



## MEDIA ALERT

### League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson Observer Corps *First Report: Transparency in Government, April 2016 – August 2016*

**What:** The first report from the Observer Corps of the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson (LWVGT) is published and available for access and review by the public. The purpose of the Observer Corps is to have League members attend government meetings to learn what their government is doing and to monitor whether those meetings are conducted in an open and transparent way. LWVGT observers attended, watched online and read minutes of selected meetings of seven (7) governing bodies in Pima County between April 2016 and August 2016. Observers gathered information and reviewed that content against a set of questions relating to the transparency of the governing bodies observed.

The Observer Corps' first report asks: "How easy is it for constituents to obtain basic information about the governing bodies under observation and the decisions they are making that affects constituents?" The report's introduction provides an orientation to transparency, its importance to the League of Women Voters, and basic information on the Arizona Open Meeting Law.

**Who:** LWVGT observers were assigned to follow: the Pima County Board of Supervisors, Tucson Mayor and Council, Oro Valley Mayor and Council, Amphitheater School District Governing Board, Tucson Unified School District Governing Board, Holladay Magnet Site Council, and University High School Site Council.

**Why:** LWVGT President, Freda Johnson, offered her perspective on the importance of the Observer Corps and making its reports available to the public. "The League has been a champion of governmental transparency since our founding in 1920. It is one of our core principles and a vital part of our mission. Our reputation in this area reinforces our reputation of fairness, nonpartisanship, and trust. In Tucson this year, we celebrate our League chapter's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Reinstating the Tucson League's Observer Corps in 2016 carries on the tradition of encouraging citizens to understand and participate in our governments", stated Johnson.

**Where:** The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson Observer Corps' first reports are now available and may be accessed online at [www.lwvgt.org](http://www.lwvgt.org). The public is encouraged to view the online report to gain insight about the governmental bodies in which they have a stake.

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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.*