

# The Voter

Save the Date:

[New Member Orientation Night](#)  
Home of Grace Evans  
5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Nov. 17

[75th Anniversary Brunch](#)  
December 3, 2016

[Issues and Eggs Brunch](#)  
Doubletree Hotel  
445 S. Alvernon Way  
7:30 a.m., Friday,  
March 3, 2017

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Volume 70, Number 2

October 2016

## Upcoming Voter Education Program

**Saturday, October 15, 2016**

**Joel D. Valdez Library:**

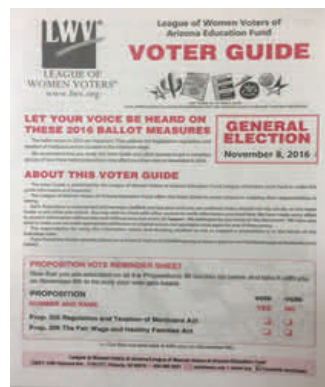
### Our Evolving Democracy: Election Laws, Political Attitudes, Public Opinion and the Voting Rights Act

*Program Summary Provided by Sue De Armond, LWVGT Program Chair*

At the height of the election season, we are fortunate to have an opportunity to hear from the experts about our evolving democracy. On Saturday, October 15, 2016, we have four panelists to address this issue. This Voter Education Presentation will help inform League members as they evaluate the upcoming LWVAZ consensus discussion on Government.

- ◆ Barbara Norrander, professor at the University of Arizona's School of Government and Public Policy, will give us an introduction to public opinion and voting behavior.
- ◆ Her colleague at the School of Government and Public Policy, Samara Klar, will address how individuals identify with groups, roles, and associations which influence their political attitudes and behavior.
- ◆ Christine Filer, a University of Arizona Communications graduate student, will discuss the role political polls play in the outcome of elections.
- ◆ Vivian Harte, a League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson Board member who has had an ongoing interest in voter suppression awareness, will give us an update on recent rulings on voting.

## Voter Guides on Propositions 205 and 206 were delivered in September!



**Congratulations and many thanks to Shirley Sandelands, Anna Dolak, Gini McGirr and all Voter Guide committee members and sponsors. 60,000 Voter Guides were printed for distribution throughout Arizona.**

Tuesday, October 4	9:30 AM	Eastside Unit Meeting. 9:30 AM Social, 10 AM Meeting, Ward 2 Office, 7575 E. Speedway. Program: memories and accomplishment of LWVGT after 75 years. Contact: Phylis Carnahan 885-3271
Friday, October 7- Sunday, October 9	Fri 11am-10pm Sat 11am-10pm Sun 11am-6pm	Tucson Meet Yourself. We will be at Booth 75 at El Presidio Park next to City Hall. Happy 75th Anniversary to LWV of Greater Tucson! Come visit us and Register to Vote.
Monday, October 10		Voter Registration Deadline for Nov. 8th General Election.
Tuesday, October 11	2:00 PM	Northwest Unit Meeting. Judy Bowser's home. Program: Renewable Energy White Paper. Contact. Judy Moll 742-6525
Friday, October 14	Noon	Green Valley Unit Meeting. Private Dining Rm. 3rd floor* of the La Vista building on the La Posada Campus in GV. (*note location change) Program: State Ballot Propositions - Pros and Cons Contact: Sue Girardeau 648-7969
Saturday, October 15	9:30 AM	Our Evolving Democracy: Election Laws, Political Attitudes and Public Opinion (LWVAZ position update). Voter Education Presentation, Free and Open to the Public. Light refreshment from 9:30 am to 10 am, program from 10 am to noon.  Joel D. Valdez Main Library 101 N Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ Meeting Room Lower Level 1 (Free parking in the Library Underground Garage with entrance off Alameda)
Thursday, October 20	11:30 AM	Midtown Unit Meeting. Rosemary and Wendell Niemann's home. Program: Brennan Center report on Dark Money. Contact: Janice Murphy 730-6511
Tuesday, November 1	9:30 AM	Eastside Unit Meeting. 9:30 AM Social, 10am Meeting, Ward 2 Office, 7575 E. Speedway. The topic for discussion is "Is Political Polling Killing Democracy?" Contact: Phylis Carnahan 885-3271
Tuesday, November 8	6 am - 7 pm	VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! - General Election Day
Tuesday, November 8	2:00 PM	Northwest Unit Meeting. Judy Bowser's home. Program: Planning for questions and discussion on Election Laws and Systems. Contact. Judy Moll 742-6525
Friday, November 11	Noon	Green Valley Unit Meeting. Private Dining Rm. 3rd floor* of the La Vista building on the La Posada Campus in GV. (*note location change) Program: Planning for questions and discussion on Election Laws and Systems.

