

Arizona Girls State Independent



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Nationalist Party Wants Change

By Alicia Cordova
Saguaro City Reporter

Yesterday, precinct committeemen were elected. All cities voted for 3 passionate girls from their party to build what their mythical political party stands on.

For the nationalist party, our precinct chairmen decided on 3 principles to enforce: public safety, environmental issues, and education.

For public safety, nationalist's want to enforce sex-education classes in schools across the state to prevent higher rates of teen pregnancy.

They also want to re-enforce the 1993 Brady bill to prevent higher rates of gun violence. The Brady bill has all persons

wanting hand guns to have a background check done before purchasing firearms.

On the environmental side, nationalists want something done about climate change as the state of Arizona is in a drought and temperatures are rising every year. We believe in the prediction of Arizona soon being inhabitable.

And for education, nationalists want to promote equal opportunities for all activities in all schools. Not over-budgeting or under-budgeting certain activities.

All of this ideas were created by passionate, powerful, and young female leaders. This was all decided barely on day 2 of Girls State. We're excited to see what the Nationalist party will conquer the rest of the week.



Federalists push for affordable opportunities

By Garland Brylee
Sycamore City Reporter

The realistic ideology of the federalist lies in providing an accessible and affordable opportunities throughout the state. For example healthcare, quality of education, conservation, and funding.

The funding comes from the slogan "Enough exists, Vote federalists" where the federalists wish to reallocate the money we already have and implement this into funding where it is most important to be used such as building and maintaining our communities within our state.

This is a healthy compromise from extending taxes because this only aggravates. Federalists also prefer cutting waste in resources and money to enforce the best in society. The most important thing is educating the population to make impactful decisions, providing healthcare.

Within the precinct committeemen meetings there were lots of wonderful women talking about important ideas. The brain-



storming was very impactful and fostered a community where all ideas were welcome and were heard.

The diverse perspectives shared during the precinct rally were such an inspiring place because there was an uproar of woman having fun and standing up for

what they believe in!

Everyone was so nice and it was clear we are all motivated to get our points out there and fight for our party: FEDERALISTS!

Some of the best slogans that everyone loved "1,2,3,4 were the feds and so much more!" "Nats will bite - Feds will fight"

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Capital city claims a new theme

By Mia Noble
 Saguaro City Reporter

The Saguaros take inspiration from Michael Jackson to transform their city into the new and improved saguar hehe, a vibrant and united community centered on creativity, leadership, and service. Just as Michael Jackson used his talent to bring people together through music, the citizens of Saguaro have elected precinct committeemen to create a city where everyone has a voice and opportunities to succeed.

Throughout the day, our city has focused on collaboration and teamwork. Citizens have stepped into leadership roles, shared ideas, and worked together to solve challenges such as decoding the delegate handbook we were given. Whether we are discussing, planning, or participating in activities, everyone has contributed to making Saguaro a welcoming and productive place.

One of the most exciting aspects of our city is the energy and enthusiasm of its citizens. Inspired by Michael Jackson's dedication to excellence, we strive to bring our best efforts to everything we do. From city meetings to community projects, we are learning the importance of responsibility, communication, and civic engagement.

Girls State provides a unique opportunity to experience government firsthand while developing leadership skills that can be applied long after the program ends. In Saguaro, we are discovering how individuals with different perspectives can work together toward common goals.

As our time at Girls State continues, the Saguaros look forward to building an even stronger community. Through teamwork, creativity, and determination, we hope to leave a positive impact on our city and carry these lessons with us into the future.

The big day has arrived!

By Jocelyn Kame
 Cholla City Reporter

The big day is finally here, Arizona Girls State! The process itself was pretty easy. Getting told to by your counselor that you're enduring a week process of government and girlhood, nothing else.

I came here with no idea what I was signing up for, I talked to the other girls. They said the same thing!

The check in process was really easy. Pick up your book, take your picture, drop off medical records, and then say bye to mom and dad! Smooth, low

stress process without any problems.

It was the beginning of a week to remember, already I have met hardworking and driven girls that will overcome anything they set their minds to.

Whether it's at the city hall meetings or just eating dinner with them everyone is very genuine and happy to be where they are. Overall day one was an amazing first day.

Where it was tiresome, I learned more than I ever have in a single day. I believe I can speak for everyone when I say that. See you soon!

Competition speeds up in Mimosa

By Ashanti Nevels
 Mimosa City Reporter

As day 1 of the week long Girls State program concludes and we go into day 2, delegates have become sworn in as citizens of the mythical 51st state: Girls State.

This session of Girls State will be overseen by Governor Ava Campbell, as well as our Secretary of State, staff, and junior counselors.

Both parties were looking for committeemen, but only three spots were up for grabs. Mimosins acted fast, 4 Federalists and 4 Nationalists signed up right away; however, at the last moment 1 member from each party dropped out, causing a very anticlimactic ending.

