**THE VOTER**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI**

LWVCYC.org ♦ LWVCYC@gmail.com ♦ P. O. Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304 ♦ August 2017

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League of Women Voters of
Central Yavapai County

**YOUR VOTE IN YAVAPAI COUNTY**

Saturday, September 9, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Las Fuentes Resort Village
1030 Scott Drive, Prescott

- What happens to my provisional ballot?
- Who has access to my voter record?
- Can I be registered to vote in two places?
- Is there really voter fraud?
- Can the electronic system be hacked?
- Are voter rolls purged?

Yavapai County Recorders/Elections Team
will address questions submitted by Members

Leslie Hoffman, Recorder, Karen McCracken, Chief Deputy Recorder,
Lynn Constabile, Elections Director and Laurin Custis, Registrar of Voters

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 contact us at LWVCYC, PO Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304
Message from the Board

Voting in Yavapai County

It only seems fitting that we begin our 2017-2018 year with a program on Voting in Yavapai County. Voting is once again a topic that has captured the attending of the citizens of our country. Many people aren’t sure their votes count, some have become disillusioned and don’t vote, others are students of political process who never miss the opportunity to have their voice heard by voting.

Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a long, 72-year struggle.

The League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy. From the beginning, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy.

The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

The League’s mission – Making Democracy Work® – includes ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters. Our work to protect voters falls into 2 categories: 1) Voting Rights – We seek to protect and expand voting rights through advocating for proactive reforms. 2) Improving Elections – We work to modernize our voting systems, streamline the voting process, promote transparent and accountable redistricting.

Upcoming Voter Registration Opportunities

- **Saturday, August 19**: 7 a.m. – Noon – Prescott Farmers Market
- **Saturday, September 16**: 7 a.m. – Noon – Prescott Farmers Market
- **National Voter Registration Day**: Tuesday, September 26th
Most presidential commissions don’t accomplish very much — they meet a few times, do some research and produce a report, which then gets filed away and few people ever read, the list of recommendations seldom acted on. But President Trump’s Presidential Commission on Election Integrity is different.

Its goal is nothing less than the supercharging of recent Republican efforts to disenfranchise Democratic voters and permanently tip the scales of elections in the GOP’s favor. Its true name should be the Commission on Vote Suppression, and it’s getting right to work.

This commission is led by Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who is the country’s premier advocate of vote suppression (Vice President Pence is the nominal chair, but as vice chair, Kobach is obviously running things). We’ll get more into Kobach’s agenda in a moment, but first, the latest news.

This week the commission sent a letter to all 50 state governments demanding that they send the commission their full voter files, including names, addresses, birth dates, party affiliation, voting history and Social Security numbers for every voter in America.

While some of that information is publicly available for a fee (parties and candidates buy it to target voters), Democratic officials in a number of states have essentially told Kobach to buzz off. The secretaries of state in Kentucky, California, and Massachusetts have refused, and the secretary of state in Connecticut said she will withhold some parts of the data, noting that Kobach “has a lengthy record of illegally disenfranchising eligible voters in Kansas.” Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe said, “I have no intention of honoring this request,” and other Democratic states are sure to follow.

The commission will probably end up obtaining most of the data it is after one way or another. So what are they going to do with it? It’s no secret: Under the guise of fighting “voter fraud,” they’ll use it as a tool to disenfranchise thousands, perhaps even millions of people, in order to solidify the Republican advantage in elections.

If you aren’t familiar with him, Kris Kobach has made a crusade out of denying people the right to vote, particularly racial minorities (I recommend this recent profile of Kobach by Ari Berman). Kobach, who is running for governor in Kansas, is currently the only secretary of state who has the power to prosecute voter fraud, a power he was granted by the Kansas legislature after convincing it that thousands upon thousands of people were voting illegally in the state. But as Berman reports: Though Kobach received the authority to prosecute fraud cases after warning that voting by ‘aliens’ was rampant, the nine convictions he has won since 2015 have primarily been citizens 60 and over who own property in two states and were confused about voting requirements. Only one noncitizen has been convicted.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Kansans have been blocked from registering by the 2011 law he championed that requires documentary proof of citizenship in order to register. Kobach was also recently fined by a federal judge for lying to the court about documents in a case in which he’s being sued by the ACLU. But his arguments about vast numbers of people voting illegally found a welcome audience in Trump, who has convinced himself that millions of undocumented immigrants voted illegally for Hillary Clinton and that voters registered in two states is a major problem that has contributed to rampant voter fraud.

