

The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County * March 2020



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Monthly Events Calendar

| | |
|---------|---|
| Mar 12: | Eric Mayor and Board of Trustee candidate forum |
| Mar 17: | Doing Democracy Day! |
| Mar 18: | Doing Democracy Day! |
| Mar 21: | Member Coffee |
| Apr 4: | Member Coffee |
| Apr 16: | National Popular Vote |
| Apr 25: | Annual Meeting |

LWVBC Social Media



League of Women Voters of Boulder County 100th Anniversary

100 Years Strong: Celebrating LWV in Boulder County!

Nearly 100 people gathered on March 1 to celebrate the League's 100th Anniversary, and kick off a new century of voter service and advocacy in Boulder County. The event was a great success, and we raised several thousand dollars to support our work in 2020.



The event featured LWVBC member Hannah Rain Crowe and her inspirational "[She Is Me - Colorado](#)" photojournalism project; and an historical monologue by Susan Marie Frontczak as "Eleanor Roosevelt." Frontczak's monologue was set in 1950, with Roosevelt reminiscing about the 30th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, and the responsibility of women to not just vote, but take action about voting rights for all people.

Event participants also enjoyed a delicious appetizer buffet, drinks and conversation with League and community friends, new and old.

Many thanks to the event committee members Louisa Young, Lois Linsky, Anne Bryan, Mandy Nuku and other event volunteers; and to our event sponsors including Elevations Credit Union.

More photos of this event are found on [page 7](#).



League of Women Voters of Boulder County

Presidents' Letter

By Peggy Leech and Susan Saunders, LWVBC Co-Presidents

LWV has been celebrating its 100th Anniversary for the past few weeks! On February 14 (the actual anniversary), the League was honored in both the Colorado House and Senate. Later that day, at the LWVCO Legislative Conference, Governor Polis read a proclamation honoring the League.

On a local level, LWVBC received a proclamation from the Colorado Senate (courtesy of Sen. Mike Foote), and another proclamation from the Boulder County Commissioners. And, of course, we celebrated our 100th at the JCC on March 1, with a wonderful party. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this a successful event!

Our Annual Meeting will be on April 25. The Nominating Committee and the Budget Committee are wrapping up their work. Issues For Action Planning (formerly known as Program Planning) took place during February, with members participating in 2 meetings, and the results are being reported to the state and national Leagues. And, at its February meeting, the board approved a new local position on the rights of non-citizens. Thank you to all who have worked so hard to get these items accomplished. They will all be reported to members on approximately March 25 (1 month before the Annual Meeting), and members (you!) will then vote on them at the Annual Meeting. We hope to see many of you there.

In addition, we will be presenting awards to our members and community partners at the Annual Meeting. Please send your nominations to Debby Vink by March 15. This is always a very special part of our Annual Meeting.

Our Voter Service Team has been, and still is, very active during this major election year. They will be conducting a candidate forum in Erie on March 12, and they continue to conduct Voter Registration Drives around the county. LWVBC volunteers will be involved in some Census Questionnaire Assistance events around the county, too.

It is always so nice to see our members at events, meetings, and coffees. We encourage you to participate if you can, and we are looking forward to seeing many of you in the coming months. We appreciate your support!

Right: a snippet of the Governor's Proclamation of League of Women Voters Day. See the whole thing [here](#).



*THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim
February 14, 2020 as,*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS DAY

in the State of Colorado.

*GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this fourteenth day of
February, 2020*



Jared Polis
Jared Polis
Governor

Member News and Announcements

Eleanor Roosevelt Portrayal

Many enjoyed the living history portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt by Susan Marie Frontczak at our celebration on March 1. If you would like to find out about other local living history performances by Frontczak, you are welcome to sign up for her monthly e-calendar here:

<https://mailchi.mp/1cc18466c8bb/storysmithsignup>

Member Coffees

Right: A LWVBC member coffee was held on February 22 at Lafayette Brewing Market. The next member coffee will be held Saturday, March 21, 2020, at the Old Oak Coffeehouse in Niwot from 10:00AM to 11:00AM. Please register [here](#) to join us.



Census News

April 1, 2020, is Census Day, and this is the first census that can be completed online. You can also respond by phone or paper form. Letters from the Census Bureau will start arriving in your mailbox on approximately March 12. You are encouraged to complete your census questions as soon as possible, to avoid further mailings. The self-response time will last through May 12, and then Census workers will be sent out to talk to people who have not yet responded.

