

The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County * April 2020



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Monthly Events Calendar

Please check our events calendar for updates. All in-person events have been cancelled or rescheduled for now.

Apr 16: DEI webinar

May 2: Annual Meeting **via Zoom**

LWVBC Social Media



League of Women Voters of Boulder County Annual Meeting 2019

This year's annual meeting will be held on **Saturday, May 2, 2020** via Zoom video conferencing. More information about the meeting, as well as materials relevant to the meeting, begins on **page 6**.

Feeling helpless? What can we be doing to serve our democracy?

By Peggy Leech

In these days of canceled events, canceled VRDs, and "social distancing", many of our members may be asking themselves what they can do to stay involved. Here are some suggestions:

Participate in the Census, and encourage your family, neighbors, and friends to participate. (See Census Updates on **page 4**.)

Become familiar with Initiative 271 (TABOR Reform). This will need thousands of signatures before August 3, but it is not yet safe to gather signatures. Consider carrying a petition when it is safe to do so. Start now, by identifying 40 people to sign the petition. LWVCO has come out in support of this initiative, and our [Money in Politics Team](#) is working to provide information and support.

Participate in postcard-writing. There are several campaigns being planned by LWVCO, and by the statewide Yes on National Popular Vote (NPV) campaign. Stay tuned for further emails over the next few months. There will be postcard campaigns on:

- The Equal Right Amendment (ERA)
- HR-1, For the People Act, which addresses voter access, election integrity, election security, political spending, and ethics for the three branches of government
- "Yes on NPV" campaign, which will be on Colorado's ballot this November

Participate in various webinars:

- LWVUS DEI webinars on April 16: [Register Here](#) and May 21: [Register Here](#)
 - NPV Virtual Town Hall with Senator Mike Foote, plus showing of new documentary (28 min.): "Winner Take All"—being planned for April or May (stay tuned)
 - LWVCO webinars on redistricting, probably in July
- And, among many other possibilities, register to attend our virtual Annual Meeting!

League of Women Voters of Boulder County

Presidents' Letter

By Peggy Leech and Susan Saunders, LWVBC Co-Presidents

Our March Voter was issued on March 9, and all of our lives have changed since that date. LWVBC is no exception, and we have been adapting in the weeks since.

First, the good news: our 100th Anniversary celebration took place on March 1, and we raised about \$6,000 during that event. Thank you to all who attended and/or donated. And thanks to our sponsors: Elevations Credit Union, Motus Theater, Allegra, New Era, Zonta Foothills Club, KGNU, Longmont Community Foundation, Brightside Wealth Advisors, Hazel's Beverage World, JVA Consulting Engineers, YWCA Boulder County, and Boulder Valley Women's Health Center.

An interesting tidbit about the 100th Anniversary celebration was how many mother-daughter combos were there that day. Sometimes, it was 3 generations!

On March 8, the International Women's Day Celebration was held at the OUR Center in Longmont, sponsored by the Women's Collaborative of Boulder County and by YWCA Boulder County. It was a wonderful event with a good turnout, and the theme was pay equity. At the time, we were just starting to think about "elbow bumps".

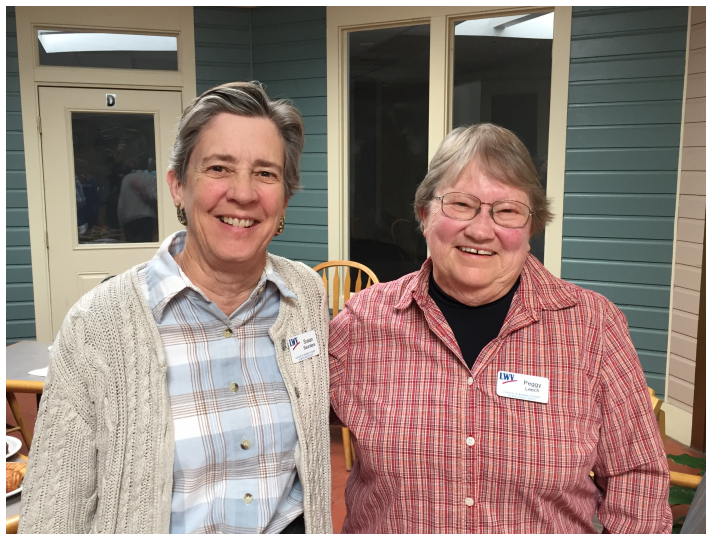
Shortly after that, everything changed. We were scrambling to cancel VRDs, member coffees, and other events and activities. We also stopped planning some activities that were in the pipeline for April. We conducted our March 19 board meeting via Zoom video conferencing. Many internal meetings have been held by conference call or Zoom.

