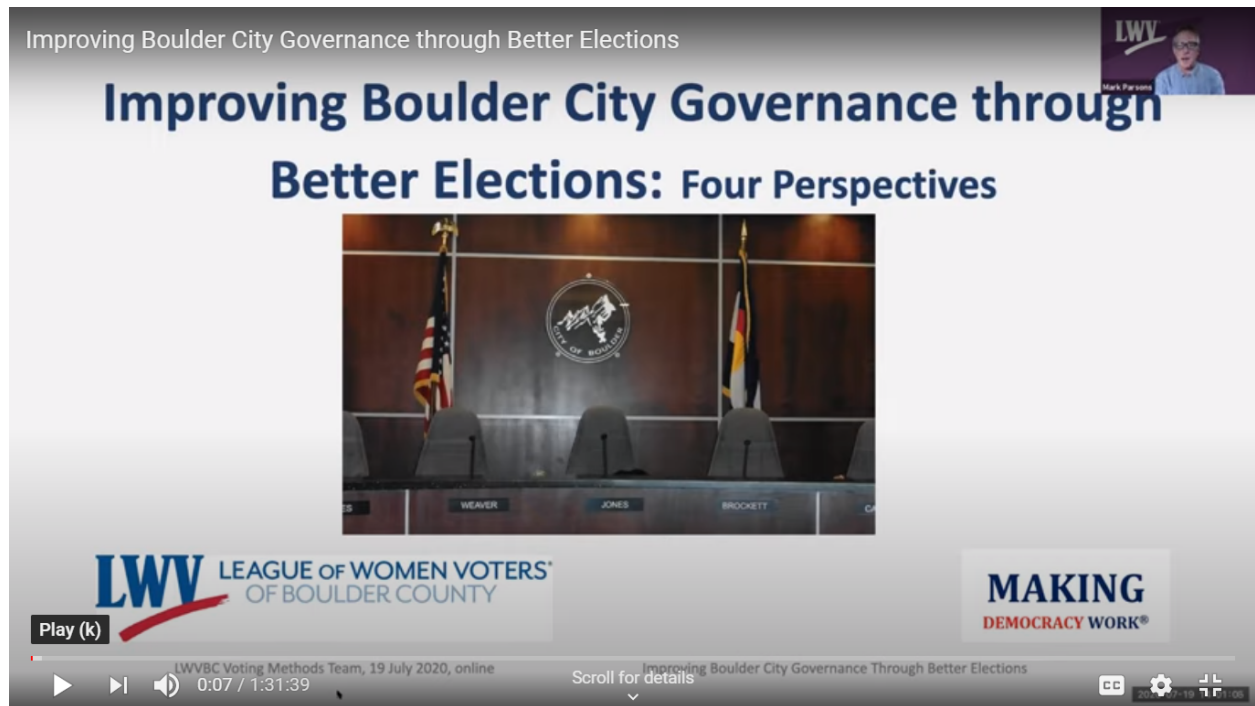


Better Voting Methods: A Local Forum and A National Victory



A petition effort in the city of Boulder to ask voters to directly elect their mayor using ranked voting (specifically instant-runoff voting) motivated the Voting Methods Team to gather experts to discuss a variety of options for municipal elections. New member Mark Parsons moderated the panel on Sunday, July 19, 2020.

- Former mayor pro tem Rich Lopez spoke about an unsuccessful 2003 ballot measure to directly elect the mayor and to elect some council members by districts.
- Former council member Jan Burton spoke about the current Our Mayor effort.
- League member Celeste Landry spoke about advantages of multi-winner elections with an emphasis on proportional representation.
- Voting methods activist Marcus Ogren spoke about other options for single-winner elections besides instant-runoff voting.

The 1½-hour video is at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht2_OXpYZlY&feature=youtu.be. You can also access the video and the slides on the Voting Methods webpage: lwvbc.org > Teams at Work > Voting Methods.

National Victory

On April 23, 2020 LWVCO heard from the leaders of the proposed Voter Representation / Electoral Systems national concurrence that they were dropping the problematic majority bullet point. This wonderful news led to:

- LWVCO signing onto the revised language. See page 4 of the June *Voter*.
- Gaythia Weis and Celeste Landry of the Voting Methods Team joining the proponents to strategize on how to get 2/3 of the national delegates to support the proposed concurrence, and
- LWVCO relinquishing our no-longer-needed convention caucus slot on voting methods

The proponents held an official caucus plus a jumpstart meeting to answer questions. We reached out to state Leagues and offered, as often and in as many places as possible, to answer delegates' questions.

The position was adopted with 93% of the convention vote on June 27, 2020!

With a national position now in place, the Voting Methods Team continues to work on expanding voter understanding of alternatives to plurality voting and providing technical support and assistance to those who may be interested in implementing improved voting methods in their jurisdictions.