



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF BOULDER COUNTY

## HANDBOOK 2024 - 2025

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## **SECTION A: LEAGUE BASICS**

### **PRINCIPLES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES**

The League of Women Voters believes:

- In representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States, that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial.
- That democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.
- That every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.
- That efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
- That responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.
- That cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

### **PRINCIPLE ADDED BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO**

- Sustainability is a way of life which seeks a balance in meeting current environmental, economic and human needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet the same goal. The concept of Sustainability is implicit in the Principles of the League of Women Voters. League positions are in compliance with the fundamental principle of Sustainability, recognizing the interdependency among issues of public policy, and the impact of current decisions on the global welfare of future generations. (Adopted 2010)



## PROCESS

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization. At the local, state and national League levels, action on public policy can be taken only after member study and consensus or, alternatively, member concurrence has led to a position on the subject or issue around which action is contemplated.

**Consensus** is a process whereby members participate in a group discussion of an issue. Consensus is not a simple majority, or unanimity; rather, it is the overall “sense of the group”.

**Concurrence** is the act of agreeing with, or concurring with, recommendations from League committees, unit groups, League boards or positions reached by other Leagues.

**Studies** are done to revise existing or adopt new positions. If a group wishes information on a subject, but does not want to change program positions, it may undertake education or informational updates.

**Program** consists of all positions approved and reaffirmed periodically by members of a League.

**Action** is the ultimate aim of all League programs. When a call to action is issued, League members respond by contacting officials at the appropriate level of government. Only the local League president or the designated program chairman sends a letter on behalf of the local organization. Members respond as individuals, without mentioning the League.

## OUR MISSION

Empowering Voters  
Defending Democracy

## OUR VISION

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

## OUR ROLES

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that ~~The LWV~~ encourages informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters has two separate and distinct roles.

- **Voters Service/Citizen Education:** we present unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues, and we organize candidate forums. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.
- **Action/Advocacy:** While the League is nonpartisan, we use our Program Positions (see below) to advocate for or against particular policies and legislative proposals.



## HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BOULDER COUNTY

The Women Citizens League of Colorado incorporated in 1929 as part of the national LWV. The Women Citizens League of Boulder was founded in the city of Boulder on March 25, 1931, the first local chapter of the LWV to organize in Colorado. In 1940, when our statewide organization changed its name to the LWV of Colorado, the Boulder organization changed its name to the LWV of Boulder. As the population around the city grew, residents of Louisville, Lafayette, and nearby areas joined the LWV of Boulder. In 1984 the organization officially expanded its geographic area to correspond to that of the Boulder Valley School District and became the LWV of Boulder Valley. The LWV of Longmont, founded in 1965 as a provisional League, was recognized as a full-fledged local League in 1966. Over the next 41 years the LWV of Longmont studied and took action on issues in the city of Longmont and the St. Vrain Valley School District. The League of Women Voters of Boulder County was formed in 2007 by the merger of the LWV of Longmont with the LWV of Boulder Valley.

## MEMBERSHIP

A member of the League of Women Voters of Boulder County ("LWVBC") who is at least 16 years old is automatically a full voting member of the League of Women Voters of the United States ("LWVUS") and the League of Women Voters of Colorado ("LWVCO"). Dues are paid through the national website, but allocated to the national, state and local levels and paid locally support work being done at the county, state and national these levels. Sustaining members pay more and express in this tangible way that they value the League's presence in Boulder County.

- All members shall pay membership dues except those exempted from paying dues. Members shall pay dues in accordance with LWVUS policy. Current annual dues per year: Individual—\$80; additional household members—\$40 each; Student—\$0, and 20 volunteer hours are encouraged. Members who donate \$60 or more each per year locally in person, by mail or at lwvbc.org are considered Sustaining Members of LWVBC. A sliding fee scale for membership dues is available on request. Additional contributions beyond these dues levels further support the work of LWVBC. Dues and contributions may be paid by credit card via the website [lwvbc.org](http://lwvbc.org)>Join & Support Us>Donate or by check payable to LWVBC and mailed to P.O. Box 21274, Boulder, CO 80308-4274.
- under the pay what you can model. Donations above the membership dues which are Payments made directly to the LWVUS or LWVCO, rather than to the LWVBC, are not allocated to the LWVBC counted as LWVBC dues or contributions.
- Membership is available to all ~~who are in middle school or older~~, but voting members must be at least 16 years old.
- Members will receive a notice to renew their annual dues ~~one month~~ before the expiration anniversary of their membership. Members who fail to renew within the period specified by LWVUS will be removed from the roster.



## LWVBC BYLAWS

On May 15, 2021 members approved amendments to Article V Title (change from Officers to Leadership), and Article V, Section 6 (Additional Committees and Teams).

### ARTICLE I

#### Section 1

The name of this corporation shall be the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BOULDER COUNTY, INC., hereinafter referred to in these Bylaws as the LWVBC. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and of the League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO).

### ARTICLE II. PURPOSES AND POLICY

#### Section 1. Purposes

The LWVBC 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, the LWVBC 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 LWVBC shall be attempting to influence legislation.

