

The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County * November 2019



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Monthly Events Calendar

Nov 9:	Member Coffee
Nov 10:	Will of the People Talk
Nov 12:	National Popular Vote
Nov 18:	Legislative Forum
Nov 20:	Eda Bagel Show
Dec 6:	Holiday Party
Dec 6:	LWVCO Advocacy and LAC Training

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The 2019 Election – That's a Wrap

By Jeanine Pow

The 2019 Voter Service (VS) Team consists of over 50 volunteers many of whom are new to VS. Although the number of ballot issues and candidates were far fewer than what VS has had to address in prior election years, 2019 provided a big learning curve for many of us as well as a great dress rehearsal for what's on the horizon in the 2020 elections. I say "elections" because in 2020 there will be three elections: the presidential primary on March 3rd, the state and Congressional primary on June 30th and the general election on November 3rd. There will also be a Caucus for non-presidential candidates on March 7.

By the numbers, the VS Team made significant contributions to registering and educating voters in advance of the 2019 coordinated election through:

Voter Registration Drives – Thirty-eight volunteers completed the mandatory Secretary of State VRD training in order to register voters. Nineteen VRDs were conducted throughout the county between April and October at a variety of venues. Over 175 voter registration forms were filed on behalf of new voters or those updating their voter record. At the VRDS, volunteers answered a host of questions about voter registration laws, political issues and the LWV.

Candidate Forums – Led by Coordinator Josephine Porter, these volunteers

conducted six candidate forums (CFs) either independently or in partnership with other organizations concerning school board and municipal races.

Five of those CFs

(i.e., the Boulder, Broomfield, Lafayette and Louisville city council races and the BVSD Board race) were videotaped and are available for viewing by going to the lwvbc.org homepage, clicking on the "News" pull down and then "watch our videos." (continued on page 7)



Louisville City Council Candidate Forum

Presidents' Letter

By Peggy Leech and Susan Saunders, LWVBC Co-Presidents

October flew by. LWVBC hosted numerous candidate forums and ballot issue presentations, and provided valuable information for voters on our website and through vote411.org. Thanks to all who were involved in these efforts, and don't forget to vote if you haven't already!



Potluck Ballot Issue Presentation



Now we will again turn our focus to the strategic plan and our 5 priorities: 2020 election season, the Census, National Popular Vote, TABOR, and Climate Change. Part of accomplishing our goals will involve identifying new leaders and volunteers. 2020 promises to be a huge, incredibly busy year for the League, and we want to be ready.

In that vein, the Nominating Committee will begin its work soon, probably in January. Please consider saying "yes" to a leadership position, whether as a coordinator, team leader, or as a board member. Or you can even express your interest (before you are asked) to Carolyn Elliott, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Participation in leadership is a very rewarding part of being in the League, and it can be good training, too.

In the meantime, to finish out 2019, we have several events planned for November, and our Holiday Party will be on December 6, 6-8 pm, at the Gondolier in Longmont. This is a new venue for us, and we hope it will be fun. Cost is \$30, which includes heavy appetizers and wine/beer for you and a nonmember guest. As always, we challenge you to invite a young friend or person of color or both! You can register now on our [website](https://www.vote411.org).



2018 Holiday Party

Member News and Announcements



Non-citizen Rights in Boulder County

Thank you from the Social Policy Team to all who participated in the member consensus meetings in September! We have reviewed the recorders' notes and identified areas of agreement. The next step is review by our LWVBC board. Stay tuned.

Team members are Angie Layton (leader), Liz Black, Jan Buchanan, Mickey Greenberg, Deborah Hayes, Louisa Matthias, Denice Walker, Mary Ann Wilner, and Louisa Young.

Rose Gay at Nashville LWV Meeting

LWVBC member Rose Gay attended a meeting of the League of Women Voters of Nashville, Tennessee. They invited Tyler Boyd, the great, great grand nephew of Harry Burn, who with his "aye" extended the vote to women, ending the battle for the women's rights to vote in Tennessee. Tyler Boyd is also the author of *Tennessee Statesman Harry T. Burn: Woman Suffrage, Free Elections and a Life of Service*. Rose spoke with several members who are so envious of our voting rights in Colorado. It was disheartening to hear their efforts to ensure everyone votes are being dismissed by their government.



