League of Women Voters®
of Central Yavapai County

Membership Handbook

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.
Principles of the League of Women Voters®

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen’s right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote, that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people, that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that development of international organizations and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

WHERE DO THE PRINCIPLES COME FROM? The Principles are “concepts of government” to which the League subscribes. They are a direct descendant of the platform, which served from 1943 to 1956 as the national repository for “principles supported by positions taken by the League as a whole in fields of government to which it has given sustained attention.” By 1956, the Platform had disappeared from League vocabulary, the principles survived as “The Principles.” Since then, they have served two functions, according to the LWVUS Bylaws: 1) authorization for adoption of national, state and local program (Article XII), and 2) as a basis for taking action at the national state and local levels (Article XII).
b. Recommendations for program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting, but not included in the proposed program recommended by the Board, may be considered at the Annual Meeting provided that the voting members present order consideration by a majority vote. The voting members present shall adopt the item by a majority vote.

Section 5. **Changes in the Chosen Program.** Changes may be made in the chosen program in case of altered conditions, provided that:

a. information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a regular meeting at which the change is to be discussed,

b. the membership shall vote on the change at the next General meeting.

c. the proposed change shall be adopted if approved by a majority of voting members, provided there is a quorum as defined in Article VII, Section 2 of these bylaws.

Section 6. **Member Action.** Members may act in the name of the LWVCYC only when authorized to do so by the Board. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the LWVCYC, the LWVUS and/or the LWVAZ.

**ARTICLE X**

**NATIONAL AND STATE CONVENTION AND COUNCIL**

Section 1. **National and State Convention and Council.** The Board, at its meeting before the date on which the names of the Delegates must be sent to the LWVUS or LWVAZ office, shall select Delegates to the Convention(s) and Council(s).

**ARTICLE XI—PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Section 1. **Parliamentary Authority.** The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the LWVCYC in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

**ARTICLE XII—AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. **Amendments.** These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the Annual Meeting, provided that there is a quorum as defined in Article VII, Section 4 of these bylaws, and provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.


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“Let us then raise up a league of women voters...a league that shall be non-partisan and non-sectarian in character...to finish the fight and aid in the reconstruction of the nation.”

~ Carrie Chapman Catt, March 24, 1919

And, thus began the League of Women Voters. The occasion was the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), in St. Louis. In proposing a League be formed, NAWSA President Catt asked the convention “What could be more natural than that women who have attained their political independence should desire to give service in token of their gratitude? What could be more appropriate than that such women should do for the coming generation what those of a preceding period did for them?”

In the beginning the League was an appendage of the NAWSA but on February 20, 1920, just six months prior to the 19th amendment’s ratification, the League became an independent organization. Then, as now, its office and professional staff were located in Washington DC.

The League began as a “mighty political experiment” designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. Catt foresaw the tightrope this “big, composite, non partisan body” would have to walk if it was to be a common meeting ground and garner the divergent political support it would need to further its principles, ideals and issues. She saw the League as “an anomaly: we are going to be a semi-political body. We want political things; we want legislation; we are going to educate for citizenship... we have got to be non-partisan and all-partisan.”

League founders believed that maintaining a nonpartisan status would protect the fledgling organization from becoming mired in the party politics of the day.

And so from the beginning the League was an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. This holds true even today. We are proud that the League is nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates at any level of government, but always working on issues of concern to members and the public.
League Membership

Make a lifetime of difference for your community and for yourself. Become more involved in making democracy work by sharing your opinions, becoming a better informed citizen, and helping shape public policy decisions that affect your everyday life. Consider connecting with the LWVCYC that will help you do all this! Focus on current issues...issues affecting the community...issues on which you can make a difference. Each member participates in the League as personal time and preference permit. This is a place for everyone and every lifestyle.

Since 1920, the League has earned a reputation as a highly respected citizens organization that researches issues from many points of view and educates the public and decision makers. It is comprised of men and women who want to make a difference in our communities, our country and our world.

