

# The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County \* September 2019



## Also in this Issue:

Presidents' Letter:	2
News & Announcements	3
United States of ALEC	5

## Monthly Events Calendar

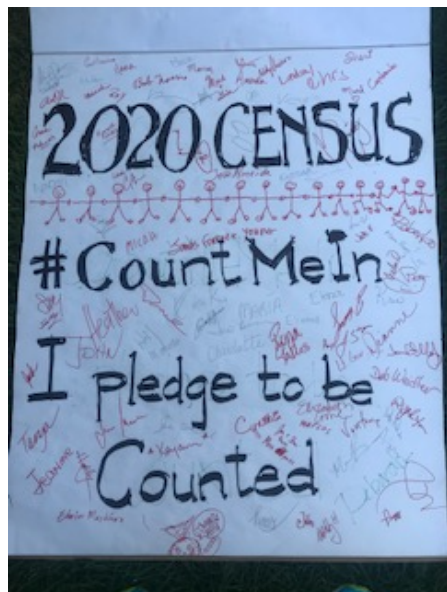
Sept 7:	Longmont VRD
Sept 7:	Consensus Meeting
Sept 14:	Boulder VRD
Sept 14:	United States of ALEC film
Sept 18:	Consensus Meeting
Sept 21:	Making Democracy Work! Colorado
Sept 21:	ArtWalk Longmont
Sept 22:	Councilwoman film
Sept 23:	Advocating for Impact
Sept 24:	National VRD
Sept 28:	Fall Kickoff Meeting
Sept 29:	Dash and Bash
Oct 3:	Broomfield City Council Forum

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## Voter Service: The Dog Days of Summer

By Jeanine Pow

The dog days of summer are upon us but that hasn't slowed down the Voter Service Team.



The voter registration drive (VRD) section set up shop at the Colorado Latino Festival in Boulder Central Park on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. A poster was displayed that attendees could sign, pledging to be counted in the 2020 census. As you can see from the attached photo, the poster drew many signatories, including the signature of Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera! Twenty-six festival attendees also filled out cards pledging to educate their community about the importance of the 2020 census. Although attendance at the festival was light, the table had a steady stream of visitors, including eleven voter

registrations.

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, the VRD section was at the Erie Farmer's Market where a poster on the National Popular Vote Compact drew many questions and discussions with passersby. Five voters were registered, including one woman in her mid-thirties who registered to vote for the first time.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, the League was invited to conduct an informational table at the Longmont Public Library Volunteer Fair. Many folks stopped by the table to inquire about the LWV and 14 signed-up to receive emails on upcoming LWVBC events. Several people filled forms expressing a desire to be contacted concerning future volunteer opportunities. During the event, a Longmont educator also inquired about the feasibility of the League meeting with the Longmont Youth Advisory Council. As a result, a meeting was scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup> to learn more about what the young people do as Council members and how they might join forces with the LWVBC.



(continued on page 6)

## Presidents' Letter

*By Peggy Leech and Susan Saunders, LWVBC Co-Presidents*

Election season is upon us! Please be a voice for the LWVBC – Advertise, Attend and Assist all the activities your Voter Service team will be offering this fall.

**Advertise** to your friends, family and neighbors our candidate forums, ballot issue presentations, and [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org)

**Attend** the forums and ballot issue presentations appropriate for your location in the county

**Assist** by volunteering for the forums and ballot issue presentations – it is assistance if you bring another person to any or all of these activities

Remember the LWV's responsibility is to educate voters so they may make informed decisions.

At the same time members have been preparing for the elections, the leadership, both board members and Issue Team leaders, have initiated the strategic planning process for our next 3 years. (Learn more at the Fall Kickoff.) The past 4 and a half years we've worked at making our league visible and recognized as a resource for the county. This resulted in a 32% increase in membership! At the same time we introduced a more interactive webpage so it's easier to join the League and much easier to find information about all our meetings – the what, where and when details are all easy to find on the home page in the blue Upcoming Events box or under the Events tab at the top of the page. Please make an effort to stay involved by attending activities planned by your fellow members.

September is a month of getting ready for the elections. October will bring candidate forums and ballot issue presentations. We will be doing numerous Voter Registration Drives around the county in both months (see our website). Also in September, we have many exciting events:

- Saturday, September 21, 8:30-3:00: LWVCO's Making Democracy Work Day, in Denver. Cost: \$55.
- Sunday, September 22, 3:00-5:00: Film screening of "Councilwoman", followed by discussion. At the Longmont Museum. Cost: \$5.
- Monday, September 23, 5:00-7:45: Women's Collaborative of Boulder County is hosting Women's Foundation of Colorado for an "Advocating for Impact" training, at the main Boulder Library. Cost: Free.
- Saturday, September 28, 10:00-11:30: Fall Kickoff meeting, at Lafayette Senior Center. Cost: Free.
- Sunday, September 29: YWCA's Dash and Bash, at the Boulder Reservoir. Join and/or support LWVBC's team! (Information elsewhere in the Voter.)

