

The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County * August 2019



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Monthly Events Calendar

August 4:	Latino Festival VRD
August 8:	Eric VRD
August 8:	BoCo Govt Structure
August 10:	Strategic Planning
August 13:	BoCo Govt Structure
September 1:	Boulder VRD

LWVBC Social Media



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LWVBC Forming a YWCA Dash and Bash Team

By Molly Saunders

The League of Women Voters of Boulder County is putting together a team for the Boulder YWCA's 2nd Annual Dash and Bash fundraiser!

WHAT: The YWCA's Dash and Bash and Multicultural Festival is not just a fun run but also a meaningful way to show your support for the rich diversity and strong community in Boulder County and the Denver Metro Area. This fundraiser is an event working towards some of our community's most pressing issues and the YWCA's main mission: eliminating racism and empowering women.

Proceeds from the Dash and Bash directly support the YWCA's Children's Alley program, which is the only drop-in, sliding-scale childcare in the Denver metro area, as well as other programs including their Reading to End Racism program in local elementary schools and the Latina Achievement Support mentorship program for high school girls.

Team members may walk or run in either the 5K or 10K distances, and there is a 1 mile Kid's Dash for those who want to include the whole family. We suggest you proudly wear a League of Women Voters shirt, hat or other gear to the event so we can show our support.

WHEN: Sunday, September 29, 2019. Event opens at 8:00am and the 10K race starts at 9:00am

WHERE: Boulder Reservoir, Boulder CO. 5565 51st St, Boulder, CO 80301

COST: There is no registration fee for participation! Any donations or pledges can be made towards individual team members or towards our team fundraising goal but are not a requirement for participation. Participants who either self-donate or get pledges from friends and family of \$50+ will receive a food and festival pass and those who pledge or receive \$100 or more will also receive an official Dash and Bash event T-shirt.

HOW: Please go [here](#) to register. If you have any questions or wish to donate but not physically participate in the run please send me an email at molly.j.saunders@gmail.com



Presidents' Letter

By Peggy Leech and Susan Saunders, LWVBC Co-Presidents

July has swept by and we are hitting our stride with the new co-presidency efforts. We began working out the division of duties following the annual meeting and choose to err on the side of both being involved rather than omitting something at this point. If you have an item of business, please address both Peggy and Susan as we continue to determine the best split of responsibilities.

Our new board members are assuming their roles with speed, aptitude and great new ideas, benefitting from the advice of their predecessors who have remained involved. Speaking of involvement, we encourage you to check in to our website frequently, so you don't miss an event or the announcement of projects and progress for your League.

Some upcoming activities:

County government

Community Conversations are scheduled for August 8 and August 13 (see page 3). Also, **volunteers are still needed** for the petition effort to get a question on the 2020 ballot about increasing from 3 to 5 county commissioners. Please email Peggy if you would like to help out.



Census

We are working on a county-wide non-profit Complete Count Committee (CCC). **Volunteers will be needed** for the census effort. Let me know if you are interested. Again, please email Peggy if you are available to volunteer.

National Popular Vote Compact

LWVCO is expecting an announcement that enough petition signatures have been collected to get a measure repealing the NPV Compact onto the 2020 ballot. Both LWVCO and LWVBC have taken a position in favor of the NPV Compact, so we will need to do more community education (again) over the next year.



Member News and Announcements

Boulder County Government Structure Community Conversations

Is it time to change Boulder County's government structure? Join us for a community conversation to discuss these questions:

- What does the current structure look like?
- Should we increase from 3 to 5 County Commissioners? If so, should we elect commissioners from districts, at-large or a combination?
- Should our county have a County Manager?
- Should our county consider adopting Home Rule?

Meetings will be held on August 8 in Longmont and on August 13 in Boulder.

Strategic Planning Retreat

We have entered the last year of our original 5 year strategic plan and are meeting our overall goal of attracting new members and maintaining relevancy for our community. August 10, past and present members of the Board and leaders of our Issue Teams will participate in an all-day retreat to establish plans for another three years. Our exposure to the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and their importance for our league's future will inform much of our goal setting process. Another important source of information will be responses to the survey just sent to all members. Please respond promptly, with your honest assessment of the League's direction, its service to our community and members, and your involvement and satisfaction with your league. The survey is online here.