- The League is nonpartisan; it does not support or oppose candidates.
- The League supports issues and legislation, after member study and agreement.
- The League mobilizes people to vote and to have a say in the complex decisions that affect us all.
- Membership in the League is open to any person who subscribes to the principles of the League. Voting members are citizens at least 18 years of age who are enrolled in the LWVCYC.

Flexible opportunities, community activism and enhancing skills are just some of the benefits members receive in addition to The Voter newsletter.

Friends of the League

Friends of the League, established in February 2003, allows women and men who believe in the League’s principles, but are not in a position to be active, to contribute financial resources, participate in general meetings and educational forums and obtain information about state and local issues.

The benefits to becoming a Friend are: subscription to The Voter, firsthand knowledge of LWV programs & activities, and recognition for contribution (if authorized).

Section 2. Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor.

The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the Annual Meeting. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee has been secured.

Section 3. Elections. The elections shall be by ballot, except that if there is only one nominee for an office it shall be by voice vote. A majority of voting members present shall constitute an election, provided there is a quorum, as defined in Article VII, Section 4, of these bylaws. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX—PROGRAM

Section 1. Principles. The Principles are the concepts of government adopted by the national convention of the LWVUS and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the LWVCYC program.

Section 2. Program. The Program of the LWVCYC shall consist of:

a. the Principles of the LWVUS.
b. those local government issues adopted at the Annual Meeting for concerted study and action.

Section 3. Preparation for the Annual Meeting:

a. Three months prior to the Annual Meeting, the Board shall solicit program recommendations from the voting members.
b. Voting members may make recommendations to the Board at least two months before the Annual Meeting.
c. The Board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program. The proposed program and all other recommendations submitted by the voting members shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting.

Section 4. Member Action at the Annual Meeting:

a. A majority of voting members present at the Annual Meeting, provided there is a quorum as provided in Article VII, Section 4, shall adopt a program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board.
Section 4. **Audit.** The treasurer’s records shall be audited annually.

Section 5. **Inspection.** The financial records shall be available for inspection by any voting member of the LWVCYC.

**ARTICLE VII—MEETINGS**

Section 1. **Membership Meetings:**

a. There shall be at least five regular meetings of the membership each year; time and place shall be determined by the Board.

b. These meetings may be held as General meetings (members from all units) or Unit meetings, if Units are established.

Section 2. **Quorum.** A majority of voting members in good standing shall constitute a quorum at regular meetings.

Section 3. **Annual Meeting.** An Annual Meeting shall be held in April, the exact date to be determined by the Board. The members at the Annual Meeting shall:

a. adopt a local program for the ensuing year;

b. elect officers, three directors and two members of the nominating committee;

c. adopt an adequate budget;

d. transact such other business as may come before them.

Section 4. **Quorum for Annual Meeting.** One-quarter of voting members in good standing one month prior to the meeting shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting of the LWVCYC.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

Section 1. **Nominating Committee.** The nominating committee shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be a member of the Board. The chairman and one other member shall not be members of the Board and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for the elected members of the nominating committee shall be made by the current nominating committee. The third member shall be appointed by the Board from among its members immediately following the Annual Meeting. Any vacancy on the nominating committee shall be filled by the Board. Suggestions for officers and directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member of the LWVCYC.

League of Women Voters® Arizona Education Fund (LWVAZEF)

The League of Women Voters of Arizona Education Fund (LWVAZEF) was organized in 1984 to carry out the educational programs of the League of Women Voters of Arizona.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund:

- provides information to the public on important public policy issues through forums and well researched studies.
- serves Arizona voters by sponsoring candidate debates, organizing voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, and publishing voter guides.
- informs the public about how government works through publications and conferences.

