

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARIZONA



# The Voter

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*Roberta Davidson, Editor*  
rdavidson19@cox.net

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear League Members,

With so many government changes happening due to budget cuts it is often hard to know where to begin to worry. Sometimes these 'cuts' are disguised as changes to the process (meaning less of it) or as changes to who is responsible, often going to an agency that is already over-worked and underperforming. These hidden types of 'cuts' can go unnoticed or uncommented upon because there seem to be 'bigger fish to fry.' The LWVUS has been tracking one such change to our government. The effort to disband the EAC (Elections Assistance Commission) and transfer some of its functions to the FEC is tantamount to allowing these election safety controls just to vanish into thin air.

For more information please see the LWVUS letter to Congress at this link: <http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/Advocacy/AdvocacyLetters/2011/EACTerminationJune162011.pdf>

The EAC was a protection developed during the time the national Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was enacted. The destruction of this agency may not be getting the most attention when so many other budget issues are looming, but it is a matter of protecting our elections. The MORE technology plays a role in our elections and the FEWER vendors we have controlling our ballots, the greater the need for the EAC. Contact your representative and tell them your concerns.

*Barbara Klein*  
LWVAZ President

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## LWVUS COUNCIL 2011 REPORT



Council 2011: The Big Picture  
Anticipating the Future  
The Difference is Leadership  
June 17 - June 20, 2011  
VA, Leesburg

Attending the national Council in June were Gini McGirr (GT), representing LWVAZ, and Carol West, President of the Greater Tucson League. The meeting was at the Conference Center in Leesburg, VA, and not at a big hotel in D.C. which was really great.

The Sunday morning business session showed credential report of 80 delegates from 42 states, DC and Virgin Islands. There were 13 Board members and 28 non voting members present. The only business was the Advocacy Report, Treasurer's Report and the presentation and adoption of the Budget.

Speakers were Celinda Lake, president, Lake Research Partners, and is one of the foremost experts on electing women candidates and on framing issues to woman voters. Tammy Gordon, Senior Advisor and Director of Social Communications and Strategy at AARP, who has 15 years' experience leading political, non-profit and PR campaigns. Both spoke on "The Environment We're In."

Sessions were on the demonstration of the new LWVUS Website/Facebook which will be coming on line in the next couple of months. One was doing the Value of Story Telling and how to use it with new members. Another session was on looking forward to funding the League in the future. Discussion on alternatives to the PMP system and also having the national office send out dues notices.

The main sessions were on filling out a State Campaign Planning Worksheet. Delegates were asked, before they went to Council, to come with a state cam-

paigned for the coming League year through the 2012 elections. Throughout the weekend, delegates had opportunities to complete the worksheet to enhance a plan of action. The worksheet was given to the staff at the end of the session so that national staff will know what each state is planning on doing. What we wrote up for Arizona will be discussed later.

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There was discussion on the Membership and Leadership Develop-

coaches. By the end of 2012, all of the states will be in the program. There was an evening wine/snack party for all state coaches and local League contacts. Was great to meet my coaches from Idaho, SC, TN and CA and talk to their local contacts face to face. I was the only national Shur coach at the party.

It was a weekend filled completely from early morning to dinnertime and some evening sessions. One evening, the movie, "The Kings Speech" was shown for the members that did not want to do any more work on their campaigns or have special caucuses. We all went home tired but enthusiastic about the future of the League.

.....Gini McGirr,  
Delegate  
LWVAZ Secretary

## LWVAZ 2011 CONVENTION REPORT



The convention was held on May 21-22 at the Windmill Inn & Suites in Surprise, AZ.

There were 31 local League delegates and state board members attending on Saturday and 36 present on Sunday.



### Business Session

The proposed general budget and Ed Fund budget were approved. There were several small Bylaws changes.

Delegates approved a study on the Greater Tucson Charter School consensus leading to concurrence.

A concurrence on a change to the Legisla-

tive & Congressional Redistricting position was approved. A concurrence to the AZ Corporation Commission position was approved. An editorial change was made to the Election Reform position. The program positions were then adopted as a whole.