Rosanna Longo-Better Joins KGNU News Department

KGNU has announced that it is growing its news department, and that former LWVBC intern Rosanna Longo-Better will be joining the department. She will focus on bilingual equity and a podcast covering the Community Foundation Boulder County's upcoming TRENDS report.



Mark Your Calendars

September 21: LWVCO Making Democracy Work Day (formerly League Day)

September 28: Fall Kickoff meeting (morning)

Public Meetings Notice

All board meetings are PUBLIC meetings. Please join us if you wish to learn more about our work. We want to be open and transparent!

Voter Service: Four Sections, One Terrific Team!

by Jeanine Pow

Since the League's inception, Voter Service has been performing a core function by registering citizens, educating them about the candidates and ballot issues and encouraging them to vote. Yet, in the past, when someone volunteered to help out at a voter registration drive (VRD) or a candidate forum, drafted ballot issues or collected VOTE411 data, it wasn't clear that they were part of an integral team.

Thanks to the expertise of Elizabeth Crowe, Communications Director and Deborah Hayes, Webmaster, the Voter Service Team is now official and has a dedicated webpage on the LWVBC website. In 2019, the Voter Service Team consists of over 40 volunteers working in one or more of the four sections of Voter Service. To learn more details about the four sections of the Voter Service Team and view some of the team members at work, click on the Voter Service Team slider on the LWVBC homepage or on "Teams at Work" and scroll down to Voter Service.



Speaking of work, here's a summary of some of the activities that the Voter Service Team accomplished in July:



- July 4th - Information table in conjunction with holiday concert at Chautauqua Park;
- July 12th - Distributed LWV information and registered 3 voters at Lights & Liberty Demonstration in Boulder Central Park;
- July 13th - Information table at Longmont Farmer's Market including 15 registrations;
- July 14th - Ballot Issue planning meeting;
- July 15th - VOTE411 planning meeting; and
- July 18th - Information table at Erie Farmer's Market including 6 registrations.

Additionally, Jo Porter, Candidate Forum Coordinator, drafted candidate forum guidelines and co-sponsorship policies which she then presented for consideration at the July 18th board meeting. Candidate forums are being scheduled for this fall and we welcome help from all interested League members. Contact Jeanine Pow for further information.

As you can see, the Voter Service Team is advancing the core values of the League and is one terrific team!

Please Encourage Your Friends and Neighbors to Join LWVBC!

by Debby Vink

We need YOU and as many others as we can gather to **"Empower Voters and Defend Democracy."** In the League of Women Voters of Boulder County, you are part of a respected, credible organization that engages in non-partisan activities to inform and improve our community. Your membership is an essential source of support!

Dues for 2019-20 as adopted at the Annual Meeting last May:

\$76 basic, per year

\$38 per additional household member

--A sliding membership fee is available on request.

--Student Membership continues to be free, with volunteer hours requested.

--To be considered a Sustaining Member, make a donation of \$60 per member.

Note that your dues cover your membership at three levels: local (LWVBC), state (LWVCO) and national (LWVUS).

Renewals: You will receive two e-mail notices to alert you that it is time to renew your membership. If overdue one month, you will be reminded by a letter sent by mail. If your dues are delinquent for two months following the due date, you will be dropped from membership. If and when you rejoin after being dropped, your membership restarts from the date you pay your dues. We want to keep you as a member!! Please renew when prompted.

It is convenient and secure to renew your membership at lwvbc.org and pay your dues by credit card. However, you may also mail your payment to P.O. Box 21274, Boulder, CO 80308. Checks are payable to "LWVBC."



Contact me with any questions relating to membership or use of our website: lwvbc.org.

Debby Vink
Membership Director
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September Consensus on Noncitizen Rights in Boulder County

by The Social Policy Team

Overview: Consensus on Noncitizen Rights in Boulder County

Our national LWV's home page uses bold print to draw attention to its efforts towards "**Empowering Voters**," "**Fighting Voter Suppression**" and "**Defending Democracy**." Increasingly in recent years, political theorists are questioning the linkage between citizenship and citizens' rights such as voting. Noncitizens, like citizens, are often politically engaged, organizing and taking collective action to effect policy changes. The social policy team has been exploring the phenomena of noncitizen activities.

