

# The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County \* June 2019



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## Monthly Events Calendar

June 11:	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington
June 22:	Post-Convention Coffee
June 23:	VRD Latino Festival
June 24:	White Anti-racist Allyship
June 25:	Strategic Planning Focus Group
June 27:	VRD Erie
June 29:	UndocuAmerica
July 8:	Dismantling Toxic Masculinity
July 13:	VRD Longmont
July 18:	VRD Erie
August 3:	VRD Boulder



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## Last Chance to Order Bulbs!

The deadline to order bulbs has been extended to **June 3!**

## Annual Meeting 2019

*By Jennifer Bales*

This year's annual meeting was held at Nissi's in Lafayette on May 11, 2019. Our President, Peggy Leech, led the business portion of the meeting first. It has been a busy and successful year, with membership now totaling 227. Issue teams were active in both the county and the state. Please see Teams at Work on our website for details. We sponsored many events including candidate forums, student activities, and voter registration drives. We supported several issues including national popular vote, redistricting reform, and living wage.



Co-presidents Susan Saunders and Peggy Leech



Emerging Youth Leader Genesis Kedebe

The LWVBC presidency has been split into co-presidents. Peggy will continue with the community engagement aspect, while Susan Saunders will handle the administrative side. Peggy was awarded a special gift to thank her for her hard work and to encourage her to take some well-deserved relaxation. Other board members include Secretary Molly Saunders and Treasurer Pat Long. Elected Directors are Communications Director

Elizabeth Crowe, Youth Engagement Director Shiquita Yarbrough, Action Director Mary Ann Wilner, Fund Development Director Anne Bryan, Voter Service Director Jeanine Pow, and Membership Director Debby Vink.

*(continued on page 8)*

## President's Letter

*By Peggy Leech, LWVBC President*

After a very successful Annual Meeting, and looking forward to what is ahead, I am feeling energized! I hope all of you are, too, as we have many opportunities for you to become involved. I hardly know where to start. We have 12 members attending the state convention, plus several members participating in the LWVCO's training workshops (all of this is May 30-June 1), so we will have more to report at our Post-Convention Coffee on June 22.

We will have plenty of opportunities for involvement in state and national issues, such as the 2020 Census, TABOR and Gallagher, implementation and education on the redistricting initiatives (Y and Z) passed last year, and potentially National Popular Vote. And, of course, the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LWV's founding and the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, in 2020.

We are also weighing in on the "3 to 5" effort, to increase the number of County Commissioners from three to five. There is currently a petition being circulated to put this on the 2020 ballot. We have a position supporting the change, so we hope to get members involved in this effort as well.

The board has approved a refresh of our Strategic Plan, after we have completed 4 years of our original 5-year plan. We are currently in the Assessment phase and seeking input from members in focus groups, followed by a survey of the whole membership. This is your chance to chime in on our priorities and vision - and the more participation, the better! The remaining focus group is on the afternoon of June 24. If you are interested in participating, please contact Susan Saunders.

I am very excited to get started on our DEI efforts (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion). We received a grant from the Boulder Community Foundation to do some training, both for our members and for the community. We have two public events scheduled with Regan Byrd, who trains people from all backgrounds and knowledge levels. Please plan to attend both of them, and invite your friends and neighbors. These are scheduled as follows:

- White Anti-Racist Allyship: Beyond the Basics. Monday, June 24, 6 PM.
- Dismantling Toxic Masculinity: Beyond the Basics. Monday, July 8, 6 PM.

And, of course, we have elections coming up in the fall around Boulder County, with plenty of opportunities to get involved. Activities include: Voter Registration Drives throughout the summer, candidate forums, local ballot issue research, ballot issue presentations (including state and local issues), Vote 411, and more!

I hope to see many of you involved in the opportunities listed above. This is your chance - and LWVBC's chance - to shape the future.



LWVBC 2019 Annual Meeting

## Member News and Announcements

### King Soopers Loyalty Cards

As you have heard, King Soopers has changed its system for charitable donations. While the initial process may be annoying, it will *ultimately be easier because you will no longer have to reload your loyalty card*. Just pay with your credit card, check or cash as you always do. As long as you've swiped your King Soopers card first, your purchase will qualify for the League donation.

If you have a King Soopers card already, you will need to enroll online in the program. Some of us already have online accounts with KS. If you don't (I didn't), it is easy to sign up -- you will have to provide name, email and a password. Once you have created your account, you can select the League as your charitable choice.