### Workshops

Activism & Public Policy by John Kohl (NWM); Social Media by Roberta Davidson (NWMC); Fundraising by Dana Johnston (NWMC), Carol West (GT) and Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer (Sedona/VV); Membership & Leadership Recruitment by Gini McGirr (GT). LWVUS liaison Elaine Wiant gave workshop on "The League and Non-Partisanship in a New Era."

### Speakers

Tara Jackson, President, Arizona Town Hall, spoke on "Words, War and What Really Matters: Why Civil Discourse is Worth Fighting For." The Honorable Robert Brutinel, Associate Justice, AZ Supreme Court, spoke on

"Merit Selection and the Independence of the Judiciary."

Linda Valdez, Editorial Writer/Columnist, *The Arizona Republic*, spoke on "What SB1070 Cost Arizona." The Carrie Chapman Catt Award was given to Ms. Valdez "for shedding more light than heat on the hot issue of immigration in Arizona." This award is given to a non-League member of an organization that has most exemplified the passion and strength in support of an issue of concern to the League.

A resolution was written to be sent to the LWVUS in respect to several ads that national had on TV that were on air quality but mentioned a Democratic Senator and a Republican Senator. Members felt that the names should not have been given in the ad.

### Election of Officers

Officers/Directors elected were: President, Barbara Klein (MP); 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer (Sedona/VV); Development, Dana Johnston (NWMC); Voter Editor, Roberta Davidson (NWMC).

The LWV of Metro Phoenix invited the delegates to come to Phoenix for the 2012 Council.

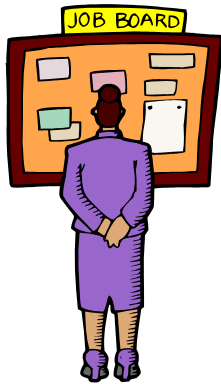
Members presented outgoing president Bonnie Saunders with a digital picture frame. Saunders presented 1<sup>st</sup> VP Barbara Klein and Secretary Gini McGirr with beautiful crocheted antimacassars.

Meeting was adjourned by the new president, Barbara Klein.

...Gini McGirr (GT),  
Secretary



**POSITION  
OPEN  
PLEASE APPLY**



A state Nominating Chair is needed at this time. The committee consists of a representative from each local League plus two members of the Board of Directors. Since the Chair cannot be a member of the Board, we are looking for someone who would like to get acquainted with members across the state and help the Board with their leadership.

Each local League president should appoint a member of their League to this committee within six months of the closing day of convention which was May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Names should be sent to Barbara Klein.

If you are interested in this Off-Board job, please contact President Barbara Klein at drBarbaraKlein@120years.com .

## INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION UPDATE

First **Independent Redistricting Commission** (IRC). The Commission was formed by the people of Arizona when they passed Proposition 106 during the 2000 General Election. Prop 106 amended our AZ Constitution to create a five-member commission to oversee the redrawing (or redistricting) of Congressional and Legislative boundaries following the decade Census. The League was very active in the passage of Prop 106 as previous to that time the State Legislature was responsible for redrawing the lines. The League believed that practice resulted in boundaries that served the politicians instead of the people of Arizona. As the old joke went it 'allowed politicians to pick their voters, instead of voters picking their politicians.' The five-member Redistricting Commission acts independently of the State Legislature.

**Mission.** "The Independent Redistricting Commission's mission is to administer the fair and balanced redistricting of the Congressional and Legislative districts for the State of Arizona."

This commission has started its work. The Commission members are:

- Colleen Coyle Mathis, Chair (I – Pima Co.)
- Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair (R – Maricopa Co.)
- Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair (D – Maricopa Co.)
- Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner (D – Pima Co.)
- Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner (R – Pima Co.)

