We are a “nonpartisan political organization” encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government.
We influence public policy through education and advocacy.

We neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate.
Our Goal is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.
As a nonpartisan political organization, we act only after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key issues at all levels of government.
This guide is an example of the League’s work on **health care reform**.

The guide, produced by the Arizona LWV with the input of many of our NWMC League members, was recognized and used nationally by many groups and individuals.
We work to build citizen participation in the democratic process.

&

To engage communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues via education & advocacy.
Two Roles:

- **Voters Service/Citizen Education**
  Presenting unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues.

- **Action and Advocacy**
  After study, using our positions to advocate for or against particular policies in the public interest.
Voters Service/Citizen Education

- Work to build citizen participation in the democratic process.
► Conducting candidate forums
► Publishing guides for voter education
Studying key issues in an unbiased manner.

Enabling people to seek positive solutions to Public policy issues through education and conflict management.

The “Ask it Wagon”
Action and Advocacy

Although we are nonpartisan, after study and agreement, we do use our positions to advocate for or against policies in the public interest.
When and how do we take action on an issue or advocate for a cause?

► Action or advocacy occurs when there is an existing League position that supports the Issue or speaks to the cause.

Or through study, consensus and/or concurrence
Study & Consensus

- Positions result following a process of study – whether it be National, State, or Local. The study is thorough in its pursuit of facts and details.

- Additional discussion, pro and con, takes place as members (not part of the study committee) learn the scope of the study.

- After the members reach consensus, the board forms positions based on that consensus.
Concurrence

Positions can be adopted by concurrence:

► If X local or state league has studied a topic and reached consensus on an area of national or statewide interest, a state or national position can be adopted by concurrence following the agreement of 2/3 or more of leagues.

► Positions can also be adopted by concurrence using studies done by outside organizations in an area of league interest.
League Positions

► It is the statement resulting from the consensus questions -- that becomes a position.

► Firm action or advocacy can then be taken on the particular issue addressed by the position.

► Without a position, League action/advocacy cannot be taken.
As **League members**, we will:

► act with trust, integrity and professionalism

► operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public

► take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership

► acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future.
Our History

New York Suffragists’ Parade, 1912
Carrie Chapman Catt leads suffragists in 1917 NYC parade.
When addressing the 1919 National American Woman Suffrage Association's (NAWSA) 50th convention President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed creating a "league of women voters to finish the fight and aid in the reconstruction of the nation."

Women Voters was formed within the NAWSA.
Pre-1920s
The League of Women Voters was formally organized before women obtained the right to vote – six months before ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Chicago was the site for the Feb. 14, 1920 national organizational meeting.
“The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage.”

.........Carrie Chapman Catt, 1920
The first league convention voted 69 separate items as statements of principle and recommendations for legislation. Among them were:

- protection for women and children
- rights of working women
- food supply and demand
- social hygiene
- the legal status of women
- American citizenship
1st Major National Legislative Success:

Passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act providing federal aid for maternal and child care programs.

The act, signed into law in November, 1921, was a response to the lack of adequate medical care for women and children.
Since its beginning, the League has helped millions of women and men become informed participants in government.
LWV Radio Programs to educate the public on issues.
In the 1930's, League members worked successfully for enactment of the Social Security and Food and Drug Acts.

Due at least in part to League efforts, legislation passed in 1938 and 1940 removed hundreds of federal jobs from the spoils system and placed them under Civil Service.
Poster winner for Voter Kickoff Campaign - 1980s
Parade of LWV
1958 Convention, Atlantic City

1990s
The League presenting an ERA necklace to First Lady Rosalyn Carter
LWV Energy Task Force trip to offshore drilling facilities in the Gulf - 1975
Unchain local government
League action in Colorado - 1970s
LWV Legislative Breakfast in Georgia – 1970s
Role in International Arena

During the post World War II period, the League helped lead the effort to establish the United Nations and to ensure U.S. participation.

The League was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO).

The League maintains official observer status today and has special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The League supported creation of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, NATO, economic aid to less developed countries & the Marshall Plan.
The League continues international work--

--most recently as official non-governmental organization delegates to the UN’s Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15), December 2009

& through the Global Democracy program, which has sponsored cultural exchange programs and leaders from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia and Brazil.
Turning over documents to the Library of Congress, March 1950
Women Leaders

Women in Political Leadership

► Since its founding, the League has placed a high value on women’s participation in the political process.

