

# The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County \* December 2019



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## Monthly Events Calendar

Dec 6:	LWVCO Advocacy and LAC Training
Dec 6:	LWVBC Holiday Party
Jan 8:	Eco-Cycle Tour
Jan 11:	Member Coffee
Jan 17:	Shoebox Stories
Jan 25:	Voter Registration Drive Training
Feb 14:	LWV 100th Anniversary Day of Action



## LWVBC Social Media

*Note: The Voter will not publish*

## Registering Voters in 2020 – We Need Your Help

By: Jeanine Pow

Colorado will conduct its 2020 presidential primary on Super Tuesday, March 3, 2020. Consequently, although the ink has barely dried on the 2019 election, voter registration drive (VRD) planning must occur much earlier in 2020 than has been the case in prior presidential election years. Additionally, as you may know, the Colorado Secretary of State requires annual training for all persons participating in VRDs even if the person took the mandatory training in the prior election year.

**Do you want to help the LWVBC register voters in 2020?** If so, Voter Service will be conducting a mandatory 2020 VRD training on Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. You must register in advance to participate in the training. The doors will open at 9:00 a.m. and training will start promptly at 9:30 a.m. **Please go to the [lwwbc.org](http://lwwbc.org) website and, in the "Upcoming Events" calendar on the right, scroll down to January 25, 2020 to register for the VRD training** I do ask that anyone taking the VRD training make a commitment to volunteer at a minimum of three VRD events in 2020. (Typically, volunteering at each VRD event is a 2 or 2 ½ hour time commitment). Rest assured that there will be plenty of VRD volunteer opportunities between February and October 2020!

## LWVBC Holiday Party!

**Friday, December 6  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM**

Gondolier Italian Eatery  
1217 S. Main Street  
Longmont, CO 80501

Join us for our annual **Holiday Party!**  
Heavy Appetizers and Wine/Beer

**Cost: \$30 - Help the League grow and bring a guest for free!**

Please [register](#) by December 2. Contact Mandy at [lwbouldercounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwbouldercounty@gmail.com) with any questions.



### Presidents' Letter

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

We hope you have enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday (and the beautiful snow), and we hope you will join us for our [Holiday Party](#) on Friday evening, December 6. Details are on Page 1 of this newsletter. This should be a festive, fun, and celebratory occasion, before turning our attention to 2020. Bring a non-member guest for free!

In January, we have several events lined up, with more information elsewhere in this Voter. This includes a tour of Eco-Cycle on January 8, a member coffee on January 11, a Motus Theater production of Shoebox Stories on January 17, and the very important Voter Registration Drive training on January 25.

We are incredibly honored to be one of 5 community groups invited to participate with Motus Theater during MLK week on their Shoebox Stories series. See Elizabeth Crowe's article on Page 5 of this newsletter. This should be a meaningful experience for the 4 LWVBC members who are reading the stories, as well as for the audience. Invite your friends and neighbors to participate!

We will hold our Program Planning meetings in early February (tentatively on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>). This year's focus will be on national and local issues. On or near February 14, the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the League of Women Voters, the state league (LWVCO) is planning an event. And, LWVBC is planning a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and fundraiser for the afternoon of March 1. Mark your calendars.

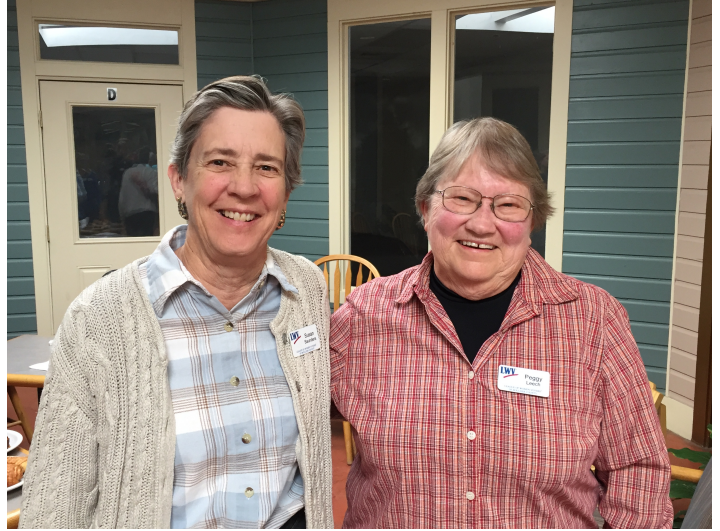
The next Voter will be on February 1. For additional updates about upcoming activities and events, watch the calendar on our LWVBC website, and keep your eye out for emails.

