



# The Arizona Voter

October 2001

League of Women Voters of Arizona

Volume 50, No. 2

## Governor Hull,

As you no doubt recall, following Florida's election debacle last year, our State Legislature created a Modern Elections Practices Task Force to examine Arizona's vulnerabilities in regards to election equipment and elections procedures. Our then president, Ann Eschinger represented LWVAZ on this ad hoc committee. One of the many recommendations of the task force was to replace "punch card" voting equipment with "optical scan" voting equipment, Statewide. LWVAZ supported all the bills introduced last legislative session to enact the task force's recommendations, including House Bill 2631 which included the appropriation of money necessary to purchase new optical-scan voting equipment for the 10 counties which still use punch-card ballots. While HB2631 successfully passed both houses of the Legislature, the appropriation for optical scan voting equipment was removed, by you, by line item veto.

Shortly following your veto, LWVAZ member Doris Flax contacted Secretary of State Betsey Bayless and State Elections Director Jessica Funkhouser suggesting the establishment of a special fund to receive private and public dona-

tions with which to purchase optical-scan voting equipment to replace the punch-card systems currently in use.

Secretary of State Bayless not only endorsed this idea, she has been actively pursuing it for several months. Over the last several days Secretary Bayless and Elections Director Funkhouser have garnered commitments of support for this fund from 25 of our 30 State Senators and 49 of our 60 House Members! In fact, though there are still several members left to contact, no Legislator as yet has refused his or her support!

On behalf of the members of the League of Women Voters of Arizona, because we believe all voters throughout the State of Arizona have a uniform right to the most accurate elections equipment currently available, I respectfully request you amend the subjects of the call of the Second Special Session of the 45th Legislature of the State of Arizona to include the establishment of a fund to receive public and private monies dedicated to the purchase or lease of modern election equipment.

Respectfully Yours,

Mrs. Gini McGirr, President

## Modern Election Equipment

This issue is still to come up in the State Senate. Bart Turner is still working on this for the League. **Presidents:** Bart ask that each of you call or email Betsey Bayless and Jessica Funkhouser again to thank them for their work on getting this project going. So drop them another note to let them know the LWV appreciates their efforts.

## House Passage of the Ney-Hoyer Bill

### Excerpts from Dr. Carolyn Jefferson Jenkins' statement

The League is deeply disappointed that the House has passed a significantly flawed bill. We strongly support effective election reform, and will work to ensure that sound legislation is adopted by the Senate.

We need strong election reform legislation. The lesson of the disastrous 2000 elections is that voters need basic federal protections to ensure that every eligible American citizen has a full opportunity to cast his or her vote on Election Day, and to have that vote count. The Ney-Hoyer bill fails to provide effective standards to ensure that voting machines will work.

## League of Women Voters of Arizona

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**Mission:** 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. The goal is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

## The President's Column

As the month of December has flown by, we will be watching the New Year of 2002 come in. The Board would like to wish each and everyone of you a very special Holiday Season and hope that you will be with friends and family to usher the New Year in.

These past few months have been taking a toll on everything from emotions, jobs, economic stress and the fact that we have Americans fighting on foreign soil once again. We hope that the new year is better than the past one ended up for the world.

You may have read that the League is supporting the Legislative bills for Modern Voting Equipment.

You were probably contacted by your local Action Chair to call your legislators to support this bill to establish a state fund to receive public money and private donations for leasing or purchasing optical scan elections equipment to replace the punch-card elections equipment still in use in some counties. Bart Turner, the LWVAZ lobbyist, has testified on this issue in committees in both the House and the Senate. Our sincere thanks to him for his efforts. We are still waiting to see how the vote comes out on this. Do drop an e-mail or make a phone call to the Secretary of State's office to thank Betsey Bayless, Secretary of State, and Jessica Funkhouser, State Election Director.

