PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!

Saturday, April 11, 2015
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Las Fuentes Resort Village
1035 Scott Drive, Prescott
Hello everyone,

Sadly, we have just heard that Senator Pierce’s son died over the weekend and have sent our condolences to him and his family during this difficult time. In case you missed the email notice, we have had to change our date for April meeting due to the Easter holiday. We will be holding the Legislative Update with our District #1 representatives on Saturday, April 11 – same time, same place. We are honored to have them speak to our members and community after their busy session at the Capitol. The Legislative session could be over by this date, but each representative authored bills this session, and the articles from The Daily Courier we are including in this Voter will inform you of those bills. Please read them and bring your questions to this meeting. Not only is this meeting about civic participation and education, but civil discourse. There may be topics we disagree with, but we are open to hear about them from their perspective. Of course, there will be time for thoughtful and respectful questions. We hope to have a good audience for this meeting – consider arriving early to get your preferred seat!

Our final meeting before our summer break is Saturday, May 2 – this is our Annual Meeting. It is our membership meeting to vote on the new slate of officers, the ’15-’16 budget and program. We need a quorum of membership for this meeting, so please plan to attend. We have booked the Prescott Centennial Center by the Prescott Airport for this event. You will receive the Annual Packet via email in the first week of April – please print it out and bring with you that morning. Fritzi Mevis, Executive Director of People Who Care will be our breakfast speaker to tell us about the great work her non-profit does in our community. We will have a breakfast buffet and the cost is $15. You may pay at the door or in advance by cash or check.

To get to the Centennial Center from Prescott, you can take Willow Creek Road NE across HWY 89, continue on MacCordy Rd. straight toward the airport, then take the first right around to the building. From 89, just head toward Chino and take a right at the light at Willow Creek Rd., then a right towards the airport, and first right.

Members of the Yavapai County League have an awesome opportunity to attend the LWVAZ State Convention May 16-17 this year – in that there hasn’t been a council or convention in our neck of the woods since 2005 or so! The registration information will be coming out shortly, and I encourage you to attend to meet other League members from around the state and learn more about League. We do need volunteers to help with registration the morning of May 16th and others throughout the day; please let me know if you’d be interested in volunteering!

AZ Gives Day is a one-day fundraiser on April 7, 2015 for non-profits, and this year the LWVAZ Education Fund has registered to be a participant. If you can, please consider a donation at https://azgives.givebig.org/Admin/c/GivesDay/a/lwvaz. There is much to do in to advocate and educate in AZ and the Ed Fund helps the State League to do this.

I look forward to seeing many of you on April 11th!
It is the season of resurrection, a time to believe that amazing things, seemingly impossible things, can happen. A good week, perhaps, for the Arizona Legislature to finish its business.

A good week, perhaps, to behold a miracle?

- Republicans will pass a series of election bills aimed at helping, well, Republicans. There will be a bill to (again) raise campaign-contribution limits for candidates who have access to fat wallets and another to try to kill public financing for candidates who don’t.

  There will be bills to make it harder to mount citizen initiatives and harder for third-party candidates — like, say, the Libertarians who often serve as spoilers for Republican candidates — to get on the ballot.

  And there will be a bill to stop volunteers from collecting early ballots and bringing them to the polls, a strategy employed in recent years to boost turnout in Latino neighborhoods.

  But where goeth the bill that shines a light on “dark money”? In 2014, $15 million in anonymous money was spent on state and legislative campaigns. Our governor, our attorney general, our secretary of state and our corporation commissioners all were elected with the help of certain special interests standing in the shadows.

  The miracle? That our leaders would suddenly see the light and demand disclosure, vouchsafing that Arizonans shall know who is spending big to buy their votes.

- The Legislature is considering a bill that would clear the way for rideshare companies like Uber to more easily operate in Arizona. Gov. Doug Ducey ended enforcement efforts against such companies before this year’s Super Bowl, saying he wants to encourage innovation.

  “Whether it’s Apple or a newcomer that’s just starting, or whether it’s a company like the story last week with Uber and Lyft that’s got unnecessary regulation on them, we are going to clear the pathway to be the most entrepreneurial, most innovative state in the country,” he said.

  Thus far, it doesn’t appear Ducey’s comments apply to the way new cars are sold in Arizona.

  Tesla Motors wants to sell its electric cars directly to customers, without going through a middleman car dealer. Although it has a store at Scottsdale Fashion Square, it can’t sell you a car out of the mall or even quote you a price.

  Possibly because the new-car middlemen are moneybags in the Republican Party? According to secretary-of-state records, Tucson car dealer Jim Click gave more than $200,000 to the Arizona Republican Party and its candidates last year, including at least $37,000 to an independent campaign to elect Ducey. Click also was one of five people, including Ducey’s wife, to serve on his inauguration committee.

  The Tesla bill to change the way new cars are sold in Arizona cleared the House Commerce Committee in early February and was never heard from again.

  The miracle? That leaders would fear not, bringing us glad tidings that the free market really is free.

» Ducey has proclaimed his budget is a blessing to public education, yet every school in the state
is frantically searching the sofa cushions for spare change. “This budget,” he says, “reflects my commitment to representing Arizonans — not special interests.”

