Pros & Cons of the Ballot Initiatives

- Prop 205: Arizona Marijuana Legalization Initiative
- Prop 206: The Minimum Wage and Paid Time Off Initiative

Meet the Legislative District #1 Candidates

- Noel Campbell
- Haryaksha Gregor Knauer
- Peter Pierson
- David Stringer

Saturday, October 1, 2016
2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Las Fuentes Resort Village
1035 Scott Drive, Prescott

The League of Women Voters® of Central Yavapai County encourages and educates citizens to be active and informed participants in our community, our state, our nation and our world. For more information, check out our website: LWVYC.org

Public Welcome! Members please come prepared with questions for the candidates! (to be written on cards) LWVAZ non-partisan Voter Guides will be available.
Dear Members,

Our October 1st meeting is right around the corner! We will be meeting at 2:00 p.m. that day for a discussion on the pros and cons of the ballot initiatives and a meet and greet forum with the Legislative District #1 candidates for the state House of Representatives. Members Kelly Boryca and Trena Linders, and I have been working on our presentation of the initiatives, and three of four of the candidates have agreed to attend. We expect a good crowd, so please plan to come early – 1:30 to help us be ready!

Last week the Mock Elections for teens were held at Prescott area high schools. Many thanks to members Mary Meade, Trena Linders, Cory Shaw, Sandra Goodwin and Joyce Haas who volunteered their time for these events! The results will be forthcoming at a BBQ at the Launch Pad on Aubrey St., as well as in The Daily Courier.

This Saturday, the 24th, several of us were out at the Farmer’s Market for voter registration and information. Stop by to say hello, if you’re out and about.

Next Tuesday is National Voter Registration Day! The League will have a table at Yavapai College – we need to promote the vote with young people and encourage them to use their right to vote!

We have tons of Voter Guides from the State League to get out to the public. We’d like to get them into all libraries in Central Yavapai – please let me know if you can help get them to the more rural areas.

We are so excited to have some new members on board – and invite them to a new member orientation on October 8th at my home. Cory and I will tag team the presentation. Any other interested members are welcome to join us – it’s always great to have a good mix!

Norman Perry, Sandra Goodwin and their committee are working on our November 5th program on Merit Selection of Judges. In counties with a population exceeding 250,000, judges are selected through the merit selection method – and Yavapai County is getting close! This is an important, educational meeting for League members – and the League was influential in the 1974 constitutional initiative.

Our next board meeting is Tuesday, September 27th at 5:15 p.m., if any members would be interested in attending. Just let me know.

Yours in League,

Presidential Debate trivia - (of course you know this!) Before 1988 the non-partisan League of Women Voters was the sponsor of presidential debates. However, before that year’s debates between Republican George H.W. Bush and Democrat Michael Dukakis, the League pulled out. The candidates, the League claimed, had entered into a deal deciding how the debates would unfold, including which candidates would be allowed and who would get to ask questions. Candidate or political party control went against League principles of non-partisanship.

Deadline for dues: October 1. Pay your dues at the meeting!
Noel Campbell

Age: 74
Resident in District 1: 19 years.

My entire career has been spent in service to my country: first as a Naval Commander, then as a U.S. Customs agent, and finally as a helicopter and tanker pilot fighting fires for the U.S. Forest Service. In my service I learned the values of teamwork and cooperation and I will take these qualities to the capitol with me. I am humbled by your faith in me to represent LD-1 this legislative session. I pledge to be the true citizen-legislator our forefathers envisioned.

I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona in a family of law enforcement officers. I graduated from St. Mary's High School and later attended Arizona State University where I earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business in 1965. I was fortunate to spend my third year of college at the National University of Mexico where I fell in love with Mexican culture and learned to speak and write fluent Spanish.

After my tour in Vietnam, I remained on active duty until 1971 and retired from the Naval Reserves as a Commander (05). I then worked as an agent for the U.S. Customs Service/Department of the Treasury until 1998 mandatory retirement.