These are in addition to the consensus meetings September 7 and 18, and the film screening from the Money in Politics Team on September 14—all of these are mentioned elsewhere in the Voter. Exciting times! We hope you will participate.



## Member News and Announcements

### From the Membership Team

DOES YOUR LWVBC MEMBERSHIP EXPIRE IN SEPTEMBER? RENEW NOW AT [LWVBC.ORG](https://lwvbc.org).

We want to see **YOUR PHOTO** in the Member Directory on [our website](#)!

**COME TO OUR PHOTO BOOTH AT THE KICK OFF MEETING ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28!** We'll take your picture and upload it for you.

Or, here's how you can do it yourself:

- 1) Have a headshot of yourself handy in a file on your computer.
- 2) Log-in to [lwvbc.org](https://lwvbc.org).
- 3) In the top right corner of the page, click on the down arrow to the right of your name and then the blank circle to the left of your name.
- 4) On the page that pops up, scroll to the bottom if not already there, and see a button to click to download a photo of yourself.
- 5) Upload the file containing your headshot.

### Strategic Planning update

We have finished the assessment and retreat phases of our strategic planning efforts. Many thanks to all who participated—we value your input! We had 3 focus groups, with 28 members participating. We sent out a survey to our members in early August, and 45 members responded—excellent!

Then, on August 10, we held a strategic planning retreat, with board members and issue team leaders. 14 participated in the retreat. We reviewed data collected over the last 4 years (since our last strategic plan), and we found some impressive trends. We also reviewed the results of the assessments, and we worked to identify our highest priorities for the next 3 years.

Please plan to attend the Fall Kickoff meeting on September 28, where we will share the data and assessment results.

### LWVBC Fall Kickoff Meeting

The [Fall Kickoff meeting](#) will be held on Saturday, September 28 from 10:00 AM until 11:30 AM at the Lafayette Senior Center, 103 Iowa Avenue. Please attend!

### Plan to Attend a Consensus Meeting

The Social Policy Team members are looking forward to leading League members in lively discussions of Noncitizen Rights in Boulder County at this month's **consensus meetings**. If new county or municipal ordinances on these issues were to be proposed in the future, are there any that LWVBC should support or oppose?

Do plan to attend one of the two meetings—either in Boulder on Saturday afternoon, September 7, 1pm to 3pm at Frasier, or in Longmont on Wednesday evening, September 18, 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Front Range Community College Community Room.

## League of Women Voters of Boulder County

You can review the consensus questions and background material in [last month's VOTER](#) and more background in [the June-July VOTER](#). If you are new to League or need another copy, contact our team leader, Angie Layton - [teams@lwvbc.org](mailto:teams@lwvbc.org) or 303.499.4544 (leave a message).

The one-page 'matrix' chart (in the August VOTER) shows the questions on a graph— kinds of immigration status along the horizontal axis, various citizen rights that could be extended to noncitizens on the vertical axis. This is not a quiz! As we members share ideas, consensus may or may not emerge.

### Making Democracy Work! Day

LWVCO is holding [Making Democracy Work! Day](#) (formerly League Day) on Saturday, September 21, at the History Colorado Center at 1200 Broadway in Denver. It runs from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

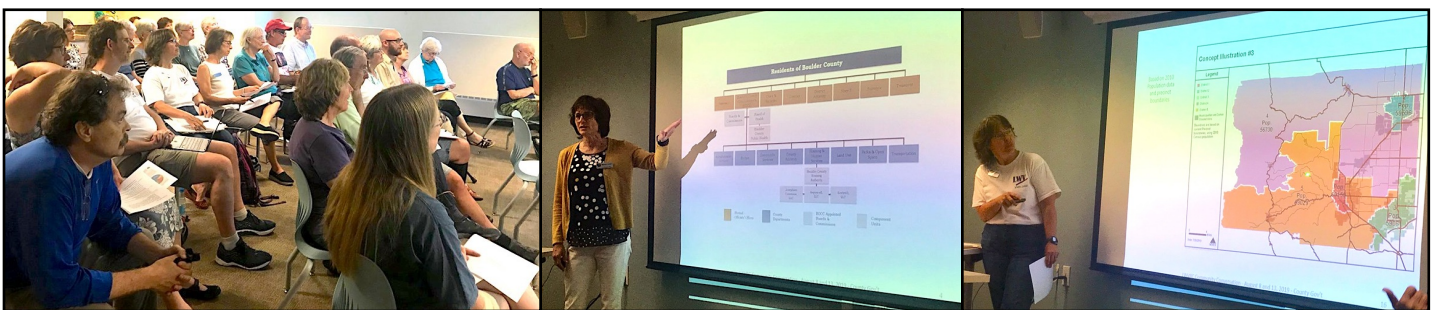
### Rossana Longo-Better at KGNU Community Radio