Below are steps to follow:

1. Click on the link [Community Rewards Home Page](#)
2. Enter your email and password for your King Soopers loyalty card (or get a new loyalty card, available at the customer service desk). If you don't have an account, create one now.
3. Click on "Saving & Rewards".
4. Click on "King Soopers Community Rewards".
5. Click on "Enroll Now".
6. In the Search box, enter FQ065 (or enter League of Women Voters of Boulder County).
7. This brings up our information--click on "Enroll".
8. There will be a checkmark showing "You have successfully enrolled in Community Rewards".

Please take a few minutes to go through this process! These donations are very important to the League. We know that many other similar charitable groups are receiving two and three times the amounts we are seeing. That means more of us need to enroll!

### Website Database

We are updating our database on the website. Please go into your member profile and give us the following information if we don't have it (in the Contact Info and Additional Member Data sections).

- Race/ethnicity
- Gender
- Birth year
- Experience and interests
- Upload a picture of yourself

This information is very important to manage our organization, to be sure that we are better addressing diversity, and for grant applications. Take a look at your profile! Debby Vink is always available to help, [debvink@gmail.com](mailto:debvink@gmail.com).

### Public Meetings Notice

All board meetings are PUBLIC meetings. Please join us if you wish to learn more about our work. We want to be open and transparent!

### LWVBC Interns

The League of Women Voters of Colorado has had three very impressive interns, all from the University of Colorado. **Jessica Yan** graduated this year with a degree in information analytics and leadership with a minor in biochemistry. She was awarded a Fulbright grant but declined it to pursue her dream job at Redstone Strategy Group, a nonprofit and social sector consulting firm. She is featured in articles in the [Boulder Daily Camera](#) and in [CU Boulder Today](#). **Rossana Better** received her Masters Degree at CU in May, in Media and Public Engagement. **Giorgio Asuenda** graduated in May, 2017 with a Masters in Journalism and is now a Production Manager at Media Foundation in Denver.

### Senate Bill 181 Rulemaking

The LWVCO Legislative Action Committee held an informational meeting on the rule making process after the Oil and Gas Conservation Act became law. More information is provided at the [Colorado Oil and Gas Commission website](#), and in a [Greeley Tribune article](#) by Emily Wenger.

Right: Jeannette Hillary is speaking in this photo by Emily Wenger, used with permission.



## Excitement and Some Concern About a Proposed LWWUS Voting Methods Concurrence

*by the Voting Methods Team*

In last month's *Voter* we mentioned an opportunity for a 2020 LWWUS concurrence on "Voter Representation / Election Process" (aka Voting Methods). LWWUS is lacking a Voting Methods program position, and we may finally be able to fill this void!

The proposed concurrence has the following position-in-brief:

*Support election methods at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters.*

The position-in-full elaborates on the features of election methods (aka voting methods) that the League would support, including "compatible with ... vote-by-mail" and "auditable" – important features of Colorado's elections. We are also pleased with:

*The League supports systems that elect policy-making bodies – legislatures, councils, commissions, and boards – that proportionally reflect the people they represent.*

Our only concern is with the bullet point: "Require the winner to receive a majority of the votes for executive and other single seat offices." We have two objections:

1. *How is majority **defined**?* Single-winner Ranked Choice Voting (aka instant-runoff voting) often claims a majority winner, but in both the Maine 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional district and the San Francisco mayoral contests in 2018, more people voted for the losing candidates than for the victors! The voting math calls into question a "majority" requirement when there are more than two candidates.

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2. Is a so-called “majority” even **desirable**? The gold-standard winner is the candidate who beats every other candidate in head-to-head contests. A “majority” requirement can hide information when conducting sequential plurality elections and thereby prevent the election of a gold-standard winner. For instance, with candidates D, U, and R, candidate U may beat candidate D and also beat candidate R in pairwise contests, but in a 3-candidate plurality or IRV contest, U could get only 30% of the vote and R and D could each get 35% of the vote. U – the best candidate – would lose! Other methods, such as approval voting, aim to find a winner most acceptable to the largest numbers of voters and do not seek to find a majority at all.

No voting method is perfect. Each has its pros and cons. That is why our state position “supports gaining on-the-ground experience with alternative voting methods...”

When considering a position at the national level, we should note the criteria spelled out on page 5 in the LWVUS *Impact on Issues 2018-2020*:

*League positions at the national level are by their very nature broad and general in scope: they are guides for acting.*

Including the “majority” requirement in a national program position could sully the League’s reputation for integrity and accuracy while preventing local Leagues from supporting better voting methods. The LWV of Red River Valley supported the adoption of approval voting in Fargo in 2018. The measure passed with almost 2/3 of the votes, but the proposed “majority” requirement would have forced the local League to oppose the measure or at least remain neutral.

