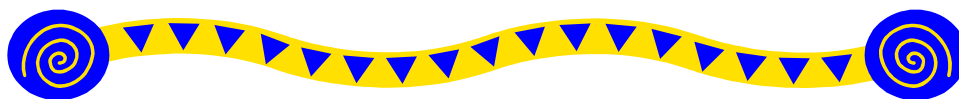


C & C



Calendar & Comments

League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Phoenix



**October 2010**

**INTRODUCING**

**BROWN BAG POLITICS SERIES**

**Monday, October 4**

**11:45 – 1:00 p.m.**

**PROP.106**

**BOTH SIDES OF HEALTH CARE CHOICE**

**Meeting Room A**

**4423 N. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix**

**Free**

**Bring your own brown bag lunch and beverage**

**Water provided**

**The public is invited and you are encouraged to invite your friends.**

## **2010 Arizona Ballot Propositions supported or opposed by the LWV/AZ**

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose parties or candidates EVER. Likewise, we never support or oppose ISSUES unless we have 'positions' (established by study and consensus- a process usually taking about 2 years in length). During this election cycle, we oppose four (4) issues on the Arizona ballot based on such study.

### **Prop 106 - HEALTH CARE SERVICES; DIRECT PURCHASE - Opposition based on the LWV/US Position on universal health care.**

The main reason that the LWV/AZ opposes Prop 106 is that it would violate the recently passed federal health care law, which supercedes state law and would lead to federal law suits. Allowing people to ignore a national mandate to buy health insurance would encourage them to rely on the ER or to buy health insurance only when they think they need it.

### **Prop 107 - PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OR DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITION - Opposition based on the LWV/US principle of equality of opportunity.**

The main reason that the LWV/AZ opposes Prop 107 is that it would turn back the clock to a society of "good old boy" networks where women and people of color routinely face discrimination. Furthermore, the LWVAZ stands for openness and honesty in the political process. We believe in transparency in all aspects of government, and dislike this overt effort to confuse voters into thinking that they are voting against discrimination when they really are voting for discrimination.

### **Prop 301 - LAND CONSERVATION FUND; REVERSION (Growing Smarter Act) - Opposition based on LWV/AZ for the idea of voter-protected funds, our position on land use and natural resources, and our position on adequate funding of public education.**

The main reason that the LWV/AZ opposes Prop 301 is that the original proposition was voter protected. The current proposition would transfer the balance of the Land Conservation Fund into the General Fund. Voters established the Land Conservation Fund in 1998 when they approved the Growing Smarter Act (referred to the ballot by the AZ Legislature). By diverting dollars from this fund, the Legislature hurts both conservation efforts and education -- dollars from the Fund go into the Trust, whose prime beneficiary is public education.

### **Prop 302 - EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT; HEALTH; REPEAL (FIRST THINGS FIRST) - Opposition based on LWV/AZ support for the idea of voter-protected funds and our position on human needs social policy.**

The main reason that the LWV/AZ opposes Prop 302 is that the original proposition was voter protected. The current proposition would shift to the General Fund all of the money in "First Things First" statewide grants to programs, which increase the quality of early childhood development and health services for children up to five years of age. The initiative, which was passed by the voters, enacted its own funding mechanism (a tobacco tax of \$0.80 per pack), which has never been collected into Arizona's general fund and as such never been calculated into the state's general budget or caused its current budget problem.

From Bonnie Saunders, LWVAZ President

## **VOTER GUIDES ON THE PROPOSITIONS AVAILABLE**

The 2010 Voter Guides on the Propositions will be available at the Brown Bag Lunch, Community Team meetings, Ballot Propositions meeting on September 30 and all other League activities in the coming month. If you need some for your group or would like to help distribute them, please contact Jan during office hours at [lwvmp@lwvaz.org](mailto:lwvmp@lwvaz.org) or 480-966-9031. It is also online at [www.lwvaz.org](http://www.lwvaz.org).