At the date of this writing, a regular meeting schedule has not been set but can be found on their website at [www.azredistricting.org](http://www.azredistricting.org)

During the last week in June (2011) they selected their professional mapping firm: Strategic Telemetry. In the end, they had considered 4 bids (restricted based on those companies who provided bids); 3 firms with stronger ties to Democrats and 1 with stronger ties to Republicans. Chairperson Colleen Coyle Mathis made this statement about ties to different parties:

*I liken this kind of technical political work to playing major league baseball. In order to play at that level, you have to play in either the National or the American League. Otherwise, you don't play at all. There are only two options. Also, to best judge a player's ability, you look at his stats, not where he plays. Mr. Strasma [Strategic Telemetry] has played in the majors with great distinction.....[They] made a markedly stronger case than anyone else and instilled full confidence.*

**Arizona Competitive Districts Coalition (ACDC).** The League has been an active core member of this coalition of organizations and individuals working to promote more competitive districts in the outcome of our redistricting process. ACDC ran the first in the nation contest for the public to try their hand at map drawing to meet all the needs of the Voting Rights Act and competitive districts.

*Continued on next page...*

Redistricting Commission  
Update continued

Over 300 people listed their 'profiles' on the contest site and tried their hand at a map. And almost 800 maps were attempted. This is a major increase in public involvement and alone a great success. The contest ended on June 22, but the judges expressed the desire for an extension of the contest. [One of the judges is Leaguer, Tricia Gerrodette from LWV Cochise County.] The contest was extended for two more weeks to allow for more submissions and tweaking of those maps that were submitted. The ACDC website is [www.azredistricting.com](http://www.azredistricting.com) (note this is a '.com' website extension as opposed to a '.org' extension for the IRC).

ACDC (and League members) will continue to work as a 'watch dog' group for the IRC and to give testimony where appropriate. **If you are interested in this subject or would like to attend IRC meetings please notify the League office at 480.966.9031.**

LEAGUE IS ON LOSING SIDE OF SCOTUS CASE  
ON CLEAN ELECTIONS MATCHING FUNDS



Along partisan lines, a 5-4 vote of the Supreme Court struck down the Matching Funds portion of the AZ Clean Elections Program. The program itself REMAINS and funds ARE available for candidates to run in the program. Without matching funds, however they could still be significantly outspent. Supporters are still working on other ideas; and opponents seem geared to bringing it to the 2012 ballot for total elimination. Below is the press release that LWVUS put on the decision.

***McComish v. Bennett is A Poorly Reasoned Decision But Public Financing of Elections Survives***

**Washington, DC** – The League of Women Voters today expressed profound disappointment at the U.S. Su-

preme Court's decision in *McComish v. Bennett*. "Unfortunately today, we see another poorly reasoned decision by the Supreme Court on campaign finance, one that is untethered to the Constitution," said Elisabeth MacNamara, National President of the League of Women Voters. "While the *McComish* decision is another blow by this Court against clean elections, public financing itself has not been put in jeopardy."

The League alongside seven other public interest groups filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this year. The amicus based its arguments primarily on the legal principles set forth in *Buckley v. Valeo*, the decades-old precedent upholding campaign finance reform efforts. According to the brief, "the legal principles set forth in *Buckley* in its review of the presidential system govern this Court's review of the challenged provisions and compel the conclusion that the trigger provisions of Arizona's Citizens' Clean Elections Act ("Act") are constitutional."

"The League believes in the need for campaign finance reform and has fought for decades in support of public financing systems," concluded MacNamara. "The Court's watering down of protections against corruption in our elections is profoundly disappointing. We will continue to fight for public financing of elections because it protects the very integrity of our democratic form of government."

## LEAGUERS SPEAK OUT FOR THE AZ CLEAN CAR PROGRAM



On June 21, **Alice Stambaugh, Marge Mead, Pat Matthews, and Barbara Klein** attended a hearing on the recommendation by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to repeal the Clean Cars Program. Alice and Marge spoke in favor of keeping the program.