The Education Fund serves Arizona citizens of all ages. Through monitoring, public meetings and publications, the League of Women Voters initiates discussions of public policy issues that begin the process of change within communities. Thousands of Arizonans have benefited from League projects, particularly voter forums, debates, voter guides, voter directories and election services.

The LWVAZEF never supports or opposes political parties or candidates and as a tax deductible 501(c)(3) organization is never used to lobby or influence legislation.

If you wish to make a contribution to the LWVAZEF on behalf of LWVCYC, make your tax deductible check payable to: LWVAZ Education Fund, and mail to P.O. Box 25854, Prescott Valley, Arizona 86312.
LWV Nonpartisan Policy

The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidates. League members are encouraged to participate fully in all political activities available in our democratic process.

Nonpartisan Policy for Members

League Position
Once League (local, state or national) takes a position on an issue, members may not identify themselves as League members in public expressing an opinion that is in opposition to a League position.

Representing League
Members representing the League in the community should be sensitive to their responsibilities. When acting in the public as League representatives, members must not allow partisanship to be discernible. These members should be fully aware of League positions and regularly report to the Board.

Serving on Commissions and Committees
Members may serve on governmental commissions and committees at their own discretion. If the appointment is League-related, the appointee should be fully aware of the League positions as they relate to the commission’s or committee’s responsibilities, and regularly report to the Board.

League Meetings
Members in leadership roles at general and other public meetings have the responsibility to ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environment.

Only Board of Directors-approved petitions may be circulated at League meetings.

Section 4. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board and Annual Meeting. She/he shall sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as shall be incidental to the office.

Section 5. The Treasurer. The treasurer shall:
   a. collect and receive all monies due;
   b. be the custodian of these monies;
   c. depositing them in a bank designated by the Board;
   d. pay all bills in a timely manner;
   e. present a budget report to the Board at intervals directed by the Board;
   f. maintain correct accounts of monies received and disbursed and all properties of the LWVCYC.
   g. present financial statements to the Board at their regular meetings and report to the Annual Meeting; and
   h. prepare fiscal year-end financial statements for the year or years during which the treasurer held office.

ARTICLE VI
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVCYC shall commence on the first day of July each year.

Section 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be determined by the Board and approved by the voting members at their Annual Meeting.
   a. Such dues shall be payable on the first day of July. Any member who fails to pay dues within three months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership roll.
   b. A new member joining on/or before January 31, will pay the full amount of dues. A new member joining on/or after February 1 will pay one half the amount for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Section 3. Budget Committee. A budget committee shall be appointed by the Board at least three months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The committee shall report to the Board two months before the Annual Meeting. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members on month before the Annual Meeting. The treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chairman of the budget committee.
Section 4. **Powers and Duties.**

a. The Board shall have full charge of the property and business of the LWVCYC, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same.

b. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the annual meeting.

c. It shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 5. **Meetings.** There shall be at least four regular meetings of the Board annually. The President may call special meetings of the Board and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of three members of the Board. Special meetings may be conducted in person, by telephone or by electronic means.

Section 6. **Quorum.** A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

**ARTICLE V - OFFICERS**

Section 1. **Enumeration and Election of Officers.** The officers of the LWVCYC shall be a president, or co-presidents, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer, who shall be elected by the general membership at an Annual Meeting.

Section 2. **The President.** The president, or co-presidents, shall preside at all meetings of the LWVCYC and the Board. The President, or one of the co-presidents, shall, along with the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. She/he or they shall be ex-officio a member of all committees except the nominating committee. She/he or they shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president.

Section 3. **The Vice-Presidents.** The first Vice-President shall be responsible for the Program Portfolio, and the second Vice-President shall be responsible for the Membership Portfolio.

The two vice-presidents, in the order of their rank, shall, in the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office, until such time as the Board fills the vacancy as provided in Article IV, Section 3. The vice-presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and the Board may designate.