## COMMUNITY TEAM MEETINGS

**Scottsdale Community Team-** Tuesday, October 12, 2010  
10:00 a.m. at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library- Gold Room  
3839 Drinkwater Blvd.  
Topic: Ballot Propositions-November election  
Discussion Leader: Eric Ehst  
Contact: Eleanor Coup or Suzanne Lennon

The November Ballot Propositions will be the subject of the LWVMP Scottsdale Team's October meeting.

Join us in the Gold Room of the Civic Center Library, Tuesday, October 12, at 10:a.m. The speaker will be Eric Ehst, long time League member who has had extensive experience in the area of elections and explaining ballot propositions.

Everyone is invited to join us for what is certain to be a lively discussion- and for the continuing discussion at lunch (at The Orange Table) afterwards.

**Phoenix Community Team-** Wednesday, October 13, 2010  
9:30 a.m. at the Terraces, 7750 N. 16<sup>th</sup> St. Phoenix  
(Turn on Morten for entrance and parking)  
Topic: Planning for the November General meeting on Education  
Contact: Barbara Robertson

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Phoenix Community Team will host a meeting on The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education on Wednesday, November 10 at the Terraces. All League members are invited to attend and to bring guests. More details next issue.

**East Valley Community Team-** Thursday, October 21, 2010  
11:30 a.m. at the home of Marge Thornton.  
Topic: Discussion re planning a general meeting on Maricopa County Gov't  
Contact: Sandra Eiker or Marge Thornton

EV Team meetings will be brown bag lunches. Beverages provided.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES** will be available at both the Brown Bag Lunch and at the Community Team meetings.

## National Popular Vote – Where We Stand

LWVAZ led the concurrence at national convention to adopt the National Popular Vote \* plan as part of our position on election of the president. As you all know WE PASSED IT.

It was a wonderful success and now (as with so many of our positions) there is more work to do. I think this is history in the making and look forward to our involvement.

In September, three League members were invited to National Popular Vote (NPV) training: one from Alaska, one from California and me (from Arizona). After the training, I was MORE pleased than ever that we had taken up this mantle. **This is politically possible.**

One of the reasons that it is politically possible is that it is (in a sense) a compromise – or perhaps a real ‘synergy.’ It has something for both sides of the aisle and third parties as well. At the training there were many activists, political planners and several **Republican and Democratic** state representatives. While they teased each other unmercifully, they were equally interested in supporting and passing the NPV bill. Different parties may look at the benefits in different ways (and in later months I will explain some of that) but both seem eager to have a direct vote of the president.

NPV solves two major problems:

- it stops approximately 35 of our states from being ignored in the campaign
- it ensures that the candidate with the most votes wins

The National Popular Vote bill counts votes of everyone in every state equally. It does NOT eliminate the Electoral College – it only reforms it. Thus it ensures greater states rights, but does so by creating a direct popular vote. This approach makes the bill more easily accepted by both major parties, and why it is a political possibility. If you have never visited the website, you might click here and read about the bill or the more than 1,900 state legislators across the nation that support it. [www.nationalpopularvote.com](http://www.nationalpopularvote.com)

You can also download or order the book ‘EVERY VOTE EQUAL’ at that website as well.

### \* Reminder about the bill:

The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee a majority of the Electoral College to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states (and District of Columbia). The bill would reform the current Electoral College so that the electoral vote in the Electoral College reflects the choice of the nation's voters for President of the United States

Under the U.S. Constitution, the states have exclusive and plenary (complete) power to allocate their electoral votes, and may change their state laws concerning the awarding of their electoral votes at any time. Under the NPV bill, all of the state's electoral votes would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill would take effect only when enacted, **in identical form**, by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President (270 of 538). It does not eliminate the current Electoral College it only reforms it.

Barbara Klein  
September 20, 2010

**LWV United States New President  
chooses Arizona  
as her FIRST official trip**

Elisabeth MacNamara was elected president of the LWVUS at our national convention in June 2010 (Atlanta). Her first official (whirlwind) trip started in Phoenix last week and ended in Tucson.

Elisabeth arrived on Thursday morning, June 16th and was welcomed at the airport by Kate Samsa (LWVMP member). They met with Bonnie Saunders (LWVAZ president) for a meeting with the Department of Economic Security. As part of the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) being worked on by Kate Samsa (chair) and Barbara Klein (LWVAZ and LWVMP), Elisabeth presented a letter that was part of our project to the department. She spoke to them about our national voting efforts and work with PAVP as well as our hopes for future improvement for Arizona.