Well, it clearly doesn’t reflect a commitment to college students. Community colleges in Maricopa and Pima counties lost all their state funding, and universities got shanked — so much so that even the chairman of the Board of Regents thinks Ducey and the Legislature are violating the state’s constitutional requirement to keep a college education “as nearly free as possible.”

It certainly doesn’t reflect a commitment to public-school students. The K-12 budget didn’t even comply with a court order requiring Arizona to increase base funding by $331 million to correct years of illegal cuts to schools that were already funded at bottom-of-the-barrel levels.

My colleague Robert Robb, who lives for crawling through the always-tangled weeds on budgets and such, says Ducey cut more than $200 million a year in K-12 funding when measured against what he inherited.

The miracle? That Ducey would go forth and reconsider, showing believers and non-believers alike that he really is committed to representing Arizonans — not special interests.

» The Legislature last week approved a bill aimed at protecting the unborn. Now, Ducey must decide whether to go along with it. With barring women who get insurance on the federal exchange from buying additional coverage for abortion. With requiring doctors to tell women that drug-induced abortions might be reversible, regardless of whether it’s actually true.

The miracle? That our leaders would also take action to protect the born.

That they would restore recently cut state funding for child-care subsidies that protect children whose parents work but don’t earn enough to afford the luxury of leaving them in a safe, decent place.

That they would reverse the recent dead-of-night decision to cut off support to families with children who are living in poverty. In recent years, Arizona has been one of only four states that put a two-year cap on Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. Most states offer five years. Starting in July, we will stand alone in offering only one year of help that may well be the difference for some children between eating enough or not, between having a bed or not.

Suffer the little children and all that, right?

But why is it in Arizona that the little children must suffer?

2/28/2015

TRANSITION TO FREEDOM: Senator seeks to reduce prison population with new program

Joanna Dodder Nellans, Courier

Sen. Steve Pierce is trying to increase the number of non-violent state prisoners who get released early into an intensive transition program that seeks to reduce the chances of people returning to prison.

His Senate Bill 1390 sailed through the Senate Judiciary and Appropriations committees on unanimous votes Feb. 19 and Feb. 24, respectively.

SB 1390 would require the Arizona Department of Corrections to expand its Prisoner Transition Program that allows prisoners to be released as many as 90 days early and get help with the transition to freedom.
"We can't afford to put non-violent criminals in prison," Pierce said.

The program cuts recidivism (repeat offenders) by more than half, said Jeff Taylor, a Salvation Army board member who co-authored the original 2003 legislation that started the Transition Program for first-time drug offenders.

The program expanded to include repeat drug offenders in 2007 and all non-violent offenders in 2010.

"Each time, we got a few more people in the program but it's not enough to make a difference," Taylor said.

The DOC housed more than 42,000 inmates last year and released 943 inmates early into the Transition Program, the Associated Press reported.

Pierce's bill would require the ADOC to put at least 3,500 inmates in the early-release Transition Program during the next fiscal year and 5,000 annually thereafter.

SB1390 would allow most non-violent prisoners to be eligible for the program. The state would have to provide substance abuse treatment, anger management, cognitive skills training, parenting skills, family reunification training, further education and job placement.

"It helps them become citizens again," Pierce said.

A 5 percent fee on prison pay would cover the costs of the program, Pierce said.

In all, he estimated the program could save the state $100 million over five years. He'd rather see that money go to public education needs.

And it could avoid the need for a new prison, Pierce said. Gov. Doug Ducey has budgeted $40 million for a new private prison.

The recidivism reduction in the Transition Program also would help county jails reduce their populations since they hold all prisoners while they work their way through the court system, Taylor noted. Yavapai County officials plan to build a new jail.

The same Transition Program probably wouldn't be as helpful at the county level because after sentencing, jails house only misdemeanor offenders incarcerated for a maximum of a year, Yavapai County Sheriff's Office spokesman Dwight D'Evelyn explained.

Yavapai County officials support programs that reduce recidivism, however, and the county has several of its own programs to reduce recidivism including drug court, D'Evelyn said.

Arizona's prison population grew tenfold from 1980 to 2010 while the statewide population only doubled, according to an Arizona Auditor General report. It costs about $65 per day to incarcerate someone, versus $17-$18 daily for the Transition Program, Taylor said.

The prison system is now the third most costly state budget item, behind K-12 education and health care.

More than half of the people in prison have drug and/or alcohol problems, Taylor said.

"It's a health issue, and we've proven we can't incarcerate addiction out of somebody," Taylor said. The Salvation Army provides free drug rehabilitation centers along with clothing, food and furniture for newly released prisoners and others.

"We (at the Salvation Army) are more concerned with why our young people are altering their
reality in such a significant way," Taylor said.

For Taylor, it started with painkillers after a football injury at the University of Arizona. He hid his addiction for years as a Wall Street trader, then ended up on the streets. He was arrested in Prescott and extradited to Flagstaff, where he got lucky when a judge sentenced him to drug treatment instead of prison.

