

**EMPOWERING VOTERS, DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**

**THE VOTER**

August 2020      Membership 52

**WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY - AUGUST 26, 1920**  
**100th ANNIVERSARY 19th AMENDMENT**

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU SUFFRAGISTS!!!**

**YOUR 72-YEAR STRUGGLE GAVE US A VOICE:  
THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND TO RUN FOR OFFICE  
YEA FOR EQUALITY & JUSTICE!!!  
WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY!!!**

See pages 3 and 4

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## **Local League News**

### **MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, JAN EDWARDS**

League begins a new year! This year, 2020, is of crucial significance for this League, and our nation. It will include the US 2020 Census; the August 26 commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, empowering women with voting rights; and the 2020 General Election on November 3 - all in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. And, we have added something new that we expect will be interesting!

We will hold our annual Suffragist march, in Montrose on August 25, at 5pm, adapted to meet CDC guidelines. This year, to add a bit of solidarity for League members, and a fun nod to our foremothers, a limited number of specially made, commemorative facemasks will be available for sale. Funds raised will be used to support League activities. We hope to see as many of you as possible on the Courthouse steps and at Horsefly Brewing Company for additional fundraising. See page 2 for details. Do spread the word and bring a friend!

Also, this year, we are sponsoring both an essay and a poster contest for students aged 16-21 living in Montrose, Delta and Ouray counties. The theme for entry is "Why It Is Important to Vote and What Voting Means to Me". There will be cash prizes from funds donated by members.

The competitions will highlight the significance of the issue of voter education and participation, especially to young and potential voters. Our young citizens, in their great numbers, represent significant potential to shape the future of the America in which they will live, and in which they will bring up their own families.

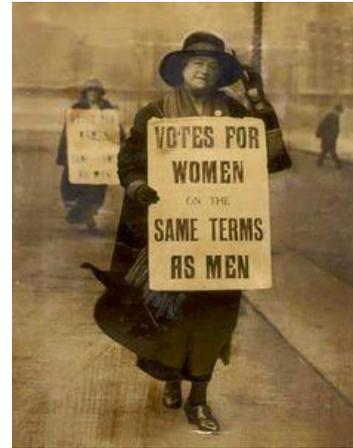
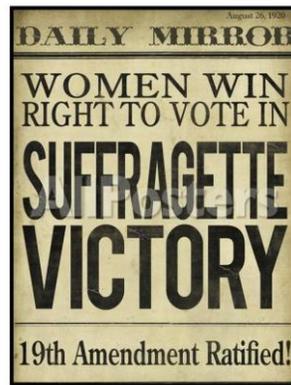
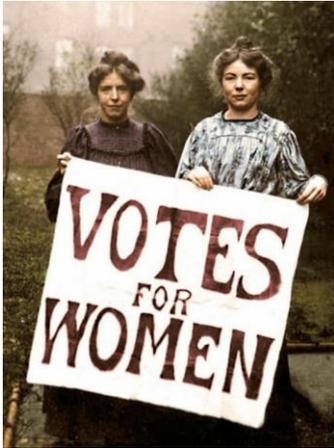
Our hope and our aim are that our youth will be empowered to actively and effectively participate in the creation of their own futures through their preparedness to become informed, knowledgeable voters. We hope to provide a platform for them to demonstrate their ability and their commitment to do so. The theme aligns with the vision of the League of Women Voters, a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate, and with our mission to empower voters and defend democracy. See page 2 for more details, and again, do please spread the word.

As above, adaptability and creativity will be key as the League traditionally holds in-person voter registration, ballot issues and candidate forums. This year we will need to shift to "virtual" modes, at least in part, for some of our events. Board meetings are now "Zoomed", and we will be adapting and applying our creativity to Voter Services, including National Voter Registration Day and Vote411.org, as we have in our efforts for the Census.

Also, we will hold our Annual Meeting later this year, and will install new officers. Details will follow. So, there are many ways that you can participate in assisting the League so our many goals can be accomplished. There is a place for everyone to contribute, and any level of support will be greatly appreciated!

**DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!**

## Happy Women's Equality Day! 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote



**19<sup>th</sup> Amendment: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."**

**August 26, 2020** marks the centennial of the culmination of the 72-year struggle by our determined and brave foremothers through the Civil War, World War I, and the 1918 Flu Epidemic to obtain equal voting rights for women.