Elisabeth then joined Kate, Bonnie and Barbara for lunch at My Florist Café in Phoenix and for much chat about League business. She then visited the Heard museum with Kate and Bonnie before Bonnie brought her back to the new office where many of our LWVMP members were hectic setting up for Constitution Day. [We thank Kathy Schwarz for making this year's Constitution Day happen. I am happy to report that we had over 70 people squeezed into our venue room for this event.]

Elisabeth not only made remarks which we had planned for at our event, but took a very vital role in the panel debating the Supreme Court's Citizen United case. Elisabeth represented us well and seemed to be the best at reflecting the frustrations of the audience. She met many LWVMP members (as well as a few from other Leagues that were able to visit). Many of the public were excited to meet her as well and peppered her with questions.

During that visit we also found time to make the official ribbon-cutting of our new shared office (LWVMP and LWVAZ). It was particularly special to have the LWVUS president take part in this event, along with LWVAZ president, Bonnie Saunders and several of our administrative team members, Barbara Robertson, Alice Stambaugh, Lucy Kahlstrom and Barbara Klein. [Sharing a little known secret, we were having this ribbon-cutting in a room with a freshly painted wall. As a couple of us arrived early in the afternoon to drop off items and make last minute plans, we met a strange smell and found Joanne McCarthy finishing the shelf hanging by painting the whole wall. She wanted to make sure it looked good for Elisabeth's visit and assured us she would be done shortly and the smell would be gone – she was and it was. Good work Joanne.]

Elisabeth was whisked away to spend the evening with Kathy and David Schwarz. From all reports that was a lovely time. [Thanks once again to Kathy and David.]

After breakfast at the Schwarz's, Elisabeth was picked up by Barbara Klein and joined by Alice Stambaugh and Barbara Robertson for a trip toward Tucson. Elisabeth and the three of us were treated to a lovely luncheon at the home of Linda Huizinga where Elisabeth addressed the new Tucson unit in Saddlebrook. She gave the unit an update of many LWV national / state efforts and took a good deal of questions.

[Linda put on an amazing lunch and filled her large great room with all 29 of the new unit members, as well as at least 10 guests. We enjoyed wonderful food and a great vista.]

Gini and Gordon McGirr (LWV Greater Tucson) 'hustled' Elisabeth down to south Tucson to meet media members (channel 11) waiting at Shirley Sandeland's house. (I am told this was on TV that night so I hope we can get that link). After meeting with the press they enjoyed another super meal

at Shirley's (one of my favorite 'B & Bs' in Tucson ☺). All involved seem to be happy with the coverage received from the press and impressed by Elisabeth's knowledge of Arizonan activities.

Finally, the Tucson folks managed to find a little time to get Elisabeth to a local store to shop for some turquoise jewelry that she wanted as a gift (perhaps not as unique as the museum level stuff at the Heard, but a bit more reasonable for the budget).

Early in the morning on Saturday, Shirley was able to get Elisabeth on a plane to Texas for another full day of activities. [I am tired just writing it, we all have to appreciate Elisabeth's energy – and enthusiasm for each and every member.]

Submitted by  
Barbara Klein

## **THE 10 ARIZONA BALLOT PROPOSITIONS IN PLAIN LANGUAGE**

Thursday, September 30  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation building  
4027 E. Lincoln Drive,  
Paradise Valley  
6:30- 7:00 – Light refreshments  
7:00- 8:45 –Program

Free and Open to the Public

Sponsored by The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Phoenix  
and The National Council of Jewish Women

## **Citizens United Case and related legislation**

Some LWVAZ and LWVMP members who attended this caucus at national convention meant to share this in our C & C last month. It is still important to us. This report was done by LWV Seattle. The part about the Disclose Act is unfortunately out of date, as the bill was narrowly defeated in the US Senate. Nevertheless, we wish to share this with you. The suggestions for action are still very vital.