In preparation for our consensus meetings in September, we ask members to read the informational material in this VOTER issue and on our webpage: (1) the six consensus questions, (2) the matrix of the questions (this can help you organize your own views), (3) definitions and explanations of the major categories of noncitizens named in the consensus questions, and (4) summaries of the arguments in favor of and opposed to, noncitizen rights (voting, serving on advisory boards or juries, running for office).

Should LWVBC support the right of noncitizens to vote in Boulder County?

While current US law allows only citizens to vote at the federal level, up until 1928 many states allowed noncitizens to vote in federal as well as state and local elections. Today there are a few local jurisdictions where the franchise is extended to noncitizens, and in a number of other jurisdictions, including the city of Boulder, activists are working towards that goal. Looking internationally, 45 countries give alien residents who meet certain requirements the privilege of voting. Generally, however, suffrage is restricted to citizens and proposals have been made at the federal level to prohibit local governments from extending voting rights to noncitizens. Most nonresident citizens (expatriates) are allowed to vote only in their native country's elections, not in elections in their place of residence.

Other civic involvement of noncitizens. Currently the LWV is emphasizing the importance of inclusion of underrepresented segments in our communities, while we continue the longstanding LWV practice of encouraging informed participation in public matters. Thus, it seems proper for us to notice and support immigrants, who are not eligible to vote but find other ways to be involved with political issues. Some mobilize around workers' rights issues such as unpaid wages and overtime. Immigrant youth advocate for undocumented to obtain drivers' licenses and pay resident tuition rates to attend public universities.

For further reading

- Hans von Spakovsky of the Heritage Foundation explains why he and others believe that only citizens should vote, in his 2008 online report, The Threat of Non-Citizen Voting.
- For those who believe in the democratic ideal of "consent of the governed," scholars have proposed a number of criteria to determine who ought legitimately to have a political voice. One theory is that everyone whose interests are affected by the government's policies should have the right to participate. Another is that all who are subject to coercion ought to have a say in deciding how that coercive power is wielded. Read more on this topic in Sarah Song's 2009 article, Democracy and noncitizen voting rights, *Citizenship Studies*, 13: 6, 607-620
- An anthropologist analyzed the discussions that took place in Cambridge MA over a 2003 proposal to give local residents the right to vote for the Public School Committee. Go online to read Kathleen Coll's 2011 article in full, "Citizenship acts and immigrant voting rights movements in the US," *Citizenship Studies*, 15:8, 993-100.
- Rachel Meyer and Janice Fine have co-authored a great article, "Grassroots Citizenship at Multiple Scales: Rethinking Immigrant Civic Participation," *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society* (2017) 30:323-348 and it is available online.

Final Consensus Questions

Noncitizen Rights in Boulder County • Consensus Questions • September 2019

Note: These six multi-part questions are represented graphically on the matrix.

