

Please take one minute for voting rights and urge Congress to work together to protect the right to vote!

[Contact Congress Today!](#)



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 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)