The truth is that while lots of people are registered in multiple places, there’s almost no evidence that double-voting is anything more than a minuscule problem. Here’s a news flash: People move, and when they register in their new home, they’ll be registered in two places. But that doesn’t mean they’re voting in two places. During the course of my voting life, I’ve registered in four states,
plus the District of Columbia. That doesn’t mean I’m committing voter fraud; it just means that my name is on a list in states I used to live in. No one is going to the polls claiming to be me.

We see this pattern again and again: Republicans complain that there is some huge voter fraud problem that requires sweeping new laws in order to solve, but when it’s investigated, it turns out that the problem is somewhere between microscopic and nonexistent. But in the meantime, they’ve stolen thousands of people’s voting rights — people who just happen to disproportionately be Democrats.

So what is Kobach’s commission going to do with the data it gets? We don’t know for sure, but it appears that it has two broad goals. The first is essentially a PR effort aimed at public opinion and state legislatures: Foster the impression that fraud is widespread, which then makes it easier for Republican-run states to impose draconian laws making it as hard as possible for people to register and vote. The second apparent goal is more direct: Create lists of allegedly questionable voters that they’ll give to states in order to convince them to purge those people from the rolls, by showing that they might be registered in more than one place.

This is what Kobach has already been doing with a multi-state program called Crosscheck. One academic study of Crosscheck revealed that it flags thousands upon thousands of people who are allegedly voting in multiple states and recommends that they be purged from the rolls, when in fact these are simply people who have the same name and birth date as someone in another state. How many people named John Smith or Jennifer Wilson who were born on July 30th do you think there are in the United States?

In addition, Kobach is apparently planning to use a Homeland Security database of non-citizens — visa holders, green-card holders and the like — to flag voters to be purged. At this point you might be asking: Won’t all this affect Republicans, too? It will, but when done on a sufficiently broad scale, this is a numbers game that works to Republicans’ benefit. Let’s say there’s a green-card holder named Hector Gonzales who was born on April 3rd, and they find 75 different voters named Hector Gonzales with that birthday around the country and purge them all on the dubious grounds that they all might be that one non-citizen Hector Gonzales. Even if there are a few Republicans born on April 3rd named Hector Gonzales who lose their voting rights, the GOP will come out ahead, since most of those Hector Gonzalezes are probably Democrats.

The same is true of voter-ID laws. Some Republicans may be unable to find their birth certificates and be disenfranchised, but everyone knows that Democrats are affected more. One statistical analysis found that “strict ID laws cause a reduction in Democratic turnout by 8.8 percentage points, compared to a reduction of 3.6 percentage points for Republicans.” So the math works out in the GOP’s favor.

Let’s be clear: The sole purpose of this commission on “election integrity” is to suppress votes and give the GOP a structural advantage in every election. It’s being led by Kris Kobach, whose twin missions in life are to scale back immigration and to make voting more difficult. Other commission members include Ken Blackwell, a far-right activist who as secretary of state of Ohio in 2004 (while he was simultaneously serving as state co-chair of the George W. Bush campaign) tried to disenfranchise people whose registration forms were submitted on insufficiently heavy paper stock. The administration just added Hans von Spakovsky, who before Kobach emerged was known as the country’s most prominent advocate of vote suppression.

These people are not trying to determine whether there are problems with our voting system and find the best solutions to those problems. They have come together to promote the myth of voter fraud and enable vote suppression in order to advantage the Republican Party. No one should be fooled into thinking this enterprise is anything other than that.
Voting Laws Roundup 2017

In 2017, changes to voting laws are again poised to play a major role in state legislative agendas.

At this point in the year, every state’s legislature is either in session or has completed its 2017 calendar. As has been the case all decade, legislators across the country are trying to reshape state voting laws. In several places, this means it will soon be harder to vote: Five states have already enacted bills to cut back on voting access, and one more is on the verge of doing so. By comparison, three states enacted voting restrictions in 2015 and 2016 combined. Overall, however, more bills to expand access to voting were introduced this year than bills that would restrict voting access. Still, of the legislation making the most substantial impact on voting access, more legislation to limit participation is advancing toward passage. Moreover, governors in Nebraska and Nevada have vetoed the bills that would expand access to the franchise.

Overview of Legislation to Restrict Voting Access

Overall, at least 99 bills to restrict access to registration and voting have been introduced in 31 states. Thirty-Five such bills saw significant legislative action (meaning they have at least been approved at the committee level or beyond) in 17 states.

