The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County in partnership with Osher Lifelong Learning presents:

How Gerrymandering Rigs Elections

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Saturday, February 3, 2018
10:00 a.m. - Noon
Yavapai College
Building 3, Room 119
1100 E. Sheldon Street, Prescott

Guest Speaker: Colleen Mathis
Chair, Arizona Redistricting Commission

As a registered Independent from Pima County, Colleen Coyle Mathis was unanimously chosen as chair of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission by the four appointed Commissioners in 2011. She will serve in this role until the next chair is selected in 2021. Colleen earned a Master's Degree in Environmental Management from Yale University and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Illinois. She is an affiliated associate at the Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences at Harvard University and principal at Willet Creek Consulting, specializing in nonprofit management, communications and business development.

Learn about:
- Why the Supreme Court's upcoming decision on Wisconsin gerrymandering is important for fair elections.
- The history of the AZ Redistricting Commission.
- The roles of the commissioners.
- Is the Arizona Redistricting Commission in danger?

PLEASE RSVP TO LWVCYC@GMAIL.COM by 1.30.18
LWVCYC a “Partner” with Yavapai College

This partnership allows us to plan programs with the college and Osher Life Long Learning (OLLI), and use their public meeting space to expand our audience. Our League of Women Voters Speaker Series will be open to our members, the public and OLLI students.

We are excited for our first program on February 3rd with Colleen Mathis with the AZ Independent Redistricting Commission. Please invite your friends from AAUW, OLLI, and other organizations. We would also like to ask you to RSVP to LWVCYC@gmail.com by January 30th if you plan to attend.

Arizona is one of six states that use independent commissions to draw district borders – along with California, Idaho, Alaska, Montana and Washington. There are many states grappling with the issue of gerrymandering currently.

In addition to our speaker series, we will assist OLLI in planning programs for their students, League members and the public. One such program is the "Lunch and Learn" March 8, 2018 “YRMC Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". The hospital is celebrating 75 years in Prescott this March. These are programs open to OLLI members, League Members and the public. On March 23, 2018, Valerie Burns will be conducting a program for OLLI and our members, who did not hear her this fall, on The British Health single payer health care systems. This is part of OLLI's "Doldrums sessions". This is program added between regular semester sessions announced by e-blast. Working with the college provides a wonderful opportunity to expand our horizons and membership. It requires planning ahead, but should allow us to showcase speakers who match the League's Vision.

Member Orientation – Saturday, January 27th 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

You do not have to be new to join this orientation! It’s a great way to meet other members and talk about League. Just RSVP to LWVCYC@gmail.com.

League Leadership Opportunities

For the ’18- ’19 year, we need a team of members to step up to plan for the next term beginning July 1. The LWVCYC was established in 1995, and has had many boards who have worked together to bring us this far. It is time for new leadership – not that the old is going away, just fresh ideas taking our League into the next few years. Yes, it is volunteer work and as a team, you can decide when your board meetings will be, topics for meetings that excite you, and who does what to make it all happen. Please take this opportunity to learn, grow and become more involved with the league at the local/state level.
THE LEAGUE’S POSITION ON REDISTRICTING

The League of Women Voters believes that congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. The League is convinced that this standard, established by the Supreme Court, should be maintained and that the U.S. Constitution should not be amended to allow for consideration of factors other than population in apportionment.


See also the position on Voting Rights, which applies to apportionment issues. Leagues applying the Apportionment Position should be aware that the Voting Rights position (and League action supporting the Voting Rights Act) recognizes that both the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act require that reapportionment not dilute the effective representation of minority citizens.

Redistricting

Political and racial gerrymandering distorts and undermines representative democracy by allowing officials to select their voters rather than voters to elect their officials. When done for purposes of racial discrimination or to ensure the dominance of one political party, or even to ensure the election of a particular legislator, gerrymandering runs counter to equal voting rights for all.