Meanwhile, best wishes for you, your family, and your friends during this holiday season.

Here are some videos of interest to our members.

[State Senator Mike Foote explains why he supports the National Popular Vote Compact](#) recorded November 12, 2019 (Drinks and Dialogue, 1:13:00). Photo at right.

[Jeanne Clelland: "The Will of the People: How We Vote and Why It Matters"](#) and slide show recorded November 10, 2019 (Community Conversation, 1:08:08). Photos on page 4.



## Member News and Announcements

### Good News on Wages

The LWVBC with its partners in the Longmont Living Wage Coalition achieved an important victory from the Longmont City Council. City Council members on September 17 voted unanimously to raise the city's hourly wage for full-time employees and full-time contract employees to \$17.42.

The Colorado Legislature repealed the prohibition on increasing local minimum wage - a measure the League has long supported.

### Eda Bagel Event Raises Funds for LWVBC

Mrs. Eda Bagel, Gender Illusion Technician, entertained a sold-out crowd at Nissi's on November 20. Eda (aka Jeffrey Kash) raised \$1600 for the LWVBC, and has raised a total of over \$2 million for charity!



### Time to Rethink Recycling

LWVBC has arranged a tour and talk at the Eco-Cycle. We will have a tour of the plant and a presentation on what is happening with markets. Find out how to address 21st century waste stream. What about all the plastic? What we can each do to think about our habits - rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle. Also a headsup of upcoming legislation addressing recycling in Colorado during the 2020 legislative session.

What: Tour of Eco-cycle

When: January 8, 2020 at 2 p.m.

Where: Eco-Cycle, 1901 63rd St, Boulder (north off Arapahoe, on left, go to sign for "tours")

Please let Jeannette Hillery, [jmhillery915@comcast.net](mailto:jmhillery915@comcast.net), know if you are interested or have any questions.

### Support LWVBC with Your IRA Distribution

The end of this year is approaching. League members who have one or more Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) should think about directing your retirement account manager to send all or a portion of your Minimum Required Distribution directly to the League of Women Voters of Boulder County. This is a wonderful way to support the LWVBC - and if the distribution is sent **directly to the League** it will not be taxable. Call your financial manager quickly, before the distribution is sent to you, to qualify for the charitable tax deduction. And then notify the League office of your gift, since distributions are sometimes sent without any notice of who the donor is.

### Shiquita Yarbrough and Reading to End Racism

A Longmont Times-Call article describes the YWCA "Reading to End Racism" program in [an article on November 23](#). LWVBC Youth Engagement Director Shiquita Yarbrough is also the manager of community engagement and equity for the YWCA Boulder County and oversees the "Reading to End Racism" program.

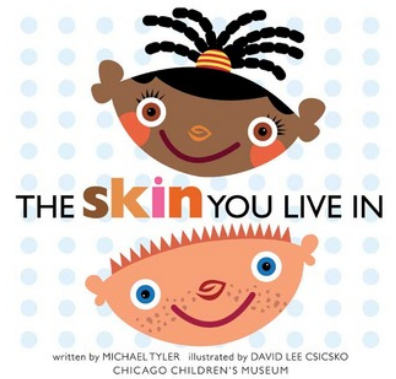


## League of Women Voters of Boulder County

This article describes her reading and leading a discussion on a story called "The Skin You Live in," by Michael Tyler and David Lee Csicsko with first graders at Crest View Elementary.

To help out, please sign up for training on the [YWCA website](#).

LWVBC has teamed up with the YWCA and Families of Color Colorado for other events, such as showings of *Blackkkklansman* and *Black Panther*.



## Boulder County Election results

Over 50% of active Boulder County voters voted in 2019 - a great result for an odd-year election. Results [here](#).

## Voting Methods

[A November letter](#) (PDF download) from the LWVCO Board of Directors "wholeheartedly endorses LWVUS adopting a 'broad and general' position on voting methods" but asks LWVUS to remove a "majority-criterion bullet point" from a proposed 2020 concurrence. LWVCO (and the [LWVBC Voting Methods Team](#)) notes that guaranteeing a majority is often impossible and problematic for a variety of reasons.

## Will of the People Event

We had a great turnout for the November 10 event "The Will of the People: How We Vote, and Why it Matters". Below left: The speaker was CU professor Jeanne Clelland. Below right: Voting Methods Team members. Back row left to right is Mary Raynolds, Jeanne Clelland, Gaythia Weis, Pat Venturo, Frank Venturo. Front row is Neal McBurnett, Celeste Landry.