#### Section 2. Political Policy

The LWVBC shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

#### Section 3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

The LWVUS, and therefore, the LWVBC, is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1. Eligibility

Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

#### Section 2. Types of Membership

- a. Voting Members. ~~Members of the LWVBC who are a~~Persons at least 16 years of age ~~who join the LWVBC~~ shall be voting members of the LWVBC, the LWVCO, and the LWVUS. ~~(1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local~~



~~League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members at large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.~~ b. — Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

## **ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office

The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of ~~the the League~~ LWVBC elected by the general membership, at least six elected Directors, and not more than six appointed Directors. At least three of the Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. Individual Board members shall not serve more than three, consecutive, two-year terms. The elected members shall appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding six, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of ~~the the League~~ LWVBC. The terms of office of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting. • LWVBC Bylaws as amended May 2, 2020

### Section 2. Qualifications

No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or Director of this corporation unless that person is a voting member of the LWVBC.

### Section 3. Vacancies

Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an Officer or elected member may be filled until the next Annual Meeting by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

### Section 4. Powers and Duties

The Board of Directors shall have charge of the property and business of the corporation with full power and authority to manage and conduct same subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention, and the Annual Meeting. As it may deem necessary, the Board shall create and designate special committees, e.g., an executive committee, an auditing committee. The powers and authority of such committees shall be determined by the Board.

### Section 5. Meetings

There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President, or a Co-President, may call special meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board. Board members may make decisions by the use of e-mail messages. Any decision made by e-mail shall be reported at the next Board meeting and shall be included in the minutes as official record.

### Section 6. Quorum

A simple majority of the elected members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.



## Section 7. Polls Regarding Taking Public Action Outside of Meetings

Outside of Meetings, the President, or a Co-President, may poll the Board and take public action ~~make a public statement~~ based on results of the poll provided that:

- a. ~~The League~~ LWVBC's support or opposition to the local public policy issue that is the subject of the action has not previously been discussed at any Board meeting, and is being asked to support or oppose a local public policy issue not previously discussed at any Board meeting, and
- b. The action has to be completed prior to the next Board meeting in order to influence public policy, and ~~A stand must be stated prior to the next Board meeting to influence public policy, and~~
- c. A majority of the Board agree that the chosen stand-action is consistent with League positions, and
- d. The action stand is recorded at a subsequent meeting of the Board.

## **ARTICLE V. LEADERSHIP**

### Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers

The Officers of the LWVBC shall be a President or Co-Presidents, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The President or Co-Presidents shall be elected for a term of one year by the general membership at an Annual Meeting and take office on the first day of July following the election. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years by the general membership at an Annual Meeting and take office on the first day of July following their election. The Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years; the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. The First Vice President and the Second Vice-President shall be chosen by the Board from the ranks of Directors to serve until the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting. Serving as a Vice President does not change the length of a Director's term on the Board.

### Section 2. The President

The President, or a Co-President, shall preside at all meetings of the corporation and of the Board of Directors. The President, or a Co-President, may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes. The President or a Co-President, shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees. The President, or a Co-President, shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board. • LWVBC Bylaws as amended May 2, 2020

### Section 3. The Vice-Presidents

The two Vice-Presidents in the order of their rank shall, in the event of absence, disability, resignation, or death of the President, or of both Co-Presidents, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office until such time as the Board of Directors shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy. Vice-Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President, a Co-President, and Board may designate.





#### Section 4. The Secretary

The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of ~~the the League~~ LWVBC at which business is transacted and of all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall send copies of the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors to State and National offices as requested. The Secretary shall notify all Officers and Directors of their election. The Secretary shall sign, with the President, or a Co-President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

#### Section 5. The Treasurer

~~The treasurer shall perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office; arrange for an annual audit of the books; and, at the direction of the board, maintain deposits in authorized financial institutions. The Treasurer serves on the Board and is responsible for all financial aspects of the organization by overseeing the financial administration, reviewing procedures and financial reporting, advising the Board on financial strategy and advising on fundraising. The Treasurer disburses according to Board policy or direct order of the Board. The Assistant Treasurer is appointed by the Board and manages accounting procedures. The Assistant Treasurer collects and deposits all monies received and reviews all records with the Treasurer, accomplishing tasks as assigned. The Treasurer shall present statements to the Board at their regular meetings and an Annual Report to the Annual Meeting. There shall be a review or examination of the books of the Treasurer before the Annual Meeting and at such other times as requested by the Treasurer or the Board of Directors.~~

#### Section 6. Additional Committees and Teams

The Board of Directors approves the establishment of additional ongoing committees and teams, not otherwise mentioned in these bylaws, to enable the work of ~~the~~ LWVBC. Leaders of these committees and teams must be voting members of ~~the~~ LWVBC. If these additional ongoing committees and teams do not meet at least three times per year, then the Board of Directors must disestablish them.

### **ARTICLE VI. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

#### Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the LWVBC shall commence on the first day of July in each year.

