

The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County * April 2019



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Monthly Events Calendar

April 13:	Member Coffee
April 18:	High School Democracy Day
April 18:	Voter Registration
April 20:	Voter Registration Training
April 23:	Media and Democracy
April 29:	Faces and Facets - Noncitizens
April 30:	Middle School Democracy Day
May 4:	Voter Registration
May 11:	Annual Meeting



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League of Women Voters of Boulder County Annual Meeting 2019

This year's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at Nissi's in Lafayette. Materials relevant to the meeting as well as a signup form begin on page 6.

Voter Service - Feeling Complacent or Feeling Resigned?

By Susan Saunders

Non-partisanship is the League's most compelling feature. It is the reason members and non-members can attend and engage in League activities to learn; to share ideas and opinions; and to come away with a sense that Democracy can work for all. Voter Service is the League's most important non-partisan work, but it's easy to feel complacent about our various services - registration, forums, ballot issue education, VOTE411 - and risk falling into a rut in their performance. On the other hand, it's easy to become resigned to the status quo and feel our services are making no difference in people's lives, so why bother to step up the pace or improve the activity.

To assure you and inspire you, here are some of the things the LWVBC accomplished in 2018-19: We held about 50 voter service related events: 28 registration drives, 7 forums and nearly 15 ballot issue presentations. We actually doubled the number of registration drives from 2017 to 2018 and moved ballot issue presentations into the public realm. The Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee (all high school students) filled many volunteer roles in 2 forums, including co-moderator.

For this election cycle, 8 registration drives already are scheduled and training has begun. Inspired by the phrase Marching Is Not Enough, an Invitation to Action was issued to members and non-members in February. Thirty-five people attended and many declared interest and commitment to voter service activities for 2019. This is a strong indicator that people still feel there is an impact to be made through the LWVBC's non-partisan approaches to voter service. One audience member, a Google employee who invited us to train voter registrars in the company last year, suggested making each of the ballot issue explanations available in short YouTube videos. Twenty First Century, here we come!



President's Letter

By Peggy Leech, LWVBC President

I will keep this letter short, as we have lots of other materials in this month's Voter.

Many of the materials relate to the Annual Meeting, which I urge all of you to read (beginning on page 6). We are re-arranging the meeting this year, to conduct the business meeting first, promptly at 9:00 with coffee and orange juice. We will then open it up at 10:00 to our Community Awardees, enjoying our breakfast buffet with them, and then conducting the awards portion of the meeting. Please attend!

I would like to share the following message with you, from **Jean Fredlund** at the state League (LWVCO):

Please be aware and alert your members that there are several petitions being circulated that are in opposition to League values. One of the most important would negate the National Popular Vote law that was just passed in the State legislature and signed by the Governor. Others are promoting the recall of our legislators who are in favor of restrictions on oil and gas drilling, the Red Flag bill, and of the repeal of the death penalty.

As always, read before you sign and get the word out to everyone to do the same.

LWVBC held two educational workshops on the National Popular Vote law in late February and early March, and we may be called upon to keep up the efforts. Thank you to all who have supported us so far!

I am also sharing a link from the national league (LWVUS), which is a recent webinar on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Included is a link to a TED Talk on The Danger of a Single Story.

LWVUS will be holding its next 2 DEI webinars on April 25 and May 23, at 5:00 our time. They last for an hour.

When it comes to reading political petitions,
Think Before You Ink!