Here are some other important things to remember about the census:

1. It's simple. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire, and you can complete it a number of ways (online, phone or mail).
2. It's safe. Your responses are protected by law, and confidentiality is guaranteed.
3. It's required. The law requires that everyone living in the U.S. participate in the census.
4. It's available online in 13 different languages, and there are guides in 59 languages.
5. It will not ask for your Social Security number, your bank account or donations.

Please spread the word about the importance and safety of the census to ensure that **Everyone Counts in Boulder County!** There will be Questionnaire Assistance events throughout the County for anyone needing assistance.

Annual Meeting on April 25 - Save the Date

LWVBC's annual meeting will be held on April 25 from 9:00AM to 11:30AM at Nissi's in Lafayette. Please check back [here](#) to register (registration is not yet open). Materials will be available on our website, and the materials will be emailed to those on our email list by the end of March. If you are not receiving emails from us and wish to, you can make this change on your Member Profile Page. Please see the article in the February 2020 [Boulder County Voter](#), page 8 for help navigating your profile page.

Doing Democracy Day – an Opportunity to Volunteer with Young People

Once again, LWVBC is a sponsor of Doing Democracy Day. We provide volunteers, offer free student memberships, and a Voter Registration Drive for the high school students.

High school students will participate on Tuesday, March 17, and middle school students on Wednesday, March 18. **Volunteers are needed for both days.** See below for a description and how to sign up. Or you can contact Peggy Leech at pegleech@aol.com.

The event takes place at the St Vrain Valley Schools Innovation Center, 33 Quail Road, Longmont. This is a fabulous facility and a fun event!

Doing Democracy Day (DDD) is a multi-community, multi-school event devoted to students wrestling with local issues, using local leaders (like you) as live resources. DDD has been a great success due to the participation local leaders and public servants. We hope you can join us for one or both days this year. Please mark your calendars and RSVP to Kent Willmann kentwillmann@gmail.com 303-506-1861 or register with SVVSD-Community Strong - Contact Matt Wiggins for details wiggins_mathew@svvsd.org.

Most leaders are needed between 9:30-11:30am each day. Others are needed as judges from 12:30 - 3pm. Local leaders, educators and public servants from all St. Vrain Communities and St. Vrain secondary schools are invited to share their expertise as walking resources for students (no advanced preparation is necessary). Students from all district high schools and middle schools will be participating in a day of grappling with local government issues.

US and Colorado Voting Methods News

By the Voting Methods Team

The competitive presidential nomination process is highlighting the way voters choose elected officials. Better voting methods are again generating a huge amount of interest!

Update on possible LWVUS concurrence language - Last month we reported on a possible compromise for the problematic bullet point in the proposed Voter Representation/Electoral Systems concurrence. LWV Maine responded, suggesting the following, even better, language:

"Whether for single- or multiple-winner contests, the League supports electoral methods that ...

- implement alternatives to plurality voting that improve the election experience and more accurately represent voter preferences."

The language comes almost directly from the LWVCO position so we are very pleased with the language! According to the concurrence proponents, "The LWVUS decides on language" after the Program Planning reports are submitted. We are now in wait-and-see mode.

Next step - Voting Methods Team applied to lead an LWVUS convention caucus

Before the March 2nd deadline, we applied for a caucus to advocate for an amendment to the proposed national concurrence. Applicants will be notified of LWVUS decisions by March 13th.



Feb 6th Alternative Voting Method Stakeholder Group meeting

Celeste Landry gave an invited presentation on Comparing Voting Methods at a stakeholder meeting sponsored by the Colorado Secretary of State's office.

Left: Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold

Congressman Joe Neguse (at right) is a new co-sponsor of HR 4000 - Fair Representation Act

The Fair Representation Act would create multi-member congressional districts – virtually eliminating gerrymandering – and conduct elections using a proportional multi-winner ranked voting method known as single transferable vote (STV). [STV is a good version of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Remember that RCV is an umbrella term for several different versions – some worse than our familiar plurality voting.]