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**Non-Partisan Policy for Designated Members of the Board of Directors**

The President, Voter Service Director, Action Director and the Board member in charge of a local study shall not run for elective office, attend candidate fundraising functions, or generally participate in party politics beyond attending precinct meetings and caucuses, nor shall they circulate initiative or referendum petitions, or nominating petitions for candidates on state or local issues except as part of a League of Women Voters campaign.

Partisan activities in which the persons holding the above positions may not participate include:

1. Holding or actively seeking an elective office.
2. Having an official position in a party organization, or in an organization endorsing candidates for public office.
3. Participating conspicuously in campaigns for individuals in such a way as to publicly identify the League member with said individual.
4. Contributing conspicuously to any candidate or party in such a way as to publicly identify the League member with said individual.
5. Speaking at party organization meetings (attendance and voting for precinct officials are allowed).
6. Acting as hostess or taking an active part at coffees or rallies for candidates of one party. Attendance is encouraged.

Interpretation of the above-enumerated guidelines will be made by the Board of Directors.

It is the obligation of the Board of Directors to remind the Nominating Committee to discuss the nonpartisan policy with potential nominees for Board positions. All members shall receive a copy of the Nonpartisan Policies.
LWVCYC

Positions & Action Guidelines

The League of Women Voters® of Central Yavapai County (LWVCYC) has positions on water, juvenile justice and social issues, meeting basic senior needs, workforce housing and public transportation. To arrive at positions, study issues are presented to the membership for discussion, interpretation, evaluation and determination as to areas of agreement and/or disagreement. Once consensus is reached, the Board of Directors formulates a position that expresses the League's views on these issues. The positions are then approved by the full membership at the Annual Meeting in April. After approval, action begins.

• Action is the goal of League study. Action decisions are of utmost importance, but sometimes are the most difficult for a League Board to make.

• A local League can undertake no action of specific legislation in Congress or the State Legislature without direction from the national or state Board. Under most circumstances, a national or state “Action Alert” requests action to be taken under national and state positions.

• Action under local positions is the jurisdiction of the local Board but there are some exceptions:
  • Action can be taken by the local League on local programs without State Board permission only if it does not affect national or state positions.
  • Action by local Leagues on local positions at national or state level. Local Leagues may take action only after they receive permission from the State Board, neighboring state Leagues, if affected, and the National Board.

ARTICLE IV—BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Terms of Office. The Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as the Board, shall consist of the elected officers of the LWVCYC, three elected directors, the appointed chair from each unit, and not more than three appointed directors.

a. The officers and three directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual meeting.

b. The officers and directors elected at the annual meeting shall take office on July 1, 2007, and, with the exception of the Treasurer, shall serve until conclusion of the April 2008 annual meeting. The Treasurer shall serve until the end of the 2007-08 fiscal year, i.e., June 30, 2008.

c. Thereafter, the officers and directors shall serve for a term of one year, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The terms of office of all officers and directors, with the exception of the treasurer, shall begin at the conclusion of the annual meeting at which they are elected and shall expire at the conclusion of the following year’s annual meeting.

d. The term of the treasurer shall begin on the first day of the fiscal year following the annual meeting at which the treasurer is elected and shall end on the last day of the fiscal year. The treasurer shall prepare year-end financial reports for the year during which he or she has served.

e. The elected members of the Board shall appoint a chair from each unit, if units are established, and such additional directors, not exceeding three, as they deem necessary to carry out the work of the LWVCYC. The terms of office of the unit chairs and appointed directors shall expire at the conclusion of the next annual meeting following their appointment.

Section 2. Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed or Shall continue to serve as an officer or director of the LWVCYC unless She/he is a voting member of the LWVCYC.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the Board by reason of resignation, death, or disqualification of a member of the Board may be filled, until the end of the fiscal year, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board. Three consecutive absences from a board meeting by any member, without a valid reason submitted to the President, shall be deemed a resignation.
League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I
NAME AND ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVCYC.