Top three issues: I’ve been working on the sober living facilities for two years resulting in new legislation through House Bill 2107. The second issue is the condition of our county highways and roads, especially Highway 69 where it bottlenecks in Prescott and Prescott Valley, and I-17 where accidents can delay traffic and cause problems for transportation and trucking industries. I’ve been on the Transportation Committee for two years; there’s a good chance I’ll become chairman this year. In the past, the legislature has swept Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) money. I want to present a bill that will prohibit the legislature from taking money out of HURF for any other purpose that what it’s designed for. Third would be the water issue, but we have some time to deal with that. I believe we have time to wait for the studies that are being done by SRP, Prescott and Prescott Valley.

Haryaksha Gregor Knauer

Registered Green Party since 1998.
Age: 62
Resident in District 1: – 1 year, plus two prior residencies totaling 5 years at Arcosanti.

Artist and wage-earner. Formerly worked at Cosanti Originals, molding,

Have you moved, changed your name, or changed your political party? Then you should RE-REGISTER TO VOTE. DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 10.
casting and assembling bronze windbells, and doubling as groundskeeper. In 1999 began fighting forest fires as a tanker pilot, air attack pilot, and helicopter pilot for the U.S. Forest Service. In this position I have learned a great deal about our natural resources and how to protect them, including forest stewardship which can both prevent wildfires and create jobs.

Multiday runner, member of Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team. Arizona Coordinator of biennial Peace Run. Former bilingual board worker, Maricopa County elections.

Lifelong peace-lover, advocate of frugality, fairness, oneness, participatory democracy and stewardship.

Member of War Resisters League (striving to eliminate the causes of war); Sierra Club; ACLU; Green Party Lavender Caucus; Oneness-Rainbow-Tribe (Sri Chinmoy Centres throughout Africa); Death Penalty Alternatives for Arizona. Supporter of IWW (Industrial Workers of the World). Occasionally I help replenish the water stations with Humane Borders/Fronteras Compasivas down in southern AZ.

Top 3 issues: Rebuild public education, which the legislature has been dismantling for decades. “Choice” is a gentle euphemism for siphoning state funds from district schools to benefit the privileged. Water must be conserved and allocated wisely through efficiencies, reclamation, recharge, and planning. State, county and city-level entities are responsible. (There’s a residential plunder project currently wending through Prescott council labeled “workforce” housing. It’ll plow ahead near the expanding airport, where no residences should be allowed.) Job growth is critical, with adequate compensation. Nobody wants to be exploited and discarded. Because workers accept demeaning and untenable work doesn’t mean conditions are desirable.

Website: www.newmenu.org/hgk

Peter Pierson

Age: 56

Resident in District 1: 3 years.

Peter came to the Prescott area as a Graduate Fellow with Prescott College. He brings a diverse background ranging from freelance writing and communications, nonprofit development and communications, community networking, to remote Alaska emergency medical and firefighting experience.

Peter is currently Development and Communications Manager with Prescott Creeks, a regional watershed restoration and preservation nonprofit organization. He also serves as Chairperson with Prescott Good Governance, a citizen engagement and voter education political committee. Finally, after over 20 years of fire and paramedic experience, Peter continues to work, professional reserve status, two to three 24-hour shifts as a firefighter/paramedic with the Williamson Valley-Bagdad Fire District.

Peter holds a BA, with Honors, in Political Science and Economics from the University of Montana. He is currently completing his MA with Prescott College, in Environmental Studies, focus in Communications.

Peter had been a registered Independent voter since he has lived in Arizona...and is running on the Democratic ticket in this year's election. Peter worked with the successful 2015 Prescott Unified School District Bond-Override Campaign.

Top 3 issues: Our district is seeing a flood of outside political spending (dark money) pouring in to support other campaigns. We cannot effectively address the issues our communities face until we create a more open, transparent, and inclusive dialogue and policy process and reduce the influence of dark money. With the privatization, anti-public institution agenda of current state leadership, we are paying the price for the last decade of drastic cuts to public schools and infrastructure, cornerstones of thriving communities and thriving economies. We need to look beyond political agendas and reinvest in education, infrastructure, to invest in our future.

Website: Piersonforazhouse.org
David Stringer

Age: 69

Resident in district: 11 years.