The Clean Air Act allows states to follow either federal emissions standards or the tougher California standards known as the Clean Cars Program. In 2008, ADEQ succeeded in convincing the Governor's Regulatory Review Council to adopt the Clean Cars Program because greenhouse

gas emissions in Arizona were projected to grow 140% between 1990 and 2020, and 40% of those emissions were coming from vehicles. The Clean Cars Program had support in hearings at the time from business, religious, health, and nonprofit organizations as well as thousands of citizens. ADEQ's official analysis stated that the economic costs of the program were outweighed by the benefits to environment and health.

Since that time, federal standards have become stronger, and California's standards are projected to get even tougher. In addition, there is now a law in Arizona that requires our legislature to approve any change to environmental law—including the Clean Cars Program—that would be more stringent than federal law. ADEQ now says the federal

standard is no longer significantly different than the California standard and that if we continue to follow the California standard, we won't be able to keep up with the costs of compliance (e.g., building infrastructure like electric car charging stations and administrative costs). However, repealing the Clean Cars Program would mean car manufacturers would be subject to fewer emissions requirements on their 2012 car models and would not have to sell a certain percentage of zero-emission cars, which are powered by electricity instead of gas.

The June 21 hearing was packed with opponents of the repeal. Speakers representing numerous nonprofit organizations, as well as a few independent citizens, were opposed for health reasons (e.g., asthma), environmental reasons

(Phoenix is ranked the 19th most polluted city in the country), and economic reasons (cost of health care, reduced tourism, local dollars lost to fuel costs). Speakers also disagreed with some of the assumptions [made by ADEQ]. Alice stated that the League supports the most stringent standards possible, and Marge spoke poignantly of her own health problems related to pollution. Only two representatives from the auto and energy industries attended the meeting to support repeal of the clean cars program.

*...Alice Stambaugh  
(LWVMP)*

## 2011 – 2012 LEAGUE PROGRAM IS FULL OF GREAT DISCUSSIONS

### **LWVUS Study - “Role of the Federal Government in Public Education:”**

In preparation for consensus meetings this fall, there are several excellent background papers for members to read. located on the LWV website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Here are the links to those papers – just copy and paste in the search tab.

**Common Core Standards and Assessments:** <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=17606>

**Early Childhood Education, Equity and Funding:** <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=17607>

**Funding and Equity Issues:** <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=17608>

**Legislation and Funding for the Education Of Children Who are Disadvantaged:** <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&CONTENTID=17609&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm>

**Role Of Federal Government In Public Education: Historical Perspectives:** <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&CONTENTID=17610&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm>

**For those who are going to lead the discussion, here is the link to the Leader’s Guide:** <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&CONTENTID=17189&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm>

The Leader’s Guide has the questions for the discussion and consensus as well as tips on running effective and meaningful meetings. Deadline for consensus reports is November 30, 2011. Submit the consensus online to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

Other League resources available for this study are Voter ready articles that you can share with your

members in your local VOTERS. LWVUS has also provided webinars on this study and the upcoming LWVUS Study on Privatization. Here is the link to these valuable resources: [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Public\\_Education&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=167&ContentID=16957](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Public_Education&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=167&ContentID=16957)

### **LWVAZ Study – “The Structure of the Executive Branch of State Government in Arizona:”**

This timely and lively state study will be coming to a conclusion by early 2012. Local Leagues will complete their consensus meetings and submit their consensus report by December 31, 2011. If your League needs some assistance on this study, please contact Lois Brechner at [lois@brechners.com](mailto:lois@brechners.com).

**LWVAZ Concurrence on Charter Schools** – This concurrence with study was adopted at the state convention in May. The study has been done by the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson. The background material for this concurrence will be provided by the LWV Greater Tucson study committee, chaired by Marion Pickens. Local Leagues are also encouraged to use charter school information from resources within their own communities to add to the discussion of this topic. More information on this concurrence will be sent to Local Leagues later this year. It is a great addition to the LWVUS study on education.

