

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARIZONA



The Arizona Voter

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<http://lwvaz.org/><http://www.facebook.com/LWVAZ>

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THE JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMISSION & CONFERENCE TEAMS NEEDS APPLICANTS



The Judicial Performance Review office is recruiting for public members and attorneys from Pinal County (as well as outlying counties) to serve on the Arizona Judicial Performance Commission (JPR).

The Supreme Court appoints three members from Pinal County (who cannot be lawyers or judges) to the commission. The Court also appoints one attorney from Pinal County to the Commission.

But, as noted above, they are still recruiting for members from outlying counties for the Commission itself as well as Judicial Conference Teams.

The JPR Commissioners review survey data, public comments and disciplinary records of the judges who are on the ballot, and makes findings as to whether each judge meets (or does not meet) performance standards. All commission members review all judges so while they are looking for adding members from Pinal County because of its expansions there, Pinal residents appointed to the commission also review the performance of appellate judges and the Superior Court judges in all three counties subject to review (Maricopa, Pima and Pinal).

The Judicial Performance Review process also includes a self-improvement component. In addition to the commission appointments, public members and attorneys are needed to serve on teams that will meet with existing judges regarding their on-going performance. These Judicial Conference Teams meet privately with judges to review and discuss their goals and their accomplishments.

Continued on the next page...

**THE JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMISSION & CONFERENCE TEAMS
NEEDS APPLICANTS continued...**

Application forms can be downloaded at www.azcourts.gov/committeecommissions and should be submitted to the address on the form. The application can also be requested by sending an e-mail to JPR@courts.az.gov or calling 602-452-3098 or 602-452-3311. More information about Judicial Performance Review can be found at www.azjudges.info

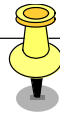
DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING. For further information, contact Annette Corallo at 1-602-452-3311.

*Sandra Goodwin, Chair
Impartial Courts 928-632-8490 or esgoodwin@commspeed.net*

UPDATE ON EXECUTIVE BRANCH STUDY

As a follow-up to the consensus meeting in October, Lois Brechner has received consensus reports from Metro Phoenix, Sedona/Verde Valley, Cochise, Tucson, Yavapai, and NWMC.

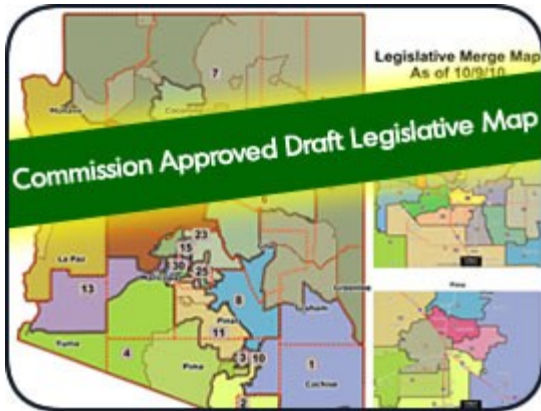
“From responses so far,” Lois reports, “all Leagues have participated and have had lively discussions. We should definitely have a state consensus.” Lois added that consensus should be ready for the State Board by January.



The LWVAZ is looking for a **Natural Resource Chair.**

Are you interested in following national and statewide environmental issues? If so, email Barbara Klein at drBarbaraKlein@120years.com and volunteer for the job.

UPDATE ON INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING



The saga of the Independent Redistricting Commission is continuing. After a lot of complaining by the Republicans that the Commission was not doing its job, the governor and the senate Republicans voted to remove Coleen Mathis, the Chair of the Commission on October 31st for "substantial neglect of duty and gross misconduct."

Then on November 4th, the commission attorneys asked the state Supreme Court for a stay on this removal, which has left the five-member panel in a 2-2 gridlock. The Court gave the governor and senate until Nov. 7th to respond to the commission's request to block Mathis' removal. The removal was not blocked and Mathis will not be allowed to continue to work and vote on the maps.

Also a state panel is scheduled to meet to begin the process for selecting a replacement for Mathis, an independent voter from Tucson who was elected chairwoman by her fellow commissioners. Then will the commission use the draft maps or will

they start over from scratch? They have to go to the Department of Justice and that will take several months so will the maps be ready by May of next year when the candidates file their petitions?