The DOC Transition Program service provider is Sage Counseling, which has an office in Prescott Valley, Taylor noted.

It provides one case manager for every 14 people in the Transition Program, Taylor said, while a parole officer may have a caseload of 80 to 100 people.

Bill supporters include the Salvation Army, Maricopa County Attorney's Office and City of Phoenix, Pierce said.

Pierce’s other bills

- **SB1042** - Seeks to clarify when candidates can erect campaign signs. Held by Senate Government Committee chair.
- **SB1066** - Requires local governments to put their budgets online.
- **SB1202** - Tries to limit industrial noise. The bill didn't make it through committee so it's dead this year.
- **SB1204** - Would classify large greenhouses as personal property instead of the current real property, thus speeding up their depreciation for property tax purposes. Real property generally is not movable.

Pierce said a greenhouse growers association requested the change because some large greenhouses now are movable like mobile homes. The change would apply only to greenhouses that are at least 100,000 square feet in size. Four counties have these greenhouses and they were going to come to Paulden, Pierce said. He noted the change would apply only to vegetable growers, not others such as marijuana growers.

The bill is dead because it didn't get through the Senate Finance Committee by the deadline on Friday, Feb. 20.

- **SB1386** - Increases the penalty to a felony if people without permits capture threatened or endangered species and release them in areas where they don't currently exist.

  The Arizona Game and Fish Department asked him to sponsor this legislation, Pierce said. It doesn't have anything to do with endangered Mexican gray wolves, said Pierce and Jorge Canaca, legislative liaison for Game and Fish.

  The agency has seen cases of "bucket stocking" in which people released Gila topminnows in places where they don't already live, Canaca said.

  Officials also concluded that an ocelot would not go to an area of the Tonto National Forest where the controversial Resolution Copper Mine is planned. A dead ocelot was found there and someone put it there, he said, possibly to try to prevent the mine from locating there.

- **SB1387** - Also introduced at the request of Game and Fish. Clarifies that, when the state signs agreements with landowners to let recreationists cross their land to get to state land, the landowner has immunity from related lawsuits and the agreement doesn't give the landowner authority to charge an admission fee, Canaca said.

- **SB1388** - Points out that the state has no jurisdiction over non-profits that hide "dark" campaign
contributions behind Internal Revenue Service laws. Held by Senate Government Committee chair.

- **SB1389** - Requested by Arizona Department of Revenue, which later decided it didn't need the bill.

- **Senate Concurrent Resolution 1001** - Asks voters to repeal the Citizens Clean Elections Act, which provides campaign money to candidates who agree not to seek major monetary contributions.
  "It has helped people on the fringes get elected, whether it's people on the far left or far right," Pierce said.

  The law also helps pay for the Citizens Clean Elections Committee that provides information to voters and conducts candidate forums.

  The bill seeks to spend the money on education needs, approximately $8.5 million annually from a surcharge on civil and criminal fines.

  If approved by the Legislature, it would be on the 2016 ballot.

- **SCR1015** - Tells the federal government that Arizona officials don't like federal regulations over non-navigable waters unless the regulations were authorized by Congress. Suggested by the Goldwater Institute.

  (Bills that aren't listed were "technical corrections" that were placeholders in case the senator needed them for another issue.)

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3/2/2015 6:00:00 AM

**Fann bill would keep millions in tax revenues in rural areas**

*Joanna Dodder Nellans, The Daily Courier*

UPDATE, 3 p.m. March 2 - Gov. Doug Ducey signed this into law today. Ducey signed the companion bill, SB1446.

Rep. Karen Fann's bill to clarify where construction companies pay sales tax is on its way to the governor's desk with a companion Senate bill.

House Bill 2590 has an emergency clause so it can go into effect right away, since it's unclear right now where construction contractors across Arizona are supposed to pay sales taxes.

It has been a nightmare for our contractors the last few months," said Fann, who also has to deal with the issue as the owner of a highway sign company.

Until two years ago, construction contractors all paid sales tax in the municipalities where they were doing the construction.

Two years ago, then-Gov. Jan Brewer tried to simplify the process by pushing House Bill 2111 to make all contractors pay sales tax where they buy their materials, Fann said.

That made it easier for service contractors who might buy bulk and install appliances throughout the
Phoenix metro area, for example.

However, it took away millions of dollars from rural communities where contractors were building homes with materials they bought in the Phoenix metro area, for example.

And contractors on even larger projects such as a new business buildings previously paid all the sales taxes for their subcontractors to the community where the building was located, Fann explained, so the change in the law meant the potential loss of major dollars on large commercial projects. It also would have forced all the subs to file paperwork with the Department of Revenue.

An effort to clarify the law with HB2389 last year didn't do the job, said Ken Strobek, executive director of the Arizona League of Cities and Towns.

Fixing it this year was a major priority for the league, he said. HB2111 went into effect on Jan. 1, but it's so unclear that the state is telling contractors to just do what they think is right until May 31.

The emergency bill is retroactive to Jan. 1, Fann said.

Fann's bill states that if residential construction projects represent 25 percent or less of the value of the home, they pay sales taxes at the point of sale, Strobek explained. That usually includes maintenance, repairs and remodels.