## **Fair Elections Now Act Caucus presented by League of Women Voters of Boulder County, Colorado.**

In response to the highly controversial recent Supreme Court Ruling Citizens United v. FEC, two immediate pieces of legislation have been proposed:

1) The FAIR Elections Now Act (S. 752 and H.R. 1826), a small donor approach to congressional campaign finance, was introduced in the Senate by Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Arlen Specter (D.-PA), and in the House of Representatives by Representatives John Larson (D.-Conn) and Walter Jones, Jr. (R.-NC). The House bill has 153 cosponsors and they are looking for 175; the Senate bill has 20. A vote is expected this summer. A Senate filibuster is expected.

2) The DISCLOSE Act, designed to control the influence of special interests on elections, is also expected to come to a vote this summer.

For a long-term solution, the League of Women Voters of Amherst and Concord-Carlisle, Massachusetts urges leagues to become informed on the impact of the Supreme Court ruling and to consider the need for a constitutional amendment to secure free speech for the people as opposed to corporations.

A speaker from **Free Speech for the People** gave a stirring presentation, pointing out that the only legal way to correct an egregiously wrong ruling by the Supreme Court is through a constitutional amendment.

“Every generation has its constitutional amendment fight; this is ours. It will be long and hard but our very democracy depends on it.”

What you can do

- Read former League President Mary Wilson’s letter to the Washington Post, “Feedback for the High Court” [www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/14/AR2010031402448.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/14/AR2010031402448.html)
- Check LWV.org for action alerts relating to the FAIR Elections Now Act, the DISCLOSE Act and other campaign finance reform legislation.
- Check out FreeSpeechforPeople.org to learn more about the proposed Constitutional Amendment.

## **UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES:**

Sun Lakes, October 16<sup>th</sup> Community Day  
Help LWV recruit and distribute Voters' Guides

Sunbird, November 10<sup>th</sup> Community Day  
Help recruit and sell League materials and fund raise

For more information contact JoAnne McCarthy: [texasjoanne@hotmail.com](mailto:texasjoanne@hotmail.com)

## **UNITED NATION ASSOCIATION OF PHOENIX ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO LEAGUE MEMBERS**

The UNA welcomes members of LWVMP to a reception for Gillian Sorensen, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, at the home of Kathy and Dave Schwarz from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on October 11. Ms Sorensen will discuss women, the UN and the millennium development goals. The reception will be co-hosted with the Scottsdale UNA. Please call Kathy at 480-946-6103 to make reservations or for more information.

We will also be celebrating UN Day at Kathy and Dave's on October 22 at a 6:00 p.m. dinner. Amy Hyatt, the Diplomat in Residence at ASU will be the featured guest. Her 23 years working for the U.S. Department of State has taken her to Finland, Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, Norway and the Czech Republic. RSVP to Kathy at 480-946-6103

The Schwarz's address: 5901 E. Vernon, Scottsdale.

**NEXT ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM MEETING:** The next meeting will be on October 4 at 9:30 a.m. The convener will be Alice Stambaugh. Please get your agenda items to her by October 1.

**NOTE:** The October 6 candidate forum for State Superintendent of Public Instruction has been cancelled.

**October Anniversary Dates**

**New Members**

## National LWV President's Visit



Cutting the ribbon at the new office  
(Left to right)

Elisabeth MacNamara, Bonnie Saunders, Alice Stambaugh, Barbara Robinson,  
Lucy Kahlstrom and Barbara Klein



Kate Samsa (L) and Elisabeth MacNamara (R) visit Department of Economic Security Office

## Calendar

SEPTEMBER	29	Voter registration at American Express
	30	Ballot Issues Presentation 6:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church 4027 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley
OCTOBER	4	Brown Bag Politics Lunch Administrative Team meeting
	11	UNA Reception
	12	Scottsdale Team Meeting
	13	Phoenix Team Meeting
	16	Sun Lakes Community Day
	22	UN Day Celebration
	25	C&C deadline for Nov.-Dec. issue
NOVEMBER	10	General meeting The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education Arranged by the Phoenix Community Team



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

### Our Mission Statement

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

League of Women Voters  
of Metropolitan Phoenix  
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