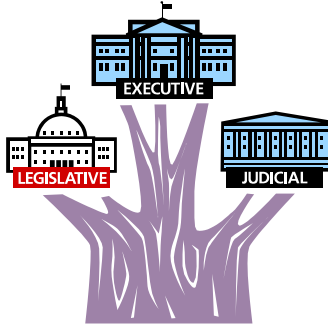
LWVAZ president Barbara Klein has spoken at three public meetings and there have been three op-ed articles in newspapers. She and other members have attended numerous meetings. Some have done so in their cities and have testified. An Action Alert was sent to members on this issue after the Chairman was removed.

LWVAZ Files Amicus Brief

LWVAZ is filing an amicus brief against the actions of the Governor and Legislature in their efforts to overturn the process of the current commission by removing the independent commissioner without significant or proven cause.

We are being aided by Scottsdale attorney (and immigration specialist), **Jose Luis Peñalosa, Jr.** of the Phoenix firm Peñalosa & Associates, P.C. LWVAZ former president, **Ann Eschinger** is also entering into an amicus brief with **Bart Turner** and **Dennis Burke** (all among the co-authors of the IRC initiative). They are being represented by **Tim Hogan** of Center of Law in the Public Interest

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



CLEAN ELECTIONS: GOOD NEWS!!! On October 27th, Maricopa County Judge Dean Fink ruled that the measure, SR1025, is legally flawed and cannot be on

the 2012 ballot. Judge Fink says he has no problem eliminating the 1998 law giving statewide and legislative candidates public funds and Tucson's law providing matching funds to city candidates. But he is bothered that the proposal redirects any money left in the Tucson fund going to the state general fund. So this means that the legislators will again pass a law next year to get this on the ballot. As the opponents to Clean Elections said, 'it is an easy fix' to get the referendum right.

INITIATIVES ON THE STREETS: There are 17 initiative petitions out there wanting your signature. They cover Solar, adoptable cats and dogs, ethical government, voting in single open primary and two winners go to the general election, supporting workers' rights act, smart prison population act, honest officials, wrongful conviction compensation, repeal parts of SB1200 on right to jury trial. To read all of these, go to the Secretary of State's website at www.azsos.gov

FIRST EVER LEGISLATOR RECALL: Sen. Russell Pearce was removed from his legislative seat and senate presidency. This is a first in the state and the nation. Sen. Russell Pearce (R-18), Mesa, had been petitioned for a recall on November 8th election. Two other Republicans had petitions to join this election. One, Olivia Cortez was said to have been a candidate only to pull away votes from the other Republican, Jerry Lewis, but Cortez pulled out of the race. Jerry Lewis went on to win the seat. Changes made in the Senate were Steve Pierce, (R-1) Prescott, being elected to be senate president and Frank Antenori (R-30), Tucson, was chosen to replace Steve Pierce as the majority whip.

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE: This would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in the entire United States. The bill preserves the Electoral College, while ensuring that every vote in every state will matter in every presidential election. The National Popular Vote law has been enacted by states possessing 132 electoral votes – 49% of the 270 electoral votes needed to activate it. The state passing this are: VT, MD, WA, NJ, DC, MA, CA and HI.

*Gini McGirr,
Secretary and Legislative Action*

**REMINDER
BOOK STUDY GROUP TO MEET
NOVEMBER 16
Join us at a Local League
meeting – or even on-line**

Share YOUR voice with others in a newly formed LWV book study group which starts in November.

For those in the Phoenix area, LWVMP, LWVNWM members or others, there is a meeting on November 16th at 11:30 a.m. (brown bag lunch) at the League office, 4423 24th St., Suite 500, Phoenix, AZ 85016

This book club is part of a State-wide group of interested Leaguers and friends who are to meet in various venues to discuss three books during the coming year. The first book is Eleanor Clift's "*Founding Sisters and the Nineteenth Amendment.*"

Do you remember the first time you voted? Do you recall when you learned about the fact that women could not vote until 1920? This book gives us background on those courageous (and sometimes outrageous!) women who worked so very hard to see that we have the same voting privilege as men. This book provides much food for thought and should provide us with a lively discussion. Study questions are to be provided to help leaders and to see that there is continuity throughout the various venues.