Larger residential projects will continue to pay sales tax to the community where the construction is taking place.

Commercial projects have another formula.

It's hard to estimate how much revenue the City of Prescott would lose if all construction sales taxes were paid at the point of sales, Prescott Deputy City Manager Alison Zelms said.

"It would be a significant impact to the City of Prescott," she said.

The state alone would have lost more than $100 million annually under the Brewer law, Fann said. For example, some larger contractors bring in supplies from out of state.

3/20/2015 6:02:00 AM

Group home bill stalls in Senate committee - 'I'm assuming the bill is dead.' - Rep. Noel Campbell

Cindy Barks The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT - A state bill that aimed to heighten licensing requirements for group rehab homes failed to move out of an Arizona Senate committee this week - likely killing the bill for the 2015 session.

Members of the Arizona Senate Health and Human Services Committee heard nearly an hour and a half of testimony late Wednesday night, March 18, before Committee Chairwoman Nancy Barto, R-Phoenix, declared that the bill was not yet ready for a vote.

While a possibility still exists for the bill to move forward to a vote of the entire Arizona Senate, its sponsor Noel Campbell, R-Campbell, said Thursday afternoon that he has little hope of that happening.
"I'm assuming the bill is dead," Campbell said, adding that he is "98-percent resigned" to the fact that the bill would not go forward this year.

Still, Campbell was optimistic that he could get the bill going again for the 2016 legislative session. "I'm going to start as soon as this session's over," he said. "I'm not going to drop this. We'll make it better next time."

Rep. Karen Fann, R-Prescott, pointed out that Campbell asked Barto early Thursday to release the bill without a committee vote. If that were to happen, Fann said the bill still could go forward to the Senate Appropriations Committee, and ultimately on to a vote of the Senate.

Other possibilities, such as a "striker" amendment on another bill, also exist. But short of those actions, the bill likely will die for the 2015 session.

Fann pointed out that two members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee had left the Wednesday hearing early, leaving the bill without its expected support.

"It's always frustrating when you have committee members have to leave," Fann said. "This has been (Campbell's) signature bill, and to have it possibly die is very frustrating."

In his testimony to the Senate committee, Campbell said the City of Prescott has been dealing with a proliferation of group homes for years, and the bill was an attempt to "protect the health, safety, and welfare" of the community.

Campbell said the bill, which would reclassify non-medical group homes and require state licensing, would help to ensure that group homes have qualified managers in place, as well as an "exit plan" to deal with group-home residents who fail at recovery.

Currently, he said, some of the group homes have managers who are "no more than a few weeks sober themselves." He added: "The industry cannot self-regulate; they've failed miserably."

Representatives from the industry vehemently disagreed, however, maintaining that Prescott is discriminating against a class of people protected under the U.S. Fair Housing Act.

Heidi Skelley, executive committee co-chair for the Arizona Recovery Housing Association, told the committee she had visited 39 group homes in Prescott in recent weeks. "I did not see any of the problems (that city officials have brought up)," Skelley said. "There are no medical services in these homes."

She maintained that Prescott's objections have focused on activities such as football games in the front yards of the group homes, and people smoking cigarettes - neither of which are illegal.

"(Prescott officials) would like to protect their citizens," Skelley said. "I would like to remind the city that these people are citizens of their community too."

Roy Thomas, owner of The Bridges recovery program, told the committee that the program "transports clients daily to a fully licensed facility where they receive their treatment." He added: "In the event a client does not complete, we do not discharge to the street."

Prescott City Councilman Chris Kuknyo, a vocal supporter of the bill, expressed disappointment with the committee results.

"It was very discouraging," Kuknyo said of the Wednesday committee hearing, at which he testified. "I felt like the industry told a lot of mistruths."

Prescott Councilman Charlie Arnold told the committee that the bill's proponents have tried to work with the recovery industry to work out issues. "We have attempted to incorporate their language," Arnold said.

In response to questions from the committee members about what the City Council has done to try to resolve the issue on its own, Arnold pointed out that the city earlier implemented an ordinance for voluntary registration and creation of a buffer zone between new group homes.
The ordinance later prompted a housing-discrimination complaint from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department, he said.

And in response to recovery-industry claims that Prescott has not worked with the industry, Arnold said, "We've engaged the industry. Anybody who says we haven't, you can come and look at my calendar."

3/11/2015 6:00:00 AM

House OK's group homes bill; introduced by Prescott's Campbell

Les Bowen, Web Reporter

PHOENIX - State legislators in the House voted Tuesday, March 10, to approve a bill that would reclassify nonmedical group homes statewide and place them under the jurisdiction of the state Department of Health Services.

Rep. Noel Campbell, R-Prescott, is among the bill's primary sponsors and spoke Tuesday on the floor of the House of Representatives in an effort to clear up what he deemed to be "misinformation" about his bill.

"The problem the City of Prescott faces is a problem that's going to come near you," Campbell warned fellow legislators.

He described the industry of residential group housing facilities in Prescott, calling it "unregulated" and having "no accountability."

