

# The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County \* February 2020



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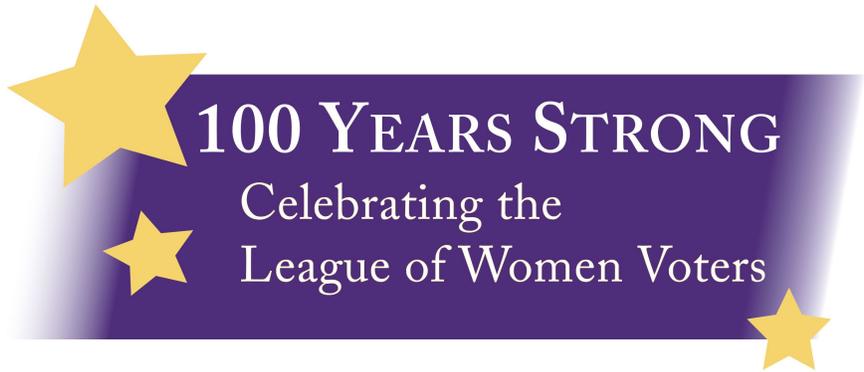
## Monthly Events Calendar

- Feb 3: Drinks and Dialog - Citizens Climate Lobby
- Feb 6: Issues for Action
- Feb 11: Issues for Action
- Feb 14: March to the Capitol
- Feb 14: Legislative Conference
- Feb 16: Social Policy
- Feb 22: Member Coffee
- Mar 1: 100th Anniversary

## LWVBC Social Media



## League of Women Voters 100th Anniversary Events



Join the League of Women Voters of Boulder County for an event on Sunday, March 1 from 3-5 PM at the Jewish Community Center to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the 19th amendment, which advanced but did not secure voting rights for all women. See the flyer on **page 9**. Register [here](#).

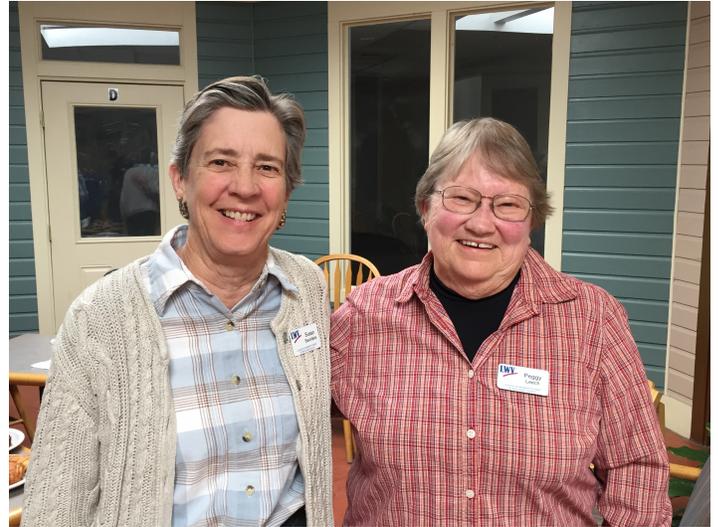


And join the League of Women Voters Colorado with a walk to the capitol starting at the LWVCO Offices at 9:00 AM on February 14, followed by the 2020 legislative conference from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Denver Public Library. See the flyer on **page 10**. Register [here](#).

**Presidents' Letter**

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

The time has come for the Nominating Committee to do its work. Board members are working on a new model for our board structure, with the intent to increase the diversity of its members. We have come to realize that a Board of Directors might best spend its time on defining the big picture of where the LWVBC can be most visible and effective in empowering voters and defending democracy. This will require guidance from diverse members of our community and actions in new arenas. This is a work in progress, and it should be an interesting transition.



Meanwhile the big picture must be put into action by other involved members carrying out the activities selected by the Board to further our mission. It will require the contributions of time and energy as well as skills and experience in a variety of areas - event planning, youth engagement, grant writing, communications, to name a few. The Nominating Committee needs members to identify themselves and their willingness to step into some board and off-board positions to support our activities. Peggy and I have served on the Board in more than one position the past 6 to 12 years. While we and others have enjoyed moving the league to a level of planning and executing plans for the benefit of county voters, we are calling for others to step up and contribute your skills.