David Stringer was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. He has owned and operated the Comfort Inn on White Spar Road in Prescott since 2004 and resides in the Historic District of downtown Prescott. David is a graduate of George Washington University and the University of Baltimore School of Law, and prior to 2004 spent much of his career specializing in real estate law, tax law, and trial litigation. He is a member of the Arizona Bar and an active member of the Yavapai County Bar Association. He is also currently enrolled in a graduate program at Arizona State University leading to a Master’s Degree in teaching English as a Second Language.

Community activities include: former President of the Prescott Area Lodging Association, Mayor’s Tourism Advisory Committee, Board, Sharlot Hall Museum and Prescott Historical Society. For the past two years he has served as a Commissioner on the Prescott Planning and Zoning Commission.

David has been active as a Republican Precinct Committeeeman and State Committeeeman for the Yavapai County Republican Party, and currently serves as co-chairman of the Finance Committee for the Yavapai County Republican Party. He is a member of the Goldwater Institute, the Federalist Society, and supports Hillsdale College as a staunch advocate for individual liberties, lower taxes and less government.

Stringer helped spearhead the campaign that lead to the defeat of the 2013 PUSD school bond and budget override, before endorsing the reconfigured PUSD budget. He is a founder of the Yavapai County Tax Committee and is widely credited with organizing the campaign that led to the defeat of the Jail District Sales Tax in 2014.

Top 3 issues: Education. I am working on a master’s degree in education at ASU, and I understand the challenges facing Arizona’s schools. I want to raise the academic bar for both students and teachers. I support higher funding for education with the caveat that it must be tied to tangible and measurable results. Jobs: The two key drivers of economic growth in Yavapai County are tourism and retirement living. I favor diversifying our economy, but we must play to our strengths and not lose sight of the critical importance of maintaining our quality of life. Infrastructure: Highway 69 and I-17 are vital commercial corridors that must be improved.

Website: Votestringer.com

Prop 205: Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act

Prop. 205 would legalize marijuana for recreational use and establish licensed outlets where sales of the drug would be taxed, similar to the system established in Colorado. Marijuana remains illegal under federal law, but the Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act would allow adults 21 and older in Arizona to possess up to 1 ounce of marijuana and grow up to six plants in their homes.
SUMMARY

The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act:
(1) allows adults twenty-one years of age and older to possess and to privately consume and grow limited amounts of marijuana,
(2) creates a system in which licensed businesses can produce and sell marijuana and establishes a 15% tax on retail marijuana sales, the revenue from which will be allocated to public health and education;
(3) establishes a Department of Marijuana Licenses and Control (DMLC) to regulate the cultivation, manufacturing, testing, transportation, and sale of marijuana; and
(4) provides local governments with the authority to regulate and limit marijuana businesses.

(https://apps.azsos.gov/election/2016/BallotMeasure/BallotMeasureList.htm)

Although some Marijuana Fund revenues would be collected in FY 2018, this analysis assumes that Marijuana Fund distributions in FY 2018 would be minimal compared to distributions in FY 2019 and FY 2020.

BACKGROUND AND EXPLANATION

This Initiative would legalize and regulate the sale of marijuana and marijuana products. DMLC would be funded by a newly created Marijuana Fund. The Marijuana Fund would receive revenue from a 15% tax on retail marijuana sales, marijuana licensing fees, and fines and civil penalties related to regulation of marijuana usage and marijuana businesses.

Current Medical Marijuana Dispensary License holders will get the first opportunity to obtain licenses to sell commercial marijuana.

Of the licensing fees, 50% would be disbursed to counties, cities, or towns with marijuana business establishments. Besides funding the costs of DMLC’s operations, the Marijuana Fund revenues would fund the Arizona Department of Revenue’s (DOR) costs of administering and collecting the 15% tax.

After the required distributions are made to DMLC, DOR, and localities, any remaining Marijuana Fund revenues in the fund would be disbursed to the following 3 sources on a quarterly basis:

• 40% would go to school districts and charter schools for education-related expenses, including teacher compensation, construction, and maintenance.
• 40% would go school districts and charter schools for full-day kindergarten.
• 20% would go to the Department of Health Services (DHS) for distribution to the Arizona Poison Control System to support public education campaigns about the dangers of marijuana, alcohol, and other substances.