Several states will soon implement major new voting restrictions

Five states have already enacted laws making it harder to register or vote, one more is on the verge of doing so, and more states could act later this year:

- **Iowa**’s governor signed a broad-based law that will require voter ID, restrict voter registration efforts, and impose new burdens on Election Day registration and early and absentee voting. Although not as restrictive as a North Carolina law that passed in 2013 (and was blocked by a federal court), Iowa’s law similarly restricts voting in a number of different ways.
- **Arkansas** passed two bills to bring back voter ID to the state after a court struck down an earlier law.
- **North Dakota** also enacted legislation to re-impose an identification requirement after a court blocked a strict ID law in 2016.
- **Indiana** enacted a law that will implement a purge of registered voters from the rolls. The program will remove voters in a manner similar to purges in other states that have been criticized for being error-prone and inadequately protective of eligible voters.
Montana’s house and senate passed a bill that will prevent civic groups and individuals from helping others vote absentee by collecting and delivering their voted ballots. The bill now goes to voters as a November 2018 ballot measure.

Georgia’s legislature sent bill that would make voter registration more difficult to the Governor, and he signed it on May 9.

**Voter ID bills are still the most common form of voting restriction moving in state legislatures**

Since 2010, ten states have passed more burdensome voter ID requirements. As in previous years, voter ID is the most common type of legislation to restrict voting access this year. Overall, **39 bills** imposing harsher voter ID requirements were introduced in **22 states**. As noted above, **three states** — Arkansas, Iowa, and North Dakota have already enacted voter ID laws.

Legislation pending in other states poses risks to voting access. For example, Oklahoma’s Senate passed a bill that would add a voter ID requirement to the state constitution. The bill passed with a **wide margin** in the Senate, setting up a likely house vote. Meanwhile, Texas’s senate has passed a voter ID bill, discussed in further detail below, that would put in place a voter ID provision less voter-friendly than the current, court-ordered provision.

**Restrictions on voter registration are a close second**

After voter ID, making the voter registration process more burdensome is the most popular subject of bills to cut back on voting access. Overall, **33 bills** to make the voter registration process more burdensome have been introduced in **22 states**. Bills have at least been considered and approved by a legislative committee in Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia. Of these, New Hampshire’s has the most momentum: a bill to make registration more difficult for students, supported by the Secretary of State, has passed the Senate.

**The majority of states acting to restrict voting are legislating on topics where courts previously acted to protect voters**

Most of the states that have already enacted or on the verge of enacting new voting restrictions are passing legislation of the same subject on which courts have recently acted to protect voters from past voting restrictions.

- **Arkansas** has passed two harmful voter ID bills. One, which restores a statutory requirement that voters show one of a limited set of ID, has been enacted. The other, which would amend the state constitution to require voter ID, must be approved by the voters in the form of a ballot initiative before taking effect. A state court blocked a previous ID law in 2014.

- **Georgia** enacted a law imposing a requirement that information on voter registration forms match exactly with other state records — a burdensome process known as “no match, no vote.” Only months earlier, the secretary of state agreed in a court settlement to stop a similar procedure that had prevented tens of thousands from registering.
• **Iowa** enacted an omnibus voting bill, described in further detail above, on May 5. The bill includes a requirement that suspected non-citizens be deleted from the voter rolls. Such removals programs, if conducted without safeguards to adequately ensure those being removed are actually ineligible, can sweep in thousands of eligible voters, as has happened in Colorado and Florida. In 2014, a state court blocked former Secretary of State Matt Schultz from purging suspected noncitizens because he lacked authority to carry out the program in the manner he intended.

• **North Dakota**’s Governor signed a bill on April 25 that would restore a strict voter ID requirement in the state. In 2016, a federal court partially blocked a previous ID law that accepted a narrow range of identification documents and did not provide any meaningful voting opportunities for voters without the accepted ID. The new bill slightly expands options to use for ID, but eliminates the process the court imposed, which allows voters without IDs to cast a ballot that counts on Election Day, and instead included a more burdensome process. One legislator argued that that the bill does **not pass** constitutional muster.

• **Texas**’s legislature is considering a voter ID bill that that is on the verge of being passed a house committee has already approved the legislation and it has already passed the senate. The state attorney general has described the bill as a response to a court’s blocking of the state’s previous strict voter ID law. Critics observe that the bill, if enacted, would put in place a voter id requirement that is more stringent than the existing court-ordered process.

Fifteen state legislatures have passed bills to expand access to voting, but Governors have vetoed the most impactful legislation

Eight states have enacted bills that will make voting and registration easier, seven states have not yet enacted legislation but have passed it through their state legislatures, and more than a hundred bills to improve voting access have at least advanced through a committee. The two bills that would make the biggest impact on voting access, however, have been vetoed.

• **Florida, Kansas, New Jersey, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia** enacted legislation that would make it easier to vote without showing up to the polls on Election Day.
  o **New Jersey** improved voting for military voters.
  o **Utah** expanded early and absentee voting opportunities.
  o The other states upgraded their absentee voting procedures.
Indiana improved its process for registering voters who visit the state drivers’ license offices.