There is always lots of work to be done in the League, on-board or off-board. If you would like to assume a more-responsible role in the League, please be open to the Nominating Committee if they contact you. Or, better yet, reach out to Carolyn Elliott, chair of the Nominating Committee, and see if there is a role for you! Her email is: [carolynelliott1515@gmail.com](mailto:carolynelliott1515@gmail.com). You will be glad you did—it is such a rewarding experience.

This is Peggy speaking, and I just want to let our members know what a privilege it has been to serve on the board. I have been on for 2 six-year stints, and it is now time to step aside from the board. I like to tell the story about when I first started on the board in 2005 and was terrified of public speaking. I had to keep my remarks to less than one minute, because I would forget to breathe! Over the years of working with the League, and especially as being President, I have grown so much and learned so much about our community, and I have worked with many incredible members. Probably the best skill I learned was to develop confidence in myself, and I now feel perfectly at ease with public speaking!



## Member News and Announcements

### Update on Climate Change Lawsuit

Last year, the LWVUS filed a 'friend of the court' brief on behalf of the plaintiffs in *Juliana v. United States*, brought in 2015 by [Our Children's Trust](#). The 21 youth plaintiffs (including Boulder man Xiuhtezcatl Martinez) allege that the government is violating their constitutional rights by promoting the development and use of fossil fuels, despite knowing for decades that fossil fuels are destroying the climate system. On January 17, 2020, the Ninth Circuit Court found primarily for the plaintiffs but held that the U.S. government cannot stop climate change. Counsel for the plaintiffs says, "The *Juliana* case is far from over." Read more [here](#).

### Come One, Come All! Volunteers Needed!

As an all-volunteer organization of talented people, we need folks to step up and cover some of the responsibilities. To that end, if you like to work with volunteers, or help lead projects, or research for particular information, or help with planning and training, or work with new members, or write or speak publicly, or engage in strategic thinking, then you are our person!

We can always use help with Membership, Action, Communications, Fund Development, and Voter Services too.

All those interested, please e-mail your interest to Carolyn Elliott, chairperson for the Nominating Committee, at... [carolynelliott1515@gmail.com](mailto:carolynelliott1515@gmail.com)

Thank you ahead of time for all your hard work!

### Generous Legacy Gift From Patricia Johnson

The LWVBC learned recently that Patricia Johnson, who died in October 2019, aged 93, left a wonderful legacy gift to the Boulder County League. We have received a bequest of just over \$17,000!

Pat, who served as president of LWVBC and of the Colorado League, had a remarkable life. Following her graduation from Oberlin she found work at the CIA, starting as a secretary since women were not considered for positions as agents at the time. However, her skills were recognized and she served in Washington DC, Vienna, Mexico and Saigon before she and her husband, also with the CIA, retired to Boulder in 1977. Pat was attractive, stylish and well-spoken. She became a powerful force in her adopted community and supported the Colorado Music Festival and the LWVBC, where her last position was as Fund Development Director; she was an expert on campaign finance and an impressive speaker.

Friends who spoke at her memorial on Jan. 24 described her devotion to music, to the League and to her friends. When Pat made her estate plan, she had no idea what future circumstances might be. We have received her bequest just as LWVBC is beginning an incredibly challenging year, and Pat's gift will help us go forward. She will be missed by those who knew her, and we are immensely grateful for her generosity.



Neal McBurnett Speaking at Pat Johnson's Memorial Service

## Shoebox Stories

On January 17, LWVBC was honored to participate in a "Shoebox Stories" presentation by Motus Theater, with 4 of our members reading the stories written by 4 women in sanctuary in Colorado. Our 4 readers (Lauren Modery, Emma Piller, Jeannette Hillery, and Kay Palmer Marsh) did a masterful job, and the stories were very powerful, as well as the discussion afterwards with some Motus performers.

LWVBC has purchased a "Shoebox", which can be used by various members in book clubs and other small gatherings. This is a toolkit for hosting your own community reading. It includes photos of the 4 women in sanctuary, 4 scripts, and instructions/suggestions for hosting. It should take about 55 minutes, plus discussion time. If you are interested in using this Shoebox for your own group, contact Peggy Leech, [pegleech@aol.com](mailto:pegleech@aol.com).