For much of the League’s history, redistricting has been seen as a state and local issue, but as state Leagues have become more active and the political gerrymandering of the U.S. Congress has become more apparent, the LWVUS has provided assistance and, in the 2014-2016 biennium, developed a nationwide position statement.

In 2005, the national Board affirmed that Leagues at all levels may take action under LWVUS positions relating to redistricting. Using the positions on “Apportionment,” “Citizen’s Right to Vote,” and “Congress,” Leagues should work to achieve three goals consistent with those positions:

- Congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population ("one person, one vote").
- Redistricting should not dilute the effective representation of minority citizens.
- Efforts that attempt or result in partisan gerrymandering should be opposed.

In 2006, the League joined other groups in holding a nonpartisan redistricting conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. As a result of that meeting, the League and partners released a report “Building a National Redistricting Reform Movement” which looks at lessons learned from unsuccessful redistricting reform attempts in 2005 and suggests strategies to pursue and pitfalls to avoid in future reform efforts.

Leagues across the country continue to press for redistricting reform at the state level and the LWVUS has gone to the Supreme Court with “friend-of-the-court” briefs in landmark cases against political and racial gerrymandering. In 2009, the LWVEF hosted a unique redistricting conference that brought together experts and stakeholders from across the nation to discuss how to work together to influence the results of the state redistricting processes following the 2010 Census. The participants agreed upon several core principles and wrote a report emphasizing the importance of transparency in the redistricting process.

In the 2010s, the League expressed concern about “prison-based gerrymandering” in which inmates are counted as residents in the district where the prison is located instead of at their home addresses. Working with other organizations, the League sought better information from the Census to support the push to end such gerrymandering.

In 2011 and 2012, state Leagues played pivotal roles in advocating for improved redistricting processes through a nationwide funded Shining a Light project. Leagues hosted public events, delivered much-quoted testimony before decision-making bodies, presented alternative maps, launched major public education and media campaigns, and engaged key allies to promote transparent and fair redistricting processes. Key League priorities included: advocating for
adequate public comment periods before and after the introduction of redistricting proposals; disclosure of committee timelines and other important details; and opportunities for community groups, especially those representing diverse voices, to get involved.

Following the 2011 redistricting process, several state Leagues engaged in litigation or statewide ballot initiative campaigns to challenge unsatisfactory redistricting outcomes. The Texas League and LWVEF jointly submitted comments urging the US Department of Justice to object to VRA Section 5 preclearance of what the League deemed a discriminatory redistricting proposal. Elsewhere, the North Carolina League joined other civil rights groups in challenging a redistricting plan that would negatively impact minority and other voters, the Arizona League led an amicus brief which successfully urged the state Supreme Court to protect that state’s independent redistricting commission, and the Pennsylvania League participated in a successful citizen’s appeal of a state plan.

In California, League leaders worked throughout 2011 and 2012 to defend and ensure success for that state’s new Independent Citizens Commission process in California, and also provided a detailed analysis and recommendations for future redistricting commissions. In Florida, the League spearheaded multiple legislative and legal efforts to ensure that the integrity of new, groundbreaking redistricting criteria would be upheld. The League prevailed in court when it challenged the 2010 redistricting plan for violating the new criteria. The Florida League garnered an impressive array of statewide and national media coverage for its efforts.

In Ohio, the League led a high-profile yet ultimately unsuccessful effort to pass a November 2012 ballot initiative that would have instituted an independent redistricting commission.

Public opinion polling has shown high public support for taking the redistricting process out of the hands of partisan legislatures, and many Leagues continue to consider how best to achieve more representative processes. Leagues remain engaged in pending legal challenges or appeals in several states and continue to pursue a range of reform opportunities to reform the redistricting process. In early 2012, LWVEF published “Shining a Light: Redistricting Lessons Learned,” which lays out key League priorities related to redistricting reform. The publication has been shared widely with Leagues and partners nationwide.