"This bill does not seek, no matter what you've been told, to put good providers out of business," Campbell said, adding that he recognizes the need for group homes.

He explained the purpose of the bill was to allow the state to ensure group homes register with the state, adopt higher standards, have exit strategies for residents who fail drug treatment programs, and are run by managers who have been sober for longer periods.

Heidi Skelley, executive committee co-chair for Arizona Recovery Housing Association, said her organization still has several concerns with the bill.

She told The Daily Courier in an interview by phone that AzRHA opposes the bill in its current state, citing language that it could require commercial sprinklers and full-time awake staff at all group homes, regardless of the number of residents.

"Those types of expenses are not reasonable for the small operators that have no type of medical services," Shelley said.

She added that the bill would affect all types of group homes, including those for mentally disabled people. She echoed the federal government's position that addiction is considered a disability, and people in addiction recovery are considered a protected class.

"We feel there is discrimination going on in Prescott," Skelley said.

She said Prescott officials haven't conducted stakeholder meetings with group home operators, nor has the city made official visits to the group homes they oppose.

"They have not worked with operators to solve the problem," she said.

Prescott Deputy City Manager Alison Zelms took exception to the claims that the city hasn't worked with group home operators, explaining that the city's police department meets with them regularly.
She added that stakeholders weighed in on the bill in the House Children and Family Affairs Committee, with comments coming from several Yavapai County providers as well as state agencies.

Campbell contended on the House floor that Prescott's attempts to regulate group homes have not been able to address community concerns.

Rep. Karen Fann, R-Prescott, described the city's efforts to address problems through zoning, but said the problem lies with a few "bad actors."

She added that legislators worked with officials at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to address concerns about discrimination while drafting the bill. "HUD is a part of this," she said.

Not all of the Prescott delegation's colleagues in the House were convinced.

Heather Carter, R-Cave Creek, worried about the impacts of reclassifying nonmedical housing providers. She questioned why the House was approving a bill that includes registration of nonmedical homes when the legislature blocked past efforts to regulate in-home medical providers.

Rep. Lisa Otondo, D-Yuma, raised concerns about the protected status of recovering addicts. She recognized the problems associated with group homes in Prescott, but cited efforts to address similar problems in Phoenix. "This can be regulated locally," she said.

Rep. Juan Mendez, D-Tempe, agreed. "This bill is singling out a protected class and asking for a lawsuit," he said. "I will not vote to target a federally protected class." He said the problems claimed by Prescott officials aren't reflected on the ground.

Skelley confirmed statements Mendez made on the House floor that AzRHA had made several unannounced visits to properties Prescott city officials had reported as problematic. "We did not see any of the issues that we were told were there," she said.

Mendez was critical of Prescott city officials for not exhausting local regulations. "'Not in my backyard' issues do not need to make it all the way to the state for regulation," he said.

Rep. Kate Brophy McGee, R-Phoenix, shared his sentiment. "I'm not convinced the Prescott City Council did everything they could do before coming to the Legislature," she said.

Rep. Rebecca Rios, D-South Phoenix, said Prescott officials should look at ordinances passed in Chandler and Gilbert to address concerns with group homes.

However, local ordinances haven't resolved the issues in those communities, according to Jeff Weninger, R-Chandler.

Several legislators who voted in favor of the bill did so on the promise that concerns would be addressed in the Senate version. "We are no longer threatening every halfway house between here and New Mexico," said Rep. John Allen, R-Scottsdale, chairman of the Children and Family Affairs Committee.

He said there have been changes, but the bill isn't fully ready for final passage.

That led Rep. Charlene Fernandez, D-Yuma, to question why the committee sent the unfinished bill to the House floor.

Despite those concerns, the bill passed the House on a 40-20 vote."The mayor and City Council have been supportive of the bill as it moves through the process," Zelms said. She said city officials will continue to work with Campbell as the bill is assigned to a Senate committee.
The LWVAZ Education Fund has registered to be a participant. If you can, please consider a donation at https://azgives.givebig.org/Admin/c/GivesDay/a/lwvaz. There is much to do in to advocate and educate in AZ and the Ed Fund helps the State League to do this.

Date: March 28, 2015 3:29:00 PM MST
Subject: Update on Bill lists
Attached are the reworked bill lists. We are coming down the home stretch and maybe we can knock some of these down. After the go to COW, then they go to 3rd Reading so have two chances to let legislators know we are against the bills.

The following will be heard in Committee of the Whole (COW) or Third Reading on Monday. Would you please send a note to your three legislators and ask them to vote No on these bills. Check which ones they are on the lists and then write something about them or simply say that you are a constituent and you are against the bill. Thanks.

I have been reading that Common Core will not make it to the governor's desk but it will be heard in COW Monday. Will see if they pass it or retain it on calendar.

Senate COW
HB2190 Common core; replacement
HB2407 Referendum and recall provisions
HB2415 Sanitary districts, STRIKER relating to campaign finance
HB2649 campaign finance; political committee, definition

Senate 3rd Reading
HB2250 Empowerment scholarship accounts; applications
HB2608 elections; active registered voters

House COW
SB1339 public records STRIKER number of ballots someone can return
SB1237 electronic drive license STRIKER excludes privately funded candidates from rule passed by Clean Elections Act

HB2553 sex trafficking will also be heard in Senate COW Monday if you want to weigh in on that one.