In 2010, voters approved an initiative to permit certain qualifying patients to use medical marijuana to treat debilitating medical conditions. The initiative described here would transfer responsibility for the regulation of medical marijuana from DHS to DMLC on September 1, 2017. This proposed initiative leaves in place existing statutory and regulatory requirements for nonprofit medical marijuana dispensaries and medical marijuana patients. Revenues from the Medical Marijuana Fund would not be included in the distribution formula described above. The proposed initiative, however, does require DHS to make a one-time transfer of monies from the Medical Marijuana Fund to DMLC within 60 days of the effective date of the initiative. Any Medical Marijuana Fund monies used by DMLC would have to be repaid to the Medical Marijuana Fund.

FISCAL IMPACT

Overall revenue and distribution:
Taxes and licensing fees associated with this initiative are projected to generate $53.4 million in FY 2019 and $82.0 million in FY 2020.

Licensing fees: Arizona is projected to have 583 marijuana related businesses in FY 2019 and 765 such businesses in FY 2020. Based on these projections, Arizona would generate $13.6 million in licensing revenue in FY 2019 and $7.6 million in FY 2020.

Revenues from taxes: Marijuana sales would also be subject to the state’s regular and local option Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT). Based on the total sales estimates of the JLBC Staff, marijuana sales are estimated to generate $22.4 million in TPT revenues in FY 2019 and $41.8 million in FY 2020 for the state and local governments.

SUPPORTERS CLAIM:

1. This initiative will raise between $40 and $113 million in new taxes, the bulk of which will go to public education. This will help the economy and education.
2. It makes sense to give current Medical Marijuana Dispensary License Holders the first opportunity to obtain licenses to sell commercial marijuana since they are already set up to grow and sell marijuana.
3. Marijuana is safer than alcohol. The Centers for Disease Control attributes more than 30,000 U.S. deaths per year to alcohol use and zero to marijuana consumption.
4. Regulation will keep marijuana out of the hands of teens since identification will be required for purchase. Foreign cartels will be eliminated and lawful Arizona businesses will take over the marijuana trade in this state.
5. Marijuana possession arrests dropped by 98% in Washington and by 95% in Colorado after marijuana was legalized.
6. “Nationwide, more than 1 in 20 arrests were for simple marijuana possession. Twenty years ago, near the dawn of the drug war, fewer than 2 percent of arrests were for pot possession. But that rate rose steadily throughout the 1990s and 2000s, even as those years saw a shift toward less-restrictive marijuana laws at the state level.
7. Legalizing marijuana would:
   • reduce harm (particularly to youth and persons of color who are disproportionately harmed by violence and corruption in the illegal drug trade),
   • create jobs (marijuana is one of the largest cash crops),
   • save money (on law enforcement and in court costs), and
   • promote consumer safety (by standardizing the marijuana product)
OPPONENTS SAY:
1. This initiative does not provide a standard by which to measure marijuana impairment; nor does Arizona state law. Since marijuana stays in the system for an extended period, it is difficult to determine when the user last used the substance.
2. Giving current Medical Marijuana Dispensary License Holders the first opportunity to obtain licenses gives them an unfair advantage over other entrepreneurs.
3. “In Colorado, marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 92% shortly after marijuana was commercialized there - a rate 12 times higher than the increase in all traffic deaths.” In Washington State marijuana fatalities have doubled since legalization.
4. It could become more difficult to find qualified workers for dangerous or risky jobs, leading to more workplace injuries, higher worker compensation costs and reduced productivity. All of this could make AZ less appealing to prospective employers.
5. In AZ access by teens to marijuana has increased since medical marijuana was approved. In the words of three local prosecutors: “One in six Arizona high school 12th graders now obtains their illicit marijuana from a cardholder, a jump of 18.8% from the last survey in 2012
6. “The marijuana sold today is far more powerful than the marijuana used 30 years ago. Today’s marijuana is estimated to be 244% higher in potency than marijuana seized in the 1980s
7. “Marijuana smokers face faster deterioration of lungs – 20 years ahead of tobacco smokers.”