We will be celebrating and honoring this historic event in a number of meaningful ways:

- 1) Launching both an essay and a poster contest on August 10 with cash prizes for ages 16 to 21 with a theme of "Why the Vote is Important and What the Vote Means to Me" \*
- 2) Offering hand-crafted masks in Suffragist materials for a donation of \$7.00. Contact Nancy Ball per info on page 8 if you are interested in having one.
- 3) Fundraising get-together/lunch at Horsefly Brewing Company on East Main Street in Montrose on Tuesday, August 25, at 11:30am in the outdoor patio. Horsefly will donate \$1.00 to the League for each beverage (alcoholic or non) sold that day between 11am and closing. Spread the Word! Wear a mask (Suffragist for solidarity) to enter the brewery.
- 4) Marching in period costume with signs on Wednesday, August 26, at 5pm around the Montrose County Courthouse and up Main Street. Covid-19 guidelines.
- 5) Obtaining proclamations to honor the day from Montrose and Delta cities and counties
- 6) Displaying Suffragist materials at the Montrose and Delta counties election offices and the Montrose and Naturita libraries.



\*details are on our website. Again, spread the word!

## **WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY!**

In 2020, **127** (105D, 22R) **women** hold seats in the **United States 116<sup>TH</sup> Congress**, comprising **23.7%** of the 535 members:

**26 women** serve in the United States Senate (**26%**), and **101 women** serve in the United States House of Representatives, (plus 4 Delegates from US Territories), (**23.2%**)

In the U.S. Senate, 29 of the 56 women who have ever served in the Senate took office in 2000 or later. In Six states, both of the U.S. senators are female!

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of the 325 women elected to the U.S. House since the first woman to serve (1917) have been elected since 1992, and nearly half (48%) since 1998.

43 women serving in the 116th U.S. Congress in 2020 are women of color:

22 are Black, 12 Latina, 6 Asian American/Pacific Islander, 2 Native American, 1 Middle Eastern/North African, and 1 multiracial.

Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

In the **2020 Colorado Legislature**, **45 women** hold seats, comprising **45%** of the 100 members, **the highest % in the country!**

33 women serve in the CO House, 12 in the CO Senate.

In 2016 we had the first female presidential candidate nominated by a major political party.

The current Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives is the first and only female to serve in that capacity, and

the third woman has just been chosen by a major political party as a vice-presidential running mate, and she is a woman of color---a first!

## **Montrose County Board of County Commissioners Proclaim August 26 as "19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Day"**



Martha Whitmore, Nancy Ball, Jan Edwards, Tricia Joy, Sue Hansen, Tressa Guynes

Jan warmly thanked the commissioners on behalf of the League and spoke of the work that is yet to be done, saying as voting rights continue to be threatened, so our work must continue to protect and expand voting rights for all U.S. citizens; Tricia gave a heartfelt plea for unity across our nation and called upon women to lead the way; Tressa heartily expressed her thanks for the Suffragists concerted efforts that also resulted in women's right to run for office and gave thanks to election judges (many of whom are women); and, Sue also expressed her thoughts on the long struggle and thanked the League of Women Voters for its dedicated work over the past century. Tressa also presented figures from the 2020 primary elections that showed women outvoted men by over 120,000 votes, so truly Women Do Make A Difference! Commissioners Roger Rash and Keith Caddy also expressed their thanks to women, saying the County administration wouldn't function half as well without them!

The proclamation reads:

**Whereas**, the United States celebrates on August 26, 2020, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which states, "*The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex*", and

**Whereas**, it was the culmination of a 72-year struggle by Suffragists to gain the recognition that women are equally qualified to vote and participate in the shaping of the direction of their country, and

**Whereas**, it was the culmination of a 72-year struggle by Suffragists to gain the recognition that women are equally qualified to vote and participate in the shaping of the direction of their country, and

**Whereas**, by their accomplishments over the last 100 years, women have proven their commitment for equality under the law for all Americans through their efforts to ensure that freedom, liberty, and access to voting are the mainstays of our democracy, and

**Whereas**, like the Suffragists of the past, today's women, through their resolve, innovation, leadership, and passion, continue to inspire future generations of women working to bring this nation closer to its founding promise of full fairness and equality for all, and