Wishing to give redistricting a higher profile for League action, the 2014 national program on Key Structures of Democracy called for a Task Force on Redistricting which surveyed existing state League positions and recommended a new concurrence statement to the 2016 convention.

Key Reports/White Papers

“Shining the Light: Redistricting Lessons Learned in 2011”

In 2011, League of Women Voters of the United States prepared a white paper reviewing the experience of the 2011 redistricting cycle and what state leagues did to promote redistricting reform.

“The Shape of Representative Democracy”
http://research.policyarchive.org/6406.pdf

In June 2005, the Campaign Legal Center and the Council for Excellence in Government convened a conference in Airlie, VA, at which participants developed a consensus on seven broad principles for improving the way most states conduct redistricting. This is the report the conference produced.

“Building a National Redistricting Reform Movement”
http://research.policyarchive.org/6407.pdf

After that gathering, the League of Women Voters convened a second conference with those two organizations, held in 2006 in Salt Lake City, to discuss strategies for promoting redistricting reform nationwide. This is the report the conference produced.
The new year brought an end to Trump’s voter fraud commission, a group that advocates long claimed was a tool to suppress voting. The commission ultimately did little more than request voter information from the states.

Despite this, existential threats to ballot access remain, and judicial moves may mean that 2018 is the year we finally see them sorted out.

On Wednesday, federal judges ruled North Carolina’s congressional districts were gerrymandered unconstitutionally to favor Republicans. Republicans are expected to appeal the decision. The decision will fall to the Supreme Court, which has traditionally avoided ruling on gerrymandering cases.

The court heard arguments in October on a case that charges Republicans with gerrymandering districts in Wisconsin. And the justices will hear a case accusing Democrats of gerrymandering a congressional district in Maryland.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court also heard a case over whether Ohio election officials could remove inactive voters from the state’s voter rolls. In the state, if someone does not vote in a presidential cycle, they are sent a notice. If they don’t respond or vote again in the next four years, Ohio’s secretary of state removes their voter registration.

A Reuters study in 2016 found at least 140,000 voters had been removed from the rolls in Ohio’s three largest cities alone. On Wednesday, justices were deeply divided over the practice — with oral arguments suggesting the conservative justices may uphold Ohio’s removal of inactive voters as constitutional.

Looming court decisions suggest 2018 could be a landmark year for determining whether tactics like gerrymandering and removing inactive voters can continue to suppress the will of voters.

How significant do you think purging voters and gerrymandering have been on election outcomes?
But citizens have a “right to know” who is behind the Dirty Money. That right should be in the Arizona Constitution.

**Is this the same as “Dark Money”?**
Yes - in the past you may have heard of anonymous campaign expenditures referred to as ‘dark money.’ We’ve found that the term ‘dark money’ doesn’t really explain just how bad the problem is in Arizona. “Dirty Money” better conveys how widespread and dangerous the issue is.

**How is Dirty Money being used?**
Since more and more Dirty Money has poured into Arizona political campaigns have become nasty. Dirty Money is used to buy attack ads, misleading direct mail and those phone calls that try to fool us.

**How bad is it in Arizona?**
Very bad. In Arizona it has meant corruption written into state law. In 2016, at the insistence of “Dirty Money” forces, Governor Ducey signed SB 1516 into. It rewrote and deregulated our entire campaign finance system; made it easier to cheat candidate campaign finance limits; critically, it eliminated the state’s ability to investigate and enforce our campaign finance laws.

**Why a Constitutional Amendment?**
By amending the Constitution, we ensure that legislators who are supported by Dirty Money cash are not able to mess with nor take away our Right to Know.

**How can I help Outlaw Dirty Money?**
Help your fellow citizens to gather 300,000 signatures from registered Arizona voters by June 5, 2018. This is a bipartisan campaign. It doesn’t matter if you’re a Republican, Independent or Democrat because everyone in Arizona is affected. In addition to gathering signatures, we need help on all levels of the campaign. This is a volunteer-driven effort, and only through working together will we see this on the Nov. 2018 ballot! Please join us at OutlawDirtyMoney.com/volunteer.