Former LWVBC intern Rossana Longo-Better continues her work with KGNU Community Radio. Rossana reported on e-cigarettes last month and is currently working on issues regarding mobile homes.

### Community Conversations

The LWVBC held two Community Conversations on "Is it time to change Boulder County's governmental structure?". One was on August 8 at Front Range Community College in Longmont, and the other was on August 13 at George Reynolds Library in Boulder. Both were well-attended. Our [County Government page](#) includes a [video](#).

Below left: the audience. Below center: Michelle Krezek, Deputy to the Board of County Commissioners, presenting the Boulder County organizational chart. Below right: Celeste Landry, showing what a map of Boulder County might look like if it were divided into 5 districts.



### Dash and Bash

We still have slots available for walkers and runners in the Dash and Bash Event. Sign up [here](#).



## Free Documentary Film Showing: **United States of ALEC**

Hosted by LWVBC Money in Politics Team



Why would Congress, or our State legislature, pass bills that maximize corporate profit at the expense of citizens, and of voting rights? Come watch the Bill Moyers and Company film called *United States of ALEC*, Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Lafayette Public Library, 775 Baseline, 303-665-5200. We will hold a discussion afterwards. As the [Bill Moyers and Company website](#) states,

*Moyers & Company* presents 'United States of ALEC,' (sic) a report on the most influential corporate-funded political force most of America has *never* heard of – **ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council**. A national consortium of state politicians and powerful corporations, ALEC presents itself as a 'nonpartisan public-private partnership.' But behind that mantra lies a vast network of corporate lobbying and political action aimed to increase corporate profits at public expense without public knowledge.

Using interviews, documents, and field reporting, the episode explores ALEC's self-serving machine at work, acting in a way one Wisconsin politician describes as 'a corporate dating service for lonely legislators and corporate special interests.'

In state houses around the country, hundreds of pieces of boilerplate ALEC legislation are proposed or enacted that would, among other things, dilute collective bargaining rights, make it harder for some Americans to vote, and limit corporate liability for harm caused to consumers – each accomplished without the public ever knowing who's behind it.

See you there!



### Living Wage ... should you care?

**Monday, October 21, 2019**  
**7:00 – 8:30 PM**  
**FRCC Community Room**  
**2190 Miller Dr., Longmont**

Join us for this interactive forum on one of today's most discussed topics.

Our panel of local experts will provide a 360° perspective on **Living Wage** to prepare you to engage in informal discussions on this topic.

Refreshments will be provided.

The public is welcome to this program sponsored by AAUW Longmont and supported by the Longmont Community Foundation.



## **IN MEMORIUM**

Our sympathies go out to member Liz Nick on the sudden death of her husband, Tom Stafford, on August 18. Tom and Liz met in Florida before coming to Colorado. Tom had wide ranging interests: mission work in Guatemala, deep sea diving, technical writing and operating a ham radio, to name just a few. He was always supportive of Liz's valued work for the League of Women Voters. See Tom's [obituary here](#).

### *(Voter Service, continued from page 1)*

The LWVBC was also invited to participate in Women's Equality Day at Google on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Voter Service Team members will have the opportunity to educate Google employees on what the League does and to provide information on membership and upcoming events.

Although not in the public eye, the VOTE411 and Ballot Issue sections of Voter Service have been hard at work gathering race and ballot information to be published in conjunction with the 2019 election. Stacie Johnson, who moved from Maryland to Erie last year, has extensive experience in VOTE411 and data entry. Despite having just taken on a new full-time job in Denver, Stacie is the VOTE411 Coordinator leading an able team of enthusiastic volunteers. Jo Porter, Candidate Forum Coordinator, is also very busy scheduling candidate forums and lining up volunteers for events that will occur in venues across the county in October. Please check the [lwvbc.org](http://lwvbc.org) website for specific details of upcoming candidate forums and ballot issue presentations.

My sincere thanks to all of the Voter Service team members who gave of their time and expertise in August.

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