



The Boulder County Voter

1 September 2016

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<http://www.facebook.com/lwvbc.org>



<https://instagram.com/lwvbc>

Greetings

Collaboration is key to our work in the League in order to Make Our Democracy Work.

I'm very excited about collaborations with the Latino Task Force, Boulder County Women's Collaborative, AAUW Longmont, CU Engage, St. Vrain Valley School District, Boulder County Bar Association, Boulder YWCA, Human Service Alliance, and the Superior Chamber, just to name a few.



Ruth Stemler, President, LWVBC

Collaboration makes our voice stronger, increases our visibility, fosters better attendance at our educational events and results in more informed voters. Each and every one of our members has many connections in the community. Members are working to nurture these connections for LWVBC. Thank you! Maybe you know of a group that would like to hold a VRD or that grants funds in the community? Maybe you know of a venue we could use for educational efforts? Or do you know a group that would like to co-sponsor an event? Please let a board member know if you can help us with collaboration. We will have more engagement and impact!

Increased collaboration is developing among the local Leagues in Colorado and LWVCO. We are establishing an informal group to network, share best practices, become more efficient and improve communication. We will be sharing with others and we will learn how they solve common challenges. One of the methods to do this is a

Facebook Group and we will be "meeting" in other ways, I am sure. Stay tuned for an update!

I hope to see all of you at our Fall Kick-Off Meeting on Sept 24th. It will be an opportunity to see long-time friends, learn about the 50th anniversary of the Judicial Merit Selection System in Colorado, and participate in the vote for the formation of our own 501(c)3 for LWVBC. Bring along a friend!

Please feel free to contact me if you have suggestions, comments or questions,

Ruth

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Mark Your Calendars

ColoradoCare Information Sessions

8 September 2016:

6:00-7:30 pm, **Elevations Credit Union**,
2960 Diagonal Highway, Boulder

10 September 2016:

10:00 am-1:00 pm, **Carbon Valley Library**,
7 Park Av, Firestone

29 September 2016:

7:00-8:30 pm, **Mamie Dowd Eisenhower Library**,
Eisenhower Room, One DesCombes Dr, Broomfield

Perspectiva 2016 Candidate Forums

17 September 2016:

CO Senate District 18 & CO House Districts 10, 12, 13, 33
2:00 - 4:00 pm, **Sister Carmen Community Center**, Lafayette

1 October 2016:

US Senator & US Representatives, Districts 2 & 4
2:00 – 4:00 pm, **YWCA of Boulder County**, Boulder

8 October 2016:

CO Legislature, Boulder County Commissioners
CO District Attorney
2:00 – 4:00 pm, **Barrio E’ Centro**, Longmont

Candidate Forums

10 September 2016:

Boulder County Commissioners, Districts 1 & 2
10:00 -11:30 am, **Boulder Valley School District Board**
Rm, 6500 E Arapahoe, Boulder

13 September 2016:

Candidate Forum: Superior Town Board
of Trustees
7:00-8:30 pm, **Superior Town Hall**, Superior

Minimum Wage (Initiative 101) Information Sessions

26 September 2016:

2:30-4:00 pm, **Frasier Meadows Retirement Community**,
350 Ponca Pl., Boulder

6 October 2016

6:00-7:15 pm, **Louisville Public Library**, 951 Spruce Street,
Louisville

17 September 2016:

LWVCO League Day

8:30 am – 3:00 pm, **Holiday Inn Select Cherry Creek**, 455 S Colorado Blvd, Denver

See: [LWVCO website for registration](#)

24 September 2016:

Fall Kickoff Meeting

27 September 2016:

National Voter Registration Day

24 October 2016:

Voter Service & Polling Centers open. Open from 24 October through Election Day, 8 Nov 2016.

8 November 2016:

Election Day



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Fall Kickoff Meeting

Topic: Judicial Merit Selection System in Colorado

Come help us celebrate the 50th anniversary of Colorado's Judicial Merit Selection System. This came about because of a citizens' initiative passed on November 8, 1966, by Colorado voters, with the endorsement of the Colorado League of Women Voters, the Colorado Medical Association, the Colorado Bar Association, and many others. Another example of Making Democracy Work.

The meeting will include the introduction of 2016-2017 officers, directors and committee chairs. Learn what your local League has planned for the year and about the many different opportunities for you to get involved.

A business meeting will also be convened to consider amendments to the Bylaws.

Saturday, September 24, 2016
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 pm
Louisville Public Library
951 Spruce Street
Louisville, CO
(Parking available under the Library)

501(c)(3) Status for LWVBC

The Boulder County League is preparing to apply to IRS for the kind of tax exempt status that makes dues and donations deductible on members' and contributors' personal income tax returns. In addition, it will make it much easier to raise money for the League.