## League of Women Voters of Boulder County

### November Member Coffee



## LWVBC Partners with Motus Theater for MLK UndocuAmerica Events

By Elizabeth Crowe

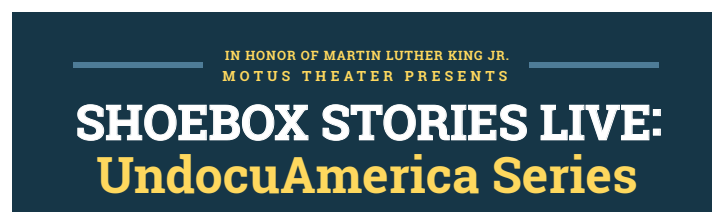
Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a time to honor one of our nation's great civil rights leaders, and renew our commitment to work for racial and social justice.

This coming January, League will be celebrating MLK Day through a partnership with Boulder's Motus Theater called "[Shoebbox Stories Live: UndocuAmerica Series](#)" on January 17 at 7 PM at the Dairy Center in Boulder. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Motus Theater is a non-profit organization that uses personal stories to inform and inspire people to work for social change. For several years, Motus has been focused on lifting up the stories of undocumented immigrants in our community. One of its latest projects is Shoebbox Stories, in which people read aloud written monologues from undocumented community members, to help us put ourselves in their shoes, so to speak.

On January 17th, four LWVBC members -- **Jeannette Hillery, Kay Marsh, Emma Pillar and Lauren Modery** -- will read stories. Audience

members will have the opportunity to listen and reflect upon the stories. For League, this event can help deepen our understanding of immigration issues and immigrants in our community, and enable us to more



Get to know the people whose lives are at stake in the U.S. immigration debate. Shoebbox Stories is a story-holding project where we gather together and stand in another person's shoes by reading aloud their story, saying their words, and holding, for a moment, the weight that they carry.

DAIRY ARTS CENTER - GRACE GAMM THEATER

TICKETS AVAILABLE @ thedairy.org



## *League of Women Voters of Boulder County*

effectively advocate on issues that impact everyone in our community regardless of their documentation status.

Let's pack the auditorium on January 17th, with League members, our family and friends! Tickets are available online at <http://tickets.thedairy.org/online/ShoeboxStories>.

For more information contact Elizabeth Crowe at [crowe.elizabethann@gmail.com](mailto:crowe.elizabethann@gmail.com).

## **Consensus Process for Non-citizen Rights - and the Consensus Process in General**

### **No Consensus on Non-citizen Rights**

*by Angie Layton*

After receiving a report of the consensus results supporting a variety of non-citizen rights as it relates to voting, the board has voted to not adopt the consensus. The LWVBC will not have a position at this point.

Editor's note: Correction - The Board voted against a suggested simplification of the draft position statement. It did not vote on adoption of consensus.

### **Note on Consensus Process for Non-citizen Rights**

*by Peggy Leech and Susan Saunders*

We are nearing conclusion of the LWVBC's consensus process for non-citizen rights. Following lengthy discussion at the November Board meeting, the Board members deferred a final decision on the draft position statement. Instead they asked the Social Policy Team for clarity on a residency requirement, if any, for non-citizens. Also, the Team was asked for input regarding the post-election experience in communities with non-citizen voting rights, including local Leagues' experience and/or participation in the process of bringing those rights to their communities.

### **Letter to the Editor**

*by Elizabeth Black*

As a member of the League's Social Policy Team and because I wanted to understand our members' thoughts on rights of non-citizens, I attended all three consensus meetings on that topic. I participated in the one held at the Louisville library, I observed and contributed a few bits of information at the meeting held at Frasier, and I facilitated the discussion at the final meeting at Front Range Community College in Longmont. I have stayed an active leaguer for years and one of the reasons this organization appeals to me is that program decisions are made from the bottom up, at the grass roots level, by members. I was gratified to know that a number of individuals, primarily younger adults, had joined the league specifically because they wanted a say in the local league's process of working towards adoption of a position on rights of non-citizens. I was discouraged that so few members came to the meetings, but I assumed that those who were absent would gracefully accept that the opinions expressed by those who took part in the consensus were representative of the views of the overall membership.

The team members met and compared our notes from the three meetings and then carefully drafted a statement to fairly reflect the degree to which meeting participants had and had not achieved consensus on the rights of non-citizens. We were shocked and even outraged when the local league board rejected the draft statement without even taking a vote, for lack of a second to the motion.