Additional dates may be found [online](#).

## President's Message

### THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

After the September Board of Directors meeting, we continued to meet for another two hours with member Jennifer Lohse. Jennifer had read through our bylaws and gave a close look at the content of our website. Then she challenged us to think about new ways of thinking and acting as a Board. She invited us to tell more about our history, to interview our elders and find new ways of telling our story. She advised that we might want to form a Governance Committee.

One result of her advice and other conversations some of us have been having is that we have changed some of our language to refocus our attention to serve the public. Instead of 'membership general meetings' each month, now we

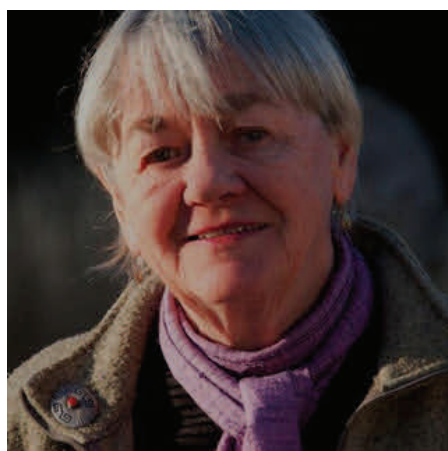
will be calling them Voter Education Programs. She suggests that we reach out to the public at our meetings by doing something as simple as putting out postcards on chairs, inviting people to learn more about the League and to give us their email addresses. She encourages paying for professional development for the incoming President and other leaders.

Jennifer's attention to our mission inspires us to monitor and strengthen our programs and services. What do we do best? What do you tell your friends the League is all about? What does our budget say about our priorities?

If you are interested in what makes the League work and

want to learn more, let me know. You are welcome to attend any of our Board meetings, usually scheduled the first Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at Aviva Children's Services, 153 South Plumer.

What could we be doing better? Tell me what questions you have after you look over our website ([lwvgt.org](http://lwvgt.org)). And weigh in on some proposed changes to our bylaws, changes that you can find on our website. The best way to reach me is via email at [president@lwvgt.org](mailto:president@lwvgt.org). I look forward to hearing from you!



## The League of Women Voters of Arizona November Consensus Discussion

*Article Provided by Sue De Armond, LWVGT Program Chair*

The League of Women Voters of Arizona is in the process of updating its positions on Arizona Election Law and Election Systems. Robin Prud'homme-Bauer of Clarkdale and Alice Stambaugh of Scottsdale are working on preparing questions for discussion by local Leagues. Consensus discussions will probably occur in unit meetings in November.

The form the consensus discussions will take is still being determined, but to the best of our understanding at this point, there will be three parts in the discussions leading to the update:

- 1) member discussion of new issues for consideration
- 2) member reaffirmation and discussion of issues already within our position
- 3) member discussion of a proposed reorganization of the whole government positions area

New issues for consideration will be:

- automatic registration - automatically registering citizens who interact with government agencies

- universal registration - shift from current opt-in registration structure to an opt-out structure
- same day registration - eligible voters register to vote and vote on the same day
- permanent portable registration - allows any voter who is previously registered in the state to stay registered regardless of whether the voter submitted a new voter registration form prior to the election (an innovation which expands protection to all in-state movers)

Issues already within our position that will need reaffirmation and discussion:

- permanent early voting - voter chooses to receive an Early Voting Ballot for every election without needing to request a ballot for each election - Permanent Early

Voter List (PEVL)

- use of Voting Centers - combines multiple precincts allowing voters to choose from any polling place within the county
- all mail-in elections (Vote-By-Mail) - run like PEVL but for all voters
- collection of PEVL ballots by organizations, with reasonable guidelines

RE the proposed organization of the whole government positions area:

If it is decided to reorganize all the LWVAZ's positions on government, in the future consensus would be needed for four topics:

- 1) Arizona election law,
- 2) election systems reform,
- 3) legislative and congressional redistricting,
- and 4) initiative and referendum positions.



## November 17th is LWVGT New Member Orientation Night

*Article Provided by Pat Wiedhopf, LWVGT Membership Co-Chair*

The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson Board of Directors will be holding an orientation event for new members, current members, prospective members and anyone who wants to know more about how the League works. Join us for an enjoyable evening to meet our board and other League members on:

Thursday, November 17, 2016  
from 5:30-7:30pm at the home of

Grace Evans. Address will be provided when you RSVP. Please carpool if you can.

You will learn about the purpose and mission of the League, the basics of how the League works to create positive, lasting change in our community, and how you can get involved.

There will be Q & A op-

portunities. Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP to Pat Wiedhopf at [Membership@lwvgt.org](mailto:Membership@lwvgt.org) as soon as possible and no later than November 10th. Additionally, please email Pat if you are unable to attend this orientation and are interested in another opportunity.

### Here, there, everywhere:

### The League's Voter Service work continues!



Thank you to our devoted Voter Service volunteers who registered 73 voters and distributed 82 registration forms for people to take home during the month of September.



**Debates: A Continuing Commitment of the League’s and an Essential Part of Our Democracy**

*Event Summary and Photos Provided by Libby Whitthorne, LWVGT Voter Editor*



The League and the Metropolitan Education Commission presented a Candidate Forum for the Office of the Pima County School Superintendent on September 21, 2016. Margaret Burkholder (R) and Dustin Williams (D) answered the

audience’s questions and also had the opportunity to ask one another questions. Daisy Jenkins moderated and current Pima County Superintendent of Schools Linda Arzoumanian and Sue De Armond served as question screeners. Many thanks to

forum organizers Pat Wiedhopf and Jen Darland. Forum partners included: Arizona School Administrators, Arizona School Board Association, Tucson Metro Chamber, Southern Arizona Leadership Council and Tucson Education Association.

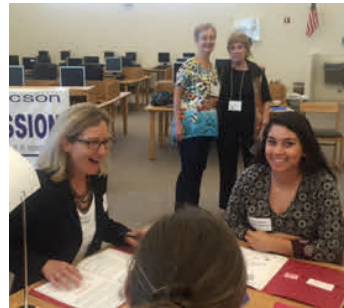
**Running and Winning: Inspiring the Next Generation of Women Leaders**

*Event Summary and Photos Provided by Libby Whitthorne, LWVGT Voter Editor*

On September 1, young women in the Sahuarita School District had an opportunity to network with women candidates and elected officials at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Running and Winning Workshop. Speeches and discussions included valuable information on obstacles women encounter as they seek leadership positions and real world solutions for overcoming them. Many thanks to Running and Winning Co-Chairs Mary Gresham and Roxie Lopez, Event Moderator Judge Lisa Ilka Abrams, Sahuarita Governing Board and administrative leadership, and the sponsors, committee members, volunteers, candidates and elected officials who made this day possible.



**Elaine Hall, Sahuarita Governing Board**



**Kirsten Engel, Candidate for State House LD 10**



**Martha McSally, US Congresswoman**

*Event Sponsors: League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson, the American Association of University Women Casa Adobes and Tucson Chapters, the Pima County/Tucson Women’s Commission, the University of Arizona School of Government and Public Policy, the YWCA of Southern Arizona, and the Center for Community Dialogue.*

## **Got Transparency? Got Equity? Excerpts from LWVGT Observer Corps First Report**

Provided by Observer Corps Chair Elizabeth (Libby) Whitthorne

The full report will be available for viewing on the LWVGT website: [Observer Corps Reports](#) by the end of the day on October 1.