All Local Leagues (or small groups) are encouraged to organize a meeting or coffee shop stop to share in this new activity. No hand holding – just do it!!

For those who are not near a Local League but would still like to participate, comments for discussion are to be posted on our new website www.lwvmetrophoneix.org (click on Book Club).

Karen Michael is coordinating the book study. If you have formed a book study group, please let her know. Also, if you have suggestions for future books, wish to have a list of the study questions or have other related questions, please contact Karen at: karandic@wbhsi.net or 480-802-0588.

The LWV of Greater Tucson met in September to organize their Book Club with Ruth Beeker as coordinator. It will meet on November 16th at 2 pm. Call the League office, 520-327-762, for information on meeting place.

Book Club On-Line.

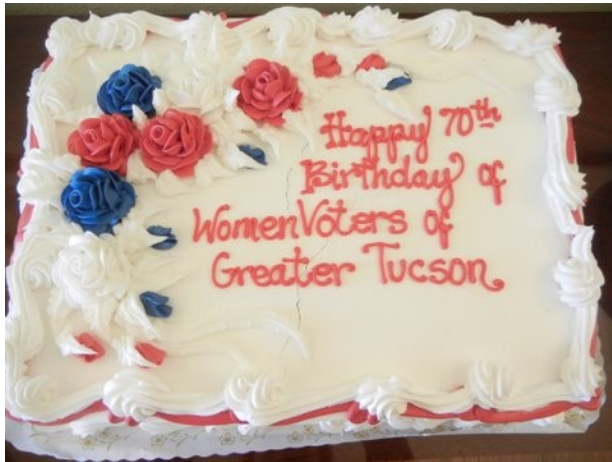
Do not forget that if you cannot attend a book club, or you haven't arranged a coffee klatch to discuss our fall book – *Founding Sisters*, you can comment on line. LWVMP is hosting the discussion section on their website, but it is for anyone around the state – even non-leaguers. Book club can be found under 'Events' or by clicking here: <http://goo.gl/31CH1>. Leave comments at the bottom of the page.

*Karen Michael, Book Group Coordinator,
LWVMP*

AROUND THE STATE News from the Local Leagues

LWV Greater Tucson

Tucson LWV Celebrates 70th Birthday



Marion Pickens (State Education Chair and former AZ legislator) is standing next to the cake.

Ora Deconcini's sons David and Dino came to the party and told stories about their mother. They brought her to life with love and humor. Ora's sons acknowledged their mother's high regard for education. The Tucson LWV is indebted to Ora's contribution to its existence.

The Tucson Chapter of the League of Women Voters had a 70th birthday celebration at Betty Geehan's home on October 28, 2011. It was a party with a birthday cake (see photo above), 65 guests, food and drinks, entertainment and a take-home gift. Carol West provided a display of photos and news articles about some of the founding women of the chapter: Kathryn Maxwell, Ora DeConcini, Grace Sternberg and Margaret Sanger.



Sue Ward setting up chairs before her presentation on Kazakhstan voting.

Sue Ward, Program Chair, entertained the guests with her descriptions of the terrain and some aspects of the voting process in Kazakhstan. She showed slides from there where she was an election observer for the U.S. Department of State. On and hearing how arduous is the trip to the polls for some Kazakh voters, it made us aware of how precious is the ability to be a **voter**.



Phyllis Wassenberg, closest to the camera, and Carol West.

Carol West, President, provided a gift for those at the party. She researched and prepared an account of the founding of the Tucson League of Women Voters. The collection has profiles of several of the founding women, and photos of some of them. There is a report of the many civic contributions those women made to Tucson and nearby communities, and of their participation in founding the Arizona State League of Women Voters. Thanks to Carol's work, the current members of the LWV of Tucson know about the accomplishments of the founders and the organization in its early days.

can offer not only to the community, but to members. Paula Wilk spoke on Voter Services such as moderating panels for elections and on voter registration. Shirley Sandelands described the Running and Winning Program put on for high school women students, and the Review process for Judges within the state. Phyllis Wassenberg gave an overview of the work of volunteers in the LWV office.

