

The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County * February 2019



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Monthly Events Calendar

February 5:	Program Planning Boulder
February 12:	Program Planning Longmont
February 19:	Voter Service
February 23:	Member Coffee
February 28:	NPV Workshop

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Voter Service 2019 Organizational Event

By Susan Saunders and Jeanine Pow

In 2018, the LWVBC Voter Service activities were varied and numerous. A combination of the League's Voter Registration Team members and collaborators, as well as other motivated organizations, turned out Boulder County's Congressional District 2 voters in record numbers. In fact the percentage of eligible voters who turned out was the second highest in the entire country!

Now it is time to plan our approaches to keeping those voters educated and motivated.

Voter Service (VS) is the core value of the LWV. It is easily the work for which we are most recognized and it requires the active participation of all our members.

Consequently, in keeping with the national league's focus on Making Democracy Work for All, over the next two years the LWVBC is going to focus its efforts on Voter Service activities.

Our first step is to hold an organizational meeting to focus efforts on getting everyone participating and to initiate a year round Voter Service Team. We want to plan ahead and we seek your ideas, passion and active involvement to avoid scurrying to meet last minute requests. Beyond the usual VS activities (registration, forums, ballot issues, VOTE411), there will be added areas of emphasis on the National Popular Vote Compact, Alternate Voting Methods and Money in Politics. All these action categories require year round attention by a dedicated team to further public education and participation in future elections.

If you have an interest in VS, even if you're timid about your preparedness, we have many activities that require no training, and a very short time commitment. If you have a real passion and the ability to commit more time, there are a variety of projects in need of your talents and involvement. Voter Service is fun! Please come and find your niche. Together we will continue to make a difference!

***Childcare will be provided**, sign up on the event registration page by Feb.12, so the YWCA can secure the right number of their licensed staff. The one-time sign-up is lengthy, but you will be covered for our future meetings or your own unexpected needs to use the YWCA Children's Alley drop-in childcare center.

**You are invited to attend the first
organizational Voter Service Team meeting**

WHERE: YWCA, 2222 14th St, Boulder

WHEN: February 19, 6:30-8:00 PM

(Free Childcare Available* 18mos - 12 years)

**RSVP by registering at LWVBC.org and
selecting the Voter Service 2019 event**

President's Letter

By Peggy Leech, LWVBC President

February needs to be re-named as: "Get Involved in the League" month!

We will start out with our annual Program Planning meetings, where we will address state and local positions and action. This is a grassroots effort—we want to hear from all of you about what we should be working on, and what YOU are willing to help with. We have 2 meetings scheduled (Program planning meetings: Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1pm- 2:30pm at Meadows Branch Library, 4800 Baseline Rd, Boulder and Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7pm to 8:30pm, at Front Range Community College, 2121 Miller Rd, Community Room, Longmont).

In addition, the Voter Service Team is putting together an organizational meeting for people who want to get involved in our issues and activities. (See front page article –scheduled for the evening of February 19.)

I know that several of our members are participating in LWVCO's Legislative Action Committee (LAC), and we had great attendance at LWVCO's Legislative Conference on January 12. Another form of member involvement!

And, very importantly, the Nominating Committee has just begun its work in filling some key positions, mostly on-board, but some can be off-board. We are always looking for volunteers who are willing to help with the League's work as an organization. (See notice on Page 6 of this Voter for a partial listing of vacancies.)

The board recently decided to try the co-President model for next year, splitting up the responsibilities between administrative functions and community engagement functions. We hope this will make the Presidency much more manageable and appealing to future leaders. Thank you to Caroline Himes for her work with the board and her recommendations for improvements!

Other recent board decisions:

- Approved the appointment of Debby Vink and Pat Long to the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is now: Carolyn Elliott (Chair), Debby Vink, Susan Saunders, and Pat Long, with Ruth Stemler serving ex officio as Membership Director.
- Approved the appointment of Budget Committee members: Susan Saunders, Linda Katalenich, and Pat Long.
- Adopted new guidelines on sponsorships and co-sponsorships of events.
- Approved co-sponsorship and participation in Doing Democracy Day in March.
- Accepted the resignation of Kay Marsh as Events Director, as she will now be a legislative aide for Senator Mike Foote. Congratulations, Kay!
- Approved the makeup of a Gift Acceptance Committee, to be made up of President, Fund Development Director, and Treasurer.



Photo by [Jasmine Waheed](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Member News and Announcements

Grocery Cards

Did you know that revenue from use of grocery gift cards from July 1 to December 31, 2018, was **\$2,206.86**? That is significant and requires minimal effort for our members and friends. If you aren't already, please help by using a grocery store gift card.

To get your grocery gift card, call Louisa Young (303-444-6248)
Louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU)



Photo by Mathieu Turle on Unsplash



LWVCO legislative conference

On Monday, January 14, 2019, the 2019 League of Women Voters of Colorado held its legislative conference at Scottish Holy Rite Temple in Denver. At left LWVBC Member Kay Palmer Marsh confers with Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold.

Below, attendees of the Voting Methods Team meeting on January 27, as well as guest Gary Swing. L to R - Gaythia Weis, Frank and Pat Venturo, Celeste Landry, Gary Swing, Neal McBurnett, Ceal Ruffing, Dory Parsons



Efforts on the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

LWV has had an active role in the effort to have Colorado join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, both at the state and local levels. On January 29, the legislation (SB19-042) passed in the Senate on a 19-16 vote, and it will now move to the House for consideration.