**The Purpose and Intent of the Outlaw Dirty Money Constitutional Amendment:**

A. This Constitutional Amendment is intended to secure the right of the People of Arizona to know who is making major contributions to influence the result of Arizona elections, to prevent corruption and provide information Arizona voters need to make informed election decisions.

B. To secure this right, this Constitutional Amendment requires public disclosure of all contributors who give more than $2,500 to influence elections in a two-year election cycle, regardless of legal form and whether their contributions passed through any intermediaries.

C. By adopting this Constitutional Amendment, the People of Arizona affirm their desire to stop the practice of laundering political contributions through multiple intermediaries to hide the original source.

D. Both individual citizens and the Citizens Clean Elections Commission will have the ability to enforce the disclosure requirements, and violators will be subject to significant civil penalties.
Photos from the January Program Planning Meeting
(Unfortunately, photos of Dottie Morris presenting on Juvenile Justice and Cory Shaw presenting on Meeting Basic Senior Needs are not available)

Terri Farneti and Sandra Goodwin presented on National program, Mary Meade spoke about Affordable Housing and Public Transportation, and Kathy Wingert spoke to our Water position. Sheriff Scott Mascher, Deputy Administrator Jack Fields and Board of Supervisor Craig Brown were on hand to tell us about the upcoming special election – now moved to May 15 – on extending the current jail tax. Representatives Campbell and Stringer dropped in to endorse the jail tax, as well.
League of Women Voters
2017-2018 Calendar by Topic
Updated 12.15.17

**BOARD MEETINGS**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>5:15 p.m. – To be Determined</td>
<td>2018: Jan. 23   Feb. 20   Mar. 27   April 24</td>
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**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 3</td>
<td>Gerrymandering in AZ with Colleen Mathis at Yavapai College</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>LWVAZ Day at the Legislature!</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Munch &amp; Learn (with OLLI) (a Thursday) YRMC “Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” at Yavapai College</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>Legislative Report Card Panel at Yavapai College</td>
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<td>April 28-29</td>
<td>State Council in Tucson</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Annual meeting/luncheon 11:00 a.m. – Location TBD</td>
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*Hope to see you at the March tomorrow!*
IMPORTANT WEBSITE REFERENCES

LWVUS Website  
www.lwv.org

LWVAZ Website  
www.lwvaz.org

LWVCYC Website  
www.lwvcyc.org

We recommend you check these out—lots of great information to help you with learning about the League of Women Voters. Our website includes current and past Voters, an Elected Official Guide and more!

We are also on Facebook and Twitter—if you’d like to follow us!

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held monthly usually the Tuesday before LWVCYC meetings.

Members are always welcome to attend Board meetings.—we’d love your input To request placement of an item on the Board agenda contact a Board Member a week in advance.

Please refer to the Calendar of Events for Board Meeting Dates, Times and Location

LWV MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION 2017-2018

Membership in the LWV is open to any person 18 and over who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the LWVUS. Dues for 2017-2018 cover payment for local ($15.00), state ($13), and national ($32.00) memberships.

Name: ____________________________

Address: __________________________

City/Zip: __________________________ Phone: __________________________

Email: ____________________________

Note type of membership, and make check to ‘LWVCYC’:

______ $60/yr Individual Membership

______ $90/yr Household Membership  ____ NEW! $40/yr for members under 40

Plus, suggested donation:

$_________ Contribution to our local League (not tax deductible)

$_________ *Contribution to LWAZ Education Fund (tax deductible)

* Donations to the LWAZ Education Fund must be made by separate check to preserve tax deductibility. These donations support our webpage and Voter Service activities. Thank you!

Please include this form with your check  New member _____ or Renewal _____

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