With this full schedule of discussions on timely issues, it is a great opportunity for Local Leagues to reach out into our communities and invite others who have the background and knowledge on any of these issues to participate in these League issues! Involve them in your study committees and invite them to your discussions! And of course remember – to invite them to join the League of Women Voters!

Have FUN planning your League programs and involving your members in these LEAGUE issues.

...*Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer, LWVAZ 1<sup>st</sup> VP-Program, [rcpbauer@gmail.com](mailto:rcpbauer@gmail.com)*

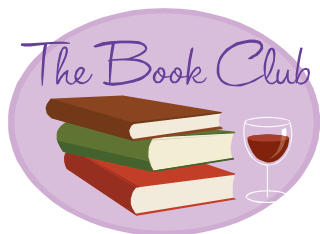
## LOCAL LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

Subsequent issues of the State Voter will include a section on Local League Hot topics. If your League has an idea to share or an event to announce or a success to crow about, we would all like to know about it. Local League should send particular highlights (complete piece) to Roberta Davidson, Voter Editor at [rdauidson19@cox.net](mailto:rdauidson19@cox.net). Let us know when they are time-sensitive.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2011  
MOVING PLANET:  
A GLOBAL DAY OF  
CLIMATE ACTION



## HEAR YE, HEAR YE – NEW BOOK CLUB COMING



We are starting a state-wide book club with local meetings and an on-line presence. **Karen Michael** (LWVMP) will be overseeing this effort and providing background information, as well as running her own Local League book club. We encourage all Local Leagues to find a per-

son who will oversee a local book club for them (no matter how small you might start). There will be three books per League year (autumn, winter and spring). Additionally, we would like to encourage 'virtual discussion' as well by way of a new 'blog' that will be on-line (of course with our usual oversight). More details of this activity will come in the following months. But for now, we are announcing the first book.

### November Book "Founding Sisters and the Nineteenth Amendment" by Eleanor Clift

Karen will take suggestions for the other books that come later in the year. Additionally, as she compiles questions for use when 'studying' each book, she welcomes input from others.

In 2010, the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere was just shy of 390 parts per million (ppm) – well beyond the 350 ppm that leading climate scientists say is the safe upper limit for CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere. However, despite evidence that burning fossil fuels is the chief culprit, efforts to curb CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are at a standstill. To change the political dynamic, people across the globe will mobilize on September 24, calling attention to the need to get off fossil fuels and move towards a sustainable, renewably-powered future. Make plans now for your League and your community to be a part of this worldwide demonstration – Moving Planet – and help send a message to policy-makers that it's time to get moving on the climate crisis. Find more information and many ideas [here](#) (which is the League's Toolkit for Climate Change (LWVUS)).

## GIFT FROM BONNIE SAUNDERS

Showing their appreciation for her leadership, many members contributed to the parting gift for former president, **Bonnie Saunders**. We actually raised a bit more than we needed for her gift (an engraved digital photo frame). Bonnie has asked for those contributions to be made in her name and earmarked for the General Fund of the state League. Thanks once again, Bonnie.

## VOTER ID CASE 9TH CIRCUIT COURT HEARS APPEALS ON JUNE 21

Oral arguments for one of our two legal cases was heard by the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit of appeals in June. With other co-clients, we were represented by Jon Greenbaum, Chief Counsel, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Attorney General Tom Horne argued against us for the state of Arizona.

On a positive note, the Department of Justice filed a brief in support of our position on the NVRA claim and also participated in oral arguments. DOJ filed the brief supporting our position particularly because this involves an issue of the interpretation of a federal voting statute.

We need 6 of the justices to rule in our (League) favor. The major points from our council were:

- The NVRA was designed to counteract discrimination;
- The NVRA contains criminal penalties for voter registration fraud (so AZ was preempted there);
- Arizona's approach undoes what the NVRA was designed to do in making voter registration straightforward and how Arizona's approach impacts our clients.

