

# CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

1616 W. Adams, Suite 110 • Phoenix, AZ • 85007

Phone: (602) 364-3477



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Tom Collins

(602) 364-3477

[tom@azcleaselections.gov](mailto:tom@azcleaselections.gov)

Carol Mattoon

(623) 815-1019

[suncityarizona@yahoo.com](mailto:suncityarizona@yahoo.com)

## **League of Women Voters, Clean Elections Team Up for Forum Maricopa & Yavapai County Election Officials will discuss ways to reach voters**

**NORTHWEST MARICOPA COUNTY**— On March 26, the League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County and the Citizens Clean Elections Commission will host a forum on ways to increase-voter participation in elections. Maricopa County Recorder Helen Purcell, along with Yavapai County Recorder Leslie Hoffman and Election Director Lynn Constabile will be the speakers.

"Election Protection: Creative Solutions for Increasing and Sustaining Voter Participation" will feature information on how county election officials are working to ensure that voters have more information on how to participate in elections, new voting technologies and practical solutions to allow voters to participate easily and conveniently.

By sharing information, ideas, and showcasing creative and innovative programs that facilitate voting, we hope it will help stimulate all of us into thinking about what additional cutting-edge, imaginative ideas can be incorporated to increase voting.

The program will take place from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on March 26, 2015 at the Nathaniel Dysart Education Center Main Conference Room, Dysart Unified School District, 15802 North Parkview Place, Surprise, Arizona 85374.

"The League of Women Voters and the Clean Elections Commission believe that voters need more information not just about how to participate but about how their election officials are working to make our elections runs smoothly and fairly for all," said Tom Collins, Executive Director of the Commission.

"For 95 years, the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization, has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen our democracy, including registering, educating, and engaging voters, and striving to improve the voting process. Without citizen participation, our democracy cannot work.", said Carol Mattoon, program coordinator. "Women and minorities fought courageously for many years to obtain and secure the right to vote, even enduring imprisonment, and we continue to work to ensure that right is accessible and exercised. "

Helen Purcell was elected to the office of Maricopa County Recorder in November 1988 and is now serving her 7th term. The Recorder oversees the County's Voter Registration office, which is responsible for maintaining the voter rolls, early voting, and the Permanent Early Voting List. She has served on the Board of Advisors for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and worked to develop draft standard for all U.S. voting systems. In 2010, the National Association of County Recorders and Clerks named her public official of the year.

Leslie Hoffman was appointed to serve as the Yavapai County Recorder by the Board of Supervisors on January 1, 2012 after 23 years in the Title Industry. In November 2012, she was elected to the office by the voters of Yavapai County. Ms. Hoffman was instrumental in creating multiple voting centers for the 2012 election where voters from all districts can vote, allowing every voter in Yavapai County to choose where they vote on Election Day, compared to traditional precinct-based voting which required voters to go to an assigned polling place to vote. Ballots from every precinct are available at every voting center location and are printed "on demand" for each voter.

Lynn Constabile was appointed to serve as the Yavapai County Elections Director by the County Board of Supervisors in June 2004. The Election's office, in coordination with the County Recorder's office, is responsible for conducting all of Yavapai County's elections. The office also contracts with cities and towns, school districts and special districts to administer their elections.

The Clean Elections Commission is an independent state body made up of individuals who have sworn to faithfully administer the Clean Elections Act. The Citizens Clean Elections Act, which the League of Women Voters of NWMC help write, was passed by voters in 1998 to promote participation in the political process and to ensure Arizona's politics are free from corruption. The act includes administration of voter education and campaign finance programs. To learn more about the role of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission, visit [www.azcleanelections.gov](http://www.azcleanelections.gov).

Following the meeting, attendees are invited to stay to discuss and brainstorm ways we could continue to facilitate the ease of voting, and thus increase voter participation in our county.