



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

September 8, 2017

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson is set to begin its 76<sup>th</sup> year offering two outstanding programs this month ... **Voting: Challenges for the Pima County Recorder and Voters** (9/16) and **Running and Winning** (9/21). Details about each program follow below.

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### **League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson Voter Education Program Addresses *Voting: Challenges for the Pima County Recorder and Voters***

**Saturday, September 16, 2017**

**Contact:** Freda Johnson | 520-327-7652

The subject of voting is one that most citizens think about only if there is a primary or general election or particularly when one or more propositions require consideration. Recently, the topic has been in the news more frequently for a variety of reasons.

In this first League voter education program of the fall, all those interested in learning more about the topic of voting are invited to attend and hear directly from the Pima County Recorder, F. Ann Rodriguez, an expert on the subject.

She'll address how to increase voter access, face voter fraud, and "fake news". And, we'll learn about her concerns related to the hacking of voter records and the rhetoric around 'rigged elections'. Finally, she'll discuss what's happening at the national level and how it affects Pima County and Arizona.

**The program is Free and Open to the Public.** It will take place at the **Joel D. Valdez Main Library**, 101 N. Stone Avenue, Tucson in the Lower Level 1 Meeting Room, September 16<sup>th</sup>; 9:30 a.m. refreshments and program from 10: 00 a.m. to Noon. Free parking is available in the library's underground garage with an entrance on Alameda.

**MEDIA NOTE:** You are welcome to cover this event for print, broadcast and online media.

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## **League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson Encouraging Young Women to Get Involved In Politics by “Running and Winning”**

**Thursday, September 21, 2017**

**Contact:** Phylis Carnahan | 520-429-7204

For the 15th consecutive year, the **League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson**, in conjunction with the **American Association of University Women, Tucson and Casa Adobes chapters**, and the **Tucson YWCA**, will host a **“Running and Winning”** workshop to educate young women about politics and encourage their involvement.

This year’s event returns to where it started in Tucson 15 years ago – **Sunnyside High School**. It will be held on **Thursday, September 21, beginning at 7:45 a.m., concluding at 2 p.m.** Sunnyside High School is located at 1725 East Bilby Road in Tucson. The event will be held in the school’s library.

The League has invited 15 women who either serve now in an elected position or have in the past. They will interact with a small group of students and together they will actually create all the elements of a U.S. Senate political campaign. They will present that campaign to the group before the end of the day.

According to the **Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University**, while the percentages of women in public office have seen a steady increase over the past 40 years, they still hover generally in the 20-30 percent range.

“Arizona is actually in better shape in this category than other states,” says **Freda Johnson**, president of the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson. “The 2017 numbers show Arizona ranked fourth among all states with the percentage of women in the state legislature at 38.9%. But in Congress, the number falls below 20%. We need to do better.”

**MEDIA NOTE:** You are welcome to cover this event for print, broadcast and online media. Please contact Phylis Carnahan at 520-429-7204 in advance if possible or ask for her when you arrive at the school. The campaign speeches are scheduled to start at 12:45 pm.

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