

The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County * November 2018



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Monthly Events Calendar

November 6:	Election Day
November 28:	Gathering with Legislators
November 29:	LWVCO Lobby Day
November 30:	Holiday Party



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LWVBC Social Media

Colorado Amendment 73

By Carolyn Elliott, scribe for LWVBC Education/Schools Team

Funding Colorado's public, preschool-through-12th-grade (preK-12) school districts has been a failing proposition at best for quite a few years for various reasons (TABOR, the Gallagher Amendment, conflicting state constitutional amendments), despite a decent overall economy in the state. Consequently, many school districts, particularly in rural and poor areas, have gone to four-day weeks, cut many vital programs, and decreased teaching staff, all of which subsequently increase class sizes, and thus cause harmful consequences for students in general, and for Colorado's educational standing.

As a measure to reverse this problem, Amendment 73, if passed, will create income tax brackets, as well as raise taxes for those brackets, to better fund preK-12 education in Colorado, according to Ballotpedia.org. This measure is a combined, initiated constitutional amendment, and a State statute on the November 6th, 2018 ballot. Formerly known as Initiative 93, now Amendment 73 will require a 55% supermajority to pass.

A "yes" vote **supports** the ballot initiative to establish a system of tax brackets, rather than implement a flat, income tax rate, which would be burdensome to those in lower tax brackets. This measure would raise taxes for individuals who earn more than \$150,000 per year, raise the corporate income tax rate, and create the Quality Public Education Fund.

A "no" vote **opposes** the ballot measure to establish such tax brackets and increase such taxes in order to establish the Quality Public Education Fund.

The tax increases would be according to brackets, rather than by Colorado's current flat rate of 4.63%, an onerous approach for those earning moderate to lower income. The following identify those brackets.

- Those earning \$0.00 to \$150,000 would **not** pay any increase in State income taxes, but would continue to pay the flat rate of 4.63%.
- Those earning \$150,001 to \$200,000 would pay 5% income tax.
- Those earning \$200,001 to \$300,000 would pay 6% income tax.
- Those earning \$300,001 to \$500,000 would pay 7% income tax.
- Those earning \$500,001 or more would pay 8.25% income tax.

For comparison, 8.25% on \$500,001 equals \$41,250 in taxes, leaving \$458,751 for the person; as compared to 4.63% on \$20,000, which equals \$926, leaving the person with just \$19,074. As for corporate income taxes, the flat rate of 4.63% would increase to 6%.

(continued on page 7)

President's Letter

By Peggy Leech, LWVBC President

Leading up to the election on November 6, LWVBC has had a very busy fall. We have continued to help register voters into late October; held 5 candidate forums and debates; 4 public ballot issue presentations as well as countless presentations for community groups; researched and published local ballot issue pamphlets; and helped to bring information to voters through our website and Vote 411.org. Several of our election activities were done in collaboration with other groups, including the Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee, Longmont Observer, NAACP, and the Colorado Fiscal Institute.



I would like to thank the many volunteers who made all of this possible. Now we just need to vote, and make sure our friends and neighbors vote, too. I know many of our members are involved in Get Out the Vote activities.

The month of October also brought several non-election related activities, such as the screening of Blackkklansman followed by discussion, and a Museum of Boulder presentation about the 125th Anniversary of women's suffrage in Colorado, called "Give the Women a Chance". We also hosted a Living Wage Breakfast in Longmont.

Looking ahead (past the election), please mark your calendars for several events happening in late November. More information will be available on our website soon.

•On November 28, the Women's Collaborative of Boulder County (of which LWVBC

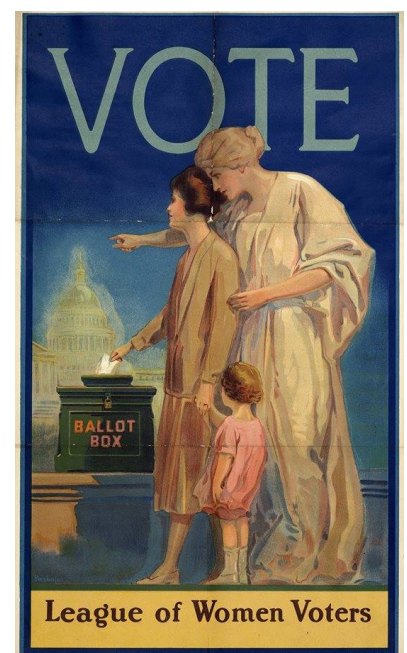
is a member) will host a gathering with legislators about the upcoming legislative session.