#### Section 2. Dues

- ~~a. Annual dues consist of three parts: the per member payment (PMP) for the State League membership, the PMP for the National League membership, and local membership in the LWVBC. Dues are supplemented by donations to cover the cost of League activities.~~
- ~~b. The dues shall be no less than the sum of the PMPs paid annually to the State and National Leagues, plus an amount deemed necessary to partially support operations at the local level. The amount payable shall be recommended by the Board and submitted to the Annual Meeting for adoption of changes. Increases to one or both PMP levels may be added by action of the Board, to the annual dues rate agreed upon at the LWVBC Annual Meeting the same year the new PMP takes effect.~~



e. An eligible person becomes a member of the LWVBC upon payment of dues, and remains a member for 12 months, with membership setting an expiration date renewable on the anniversary of the date the dues were first received. No refunds are given if members choose to resign in advance of their membership expiration date. Members may pay in advance for additional years of membership.- Renewal for 12 months requires payment of dues within 30 days following the expiration date. Members may opt in to automatic renewal. Failure to pay within 30 days following one month of the expiration date shall cause the individual to be dropped from the membership rolls. The individual may be reinstated at any point when s/he has again paid in full. If the individual was dropped from membership more than six months prior to the payment resulting in reinstatement, the expiration date shall be reset to the one-year anniversary of that payment.

~~bd.~~ Members are those for whom regular dues are paid in full. ~~Except when suspended at National, State or Local levels, student dues equal one half the regular members' rate. When student dues are suspended, volunteer service hours may be encouraged. Household member dues are one half the regular member's rate, and this applies to the first and each subsequent individual who shares an address with the primary member. Sustaining members are those who make monthly payments of at least \$5/month above the individual rate. The sustaining contribution may be paid monthly or in a single lump sum of at least \$60 per individual (\$120 for a sustaining household).~~ Life members ~~are~~ (those with more than 50 years of membership) ~~and are not charged~~ exempt from dues payment.

c. A member joining from the same household as an existing member can choose to pay half of the recommended amount under the pay-what-you-can model. Complimentary members are those excused from paying dues by action of the board. Eligible members may opt for a different category of membership when they renew.

### Section 3. Budget Committee

A Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least three months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be sent to the Board for review and approval. The Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chair of the Budget Committee.

### Section 4. Budget

A proposed budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to all members one month before the Annual Meeting and shall be presented at the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the the League LWVBC as a whole.

### Section 5. Distribution of Funds on Merger or Dissolution

In the event of the merger or dissolution of the LWVBC for any reason, all monies and securities or properties of whatsoever nature owned or under the absolute control of the LWVBC shall be distributed at the discretion of the board to any member organization of the national League of Women Voters 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.

## **ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

### Section 1. Membership Meetings

There shall be at least two (2) meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

### Section 2. Annual Meeting

An Annual Meeting shall be held between mid-April and mid-May, or the nearest convenient date thereto, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting shall:

- a. Adopt a local program for the ensuing year.
- b. Elect Officers and Directors and members of the Nominating Committee.
- c. Adopt an adequate budget.
- d. Transact such other business as may properly come before it.

### Section 3. Quorum

Ten percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum at all membership meetings of the LWVBC.

## **ARTICLE VIII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

### Section 1. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) members, two of ~~which~~ whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The chairman and two members, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors immediately following the Annual Meeting. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Suggestions for nominations for Officers and Directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

### Section 2. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor

The ~~report of the~~ Nominating Committee's report of its nominations for Officers, Directors, and the members of the ~~succeeding following year's~~ Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the Annual Meeting.- The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

### Section 3. Elections

The election of Officers and Directors shall be by ballot. If there is ~~but only~~ one nominee for any office, the Secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot or call for a show of hands for that ~~officenominee~~. A majority vote ~~shall is required for the~~ election of each officer. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.



## ARTICLE IX. PROGRAM

### Section 1. Authorization

The ~~governmental~~ governing principles adopted ~~by~~at the LWVUS National Convention, ~~and~~ supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

### Section 2. Program

The Program of the LWVBC shall consist of

- a. Action to implement the LWVUS principles.
- b. Those local government~~al~~ issues chosen for concerted study and action.
- c. New or amended local positions arrived at after study, member consensus or concurrence, and Board approval. Such positions shall be effective immediately, and may serve as the basis for action taken prior to the next annual meeting.

### Section 3. Action by the LWVBC Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures:

- a. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting, and shall formulate a proposed program.
- b. The proposed program shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting.
- c. A majority of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors.
- d. Recommendations for program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting, but not recommended by the Board of Directors, may be considered ~~by~~at the Annual Meeting, provided that: (1) ~~the Annual Meeting shall order~~ consideration shall be ordered by a majority vote at the Annual Meeting, and (2) the item shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote at the Annual Meeting ~~shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote~~.

### Section 4. Member Action

Members may act in the name of the ~~LWV~~-LWVBC only when authorized by the ~~proper~~ Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE X. LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION AND LWVCO ANNUAL MEETING

### Section 1. National Convention

~~The Board of Directors, A~~at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the National Office, the Board of Directors shall select delegates to that Convention in the number allotted the LWVBC under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWVUS

### Section 2. LWVCO Annual Meeting

~~The LWVBC Board of Directors, A~~at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the State Office, the LWVBC Board of Directors shall select delegates to that meeting in the number allotted the LWVBC under the provisions of the Bylaws of LWVCO.

[On May 22, 2021, at the LWV Colorado State Convention, the decision was made to hold Annual Meetings instead of biennial State Conventions, so that LWVCO would be better able to



update policy positions in a timely manner. This decision eliminated the need for State Councils, which had to that point been responsible for making state-level policy decisions between State Conventions.]

