

## The Work of the 2021-2023 Water Policy Review Committee

At the Arizona League Convention in May 2021, delegates approved a proposal presented at the convention to review and update the current public policy position on “Water” under LWVAZ’s Natural Resources section in light of changes in the water landscape since the existing policy was last amended in 2009. The revision and update would then be presented to the members for their consideration at the LWVAZ State Convention in May 2023.

### [The Committee’s Charge](#)

The Water Policy Review Committee began meeting in January 2022. They met twice monthly on Zoom until November 2022 and have been meeting weekly since then. In their deliberations, committee members read widely about water issues in documents from the Arizona Department of Water Resources, publications from programs in sustainability, climate change and water policy at the University of Arizona and Arizona State University, newspaper and magazine articles concerning water issues, and publications from various NGOS focusing on water issues and policy recommendations. They reviewed the League of Women Voters national policies as contained in *Impact on Issues 2020-2022*, and they studied League water policies and water management tools from other states, including Oregon, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. They used available videos and online programs to learn how water is managed in other parts of the west. They attempted to identify the general categories of water problems that they felt should be addressed in a revised policy and went through numerous iterations of organizational drafts. They examined the current LWVAZ water policy closely and retained the wording and phrasing of the current policy where possible. In other places, they drafted new proposed policy goals, or expanded on statements within current policy. The ultimate draft they have prepared attempts to be broad in its overarching goals but also seeks to provide more detailed, specific goals on current policy issues, such as the imminent need to reauthorize the Groundwater Management Act in 2025, the rapid drop in Colorado River allocations through the Central Arizona Project, groundwater crises in rural Arizona, and the pressure being put on water by the expansion of agriculture and the spread of urban development.

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