•On November 29th, LWVCO will hold a Lobby Day training session in Denver.

•On November 30, we will have our Holiday Party.

Our Fund Development Team has been busy this fall, too. They recently completed 2 grant applications, with another coming up soon. Bulb orders from the spring were delivered in October, and an appeal letter was mailed out to correspond with the election season. Work continues on the new Planned Giving program as well.

It takes many people to keep LWVBC functioning, especially during an election season!



Member News and Announcements

Grocery Cards

Did you know? It is easy to reload your gift card. You can do it when you check out. Before your order is rung up, tell your checker you want to reload your card, and the checker will guide you through the process. It's when you reload that the League benefits. League gets a percentage of the reload and you get the full value. It's a win-win.

To get your card call or email Louisa Young (303-444-6429) Louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU).



Lobby Day

LWVCO will be holding Lobby Day (training) on Thursday Nov 29th in Denver. More details will be available soon.

If you think you might be interested contact Ruth Stemler, rjstemler@gmail.com.

The Voting Methods Team

- ◆ Broomfield City Council study session – Sept 18
Celeste Landry instant-runoff voting and risk-limiting audits
- ◆ Longmont Public Forum “Protecting Our Elections” 3-member panel – Sept 26
Neal McBurnett post-election risk-limiting audits
- ◆ Boulder County Libertarian Lunch Multi-Winner Voting Methods – Sept 27
Celeste Landry w/ team assistance included a voting exercise
- ◆ Peak to Peak Charter High School AP US Gov't classes, Lafayette – Oct 22
Pat Venturo and Frank Venturo (above), and Celeste Landry single-winner voting methods



The Membership Team

- ◆ **Please remember to pay your membership dues!** We still have 40+ members who have not renewed their dues for this year. We need you and we need your support! Thank you!
- ◆ At this writing 26 new members have joined LWVBC since September 1st. We had a new member coffee on 10/20. We are looking forward to getting these new members engaged in our organization by integrating them into our Issue Teams and Operational Teams. Please help the Membership Team welcome them!

League of Women Voters of Boulder County

- ◆ We held a Student Member Meeting on 10/21. This group has grown to nine. We have a couple of very active student members at Niwot High School and the University of Colorado! These students are the future of our organization.
- ◆ Friday, November 30th is our Holiday Party. Save the date!! Please plan to register soon and bring a young friend.



The 2017 LWVBC Holiday Party

Congressional District 4 Debate

The League of Women Voters of Boulder County cosponsored a Debate between Ken Buck and Karen McCormick with *The Longmont Observer* on October 6th. According to *The Times-Call*, the 250-person capacity of the Stewart Auditorium at the Longmont Museum wasn't able to hold all who wanted to attend, and an overflow room with a video feed of the event had to be used.



Women of Resolution

The League helped sponsor the **Women of Resolution** event at the Motus Theatre on October 14. Women taking sanctuary in Colorado churches shared their stories. The event can be watched [on Vimeo](#).

Left, LWVBC member Rossana Longo Better handed out literature at the event.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado Ballot Positions

LWVCO has taken positions on some of this year's ballot measures. A brief summary of these positions is listed below. Review in more detail at <http://lwvcolorado.org/lwv/> or [here](#).

Amendment W - Election Ballot Format for Judicial Retention Elections - Support

A more concise ballot saves money and encourages voting.

Amendment Y - Congressional Redistricting - Support

Limits the role of partisan politics in the congressional redistricting process, creates fair criteria for drawing district maps, and increases competitive congressional seats.

Amendment Z - Legislative Redistricting - Support

Limits the role of partisan politics in the state redistricting process, makes the process more transparent, allows for public participation. Prioritizes communities of interest and political competitiveness.

Amendment A - Prohibit Slavery & Involuntary Servitude in All Circumstances - Support

Clarifies that slavery and involuntary servitude are prohibited even as punishment for a crime.

Amendment 73 - Funding for Public Schools - Support (with reservations)

Provides much needed increased funding for Colorado schools and teachers. Since it is an amendment, changing it would require a 55% voter approval.