In order to make the application, we need some new provisions in our Bylaws, and so the Board recommends adoption of those changes at a very brief business meeting to be convened at the Fall Kick-off meeting. Every member was sent by email or standard US Mail a notice containing the language needed. Basically IRS requires that we state that our purpose is charitable, and that we permanently dedicate our assets to charitable purposes.

Here are the changes you were sent:

ARTICLE II PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1 Purposes

League of Women Voters of Boulder County is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, League of Women Voters of Boulder County shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of the League of Women Voters of Boulder County shall be attempting to influence legislation.

ARTICLE VI FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 5. Distribution of Funds on Merger or Dissolution

In the event of the merger or dissolution of the League of Women Voters of Boulder County, for any reason all monies and securities or properties of whatsoever nature be owned or under the absolute control of League of Women Voters of Boulder County shall be distributed at the discretion of the board to any member organization of the League of Women Voters national which is exempt under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code, or if none of those organizations are then in existence, or exempt under those provisions, then at the discretion of the board to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under such designated tax provisions.

If you have questions, please contact Louisa Young 303-444-6428 or Louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU.



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Get Out Your Planners ! Candidate Forums and More !

Candidate Forum: Boulder County Commissioners, District 1 and District 2

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Boulder County, in collaboration with YWCA, Boulder County Movement for Children (BCMC), and Human Service Alliance (HSA).

10:00 am-11:30 am, Saturday, 10 September 2016

Boulder Valley School District Board Room

6500 East Arapahoe, Boulder

District 1: Elise Jones and Kevin Sipple

District 2: Paul Danish and Deb Gardner

Candidate Forum: Superior Town Board of Trustees

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters and in conjunction with the Town of Superior

7:00-8:30 pm, Tuesday, 13 September 2016

Superior Town Hall, Superior

Perspectiva 2016 Candidate Forums

The Latino Task Force of Boulder County and the League of Women Voters Boulder County are co-hosting Perspectiva 2016, a series of three candidate forums throughout Boulder County.

Candidate Forum: Colorado Legislature

2:00 - 4:00 pm, Saturday, 17 September 2016

Sister Carmen Community Center, Lafayette

Colorado Legislature, Senate District 18

Colorado Legislature, House Districts 10, 12, 13, 33

Candidate Forum: US Senate and House

2:00 - 4:00 pm, Saturday, 1 October 2016

YWCA of Boulder County, Boulder

U.S. Congress, Senator for Colorado

U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Colorado Districts 2, 4

Candidate Forum: Colorado Legislature, Boulder County Commissioners, Colorado District Attorney

2:00 - 4:00 pm, Saturday, 8 October 2016

Barrio E' Centro, Longmont

Colorado Legislature, Senate District 17

Colorado Legislature, House District 11

Boulder County Commissioner District 1, 2

Colorado District Attorney, District 20





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Get Out Your Planners ! Candidate Forums and More ! (continued)

ColoradoCare (Amendment 69) Information Sessions:

As described in the August edition of The Boulder County Voter, Information Sessions were already held on August 1 at Frasier Meadows, 13 August at Longmont Public Library, and 22 August at Alfalfa's in Louisville. These sessions have been packed full of information and have produced lots of lively discussion. There are at least 3 more events in September on this topic (see our [website](#) for more details):

6:00-7:30 pm, Thursday, 8 September 2016, Elevations Credit Union, 2960 Diagonal Highway, Boulder.
Guest speaker: Sara Davidson. (Sponsored by LWVBC)

10:00 am-1:00 pm, Saturday, 10 September 2016, Carbon Valley Library, 7 Park Ave., Firestone.
Speakers: Mr. Noel Guardi and Dr. Laird Cagan. (Sponsored by ColoradoCareYES)

7:00-8:30 pm, Thursday, 29 September 2016, Mamie Dowd Eisenhower Library, Eisenhower Room, One DesCombes Drive, Broomfield. Guest speaker: Diane Dunn. (Sponsored by LWVBC)

This ballot issue is supported by LWV.

Minimum Wage (Initiative 101) Information Sessions:

Another proposal to make this year's ballot is Initiative 101 (Amendment number to be determined), which would raise Colorado's minimum wage from the current \$8.31/hour to \$12.00/hour by 2020. The LWVBC Social Policy Team is working on presentations for this ballot issue. Several sessions will be scheduled for September/October. This ballot issue is supported by LWV.

So far, the following information sessions have been scheduled:

2:30-4:00 pm, Monday, 26 September 2016, Frasier Meadows Retirement Community, 350 Ponca Pl., Boulder

6:00-7:15 pm, Thursday, 6 October 2016, Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street, Louisville

More will be scheduled. Check our [website](#) for further developments, and email alerts will be sent out.