## **ARTICLE XI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

### **Section 1. Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the corporation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1. Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting. (Amended 1967-69, 1971-78, 1985, 1988, 1992, 1994-96, 2002, 2005, 2007-08, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2020)

### **LWVBC STRATEGIC PLANNING 2015-2024**

Since 2015, the LWVBC Board of Directors and Issue Team Leaders have met annually in July for a strategic planning retreat to ensure that outcome-based activities are in alignment with our mission, vision, principles and the Making Democracy Work for All framework; and to foster communication and collaboration among League leaders and teams. The LWVBC utilizes a logic model template and other strategic planning tools to increase process efficiency and consistency among teams. Additional strategic cross-team meetings may be held in addition to regularly-scheduled Board and team meetings for ongoing evaluation and modification as necessary to the strategic plan.

## **PROGRAM POSITIONS**

The LWVBC is a grassroots organization. Our LWVBC LWV Program consists of public issues chosen by members for study and ultimate action. As a study progresses, study team members fashion consensus questions that are then addressed by the full League membership. Through discussion, LWVBC League members reach consensus. From member consensus, the study team drafts a position statement for board and eventually, member approval. If no position is adopted, action/advocacy on that issue cannot be taken in the name of the LWVBC.

### **LWVBC PROGRAM POSITIONS 20232024-20242025**

## **I. GOVERNMENT**

### **Boulder County Government Structure**

(Adopted 1988, Revised 2000, 2019, 2023)

The The League LWVBC supports increasing the number of county commissioners from three to five. Until Boulder County has the option to elect county commissioners using a method which promotes proportional representation, the the League LWVBC supports three commissioners elected from districts and two elected at-large.



In principle, ~~the the League~~LWVBC supports county home rule as an option. In evaluating any proposed home rule charter, we support the following criteria:

1. The county clerk and sheriff should be elected. Other county officials should be appointed.
2. A home rule charter should set some professional qualifications for appointed officials.
3. There should be no tax limitation written into a home rule charter

### **Criminal Justice**

(Adopted 1974)

~~The The League~~LWVBC agrees with a philosophy of rehabilitation for public offenders. Alternative correction programs should be available to those whose eligibility has been considered individually according to established criteria. ~~The The League~~LWVBC will work to promote public understanding and support for the philosophy of alternatives to incarceration.

### **Elected Municipal Offices**

(Adopted 2000, amended 2008 to encompass Boulder County)

A residency requirement of 6 to 18 months for elected municipal officers is reasonable. If a minimum age is specified it should be no greater than 21 years and no less than the minimum voting age. We support:

1. A nomination process which requires from 10 to 25 qualified electors to sign a petition on behalf of the nominee. The petition may be kept in city offices or circulated, with a greater number of signatures required if the petition is circulated. The nominations should be completed not less than 30 days before any voting starts so citizens have time to learn about the candidates.
2. A system of staggered terms in which at each election voters have the opportunity to elect at least half of those who will sit on the municipal governing body.
3. ~~The The League~~LWVBC supports using a voting method which promotes proportional representation in municipal governing body elections.
4. Rules regarding the financing of municipal election campaigns and the disclosure of significant sources of campaign funds;
5. The availability of the referendum, the initiative, the recall, and public hearings, in order to provide citizens with the means to express their concerns;
6. Restrictions on communication among elected officials outside of open public meetings;
7. Reasonable compensation for elected officials.

### **Environmental Planning**

(Adopted 1958-1986, concurrence 1991 to extend positions to Boulder Valley, amended 1998, amended 2008 to encompass Boulder County)

Growth Management (Adopted February 1974, amended 1998, amended 2008 to encompass Boulder County)

~~The LWVBC supports~~Support of strong control of quality and quantity of growth in comprehensive plans of the Boulder County area, implemented by sound planning and management. Some tools to help manage growth are urban growth boundaries,



intergovernmental agreements, and revenue sharing. All future growth and development should be judged both on its environmental impact and its effect on the social balance of the region.

~~The LWVBC supports~~~~Support of~~ adequate study and consideration of the environmental impact of any proposed transportation systems, housing, employment and service installations. Attention should be given to the character and individuality of each community and to environmental and agricultural preservation, in order to promote a better balance in the region, and to support ~~of~~ only that growth which enhances opportunities for people of all ages, races and economic levels to live and work in the Boulder County area. Work force housing should be encouraged near public transit and/or jobs in support of balanced development region-wide.

#### Governmental Structure (Adopted 1958, amended 1966, 1974, 1978, 2004)

Cooperation between all governmental bodies (such as school board, county commission, city councils and planning commissions) is essential for good planning. We encourage intergovernmental consultation, cooperation and sharing of information on decisions. Planning Boards should be consulted before any official municipal policy is developed which affects the long-range growth. Examples of such policies are: extension of city services to fringe areas, annexation policy, regulation of public utilities (including water and transportation), land use, street locations, and location of public improvements. The importance of planning should be recognized by adequate funding for qualified staff.