We had planned a candidate forum in Erie for March 12—it was canceled on March 11, and a virtual forum was held on March 18. Lots of changes there, but everyone performed admirably, social distancing was accomplished, and the Facebook posting of the forum has been viewed about 3,800 times.

The biggest change for our members is that we will now have the Annual Meeting via Zoom video conferencing. In addition, we changed the date from April 25 to May 2. We hope you will join us—materials start on **page 6**.



Making Democracy Work For All



All of us are part of a huge, interconnected, worldwide community, and the steps we take to keep our own neighbors safe are very important. This is another facet to our democracy, to do the right thing. We hope all of our members are safe and healthy.

Left: If your badge is in this picture, please get in touch with [Debby Vink](#) to retrieve it. Also contact Debby if you would like a badge of your own! They are magnetic and very nice.

April 2020

March – The Cruellest Month?

By Jeanine Pow

In his poem “The Waste Land,” T.S. Eliot declared April to be the cruelest month. Whether he was right remains to be seen. However, having gone through the last few weeks, many would agree that March has proven to be the cruelest month in memory. Was it less than four weeks ago that the Super Tuesday presidential primary occurred? It seems like a lifetime ago. Within the span of one month, the coronavirus pandemic has arrived in the U.S. and changed life as we know it. The question is where do we go from here?

From a League perspective, we must regroup and, refocusing the structure already in place, change with the changed world. To that end, effective immediately, all future LWVBC candidate forums will be live streamed. Citizens will be encouraged to pose candidate questions in advance by email and to view the forums on their home computers. If you question the depth or fairness of using this format, please watch the March 18, 2020 Erie Candidate Forum on the LWVBC website that was masterfully transformed from a traditional forum to a live streamed event in a matter of days. (Kudos to Elizabeth Crowe and Peggy Leech for making that happen!)

It is unclear when we will be able to again conduct traditional information tables and voter registration drives (VRDs). I made the decision to cancel five VRDs scheduled in March and expect cancellations will continue through April and perhaps well beyond. Instead, we must focus our efforts on VOTE411, the League’s one stop shopping for voter registration, checking voter registration status and, based on one’s address, learning about the candidates and issues on the ballot. When we will be able to conduct ballot issue presentations before a live audience again is anybody’s guess. The bottom line is that we must be flexible and open to change in order to meet the challenge of a changed world.

Unfortunately, as we are confronted with these changes I am having to step back from my responsibilities as the Voter Service Director. Since July 2019, I have been working to fulfill the multiple demands of VS Director as well as continuing to fulfill the VRD Coordinator duties. Although I’ve advertised for a person to fill the VRD Coordinator position since early January, the position remains vacant. As the 2020 election year progresses, I anticipate that the Voter Service demands will only increase. Given my age and personal health issues, this is unsustainable, particularly in-light-of the risk of exposure to the coronavirus.



**Your voice matters!
Inform your vote.**

Consequently, I’ve given my notice of resignation. I plan to work from home in the VS Director capacity until May 16, 2020 by which time I am hopeful that we have a person to fill that position. At that point, I’ll return to my former job as VRD Coordinator, scheduling events and organizing volunteers without going into the field. If you or someone you know is interested in the Voter Service Director position, please email lwwbouldercounty@gmail.com for further information.

Census Update

By Peggy Leech

Although the official Census date is April 1, efforts began on March 12 to collect online or phone responses. Most Boulder County residents started receiving their letters from the Census Bureau on about March 19.

Through March 26, response rates are as follows:

- National: 30.2%
- Colorado: 31.2%
- Boulder County: 36.7 %

You can track response rates here: <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>

The COVID-19 outbreak caused disruption just as the Census effort was beginning. All outreach and questionnaire assistance events were canceled throughout the County, and all census field operations have been suspended. Many dates have been extended.

The most important messages to get out are:

- It's never been easier to self-respond to the Census from your home, whether online, by phone, or by mail.
- If you did not receive a code from the Census Bureau, you can still respond online at <https://2020census.gov/>, or you can call and complete your questionnaire by phone with a Census worker:
English dial: 844-330-2020
Spanish dial: 844-468-2020
- If residents have not self-responded online or by phone by early April, most (but not all) will receive a written form to mail in. These should be received in April.