The Citizens Redistricting Commission has done its job and the new maps have been drawn which will

make drastic changes in some areas. These can be downloaded from their website: <http://azredistricting.org/>. The LWVAZ wishes to thank the members of the commission for their many hours of hard work. A letter will be sent to them expressing our appreciation.

The League will not be resubmitting the proposals for the Clean Elections forums and you will hear more on this later. We will continue to lend our support to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission and do all we can to educate voters to contribute to their fund and to use the check-off box on the Arizona income tax form. Next year will focus on helping candidates get their necessary signatures and \$5 checks to get on the ballot. Then our biggest charge will be to Get Out the Vote!

Looking forward to seeing some of you at Legislative Day in February.

*Gini McGirr, President*

## Clean Elections Poll

Arizonans overwhelmingly believe political contributions influence how elected officials vote on issues a recent poll by the Behavior Research Center in Phoenix revealed. Research Director, Ed de Berge, commented "Not only do eight in ten believe elected officials are influenced by the contributions of special interests" over half believe they are "greatly influenced" by the money they are given.

Arizona is only one of four states with a Clean Elections law and it is the most comprehensive.

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## **FIVE DOLLAR BILL LAUNCHES WEBSITE ABOUT ARIZONA'S CLEAN ELECTIONS LAW**

Five Dollar Bill, a mascot created to publicize Arizona's Clean Elections law, has launched a new website [www.fivedollarbillaz.com](http://www.fivedollarbillaz.com) to provide information about the law, the state's Citizens Clean Elections Commission (CCEC) and the Five Dollar Bill campaign.

The site covers frequently asked questions about the Clean Elections law, five Dollar Bill's public schedule and more. Taxpayers can learn about the \$5 tax reduction box and the larger dollar-for-dollar tax credit of up to \$530 or 20% of their state income tax amount, both found on the front page of the state income tax form.

In January, the site will feature web videos produced to explain the Clean Elections process to potential candidates and those who just want to learn more about the law's inner workings.

Voters passed the Citizens Clean Elections Act in 1998. Last year was the first year candidates could run for office under the law. Fourteen legislative candidates and two Corporation Commission candidates were elected to office under this law.

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## **From Across The State**

### **Cochise County:**

General meeting topic, "Should the

Number of Cochise County Supervisors be increased from three to five members?" Cochise County Board of Supervisors sponsored a public meeting on the redistricting process, hosted by Senator Randa Gnant. General meeting with State Senator Marsha Arzberger (D-8) and Senator Tim Bee (R-9) as guest speakers.

### **Verde Valley:**

Sponsored a special forum on what community officials are thinking about the area's political future after the redistricting is done. Hosted an orientation with eight potential members and ten current members attending. General meeting on the Arizona sales tax and its many exemptions with speaker, Representative Henry Camarot. Water committee has moved from study phase to community outreach.

### **Northwest Maricopa County:**

Kickoff breakfast to discuss ideas on how to improve schools in Arizona. General meeting on the impact of NAFTA on Arizona and Mexico. Unit meeting discussion on Globalism and Word Trade.

### **Yuma:**

General meeting on the Trade study. Getting ready for a garage sale and will split the profits with the State League.

### **Central Yavapai County:**

Held an orientation for new, prospective and former members. Co-sponsored a Legislative Update

meeting with AAUW with State Senator Ken Bennett and Representative Henry Carmarot discussing accomplishments during the last term and expectations for the coming term.

### **Metro Phoenix:**

Are having membership coffees across the Valley and will be forming a new Unit in the East Mesa/ Apache Junction area. Participated in United Nations Day Celebration at Phoenix College. Participated in a Human Rights Conference at ASU. Unit meetings on Election System Reform, UN and the League, Security and Terrorism in Scottsdale; Hope 6 Housing Project and Phoenix City Council Redistricting.

### **Greater Tucson:**

Conducted a Moderator/Forum Training session. Cosponsored a City Council Primary Election Forum with Grace Temple Baptist Church. Hosted a new and prospective member coffee meeting. General meetings on the Desert Sonoran Protection Plan; city transportation and Citizens for Light Rail, city ballot issues; and on Trade/ Globalization study.

