Public Welcome!

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: LWVCYCY.org

In 1992, Arizona voters approved Proposition 109, a constitutional amendment changing the method of appointing judges with populations of at least 250,000.

As Yavapai County nears that population level, the League and other organizations are working to inform our County officials and educate about the implementation of this constitutionally mandated judicial performance evaluation program.
Hello Leaguers! Just had a fabulous weekend at the North Rim – so I thought I’d share a photo…

I must give kudos to so many members! The October meeting went so well – Ellie’s planning, the professional greeting at the door with Nancy, the terrific photos by Cory, the dedication of new and newer members Kelly Boryca and Trena Linders in covering the propositions - and the great questions from members and guests to the candidates. Many thanks to those of you who took Voter Guides to give out to the community – and particularly Linda Greenberg who made a day trip to Congress, Yarnell, Skull Valley AND Bagdad to deliver them to those libraries. We still have more…if anyone knows of someplace we can get them into citizen’s hands! To Mary Meade for hanging out while we risked our lives at the Farmer’s Market for the last voter registration before the deadline in the torrential rain, thunder and lightning! To our newest members Rhea Batterman, Mindy Schlimgen and Angela Velasquez for attending the new member orientation – and to Susan Fleming, our Nominating Chair for dropping in to meet them. It’s very exciting to meet new people and get them involved. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute presentation on the pros and cons went so well – and thank you to Norman Perry for pitch-hitting to speak on Judicial Merit Selection…a great plug for our November 5th meeting.

Norman and Sandra Goodwin have put together a terrific panel for that meeting – and we hope many of you will attend, bring a friend and learn about how Yavapai County will be impacted when this method of evaluation and retention of judges versus electing them becomes a reality.

Please mark your calendar for the December 3rd Holiday Luncheon. It will be held at the Talking Rock Ranch. Linda Greenberg, Cory Shaw and Susan Fleming are planning a lovely lunch for us there. Anyone wanting to rideshare to get there – we can arrange that. I can take 3 people. We will also have a discussion on the Update and Review of the LWVAZ Elections Laws and Election Systems Reform positions.

For our January 7th meeting, we’re hoping to have a good contingent from LWVCYC to attend the Voter Rights Summit in Glendale. The board has decided that we can ride share to do this. Please let us know if you have this on your calendar and wish to go. It begins at 9:00 a.m., so we will have to leave early. As soon as we have more information from the state League, we’ll pass it on.

Hope to see you all at the November 5th meeting!

A Note from the President
The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County will offer a presentation on the Merit Selection and Retention of Arizona Judges on Saturday, November 5, 2016.

In 1974, Proposition 108 established merit selection for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Superior Court in Arizona counties with 150,000 or more people. The League of Women Voters, the Arizona Jaycees, the Arizona Judges' Association, and the State Bar of Arizona were instrumental in getting the initiative on the ballot. In 1992, Proposition 109 called for the adoption of a process for evaluating judicial performance and raised the population prerequisite. As Yavapai County nears the 250,000 population requirement, the League and other organizations are beginning the education process to prepare for this system, just as Maricopa, Pima and most recently Pinal County have had for years.

The panel will address the following questions:
- What is Arizona's Judicial Merit selection system?
- How does the merit selection system work?
- What happens when judges get poor performance reviews?
- How and when will the Judicial Merit System be introduced in Yavapai County?

Sandra Goodwin, Norman Perry, Ralph Hess and Raymond Lee will be the panel of speakers.

Sandra Goodwin joined the San Mateo County California League in 1972 and after moving to Arizona, joined CYC in 2002. Her first experience with the criminal justice system was participating in a League study of San Mateo County’s proposed new jail plan. As a result of this involvement she was appointed to the California Criminal Justice Planning Board and served on the Juvenile Delinquency and Prevention Board reviewing Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Act projects.

