

During the 1960's LWVAZ adopted the following positions: AZ Executive Branch, Legislative and Congressional Redistricting and Judicial Selection and Tenure. In the 1970's LWVAZ adopted the following positions: Arizona Election Law, Initiative and Referendum, and County Government. In the 1980's LWVAZ adopted the following positions: Campaign Finance Reform and Arizona Corporation Commission. In the 1990's LWVAZ adopted the following positions: Juvenile Justice. Between 2000 and 2013, LWVAZ adopted the following positions: Election Systems Reform and a new AZ Executive Branch position. In 2017, LWVAZ adopted a newly reorganized government positions with updated areas of voter registrations, voting options, and voting systems; and a newly adopted position on the AZ Legislative Branch.

ARIZONA EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports measures to strengthen the executive branch of state government, and to integrate its administration by centralizing authority and responsibility in the governor's office.

The League of Women Voters of Arizona believes that a clear line of succession in the Executive Branch of the State of Arizona should be more obvious to the public than it is in the current system where the Secretary of State assumes the role of Governor in times of absence, removal, resignation, death or other such changes. To avoid mid-term changes in party, continuity problems or policy reversals, League of Women Voters of Arizona supports the creation of an Office of Lieutenant Governor with duties separate from that of the Secretary of State.

In addition, the League of Women Voters of Arizona believes that the governor and the elected office, which is next in line of succession to the governor, should run on the same party ticket. If that office continues to be held by the Secretary of State, League of Women Voters Arizona strongly believe that all partisan aspects of elections should be removed from the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State and managed by an independent body/commission.

ARIZONA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports a legislative bill-making process that protects the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, providing opportunities for timely public input, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports four-year terms for all State Legislators, with no limit on the number of terms which they may serve.

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports strong, enforceable conflict of interest legislation.

Expansion of the support statement: Public service is a public trust, requiring officials and employees to place loyalty to the citizens, the laws, and ethical principles above private gain. Following ethical guidelines and eliminating any improprieties, or even the appearance of potential corruption, is imperative to restoring the public's trust in government. The public has a right to expect public officials to put interests of the general citizenry above those of the personal interest of the official, his/her family, any special interest groups or dark money groups that may have or continue to provide financial support to them. The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports strict adherence to the ethical principles which avoid any improprieties or the appearance thereof by full conflict of interest disclosure and voter recusal provisions.

To determine whether a substantial interest exists, the public officer should ask:

- 1. Could the decision affect, either positively or negatively, an interest of the officer or employee or the officer's or employee's relative?*
- 2. Is the interest a pecuniary or proprietary interest? Could it affect a financial interest or ownership interest?*
- 3. Is the interest something that is not statutorily designated as a remote interest?*

If the answer to each of these questions is yes, then a substantial interest exists that requires disclosure and disqualification by the public officer or employee. The public officer or employee must file a conflict of interest form which fully discloses the substantial interest with the appropriate agency or governmental unit, and must refrain from participating in any manner in discussions or decisions relating to the matter.

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports increase in pay for legislators.

ARIZONA JUDICIAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports the selection of judges by appointment, with voter approval for retention; adequate judicial salaries; longer terms; higher qualifications for justices of the peace and magistrates; a judicial nominating commission, responsible to the governor; and a competency review commission.

To assure that our judges are free of political bias and possessed of the proper qualities of temperament and intellect, and yet retain ultimate control of the courts in the hands of the people.

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports:

- Appointment of judges by the governor from list of qualified nominees submitted by a bipartisan commission of legal and lay members.
- Retention of a judge in office, after an established period of time, only by a "yes" vote of the people, a "no" vote requiring a new appointment by the governor.

(This system of judicial selection and tenure was implemented in Pima, Maricopa and Pinal counties after they reached the constitutionally required population of 250,000. Counties not having reached that population can adopt merit selection by a vote of their electorate. Although we have basically accomplished our goal, we retain the position because in each session of the Legislature, there are efforts to return to the old elective system.)

JUVENILE JUSTICE

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports early intervention programs beginning in elementary schools with the help of:

- counselors, social workers, psychologists, volunteers in school programs and individualized programs, including those that foster self-esteem,
- clinics on parenting skill
- conflict resolution skills training,
- drug education. Funding for the above should come from federal, state, local, private and corporate sources.

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports measures for adequate funding with emphasis on prevention, rehabilitation, incarceration and non-incarceration facilities, and intervention programs, trained personnel and education for parents of problem children. State funding should be dispersed to the local levels.

The League of Women Voters of Arizona believes that programs and policies should be adopted which promote rehabilitation and education within the Juvenile Justice system and should include:

- schooling while in detention,
- counseling for the family and the individual while in detention,
- alternative living and educational programs and experiences to prevent and discontinue gang involvement.

The League Women Voters of Arizona believes that for the protection of the community and schools, delinquent children should:

- receive swift and firm justice,
- be removed from dysfunctional homes after family intervention and long-term family counseling,
- and be treated as an individual according to the age, need and type of crime and be sent first to juvenile court.

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports laws that include:

- swift punishment for weapon possession by juveniles,
- swift and harsh punishment of adults who provide weapons to juveniles,
- the exchange of records among schools, court and social agencies but not to the public or the media,
- a juvenile hearing before transfer to adult court.

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports the concept of an approach to juvenile problems through Restorative Justice programs, which give priority to and accountability for wrongdoing by repairing the damage or harm done to victims and the community through a process of victim involvement, community participation, mediation and reparation. Skilled mediators should be involved in this process.

LOWER COURT REFORM

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports legislation which would give Arizona counties the option to consolidate their lower courts in order to promote uniformity in the administration and quality of justice, and effectiveness and efficiency in court administration.

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports adequate protection and representation of consumers, including residential consumers, in the Arizona Corporation Commission process and supports measures to encourage conservation as well as the development and use of renewable energy sources.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The League of Women Voters of Arizona 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.

The LWW of Metropolitan Phoenix supports home rule for Maricopa County. The LWW of Greater Tucson supports a long term goal of consolidated government for Pima County. The League position supporting local option for county governmental structure gives the LWVAZ a position from which to lobby, but does not restrict other local Leagues from positions they may take regarding their own county government.