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### **First Call to LWVAZ Council**

**May 18-19, 2002**

**Sun Canyon Inn**

**Sierra Vista, AZ**

**Mark Your Calendar Now!**

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## **Drilling for Oil in Alaska:**

The *Arizona Daily Star* had an editorial this morning on "Wasting Time and Energy." The Senator from Alaska tried to tack drilling oil in the Alaska Arctic Wildlife Refuge on as an amendment to a railroad retirement bill. It was defeated by parliamentary maneuvering by (believe it or not) Senator Trent Lott. An energy bill will probably come up in the Senate in late January so keep informed.

## **Heritage Fund:**

Pat Mathews is keeping in contact with Sandy Bahr to let us know if the Legislature might raid the Heritage Fund.

## **Money:**

Local Leagues, please be thinking of some fundraiser to make money for the state treasury. We may have to raise the PMP a dollar or two. Bring your suggestions to your local board.

## **Clean Elections:**

It was not enough to just pass the Citizens Clean Elections Act. For it to work, we must continue to educate people about its existence and benefits, and how they can support the Clean Elections Fund with their tax dollars.

When Senator Chris Cummiskey spoke to the Arizona Advocacy Network on Sunday, December 2, he told the audience that he felt the Citizens Clean Elections Act is the "pinnacle of reform" in Arizona.

(Wow, "pinnacle of reform", and the League was instrumental in making it happen!) However, he continued, that the majority of people around the state are unaware of the Citizens Clean Elections Act, and that you must be diligent in continuing to educate citizens of its importance in every group of which you are a member.

As tax season is fast approaching, please educate all your friends, family, co-workers, social and church groups, etc., about the \$5 check-off on their state income tax forms.

On the first page of every Arizona income tax return form is a \$5 check-off box that, if checked, will reduce your tax liability by \$5, or \$10 if married filing jointly. In other words, if you check the box entitled, "Clean Elections Fund Tax Reduction," and you have a liability of at least \$5 (\$10 if married filing jointly), you will receive an additional \$5 or \$10 back from the State, or you will pay \$5 or \$10 less to the State with \$5 or \$10 going to the Clean Elections Fund.

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission has prepared a tri-fold flier that gives a comprehensive overview of the Act and the three ways citizens can participate. Although it is too long for the average person to take time to read, it does contain all the details of the Act. It is an excellent piece to give to people who want more information or for Leaguers who want to understand the Act better so that when they talk to people about Clean Elections, they can field questions easily. They also have a neat, expensive, colored flier for those you really

want to impress. If you would like copies of either flier, contact the Citizens Clean Elections Commission toll free at 877-631-8891 or on the net at [www.azcleelections.com](http://www.azcleelections.com) or [www.fivedollarbillaz.com](http://www.fivedollarbillaz.com).

The Citizens Clean Elections Initiative passed because of the diligent efforts of League members. We must continue to work to make what was once only a dream, campaign finance reform in AZ, a successful, working, fully-funded reality.

## **Wanted: Video**

If you have access to or know how to obtain access to the video, "How We Got the Vote", please contact Carol Mattoon, e-mail [suncityarizona@yahoo.com](mailto:suncityarizona@yahoo.com), or call 623-815-1019. Thank you.

## **Let's Be Inspirational!**

The League has done a great job of putting programs in place to help facilitate the process of registering people to vote, trying to make it as easy as possible. Now we must INSPIRE people to vote. Therefore, Leaguers are contemplating ways to put together an educational program to give to high school and college teachers to present to their students that will educate, encourage, and motivate them to vote. The time seems right to offer such a program with the country as patriotic as it is right now and with the past election fiasco. We would like to seize the moment!

If you have experience in this type of project, know teachers that

would be interested in participating, have applicable materials to offer, or are willing to chair this project, contact Carol Mattoon, suncityarizona@yahoo.com, 623-815-1019. Any suggestions, ideas, or sample materials would be greatly appreciated.