## Eco-cycle Tour - Time to Rethink Recycling

Jeannette Hillery arranged a tour of Eco-cycle on January 8 including a talk regarding how to address 21st century waste streams. Jeannette and Betsy Neely are pictured at left.

## Order Your LWVBC Name Badge

Are you tired of those paper stick on name badges? Do they make you jealous of others' handwriting? We have a cure! It's easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Please make a contribution of \$10 on our website as an "other payment"
2. email [president@lwvbc.org](mailto:president@lwvbc.org) with your name as you would like it to appear on your name badge
3. Wear it proudly

## Social Policy Team Meetings

The social policy team met at Frasier Senior Community and discussed planning and future topics of interest by the members. The group is still considering new projects to work on and welcomes new members who are interested in working on social justice issues. The next meeting will be the third Sunday in February at Frasier Senior Community at 1:30 PM. Call Angie Layton with any questions: 720-934-9497

## LWVBC 2019 Holiday party

The 2019 holiday party was held on December 6 at The Gondolier in Longmont. At right, a Mothers/Daughters picture from the party. Left to Right: Hannah Crowe, Elizabeth Crowe, Peggy Leech, Mary Leech, Molly Saunders, Susan Saunders



## Issues For Action! 2020 (Formerly Called Program Planning)

By Mary Ann Wilner

It is time to discuss Program Planning. This year we are following LWVCO's lead by naming Program Planning, "Issues for Action." We recognize this name change may require some adjusting, and we appreciate your help in making the transition seamless.

This is the year we will review Issues for Action on the local league level for the upcoming 2020-2021 year and Issues for Action on the national league level for the years 2020-2022.

The first Issues for Action meeting will be on February 6 from 1 to 2:30 at the Meadows Public Library in Boulder.

The second meeting will be the evening of February 11

from 6-7:30 at the Lafayette Public Library. Please make every effort to attend one of the meetings as this is the only full membership meeting where members can:

- ~ Identify Issues for Action to pursue on the local level and
- ~ Recommend additions to, revisions to, or deletions of existing league positions on the local and national levels.

The 90 minute meeting will be divided into four parts:

1) On the national level, we will discuss and vote to support or oppose two issues: a proposed concurrence proposed by state leagues on the topic of Voting Methods (CO and other states sponsored a new position); and a request by the Illinois LWV to make abolishing the Electoral College an action focus on the national level.

2) On the state level, we will discuss whether we want the LWVCO board to support, stay neutral or oppose a 2020 state ballot initiative to change the state constitution to say "only" citizens can vote in all elections instead of the current "every" citizen can vote in all elections.

3) We will review the existing public policy positions held by national LWV and our local LWVBC. Members can propose to retain, revise, or delete policy positions.

4) The team leaders of LWVBC Issue Teams and Voter Services will present their Issues for Action for the 2020-2021 year. The six Issue Teams are: the 2020 Census; National Popular Vote; Voting Methods; Money in Politics; and Social Policy and Schools. Please consider offering to volunteer with any of these Issue teams as well as with operations. We have less than a half time staff person, and rely on our members!

Please click on the [link](#) to see more information, and it is very helpful if you will register for one or both of the meetings on our website.



## **Possible Win-Win for a Proposed National Concurrence**

*By the Voting Methods Team*

Our LWVBC Voting Methods Team and LWVCO may have reached a win-win solution with the proponents of the proposed concurrence on Voter Representation/Electoral Systems. We suggested replacing the “majority bullet point” with the following language which basically comes from our state position:

**Strive for an election outcome that more accurately represents voter preferences.**

The proponents of the original language responded, “We will propose your suggested language and share your letter with the state leaders that worked on this concurrence with us. And of course we will share your language with the LWWUS Board as well.”

In elections with more than 2 candidates, a majority is often impossible to achieve. The LWWUS *Impact on Issues* calls for a “broad and general” position. Mathematically accuracy is also an important goal.

LWWUS is piloting a new process with this proposed concurrence and has asked for feedback from Local Leagues. A very recent twist in the process is the sudden addition of the following line at the bottom of the proposal:

**The position is not meant to overtake state positions already decided on alternative elections systems, but as an add-on for states that do not yet have a position.**



We are not sure how this change came about nor how to interpret a national position that can be overruled by a state position since the League should be speaking with one voice. The conversation continues...