Section 2. Organization. The LWVCYC is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Arizona, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS and LWVAZ.

Section 3. Units. There may be more than one unit in the LWVCYC.

ARTICLE II
PURPOSE AND POLICY

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of the LWVCYC is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Political Policy. The LWVCYC shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League of Women Voters shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership. The membership of the LWVCYC shall be composed of voting members and associate members.
   a. Voting members shall be those citizens at least 18 years of age who are enrolled in the LWVCYC.
   b. Associate members shall be those all other members of the LWVCYC.
   c. Life membership may be granted to any voting member of the LWVUS who attains 50 years membership in the LWVUC. Life members shall retain all privileges of a voting member and shall be excused from paying any dues further.

   - Local League should send copies of letters, testimony, etc., on any action to the State and National offices on state and national action.
   - Request for State Board to Take Action: If the local League sees action possibilities under state and national positions, it should seek permission from the State Board.
   - Interleague Coordination: When taking action that affects jurisdiction of another League, that League shall be contacted to seek its cooperation.

Consensus

Consensus is agreement among a substantial number of a representative group of members. It is a coming together of divergent points of view. It can be what the group agrees upon even if it is not a definite answer to a consensus question. It is not a vote.

The consensus statement presents a basic philosophy and defines goals to be achieved. Because consensus is an interpretative process, the statement must be flexible enough to work with, but specific enough so members will know what to expect in action.

When writing consensus questions, care must be taken that the questions are clear, free of loaded or biased words, and do not lead to a “right” answer. They should focus on the decisions a citizen can make, not be related to a specific piece of legislation. Material provided in the study must make it possible to answer the questions. Simple “yes” and “no” questions must provide members the opportunity to qualify their responses.

In general, if the larger number of those participating in the consensus approve the question, it is accepted. If there are major objections from all participating, it is not accepted.

The position is written after consensus questions are answered. It is then adopted by the Board. The membership accepts the position or reopens it revision.
Concurrence

Concurrence is the act of agreeing with—or concurring with—a statement or position. Concurrence is a decision-making technique used by the League. Groups of League members or League boards can concur with (1) recommendation of a resource committee or a unit group; (2) decision statements formulated by League boards; or (3) position reached by another League or Leagues. Every member who joins the League concurs with program positions already developed. Members who move from state to state accept already arrived-at-positions.

Concurrence is not intended to be a substitute for the traditional consensus process. It should be viewed as a technique to be used, when appropriate, as a means of maximizing the time, energies and talents of the limited resources available at LWV.

The League Philosophy

Non-partisanship, consensus on issues, study before action and concerted advocacy are central to the League’s philosophy. The LWV thoroughly researches and studies issues before it arrives at a public position. After weighing the pros and cons of policy choices, LWV members discuss areas of agreement and disagreement, eventually arriving at consensus. Depending on which level of government is involved (local, state or national) the appropriate League board compiles members’ opinions to arrive at a position. Consensus positions are then used to take action which includes writing to, testifying before and lobbying legislators, boards, and commissions; conducting public forums on the subject; writing letters to the editor, sending media releases; and scheduling public appearances.

Following are the positions of the League of Women of Central Yavapai County, the League of Women Voters of Arizona and the League of Women Voters of the United States.

LWVUS Positions (continued)

- **Support Services.** Provide for essential support services.
- **Housing Supply.** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.
- **Child Care.** Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.
- **Early Intervention for Children at Risk.** Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.
- **Violence Prevention.** Support violence prevention programs in communities.
- **Gun Control.** Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.
- **Urban Policy.** Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.
- **Death Penalty.** The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

For further information on the LWVUS positions open the LWVUS website: www.lwv.org, click “Issues”, then click on the position category and finally the position itself.
SOCIAL POLICY
Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

- **Equality of Opportunity.** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

- **Fiscal Policy**
  
  - **Tax Policy.** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.
  
  - **Federal Deficit.** Promote responsible deficit policies.
  