PROPOSITION 206
THE FAIR WAGES AND HEALTHY FAMILIES ACT

SUMMARY
• Increase the minimum wage to $10.00 in 2017 from $8.05 today and then gradually to $12.00 by 2020.
• Provide 40 hours of annual earned paid sick time for employees of large employers (15 employees or greater) and 24 hours to those of small employers. The accrual rate is one hour earned for every 30 hours worked.

BACKGROUND AND EXPLANATION
Arizona’s minimum wage is set by law. The law requires the minimum wage to rise annually in the same amount as the rise in the consumer price index (CPI). Given the latest CPI forecast the minimum wage would grow to $8.80 by 2020. The federal minimum wage is currently $7.25. The debate over the minimum wage now takes place in an economic context of growing inequality of incomes in the US. and the question of whether the minimum wage should provide an adequate living wage. Both issues are complex with no easy answer.

FISCAL IMPACT
There is an increase in costs for employers due to the increase of the minimum wage and in lost time for increased sick leave. It is not possible to accurately calculate this total cost due to the many variables. With added dollars wage earners would likely consume more and this would increase state/local sales tax revenues. The amount is difficult to determine. Businesses may pass through the higher cost of wages to consumers thus it would mean higher prices for their products and may affect profits. Employers may also reduce the number of workers or the number of hours worked. A higher minimum wage might reduce the need for public assistance programs and thus reduce state and county expenditures.
You may wish to visit this site to read the Joint Budget Office’s Fiscal Analysis:
http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/16novprop206fn.pdf (click here)
SUPPORTERS SAY:
1. Growing inequality in the distribution of income in this country is recognized by everyone. It is past time we started to adjust the minimum wage upward to a decent level.
2. Arguments that increasing the minimum wage would significantly reduce employment and hurt business by raising costs have been shown time and again to be wrong. In fact, it would improve the economy by boosting spending.
3. The current law calls for increases in the minimum wage to be based on the CPI or inflation increases which is totally inadequate. To begin with, the starting minimum wage was relatively low. Additionally, the CPI does not reflect the economic reality of how prices have increased.
To view more arguments in favor of this initiative:
http://apps.azsos.gov/election/2016/BallotMeasure/BallotMeasureList.htm

OPPONENTS SAY:
1. The proposition would have a negative effect on the economy by burdening business with costs it cannot absorb. This especially affects small businesses.
2. Increasing the minimum wage this much will hurt low income workers because it will cause cut-backs in employment by businesses to compensate for increased costs. This will result in more unemployed.
3. In Arizona we already have a good solution to wages at the lower end. The current law allows increases in the minimum wage to match increases to the cost of living increases. We also have earned tax credits and other aids for lower wage earners.
To view more arguments in opposition to this initiative:
http://apps.azsos.gov/election/2016/
BallotMeasure/BallotMeasureList.htm (click here)
In the past, we have held socials events at local restaurants, and the Summer Social at Ellie Laumark’s home was a great success. If you’re willing to host a Member Social at your home, attending members will bring an appetizer or a bottle of wine to make the event festive.

Suggested dates: 1) late October or early November. 2) late January or early February. 3) mid-April.

If you’re interested in hosting a Member Social, please contact Cory Shaw – cmshaw0430@aol.com or (928) 848-8867.

Welcome to our new members:
Hilary Cannizzaro
Trena Linders
Rhea Batterman
Mindy Schlimgen
Angela Velazquez

The Launch Pad holds Mock Vote
We were excited to partner with the Launch Pad to assist with holding Mock Vote events for the following high schools: North Point Expeditionary Learning Center, Tri City Prep, and Prescott High School. Our thanks to volunteers Joyce Hass, Trena Linders, Mary Mead, Cory Shaw, Sandra Goodwin, Barbara Jacobsen and Terri Farneti.

Launch Pad executive Courtney Osterfelt prepared a mock ballot and staged voting booths to make the experience as authentic as possible.