The biggest disruptions have occurred in the following areas of the Census effort:

- **Mountain communities and those who receive their mail at PO Boxes.** Written forms and instructions were to be delivered to the residences (not the PO Boxes), but field operations were suspended after only one day. The current response rate in these communities is about 3%. **These communities can still respond online or by phone, as outlined above.**



- **College students.** Many students returned home just as the Census was beginning. The message for college students and parents is: college students are to be counted where they normally live for most of the college year. If they were counted at home instead, please respond to the Census from your college address. The Census Bureau would rather see people counted twice than not at all or in the incorrect location—they will be following up to eliminate duplicates. This is one of the reasons for providing a phone number on the Census questionnaire. See more detailed info from CU here: [CU Boulder Today](#).
- **People experiencing homelessness.** This effort was originally scheduled to take place March 30-April 1, but it has been delayed by approximately one month (or until it is safe to conduct the census survey of the homeless community).

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 2, 2020

10:00 - 11:30 am

Will be conducted via **Zoom** videoconference



Due to the COVID-19 emergency, we cannot meet in person at Nissi's for this year's Annual Meeting. Please plan to "attend" the LWVBC Annual Meeting virtually, on Saturday, May 2nd. You may be able to "see" many of your League friends, even if we can't meet in person. We look forward to seeing you!

We will begin the day with the business meeting, which will include election of officers, approval of the budget, approval of by-laws changes, and adoption of the 2020-2021 program. For those who cannot attend via Zoom we will provide the opportunity to participate through an online survey in advance of the meeting.

We will then proceed with the Awards portion of our meeting. We will be honoring two Community Partners. Julie Frieder is Boulder County's Partnership Specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau. Elle Cabbage is the Executive Director of the Erie Chamber of Commerce. After that, we will present some awards to our members who have worked so hard all year long.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: May 2, 2020 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/vpUsdOqtqzMpE8cDMF8P_1qjcxmzei9rg

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

All registered members will receive the Annual Meeting booklet with the annual reports about 3 days in advance. It will also be available as a file during our zoom meeting. If you have not used Zoom before here is a helpful informational [video](#).

ISSUES FOR ACTION (FORMERLY PROGRAM PLANNING) PLANNING

Meetings held: Feb. 6, Meadows Library, Boulder and Feb. 11, Lafayette Library

Total Attendance: 26 members. 12 members on Feb. 6; 16 members on Feb. 12 (two attended both meetings but voted only once).

National Level:

Those attending the planning meetings came to agreement on National program topics as follows:

a) Voter Representation/Electoral Systems (proposed concurrence on Voting Methods): Support only if language is changed from "Require the winner to receive a **majority** of the votes for executive and single seat offices" to "Implement alternatives to plurality voting that improve the election experience and more accurately represent voter preferences." Or a change that expresses the same sentiment would be acceptable.



Attendees also added a request: that Leagues receive the contact list for other Leagues well in advance of program planning so that the Leagues can be contacted to explain a position before materials are prepared for program planning.

b) Abolish the Electoral College: The Meadows library group opposes the Illinois LWV proposal to urge National LWV to make abolishing the Electoral College an Action Issue for 2020. The Lafayette library group was neutral, but opposed using a constitutional convention to change the Constitution should the League take the position of abolishing the Electoral College.

c) Both LWVBC groups support LWVUS's proposed focus of continuing the Campaign for Making Democracy Work for All.

State Level: Both LWVBC groups urge the Colorado LWV to oppose an upcoming 2020 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.

Proposed changes to national, state or local positions:

There were no proposed changes to current state and national positions.

In the absence of a presentation of Anne Norwood's suggestion for a LWVBC study to move to district elections for the City of Boulder, no action was taken.

2020-2021 Action plans for LWVBC - Issue Team and Voter Services leaders explained the action foci for 2020-2021. Members present at both meetings accepted these. Volunteers signed up for the Issue Teams and the Voter Services team.

New Position:

Following several years of study and member education by members of the Social Policy Issue Team, consensus was reached and the following position was approved by the Board in February. It will be included in the next edition of the Handbook and on our website.

POSITION ON NONCITIZEN RIGHTS IN BOULDER COUNTY

(Adopted February 20, 2020)

The LWVBC supports the inclusion of certain noncitizens residing in Boulder County, in some of our local democratic processes, at the county, municipal, school district, and special district level.