Welcome Breakfast for New and Prospective Members

33 people attended the Welcome Breakfast on Oct 13, 2011 that the Tucson LWV held to acknowledge and inform recent members and to recruit for new members. Five speakers gave short presentations about the league: Carol West welcomed guests and related League of Women Voters history, Marty Cortez described How the League Works and what it



New member, Beverly Heasley, enjoys the program with the others in attendance (she is the person laughing in the audience).

LWV Northwest Maricopa County

Annual Kickoff Breakfast Meeting



Bonnie Saunders, LWV/NWMC President, welcomed the members

In October, the LWV/NWMC held its annual fall Kickoff Breakfast Meeting.

The event was once again hosted by Jeana Petersen who graciously opened her home for this annual event.



Lee Ormsbee, Judy Reed, Marilyn Mather, and Margaret Eltzroth enjoying the coffee and mimosas

With great weather, a bountiful feast, and off course, the Mimosas, everyone enjoyed catching up after the summer hiatus.

Bonnie Saunders briefed the group on all of the activities planned for the 2011-2012 League year.

Members were asked to bring a friend as a potential member. Six guests attended and two joined on the spot.



Lois Brechner briefs the group on the Executive Branch Study Consensus



Pam Gunyuz, Jan Lundstrom, Bonnie Boyce-Wilson, Pat Matthews, and Judy Ross catch up after the long summer break.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Often to make a point the president's message must concentrate on only one issue. That way you get the point across. This time I am going to just quickly touch on a few things (you may hear more of them in the president's update in January)

Nominating committee: Our state board has decided that the fairest way to handle a nominating committee is to have one person from each local league service on it (they can pick a chair or someone who will attend some Board meetings). All Leagues have been alerted to this; we have heard from only two.

Tucson will be represented by **Mary Gresham** and LWVMP by **Eleanor Coup**. Other Leagues can expect calls. If you would be willing to help, please let your League know.

Clean Air Promise: The LWVUS is suggesting that anyone with a laptop bring it to meetings and let **anyone** there sign the Clean Air Promise – members or non-members. You get to it by going to: <http://cleanairpromise.org/> You can sign on with Facebook or Twitter as well.

Note from LWVUS information:
“National Poll Shows Strong Disapproval for President Obama's Smog Rule Delay, Unfavorable Ratings for Congress' Assault on Clean Air Act. Nine Battleground States Also Surveyed: Suburban Women in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and La-

tino Women in Calif., Florida and New Mexico Disagree with Obama Decision; Health Also Trumps Polluters in Colorado, Nevada, and Virginia.”

EAC: On November 2 2011 LWVUS president calls on members of US Senate to Oppose Termination of the Election Assistance Commission. Instead of eliminating the EAC as part of the appropriations process, LWV believes that Congress should strengthen the commission and expand its responsibilities. See letter: <http://goo.gl/EPVBY>

Related to Citizens United case] FEC:
And for another 'alphabet soup' organization, the League Calls on President to Make Nominations to the **FEC**.

On November 3, 2011 in a letter and press conference, the League and coalition partners called for changes in the dysfunctional Federal Election Commission (statement by Lloyd Leonard, Director of Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of the United States).

“The League of Women Voters has been working for fair and open elections for many decades. We have supported campaign finance reforms at the national level and in the states in order to protect our democracy from corruption and to ensure that the voices of regular voters can be heard.

Continued on the next page...

This year, we see incredible dangers ahead. Special interests are spending huge sums of money to influence the upcoming elections and to influence the public officials that will be chosen in those elections. This special interest spending promises to be of historic proportions – and they are not spending this money out of the goodness of their hearts. Campaign spending is an investment for special interests and their lobbyists. They will expect a return on that investment.

We face this situation because the Supreme Court has turned the special interests loose – and it comes because the FEC is not enforcing the laws that we do have....

We must face the facts. Our campaign finance system is corrupt. Big money special interests threaten to drown out the voices and concerns of ordinary citizens. And big money gets special treatment from our elected officials.

Right now, the ball is in the President's court. He needs to make some good nominations to the FEC, either on his own or with the assistance of a blue-ribbon committee to make recommendations to him. With elections on the way, our democracy can't wait any longer <http://goo.gl/gx0R8>.

**Merry Christmas to many of you,
Happy Hanukkah to some,
Best wishes in keeping to the principles of Kwanzaa to others,
And Best of the Season to everyone else.**

Barbara Klein

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2011 - 2013**

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