- READ**
 - Read the entire petition. Sometimes titles are misleading, or do not fully describe the content.
- ASK**
 - Ask the signature collector to tell you more about what the initiative would or would not do.
- THINK**
 - Think carefully about whether or not you support the initiative, before you sign.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BOULDER COUNTY
<http://lwvbc.org>
@lwvbc.org @lwvboulder @lwvbc



Above are photos from International Women's Day Celebration at the View of the World Gallery on March 8 (a Women's Collaborative of Boulder County event). Left: Hugh Haskell, Diana Haskell, Jeannette Hillery, Peggy Leech, Ruth Stemler, Susan Saunders. Right: Laurie Dameron (BPW), guests of honor Christine Berg and Lesley Smith, and Sharon Simmons (BPW)

League of Women Voters of Boulder County Member News and Announcements

The Many Faces and Facets of Noncitizens



At our Drinks and Dialogue on Monday evening, April 29th, Denver immigration lawyer **Christina A. Brown** will speak on *The Many Faces and Facets of Noncitizens*, at Liquid Mechanics Brewing Co. in Lafayette, near the corner of Baseline Rd and N. Hwy 287. Organized by our Social Policy Team, the event begins at 6pm when food and drink are available for purchase. The talk and Q&A are from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30. Plan to attend and bring your friends!

A Maryland native, Christina A. Brown worked in campaign politics before settling down in Colorado in 2008. As a Constituent Advocate for Colorado's then-Congressman Jared Polis, she discovered her passion for immigration law and decided to attend law school. Christina graduated from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in May 2013 and was admitted to the Colorado bar that same year. She is also admitted to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

In law school Christina began working in the removal defense field of immigration law—at a private firm and at a number of non profit organizations. After graduation, she volunteered in Artesia, New Mexico, helping to represent women and children held in immigration detention camps. After two months, she was hired by the American Immigration Council and served for eight months as Lead Attorney of the Artesia Pro Bono Project. Her work was featured in the [NY Times Magazine in February 2015](#).

Registration for this free public event is recommended but not required. [Register online](#) or contact **Angie Layton** at angeliquelayton@gmail.com or 303-926-1197.

Electoral College Talk

A talk by **Jack Nagel**, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania and LWV member (top left), entitled "Neither Party Has a Consistent Advantage in the Electoral College" was attended by LWV-Arapahoe & Douglas Counties member Frank Atwood (top right) and LWVBC members (from left to right) Sylvia Bernstein, also co-chair of Colorado NPV, Peggy Leech, Celeste Landry and Dory Parsons.



Member Coffee

Our next member coffee is on Saturday, April 13th, 9:30 am - 11am, in Boulder, at Panera Bread at 29th Street Mall. Come along for coffee to meet new members and catch-up with longer-time Leaguers. We'll give you an update on current action and advocacy!

Learn about changes to Boulder’s campaign finance laws.

by Rionda Osman-Jouchoux

The City Clerk’s Office will hold two public information meetings to explain recent changes to the city’s campaign finance laws. You can attend either meeting:

Session 1: Thursday, April 25, 6-8 p.m. in the municipal building Broadway Conference Room

Session 2: Monday, May 13, 6-8 p.m. in the municipal building Broadway Conference Room

On 6 March, the City Council passed an emergency ordinance to incorporate these changes in time for the fall election on Tuesday, 5 November 2019. Ballots will be mailed the week of 14 October 2019. See the [Boulder Daily Camera](#) article of March 7, 2019 *City election laws get revamp* for an account of the Council meeting.

Working Group Recommendations

These changes result from the deliberations of a campaign finance reform working group appointed by the City Council. A record of the group’s composition, charge, source materials, and products is available on the City of Boulder website (<https://bouldercolorado.gov/pages/campaign-financeelections-working-group>). The working group addressed several issues that arose during the 2017 election. Topics were far-ranging and included transparency of funding sources, clarification of rules for disclosing who pays for campaign ads, and reforming the petitioning process.

Defining “Electioneering” and “Express Advocacy”

The City Council has adopted a definition of electioneering and extended the definition of express advocacy to allow interpretation of words and symbols that clearly urge support or defeat of a candidate or ballot measure. These definitions, that include functional equivalents, will require more transparency in the filing of expenditures.



Express advocacy is often limited to the “magic words” listed in the Supreme Court decision Buckley v. Valeo (https://ballotpedia.org/Express_advocacy). With this new definition, city officials will be able to make rulings that would avoid the controversy of the questionable flyers of 2017. Those flyers listed a slate of candidates with checked boxes by their names. Because images and symbols were not the “magic words,” the city attorney ruled that the flyer was not an example of express advocacy.

