

# The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County \* October 2019



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## Monthly Events Calendar

Oct 2:	BVSD Forum
Oct 3:	Broomfield City Council Forum
Oct 7:	Ballot Issues - Boulder (2)
Oct 8:	Ballot Issues - Lafayette
Oct 10:	Lafayette City Council Forum
Oct 12:	Boulder City Council Forum
Oct 13:	Ballot Issues - Longmont
Oct 14:	Louisville City Council Forum
Oct 16:	Prop CC Conversation

## LWVBC Social Media



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## Longevity Awards

By Deborah Vink

Congratulations to these members for their years of membership in the Boulder/Boulder Valley/Boulder County League of Women Voters:

15 Years in the League: Mary Anna Dunn, Hugh Haskell, Suzanne Helburn, Julie Leonard, Barbara Merrell, Rionda Osman, Marion Read and Debby Vink.

25 Years in the League: Susan Maxwell and Donella Novak

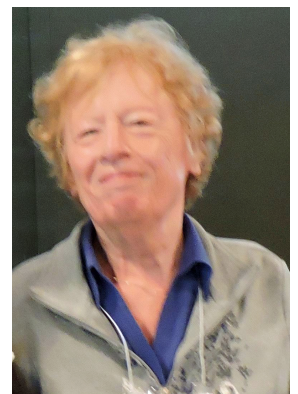
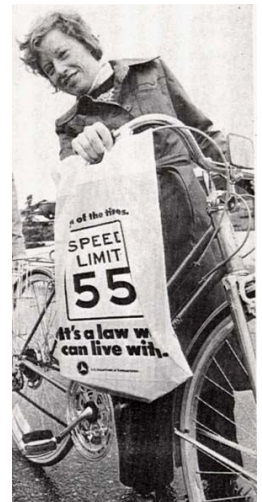
30 Years in the League: Judith Warner

50 Years in the League and now a Life Member: **Deborah Hayes**

Deborah is currently our Webmaster, a position not unlike that of the Wizard of Oz, the force behind the facade. She is also an active member of the Social Policy Team. In the past Deborah has been Roster Manager/Membership Director, twice President, once for the Boulder and then the Boulder Valley League and active on the International Relations and Natural Resources Issue Teams, all while formerly employed by the University of Colorado musicology faculty. She now adds the distinction of being a Life Member of LWVBC. Deborah has this to say about 50 years of League membership:

"I see 50 years of change and growth. I first joined the Boulder (city of Boulder) League. In those days, a web had something to do with spiders and there was no such word as website. Our League expanded geographically over the years, and In 2007 some wise members of Boulder County's two Leagues, Longmont and Boulder Valley, saw the value of merger.

"Along with change and growth, I see 50 years of staying the same. Take our core mission. We used to be working toward "informed citizen participation in government." Now we are Making Democracy Work for All. We speak the language of the twenty-first century, while our mission has remained constant. The League's vision is as worthy of our efforts now as it has ever been." [See award video here.](#)



## Presidents' Letter

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

October is upon us and it's all hands on deck to deal with the rush of ballot issues and candidate forums. However, we don't want to lose sight of our strategic goals and activities for 2019-20. Our annual Fall Kick Off meeting on September 28 was attended by an enthusiastic group of members, old and new. A handful of longevity awards were passed out while a number will be delivered to those members who are out of town. The [awards were filmed](#) by our own Dave Stemler, demonstrating the LWVBC's new camera, purchased with a grant from LWVCO.



Climate Change Breakout Meeting

The focus of this year's Kick Off was the active involvement of our members in determining steps to be taken to reach our strategic goals. Five groups of attendees spent nearly half the meeting discussing our goals and the mechanisms to achieve them this year. The 2020 election season, the Census, National Popular Vote, "Beyond" TABOR, and Climate Change were the topics covered.

More than one member reported enjoyment of the group discussions. We hope these discussions will continue to draw members further into the planning and execution of various activities throughout the year. We want to know who wasn't present, but cares deeply enough about these topics to get involved in shaping our activities. Also, we want to keep the focus on whose life is changed by actions of our League so we keep making democracy work for all.

Please see our [Community Calendar](#) for the many candidate and issue forums we are holding this month all over Boulder County.



TABOR Breakout Meeting

## Member News and Announcements

### Membership Renewals

Is September 30<sup>th</sup> the date for your annual membership renewal like the majority of our 249 members? Two ways to pay your membership dues:

--log into [lwvbc.org](http://lwvbc.org) to pay by credit card

--mail a check for \$76 to LWVBC, P.O. Box 21274, Boulder, CO 80308-4274.

RENEW NOW and save LWVBC a \$1 per person, the cost of sending out a reminder letter to you by snail mail. If you need help with your renewal or want to request an adjustment, please contact [membership@lwvbc.org](mailto:membership@lwvbc.org) or leave a phone message at 303-435-7687 to return your call. Student membership renewals are free in exchange for 20 volunteer hours per member year. Basic membership is \$76. The \$76 basic dues covers \$24 local dues, \$20 state dues and \$32 national dues. Additional household members pay half or \$38.

Do other Leagues charge as much as we do for membership? Yes, they do: \$79 Portland, OR; \$75 Madison, WI; Seattle, WA; Madison, WI; Dallas, TX; Greater Tucson, AZ, to name some.

### LWVBC Handbooks are Online This Year

Where is your copy of the 2019-20 LWVBC Handbook? All the information is on our website via the dropdown menu under "Member Info" (log in first). Contact [membership@lwvbc.org](mailto:membership@lwvbc.org) if you would like to receive a printable electronic file of the Handbook contents.

