



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The VoteR

League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

OCTOBER 2010

President's Letter

During the week of September 13th through the 20th, the League did voter registration for Sedona, the Village of Oak Creek, and Clarkdale. We received a lot of positive feedback and were able to register several people. On September 27, we held a forum for the Sedona Fire Board candidates. All eight candidates were present. The Jewish Community Center generously allowed us to use their beautiful facility for the forum, which was well attended. Listening to the diverse opinions of all the candidates, I believe this was an important forum and very informative for the public.

The League's Voter Guide is being distributed. This guide gives a concise description of each of the ballot propositions and a balanced critique of all sides of the issues. Certainly a must read for every voter.

In my last letter, I indicated that our membership event would take place in October. Since then, it was decided that the event would be better if held after the election. So this year, our membership event will be a post election wine and tea party held in November. You will be notified when we finalize the time and location.

- *Fran Levengood*

Board of Directors

The LWVSVV Board of Directors had their first fall meeting on September 16th. A list of the current board members and their contact information appears at the end of each Voter; feel free to contact any of us at any time with your questions about our local league. Topics of discussion included planning for the remaining candidate forums for this year and a report from Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer on an interesting study that the Arizona league will undertake concerning the Executive Branch of our state government. Depending on the outcome of Proposition 111 (which would establish the office of Lieutenant Governor), we may want to hold

an information forum on this topic. The idea of a post-election "Wine and Tea Party." was proposed and quickly adopted. Follow-up on these items and planning for the remainder our activities for the 2010-2011 league year will take place at the next meeting, Thursday, October 21st from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Oak Creek Valley clubhouse. Call Judy Miller for directions if you would like to attend. Members are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Constitution Week Voter Registration

The voter registration drive was held in Sedona at Walgreen's on Constitution Day and Sept.17, and in the Village at IGA on Sept.18. Besides registering twelve voters, there were many positive conversations about the League and we were able to answer questions concerning the voting processes. The League also sponsored voter registration on Sept.17th and 18th at Yavapai Community College, under the direction of Student Activities Director Martha Mays and her student helpers. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped with this project!

- ***Evie Rowland***

Voter Service

Upcoming Election Forums for Legislative District 1 State Representatives and Upcoming Ballot Measure Presentation

1. LWVSVV forum for State Representative District 1 Candidates:

Thursday, October 14th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Yavapai College, Verde Valley Campus, Room M137

601 Black Hills Drive, Clarkdale

The forum will provide an opportunity for voters to meet and question the candidates running for State Representative District 1. Candidates Andy Tobin, Karen Fann and Lindsay Bell have been invited to participate. The candidates will be asked to answer questions about several of the pressing issues of this election season, including healthcare funding, states' rights vs. cities' rights, spending priorities for the state government, and how to increase citizen involvement in Arizona politics. The candidates will also answer questions from the audience.

This forum will be taped for future broadcast on Verde Valley TV, Cottonwood Cable One, Channel 2, and will be available for viewing on the Yavapai Broadcasting website.

Bring your family and friends to this important election forum!

2. Presentation by the Arizona Secretary of State's office on the ten ballot measures:

Wednesday, October 20th, at noon. Sedona City Hall, 102 Roadrunner

We encourage all to bring your family and friends to come to this presentation and become informed on the actual wording and potential effects of their votes on these policy setting measures.

For more information on the candidate forum, contact Mary Gassaway, Voter Service Chair. For more information on the ballot measure presentation, contact the Arizona Secretary of State, at azsos.gov/election2010.

Voter Guides: The League of Women Voters of Arizona has prepared a Voters' Guide to the 10 ballot propositions that will be voted upon in November. They are available in a printed version at local public libraries and on the web at www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

Save the Date, November 10th, for a Post-Election WINE AND TEA PARTY!

This year, in lieu of a fall membership meeting, we are planning a special event to celebrate the end of the election season. We'll have wine and snacks – and, yes, maybe some tea and other good things to entice you to this casual, late afternoon social in Sedona. League members, prospective members, friends of the League, and those interested in learning more about us are invited to join us. The cost will be about \$10.00; planning is still underway and there will be reminders as the date nears. See you there!

League of Women Voters of Arizona

State League Opposes Four Arizona Ballot Propositions

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 supersedes 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.