We’d like to propose an easy resolution for our concern with the “majority” requirement. Concur with all but the “majority” bullet point. (Alternatively, we could ask for concurrence with our state’s Voting Methods position.) Note that small changes are permissible in concurrences. For instance, LWVCO concurred with the LWVBC Voting Methods position in 2017, but with the addition of a clarifying statement. The LWV of California Board has recommended concurrence with the proposed LWVUS concurrence language minus three bullet points, but retaining the “majority” requirement bullet point.

Our Voting Methods team recently discussed the pros and the single con of the proposed concurrence at a LWVCO convention caucus entitled “Advocating for Better Ways to Choose Elected Officials.” To read the entire proposed concurrence, go to our webpage: [lwbcb.org](http://lwbcb.org) Teams at Work Voting Methods. If you have further questions, please reach out to a Voting Methods Team member or email us at [vmteam@lwbcb.org](mailto:vmteam@lwbcb.org)

## **Harvard Case Study Civics Program – Coming to LWVBC in 2020**

*by Liz Black*

LWV of Greenwich (CT) partnered with its local high schools in pioneering a model for lively public discussions on key moments in the history of American democracy using the Harvard Case Study Method. The Schools Team learned about this innovative program as a result of a presentation at LWV’s 2018 national convention. Team members were excited when Harvard Business School offered local leagues the opportunity to select high school social studies teachers to attend a workshop led by Professor David Moss. Teachers’ expenses, including travel, will be covered by the program. Interested teachers agree that, once trained, they will teach 4 or more cases from Moss’s *History of American Democracy* curriculum in their classes. They also agree to facilitate case discussions in their communities in a non-partisan way.

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With approval from the LWVBC board, we notified teachers about this cutting-edge professional development program. Rebecca DiMaio was selected as our nominee and is registered for the workshop. During the 2018-19 school year she taught US History at Boulder High School using a thematic and biographical approach which successfully drew in her students to discuss historical figures and to form and express their own opinions. Teaching is Rebecca's second career, and she expects that the 2 ½ days at Cambridge will equip her with new tools and enhance her skills to even better guide discussions about key moments in history.

The Greenwich League's public discussions using cases from Professor Moss's book were some of their most successful events ever. A survey of participants showed that taking part had a positive impact on their civic behavior. 100% expressed a strong desire to discuss more cases. 70% said they would approach future political discussions more constructively, especially when faced with an opposing point of view, and 50% said they would be more likely to vote. We look forward to a similar event here with outcomes just as positive. Our event will take place in early 2020 with participation split between adults and high school students. Let [Liz Black](#) or [Celeste Landry](#) know your thoughts about civic groups in our community that might partner with LWVBC as we plan and publicize the event.

## **Coming in September: Consensus Meetings on Noncitizen Rights in Boulder County**

*by Deborah Hayes*

At our 2019 annual meeting, members adopted the Social Policy Team (SPT) proposal to proceed to **consensus** on the rights of noncitizens in Boulder County. **Consensus meetings** are planned for September 2019.

**Consensus** is the League process of group discussion to determine the overall *sense of the group*. It is not majority rule nor unanimity. Although consensus meetings are public, only members' responses are recorded. If there is no consensus on this or that point, that fact is recorded, too. From the recorders' notes from our September meetings, the SPT members will draft a position statement, subject to LWVBC board approval. LWV position statements guide LWV response to a range of ballot issues, proposed city and county ordinances, and legislation.

So far, SPT members have examined noncitizen rights at the federal and state levels. See our 2016 presentation on the [SPT page](#). Now we are moving to new territory—**local** government.

Many U.S. communities are now recognizing the potential of noncitizens, documented or undocumented, to help maintain their vitality and cohesiveness. Should noncitizens be appointed city boards and commissions? Boulder voters said yes in 2014; Lafayette voters said no in 2016.

While only U.S. citizens can vote in national or state elections, some local jurisdictions now allow *some* noncitizens to vote on *some* issues. In Chicago, all residents - including undocumented immigrants - vote on school board elections. In California, noncitizens may be called to jury duty. For the big picture, we recommend the Wikipedia article "[Right of foreigners to vote in the United States](#)".

Does immigration status matter? A noncitizen can be a permanent resident (green card holder), someone holding a temporary visas (worker, student, tourist), an unauthorized immigrant (expired visa, no visa), spouse of U.S. citizen, etc. What about an age requirement? Residency requirement? Application for citizenship pending?

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We value citizenship. And we value DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion), our national LWVUS focus for 2019. At what point does DEI—in matters of voting and other coveted rights—dilute the value of citizenship?