### Councilwoman Viewing and Panel Discussion



A September 22 screening of the documentary film "Councilwoman" was followed by a panel discussion. It was co-sponsored by Colorado 50-50 and the Longmont Museum.

Left to right:

State Representative Sonya Jacquez-Lewis, Longmont Mayor Pro Tem Polly Christensen, Union Organizer Mecca Scott, and moderator from Colorado 50-50 Erin Hottenstein.

### Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is looking for volunteers to help with social media. Please contact [Elizabeth Crowe](#). Elizabeth and Mary Ann Wilner will be hosting a meeting in October to discuss Communications Team services and how we can work together to more effectively create and use educational materials and media tools.



## League of Women Voters of Boulder County

### Voter Registration Activities Continue

At right, a voter registration drive was held at the Louisville Library on September 24, which is National Voter Registration Day. Left to right: Susan Randa, Jackie Alderete Urena, Jeanine Pow, and 5<sup>th</sup> grader Linden Katz, who is participating in a Daughters of the American Revolution project on the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment.



### Boulder City Council Candidate Forum

A candidate forum held on September 26 was co-sponsored by LWVBC with NAACP Boulder County. The forum was held at The Family Learning Center. 13 of 15 candidates for Boulder City Council were able to attend. Translation services and food were provided.



## Strategic Planning Assessment Results

by Peggy Leech

LWVBC has completed its Strategic Plan refresh over the last several months. It included:

- Focus groups: 3 groups having a total of 28 members participated.
- Survey: 45 members participated in a 1-week period, out of approximately 200 surveys (22.5% response rate).
- Retreat: 14 leaders participated.

Survey results:

1. Most respondents (74%) feel the **organization's internal focus** is about right, while 16% feel the organization doesn't focus enough on members, leaders, organizational functioning, and 9% feel the organization focuses too much internally.
2. A majority of respondents (65%) feel that LWVBC's **focus on outreach and service to the community** is about right; however, a significant minority (35%) feel there is not enough focus on outreach and service to the community, and no respondents felt there was too much.
3. When survey respondents were asked to rank communities in terms of the priority for providing services or engaging in organizational activities, a number responded that all communities are important, and some argued that it is not constructive to rank them.

Most (43 out of 45) respondents did rank the listed communities by priority, and "younger people" ranked highest, with "Latino Community" next, and "lower socioeconomic groups" next.

1. **Asked to what extent their time, talents, and capabilities are well-utilized** in advancing LWVBC's mission, most (72%) indicated they are "quite well utilized" to "utilized as well as possible." This leaves a substantial minority of members who feel their time, talents, and capabilities could be better utilized by LWVBC-- 21% who indicate that their time, talents, and capabilities are "somewhat well" utilized and 7% who indicate they are "not well utilized."
2. In response to a question about **project management skills and the need for training**, 43 of 45 survey respondents responded, with most indicating that they either have these skills (12%), know how to find others to complement these skills (35%), or it's irrelevant because they don't have time to lead even time-limited projects (23%).
3. Asked how **organizational communications** could be improved, most reported that internal communications are very good, or they skipped the question. Among the top suggestions for improvements in communication were a) to increase 2-way communications/ member discussions; b) to increase lead time on announcements; and c) more reminders of upcoming events/opportunities .

In the focus groups, **LWVBC's biggest challenges** are identified as scarce resources, trying to do too many different things, and ponderous decision-making processes making the organization move too slowly at times.

## **Longmont City Council Supports Living Wage for Full-Time City and Contract Employees**

*by Mary Ann Wilner*

Building on its living wage wins in Boulder in 2016, the LWVBC with its partners in the Longmont Living Wage Coalition achieved an important victory from the Longmont City Council. City Council members on September 17 voted unanimously to raise the city's hourly wage for full-time employees and full-time contract employees to \$17.42.

Peggy Leech, Pat Long, Ruth Stemler and Mary Ann Wilner worked closely with Darcy Juday from the Longmont American Association of University Women, Mary Ann Watson from United Methodist Women of Longmont and Don Grant, CU Professor of Sociology.

Starting in the summer of 2018 the leadership team met individually with Longmont City Council members to educate them about using the Self-Sufficiency Standard (SSS) as the base for determining actual living costs for individuals and families in Boulder County. The Colorado Center on Law and Policy (CCLP) publishes the SSS for each Colorado county every three years. The data identifies the income needed by an individual or family to support themselves without public or private assistance. CCLP computed self-sufficient wages needed for individual workers and six different family composition types in each Colorado county. The newest data, released in December 2018, revealed that in Boulder County a self-sufficient hourly wage for an individual is \$14.51 and for a two-parent family with a toddler and a school age child is \$20.32. The coalition's leadership team averaged the hourly wages needed for these two family types to determine a self-sufficient wage of \$17.42.

The coalition worked to build broad support for its campaign to have \$17.42 become Longmont's minimum wage for city employees and those hired by city contractors. Supporters included the American Association of University Women, The Inn Between, Heart of Longmont United Methodist Church, Immigrant Legal Center of Boulder County, Boulder Area Labor Council of the AFL/CIO, the AFL/CIO, and the United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 7 in addition to 60 individuals from Longmont and surrounding communities.

Although the Longmont City Council did not include wage increases for part-time employees in the 2020 city budget, LWVBC and its coalition partners will continue to work with council members to gain this wage increase for part-time city and contract employees.

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