Will of the People: How We Vote and Why It Matters

What do these places have in common?

Maine, Santa Fe and Eastpointe (MI) -- All recently switched from plurality elections to a different voting method.

Fargo and Mission Viejo (CA) - Both will be using a new voting method in 2020.

Lowell (MA) and New York City - Both will be voting In November 2019 on whether or not to adopt a new voting method.

Lane County (includes Eugene, OR), St Louis and the US Congress - Activists are gathering signatures or votes to adopt better voting methods.

Why are voting methods such a hot topic? Find out at our November 10th Community Conversation with CU Professor Jeanne Clelland. Learn about the adoption and use of ranked voting, cumulative voting, approval voting and proportional representation in the communities named above.

[At the Boulder Public Library](#) on November 10 from 2:00-3:30.



Fundraiser: Mrs. Eda Bagel: Once More With Feeling

From nightclubs to church basements, dinner theaters to Pride festivals, Mrs. Eda Bagel has long-established herself as a distinctive, classic entertainer who has raised over \$1 million for charities with her productions. Come be part this year's only Colorado stop of this crazy one-"woman" train ride! A portion of the proceeds to benefit the League of Women Voters Boulder County. Bring your friends and neighbors!

At Nissis in Lafayette on November 20. Doors open at 6:15.

About Those Grocery Cards ...

Grocery cards can make a significant contribution to the League. During a recent three-month period, the League of Boulder County received over \$500 from only 22 households. Imagine what we could do if even three-fourths of our member households participated!

King Soopers Loyalty Card Program

At last - it has been made easy to take advantage of the King Soopers Community Rewards program! No need to refill your card; your purchases will be tracked for the rewards program when you scan your King Soopers card at checkout. Pay with your usual credit card and continue to receive benefits from that company. Here's how to enroll:

- Have your King Soopers Loyalty card in hand or get one from King Soopers Customer Service. This is the card you use to get discounts on items sold at the store.
- **Call 800-576-4377 Option 3** and give the customer service representative your loyalty card number to link your loyalty card to the Community Rewards Program to benefit the League of Women Voters of Boulder County. It should not be necessary to give the code for LWVBC, but it is FQ065. A Customer Service Representative will assist you so that your purchases at King Soopers count toward earning a rebate of funds to benefit LWVBC AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU!! Just be sure to show your loyalty card every time you shop at King Soopers.
- * Or, if you have an account with King Soopers, you can just go online and select LWVBC (FQ065)

Safeway Card Program

No changes at Safeway - continue to use your Safeway loyalty card to make purchases, and refill it from your preferred credit card when it runs low. You can put whatever amount you choose on the card, and each time you do so, it counts toward any benefits your credit card company offers, such as trip mileage.

- Contact funddevelopment@lwvbc to purchase a refillable Safeway card at \$10 each.
- Add money to it at a checkout or customer service counter and use it to pay each time you shop. Your purchases will earn money for LWVBC AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU!
- Using a credit card to add money to your Safeway card allows you to benefit from applicable cash back or rewards programs the credit card offers.

Contribute Disbursements from Your Retirement Account to Benefit LWVBC

by Anne Bryan

Take advantage of disbursements from your IRA or similar retirement fund to support the League of Women Voters of Boulder County! And do it soon, to make the most of the potential tax benefit. If you receive your Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA, that income is taxable for 2019. Because most retirement contributions made while you are working are **not** subject to withholding at the time of the contribution, annual distributions made directly to you **are** taxable.

Here's how to benefit the League:

- Call the investment manager(s) who handle your retirement savings account and tell them the amount of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) that you wish to be given to the League of Women Voters of Boulder County (LWVBC). You'll need the name, address and perhaps contact information:

League of Women Voters of Boulder County

PO Box 21274

Boulder CO 80308

LWVBoulderCounty@gmail.com

303-499-4544

- Your financial manager can issue the payment directly to the LWVBC. You will **not incur the tax liability** that normally occurs with that portion of your IRA distribution, because the funds go directly to a charitable organization.
- The 1099R you receive next spring will still include the amount donated to the LWVBC in the total. You or your tax preparer will need to report the entire amount on the IRA line and subtract the amount donated from the taxable amount. Of course, you need to keep copies of your paperwork to back up your donation.