Disclosure of Natural Persons

The working group emphasized the importance of identifying the natural persons who make campaign expenditures. They also urged the disclosure of the names of natural persons associated with entities making contributions. These entities might be corporations or limited liability companies.

Information Tables/Voter Registration Drives (VRDs) in the 2019 Election Seasons

by Jeanine Pow, VRD Coordinator

Some years ago, an acquaintance asked me why people need to be reminded to register and vote. The question took me aback and I've never forgotten the snide, condescending tone of his inquiry. After all, this is a guy who never forgets to display his American flag on national holidays whether he's at his gated winter home or Boulder summer home.

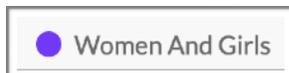
People fail to register and/or vote for a multitude of reasons. Some are simply too engrossed with the day-to-day task of covering the bills and supporting their families. Others feel that their vote makes no difference. Some are intimidated by the ballot issues. Many don't believe that politicians work for the people they've been elected to represent. And yes, some people are just free loaders. The cynical citizen that complains about any number of civic matters but who prefers watching T.V. or going to a Bronco game instead of doing the challenging work of being actively engaged in their community.

I have never worked a League information table without having engaging conversations with people wanting to know about: a specific ballot issue; the National Popular Vote Compact; alternative voting methods; whether a student should register to vote at their home or school address; etc. Does LWVBC register hordes of people during the course of an election season? No. With motor-voter laws and online registration, many of the people we speak with are already registered to vote. However, we do register or update the voter records of citizens at every VRD event. And, when given the opportunity to engage with people, we are usually able to pass on key information that assists people in taking the initiative to vote. The bottom line is that working a League table/VRD provides a key voter service that is also personally rewarding.

In 2019, LWVBC members will again have the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and participate in this pivotal grassroots work. We have already reserved space at six farmer's markets in Longmont and Boulder, Cinco de Mayo Celebration (Longmont), a Front Range Community College event (Longmont) and a naturalization ceremony (Boulder). Don't assume that this work is for newbies. We need your wisdom, knowledge and help. Go to www.lwvbc.org scroll down on "Upcoming Events" in the right column and do two things: 1) register to take the mandatory VRD training on April 20th; and, 2) volunteer a couple of hours at some of the upcoming VRD programs. Together we will succeed in Making Democracy Work for All, one LWVBC event at a time!

Conference on World Affairs - Women and Girls Changing the World

One of the themes of this year's Conference on World Affairs is "Women and Girls Chasing the World." Events include *Stories Women Tell: Sharing the Defining Moment in Their Journeys* with Touch Artist founder, Deborah Koff-Chapin, the film premiere of *Brave Girl Rising* with filmmaker Christina Lowery, and *Women and Girls Keynote: Our Voices, Our Time*, a conversation with Teresa Younger, CEO of the MS. Foundation and Krystal Covington, founder of Women of Denver. All programs are free and open to members of the public. Schedules are found [here](#), and Women and Girls events are designated with a purple circle:



Conference on
WORLD AFFAIRS

Tuesday April 9 –
Saturday April 13, 2019
www.colorado.edu/cwa

Women and Girls Changing the World

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 11, 2019

9:00 - 11:30 am

Nissi's 2675 North Park Drive, Lafayette
(near 95th & Arapahoe)



Please plan to attend the LWVBC Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 11th. It's a great time to see long-time League friends and make some new ones. Our new Executive Director of League of Women Voters of Colorado, Beth Hendrix, will be attending. Please help us make her feel welcome!

We will begin the day with the business meeting and a cup of coffee. This will include election of officers, approval of the budget, and adoption of the 2019-2020 program. A delicious BRUNCH buffet (cost: \$30/person), will be served around 10 am.