In other election news, after a fierce fight, a mayor and 4 councilmen were elected.

In honor of national flag day, citizens this year were taught about the meaning of the 13 folds of the flag. If you're curious, I'd recommend you check out NationalFlagFoundation.org for more info.

During the second day of Arizona Girls State curiosity sparked amongst the citizens after learning about Arizona Girls Nation, an event taking place in July where a small group of Girls State Senators will learn about the government on the federal, rather than state, level.

We wish luck and support to all students who will be presenting a proposal to earn their spot on the Girls Nation Senator board.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR TALENT NIGHT!

King challenges GS citizens

By Shreya Raman and Ella Diaz
Palo Verde City Reporters

For the first day of Arizona Girls State, we welcomed Republican Precinct Committeeman Chris King.

King has been a precinct committeeman for twelve years and a notable Girls State speaker for seven of those years.

King's speech revolved around the logistics of what a PC does and how one can become a PC. His most notable point was that "politics is an increasingly simple game made increasingly complicated by the people in control to keep the average person out."

His use of this was to highlight how a PC's role is to engage with the "average person" to ensure their votes for their party's candidates.

He also discussed how, by being a PC you need to be able to talk to people on both sides of politics while respecting their views and defending your own.

His goal was to show prospective PCs in the crowd how the most important part of the role is going out and socializing with people.

One way he furthered this point was by engaging with girls in the audience and showing examples of what to say when going door to door.

Overall, his speech was engaging and focused primarily on how a PC engages with the "average person".

Q&A

While King's talk was undoubtedly engaging, the highlight of the event was indisputably the questioning period, where various Girls State citizens were granted the opportunity to inquire about his experience as a PC and how he tackles certain challenges.

King seized the opportunity, engaging with the women in the room energetically and answering their questions with insight.

The citizens questioned his key tagline (see section above), digging deeper into how to communicate with the average person and how men and women are divided within this sphere of the "average."

This line of questioning seemed to stump King. Despite his engagement, he often left answers unfinished or purposefully vague, notably taking the defensive position when asked about policy issues or the state of government today.

His intense political involvement struck many as abrasive when he was questioned

about his methodology. He was frequently questioned by the girls on how he communicated with discouraged citizens and how he crafted policy for the opposite sex without any firsthand insight into their lived experiences.

When answering, King was quite contrarian, often challenging the assumptions embedded within the questions rather than directly addressing them. Rather than providing specific examples of how he incorporated diverse perspectives into his job, he tended to argue against the claims the girls made in their questions altogether (e.g., differences between male and female perspectives, the state of political polarization, etc.).

This approach created an interesting dynamic in the room, as some appreciated his passionate participation within the questioning period, while others seemed frustrated by his apparent lack of concrete answers.

This exchange ultimately revealed the tensions hidden within government and public service: balancing orderly dialogue in an increasingly complex political landscape.

While the Girls State citizens focused on conversing with the "average person," King often responded in more general and oppositional terms.

As a result, the questioning period became less of a traditional Q&A and more of a dialogue about the challenges of political representation itself.

Although his responses did not always satisfy the audience, the discussion encouraged critical thinking among the girls and demonstrated the value of political discourse.

The Girls State citizens were not afraid to challenge an elected official, and King, to his credit, remained engaged throughout the conversation. In many ways, the questioning block embodied the broader purpose of Girls State, granting young women confidence to engage with leaders, ask difficult questions, and actively participate in the democratic process through open discussion.

Student commentary

Similar to the themes mentioned previously Palo Verde citizen Reagan Williamson agreed saying, "He was a good speaker and explained his opinion very well. Some of the questions girls asked were hard to understand, however his answers were somewhat vague and didn't fully answer the question, but he tried following up to

see if it made sense."

Reagan's viewpoint highlights the way King was notably vague with his answers and how he seemed to skirt around the answer to questions that were somewhat controversial.

While it is understood how King might not want to put his opinions onto his listeners, one of the amazing parts of Girls State is hearing others opposing viewpoints and being able to expand your own.

Since King seemed to put a barrier between his own views and his answers to the girls, Emeline Parrish from Palo Verde agreed with this point while also adding that "despite him being a good speaker who was passionate about what he talked about, when he engaged with the girls through questioning some of his answers seemed condescending."

This seemed to be a common theme among girls as King did become increasingly defensive when asked questions about controversial topics.

However King's defensive tactic might have just been because the questions were controversial and he did not want to offend people.

On the other hand, Faith Garrison a citizen of Saguardo noted how King was "unbiased in his speech and did not try to instill the views of his party upon the members of Girls State."

King's speech was very focused on just explaining the role of PC and his job without being politically polarized.