  - **Funding of Entitlements.** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

- **Health Care.** Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

- **Immigration.** Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

- **Meeting Basic Human Needs.** Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

- **Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County

**Positions**

**Juvenile Justice and Social Issues**

**Summary Statement:** The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County encourages and supports the continuance and introduction of programs for children (birth to age 18) in the areas of physical health, mental health, care and supervision that are provided by parents, public, and voluntary agencies. These programs must be funded, timely, appropriate, coordinated, available, and accessible by public transportation.

**Position:** The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County encourages and supports:

1. Funding of all mandated public health, inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance abuse programs for underinsured and uninsured children.
2. Preventive and treatment programs for children in health, mental health care and substance abuse that are easily accessible, timely and appropriate.
3. Programs of parent education and involvement, both in groups and individually, providing understanding of parenting skills, physical health and mental health of children, sex education programs, educational programs for pregnant teenagers, teen development programs and classes in parenting skills.
4. Employment of at least one counselor in each school to address students’ needs and act as a resource to families and staff. In addition, schools are encouraged to provide sex education programs, educational programs for pregnant teenagers, teen development programs and classes in parenting skills.
5. Programs that provide protection and services to children. Such programs must be easily accessible by citizens and professionals, provide sufficient foster home placements for children and juveniles with varying needs, enforce state laws, and provide shelters for youths and stipends for older teens.
Juvenile Justice and Social Issues (continued)

6. Recreational programs and after-school programs for children. In addition, teenagers must have access to locations offering information on teenage employment, community service, shelters, mentoring programs, medical services and distribution of food.

7. Community diversion programs and counselors available to school, police departments and other public and voluntary agencies.

8. Court coordinated community programs (such as Drug Court).

9. Policies and programs which treat all juvenile offenders with special consideration to age-appropriate needs for mental and physical health care and treatment, safety and protection, and education with emphasis on rehabilitative services.

Meeting Basic Senior Needs
Adopted 2002-2003, Revised 2007

Summary Statement: The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County encourages and supports the continuance and introduction of programs and services for seniors in the areas of health, care giving, jobs, recreation/socialization, transportation and affordable housing to be provided by private and public entities. The goal of these programs and services should be to pursue coordination, build coalitions, educate the public, and to oversee and monitor the process and results. Seniors shall be defined as any man or woman age 55 or above.

Position: The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County encourages and supports:

1. Adequate services in the areas of health promotion and wellness, mental health, dental health and palliative care, accessible to all seniors.

2. Adequate funding for Medicare, AHCCCS and ALTCS to cover comprehensive health services. Medicare funding to be equitably distributed between rural and urban areas.

3. Incentives and funding for recruitment, training and retention of health care providers by private and/or public institutions.

4. Adequate home and community based care giving services and programs to ensure the safety of patients and the support for and oversight of care givers.

LWVUS Positions (continued)

NATURAL RESOURCES
Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

- Natural Resources. Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

- Resource Management. Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

- Environmental Protection and Pollution Control. Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

- Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

- Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

- Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

- Water Resources. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

- Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

- Nuclear Issues. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

- Public Participation. Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

- Agriculture Policy. Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.
Citizens Rights—continued

- **Individual Liberties.** Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

- **Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.** Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

- **Congress.** Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

- **The Presidency.** Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

- **United Nations.** Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

- **Trade.** Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

- **U.S. Relations with Developing Countries.** Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

- **Arms Control.** Reduce the risk of war through support of arms controls measures.

- **Military Policy and Defense Spending.** Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

Meeting Basic Senior Needs (continued)

5. Programs assisting seniors to update and enhance job and business skills, providing incentives for employers to utilize, train and incorporate seniors into the workforce, and for seniors to engage in entrepreneurial pursuits.

6. Adequate funds to develop community centers for seniors in order to provide information/referral services, socialization and recreation, nutrition, education counseling, and other professional services, physical service programs, and/or transportation to community services not on site.