Here is some additional information about some of the bills:

**HB2608 (Mesnard LD 17 Chandler) elections; active registered voters.** This bill increases the number of signatures needed for a candidate to get on the ballot in the first place. It would likely eliminate the possibility in the future of any third party candidate appearing on a ballot. **OPPOSE**

**HB2407 referendum and recall provisions (Stevens LD 14, Sierra Vista)** Strict compliance but only for referendum and recall. **OPPOSE**

This issue was also part of the repealed 2305. It would open referendum and recall petitions to more intense scrutiny and probably nitpicking about commas and the use of a middle initial in somebody's signature. Rep. Jonathan Larkin, D-Glendale pointed out in the House Elections Committee that when the people petitioned to put 2305 on the statewide ballot as a citizen’s initiated referendum, 112,000 valid signatures were gathered. This could be seen as a resounding rejection of this and other Draconian restrictions in our election laws.

**SB2407**

is a solution searching for a problem. There are already procedures in place to check the validity of petition signatures and the language of the petition.

**SB1237**

Would exclude privately funded candidates from the rules passed by voters in the Clean Elections Act. They don't want to face removal from office for cheating or other tough penalties that the Clean Elections Commission can impose if warranted. **All candidates should face the same penalties.**

**SB1339**

Would prohibit voters from allowing a trusted person to deliver their early ballot before the polls close. In fact, this bill would make it a felony for someone to help deliver more than two ballots during an election cycle. Southern Arizona voters will especially feel the impact because their ballots must travel to Phoenix to be processed then shipped back to their county recorder offices due to the closure of the Tucson processing center this year. Nearly 8000 early ballots were rejected in 2014 due to a problem that a trusted individual delivering could have helped the voter avoid. Nearly 3000 arrived after Election Day. **Voters have the right to make their own choices.**
HB 2153 TAX CREDITS; STOS; PREAPPROVAL; ENTITIES.

Establishes an individual income tax credit for the pro rata amount of contributions made by a business to school tuition organizations (STO) if the aggregate contribution by the business to the STO in the taxable year is at least $5,000. Co-owners of a business are permitted to each claim the pro rata share of the corporate income tax credit allowed based on the taxpayer’s ownership interest. The total of the credits allowed by all the owners is prohibited from exceeding the amount that would have been allowed a sole owner of a business. If the credit exceeds taxes due, the taxpayer is permitted to carry the amount of the claim not used to offset taxes forward for up to five consecutive tax years. The tax credit is not allowed if the business designates the contribution to an STO for the direct benefit of any dependent of the taxpayer or designates a student beneficiary as a condition of the contribution to an STO. Retroactive to tax years beginning January 1, 2015. First Sponsor: Rep. Olson

ARS Titles Affected: 43 1-22 WM,APP,R; 1-29 AP, W/D; 2-2 WM,DP; 2-9 R,C&P; 2-12 COW, DPA; 2-25 3rd, P; 2-25 to SENATE; 2-26 Fin,R, 3-2 2nd read; 3-11 Fin,DP; 3-16 R, R.PCA; 3-14 COW, retained;

HB 2190 SCHOOLS; COMMON CORE; REPLACEMENT. STRIKER:
Replacement, common core, schools. Requires AZ State Board of Education to redevelop new academic standards. First Sponsor: Rep. Finchem 1-22 Ed,R; 2-18 Ed,DPA/SE; 2-23 R, C&P; 3-10 COW, Ret to Cal; 3-11 COW,DP; 3-11 3rd read, P; 3-12 Senate; 3-12 Ed, R; 3-19 Ed, DPA; 3p25 R.PCA;

HB 2250 EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS; APPLICATIONS.
For the purpose of empowerment scholarship accounts (ESA), the definition of “qualified student” is expanded to include a child who is the sibling of a first-time ESA recipient and who submitted an application for an ESA during the same application period as the other sibling. After January 1 of each year, the Department of Education is required to issue a contract to eligible ESA applicants within 45 days after receipt of a completed application and all required documentation, subject to the enrollment cap prescribed by law. First Sponsor: Rep. Mitchell 1-22 Ed,R; 2-13 Ed, DP; 2-23 R, C&P; 2-26 COW, Ret; 3-2 COW, Ret; 3-4- Cow, DPA; 3-10 3rd read, Failed, 3-11 3rd Read, P; 3-12 Ed,R; 3-19 Ed, DPA; 3-25 R.PFC; 3-26 COW, DPA;

SB1088 Income brackets, STRIKER, no new name:
Adds to definition of qualified student regarding ESA. ESA to student who has been awarded low income educational school and continues to attend qualified school. 2-23 W&M, held; 3-16 W&M, DPA/SE;
3-24 R,C&P; 3-25 COW, retained on calendar;