Ballot Issue Presentations:

Many ballot issues have made it onto this year's ballot, and LWVBC members will be giving presentations to various groups and organizations. We will also schedule some presentations in October around the county that will be open to the public. Check our [website](#) and watch for further details in the October Voter or in email alerts.



Remember to reload your grocery card. Every time you do, the League gets money !! Email [Louisa Young](#) for details.



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League Members in Action



Steve Winters, speaking about ColoradoCare (Amendment 69), Longmont Library, 13 August 2016.



Colorado State Minimum Wage Amendment

From Mary Ann Wilner

The LWVBC and the LWVCO boards voted to support Amendment 101 which will amend the Colorado constitution by increasing the minimum wage to \$9.30 per hour with annual increases of \$0.90 each January 1 until it reaches \$12 per hour effective January 2020, and annually adjusting it thereafter for cost-of-living increases.

The LWVCO joined Colorado Families for a Fair Wage (CFFW) www.coloradofamiliesforafairwage.org/, the umbrella coalition leading the effort to pass this ballot initiative. More than 200,000 Coloradans signed the petition to create the ballot initiative. A growing number of Colorado businesses have joined the coalition stating that raising the minimum wage is good for business, customers and our local economy.

In September and October in Boulder County the Social Policy Team (SPT) of the LWVBC will present four hour-long public information sessions on Amendment 101. Check the calendar for dates and locations. Additionally, the SPT will be distributing these training modules for the public sessions to the LWV's other 17 Colorado local Leagues so they can educate their own communities.

The facts supporting passage of the ballot initiative include the following:

- The minimum wage has not kept pace with the cost of living.
- Minimum wage workers are primarily adult women working full-time; many have children.
- By 2020 about 19 percent of the state labor force (estimated 420,000 workers) would likely see their wages rise directly as a result of the minimum wage increase.
- Minimum wage increases boost job retention which save costs for businesses.
- There is no evidence that raising the minimum wage leads to notable price increases.
- Small businesses grew faster in states with a higher minimum wage.
- Increasing wages for low-wage workers provides a boost to local economies. Low and middle-income workers are more likely to spend pay increases in the local community.
- The most rigorous research on actual minimum wage increases shows that there is little to no job loss.
- There will be less strain on the social safety net as minimum wage workers rely less on public support programs.

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Voter Services Is in High Gear

From Jeanine Pow

Due to the commitment of a dedicated VRD Team, Voter Services continues to maintain high visibility through voter registration drives (VRDs) in a variety of venues throughout the county. At the **Boulder Farmer's Market** on 2 July we did a total of 13 voter registrations and updated the records of 7 other citizens.

In August, our VRDs picked up. On 20 August we had a table at the **Longmont Farmer's Market** where we registered or updated the voter records of 15 citizens. We also gave mail-in registration forms to three other folks.

On 23 August we were at **Salud Family Health Care** in Longmont where we registered or updated the records of two citizens and handed out one mail-in registration form.

Finally, on 24 August the LWVBC was invited to participate in the **University of Colorado's "Be Involved Fair."** Our

visibility at that event was warmly commented on by a Leaguer from the Pike's Peak region whose son took a picture (on the right, see Peggy Leech holding the fort) of our table and emailed it to "mom" to assure her of his involvement in the local scene. At all of these events we answered numerous questions concerning voter eligibility, ballot issues and League membership. We also handed out our wallet sized voter registration cards to anyone visiting our table.

The aforementioned VRDs were made possible by the following VRD Team members: Peggy Leech (3 events), Pat Long (2), Jeanine Pow (2), as well as Elizabeth Crowe, Giorgio Ausenda, Gwen Warton, Kay Bierbaum, Susan Saunders, Judy White, Alishauna Cox, Ruth Stemler and Gracie Leslie each of whom helped at one event. (My sincere apologies if I failed to mention anyone).

If you see new names, it's because the VRD Team continues to attract new and energetic volunteers. A good thing inasmuch as we have a record ten VRDs currently scheduled for September!



Voter Registration Drive Volunteer Peggy Leech at the CU's "Be Involved Fair", 24 August 2016.



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LWVCO Positions on Ballot Issues

LWVCO SUPPORTS AMENDMENT T - No Exception To Involuntary Servitude Prohibition

The Board of Directors the League of Women Voters Colorado has taken the position of SUPPORT on Amendment T - No Exception to Involuntary Servitude Prohibition that will be on the Fall 2016 ballot.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT T:

This amendment will remove language that currently allows slavery and involuntary servitude to be used as punishment for the conviction of a crime.

THE LWVCO BOARD BASES ITS SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT ON THE FOLLOWING LWVCO COLORADO CONSTITUTION POSITION:

The constitution and proposed amendments should guarantee the rights of individuals.