At left, Voting Methods Team co-leader Celeste Landry (right) answering an audience question at Frasier Meadows Retirement Community on January 20<sup>th</sup> as “Making Votes Matter” presenter Pat Ventura looks on. Apologies for no photo of team member Neal McBurnett participating in the Denver Clerk & Recorder’s Election Modernization meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> about alternative voting

methods.

## **The 2020 Election Year – We’re Off and Running**

*by Jeanine Pow*

Voter Service began the 2020 election year in earnest by providing the mandatory annual voter registration drive (VRD) training to 55 volunteers on January 25, 2020. The training was filled-to-capacity and, by all reports, was well received. The VRD trainers, shown in the accompanying photo from left to right: Jeanine Pow, Molly Hardman, Deborah Farkas, Jackie Alderete, Catherine Brown and Carol Brown.



## League of Women Voters of Boulder County

In an effort to register as many voters as possible before the Presidential Primary, Voter Service is making a big push to schedule multiple VRDs. Consequently, between January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup>, there are nine VRDs scheduled across Boulder County. Although all of the volunteer slots for these events have been filled, trained volunteers should frequently check for new VRD volunteer opportunities at the [lwvbc.org](http://lwvbc.org) home page under "Upcoming Events." We will be having many more VRDs over the coming months.

Throughout the 2020 election year, Voter Service will be focusing on registering and educating youth and people of color across the county. To that end, we have partnered with The Latino Task Force of Boulder County and the American Association of University Women to assist us in conducting VRDs within the targeted populations. Additionally, I am pleased to announce that Martha Dever has agreed to fill the newly created position of Voter Registration Youth Coordinator. Martha has extensive experience as a public-school teacher, a university professor and a university administrator. She will be reaching out to the high schools in Boulder County offering the LWVBC's expertise to assist in registering youth 16 years of age and older consistent with Colorado election laws passed in 2019.

VRD Coordinator position: Voter Service continues to seek a person to take over as VRD Coordinator. (I continue to do the VRD Coordinator job as well as the Voter Service Director job until this position is filled). This person will be responsible for scheduling VRDs throughout the county as well as posting information concerning upcoming VRDs and volunteer slots available. If you have a passion for encouraging citizens to register to vote and would like to find out more about this key position, please send an email to [voterservice@lwvbc.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvbc.org).

It's going to be a memorable year. Stay tuned!

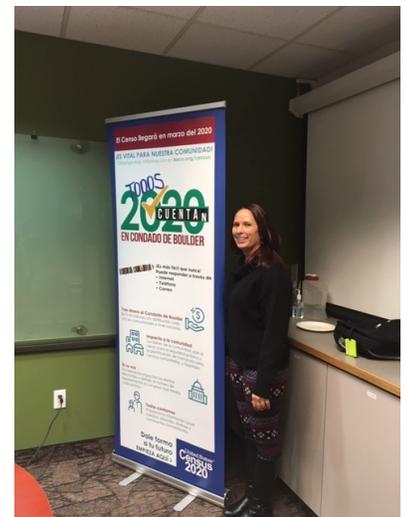
## Launching the 2020 Census

*By Peggy Leech*

Our LWVBC is a founding member of the Boulder County Non-Profit Complete Count Committee (CCC). Other CCCs in Boulder County include City of Boulder, City of Longmont, and the University of Colorado. Boulder County is providing resources and helping with coordination between the groups.

The Non-Profit CCC is co-hosting an event with the Longmont Community Foundation on February 12, 4-6:30 pm. It is a "Train the Trainer" workshop, with Dolores Huerta as the keynote speaker. The goal is to educate, motivate, prepare and equip a cadre of Boulder County professionals and volunteers to educate others about the importance of the census, how to respond, and conduct questionnaire assistance. If you are interested in attending please contact Peggy Leech, [pegleech@aol.com](mailto:pegleech@aol.com) so you can receive registration information. And, if you are interested in volunteering in the Census effort, contact Peggy.

Rossana Longo-Better, LWVBC's former intern, and currently the Bilingual Reporter at KGNU, produced a podcast on the Census, which includes very interesting voices from around the county. Peggy Leech was interviewed for this podcast, and participated in a live panel discussion on January 30, 2020. The podcast can be heard by Googling "KGNU Trends Podcast", and click on the podcast about the Census.