7. An adequately funded, reliable public and/or private regional transit system.

8. A regional housing agency providing and administering affordable housing for seniors by planning and developing new housing and rehabilitating existing housing units.

9. A continuous source of funding for housing and home repair to meet the needs of low-income elderly, rural residents.

10. A central information/referral system.

WATER

Adopted 1999 and Revised in 2006

Summary Statement: The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County encourages and supports the effective use of water and effluent, controlled development and use of alternative water sources (all sources other than ground water) increased water conservation and education, and cooperation of communities in Central Yavapai County.

Position: The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County encourages and supports:

1. Public and private accountability of water usage and conservation.
2. Acquisition and development of water and sewage systems by local government.
3. Tax and cost reduction incentives, which result in water conservation and effluent reuse.
4. The study, development of alternative water sources when effective use of available effluent has been made.
5. Public education that communicates the need for conservation and the results of regional water studies.
6. The regulation and effective use of effluent for recharge and direct public use.
7. Measures that stress or require water conservation in the planning and conversion of developments.
8. The cooperation of communities within Central Yavapai County.
9. The attainment of safe yield in the Prescott Active Management Area no later than 2025.

WORKFORCE HOUSING
Adopted 2006, Revised 2007

**Summary Statement:** The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County encourages and supports affordable housing for the workforce that provides vital community services in the areas of education, health care, public safety and retailing.

**Position:** The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County supports continuance of existing development policies and introduction of additional new development policies that result in:

1. timely decisions on new development to minimize financing costs
2. local officials working with developers on development agreements that include incentives for diversity of zoning
3. variety in housing density and a reduction of exclusionary zoning which limits buyer’s choices
4. diversity of zoning that includes rental housing
5. housing within redevelopment projects
6. annexation development agreements which feature inclusive zoning
7. aggressively seeking companies whose wage rates relate to housing costs in the quad-city area

League of Women Voters of the United States Positions

**REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT**
Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsible.

**Voting Rights**
- **Citizens Right to Vote.** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.
- **DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.** Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

**Election Process**
- **Apportionment.** Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.
- **Campaign Finance.** Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public’s right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.
- **Selection of the President.** Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular vote and work to abolish the Electoral College. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

**Citizen Rights**
- **Citizen’s Right to Know/Citizen Participation.** Protect the citizen’s right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.
LWVAZ Positions (continued)

CHARTER SCHOOL: LWVAZ supports limitations in chartering of public schools, holding charter schools fiscally responsible, qualifications to be included in charters, annual financial and academic compliance review by the State Department of Education and mechanisms for citizen input/involvement. 1999

AIMS:HIGHESTAKES TESTING: (Arizona Instrument to Measure standards) LWVAZ believes that no single “high-stakes” test (AIMS) should be the deciding factor for graduation from high school. The LWVAZ supports a diploma being awarded to students who satisfactorily complete their course work. Consensus 2005

LAND USE: LWVAZ supports action to achieve a physical environment beneficial to life, with emphasis on achieving an optimum balance between human needs and the carrying capacity of the land and its resources. Consensus 1975; Reviewed 1995

WATER: LWVAZ supports the long-term productivity of water resources, their future availability at reasonable costs, the equitable utilization of water resources, and conservation of water resources. Consensus 1975, 1979; Revised 1995, 2009

*The above position statements have been condensed and may lack specificity. For complete and detailed statements, contact your local League President or LWVAZ, 2510 S. Rural Rd., Tempe, AZ 85282 or lwvaz@lwvaz.org.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
Adopted 2007

Summary Statement: The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County encourages and supports the establishment of an affordable and accessible regional public transportation system to serve the needs of residents and visitors in Central Yavapai County.