**Results of the Mock Votes:**

**President**
- Democrat: Hillary Clinton 134
- Republican: Donald Trump 330
- Libertarian: Gary Johnson 112
- Green Party: Jill Stein 101

**U.S. Senate**
- Democrat: Ann Kirkpatrick 205
- Republican: John McCain 426

**U.S. Representative**
- Democrat: Mikel Weisser 208
- Republican: Paul Gosar 399

**State Representative**
- Republican: David Stringer 229
- Democrat: Pete Pierson 166
- Republican: Noel Campbell 212

Thank You to Launch Pad Board members Courtney Osterfelt, Anna Nugent, Cate Wilson and Terri Farneti. A special Thank You to the student members Miranda Todd and Gelen Dennis for their hard work and dedication to making democracy work.

The **Launch Pad** started as an idea that developed as a response to a series of community meetings regarding the needs of teens in the Quad City Area. With youth participation and voice, representatives from youth organizations and local schools, a strategic planning team was formed and The Launch Pad opened its doors for services in November of 2013.

**Launch Pad Mission**

“The mission of The Launch Pad is to incite teen confidence and empowerment through innovative community education and engagement.” The Launch Pad facilitates this by providing teens in Yavapai County with educational and social opportunities that encourage learning, active community involvement and the development of skills to become successful, empowered, contributing members of society.
As we start another year of the League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County (LWVCYC), it seems like a good time to highlight our President, Terri Farneti. Her leadership over the past 3 years has added to our community and to our League.

Terri is an 18 year resident of Prescott. She formerly owned a pastry business in downtown. Before coming to Prescott, she had a 25-year career in hotel and restaurant management. Currently she is a Public Health Coordinator with Yavapai County Community Health Services. She is very active in the community, serving on the boards of The Launch Pad, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Prescott Area Tennis Association. Her passions are tennis, reading and being a “Big” with BB/BS.

When asked “Why did you join the League?” Terri answered, “I was impressed with their organization at candidate forums and their professionalism in meetings.” She is passionate about getting youth engaged and civically active. What she likes most about the League is providing people with a “safe haven” to learn about the issues, so they may make up their own minds about them. She also enjoys registering and encouraging voters.

Terri, Maurice and Max the cat, live in Prescott. When Terri isn’t busy with her many community activities, she enjoys hiking and is learning to play the banjo.
LWV MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION
2016-2017
Membership in the LWV is open to any person 18 and over who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the LWVUS. Dues for 2015-16 cover payment for local ($16.00), state ($13), and national ($31.00) memberships.

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City/Zip: __________________________________________
Phone: ____________________ Fax:_____________________
Email: ____________________________________________

Note type of membership, and make check to “LWVCYC”:
_______ $60/Yr Individual Membership
_______ $90/Yr Household Membership

Plus suggested donation:
$________ Contribution to League (not tax deductible)

$________ *Contribution to Education Fund (tax deductible)

*Donations to the LWVAZ Education Fund must be made by separate check, to preserve tax deductibility. This supports our Webpage and Voter Service activities. Thank you!

Both new and renewal members, please include this form with your check.
New: __________ Renewal: __________

OR

Be a “Friend” of LWVCYC (non-voting):
_______ $50/Yr Individual or _______ $75/Yr Household
(open to businesses and individuals)

Please mail this form and all checks to:
LWVCYC
PO Box 11538 Prescott, AZ 86304-1538

IMPORTANT WEBSITE REFERENCES
LWVUS Website www.lwv.org
LWVAZ Website www.lwvaz.org
LWVCYC Website LWVCYC.org

We recommend that you check these out monthly, or more often. Lots of good information! Bookmark them to save on typing, or go to lwvaz.org, where there are links to click on. Or Google LWVCYC!

Our website includes current and past VOTERS, and other great material. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Reminder: Members are always welcome to attend Board meetings.
To request placement of an item on the Board agenda, and/or to receive the Board agenda packet, please contact the LWVCYC President one week in advance.
How about a road trip in early January?

Plan to join members of other community organizations in seeking solutions to one of our nation’s great problems.

This summit will take the place of our regular January meeting.