

# CHILD ABUSE ADVOCACY IN AN ELECTION YEAR

Bahney Dedolph  
Arizona Council of Human Service Providers  
Child Abuse Prevention Conference  
July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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## WELCOME

- Who are we?
- Who are you?
- Why are we all here?
- What do you hope to learn?



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*“The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.”*

Jane Addams

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## OVERVIEW

- How an idea becomes a law—or doesn't
- Building relationships
- Grassroots advocacy
- Candidates, campaigns, and voting

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## REMEMBER YOUR CIVICS CLASS?

- Most of us don't.
- But we may remember:
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFroMQIKiag>




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## WHY DO I NEED TO KNOW THIS?

Basically, because we do different things at different points in the process

- If a bill is stuck in committee, you will call or email the committee chair or members
- When a bill is heard in committee, you will "sign in" in support or opposition to the bill
- When a bill passes out of committee, you thank the chair and committee members
- And then in COW or Third Read, you contact your legislators in support or opposition to the bill

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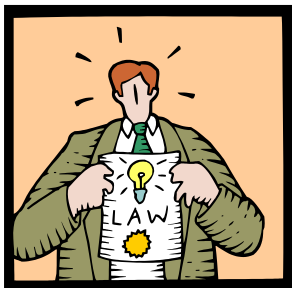
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### GOT THE PICTURE?



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### GOOD GUYS, BAD GUYS, & FENCE SITTERS

- Figuring out who's who at the legislature
- How to figure out who your supporters are, get them into political office in your legislative district, and how to keep them there.



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*"It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."*

Eleanor Roosevelt

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## MAKING FRIENDS AND GETTING THINGS DONE

- ⦿ Offer to help them on their campaign **AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN**
  - Walk neighborhoods
  - Put up yard signs
  - Make phone calls
  - Donate money to their campaign—even small amounts count
  - **START TODAY!**

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## MAKING FRIENDS AND GETTING THINGS DONE

- ⦿ Offer to help them understand the issues in their district
  - Provide them with information, data, research, stories about your issues
  - Make the issues local and personal
  - This is not lobbying, this is information sharing and education

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## MAKING FRIENDS AND GETTING THINGS DONE

- ⦿ Build a relationship with your legislators—state and federal
  - When not in session, write them cards, letters, and email telling them about your concerns
  - Like their Facebook pages
  - Send them interesting newspaper articles or recent research
  - Every story is local—keep it district or county specific

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## MAKING FRIENDS AND GETTING THINGS DONE

- ⦿ During legislative session, keep up the conversation with them
  - Many advocacy organizations have e-mail alert lists that anyone can join—respond to the updates, alerts, and action items by quickly contacting your representatives
  - Thank them early and often for their support

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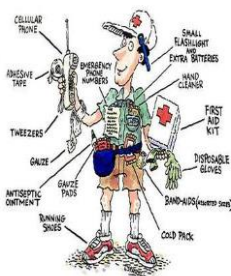
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*“The most effective lobbyist I will ever face is a registered voter from my district who comes to me with a well-documented explanation of how the legislation will affect him.”*

Charles Hebner  
Delaware House of Delegates



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## THE STORY OF THE LIBRARY

<http://www.upworthy.com/burn-the-libraries-down-kidz-can-learned-stuff-on-there-oan>



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## GRASSROOTS NETWORKS

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”*



Margaret Mead

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## BUILDING GRASSROOTS NETWORKS

- You know 3 people who know 3 people who know 3 people
- Start small and grow
- Start locally and grow
- Identify your issue
- Create “elevator speech”
- Stay on point
- Find common ground—with everyone
- Use social media
- Nothing about us without us



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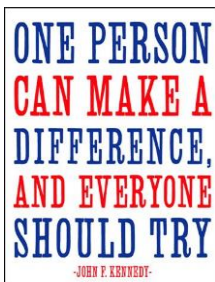
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How can I make a difference?



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### WE CANNOT FORGET



- 96<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage
- 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

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### HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- 2016 is an election year...
- And in Arizona, most elections are won or lost in the Primary election



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### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- ⦿ 2016 elections are just around the corner!
  - Last day to register to vote in the primary election is 8/1/16
  - Primary election is 8/30/16
  - Last day to register to vote in the general election is 10/10/16
  - General election is 11/8/16

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### NATIONAL VOTER TURNOUT 2014

- ⦿ Voter turnout general election in 2014 was 37%
  - Lowest voter turnout since WWII
  - Highest turnout in Maine (58.5%), Wisconsin (56.8%), Colorado (54.5%), and Alaska (54.4%)
  - Lowest turnout in Indiana (28.8%), Texas (28.9%), New York (29%), and Tennessee (29.1%)
  - Arizona ranked 38 of 51 for voter turnout
- ⦿ Voter turnout general election in 2012 was 59%

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### WHAT IMPACTS VOTER TURNOUT?