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## **IRC Finalizes New District Maps, Almost :**

Arizona Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) met on November 3 to approve minor changes to Congress and Legislative district maps, review its budget and sign documents for filing the new maps with the Secretary of State's office. To minimize district population differences, to better match existing geographic boundaries, and to minimize processing problems for county elections officials, the IRC made numerous minor changes to the maps. Minority and political party characteristics of the districts were not significantly changed, according to the commission's consultant.

Because the need for further changes became apparent, another meeting was scheduled for November 9. Commissioners were scheduled to vote on 23 additional changes. An IRC spokesperson said these changes will eliminate paperwork, complications for elections officials and impact a minimal number of voters. Afterward, commissioners will be required to again certify the new maps.

The commission spent nearly 25%

of its original \$6 million budget. Commissioners said they would like to return the remaining \$4.5 million to help resolve the statewide budget crisis, but do not know how much money they will need to defend possible court challenges. According to a report prepared by the consultant, lawsuits may be filed by cities in northern or southern Arizona or Indian tribal governments. Officials of the state Democratic Party also are considering litigation because the new districts are not as competitive as they had hoped.

If the maps survive scrutiny by the United States Department of Justice and the courts, they will be used in Arizona for the next decade, starting with the 2002 elections.

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## **Recommended Reading: A Question of Choice by Sarah Weddington.**

Ms. Weddington was a 25 year old Texas lawyer who was interested in women's issues. She had never tried a case when she was asked to represent Ms. Roe in an attempt to overturn the Texas law banning all abortions except if a woman's health was threatened. Ms. Roe claimed to have been raped and would have had to go to another state to obtain legal abortion treatment. This case began in the mid 1960s and ended with the landmark Roe v. Wade decision by the Supreme Court, argued by the very young, but very well prepared Sarah Weddington. A woman's right to privacy was the basic argument. This is the argu-

ment that the LWVUS has used in support of various reproduction related cases.

So many years have gone by that I had forgotten some events and was unsure of the sequence of others. This book is well written, historically accurate, and an interesting read. Because the legislative session is about to begin, and they never fail to present us with work to do, I would like to urge everyone to equip themselves with the information in this book. If we wish to preserve a woman's right to privacy for ourselves and our daughters, we cannot afford to be complacent or poorly informed.

## **Closing the Gun Show Loophole**

In the gun violence prevention arena, four bills will be introduced in this legislative session. The Phoenix-Tucson HALT Gun Violence group has been busy securing sponsors for the bills to improve their chances of passing. Bill numbers will be known in a few weeks. Watch for mention of Americans for Gun Safety. This is a good group that has been working with John McCain to help pass the McCain-Lieberman Gun Show Loophole Law in Congress. They also assisted Colorado and Oregon in passing their Gun Show Loophole initiatives last year. AGS is helping HALT GV in Arizona this year. LWVUS has a strong stand on gun violence prevention. We are hoping to get some legislation passed this year that protects the citizens.

*Linda Blackwell,  
Legislative Health Issues*

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# Arizona Legislative Day 2001

## “Economic Reality for Women 2002”

**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2002  
**Time:** 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Heard Museum  
2301 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona  
**Cost:** \$30  
**Includes:** Continental Breakfast, Box Lunch, Registration and Informational Materials

**Reservation Deadline:** January 18, 2002

**Make check payable to:**  
**Arizona Legislative Day**

**Mail to:** LWVAZ  
7315 N. 16th Street, #101  
Phoenix, AZ 85020

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Organization:** \_\_\_ LWV \_\_\_ AAUW \_\_\_ BPW \_\_\_ DKG \_\_\_ NCJW  
\_\_\_ NOW

**Indicate your sandwich choice for lunch:**

**Turkey** \_\_\_ **Ham** \_\_\_ **Roast Beef** \_\_\_ **Vegetarian** \_\_\_