► The Global Democracy Program continues this tradition by promoting women’s participation worldwide.

► The League provides technical support, workshops, and venues to network and exchange expertise and ideas for women wanting to gain access to their country’s political processes.
LWV Hosted "Women in the Americas: Paths to Political Power" Event

In 2008 the League cosponsored an event bringing together distinguished women leaders from Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States to discuss the dramatic advances achieved by women seeking public office in the past ten years and the special challenges currently facing women in electoral politics.
State League Presidents prepare to testify on Campaign Finance Reform before Congressional Ad Hoc Committee. (At left, Lila Schwartz, Arizona president, looks over her notes.)
The Arizona and NW Maricopa County League provided leadership for the successful state Clean Elections legislation.
Arizona’s Clean Elections Legislation

League members helped write the Prop 200 initiative to establish a system for the public funding of election campaigns.

Prop 200 provided an opportunity for candidates to voluntarily participate in a system limiting campaign spending and fundraising for the statewide and state legislative elections.

Arizona League members:

► gathered signatures to get the initiative on the 1998 ballot

► worked to provide understanding of the initiative

► promoted passage
Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission:
In 2000, State League members helped write the initiative to redraw the Congressional and Legislative districts after the Census. Members gathered 10,000 signatures to get it on the ballot and worked to get it passed by the voters.

English and Spanish Voter Guides: Every two years, the state League writes, prints & distributes Voter Guides in English and Spanish across the state.
Primary & General Election Candidate Forums:

The state League conducted primary and general election candidate forums for candidates running for governor in 2002.

The primary forum was held in Tucson and the general forum was held in the Phoenix area.

The forums were broadcast across the state on TV and radio.
League of Women Voters of NW Maricopa County

More about us --

► Our membership varies by age, ethnicity, gender, income level and religion.

► We offer individual & couple memberships.
1974 Male Members of the LWV
Communities served:

Buckeye
El Mirage
Glendale
Peoria
Sun City
Sun City West
Surprise
Youngtown
School Districts Served:

Aqua Fria Union
Dysart Unified School
Glendale Elementary School
Glendale Union School
Liberty Elementary School
Maricopa County Regional School
Peoria Unified School
Regularly scheduled meetings:

- General meetings are open to the public and are usually held the 4th Thursday of the month.

- Unit meetings are held at members’ homes on the 2nd Monday of each month.

- Board meetings follow the general meetings.
Our special functions include a:

- Kick off breakfast in October each year
- A Holiday Potluck Party
- An Annual Meeting & Luncheon in the spring
More Ways to be Involved:

► An opportunity to participate at a state & national level through delegates to LWV conventions

► LWV websites provide members access to quality resources via issue oriented papers and ongoing discussions/networking -- state-wide and nationally
Check our websites. This national website is easy to navigate and provides a wealth of resources.

You can establish a login password and explore resources available for members. Additional resources are provided on the state and local websites.

National website: www.lwv.org  
State website: www.lwvaz.org  
NW Maricopa County website: www.nwmc.az.lwvnet.org
Issues for Emphasis in 2010-2011

Statewide:
► Health Care (Action)
► Reorganization of the Arizona Executive Branch (Study)
► Education
► Election Reform

Local
► Civics Education
► Health Care
► Air Quality
► Adoption of Instant Runoff Voting for the City of Surprise
We believe that sensible, responsible civil discourse and action based on substance rather than partisanship is essential for civic improvement.
In summary, we are –

► Acting as a force to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

► Empowering millions of voters to protect their right to vote.

► Preserving our constitutional rights.
Educating citizens & fostering dialogue on pertinent issues

Working to ensure that ALL voters are counted & ALL voices can be heard.

Working together to make Democracy work.
Continuing to Serve

League of Women Voters®

LWV

90+ Year

...and counting
We invite you to join us!

For more information about joining the NW Maricopa Valley League of Women Voters, call 623/556-1746,
pick up a membership blank,
OR visit us on the web at:
www.nwmc.az.lwvnet.org/
www.lwv.org