### **The Voter Service Team Registers 30 at May Events!**

*by Jeanine Pow*

The LWVBC made its presence known at two events in May, resulting in a total of 30 voter registrations:

On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, an information table/voter registration drive was conducted at the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration at Roosevelt Park in Longmont. Pat Long and Jeanine Pow secured a site close to the food court and had the canopy and table set up by 9:45 a.m. The weather was beautiful, and as a result, there was a huge public turnout. Good food and music was enjoyed by all who helped out at the event. Voter Service (VS) Team members (e.g., Deborah Yin, Ann O'Brien, Molly Hardman, Honora Wolfe, Julie Boyle, Rosa-lynn Householder, Gillian Longley and Susan Saunders) typically worked in two-hour shifts, answering numerous questions and registering voters until calling it a day at 6:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the LWVBC was invited to register newly sworn-in U.S. citizens after the Naturalization Ceremony at the Boulder Public Library. In advance of the ceremony, LWVBC voter information packets were placed on the chairs of the 41 participants being sworn in. The ceremony brought tears to the eyes of many of the VS Team members witnessing the event. VS Team members (i.e., Carol Brown, Nancy Bruington, Barbara Grant, Molly Hardman, Pat Long, Holly Monkman, Cindy Outlaw, Jo Porter, Jeanine Pow, Susan Saunders, Judith White and Deborah Yin) scrambled to congratulate and invite the new U.S. citizens to register to vote as they exited multiple doors of the library area. Eighteen new voters were registered in a period of less than 20 minutes. Those chaotic minutes were best summed up by Holly Monkman, "it reminded me of fishing during a salmon run." Well said and well done by the many dedicated VS Team members!



Clockwise, back row, left to right, are: Judy White, Pat Long, Cindy Outlaw, Barbara Grant, Holly Monkman, Deborah Yin, Carol Brown, Molly Hardman, Nancy Bruington, Susan Saunders, and Jo Porter. Photo taken at naturalization ceremony on May 22, 2019.

## League of Women Voters of Boulder County

*(Annual Meeting 2019, continued from page 1)*

Carolyn Elliot, Cindy Outlaw, and Carol Brown form the nominating committee and Mandy Naku is an off-board liaison as well as our administrative assistant. Mandy is now an employee rather than a contractor.

Shiquita Yarbrough, has been chosen by the National League to be a Shur Fellow. Ruth Stemler has been nominated as President for the State League, and Rionda Osman has been nominated as Director of Technology on the state Board.

The treasurer's report, as well as other annual meeting materials, were published in the April Voter. We received grants from local organizations and implemented a major giving program. Dues are going up, but student memberships remain free.

The guest speaker was Beth Hendrix, the Colorado League's executive director. She discussed state goals such as increasing membership to 1% of the state's population, supporting local league's individuality, and improving communications and diversity outreach.

LWVBC gave several external and internal awards as shown below.

<b>Award</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>External</b>	
Community Partners	Jeffrey Kash, Elevations Credit Union Events
	Linda Sorauf, NPV Compact
	Sylvia Bernstein, NPV Compact
	Faith Gowan, Artistic (postcards)
Elected Official	Mike Foote, State Senator
<b>Internal</b>	
Emerging Leaders	Jennifer Bales
	Anne Bryan
Emerging Youth Leader	Genesis Kebede
Board Member of the Year	Susan Saunders
Member of the Year	Rionda Osman
	Holly Monkman
Issue Team Leader	Carolyn Elliott
Issue Team Member	Louisa Matthias
Operational Team Member	Cindy Outlaw
Operational Team Member	Judy White

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Faith Gowan received an award for artistic contribution for her postcard display that comes with her to events. She says it is a good way for an introvert to contribute.



Sylvia Bernstein receives an award for national popular vote activities. Co-recipient Linda Sorauf was not present.



Jeffrey Kash organizes activities at Elevations Credit Union

Right: LWVBC members lined up to receive Internal Awards

Many more photos of the event are found on the [LWVBC Facebook page](#).



## *League of Women Voters of Boulder County*

### **In Memoriam Pamela Forcey**

Pamela Cottier Forcey was born in New York City in 1925. She grew up in Greenwich in a house called Little Peequo and attended Vassar College, obtaining a degree in Political Science in 1946. She was a textbook editor for Harper & Row and Holt, Rinehart, and Winston in Manhattan before moving to Louisville in 2004 to be near her daughter, Blythe Forcey Toussaint, an author whose novel Pam helped edit. She was active at Louisville's Balfour Senior Living, editing its newsletter as well as the cookbook "*Super Snacks for Super Seniors*." Pam was a 14 year member of the League of Women Voters of Boulder County and an editor of *The Voter* from 2006-2009. She supported Vassar, the Louisville History Foundation, the League of Women Voters, and other political and charitable causes. An obituary is found [here](#).



Donations in Memoriam may be made to [Vassar College](#).

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