Holly Monkman of LWVBC testified as part of the LWVCO panel



Crowd shot, with Jeanine Pow looking at the camera



Peggy Leech with Sylvia Bernstein from Colorado NPV

On the state (LWVCO) level, members in our state received 2 Action Alerts from LWVCO on this bill. At the January 23 hearing in the Senate State Affairs Committee, LWVCO's Legislative Action Committee testified as a 3-member panel, which included LWVBC's own Holly Monkman. This panel was heard early in the 4-1/2 hours of testimony before the committee, and all 3 members of the panel made excellent presentations.

In addition to Holly Monkman, other LWVBC members who participated in the January 23 hearing (either by testifying or by being in the audience) included: Howard Christensen, Virginia Gebhart, Harry Hempy, Stacie Johnson, Jesse Kumin, Peggy Leech, Jeanine Pow, and Debby Vink. Kay Marsh was there, too, as Senator Foote's legislative aide, and several other Leagues were represented, including Chaffee, Denver, Jefferson, and Larimer Counties.

Overall, the League can be very proud, as we were well-represented at the hearing. The bill was advanced out of committee to the whole Senate on a 3-2 vote.

For more information on the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, please visit our [NPV Team's web page](#). We have planned two informational/training meetings for February 28 and March 5.

A Rights of Non-Citizens Proposal

By the LWVBC Social Policy Team

On the basis of its study of the rights of non-citizens, for the 2019-2020 League year the Social Policy Team (SPT) is proposing to proceed to consensus on the **Rights of Non-Citizens in Boulder County**.

Background

- At our May **2014** Annual Meeting, LWVBC members approved the board's recommendation that SPT undertake a new study, leading to consensus, of the **rights of non-citizens**.
- In November **2016**, SPT shared its findings with members and the public at two community meetings. We looked at six areas: (1) history of non-citizen rights in the U.S., (2) employment, (3) mobility/transportation, (4) education, (5) public benefits, and (6) voting and related areas (appointment to government boards and committees, serving on a jury).
- We posted our findings online in a document and a slide show at lwvbc.org. We did not, however, proceed to consensus.

Scope of proposed consensus

Now we propose proceeding to consensus about Boulder County. What are the rationales behind requiring citizenship for certain rights/duties? What criteria does the LWVBC believe are relevant to undocumented immigrants and various categories of documented immigrants? Should different criteria apply to different rights/duties? What is the experience regarding rights that non-citizens enjoy in other parts of the U.S. that they do not have in Boulder County?

Rationale

- (1) This consensus would reflect the current LWVUS focus on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion.
- (2) LWVUS convention delegates in 2016 amended our bylaws so that Voting Members are **persons** at least **16** years of age (formerly "citizens at least 18").
In support of the change, LWVUS board wrote:
As an organization, we are unwavering advocates for universal suffrage, and this amendment would be reflective of our policy positions, which espouse inclusivity and the elimination of barriers to civic participation. Organizations must continue to evolve to reflect the changes within society. Updating this section strengthens our structure as an organization of inclusion and more accurately reflects our core values.
- (3) SPT has more than the requisite three members willing to participate
- (4) The time is right. Immigration is in the forefront of the news.
- (5) Should everyone (including undocumented immigrants) who owns property be able to vote on changes in property taxes? Or is there something about citizenship that controls?
- (6) Without a position the LWVBC has been neutral on local ballot proposals that non-citizens serve on appointed boards. After Boulder voters passed such a proposal; an undocumented immigrant was appointed to the Human Rights Commission and served his full term.
- (7) Because K-12 public schools in the U.S. are open to all resident children regardless of immigration status (U.S. Supreme Court, 1982, Plyler v. Doe), should undocumented immigrants have a voice through voting on school administration?

Timeline

We would lead consensus meetings in April 2020 at the latest.

LWVBC Officer Nominations

By Carolyn Elliott and Susan Saunders

The League Needs Your Active Participation!

Talents and skills abound in our Boulder County League membership and each of you can apply your abilities for the good of our mission: making democracy work for all people. At this point each year, the Nominating Committee seeks good people for Board positions approaching the end of their term.

1. Two **co-presidents** are needed for a new job-sharing approach to leadership:

A. One member will cover the mostly administrative tasks, which involve orientation of Board members, leading the strategic planning retreat with the Board, implementing the goals, presiding over Board meetings, serving on various committees, writing a monthly column for the VOTER newsletter, and sundry other tasks.

B. The other member will serve as the mostly external liaison, helping to implement Board goals, functioning as the lead spokesperson for LWVBC, promoting outreach and marketing, strengthening community ties, representing the League at conventions and coalitions, and various other tasks.

2. A **secretary** is needed, who will be responsible for maintaining the written record of the actions taken at Board meetings and the annual meeting, including brief details about discussions, as well as archiving LWVBC's written materials, such as minutes and publications.

3. An **events coordinator** is needed, who will be responsible for production logistics of community meetings and member meetings, including general meetings and program planning/consensus meetings. This person works with the Board, the Membership Director, the Issue Team leaders, and the Education/Advocacy/Action Director to determine topics, speakers, locations, and schedule for such meetings. This person has a support team to help with planning, as well as a group of event helpers to carry out the year's meetings.

We have only two months to identify members willing to stand for election. All who are curious or interested please contact promptly: Carolyn Elliott, chair of the Nominating Committee, at carolynelliott1515@gmail.com.

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