After brunch we will honor our Elected Official of the Year, Senator Mike Foote, and three Community Partners, Jeffrey Kash of Elevations Credit Union, Linda Sorauf of Colorado National Popular Vote and Faith Gowan, a Boulder artist. We will learn about their projects and what they are doing in the community to work with LWVBC and Make Democracy Work for All! And last, but not least, we will honor our members who have worked so hard all year long.

Make your reservation now for our Annual Meeting!

[If at all possible go online to our website, make your reservation and pay by credit card.](#) You can choose to mail the registration form below with a check to be received by Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

Registration Form:

League of Women Voters of Boulder County Annual Meeting

When: Saturday, May 11, 2019, 9:00 - 11:30 am

Where: Nissi's in Lafayette Cost: \$30.00 Deadline: Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Please mail this form and check payable to LWVBC to: LWVBC, P.O. Box 21274, Boulder, CO 80308.

Number of persons _____ X \$30.00 = \$_____

Name (please print) _____

Name (please print) _____

2019-2020 LWVBC PROGRAM PLANNING

Meetings held on Feb. 5 in Boulder
and Feb. 12 in Longmont



Total Attendance: 21 members. 14 members on Feb. 5; 11 members on Feb. 12 (four had been at Feb. 5 meeting and did not vote again.)

1) **Introduction:** Peggy Leech presented the LWVUS' new mission and vision statements, reminding us that 2019 is going to be a "practice" for the 2020 election cycle and honoring of historic events. She emphasized LWVUS and LWVCO advisement to focus on Making Democracy Work for All, and reviewed LWVCO's specific call for attention to four goals addressing:

- * Increasing voter registration and monitoring voter suppression;
- * Implementing Y&Z, passing NPVC, monitoring money in politics and the 2020 census;
- * Responding to 2019 legislative session items; and
- * Implementing LWVCO's strategic plan.

Peggy mentioned that several leagues around the country are working to develop a national position on Voting Methods, probably through concurrence, in 2020. An informal show of hands showed support from the groups for this 2020 effort.

2) LWVBC 2019-2020: Position Planning

Q: Should We Proceed to Consensus on Non-citizen rights in Boulder County? (as published in the February 2019 Voter, page 5)

Social Policy Team members presented a proposal to proceed to consensus on the Rights of Non-Citizens in Boulder County, covering the background, scope, and rationale from their submitted proposal. Among many factors, they will consider the length of time to establish residency and the times one must wait to apply for citizenship or to reach voting age. The final position proposed by LWVBC would apply to the whole county and allow the league to offer an opinion on any ballot issue that arises. **A: Both groups voted unanimously to advance this effort in 2019.**

3) LWVBC 2019-2020: Position Planning

Government - Revise Boulder County Government Structure position statement in time for the 2019 annual meeting. We recommend another option for electing County Commissioners including Proportional Representation. Voting Methods Team made the following recommendation (approved by the board):

CURRENT: "The League would support increasing the number of commissioners from three to five, with three commissioners elected from districts and two elected at large."

PROPOSED REVISION: "*Under existing statutory options, the League supports increasing the number of commissioners from three to five, with three commissioners elected from districts and two elected at large. Long term, the League supports legislation to elect five commissioners using a voting method that promotes proportional representation rather than being limited to geographic representation. A more proportionally representative board of county commissioners would better match voters' preferences and more fully represent the views of the entire community.*"

League of Women Voters of Boulder County

Natural Resources – Retain all positions

Social Policy – Retain all positions and continue to educate and act on Minimum/Living Wages.

4) LWVCO 2019-2020: Position Planning

Both groups voted to retain all positions with no suggestions for revisions. They identified the following positions for education and action.

Government: Campaign Finance/MIP; Fiscal Policy (especially Tabor and Gallagher); Redistricting; Voting Methods; and Voting Rights. Specifically:

General Assembly:

Urging LWV involvement in TABOR and Gallagher discussions this session. Amendment 71 clarifies that deleting a constitutional provision does not require a supermajority vote.

Government: Initiative Process.