Palo Verde citizen Miya Wasserman highlighted his strengths saying, "I think having him be here for seven years he's very knowledgeable of what being a PC entails and what the role of voters and PCs have in politics. He is a very good speaker and engaged with the crowd while also appealing to the crowd"

This points out how despite the Q&A portion not being ideal, King is a very good speaker and a vital part of the opening night of Girls State.

This is furthered by the beliefs of Melody Anguamea who said "he was very vocal and passionate about what he does, honestly he seemed like a great speaker and it was easy to engage with him. I also liked how he was knowledgeable about the statistics which showed his passion."

This really does show that King's speech showcased his own passion for politics

See **KING** on page 4

The first of many votes

By Grace Wyant
Ironwood City Reporter

Today, delegates of Arizona Girls State made their first foray into the elections that will fill the positions in their mythical city governments.

After making the decision as to who would sit on the city election board, delegates were introduced to the process of voting in the primary and general elections. This introduction will enable the delegates to go through the process of electing their mayor and city council members.

I got a chance to conduct a quick interview with Maddie Keller, who serves as Ironwood's Judge 2 during our election.

What have you noticed as we prepared to conduct the vote over the course of the past 15 minutes?

So I kind of love that I can make sure everybody knows what they're doing. You

know, how to vote, if they're nationalists or federalists, and what they do.

And then I got to vote first. Yeah. So that was cool. I just noticed that people are really getting involved.

Any division between nationalists and federalists?

I wouldn't say too much, just right now, with the primary elections, you can only vote for your party. But we'll probably see more after lunch.

Right before the party meetings, I conducted another interview with Ella Day from Mesquite City. Here's what she had to say.

So, did you learn anything new about the process of elections in terms of city government?

I think I have a new appreciation for how many people it takes to keep this thing running.

How easy to understand would you say the process was?

It was pretty easy. I think our counselor explained it really well. I would say by doing it, it explained a lot more than just describing.

My city opted to skip the speeches for the general election, because we thought we knew each other pretty well. How did that part of the campaign work, and do you think that affected how you voted at all?

We did know each other in general. But in my opinion, I feel like speeches would have helped to better know the candidates.

After just the first full day as delegates at Arizona Girls State, we have already taken in quite a bit of information about the civic process and voting. Over the week, this delegate believes we will observe an only increasing level of engagement and understanding.

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and with that he instilled passion upon his listeners. He was a good speaker to have for night one as it rallied the members of Girls State and set the tone for the rest of the week.

Final thoughts

While Chris King's presentation successfully illustrated the responsibilities of a precinct committeeman and the importance of political engagement, it was the audience's questions that ultimately defined the presentation.

His emphasis on connecting with the "average person" created a broader discussion about communication and the realities of modern politics.

Although some attendees felt his answers lacked specificity, the Q&A as a whole highlighted the importance of questioning public officials and critically evaluating their perspectives and words.

More than anything, the event demonstrated that effective civic participation requires not only speaking and persuading, but also listening and responding to difficult questions.

By encouraging young women to engage directly with political leaders, the presentation as a whole reflected Girls State's mission of preparing young women to participate confidently in democracy in the future.

The Power of Inclusion

By Brielle Zeiler
Ironwood City Reporter

While there are many lessons the delegates learn during their time at Girls State, one that sticks out is the power of inclusion. As a delegate myself, I've watched this firsthand throughout my city of Ironwood.

It's often alluded that all female friendships are characterized by toxicity and exclusion, however from what I've seen, it's the exact opposite.

Since move in day, the citizens of Ironwood have been closer than ever. They bring each other up when someone is down, they show each other kindness no matter what, and they push each other to be the best individual they can be.

Not only does this create a welcoming atmosphere throughout the city, but it also

motivates each delegate to become a better leader within Girls State.

During elections, nominations, and speeches, Ironwood's citizens hype each other up even more than they do themselves. They give each other shout-outs and reassure shyer citizens to run for the position they desire.

Without this, Girls State would not be able to live to its fullest potential. A democratic government highlights and elevates citizens who are most fit for their position.

While more extroverted and outgoing delegates can always be equally fit for these positions, it's also important to highlight those who may be less eager to speak out.

Doing this, creates a Girls State environment where every delegate feels seen, heard, and accepted.



Be a part of the Arizona Girls State Slide Show by sending us your selfies, group pics and all out fun times!

Email to photos@azgirlsstate.com

Pinon takes the polls:

Election day takes off in the city of poppies

By Violeta Acosta and Joelle Lally
Pinon City Reporters

The City of Pinon Poppies started Election Day by giving honor to our flag during the morning flag ceremony.

After beginning the day with respect and unity, the poppy citizens met at 8:15 a.m. for their morning City Hall meeting, where they reviewed the election process and looked over a sample nomination form to better understand how to nominate for city office.