First, the LWVBC supports voting rights, limited to the county and municipality where they reside, for noncitizens whose immigration status is one of these four:

- Legal permanent residents (green card holders)
- Immigrants granted asylum
- Noncitizens who have applied for citizenship or
- DACA recipients (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and TPS holders (Temporary Protective Status).



Each immigration status carries a length of U.S. residency requirement, which meets or exceeds the state's residence requirements for voting. If these noncitizens also meet the state's age requirement, they should be eligible to vote in local candidate elections and on local ballot proposals with and without fiscal impact.

Second, we support allowing noncitizen residents who meet one of the four criteria above for voting in Boulder County, plus noncitizen residents with expired visas or no visa, to participate in the following additional ways: being appointed to boards and commissions; serving on non-Federal juries; and running for elected office.

We believe that neither working within the relevant jurisdiction's boundary nor holding a temporary visa are by themselves, sufficient grounds to give voting or participation rights to noncitizens in local elections.

History:

The LWVBC has studied noncitizen rights since 2013 and concluded that the U.S. immigration policies, as practiced, are failing to provide a clear, consistent, and fair path to citizenship, with the attendant privileges and responsibilities of participating in the democratic processes which provide individuals with representation in government.

PROPOSED BUDGET

The LWVBC's actual spending for last year, the current budget, and expenditures as of

February 29, 2020, and the proposed budget for 2020-21 follow. The Budget Committee (Linda Katalenich-Chair, Susan Saunders, Anne Bryan and Pat Long), assisted by Co-President Peggy Leech, reviewed the current year budget and expenses, team funding requests, and strategic objectives to estimate next year's income and expenses.

Our campaign to raise funds for 2 years of support for an administrative assistant has served us well. Enormous progress in the League's visibility and service to Boulder County residents was made through the employment of the person and talents of Mandy Nuku. Recent grant applications have brought in a small amount of funding for this category of operational support but fall far short of projected need for additional years. A bequest received and a few large gifts have boosted the funds available to continue Mandy's position, but not to the point of securing it entirely for another year.

Income expectations for the grocery card program have been scaled back due to the decline following King Sooper's change in handling of their cards. While their new system is actually simpler - no reloading required - the one-time step to commit your card to the benefit of the LWVBC seems to have been ignored by many previous supporters. Keep your eyes peeled for instructions on our website. This is such a simple and cost-free way to support your League.

Finally, with the Corona virus unknowns in our future, we may see decreased funding because there are so many community needs. On the other hand, we may see more and more "virtual" events with less expense, but we are hopeful this will be a one-year impact factor and we seek your sustained commitment to support your League for years to come.

2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19

The Financial Review Committee has reviewed the record keeping of LWVBC which includes monthly revenue and expenditures reports, beginning and ending cash balances and the FY end bank statement/reconciliation

We find that the books are an accurate reflection of the financial condition of the LWVBC for the FY 2018-19 and of its operations and cash flows for that fiscal year. We commend the Treasurer for her commitment to accuracy, clarity, transparency and compliance with recommended best League and general accounting practices.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Brown



Net Worth end Feb 2020 - As of 2/29/2020

Account	2/29/2020 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
CD fall	3,123.87
ECU Savings	25.57
Endowment Fund	1,794.58
General Fund ECU	41,543.65
General Fund WF	0.00
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	46,487.67
TOTAL ASSETS	46,487.67
LIABILITIES	
	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	46,487.67

Slate of Candidates for 2020 to 2021/22

With our desire and need to increase demographic diversity amongst us to be relevant to citizens today, the Board decided to create a path that will encourage those members who are younger and busier to have a role in League governance. Doing so will create better opportunities for more inclusion. As a result, we have a slate of candidates that reflects the beginnings of that shift, a slate which you will vote on at the annual meeting.

Therefore, we place in nomination for election at the annual meeting the following:

Elected Officers:

Co-President, Community Engagement	1-year term	2020 - 2021	Elizabeth Crowe
Co-President, Administration	1-year term	2020 - 2021	Gaythia Weis (starting Nov) Susan Saunders (until Nov)
Treasurer	2-year term	2020 - 2022	Pat Long

Elected Directors:

Action	2nd yr of term	2019 - 2021	Sylvia Bernstein (starting Nov) Mary Ann Wilner (until Nov)
Membership Director	2-year term	2020 - 2022	Debby Vink
Voter Service	2nd yr of term	2019 - 2021	VACANT

Elected Directors-at-Large: (3 positions) with specialties determined by individual and Board:

Position 1	2-year term	2020 - 2022	Shiquita Yarbrough
Position 2	2-year term	2020 - 2022	Carol Brown



Position 3	2-year term	2020 - 2022	Jackie Alderete Urena
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Elected Nominating Committee:

Chair	1-year term	2020 - 2021	Carolyn Elliott
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Members (2)	1-year term	2020 - 2021	VACANT
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Elected Officers Continuing

Board Secretary	2nd yr of term	2019 - 2021	Molly Saunders
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Elected Directors Continuing

Fund Development	2nd yr of term	2019 - 2021	Anne Bryan
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Serving off-board:

Communications Coordinator	Jennifer Bales
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Governance/Leadership/Planning Resource	Caroline Himes
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Youth Engagement Coordinator	Denice Walker
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Thanks to the diligent efforts of the Nominating Committee, Cindy Outlaw, Carol Brown, Debby Vink, Pat Long, Susan Saunders (ex-officio), Peggy Leech (ex-officio), and Carolyn Elliott (chair), we accomplished our task.

BYLAWS CHANGE PROPOSALS

In support of the Strategic Planning goals for leadership inclusion and development, plus the desire and need to increase demographic diversity amongst us to be relevant to citizens today, the Board approved two suggested changes to the bylaws. These are suggestions for the creation of a path that will encourage those members who are younger and busier to have an active role in League governance. The Board submits the background and language changes below, for approval by the general membership at the Annual Meeting.

- The first change began with discussions in 2017 and were taken up again in 2019, being cleared with the National League in July of 2019. This would allow for the LWVBC President to be an ex officio member of the Nominating Committee. The new language changes one sentence by deleting 4 words and would read:

“ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 2. The President: The President, or a Co-President, shall preside at all ... The President or a Co-President, shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees. ~~except the Nominating Committee.~~ The President, or a Co-President, shall have such usual powers”

- The second change concerns individual members’ length of service on the Board. In November of 2019, the Board approved the implementation of term limits to encourage development of new

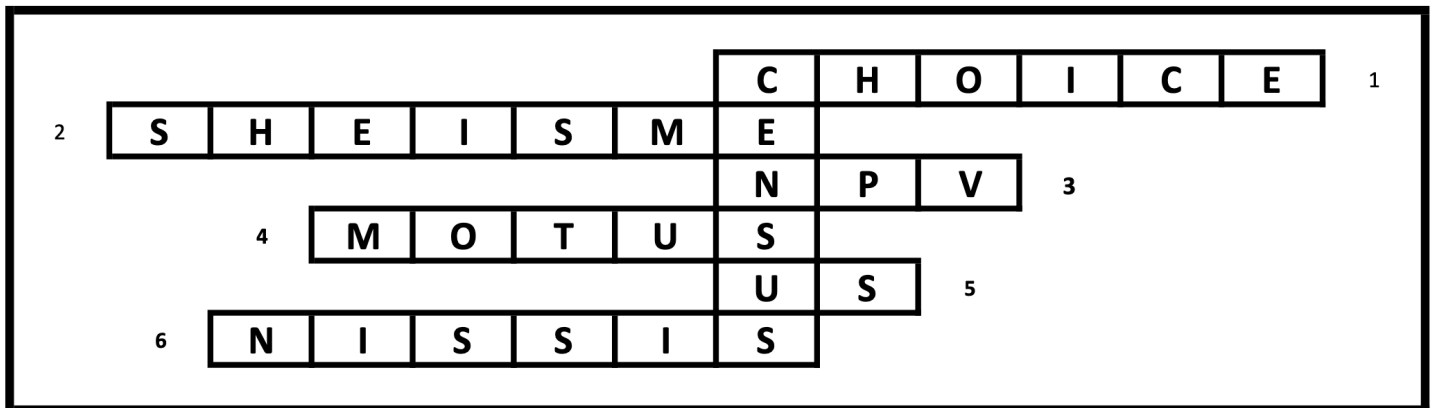
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leaders and their active participation in directing the League's future. The new language adds one sentence:

"ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office: The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the League elected by the general membership, at least six elected Directors, and not more than six appointed Directors. At least three of the Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. Individual Board members shall not serve more than three, consecutive, two-year terms. The elected members shall appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding six, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting."

Answers:



Membership: 266 Members as of April 2020

Co-presidents: Peggy Leech and Susan Saunders
president@lwvbc.org

Boulder County Voter Editor: Jennifer Bales
jbales@me.com

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