1. Should LWVBC support noncitizen voting in Boulder County to elect governmental officials?

Yes___ No___

- If yes, which elections? Check all that apply

___ (a) at county level

___ (b) within a municipality

___ (c) in a school district

___ (d) for a special district

- If yes, which noncitizens? Check all that apply

___ (e) permanent residents

___ (f) asylees

___ (i) immigrants without visas

___ (j) noncitizens who have applied for U.S. citizenship

___ (k) noncitizens residing within the jurisdiction

___ (l) noncitizens working within the jurisdiction

___ (m) DACA recipients & TPS holders

___ (g) temporary visa holders

___ (h) holders of expired visas

2. Should LWVBC support noncitizen voting on policy issues without fiscal impact?

Yes___ No___

- If yes, which elections? Check all that apply

___ (a) at county level

___ (b) within a municipality

___ (c) in a school district

___ (d) for a special district

- If yes, which noncitizens? Check all that apply

___ (e) permanent residents

___ (f) asylees

___ (i) immigrants without visas

___ (j) noncitizens who have applied for U.S. citizenship

___ (k) noncitizens residing within the jurisdiction

___ (l) noncitizens working within the jurisdiction

___ (m) DACA recipients & TPS holders

___ (g) temporary visa holders

___ (h) holders of expired visas

3. Should LWVBC support noncitizen voting on taxing and spending proposals?

Yes___ No___

- If yes, which proposals? Check all that apply

___ (a) at county level

___ (b) within a municipality

___ (c) in a school district

___ (d) for a special district

- If yes, which noncitizens? Check all that apply

___ (e) permanent residents

___ (f) asylees

___ (i) immigrants without visas

___ (j) noncitizens who have applied for U.S. citizenship

___ (k) noncitizens residing within the jurisdiction

___ (l) noncitizens working within the jurisdiction

___ (m) DACA recipients & TPS holders

___ (g) temporary visa holders

___ (h) holders of expired visas

4. Should LWVBC support noncitizen appointment to boards and commissions?

Yes___ No___

• If yes, in what jurisdictions? Check all that apply

___ (a) at county level

___ (b) within a municipality

___ (c) in a school district

___ (d) for a special district

• If yes, which noncitizens? Check all that apply

___ (e) permanent residents

___ (f) asylees

___ (i) immigrants without visas

___ (j) noncitizens who have applied for U.S. citizenship

___ (k) noncitizens residing within the jurisdiction

___ (l) noncitizens working within the jurisdiction

___ (m) DACA recipients & TPS holders

___ (g) temporary visa holders

___ (h) holders of expired visas

5. Should LWVBC support noncitizens serving on a jury that decides court cases?

Yes___ No___

• If yes, which courts? Check all that apply

___ (a) at county level

___ (b) within a municipality

• If yes, which noncitizens? Check all that apply

___ (e) permanent residents

___ (f) asylees

___ (i) immigrants without visas

___ (j) noncitizens who have applied for U.S. citizenship

___ (k) noncitizens residing within the jurisdiction

___ (l) noncitizens working within the jurisdiction

___ (m) DACA recipients & TPS holders

___ (g) temporary visa holders

___ (h) holders of expired visas

6. Should LWVBC support allowing noncitizens to run for elective office?

Yes___ No___

• If yes, in which jurisdictions? Check all that apply

___ (a) at county level

___ (b) within a municipality

___ (c) in a school district

___ (d) for a special district

• If yes, which noncitizens? Check all that apply

___ (e) permanent residents

___ (f) asylees

___ (i) immigrants without visas

___ (j) noncitizens who have applied for U.S. citizenship

___ (k) noncitizens residing within the jurisdiction

___ (l) noncitizens working within the jurisdiction

___ (m) DACA recipients & TPS holders

___ (g) temporary visa holders

___ (h) holders of expired visas

Matrix of Consensus Questions on
Noncitizen Rights in Boulder County
For use during LWVBC Meetings, September 2019

Noncitizen rights to be considered	Characteristics of Noncitizens								
	Legal permanent residents (green card)	Immigrants granted asylum (not yet eligible for green card)	Temporary visa holders (worker, student, tourist)	Noncitizens with expired visas	Immigrants without visas (undocumented)	Noncitizens who have applied for citizenship	Migrants residing within the jurisdiction	Noncitizens working within the jurisdiction's boundaries	DACA recipients & TPS holders
1. Voting to elect government officials									
a. at county level									
b. within a municipality									
c. in a school district									
d. for a special district									
2. Voting on policy issues without fiscal impact									
a. at county level									
b. within a municipality									
c. in a school district									
d. for a special district									
3. Voting on taxing or spending proposals									
a. at county level									
b. within a municipality									
c. in a school district									
d. for a special district									
4. Appointment to boards & commissions									
a. at county level									
b. within a municipality									
c. in a school district									
d. for a special district									
5. Serving on a jury which decides court cases									
a. at county level									
b. within a city or town									
6. Running for elected office									
a. at county level									
b. within a municipality									
c. in a school district									
d. for a special district									

Definitions

Lawful permanent residents, also known as **legal permanent residents**, and informally known as **green card holders**, are immigrants under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), with rights, benefits, and privileges to reside in the United States permanently. Generally Green card applications are decided by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Immigrants granted asylum (not yet eligible for green card): The United Nations 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol define a refugee as a person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country, and cannot obtain protection in that country, due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of being persecuted in the future "on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion."