You may be able to view the video of the arguments on the website of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

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## NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM (NWHM) UPDATE

The bills for the building site on the National Mall were not brought up at the end of the last Senate session. Sen. Harry Reid had agreed to attach the legislation to two end-of-the-session bills but neither made it to the floor for various reasons. Now S.680 was introduced on March 30<sup>th</sup> and passed out of the Environmental & Public Works committee by a voice vote. H.R. 1269 was introduced on March 30<sup>th</sup> and is in the Transport & Infrastructure committee. Happy to tell you that Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) is one of the sponsors of this bill. Now if they can just start moving through the committees to give the okay to purchase the land!

A Fall fundraiser in D.C. raised a lot of money. Meryl Streep was the speaker at the dinner and she donated \$1 million. Another donation of \$1 million was given by Duane Burnham. Mr. Burnham was also the funder of the moving of the Suffrage Statue after it was found that only three-fourths of the money required to move it up from the basement and into the Rotunda. He was CEO of Abbott Laboratories and they helped meet the goal to move the statue. They also underwrote a national PR campaign to help alert more people about NWHM's efforts. A LWVAZ member from Sedona was on the spot to help raise money and actually was there the night they moved the statue. Somewhere I have pictures of her.

This museum will be on the Mall and the building architect will be a woman. Go in to [www.nwhm.org](http://www.nwhm.org) to read more about the museum and the on-line programs.

### 2011-2012 League Year State Board Meeting Dates

Aug 27  
October 29  
Jan 7  
March 24  
May 19 & 20

## THE LEAGUE AND NONPARTISANSHIP

*Several Leagues around the country have reproduced this essay written by Susan Gilbert, communications Coordinator, Newsletter Editor and 40-year League member (LWV Berrien and Cass Counties/Michigan).*

It is not uncommon for outsiders, and even some members, to question how the League can be non-partisan yet advocate on positions that, in the slice of time that is 'now', appear to be partisan. In the highly partisan climate that has developed in recent years, the League is one of the very few political organizations that is not in either the liberal/Democratic camp or the conservative/Republican camp. And we have members of all political persuasions and encourage them to get involved in politics. So members may be partisan but the organization is not. All this is hard for many to wrap their minds around.

The League is nonpartisan in that we do not endorse or support any political party or candidate for office. We don't rate legislators, we don't track their votes and we don't threaten them if they don't vote our way. Voter service is one of our main missions and we publish nonpartisan voter guides and hold candidate forums to help voters educate themselves beyond TV ads. Education is an important League function, and we try in our meetings and in this newsletter to inform our attendees/readers and stimulate them to think about issues in our world.

However, the League is also an advocacy group, and we have positions on issues that have been developed over the years since our founding in 1920 and are the result of study and consensus of the local Leagues nationwide. These positions are updated from time to time, but are basically consistent. The positions and platforms of the political parties, on the other hand, do change and at times they resemble our League position, or not. But the League doesn't change or drop its positions because they are currently those of one party or the other. And we do speak out!

An example is health care. The League has a position on comprehensive health care for all Americans. President Truman liked that idea too and President Eisenhower delivered a special message to Congress on January 31, 1955 recommending a comprehensive health program for Americans. ....

Lyndon Johnson got Medicare passed and that took the pressure off for a while. But President Nixon encouraged HMOs as a way to rein in costs and provide health care for more people. Then President Reagan came along and decided the free market was the best way to manage health care and the Republicans have basically supported this idea since. But clearly both parties have been on both sides of the issue.

The key is not to confuse politics with position advocacy.

### HOUSE VOTES TO SAVE

#### U.S. ELECTIONS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION



The final count was 235 'yes', 187 'no' (largely along party lines). This was 47 votes short of the two-thirds supermajority majority needed under House rules.

Although originally planned as a five-year, temporary commission,

Congress continued to fund the agency amid praise for its mission from election reformers. Congress created the EAC in response to voting machine and ballot confusion in the 2000 presidential election. The commission was given the tasks belong to the Federal Election Committee to oversee the voting system to avoid similar issues in the future. Many of the EAC's other duties — including providing voting materials in different languages and relaying best practices among election officials — would have ended with the agency's demise.