Handy Helper on Health Care Reform: If you are following the current political debates (and who isn't), you can tell that there is a lot of contradictory, confusing, and misleading information out there about what this year's legislation does and does not do, and especially what it will cost in both the short term and the long term. Our State League Representative, Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, recently provided the following resource which helps understand the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act." This is a 9-minute animated primer released by the Kaiser Family Foundation and narrated by Cokie Roberts. Dr. Barbara Klein, VP of LWVAZ, promises that "It is REALLY good - and believe it or not, non-partisan. It is a good tool to explain the law to people who have not been informed of the basics by credible sources, but only by partisan sources." View it at <http://healthreform.kff.org/the-animation.aspx>. |

NEWS from National League (LWVUS)

Campaign for Climate Change Legislation: A recent League e-Voice (9/30/2010) reports that Leagues across the country are busy implementing projects designed to build awareness about climate change. They are joining thousands of communities across the globe in taking part in a day of climate action on October 10th. Although our local league is not participating in the climate action campaign, you can read about what is being done at the national level at www.lwv.org. At the individual level, there is a helpful tip sheet on things that each of us can do to reduce our carbon footprint at <http://www.pewclimate.org/WhatYouCanDo/tips>

The Saga of the Disclose Act Continues: One of the most urgent issues at the national level was the defeat of the DISCLOSE Act in the Senate by a 59-39 vote. The League lobbied to support the Act, which would have partially restored transparency to U.S. elections by requiring disclosure of corporate and union spending in candidate elections. The League of Women Voters of Maine's event to encourage their Senators to support the bill received wide coverage from [national press and press in Maine](#). The League issued [a statement](#); sent a [letter to the full Senate](#); and sent a [letter with coalition partners to Senators Snowe and Collins of Maine and Brown of Massachusetts](#), urging them to support the DISCLOSE Act. We focused on these three Senators' crucial votes, but they didn't come through. The fight continues as we expect the legislation to be brought to the Senate again in a lame-duck session after the November elections. (Therefore, it is important to continue to press our Senators on this issue; maybe there will be more sentiment for our position on this matter following the elections!)

The League's letter to the Senate tells us all we need to know about how important it is to mitigate the effects of the Citizen's United Supreme Court decision:

"The League of Women Voters strongly supports the DISCLOSE Act, which would restore transparency to U.S. elections by requiring disclosure of corporate and union spending in

candidate elections. We urge you to support cloture and vote for this essential reform legislation when it is considered by the full Senate. In its ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the Supreme Court opened the floodgates for big-money special interests in our elections. Corporations and unions can now make unlimited secret expenditures seeking to elect or defeat candidates. And they can make unlimited secret contributions to other entities that seek to elect or defeat candidates. This is unacceptable in a democracy.

“The most important thing we can do to preserve the integrity of our electoral process is to increase transparency and let the sunlight shine in. Disclosure of corporate and union spending in our elections is the key to allowing voters to make their decisions. This bill accomplishes that fundamental purpose. Voters deserve to know the sources of funding for election advertising. Secret money, whether foreign or domestic, has no place in America's democracy. Voters have a right to know -- whether it is a corporation, union, trade association, or nonprofit advocacy group making unlimited political expenditures and influencing elections.

“The proposed DISCLOSE Act builds on requirements already approved by the Supreme Court. In fact, the Court pointed in the direction of enhanced disclosure when it said that disclosure is important to “providing the electorate with information.” It also supported disclaimer requirements “so that the people will be able to evaluate the arguments to which they are being subjected.” We couldn’t agree more.

“Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy. Enhanced disclosure is the most basic step toward protecting the role of voters and ensuring that they can make informed decisions. The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to support quick action by the Senate to enact the DISCLOSE Act this year.”

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.

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LWV Sedona Verde Valley Calendar 2010-2011

Date	Event
October 14 th , Thursday – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Candidate Forum, State Legislature Yavapai College Verde Campus Bldg M
October 20 th , Wednesday - Noon	State Ballot Proposition Forum Sedona City Hall, 102 Roadrunner Drive
October 21 st , Thursday – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting, all members welcome Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse
November 2 nd , 6 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	General Election – PLEASE VOTE! By mail or at your polling place
November 10 th , Wednesday – 4:00-6:00 p.m.	Post-Election Wine and Tea Party Sedona venue to be determined
November 18 th , Thursday -- 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting, all members welcome Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse
January 2011	Board Meeting January 20 th Candidate Forums, Camp Verde/Cottonwood
February 2011	Anniversary Luncheon Membership Meeting on State League Study Board Meeting, February 17 th