#### Principles of Good Planning (Adopted 1958, amended 1966, 1974, 1991, 1998, amended 2008 to encompass Boulder County)

Planning and decision-making should be guided by the best interests of the region, rather than that of an individual or group. To develop public understanding, use the resources of the area and gain public support of good planning, all advisory groups should be as representative as possible. Maximum consideration should be given to aesthetic development. Planning decisions should be made with full realization of their long-range implications, recognizing that land use, housing and transportation are interrelated, and policies affecting them may have regional impacts. There should be requirements for adequate public facilities concurrent with new development. Future needs should be considered in locating public facilities, in developing the circulation plan, in providing parking and in zoning, etc. Plans should be made for land acquisition, for parks and recreation, streets and public buildings well in advance of actual development. To help manage traffic congestion and encourage the use of alternate modes of transportation, the following are supported:

1. Mixed-use development;
2. Concentration of development along urban transit corridors and at multi-modal transportation centers;
3. Locating development within municipal boundaries, where urban services and facilities are available;
4. Designing and locating streets, walkways and parking to facilitate alternate mode travel.





Boulder County should be encouraged to develop according to accepted comprehensive plans. If there are to be exceptions to the plans, proponents should demonstrate changed conditions or faults or weaknesses in the plans. Annexation policies should be clear and equitable and should consider preservation of open areas.

### **Fiscal Structure of Boulder County Municipalities**

(Adopted 1960, concurrence 1993 to extend position to the Boulder Valley, amended 2008 to encompass Boulder County)

Promote efficient fiscal administration and adequate, equitable financing of municipal programs, current and long range.

Long Range Programs: Funds should be budgeted annually for a capital improvements program. Economy and efficiency for the future as well as the present should be an important part of long range programs.

Distribution of costs of public improvements should be carefully considered in light of distribution of benefits.

Administrative Procedures: Municipal finances should be administered according to sound fiscal procedures using qualified personnel. The provisions of the municipalities' charters and codes on finance should be followed; they should be revised when necessary for good fiscal administration. The municipalities should inform the public clearly and regularly of municipal fiscal plans and activities. A thorough audit of the municipalities' finances should be made yearly.

Revenue: All sources of revenue should be evaluated to insure a tax system that is equitable, diversified, flexible and economical to administer.

Impact Fees: (Adopted and amended 1994 with the LWV of Longmont in concurrence) ~~The The League~~LWVBC believes that residential and commercial growth should pay their fair share of capital construction costs with a minimal effect on affordable housing. The rational nexus test should be used when deciding if new impact fees should be imposed. The following are the components of the rational nexus test: establishment of legal authority for the fee; determination that the development creates an additional need for capital facilities; establishment of the proportionate share attributable to each new development; and ensuring that the new development benefits from the expenditure of the fee. ~~The The League~~LWVBC believes that impact fees are appropriate for water taps, sewer taps, storm drainage, parks and trees, public transportation, and public buildings including schools.

### **Voting Procedures in Boulder County**

(Adopted April 1996, amended 1997, 2002 with Longmont League concurrence)

Voting procedures in Boulder County should provide for accuracy, reliability, security and privacy. Procedures should be voter friendly and should encourage voter participation.

### **Voting Methods**

(Adopted 2017)

~~The The League~~LWVBC supports authorizing and implementing alternatives to plurality voting that allow people to express their preferences more effectively. ~~The The League~~LWVBC





supports gaining on-the-ground experience with alternative voting methods in order to ascertain whether a voting method results in outcomes that match voters' preferences as recorded on their ballots. ~~The League~~ LWVBC supports voting methods that improve the election experience, that encourage honest voting rather than tactical voting\*, and that consider ease of implementation.

#### Considerations:

- Some voting methods are intended for single-winner elections, others for multi-winner elections. It is important that the intended use of a voting method match its actual application. Multi-winner voting methods promote proportional representation, which fosters diversity of our elected officials.
- Election officials should conduct post-election analysis to evaluate the voters' usage of the voting method and the election's reflection of voters' stated preferences. There should be sufficient data transparency – for example, access to ballot records in anonymous form – for an independent analysis to be conducted by other interested groups.

For all election contests, except for uncontested races, election officials should report the number of undervotes, overvotes, and invalid votes. Candidate vote counts in multi-winner plurality contests should be reported as a percentage of ballots for better public understanding of support for candidates.

\*A voting method encourages “honest” voting when it allows voters to meaningfully support all their preferred candidates, rather than leading them to either not support their favorite or “tactically” indicate a higher preference for a candidate who is not their favorite.

#### **Position on Noncitizen Rights in Boulder County**

(Adopted February 20, 2020)

The LWVBC supports the inclusion of certain noncitizens residing in Boulder County, in some of our local democratic processes, at the county, municipal, school district, and special district level.

First, the LWVBC supports voting rights, limited to the county and municipality where they reside, for noncitizens whose immigration status is one of these four:

- Legal permanent residents (green card holders)
- Immigrants granted asylum
- Noncitizens who have applied for citizenship or
- DACA recipients (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and TPS holders (Temporary Protective Status).

Each immigration status carries a length of U.S. residency requirement, which meets or exceeds the state's residence requirements for voting. If these noncitizens also meet the state's age requirement, they should be eligible to vote in local candidate elections and on local ballot proposals with and without fiscal impact.



Second, ~~the we-LWVBC~~ supports allowing noncitizen residents who meet one of the above four criteria ~~above~~ for voting in Boulder County, ~~plus-and~~ noncitizen residents with expired visas or no visa, to participate in the following additional ways: being appointed to boards and commissions; serving on non-Federal juries; and running for elected office.