- ⦿ Election day registration, on line registration, and early voting (or vote by mail) increased voter participation
- ⦿ Young people didn't show up for the 2014 election, but those over 50 did
- ⦿ Despite growth in eligible voting age population, Latino's didn't show up at the polls either
- ⦿ Impact on elections? Females, People of Color, Young people, and Low Income Voters are more likely to vote Democratic

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## DO YOU KNOW? 3.2M REGISTERED VOTERS IN AZ

### AZ Voter Turnout

- AZ ranked 45<sup>th</sup> for voter turnout in 2012
- General 2012: 53%
- Primary 2012: 28%
- AZ ranked 38<sup>th</sup> for voter turnout in 2014
- General 2014: 48%
- Primary 2014: 27%

### Voters by Age

- Under 30
  - 20% in 2012
  - 21% in 2014
- Under 40
  - 36% in 2012
  - 26% in 2014
- Over 50
  - 44% in 2012
  - 55% in 2014

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## REALLY? REALLY...?



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## PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE 2016: IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT?

- **Republican:** 54% or 613,161 votes cast of 1,128,603 registered
- **Democrat:** 48% or 456,161 votes cast of 948,983 registered
- **Green:** 19% or 838 votes cast of 4,368 registered
- **Independents:** 1,201,030 registered voters unable to vote \*\*
- **Trump, 46% of the vote but 25% of registered Republicans and 9% of all registered voters**
- **Clinton, 57% of the vote but 27% of registered Democrats and 8% of all registered voters**

### Voter Turnout

### % of Registered Voters

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### VOTER REGISTRATION NUMBERS 5/16

- Other (No Party Preference) = 1,171,256 (35%)
- Republican = 1,161,816 (35%)
- Democratic = 990,417 (30%)
- Other (Green, Libertarian) = 29,820 (<1%)
- Total = 3,353,309
- Independents = 45%
  - Republican leaning = 47%
  - Democratic leaning = 46%
- Democrats = 28%
- Republicans = 27%
- Definite generational differences

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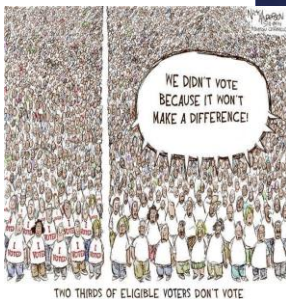
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### SO, HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- Register to vote AND vote!
- <http://www.azsos.gov/elections/voting-election/register-vote-or-update-your-current-voter-information>
- Know your legislators and candidates
- <http://apps.azsos.gov/election/2016/Candidates/PrimaryCandidates.htm>



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### VOTING RESOURCES

- Nonprofit Vote
- <http://www.nonprofitvote.org/all-resources/>
- <http://www.nonprofitvote.org/states/arizona/>



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## HOW DO I KNOW WHO IS RUNNING?

- Check on the Secretary of State's website early and often
- <http://apps.azsos.gov/election/2016/Candidates/PrimaryCandidates.htm>
- Don't like who is running?
- Run yourself
- Candidate training programs
- Advocacy training programs

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## WHAT ABOUT NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS?

- Register people to vote
- Distribute NON-PARTISAN information on candidates and ballot measures
- Hold NON-PARTISAN candidate forums or debates
- Educate voters on the election and voting
- Provide briefings to candidates on your issues
- Get out the vote activities
- Endorse, rate, or rank candidates
- Contribute money as an organization
- Let candidates use office space, equipment, mailing lists or other resources—unless you offer it all candidates

Can do

Can't do

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## NEXT STEPS?

- Ask questions
- Be an active, engaged citizen
- Get involved
- Have fun



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*“We do not have a democracy of the majority. We have a democracy of the majority who participate.”*

Thomas Jefferson



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## COMMITMENT

- ⦿ What are you going to do to make your community a better place to live for all?
- ⦿ Make your commitment TODAY!
- ⦿ Questions? Just ask!
  - 602-252-9363
  - Bahney Dedolph  
[bdedolph@azcouncil.com](mailto:bdedolph@azcouncil.com)



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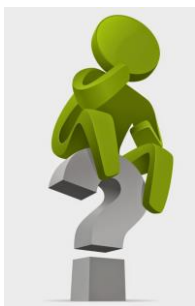
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## QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?



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