Originally from Missouri, a Judicial Merit Selection System state, she vocally supported this system and in 2010 was elected LWVAZ’s Director of Impartial Courts. She subsequently wrote and produced a training manual on the AZ Merit Selection System for civics teachers and League speakers.

Norman Perry has been a member of Judicial Review teams since 2008 and is a current member of the Arizona Commission on Judicial Performance Review. A native of Sussex England, Perry worked in financial administration on major overseas construction projects. He married Vivian, from Mayer, AZ in 1972 and retired here in 2005, where they became LWVCYC members.

Ralph Hess is a 25-year resident of Prescott and retired Yavapai County Superior Court judge, who served in private practice and with the City of Prescott before being selected. He retired in 2011.

Americans started talking about removing corruption and political favoritism from the selection of judges more than one hundred years ago.

A plan to recruit, screen and appoint judges was adopted by Missouri in 1940, and many American states have adopted a system called the “Merit Plan” since that time.

Merit selection is simple. Partisan election of judges, often involving payoffs, incompetence and virtual lifetime jobs, was done away with and a nonpartisan commission of people who worked in the courts every day, ordinary citizens and a judge, serving as chair, collected thorough applications, references, and independent evaluations of character and competence.

Candidates faced interviews by the commission and names of a slate of the best were forwarded to the governor, who made appointments for a brief term.

After a few years of service, the judges were voted on by the electorate in a simple up-or-down fashion: “Should Judge Smith be retained in office?” If successful, the jurist would serve another term and face retention at its end.

The commissions are bi-partisan. The lawyer members are elected by men and women in practice in the district where the judge will serve and the requirement is that no lawyer panel may contain a greater number of members from one political party. Likewise, the lay persons, who are appointed by the governor, must be balanced between the parties.

A feature of many state merit systems is an evaluation by the attorneys in active practice who rate the judges based on such factors as competence, efficiency and temperament. The results are widely circulated prior to a retention vote for public scrutiny.

Under nonpartisan merit selection, a person seeking a judgeship does not have to grovel after a party endorsement, raise a huge amount of cash to fight opponents, make phony promises to sway voters or worry about courting favor with politicians, litigants or anonymous donors.

Judges are free to manage and decide cases based on the law without fear of visits from ham-handed party bosses or potential contributors with fists full of cash.

Most states have developed systems to evaluate complaints of improper conduct so that wayward judges can be disciplined with a minimum of interference with the peoples’ justice. In well over half a century, more than two-thirds of American jurisdictions have adopted and refined the merit system for some or all of their judges.

Despite some glitches, the merit plan is still superior to boss-controlled party selection of judges. It is clearly better for America to have independent jurists deciding cases fairly without being consumed by the next political speech, the next fund-raiser or the next election.

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Richard Shugrue, Ph.D., J.D., Professor Emeritus of Law, Creighton University
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.

Licensing fees will be applied to cultivation, processing, testing, storage, manufacture or sale of marijuana and marijuana products, with reduced amounts for renewal of such licenses. Licensed businesses can produce and sell marijuana and must charge a 15% tax on retail marijuana sales.

A newly created Marijuana Fund would receive revenue from the 15% tax on retail marijuana sales, marijuana licensing fees, and fines (limited to $300) related to regulation of marijuana usage and marijuana businesses. 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

Schools stand at the end of the line in getting some of this money. First, all monies in the marijuana fund must be expended to pay administrative costs incurred by the new Department Of Marijuana Licenses and Control (DMLC) in administering this new law and rules adopted pursuant to it. Marijuana Fund revenues would also fund the Arizona Department of Revenue’s (DOR) costs of administering and collecting the 15% tax.

Next, 50% of the licensing fees would be disbursed to counties, cities, or towns with marijuana business establishments.

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 education-related entities 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.