Wyoming eased the process for restoring the right to vote for people with criminal convictions.

Idaho made its voter ID law slightly less burdensome.

The most significant reforms to pass, however, have been vetoed by Republican governors.

- Nevada’s assembly and senate passed legislation to establish automatic voter registration, but Republican Governor Brian Sandoval vetoed it. The legislation, an initiative petition, now goes to the voters, who could approve it by directly voting on it in the November 2018 general election.
- Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts, also a Republican, vetoed a bill that would have restored the right to vote to citizens with criminal convictions upon their release from incarceration. The veto came after Nebraska’s unicameral legislature (which is technically nonpartisan, but controlled by legislators generally identified as politically conservative), passed the bill by a 27-13 margin. An attempted veto override failed, with the chamber splitting 23-23 for override.

Automatic registration and other reforms to modernize voter rolls are common forms of legislation to expand voting access

Automatic voter registration (AVR) remains a popular pro-voter reform that is being introduced in legislatures across the country, building on momentum from the last two years. AVR is a new reform that leverages existing technology to help get voters registered. It also changes our system from one in which voters must affirmatively register to vote to one in which they are registered unless they “opt out.” In 2015 and 2016, six states passed or implemented AVR.

- This year, AVR became law in the District of Columbia.
- A bill in Illinois, which nearly enacted the reform last year, just passed the Senate by a 48-0 vote. The bill is similar to legislation introduced and supported by both Democrats and Republicans in the last legislative session, and there is a strong possibility the bill will pass.
- Nevada passed an automatic voter registration bill through both legislative chambers, but it was vetoed by the governor. It will be on the ballot in 2018 for the voters to decide.
- Utah’s House also passed an automatic voter registration bill, but it died in the Senate.
- Colorado, Connecticut, and Georgia are moving forward to implement automatic voter registration administratively.
- Overall, at least 86 bills to implement or expand AVR have been introduced in at least 32 states.
- Legislation has at least been approved by a legislative committee in Arkansas, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Virginia, and Washington, and efforts to introduce and pass legislation have also received media attention in Maine and Maryland.
Legislation to expand early and absentee voting is popular

In addition to the six states that have already enacted legislation to make early, absentee, and military voting easier, seven states have at least moved early voting legislation through a committee, and nineteen states have done the same with absentee voting legislation. Overall, 166 bills to improve early voting or absentee voting access have been introduced in 35 states.

Legislation restoring the right to vote to people with past convictions is also common

As described above, Nebraska and Wyoming’s legislatures approved bills to help restore the right to vote to people with past criminal convictions. Nebraska’s bill was vetoed.

- Nevada’s Senate passed a bill that would improve the rights restoration process in the state, and a bill is also moving in the House. Nevada’s Governor has opposed past efforts to restore the right to vote.
- In Virginia, different versions of a bill that would improve voting access for certain persons with criminal convictions passed in the house and senate, but neither was enacted.
- Overall, 55 bills to help restore the right to vote to persons with past criminal convictions have been introduced in 18 states, and bills have at least been approved by a committee in 17 states.

Please submit questions you’d like to have answered by the County Recorder’s Office by Monday, August 28th!

LWVYCYC@gmail.com
### League of Women Voters
**2017-2018 Calendar by Topic**

**Updated 8/5/17**

#### Board meetings
5:15 p.m. – Meals on Wheels, Rosser Adult Center

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<th>Sept 5</th>
<th>Oct. 30</th>
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<td>2018:</td>
<td>Jan. 2</td>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>May 1</td>
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#### Monthly Meetings

| Sept. 9 | Voting in Yavapai County  
Speakers: Election Officials from Yavapai County Registrar of Voters |
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>What’s Happening with Health Care?</td>
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<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>Non-Profit Johnson Agreement</td>
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| Dec. 2  | Holiday luncheon – location TBD  
Foster Care and Childhood Issues  
Fundraiser and Gift Drive for Kids |
| Jan. 6  | Senior issues (health, trans, housing)                       |
| Feb. 3  | Program Review                                                |
| March 3 | State Legislative Update                                      |
| April 7 | Topic: TBD                                                   |
| May 5  | Annual meeting/luncheon  
11:00 a.m. – Location TBD                                      |

Let’s Talk Politics @ Mountain Artists Guild 5-7 p.m.

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<th>Sept. 15</th>
<th>Oct. 20</th>
<th>Nov. 17</th>
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Have you renewed your membership?
If not, please drop your check in the mail along with the form above.

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**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 LWVAZ Education Fund (tax deductible)

* Donations to the LWVAZ 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

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**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