Concerning Position: “A super majority vote of the people for the passage of all (initiated or referred) constitutional amendments except for removing obsolete provisions.” LWVCO holds position against petition requirement for signatures from all 35 Senate districts.

Government: School Finance for PreK-12.

LWVCO has position supporting all day kindergarten.

Natural Resources: Water.

Question: Do our positions allow LWV to oppose Gross Reservoir expansion. Jeanette explained this is state issue that supports water storage and is area with few habitat concerns.

Social Policy: Income Assistance.

Our LWVUS position opposes a work requirement for SNAP (food assistance). We urge LWVCO to act to oppose the work requirement.

5) Issue Team goals for 2019-2020

Social Policy – Increase in representation of low income and other vulnerable populations in numbers of those registered to vote and voting. Continue work on Living Wage in Longmont and Boulder County.

Money in Politics – Continue education efforts in all Boulder County’s towns.

NPVCompact – Continue efforts for legislative passage and governor signage.

Schools – Research and publicize efforts to determine candidates’ positions on school funding.

Voting Methods – plans for internal education and use of alternative voting methods. Work is ongoing to develop and produce pamphlets on multi-winner methods and to revise the single-winner pamphlets. Provide advice/instruction for Broomfield to adopt alternative methods.

Voter Service – Efforts are focused on February meeting with members and the public to enlist committed volunteers in each of 4 VS areas (VRDs, Candidate Forums, Ballot Issue preparations and presentations, and VOTE411.)

Members voted to support work on all goals listed above.

2019 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Carolyn Elliott (Chair), Debby Vink,
Susan Saunders, Pat Long



As the seasons change, so do some of the faces of those who serve in our organization's structure. At our Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 11th, you will be asked to vote on the following candidates who have graciously agreed to volunteer in various positions.

After much deliberation, the Board decided to break the president's position into two positions as co-presidents. One will function as the administrative person, setting the agenda for Board meetings, running those meetings, setting the agenda for and conducting the Board retreats, and other such tasks. The other co-president will serve as our Community Engagement person, representing our LWVBC at various public or civic meetings, serving as our presence at the State Legislature if need be, and other such meetings and functions.

Therefore, we place in nomination for election at the Annual Meeting the following:

Elected Officers:

Co-President, Community Engagement	1-year term, 2019 - 2020	Peggy Leech
Co-President, Administrative	1-year term, 2019 - 2020	Susan Saunders
Board Secretary	2-year term, 2019 - 2021	Molly Saunders

Elected Directors:

Action	2-year term, 2019 - 2021	Mary Ann Wilner
Fund Development	2-year term, 2019 - 2021	Anne Bryan
Voter Service	2-year term, 2019 - 2021	Jeanine Pow
Membership Complete 2-yr term of Ruth Stemler	2-year term, 2018 - 2020	Debby Vink
Events Complete 2-yr term of Kay Marsh	2-year term, 2018 - 2020	Vacant

2019 - 2020 Nominating Committee (off-board):

Carolyn Elliott (chair), Cindy Outlaw, and Carol Brown 1-year term, 2019-2020

Continuing on the Board, by virtue of election at the 2018 Annual Meeting:

Treasurer	2-year term, 2018 - 2020	Pat Long
Communications Director	2-year term, 2018 - 2020	Elizabeth Crowe
Youth Engagement Director	2-year term, 2018 - 2020	Shiquita Yarbrough

Continuing, but going off-board:

Governance/Leadership/Planning 2-year term, 2018 - 2020 Caroline Himes

Off-board advisor/liaison:

DEI, Communications, Program (events/meetings) Admin Assistant (part-time) Mandy Nuku

PROPOSED BUDGET & DUES

2019-2020



A responsible fiscal structure is a must for any organization worthy of the public’s trust and the trust of its members. The LWVBC’s actual spending for last year, the current budget, and expenditures as of February 28, 2019, and the proposed budget for 2019-2020 follow. The Budget Committee (Susan Saunders, Chair, Linda Katalenich and Pat Long), assisted by President Peggy Leech, reviewed the current year budget and expenses, team funding requests, and strategic objectives to estimate next year’s income and expenses.