Some firms begin making distributions before year-end, so act quickly. Once a check has been issued to you, the opportunity for tax savings while benefiting the League is lost. And notify the LWVBC of your gift; sometimes investment managers do not note the donor when they issue payments directly to a charity.



From Membership

Let's have a cup of coffee or tea together in the Middle of Boulder County at The Old Oak Coffeehouse at 136 Second Avenue in Charming Niwot on Saturday, November 9 at 10:00 AM. Purchase your coffee or tea and join us in the community hallway beside the coffee shop. We'll have some treats to pass.

- Catch up on what's going on in our League from Voter Service, our Issue Teams and Leadership.
- Air your observations, suggestions and concerns as we chat about the League.
- New members, this is an excellent way to get to know how we work and meet other members.

It helps us plan if you [register for this event](#), though there is no charge to attend. Purchasing a cup of coffee or tea is optional, but is a way to thank the coffee shop for reserving space for us. If you've never visited Niwot, which really is in the middle of the county, you have a treat in store for you. It's just east off the Diagonal Highway between Boulder and Longmont.

Thanks to Our Student Members! Of our 253 members, 21 are student members! Kudos to the contributions our students are making in volunteering for the candidate forums as ushers, time keepers and question sorters. Some have helped with Vote 411, at the Voter Registration tables and in arriving at Consensus. They've also helped Membership at our information tables, with recruiting new members, and with Spanish translation. They are an inspiration and a challenge to us all to work even harder to *make democracy work for all*.

Want to Contact Other LWVBC Members? Log into our website lwvbc.org. Under **Member Info** click on **Member Directory** and search by first or last names. Unsure of spelling? Just enter a few first letters of the name and scroll down below the map. Click on the face to see information about the member including their interests. Also under **Member Info**, you can click on **Member Contact List** to download and print a complete list of members with contact information as of the date given.

RENEW, RENEW, RENEW! Don't forget to [renew your membership](#) when you receive an email or letter notice to do so. If you need help or have questions, please contact Debby Vink, Membership Director, at debvink@gmail.com or at 303-435-7687.



(2019 Election, continued from page 1)

Ballot Issues – Five volunteers selected a municipality and collected information on ballot issues (Bis) being considered by ‘their’ municipality, attending city council meetings and hearings, speaking with community leaders and monitoring community conversations in local publications. When the muni clerks published the finalized BI language, the volunteers wrote a summary of the major provisions, background and pros and cons of each BI. League webmaster, Deborah Hayes and I then reviewed and formatted the BIs for brevity and accuracy before arranging for printing and collation of over 1500 BI brochures. The brochures were then distributed by four volunteers at muni public libraries and in conjunction with 13 BI presentations at public and private venues throughout the county.

VOTE411 – Led by Coordinator Stacie Johnson, six volunteers collected information on all candidate races, sent out invitations and board approved questions to the candidates and monitored candidate responses. This group also posted the finalized BI information on the VOTE411.org website. Please visit the VOTE411.org website and tell your family and friends about this invaluable nationwide voter guide!

My sincere thanks to each VS Team member who, through their dedication, provided voters with the desire, knowledge and confidence to participate in the 2019 election. That’s a wrap!



IN MEMORIAM

Patricia Long Johnson was born July 26, 1926 in Maryland, and died on October 18, 2019. She graduated from Oberlin in 1948, and worked at the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey. She then went to work for the CIA, serving in Washington DC, Vienna, Austria, Mexico, and Saigon, Vietnam. Pat and her husband Bill Johnson retired in 1976 and moved to Boulder the next year. Pat was very active with the League of Women Voters, serving as president for the local League from 1985 to 1987, and the state League from 1989 to 1991. Pat started the LWVBC Voting Methods Team and was active campaign finance reform. Pat and Bill were also involved with the Conference on World Affairs and the Colorado Music Festival.



Membership: 253 Members as of October 2019

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