Temporary visa (worker, student, tourist): Generally, a citizen of a foreign country who wishes to enter the United States must first obtain a visa, either a nonimmigrant visa for temporary stay, or an immigrant visa for permanent residence. Temporary worker visas are for persons who want to enter the United States for employment lasting a fixed period of time, and are not considered permanent or indefinite. Each of these

visas requires the prospective employer to first file a petition with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). An approved petition is required to apply for a work visa.

Those with expired visas: Sometimes understanding the difference between the visa expiration date and the length of time you have permission to remain in the United States can be confusing. Upon arriving at a port of entry, the Customs Border Patrol (CBP) official will determine the length of your visit. On the admission stamp or paper Form I-94, the U.S. immigration inspector records either an admitted-until date or "D/S" (duration of status). If your admission stamp or paper Form I-94 contains a specific date, then that is the date by which you must leave the United State. If you have D/S on your admission stamp or paper Form I-94, you may remain in the United States as long as you continue your course of studies, remain in your exchange program, or qualifying employment. The admitted-until date or D/S notation, shown on your admission stamp or paper Form I-94 is the official record of your authorized length of stay in the United States. You cannot use the visa expiration date in determining or referring to your permitted length of stay in the United States.

Immigrants without visas: It is a violation of federal law for a non-citizen to enter the US without authorization, such as a Visa.

Those who have applied for Citizenship: To become a U.S. citizen, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old (exception for children of applicant)
- Permanent resident for at least 5 years unless spouse of citizen, then 4 years
- Not been out of the US for 30 months during the above period, nor more than 1 year, and resident of a state or DC for last 3 months
- Able to read and write basic English
- Know the fundamentals of U.S. history and the form and principles of the U.S. government
- Be a person of good moral character
- If a male, satisfy questions of military service
- Be prepared to support the Constitution of the US and take a pledge of allegiance to US

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is an American immigration policy that allows some individuals with unlawful presence in the United States after being brought to the country as children to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and become eligible for a work permit in the U.S. To be eligible for the program, recipients cannot have felonies or serious misdemeanors on their records. DACA does not provide a path to citizenship for recipients.

TPS (Temporary Protected Status) is a temporary status given to eligible nationals of designated countries who are present in the United States. The status, afforded to nationals from certain countries affected by armed conflict or natural disaster, allows persons to live and work in the United States for limited times. It also does not provide a path to citizenship.

Pros and Cons of Non-citizen Rights

Those **opposed** to expanding noncitizen rights say

- (1) Noncitizens will have to self-identify which could put them at risk for immigration action against them.
- (2) The County Clerk becomes a keeper of immigration information which could make it difficult for the clerk if the Federal Government were to ask for the information and that information resulted in deportations.
- (3) Citizenship is a privilege and it comes with the opportunities of voting which shouldn't be given to noncitizens.
- (4) Voting is a right for citizens and many noncitizens who are eligible for citizenship are motivated to apply for citizenship in order to vote.
- (5) Issues faced by noncitizens are different from those of citizens and those issues are more appropriately addressed by individuals who are citizens.
- (6) Individuals who are not here legally might be eligible to apply. We should not reward behavior that is not in line with current regulations and law.

Those **in favor** of expanding noncitizen rights say

- (1) Noncitizens own property, pay taxes, and contribute to our local economy in many ways, and thus should have a voice in local government.
- (2) Noncitizen residents are as affected by policies and actions of municipal and county governments as citizens are.
- (3) Our local economies depend on immigrant and refugee labor, workers should have a say, regardless of citizenship.
- (4) Noncitizen school children as well citizen children of noncitizen parents are affected by policies and actions of the school districts.
- (5) Participation by noncitizens can help win mutual benefits for all community members.
- (6) Noncitizen voting was common at the local, state, and even federal levels in the first 150 years of the U.S.
- (7) In some countries today, residency, not citizenship, is seen as the measure of being a legitimate stakeholder in a community.
- (8) Voting rights are embodied in the social contract, where a just government rests on the consent of the governed.
- (9) The vote helps guard against discrimination and bias, which is often a consequence of being politically excluded.
- (10) An estimated 4 to 7 percent of Boulder County residents are not U.S. citizens. In Boulder, an estimated 2,100 residents of legal voting age cannot vote because of their immigration status.

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