For a second year, we have not presented next year’s budget as balanced, with expenses matching income. Our budget figures compared to actual income and expense will tell our story and unspent income will appear in the assets table of our final fiscal year report when we close the books on June 30. For example, we received a grant in late 2018, but most of the spending will take place later in 2019 so assets vs new income will cover expenses proposed in the grant application.

The budget request for next year is significantly higher than this year’s budgeted expenses. The increased costs projected are primarily for: a) delegate expenses at the national convention, which are significantly higher than those budgeted for the state convention in the current year; and b) increased hours for our Administrative Assistant, who is assuming more responsibilities as she assists the president and her work enables LWVBC teams to be more active and productive by eliminating some of their administrative tasks. Our pledge campaign to pay for 2 years of an Administrative Assistant will be collected in full by June. We need to continue raising funds in 2019-20 if we are to have continued assistance beginning July 2020. There are other increased expenses because of the increased activity anticipated for the 2020 elections and the 100th anniversary of the LWV with events likely in Spring of 2020.

The budget committee is requesting a \$10 dues increase for next year. This increase, along with increased contributions and grants, is included in the estimated income and expenses of the proposed budget. The new rate will contribute approximately \$1,800 towards funding expenses, a small but necessary incremental addition to our base funding. Voter Service activities went from 30-50 events and the member management software expanded the league’s reach to approximately 1,000 contacts, facilitated the organization of events and volunteer coordination as well as the collection of data to measure our effectiveness as a league. Community Conversations, Drinks & Dialogue, and collaborations with other groups have included the public in 18 informative sessions on politics and policy. As a result of the increased activity, LWVBC is more visible in the community and a stronger force for active and responsible government at all levels. Also, it demonstrates improved viability for favorable consideration by funding agencies.

A budget is a guideline and unexpected expenses will undoubtedly occur. The imbalance between income and expenses will be covered by our cash reserve. The Budget Committee members and the Board members cannot identify significant activities (expenses) which the LWVBC can afford to quit.

PROPOSED INCREASES TO LWVBC DUES

Current:

Individual basic	\$66
Individual, sustaining	\$126
Student	\$0
Household, 2 members	\$99
Household, sustaining	\$219

Proposed:

Individual basic	\$76
Individual, sustaining	\$136(min)
Student	\$0
Household, 2 members	\$114
Household, sustaining	\$234

FINANCIAL REVIEW

for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18



The Financial Review Committee has reviewed:

- 1. The record keeping of LWVBC which includes revenue and expenditures, beginning and ending cash balances and the FY end bank statement/reconciliation
- 2. Changes in bank account from Wells Fargo to Elevations Credit Union during FY 2017-18.

We find that the books are an accurate reflection of the financial condition of the LWVBC for the FY 2017-18 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 Gwen Kittel

Net Worth end Feb 2019 - As of 2/28/2019	
Account	2/28/2019 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
CD fall	3,084.83
ECU Savings	25.00
Endowment Fund	1,050.00
General Fund ECU	43,881.92
General Fund WF	0.00
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	48,041.75
TOTAL ASSETS	48,041.75
LIABILITIES	
	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	48,041.75

BYLAWS CHANGE PROPOSAL - 2019-2020

The following proposed change to the bylaws is intended to clarify the dues for student members, including those years in which student memberships are free. Membership currently, is free at National, State and Local levels through January 2021. This is not reflected in our bylaws and may be continued as it encourages students to try out the League.

Current:

d. Members are those for whom regular dues are paid in full. *Student member dues equal one half the regular member's rate.*

Proposed:

d. Members are those for whom regular dues are paid in full. *Except when suspended at National, State or Local levels, student dues equal one half the regular members' rate. When student dues are suspended, volunteer service hours may be encouraged.*

League of Women Voters of Boulder County
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Boulder, CO 80308