



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Mental Health Issues at the Pima County Jail

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Would it surprise you to learn the Pima County Jail is the largest mental health facility in the county? Approximately 60% of the jail population, or 20,000 inmates per year, have a mental illness. These inmates tend to remain in jail longer and return to jail more often than the general incarcerated population.

The public is invited to join the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson (LWVGT), **Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**, at its Voter Education Presentation, ***“Mental Health Issues at the Pima County Jail”***. We are honored to have three well known speakers from Pima County: Sheriff Chris Nanos, Jail Administrator India Davis, and the Honorable Judge Danelle Liwski. Sheriff Nanos will share statistics, recidivism rates, and discuss the need for more programs for the mentally ill. Administrator Davis will speak about the services provided at the jail and also about a MacArthur Foundation grant funding a program to reduce the jail’s population by 18% over three years. Judge Liwski will discuss how she determines competency and sentencing, and the alternatives to jail that are available to her.

**The program is FREE and OPEN to the Public.** It will take place at the **Mountain Vista Fire Department**, 1175 W. Magee, Tucson (just East of La Canada Rd.) in the Community Meeting Room, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m. and the program at 10:00 a.m.; it will conclude at Noon. Parking is free.

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*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*