~~The We-LWVBC~~ believes that neither working within the relevant jurisdiction's boundary nor holding a temporary visa are by themselves, sufficient grounds to give voting or participation rights to noncitizens in local elections.

#### History:

The LWVBC has studied noncitizen rights since 2013 and concluded that the U.S. immigration policies, as practiced, are failing to provide a clear, consistent, and fair path to citizenship, with the attendant privileges and responsibilities of participating in the democratic processes which provide individuals with representation in government.

## **II. NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Open Space Programs**

(Adopted April 1970 as County Parks and Open Space Acquisition, amended 1986, amended 2003 to include Boulder Valley municipal Open Space programs, amended 2008 to encompass Boulder County)

~~The The-League~~LWVBC supports the acquisition and resource management of Open Space lands. Open Space serves a variety of purposes, among them growth management, protection of the natural environment and agriculture, passive recreation, and aesthetic enjoyment. Acquisition may be accomplished using methods such as direct purchase, conservation easements, transfer of development rights and exchanges of property. Funds may be obtained through sales taxes, general fund appropriations, foundation support and/or donations, or by other innovative or creative means. Open Space lands may be sold or disposed of, but provision should be made to allow a public vote on any sale, trade or other disposal. Unique areas, such as wildlife habitats and urban buffers, should be retained. Revenues from disposal should be used only for Open Space acquisition, resource management and related programs. It may be necessary to restrict public access to some Open Space lands, for example, to preserve unique areas, wildlife habitats and agricultural lands.

### **Solid Waste Management**

(Adopted 1987, amended 1995, Longmont LWV concurred 2007)

~~The The-League~~LWVBC supports immediate efforts to promote and manage waste reduction in Boulder County, to site solid waste related facilities within the County, and to set long-term goals and standards for a comprehensive, solid waste management policy. ~~The The-League~~LWVBC also supports regional cooperation in solid waste management. The policies should include waste diversion through source reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and household hazardous waste management, as well as waste disposal. Governance should allow flexibility for public and private participation in solid waste management. The public sector is responsible for setting standards for health and safety. Funding should be stable, diversified, flexible and fiscally responsible. Citizen education should foster a positive attitude towards



responsible waste management. Source reduction education on solid and household hazardous wastes should have a high priority.

### **Transportation**

(Adopted 1981 as “Alternative Transportation”; revised 2004)

The needs of pedestrians and ~~those~~ others who use alternatives to the automobile should be included in any comprehensive transportation system. Provision must be made for safe and convenient facilities, ~~sufficient~~ maintenance sufficient to insure safe use, and funding adequate to cover ~~these~~ those costs. In the distribution of public funds allocated to transportation, greater emphasis must be placed on alternatives to the automobile. ~~The~~ The League LWVBC supports incentives to encourage the use of these alternatives. A comprehensive transportation system should give priority to commuter activities of high and frequent use.

### **Water**

(Added 2011 based on state position)

Support of measures that promote the wise and balanced use of water in Colorado. Promote measures to reduce the adverse effects of industrial processes on water quality.

## **III. SOCIAL POLICY**

### **Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley Schools**

(Adopted August 1969, revised 1975, 1977, 1982, 1985, 1990, 2003, amended 2008 to include St. Vrain Valley district schools, revised 2012)

~~The~~ The League LWVBC supports an education program characterized by adequate coordination and financing, long-range planning and open channels of communication.

~~The~~ The League LWVBC supports using a voting method which promotes proportional representation in school district governing body elections.

School Finance: K-12 funding in Colorado is a state/local partnership. School districts should manage their funds responsibly and transparently, allowing for periodic citizen input through both ~~through~~ district-sponsored public forums and elections. A complete annual audit of the budget and any bond or foundation monies should be available for citizen inspection. The budget should reflect district goals and priorities. Taxpayer monies for education should be used to support only public education. Each district should strive to achieve funding equity among its schools. District employees should be paid at least a living wage ~~rate~~. Districts should strive to include quality of work as a basis for compensation decisions. Administrative salaries should be appropriate for district-level responsibilities.

Program: ~~The~~ The League LWVBC’s first priority for the Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley schools is providing students with basic tools for learning, including reading, writing, mathematics, and critical thinking proficiency.

Curriculum should include:

1. Language arts
2. Mathematics
3. Biological and physical sciences
4. Social sciences including government
5. Technology skills
6. Second languages

7. Visual and performing arts, music, physical education, health education and life skills.

The following elements are necessary:

1. Well-qualified paraprofessionals, teachers, and principals, carefully evaluated at regular intervals
2. Class size appropriate to the learning situation
3. High-quality teaching materials
4. Local flexibility for schools and districts to identify and meet student needs.
5. Effective feedback to teachers, students and parents regarding educational progress.

The LeagueLWVBC supports coordination of the education program within the Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley school districts, including: clearly stated subject matter; guidelines for each grade level; and coordination among elementary, middle and high school levels. District- or school-wide reforms of curriculum, materials or teaching practices should be introduced when there is solid evidence that the new will be better than the status quo or when a promising approach is being publicly piloted. Efforts should be made to allocate resources to sustain the changes over the long term.