The city then held a blind vote for Precinct Committeemen. On the Nationalist side, Marissa Cross was voted chairman, and on the Federalists side, Claire Francis was voted chairman. Abby Krauter and Celia Kass were also voted as committeemen, and several members volunteered to serve on the Election Board to help with election procedures.

As the day continued, candidates running for major city roles prepared and presented their speeches. Bella Ahtziger and Elaine Huang both ran for mayor as Nationalists, while Ellexi Smith; Livia Orlich; Charlie Pulis; Grayson Palmer; and Mauricia Morales gave speeches for city councilman representing their individual parties. The

speeches showed each candidate's dedication, confidence, and excitement for helping lead Pinon through a successful election day.

During the primary elections, Federalists only voted for Federalists candidates, while Nationalists only voted for Nationalist candidates. Four Federalists and two Nationalists ran, and every girl who ran will proceed to the general election that will be taking place at 2:15 p.m. this afternoon.

After a careful review and count of ballots, Bella Ahtziger won with majority of votes on her side and will represent Pinon city as Mayor with pride and purpose.

Later in the day, Pinon moved into the general election. The winners for the general vote were Charlie Pulis; Grayson Palmer represented the Federalist side, while Livia and Ellexi represented the Nationalist side. This election gave the poppies another chance to participate in the voting process and support the candidates who will continue representing Pinon with leadership and dedication.

After the general election, the Federalists and Nationalists separated into their groups, with the Federalists meeting on the West patio and the Nationalists meeting on the East patio. Each group came together with chants and party unity in a way that was both respectful and competitive. The energy showed how much spirit each side had while still keeping the day positive.

To the end of the day, cities met with their sister cities, also known as neighboring cities. This gave everyone a chance to socialize on a deeper level, connect with new people, and better understand each other's beliefs and ideas. It was a meaningful way to close out Election Day, leaving everyone excited, connected, and ready for tomorrow's activities.



Thought of the Day:

"Be not simply good, but good for something. Live for something. Do good and leave behind you a monument of virtue that the storm of time can never destroy. Write your name in kindness, love and mercy on the hearts of thousands you come in contact with year by year. Your name, your deeds will be as legible on the hearts you leave behind the stars of heaven."

- Thoreau

This thought of the day connects perfectly with today's election activities because it reminds us that leadership is not just about winning a position or holding a title, but using that position to do something meaningful.

During the elections, the citizens of Pinon had the chance to practice doing good by taking part in the voting process, listening to candidates, respecting different beliefs, and choosing leaders who will represent their city with purpose.

Just like the quote says, our names and actions are remembered by the impact we leave on others. Today, through speeches, voting, party unity, and sister city meetings, the girls showed that Girls' State is about building character, kindness, leadership, and leaving a lasting mark on the people around us.

Precinct Committeeman

By Diana Euceda Campos
Mimosa City Reporter

On the first day of Arizona Girls State, we learned about the Precinct Committeeman.

Chris King, an AZ Precinct Committeeman and a substitute teacher in a school,

talked to us about his position. King mentioned that as a precinct committeeman, they must be very encouraging and friendly. They are also active in our community.

These past two days the girls elected their committeemen in their city for both parties.

Our committeemen are encouraging and

friendly. Even though there are many positions to run for, the girls find a way to not get different things to prevent them from shining.

Thanks to Chris King, our girls got to find a way to desire to change in their community. Thank you Chris King and never stop shining girls.

Advice from those who came before

By Gwendolyn Bickerton
Sycamore City Reporter

The commencement of the mythical real, Girls State, began with nerves, anticipation, expectations and formidable excitement. When delegates transformed into citizens, the once distant event became our present reality.

Since the start of Girls State, I myself have experienced being apart of a community of girls, who share a genuine zeal for government and teamwork.

All the citizens of Girls State also share mixed feeling on upcoming campaigns. Some girls are prepared, some deciding, and some are nervous with uncertainty from what the elections hold.

I personally have found that many are nervous about public speaking, likability or being "The Best."

Fortunately for us, we have accessibility to pick the brains of those who have come before us.

After Governor Ava Campbell blessed us with a look into what Girls Nation looks like, I asked both her and Secretary of State Aarna Dharia about campaigning advice.

They both emphasized the importance of making connections, being genuine and having an enticing slogan for the campaign.

A direct quote from both was this, "Your campaign hinges on your passion for your topic and the community you build at Girls State. It does not hurt to have a good campaign slogan."

They added examples of a good slogan by supplementing their own slogans, such as, "Do your girl a FAVA and vote for AVA," and "Raise your ya ya ya and vote for Dharia."

These example they have set for current citizens is encouraging because it seems that what is going to get us far in these elections is being ourselves and networking intentionally.

Let the campaigning begin!



Talent Show audition sign-up sheet is on the window outside the directors office. Sign-up fast as spaces are filling. Auditions are Tuesday evening.

