



The VoteR

League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

July - August 2011

Just because our league is in summer hiatus, that does not mean nobody is doing anything! Several members are working on projects such as redistricting, and others are starting to plan for September and beyond. Since many core League values at the State and National levels are at the forefront right now, leaders at those levels are extremely busy. So here's a taste of what's up and what's to come.

Some Thoughts from Ellie Bauer, LWVSVV Chairperson

THINKING:

2011-2012 PLANNING CALENDAR

For Board members and individual members
2011-2012 Planning Cycle –Goals & Measurable Objectives

VISIBILITY

How is our League seen?

COMMUNICATION

With whom are we communicating?

FUNDRAISING

“Never apologize for asking. You are not asking for yourself”.

Membership

What are individual members interests within the frame work of our League?

Visibility

Who sees our League?

Communication

What do we communicate?

Fundraising

“Every Board Member and general member should have a role in raising money.”

MEMBERSHIP

Growing our League one contact, one member at a time

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- With an array of elections coming up, on what is the LWVSVV going to focus?
- How can we best accomplish what we set out to do?
- Who will take the lead on each item?

We have just begun to tap our potential. When our summer hiatus is over, we will continue our tradition of studying issues, taking positions when we are prepared to do so and responding to the needs of our ever changing and growing region. We are very good at doing projects that people in our region find interesting and supportive. We will keep up the good work.

Ellie Bauer, Chair, Spokesperson, Representative to the LWVAZ Board

Redistricting

Note: The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission is holding listening sessions throughout the state during July and August. This commission is working on the new maps for U.S. Congressional Districts and Arizona State Legislative Districts. There will be an opportunity to participate in their visit to Yavapai County on July 28th. The meeting will take place in Prescott at 6:00 p.m. at the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, 1015 Fair Street. There will also be remote access at the Yavapai County Annex in Cottonwood, at 10 South 6th Street. It's been reported that these meetings can be quite lively and all League members are encouraged to attend if they can; wear a League namecard if you have one. This is a high interest issue for the League and we want to establish a presence. More information and selected videos are available at the IRC's website, www.azredistricting.org.

The IRC also plans to convene a hearing in Flagstaff at 6:00 p.m., August 1st.

Membership Information

Everyone please welcome new member ***Mary Chicoine***, who joined our league recently. We will hope to see her often at our meetings and events.

We would like to remind all members that they need to renew their membership for the 2011-2012 League year, which began the 1st of July. Please send your dues payment to League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley at P.O.B. 966, Sedona, AZ 86339. Individual dues are now \$50.00 and family dues are \$70.00. Thank you for supporting the League.

All members should be receiving via e-mail the State League's quarterly Voter newsletter. The most recent one was issued in July and is packed with great information. If you did not receive it and would like a copy e-mailed to you, send your request to Kathy Heidepriem or Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer.

If you have problems with the e-mail version of this newsletter, call or e-mail Kathy Heidepriem for a printed copy – or access it at www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org.

State Study on the Arizona Executive Branch

You might have noted on our calendar that one of our league's first endeavors beginning in the fall is to participate in the State League's study on the structure of the executive branch of Arizona's government. The purpose of the study is for the State League to have a position on whether Arizona should have a Lieutenant Governor, and, if so, how that individual should be selected and what that individual's duties should be. We will be receiving further information on

this issue, but in order to begin to focus our thinking, the following consensus questions have been developed to frame the debate:

1. In our current system, the Office of the Secretary of State is next in the line of succession for the Office of the Governor. Does this system work well for Arizona or should it be changed?
2. Does the possibility of changing the party of the Governor's office during the term (with a change in Governor) present any problems to the state?
3. If Arizona were to keep its current system, would it be advisable to require the Governor and Secretary of State to run on a same-party ticket?
4. Does Arizona need to clarify its line of succession in the mind of the public by having a lieutenant governor?
5. Should a Lieutenant Governor also serve as Secretary of State?
6. Is it worth an increase in the state budget to have both a Lieutenant Governor and a Secretary of State?
7. If there were a new and separate office of Lieutenant Governor, what would be the best way to elect the office?
 - a. separately on the ballot from the governor in primary and general elections;
 - b. separately from the governor on the primary ballot, but appearing on the same ballot with the winning primary candidate for governor from the same party; or
 - c. chosen by the winning primary candidate for governor to run on the same ticket in the general election?
8. If there were a separate office for Lieutenant Governor, what duties should be assigned?
9. Whether the office of Secretary of State is next in the line of succession or not, should the office be an elected or appointed position?
10. If elected, is it important for the candidates for the Office of Secretary of State, which is charged with overseeing all Arizona elections, to campaign and run in races that are non-partisan (with no political party affiliation noted)?
11. If a separate office of Secretary of State were appointed (outside the line of succession) but by the Legislature or Governor, how would it be possible for the office to provide nonpartisan service?
12. If the Secretary of State were appointed, what nominating and appointing procedures should be adopted?
13. Are there other unusual solutions including a different line of succession that might be more affordable to the state?
14. Are there other unusual solutions including a different line of succession that might be more beneficial to the state?

League of Women Voters of the United States (National)

The League of Women Voters at the national level has been in the news of late on a number of public issues that have been before federal and state lawmakers this year. The following two have been most prominent and will not be going away soon:

Voter Identification Laws – Leagues at all levels have been fighting against legislation that surfaced in numerous state legislatures that would place unreasonable burdens on voters who wish to register and to vote. The League believes that requiring all voters to present state-issued photo i.d. at the polls is such a burden. While most registered voters already have such i.d., studies have shown that there are thousands of people in some states who do not. Many of these are poor people, minorities, and the elderly. In a close election, it does not even take “thousands” of excluded voters to make a difference in the result. According to a recent LWVUS Update, “ the League’s efforts in 2011 resulted in the defeat of twelve voter ID bills across the country(CO, DE, IA, ME, MO, MT, NM, NC, NH, NM, OR and VA). However, eight new suppression bills passed (AL, FL, KS, RI, SC, TN, TX and WI). The fight continues in all these states. The impacts of the new laws are already being felt by long-time voters.”

Clean Air – This past spring, the LWVUS was heavily involved in attempting to defeat legislation that would have weakened the Environmental Protection Agency’s ability to regulate air pollution. These efforts made the nationwide news but the fight is not over yet. Very shortly, the League will be unveiling a new campaign, dubbed the “Clean Air Promise.” It is a part of the continuing effort to change the debate over the Clean Air Act to one focused on protecting public health. The League will be working with environmental and public health organizations to persuade members of Congress, elected officials, community leaders, and the public to sign “The Clean Air Promise.” Here is what it says:

The Clean Air Promise

I promise to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution.

Because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths,

I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality

LWVSVV CALENDAR	2010-2011
Date	Event
June, July, August	Summer Hiatus Committee Work on Redistricting
July 28 th , Thursday, 6:00 p.m.	Public Meeting, AZ Redistricting Commission 1015 Fair St., Prescott Remote access in Cottonwood at 10 South 8 th St.
August 1 st , Monday	Public meeting, AZ Redistricting Commission Flagstaff (time and place tbd)
September 8 th , Thursday 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse All members welcome; Call Judy Miller for directions
September	Consensus meeting on LWVUS Study – Arizona Executive Branch Structure
October	Educational Forum TBD – Possible subject: The Independent Voter in Arizona
October 20 th , Thursday 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse

Board Members 2011-2012

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale
Chairperson, LWVAZ Rep

Judy Miller, Cornville
Secretary

Liz Danbury, Sedona
Treasurer

Donna Pratt, Sedona
Membership

Robyn Prud'homme- Bauer, Clarkdale

Kathy Heidepriem, Sedona
Newsletter and Website

Ruth Kiessel, Cottonwood

Rita Livingston, Sedona

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.