The LeagueLWVBC encourages early identification of students with particular needs. The LeagueLWVBC supports interventions which provide all students adequate opportunities to reach their full potential as contributing members of society. Special education, bilingual, English language learning and gifted and talented programs, along with vocational and interdisciplinary courses and flexible scheduling, are among suitable methods to meet these objectives. A guidance and counseling program should be implemented by the district at all levels, including elementary, to meet the needs of children and, their teachers and parents. All middle level-school and senior-high school students should have career awareness and counseling services for continuing education and meaningful employment. The LeagueLWVBC supports a comprehensive teen parenting program to allow teen parents to graduate from high school and receive career training.

Sites and Facilities: The LeagueLWVBC supports efficient use of district facilities and long-range planning for school construction and land acquisition. In determining the efficient use of facilities, more than financial concerns should be considered. The We-LWVBC encourages the use of community resources where appropriate, including social service and recreational facilities, and other academic institutions such as the University of Colorado and Front Range Community College.

Public Schools of Choice: The We-LWVBC supports informed parental choice allowing open enrollment among the options available in the Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School Districts. These include neighborhood, focus, and charter schools. The We-LWVBC supports a diverse student population at each school, with equity for all students. Charter school contracts with the Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School Districts should require the schools to reimburse the district for district resources used.

Communication: ~~The The-League~~LWVBC encourages effective communication within the school system with the Colorado Department of Education, the Colorado legislature and the public, ~~and .-We encourages~~ meaningful opportunities for public participation.

### **Housing in Boulder County**

(Adopted February 2010; replaced Housing [in Boulder Valley] and Housing [in Longmont] positions last amended 1998)

~~The The-League~~LWVBC supports:

1. The availability of a variety of housing for purchase or for rent, in price ranges suitable for all income levels;
2. Regular tracking of housing costs and employment income data to determine the need for permanently affordable housing efforts;
3. The provision of subsidized housing for low income people through a variety of governmental and non-governmental programs;
4. Adequate financial support for the county and municipal housing authorities (including housing offices and ~~necessary~~ ~~staffings necessary~~ to implement policies) and encouragement for strong cooperation among them;
5. Zoning, development fees, and processes which foster timely and economical supply of needed, permanently affordable housing;
6. Building and zoning codes that allow manufactured housing;
7. Incentives for the construction of low and moderate income housing and energy efficient homes;
8. A goal of subsidizing at least 10 percent of the housing stock within Boulder County with emphasis on providing affordable housing to those whose incomes are 0-80 percent of HUD's (Housing and Urban Development) Area Median Income;
9. The provision of affordable housing through such methods as increases in density, land banking, land trusts, foundations or donations, dedicated general budget funds, new taxes, public-private partnerships, or any other innovative or creative means to provide affordable work force housing;
10. The use of social impact statements to determine the effect of other policies on affordable housing.

### **Health Care in Boulder County**

(Adopted 1988, revised 2011, rewritten after consensus in 2013)

Health care is a human right. The LWVBC supports universal access to and delivery of comprehensive and affordable health care. Comprehensive health care includes, but is not limited to, the basic level of care specified in the national position (~~includes-including~~ the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care [including prenatal and reproductive health], acute care, long-term care and mental health care) as well as dental, vision, hearing, specialist, and home-care services. Efficiency and quality of care will be improved when health care is coordinated among health care professionals, the patient, and the family. ~~The The-League~~LWVBC supports a system where a single entity dispenses funds to



health care providers with resources allocated as stated in the national position. (~~The The~~ ~~League~~ LWVBC believes that the ability of a patient to pay for services should not be a consideration in the allocation of health care resources. Limited resources should be allocated based on the following criteria considered together: the urgency of the medical condition, the life expectancy of the patient, the expected outcome of the treatment, the cost of the procedure, the duration of care, the quality of life of the patient after treatment, and the wishes of the patient and the family.)

### **Minimum/Living Wages**

(Adopted 2014)

~~The The~~ LWVBC believes that, just as the State of Colorado can set a minimum wage above the federal minimum wage, so local jurisdictions should be able to exceed the state minimums, ~~and- We opposes~~ legislation that prohibits such local action. ~~We-The~~ LWVBC believes that alleviating poverty is the shared responsibility of government, employers, individuals, and non-profit assistance organizations. All sectors should be involved in setting an adequate minimum wage or living wage. The living wage is the minimum required to avoid poverty without government assistance and subsidies. The living wage (gross income) should cover the costs of food, clothing, housing, energy, transportation, health care, K–12 education, child care, taxes (income, Social Security), and supplemental expenses for work and school. In determining a living wage, a jurisdiction should consider the local cost of living, the national Consumer Price Index, and other reliable and measurable data. When a jurisdiction makes changes to wage laws, it should ensure that data regarding the effects of those changes are collected and distributed.

State and National Positions of the League of Women Voters are available on the LWVBC website or by request.

## **CALENDAR**

For upcoming events, please see the LWVBC *Boulder County Voter* newsletter, or check our website at [lwvbc.org](http://lwvbc.org).



## SECTION B: USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

### LWVBC Leaders

This is the list of leaders as of the last Annual meeting (May 13, 2023).  
See [LWVBC.org](http://LWVBC.org)>About Us>Our Leaders for an updated list.