RATIONALE FOR THE LWVCO SUPPORTING AMENDMENT T:

The state Constitution currently prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude except for people who have been convicted of crimes and whose punishment involves “work” that is involuntary – in other words, chain gangs. We support removing this exception so that our state Constitution would prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude without exception. The measure specifically notes that employment of prisoners which is paid (albeit very little) is not the objective of the measure, since that work is paid, it is voluntary, and it helps prisoners to build both work and interpersonal skills that help with reentry into society upon their release.

LWVCO SUPPORTS AMENDMENT U - Exempt Certain Possessory Interests From Property Taxes

The Board of Directors the League of Women Voters Colorado has taken the position of SUPPORT on Amendment U – Exempt Certain Possessory Interests From Property Taxes that will be on the Fall 2016 ballot.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT U:

Beginning with tax year 2018, this amendment would eliminate property taxes for individuals or businesses that use government-owned property for a private benefit worth \$6,000 or less in market value; and beginning with tax year 2019, and every two years thereafter, adjust the \$6,000 exemption threshold to account for inflation.

THE LWVCO BOARD BASES ITS SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT U ON THE FOLLOWING LWVCO LOCAL GOVERNMENT POSITION:

Support of measures to improve the coordination, effectiveness, efficiency, and economical operation of local government units.

RATIONALE FOR THE LWVCO SUPPORTING AMENDMENT U:

The tax collected is less than the cost of collecting it.



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LWVCO Positions on Ballot Issues (continued)

LWVCO SUPPORTS INITIATIVE #101 – State Minimum Wage

By Toni Larson, LWVCO VP Program

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters Colorado has taken the position of SUPPORT on Initiative #101– State Minimum Wage that will be on the Fall 2016 ballot.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVE #101:

Passage of the proposal would amend the Colorado Constitution and raise by 90 cent increments the minimum hourly wage reaching by 2020 in Colorado a minimum wage of \$12.00. Thereafter, increases would be indexed to the cost of living.

THE LWVCO BOARD BASES ITS SUPPORT OF INITIATIVE #101 ON THE FOLLOWING LWVUS POSITIONS:

“Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families” (p.3), and “Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Americans” (LWVUS Impact on Issues 2014-2016, p.60).

RATIONALE FOR THE LWVCO SUPPORTING INITIATIVE #101:

Minimum wage is one tool that can be used on the way to achieving equal opportunity, self-sufficiency, the reduction of poverty, and a living wage. Additional League positions address having adequate food, shelter, transportation, and health care as well as child care and education. A minimum wage provides more access to these basic needs. The League of Women Voters believes that all levels of government share in the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity. Passage of the minimum wage proposal in 2016 will be one significant step in achieving these goals. The ultimate goal is to achieve a living wage or income sufficient to meet basic needs.

Income inequality:

- is increasing in the United States;
- reflects a change over the last 30 years in the economy of the United States;
- prevents many people from realizing their full potential;
- restricts opportunity;
- relegates many to a life of low income jobs and poverty;
- limits many in the lower income brackets from sustaining themselves and their families;
- evidences higher rates of infant mortality and lower life expectancy;
- increases the education gap between low income and higher income families;
- has limited low-skilled and low-income adults access to education and thus employment;
- is eroding opportunities for education, housing, and jobs;
- exacerbates the political division between low and high income citizens;
- produces an underrepresented segment of society;
- produces an underclass of disenfranchised citizens;
- is a product of inequitable laws and court decisions;
- utilizes large amounts of tax payers’ resources; and
- has become a dominant concern of many state governments and the federal government.

Many positions of the League of Women Voters are in place to address the issue of an income that meets basic needs. Therefore, the League of Women Voters of Colorado supports an increase in the Colorado minimum

September 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

October 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

November 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

LWVBC Fall Calendar

- 8 September: ColoradoCare Information Session, Boulder
- 10 September: ColoradoCare Information Session, Firestone
- 10 September: Candidate Forum: Boulder County Commissioners
- 13 September: Candidate Forum: Superior Town Board of Trustees
- 17 September: Candidate Forum: CO Legislature, Lafayette
- 17 September: LWVCO League Day
- 24 September: LWVBC Fall Kick-Off
- 26 September: Minimum Wage Information Session, Boulder
- 27 September: National Voter Registration Day
- 29 September: ColoradoCare Information Session, Broomfield
- 1 October: Candidate Forum: US Senator & US House, Boulder
- 6 October: Minimum Wage Information Session, Louisville
- 8 October: Candidate Forum: CO Legislature, Boulder County Commissioners, CO District Attorney, Longmont
- 8 November: Election Day

League of Women Voters of Boulder County
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