It has been suggested that after costs of administration and fee sharing, the additional amount going to schools would amount to only 7/10ths of 1% of the amount now budgeted by the state for education. Some states that have already adopted recreational marijuana laws now claim that licensing fees and taxes fail to cover administrative costs, much less costs of counseling, foster care, and increased number of child safety investigations and automobile accidents, thus putting pressure on other tax sources.

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.
WELCOME to our newest League members!

Hilary Cannizzaro
Trena Linders
Rhea Batterman
Mindy Schlimgen
Angela Velazquez

Suzanne Morse
Peter Pierson
Suzann Polk
Judy Kelch

Rhea, Mindy, and Angela with League President Terri Farneti at New Member Orientation Party.

"I'm currently a resident of Prescott, Arizona (since December 2014)--I love this old west town and I love living near my family! I was born and raised in southern California. In my early 20's, I moved to Oregon (the Willamette Valley) and lived there for just under a year, I moved back to southern California for several years to recover from the cultural shock I experienced in Oregon. Two decades later, I moved to northern California to be near Mount Shasta--I lived there for four years enjoying the abundance of oak trees, pine trees, redwood trees, the ferocity of the Sacramento River, the roaming deer, the wild turkeys, the numerous birds and the quirky squirrels (and oh yes, the huge spiders!). As you can guess, I've moved around a lot and I have chosen to make Prescott my home."
Rhea Batterman

Patricia Smart Alward died October 5, 2016. She was born in Glendale, California on June 17, 1925. She graduated from the University of Southern California in Occupational Therapy and worked in pediatrics in Southern California until her retirement. She then attended the Laguna School of Art to study wood and stone sculpture. She continued to work wood, stone and welded metal after moving to Prescott in 1988 with her husband Frank (Peter). Pat was a long-time member of LWV. She was pre-deceased by her parents, her husband and her son, Steven Alward. She is survived by daughter Lesley Alward of Prescott, son David (Tina) Alward of Redmond, Oregon, grandson Mark Alward of Bellevue, Washington and brother William Smart of Newberg, Oregon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts for the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden can be sent to the Arizona Community Foundation of Yavapai County (ACFYP), 300 E. Willis St., Prescott, AZ 86301.

Howard E. Rieder, 86 years old, born in June 1930 in Los Angeles, California, passed away on Sept. 16, 2016, in Walnut Creek California. He lived in Prescott, Arizona, for 19 years and moved to Northern California to be near family in 2015.

Rieder was a well respected advertising and Public Relations executive having worked for Thomas Organ, Revell Toys, and Nissan Motor Corp. He retired from Nissan in 1996. During his time there he won a Cleo Award in 1990 from the International and U.S. Cleo Awards. He earned his BA and MA at USC in Radio, TV, and Cinema. In Prescott, he volunteered for the Audio Visual section of the Police Department where he helped write, produce and direct documentaries for the City of Prescott. He also wrote, produced and directed Go South, a documentary on Ron Barnes. For this documentary he won a Remi Award from the Houston International Film Festival.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Kathie, of 59 years; three daughters, Dee O’Reilly (Patrick), Leslie Rasmussen (Bruce), and Linda Gardner (Peter); and seven grandchildren.

Celebration of Life will be held in Walnut Creek, California, at a later date. If you wish to remember Howard with a donation, the charities in Prescott we suggest are People Who Care, Maggie’s Hospice, or Yavapai Food Bank. In California, Alumni Association USC.

Farewell, Old Friends
Patricia Smart Alward
Howard Reiser

I am a native of New York City. I lived there until 2011, where I worked as a Financial Controller in the garment center, for a ladies dress manufacturer. I retired at that time and moved to Prescott. I had been to Prescott many times over the years, visiting my sister and family. I love it here and have met many wonderful people. My interests vary from playing bridge, maj Jong, Zumba, line dancing, OLLI classes and ushering at Prescott Fine Arts. Travel is my greatest passion. I joined LWV to learn more about the politics of Arizona and to do my best to make a difference in our troubled world. Looking forward!!
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.

Have you renewed your membership?
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.