#### Officers

*President:* Position open

*1st Vice President:* ~~TBD~~ [Susan Saunders](#)

*Secretary:* ~~Aneka Finley~~ [Position open](#)

*Treasurer:* Pat Long

#### Directors

*Action Advocacy:* Holly Monkman ~~and Tara Menza, Co-Directors~~

*Fund Development:* Position open

*Membership:* Susan Curtis

*Voter Service:* Stacie Johnson

*Youth Advisor:* Hannah Rain Crowe

*At Large:* Martine Elianor

~~*At Large:* Lisa Moreno~~

*At Large:* Molly Saunders

~~*At Large:* Susan Saunders~~

#### Off-Board Positions

*Assistant Treasurer:* Molly Saunders

*Ballot Initiatives Coordinator:* Judy ~~Mares~~-Dixon

*Candidate Forum Coordinators:* Jo Porter and Martine Elianor

*Communications Coordinator:* Position ~~Open~~ [open](#)

~~*Energizing Young Voters Coordinator:* Pirie Jensen~~

*LWVCO Legislative Action Committee Liaison:* Holly Monkman

*Nominating Committee:* Peggy Leech (chair), Laura Coates & Emma Pillar, ~~elected~~  
[Martine Elianor and Susan Curtis, Board](#)

*Operations Coordinator:* ~~Stephanie Hein~~ [Ana Lamarque](#)

*Social Media Coordinator:* ~~Kristen Young~~ [Position open](#)

*Vote 411:* Cindy Lindsay

*VOTER Newsletter Editor:* Jennifer Bales

*Voter Outreach Coordinator:* Position open

*Webmaster:* Joan Goddard

#### Issue Teams and Leaders / Co-Leaders

*Climate Action:* Jeannette Hillery

~~*County Commissioners Election Structures:* Celeste Landry~~

*Gun Safety:* Team inactive

*Immigration/ Immigrant Rights:* Position open

~~*Living Wage:* Deborah Hayes, Peggy Leech~~

~~*Primary Elections Reform:* Marcus Ogren~~

*Schools:* Linda Hultman



*Timing of Municipal and Special District Elections Study Team: Celeste Landry, Liz Black*  
*Voting Methods: Celeste Landry and Jeanne Clelland*

**Study Teams and Leaders / Co-Leaders**

*County Commissioners Election Structures: Celeste Landry*

*Primary Elections Reform: Marcus Ogren*

*Timing of Municipal and Special District Elections: Celeste Landry, Liz Black*





### National and State Leagues

Members of the LWVBC are automatically members of the LWVUS and LWVCO.

NATIONAL  
(LWVUS)

League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1730 M Street, NW, Ste 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20036-4508

Website: [lwv.org](http://lwv.org)  
Phone: 202-429-1965

**President:** ~~Deborah Turner~~ [Sania Irwin](#)

STATE  
(LWVCO)

League of Women Voters of Colorado  
1410 Grant Street, Suite B204  
Denver, CO 80203-1855

Website: [lwvcolorado.org](http://lwvcolorado.org)  
Phone: 303-863-0437

**Executive Director:** Beth Hendrix

**Development and Communications Manager:**  
Katina Frierson

**Legislative liaison:** Andrea Wilkins

**Operations Manager:** Jane Dunk

**Email:** [info@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org)

**President:** Irene R. Tynes, Denver



## **BOULDER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CONTACTS**

### **BOULDER COUNTY OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

Boulder, CO 80306-0471  
Commissioners' Phone: 303.441.3500  
Clerk's Phone: 303.413.7700  
Main Information Phone: 303.441.3131  
<https://www.bouldercounty.org/government/contact-us/>

### **BOULDER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

#### **Boulder Valley RE 2 Board of Education**

6500 Arapahoe Rd., Boulder CO 80303-1407  
District Main Phone: 303.447.1010

#### **St. Vrain Valley RE 1J Board of Education**

395 S Pratt Pkwy, Longmont CO 80501-6436  
District Main Phone: 303.776.6200

### **BOULDER COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES**

#### **City of Boulder Council**

1777 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80302-6220  
Council Phone: 303.441.3002  
Municipal Phone: 303.441.3388

#### **Town of Erie Board of Trustees**

645 Holbrook, Erie, CO 80516  
Clerk's Phone: 303.926.2731  
Main Information Phone: 303.926.2700

#### **City of Lafayette - City Council**

1290 South Public Road, Lafayette, CO 80026-2706  
Phone 303.665.5588

#### **City of Longmont - City Council**

350 Kimbark St., Longmont, CO 80501-5500  
City Main Phone: 303.776.6050  
Clerk's Phone: 303.651.8649

#### **City of Louisville - City Council**

749 Main St., Louisville, CO 80027-1829  
City Main Phone: 303 666-6565

#### **Town of Lyons - Board of Trustees**

432 5th Ave., Lyons, CO 80540  
Town Main Phone: 303.823.6622

#### **Town of Nederland - Board of Trustees**

45 West First St., P.O. Box 396,  
Nederland, CO 80466-0396  
Town Main Phone: 303.258.3266

#### **Town of Superior - Board of Trustees**

124 E Coal Creek Dr., Superior, CO 80027-9626  
Town Main Phone: 303.499.3675