## **From Membership**

**Member Coffees** are planned for the following Saturdays at 10:00 am:

2/22 Lafayette Brewing Market

3/21 Niwot, Old Oak Coffeehouse (in community hall beside it)

4/4 Panera in Superior

5/16 Panera in Boulder

Come socialize, meet new members and help orient them to LWVBC. Bring your friends who are curious about what we do. Event registration on our website is recommended, but not required.

## **LWVBC Scholarship**

Membership is pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has approved a \$500 LWVBC Scholarship program for a student member of the League of Women Voters of Boulder County. The deadline for application for 2019-20 is April 21, 2020.

Qualifications:

1. The student member will have been a member of the League of Women Voters of Boulder County for one year and fulfilled the 20 volunteer hours requested of student members in exchange for free membership.
2. The student member demonstrates an understanding of the mission and function of the League of Women Voters.
3. The student member has made a demonstrable contribution to the mission and activities of the League.
4. The student member will be recommended by three members of LWVBC, one of whom is the Membership Director.
5. The student can provide evidence of current enrollment in a degree or certificate program of an accredited Colorado institution of post-secondary learning.

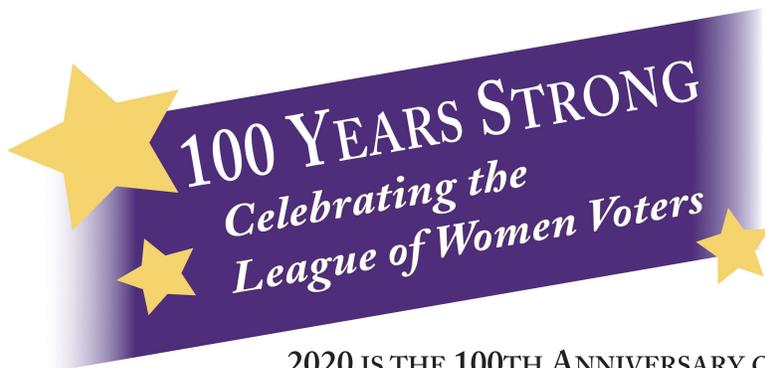
Please contact [Membershipteam@lwvbc.org](mailto:Membershipteam@lwvbc.org) or [lwvbouldercounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwvbouldercounty@gmail.com) for an application.

Find Contact Information for Other Members

**A printable member list** updated as of February 1, 2020 is available at [lwvbc.org](http://lwvbc.org). Go to the dropdown menu under "Member Info" and select "Member Contact List." It will print on 8 letter size pages double-sided or simply save it as a .pdf file to your computer.

**The Member Directory** is another way to find contact information for other members. You can search by first or last names, or even only some letters of a name. Click on the picture of the member (or where a picture could be) to get the full profile of the member, including a phone number, if given. You can also search by interest to see members who have indicated that interest.

**You must log in as a member to be able to see the "Member Info" menu or use the Member Directory.**



Register at the LWVBC [website](#)

2020 IS THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT, WHICH ADVANCED, BUT DID NOT SECURE VOTING RIGHTS FOR ALL WOMEN.

## Join the League of Women Voters of Boulder County

to honor our history, and build power and resources for a new century of voter service and advocacy!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 3–5 PM**

**Jewish Community Center  
6007 Oreg Ave, Boulder, CO 80303**

Tickets prices start at \$75 (Students are Free!)  
Corporate sponsorships: \$250 - \$2,500

### PROGRAM FEATURING:

- “Eleanor Roosevelt” by Susan Marie Frontzszak
- LWV Member Photo Exhibit
- Appetizers, Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Drinks
- Suggested attire: cocktail dress, party clothes or historical/period costumes

For more information: [lwvbouldercounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwvbouldercounty@gmail.com), <http://Lwvbc.org>

*LWV of Boulder County is a 501c3 charitable organization.*

*A portion of ticket sales, and all donations will be tax deductible.*





Register at the  
LWVBC [website](#)

Register Today

# 2020 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



FEBRUARY 14, 2020 11:00 - 4:00

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY CENTRAL BRANCH - CONFERENCE CENTER  
\$45 members / \$50 nonmembers  
Includes lunch



Membership: 254 Members as of January 2020

Co-presidents: Peggy Leech and Susan Saunders  
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