## *League of Women Voters of Boulder County*

Elsewhere in this newsletter the co-presidents will no doubt explain the board's action, but here I want to tell why I found it so disappointing. What follows are my opinions; I am not attempting to represent anyone else on the social policy team. To me, the board's actions shows lack of respect for our members and for the grass roots concept. Every year members are asked what issues they wish to study and take action on, also to reaffirm or put aside each of the local program positions previously adopted. Every two years we are asked do the same to determine the direction of the league at the state and national levels. But in recent years the powers that be at the state and national league seem little interested in members views. They warn us not to push for new studies, they tell us of the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion. They recommend to us certain priorities for action at all levels, regardless of what might be happening in our local community. If it worries you as it does me that the local league now follows the top-down approach modeled by the state and national levels, please consider how you might act to steer the league back in line with its heritage of being a bottom-up association.

Editor's note: Liz Black was a member of the LWVBC from 1986 to 2017. She is participating on the LWVBC's Social Policy Team as a Member-at-Large of the state League.

## *Contentious Consensus?*

*by Peggy Leech and Susan Saunders*

Reaching consensus is a process encouraging civil discourse amongst members regarding topics of importance to the League and potentially to the community. The LWVBC has had a surge in numbers of new members for whom the process is always a little mysterious. The Social Policy Team (SPT) included in the June 2019 VOTER, a brief statement of the process with its materials leading up to the fall consensus meetings. The process, particularly this year, has brought up some questions about the practice and we'd like to collect some feedback. We'll be sending you a survey in January and hope you will feel engaged enough to respond, even if it's to ask your own questions. We'll probably start with something like the following:

- Do you participate in the consensus process, in those years when it takes place?
- If you don't participate in the consensus process, why not?

The process determines the "sense" of the group, not a majority or unanimity:

- Do you think the process works well?
- If you participated this year or past years, do you feel your voice was heard?
- Do you think a certain percentage of the membership needs to participate to reach consensus?
- Can members bring up questions to be resolved in addition to pre-published questions?
- Do you have suggestions or questions regarding the process?

It's worthwhile for organizations to review their practices whether or not it results in changes. Please be thinking about consensus and your part in it.

## *From Membership*

MEMBERSHIP MEET-UP IN BOULDER SATURDAY, 1/11, 10:00 am AT PANERA

Please join us for a Membership Meet-Up at Panera in Boulder's 29<sup>th</sup> Street Mall on Saturday, January 11 at 10:00 am. Look for us in the section to the left as you walk in. Bring an interested friend. Come meet new members and chat about the League.



## League of Women Voters of Boulder County

WE NEED YOUR HELP PROVIDING MEMBER DATA REQUESTED BY GRANTING AGENCIES

(Note that the data will not be connected to individual identity.)

Please provide the essential information we need by making sure your profile on our website includes your gender, birth year and ethnicity. Other items in your profile help LWVBC understand what your interests, needs and skills are.

To update this information:

1. [Log in](#). Find your name in the upper right-hand corner of the screen and click on the down arrow beside it. Click [Profile](#).
2. On the [Profile](#) screen under [Personal Info](#), click on [Additional Member Data](#).
3. Scroll to the bottom of the [Additional Member Data](#) screen to see where to enter your race/ethnicity or to check that your entry is correct. Enter your birth year on this page as well. It's also a good idea to review your other data while you are on this page. Update your *Skills*: Notice that we have added *fluent in Spanish*. We would greatly appreciate knowing who might help us with attending meetings with Latinx groups! You can also type in what *Other* skills you would like to list. Update your *Needs*: Notice that we have added *childcare, rides and handicap assistance* as options.
4. Return to your [Profile](#) page and under [Website](#) update your *Interests*: *Climate Change/Environment*, *TABOR*, and *Voter Service 2020 Elections* are new options to choose.
5. Return to your [Profile](#) page and under [Personal Info](#) click [Contact Info](#) to check or update your gender.

While you are on the website updating your information, please **add your picture**, if it isn't already there (on your [Profile](#) page under [Personal Info](#) click [Standard Member Directory](#)). To load your picture yourself, click where your picture would be to get instructions for placing the picture. Or you can send me your picture to put on your profile for you: [debvink@gmail.com](mailto:debvink@gmail.com). Call for help updating your profile: 303-435-7687.

Membership: 261 Members as of November 2019

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