Amendment 74 - Just Compensation for Fair Market Value - Oppose

Taxpayers would be responsible for payments to property owners for government actions related to health and safety protections.

Amendment 75 - Campaign Contributions - Oppose

Opening the door to more money in Colorado campaigns will not fix the campaign finance system.

Proposition 109 - Authorize Bonds for Transportation Projects - Oppose

Moves money to transportation from existing revenue.

Proposition 110 - Transportation Funding (sales tax increase) - Support

Increases revenue to pay for transportation costs, including local and multimodal projects

Proposition 111 - Limitation on PayDay Loans - Support

Limits interest rates to 36% APR, from as high as 200% APR

Proposition 112 - Setback Requirements for Oil and Gas Development - Support

Establishes buffer zones between oil and gas development and homes, schools, playgrounds, and water sources.

The League of Women Voters of Boulder County Positions on Local Issues

The Boulder County league has taken positions on some of the local ballot issues as well.

Boulder County Ballot Issue 1A - Alternative Sentencing Facility and Jail Modernization Countywide Sales and Use Tax Extension - Support

Alleviates overcrowding and improve safety.

Boulder Ballot Issue 2C - Imposition of Oil and Gas Pollution Tax - Support

Environmental protection begins at the local level and pollution control should be considered a cost.

Boulder Ballot Issue 2D - Authorize Retention of All Sugar-Sweetened Beverages Tax Revenue - Support

Reverses impact of TABOR and benefits health.

Boulder Ballot Issue 2G - Charter Amendment Related to Electronic and Online Petitions - Support

Streamlines election processes.

City of Lafayette Ballot Issue 2A - Oil and Gas Pollution Tax - Support

Environmental protection begins at the local level and pollution control should be considered a cost.

Give the Women a Chance: The 125th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in Colorado

On October 25, Megan Moriarty (below left) of the Museum of Boulder gave an interactive presentation on the 1893 referendum that gave women in Colorado the right to vote. The event was held at the Diagonal Elevations Credit Union branch, and many members of LWVBC were in attendance.



(Colorado Amendment 73 continued from page 1)

This proposal also affects property taxes that school districts levy, which for residential property are 7.2% currently, and for non-residential property are 29%. With this measure, for the State budget, property taxes would **decrease**, since Amendment 73 would create a whole new tax collection system.

- For residential property taxes, the rate would decrease to 7%.
- For non-residential property, such as commercial, the rate would decrease to 24%.

For other property taxing districts, such as fire protection and water districts, tax rates do NOT change.

League of Women Voters of Boulder County

As stated previously, this measure would establish the Quality Public Education Fund, which would be additional funding for preK-12, public school districts. The monies are to be spent on increasing the statewide, base, per-pupil funding, as well as increasing spending for special education, preschool, English language proficiency, programming for gifted students, and other areas. Specifically, the increases would equal the following.

- Statewide, base, per-pupil funding would be \$7,300; up from \$6,546.20 for fiscal year 2017 – 2018.
- State funding would increase beyond fiscal year 2018 – 2019 levels for the following programs.
 - °Special Education would increase by \$120 million.
 - °English language proficiency programs would increase by \$20 million.
 - °Programming for talented and gifted students would increase by \$10 million.
 - °Preschool funding would increase by \$10 million.

These amounts would be adjusted for inflation each year, beginning in fiscal year 2020 – 2021.

These tax rate changes would generate an estimated total revenue increase of \$1.6 billion, according to the fiscal impact statement provided by fiscal analysts with the Colorado Legislative Council staff.

In addition, these monies are to be used in addition to the State budgeted amounts from the General Fund to school districts, not instead of.

Lastly, Amendment 73 would add a new subsection to Section 17 of Article IX of the Colorado Constitution, and would amend Sections 3 and 20 of Article X of the constitution.

Sources

[Ballotpedia](#)

[Colorado Department of Education](#)



Vote411

The League of Women voters provides nonpartisan information on candidates and issues. Just go to Vote411.org and type your full address in the box on the left, and press **Enter**. Then click the green button labeled **Get personalized information on candidates and issues**.

See arguments pro and con for issues, and statements from candidates, along with links to their social media accounts. You can fill out a sample ballot too.



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