Positions: The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County encourages and supports:

1. A public transportation system which meets the needs of “transportation dependent” residents and visitors, such as disabled, homebound, low income workers and residents, non-driving seniors and youth. In addition, the system provides options for workers, shoppers, tourists and students.
2. A public transportation system based on existing research results, environmental impact, demographics, population density, community support and cost/benefit analysis.
3. A regional transportation authority.
4. The establishment of a regional transportation system beginning with intercommunity service between the quad cities, to be followed by expansion of intra-community service and eventually extending the intercommunity corridor within Central Yavapai County.
5. A transportation system which stimulates economic development through improving mobility of workforce, creating jobs, reducing traffic congestion, improving traffic safety, extending longevity of road infrastructure, increasing consumer activity, improving access to educational opportunities, attracting retirees and enhancing community business image.
6. A regional public transportation system which is funded by all appropriate federal, state and local grants and resources including use of lottery money, a dedicated tax, fare box recovery, advertisement and public/private partnerships.
7. An accessible and affordable regional public transportation system, the accountability of which is reviewed periodically against updated research, environmental impact, ongoing cost/benefit analysis, ridership and community support.
8. A public transportation system that is integrated with other aspects of the inter-modal transportation network, such as carpools, agency vans, bike lanes, and park and ride facilities.
Positions

ARIZONA ELECTION LAW: LWVAZ supports an accessible system of registration and election, with uniform and standardized procedures throughout the state. Consensus 1972; revised 1973, 1991; Reviewed 1995, 2009

ELECTION SYSTEMS REFORM: The League of Women Voters of Arizona believes in the election system principle of greater vote representation. The LWVAZ maintains the hope that election system reform that provides a stronger voice for the greatest number of voters should have a positive effect on voter participation. Consensus 2005, Amended 2008

LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING: LWVAZ supports measures to ensure the regular redistricting of Arizona legislative and congressional districts on an “equal population” basis. Consensus: 1967; Revised: 1979, 1995, 2005

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM: LWVAZ supports the constitutional right of the people to enact direct legislation (enacting, amending, or repealing legislative acts and amending the Arizona Constitution). Consensus: 1976; Reviewed 1995, 2003; revised 2004

COUNTY GOVERNMENT: LWVAZ supports an amendment to the Arizona Constitution to permit counties to decide, by a vote of the people in each county, the governmental structure which best meets county needs. Concurrence 1977; Reviewed 1995

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM: LWVAZ supports the opportunity for maximum citizen participation, limits on the size and type of campaign contributions and full disclosure of contributions and expenditures. Consensus 1983; Reviewed 1995


JUVENILE JUSTICE: LWVAZ supports early intervention programs, adequate funding, rehabilitation and education within the Juvenile Justice system, and restorative justice programs. Consensus 1999

JUDICIAL SELECTION AND TENURE: LWVAZ supports the selection of judges by appointment, with voter approval for retention, adequate salaries, longer terms, higher qualifications, a judicial nominating commission and a competency review commission. Consensus 1969; Reviewed 1995

LOWER COURT REFORM: LWVAZ supports legislation that would give counties the option to consolidate their lower courts. Concurrence 1983; Reviewed 1995

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE: LWVAZ supports the constitutional right to privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. Concurrence 1983; Reviewed 1995

HUMAN NEEDS: LWVAZ supports a state system that provides for a positive program to assist the economically disadvantaged in obtaining a greater measure of financial, physical and personal well-being, with emphasis on meeting basic human needs rather than on maintaining minimum expenditures. Consensus 1971; Revised 1985; Reviewed 1995, Amended 2007

VICTIMIZATION OF CHILDREN AND INTRAFAMILIAL ABUSE: LWVAZ supports the availability of services to protect the abused, proper training and education of those who deal with these issues, and violence prevention programs. 1985; Revised 1995

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE: LWVAZ supports a funding plan for public education that enhances the equal opportunity of all students, and policies and practices that encourage responsive government and informed citizen participation in the school district budgeting process. 1975; 1979; Reviewed 1995; Revised 1997; concurrence 1999; Restated 2000