Senator Michael Bennet (at left) introduces the Voter Choice Act

The Voter Choice Act would provide up to \$40M in federal matching funds to support state and local governments transitioning from our familiar plurality voting to either instant-runoff voting (IRV) or single transferable vote (STV). Prior to the act's introduction, LWVCO sent a letter to Sen Bennet asking him to consider funding a variety of better voting methods, not only IRV and STV.

Approval Voting citizens' initiative is collecting signatures for the fall ballot

Four Democracy Initiatives intended to improve elections were created by Nathan Clay's campaign for US House of Representatives, District 7. If the Approval Voting initiative collects enough signatures, it will ask voters to adopt approval voting for state and local elections.

Join our [Voting Methods Team](#) and help us educate and advocate for better voting methods!

In Memoriam

By Louisa Young

The League of Women Voters of Boulder County was saddened to learn of the death of Nancy McCaffrey on February 25th in Fort Collins. Long time members will remember Nancy, who was a stalwart member of LWVBC back in the '80s and '90s. She was well-remembered as a part of the Alternatives to the Automobile, or ATTA girls. She organized many bicycle counting sessions when one would sit at an intersection and record a complicated diagram of bicycle traffic to illustrate to City officials the flow of bicycle traffic. Nancy had moved to Fort Collins in recent years after being inactive in the League for several years. Her heart was with us, even after her ability to participate had departed.



From Membership

By Deborah Vink

Member Coffees are planned for the following Saturdays at 10:00AM:

Saturday, March 21st in Niwot, Old Oak Coffeehouse hallway

Saturday, April 4th at Panera in Superior

Saturday, May 16 at Panera in Boulder

We look forward to orienting new members, chatting with those interested in becoming members, and catching up with longer-time Leaguers. We'll give you an update on current action and advocacy!

Website Quiz

How well do you know our website lwvbc.org?

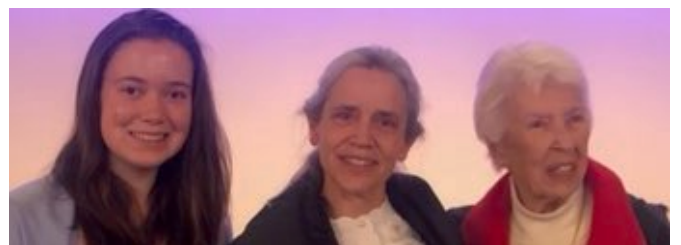
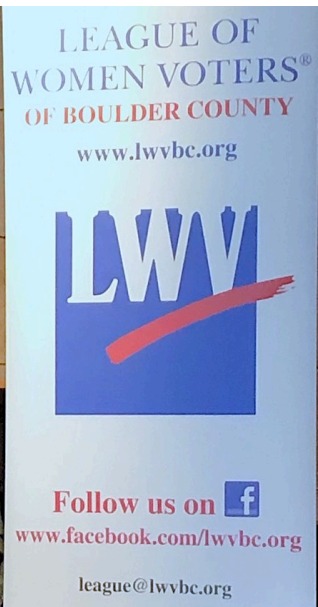
Take the matching quiz below to see if you know where/how to find the following. (There may be more than one correct answer.)

| Looking For: | Where/How to Find it |
|---|---|
| 1. A printable member list | A. <i>Voting and LWV</i> |
| 2. Links to the <i>Boulder County Voter</i> | B. Must click on <i>View More</i> |
| 3. <i>Volunteering</i> | C. <i>News</i> |
| 4. LWVBC Leaders | D. <i>Member Info</i> (must be logged in) |
| 5. <i>Your Elected Officials</i> | E. <i>Get to Know Us</i> |
| 6. Volunteer Slots | F. <i>Events</i> |

For answers, see **page 8** of this newsletter. Help us design the next puzzle or quiz about using our website and earn a \$10 gift card to Safeway. Send your entries to debvink@gmail.com with the email subject LWVBC.ORG PUZZLE. How about a crossword, word find or word scramble?

League of Women Voters of Boulder County

More Photos of 100th Anniversary Celebration (continued from **page 1**)



League of Women Voters of Boulder County

Answers to Website Quiz: 1-D, 2-C or E, 3-F or E, 4-E or D (In LWVBC Handbook), 5-A or D (In LWVBC Handbook), 6-B



Membership: 265 Members as of March 2020

Co-presidents: Peggy Leech and Susan Saunders
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Boulder County Voter Editor: Jennifer Bales
jbales@me.com

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