SB 1332 EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS; reservation residence. For the purpose of empowerment scholarship accounts (ESA), the definition of “qualified student” is expanded to include a child who resides within the boundaries of an Indian Reservation in Arizona. First Sponsor: Sen. Begay 2-2ED,R; 2-12 ED,DP;2-16 R,PFC; 2-17 COW, yes; 2-19 3rd, P; 2-19 to HOUSE; 2-24 Ed,R; 3-4 Ed, DP; 3-9 R, C&P; 3-25 COW, DPA; 3-25 3rd read, Failed; 3-25 3rd read, reconsider for 4-1;

SB 1318 ABORTION; HEALTH CARE EXCHANGE; LICENSURE.
Any qualified health insurance policy, contract or plan offered through any health care exchange operating in Arizona, instead of any state health care exchange established in Arizona, is prohibited from
providing coverage for abortions, and abortion coverage is no longer permitted to be offered as a separate optional rider for which an additional premium is charged. On initial licensure and any subsequent renewal, an abortion clinic is required to submit to the Department of Health Services all documentation required by statute. First Sponsor: Sen. Barto 2-2 HHS,R; 2-11 HHS,DP; 2-16 R,PFC; 2-19 COW,DPA; 2-19 3rd read, P; 2-16 House; 2-16 FSR; 3-11 FSR,DPA; 3-16 R, C&P; 3-17 COW, Return to calendar; 3-18 COW, return to calendar; 3-18 COW, return to calendar; 3-23COW, DPA; 3-23 3rd read, P; Senate, 3-25 Concurrence recommended, 3-25 Senate concurred; 3-25 3rd Read, Pass; 3-26 to governor

HB 2553 HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM; VACATING CONVICTION.
A person convicted of prostitution or any other nondangerous offense that was committed as a direct result of the person being a victim of human trafficking is permitted to apply to the judge who pronounced sentence to vacate the persons conviction. The court is required to grant the application and vacate the conviction if the court finds that the persons participation in the offense was a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking. Information that must be included in the application, the application process and the evidence that may be considered are specified. Applies to a victim of human trafficking who was convicted either before or after the effective date of this legislation. First Sponsor: Rep. Steele 2-11 Jud,R; 2-18 Jud,DPA/SE; 2-25 R, C&P; 2-26 COW.DPA; 3-3 3rd read, DP; Senate; 3-4 Jud,R; 3-19 Jud, DP; 3-25 R,PFCA;

Bills: Judicial/Clean Elections/ Redistricting - March 20

JUDICIAL
Both are dead.

CLEAN ELECTIONS

SCR 1001 CLEAN ELECTIONS REPEAL; EDUCATION FUNDING.
The 2016 general election ballot is to carry the question of whether to amend state statute to repeal the Citizens Clean Elections Act except for the 10 percent surcharge on all civil and criminal fines and penalties collected by the courts (which is deposited in the Clean Elections Fund), and to require the State Treasurer to annually transfer the monies in the Clean Elections Fund to the Department of Education for an equitable per pupil distribution to school districts and charter schools for maintenance and operations. First Sponsor: Sen. Pierce 1-20 J,R; 1-21 2nd read; 2-19 Jud,DP; 2-23 R,PFC; 3-9 COW; DP; 3-10 3rd read, Failed; 3-11 3rd read, Passed; 3-11 HOUSE; 3-12 Elec,R; 3-16 Elec, DPA; AMENDMENT TO CHANGE FOR FUNDS TO NOT GO TO EDUCATION BUT TO GO TO GENERAL FUND;

Bills: Election Reform - March 28

HB 2067
Independent expenditure disclosures; aggregate percentage. Campaign literature or advertisements done by a political committee that are independent expenditures must include the name of each political committee that made contributions that in the aggregate constitute 25 percent or more of the total amount of contributions to the political committee making the independent expenditure, instead of the names of the three political committees making the largest contributions. First Sponsor: Rep. Mesnard ARS Titles
HB2407
REFERENDUM AND RECALL PROVISIONS.
This would impose strict compliance on the referendum and recall processes. Modifies requirement for initiative, referendum and recall and require courts to strictly construe, and the petition proponents to comply with these provisions. 1-29 Ele,R; 2-16 Ele, DP; 2-23 R, C&P; 2-26 COW, DPA; 3-4 3rd read,P; Senate; 3-4 Gov,R; 3-11 Gov,DP;

HB2415
Sanitary Districts.
STRIKER NOW: RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE; CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS.
An emergency measure that increases campaign control limits and the definition of election to include the primary election for the purposes of campaign contribution limits and candidate committees . Increases contributions to $5250, Super PACs $12,500. Then there is HB2415. Last week it was amended from being a bill about sanitary districts and contracts to one regarding campaign finance that:
- Raises campaign contribution limits 25%-
- Reverts to the requirement that candidates form a committee for each election cycle and ending the current requirement that candidates have separate committees for each of the primary election and the general election.-
- Changes the current prohibition on legislators and the governor on accepting campaign contributions from lobbyists during the legislative session to allowing them to accept contributions during the first three days of the legislative session, if a contribution is mailed to the recipient and is postmarked before the start of the session. 2-23 SENATE; 3-19 Jud, DPA/S/E; 3-25 R,PFC;

HB2608
Elections, active registered voters. Change base number needed on nominating petitions & decreases % required.