### **Pima County Board of Supervisors**

#### **Does the website have an archive of minutes, or of video or audio recordings covering at least one full year?**

*There is no archive of minutes that lists all minutes available through the website. There is a search page where you can choose search parameters to search for minutes that have been uploaded. The website video archive covers only the past 90 days. Once 90 days has passed, video recordings of meetings are transferred to DVDs which can be borrowed from the Joel D. Valdez library or from the Board of Supervisors' Clerk's office. DVDs can also be purchased for \$5 each through the clerk's office. Once a year from the date of the meeting has passed, recordings of the meeting are destroyed.*

### **Tucson Unified School District Governing Board**

#### **Does the website have an archive of minutes, or of video or audio recordings covering at least one full year?**

*A video archive of past meetings is usually available, though one important meeting, the January 5, 2016 meeting where the current Board President and Clerk were re-appointed to their leadership roles, was not listed at all in the video archive. It could only be found in the audio archive. In the [Arizona Daily Star](#) article referencing this meeting, it was noted, "In the 60-plus year history of the board operating with five members, there ha[ve] never been two people holding the same seats for more than two years in a row."*

*[http://tucson.com/news/local/education/grijalva-foster-are-selected-to-lead-tusd-board/article\\_039d789e-06ee-5dda-abbc-b4bbee5f2776.html](http://tucson.com/news/local/education/grijalva-foster-are-selected-to-lead-tusd-board/article_039d789e-06ee-5dda-abbc-b4bbee5f2776.html)*

*When the League inquired about the absent video recording, a representative of the district said the meeting had been "too short" to merit video recording.*

### **Informal Survey of Public District Site Councils**

[Arizona Revised Statute 15-351. School councils; duties; membership](#)

A. The purpose of this section is to ensure that individuals who are affected by the outcome of a decision at the school site share in the decision making process.

B. Each school shall establish a school council.

*None of the four districts surveyed (TUSD, Amphitheater, Tanque Verde, and Catalina Foothills) had uniform, reliable web postings of meeting schedules, agendas and minutes for site councils at every school site in the district. It is unclear how many school sites in each district do not currently have functioning site councils. The Corps ran into a few instances of it as the informal survey was conducted, but did not proceed to conduct an exhaustive study of the subject. What we can say with some certainty is that not every family utilizing a public district school has an equal degree of representation on – or easily accessible communication from – a public governing body that “ensures that individuals who are affected by the outcome of a decision at the school site share in the decision making process,” the supposed purpose of the establishment of Site Councils according to ARS 15-351.*

**Board**

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Pat Wiedhopf

2<sup>nd</sup> VP (Program)

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Observer Corps Chair

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Voter Editor

Libby Whitthorne

Member at Large

Linda Arzoumanian

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Pat Wiedhopf

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**Observed in City of Tucson Advocacy:  
Forum on Code Enforcement  
Co-Sponsored by City of Tucson  
Ward 6 and Tucson Residents for  
Responsive Government (TRRG)**

*Photos and Article Provided by Libby Whitthorne,  
LWVGT Observer of Tucson Mayor & Council*

City of Tucson Code Enforcement has been transferred from Planning and Development Services to Environmental Services. Ward 6 and Tucson Residents for Responsive Government (TRRG), the advocacy group founded by League of Women Voters member Ruth

Beeker, co-hosted a forum in which Eloy Garza, head of Code Enforcement for the City of Mesa, and two Mesa Code Compliance officers, Dan Jensen and Adelita Smith, outlined recent changes made to the City of Mesa Code Compliance department. These changes have

significantly improved the department's efficiency and success in achieving citizen compliance. Representatives from the City of Tucson Code Enforcement department attended the presentation and participated in the discussion.



**Ward 6 Councilman Steve Kozachik Mesa Code Compliance Officers Adelita Smith and Dan Jensen**



**Eloy Garza, Head of City of Mesa Code Compliance**