HB 2608
ELECTIONS; ACTIVE REGISTERED VOTERS. In specified election-related statues, the term “registered voters” and similar terms include only active registered voters for the purposes of calculating petition signature requirements, mailing and distributing election-related notices, pamphlets or ballots, providing voting machines, furnishing ballots, determining qualification for political parties’ continued representation on the ballot and choosing political party officers. Would increase the number of signatures requirement for third party candidates to qualify for the ballot. Titles Affected: 16 2-5 Elec,R; 2-16 Elec, DP; 2-23 T,V&P; 2-24 COW,DPA; 2-25 3rd, P; 2-25 to SENATE; 2-26 Gov,R; 2-26 Gov,R; 3-11 Gov,DP; 3-16 R,PFC; 3-24 COW,DP;

HB2649
Campaign finance; political committee, definition.
An emergency measure that restructures and modifies the definition of political committees. Contains a retroactivity date of September 30, 2013. This is in response to the U.S. District Court Judge James A. Teilborg ruling in Galassini v. Town of Fountain Hills that the definition of political committee found in A.R.S. § 16-901 is vague, overbroad and consequently unconstitutional. It says primary purpose is in influencing results. Feel it is too narrow than necessary. Needs 2/3 votes to pass. 2-12 Elec,R; 2-16 Elec,DP;2-25 R,C&P;2-26 COW,DPA; 3-11 3rd read, P; 3-12 SENATE; 3-16 Jud,R; 3-19 jud, DPA; 3-25 R, PFC;
SB 1182
CANDIDATE PETITION SIGNATURES; ELECTRONIC QUALIFICATION. Candidates may choose to collect all of the required nomination petition signatures, all of the required clean elections contribution qualification forms, or any lessor number of signatures or forms, by use of the online signature collection system provided by the Secretary of State. Due to voter protection, this bill requires the affirmative vote of at least 3/4 of each house of the Legislature for passage. First Sponsor: Sen. Ward
ARS Titles Affected: 16 1-25 Gov,R; 2-4 Gov, DP; 2-9 R, PFC; 2-16 3rd read; 1-16 HOUSE; 2-18 Elec,R; 3-16 Ed,DP; 3-23 C&P; 3-24 COW,DPA;

SB1237
Electronic driver licenses,
STRIKER, no new name. It would exclude privately funded candidates from the rules passed by voters in the Clean Elections Act. Takes 3/4 members vote to pass. House, 3-17 TI,DP;

SB1339
public records; STRIKER: NO NEW NAME: This would prohibit voters from using a trusted person to deliver their early ballot before the polls close. It would also make felons of volunteers who help deliver ballots to election officials. Voters should choose how they deliver their early ballots. To House; 3-17 /CMA,W/D; 3-19 GHE, W/D; 3-15 App, DPA/S/E; 3-26 R,C&P;

SAVE THE DATE!

League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 2, 2015
Prescott Centennial Center
1989 Clubhouse Drive, Prescott, AZ

Annual Business Meeting to vote on the ’15-’16 budget, program, slate of board members. Please plan to attend, as we need a quorum of membership!

Breakfast Buffet will be $15.00. Members can pay at the door or in advance by mailing to PO Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304. Either way, please RSVP to Terri Farneti @ tfarneti@cableone.net!

Fritzi Mevis, Executive Director of People Who Care will be our guest speaker to tell us about her non-profit’s work in our communities.
You could win . . .

1-Week Vacation in this Show Low, AZ. home!

Raffle tickets: $20 each
(Only 100 tickets will be sold)

Property photos can be viewed online at www.vrbo.com (property # 458194).

Date of occupancy to be determined between the winner and property owner (excluding July, August, September 2015). Drawing will be held on Sunday, May 17, during the LWVAZ 2015 Convention at Yavapai College, Verde Campus, Clarkdale, AZ. Winner need not be present to win. A refundable $200 damage deposit will be required prior to occupancy.

Proceeds to benefit the League of Women Voters of Arizona Education Fund (a 501(c)3 non-profit)

For tickets, contact: Perri Farneti
# LWVCYC Calendar 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Topic/Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Mar. 31</td>
<td>8-9:30</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Apr. 4</td>
<td>9-11:30</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Legislative Update</td>
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<td>Las Fuentes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Apr 24</td>
<td>8-9:30</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>10:30-1:30</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Election of Officers, Program, Lunch, Speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. eve to Sun.</td>
<td>May 15-17</td>
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<td>State LWV</td>
<td>Yavapai College, Verde Campus, at Clarkdale</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>10-4</td>
<td>Board Retreat</td>
<td>?</td>
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**IMPORTANT WEBSITES**

- LWVUS Website: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)
- LWVAZ Website: [www.lwvaz.org](http://www.lwvaz.org)
- LWVCYC Website: [LWVCYC.org](http://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!
League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County
P.O. Box 11538
Prescott, AZ 86304-1538

A nonpartisan membership organization, the League of Women Voters neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates, but encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.