**Whereas**, their efforts have strengthened our economy, our communities, and our families and enriched the American spirit, and

**Whereas**, we commemorate women's remarkable achievements inspired by the fight for and passage of the Nineteenth Amendment and celebrate their commitment to inspire the women of the future,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County hereby proclaims August 26, 2020, as 19th Amendment Day in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Certification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Hereby Resolved and Proclaimed on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

## 2020 Census Reminder – There is Still Work to be Done and Less Time!



### Final 2020 Census Reminder Postcards to Arrive Before Nationwide Rollout of Census Takers Visiting Homes

The U.S. Census Bureau recently sent reminder postcards to an estimated 34.3 million households. This was the final mailing before census takers begin visiting nonresponding households across the nation. STOP THE KNOCK! Responding now minimizes the need for census takers to visit homes to collect responses in person.

Colorado is ahead of most of the country: **as of August 1**, 67% of Colorado households have **self-responded; self-response from Montrose, Delta and Ouray counties is 66%, 64%, and 48%.** (%s are rounded up.) The national self-response rate is 63%. By the way, **our 3rd Congressional District response is 56%, remains the lowest in Colorado.** The newly-shortened response deadline is **September 30**, and all four Colorado area census offices are scheduled to conclude work no later than September 30 as well.

Remember why it is so important to our counties and our state and how it impacts us:

Representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, and drawing of the Congressional maps (redistricting), and \$675 billion per year of federal funds is allotted to the states and then the counties according to the response

The census is vital because **with a good response it is estimated that Colorado will gain an additional seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and will receive federal funding of about \$2,300 per person per year!!!**

**There are some census "swag" items available: pens, lip gloss, paper clamps, tote bags, plastic water bottles and "I Count" stickers. Contact Nancy Ball if you could put them to good use. Get creative!**

Please spread the word to your spheres of influence! Questions? Be sure to check out [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) for more info.

**Every person in Montrose, Delta and Ouray counties counts!**

## LWVCO News

### **Welcome to Karen Sheek, our new state League president**



Elected at the virtual LWWUS convention, Ms. Sheek is a Western Slope resident from “very rural Cortez, Colorado” since 1976. Having served as a school teacher for 30 years, a business owner, a city council member and mayor, she is well-equipped to “work hard to provide solid leadership as we adjust course and continue to move forward.”

## LWVUS NEWS

### **Welcome Deborah Turner, the New LWWUS president**



Elected at the June convention held virtually, Ms. Turner outlined some of her vision for the next two years, “including making VOTE411 a household name, deepening our diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work, and truly becoming an intergenerational enterprise. I am excited about sharing League building time with you virtually soon and eventually in person during the upcoming biennium. I look forward to celebrating in person with so many of you **when we meet in Denver for our 2022 Convention.**”

### **Contact Your Senators and Urge Them to Move Forward with \$3.6 Billion in Elections Funding**

The League is [continuing its push for elections funding](#) in Congress. Members of the LWWUS Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices as final negotiations for the next COVID stimulus bill continue. We are also asking Leagues to consider sending their own letters to their Senators [using our template](#) available on the League Management Site. Members and supporters can also use our action alert to [contact their Senators](#).

### **League Continues Coalition Push for Elections Funding in U.S. Senate**

The League joins the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights along with 110 other organizations asking the Senate to support \$3.6 billion in elections funding as part of the HEROES Act. The HEROES Act passed the House on May 15th. The letter outlines the critical need for additional elections funding and cites examples of pandemic-related voter suppression from state primaries earlier this year. Read [the letter included](#) with our other COVID stimulus priorities.

## **Contact info for the Colorado U.S. Congressional Delegation**

Sen. Cory Gardner | [303-391-5777](tel:303-391-5777)

<https://www.gardner.senate.gov/contact-cory/email-cory>

Sen. Michael Bennet | [303-455-7600](tel:303-455-7600) / [866-455-9866](tel:866-455-9866) <https://www.bennet.senate.gov/?p=contact>

## **Contact info for the Colorado U.S. Congressional Delegation**

Rep. Diana DeGette (CO District 1) | [303-844-4988](tel:303-844-4988) <https://degette.house.gov/contact/send-me-an-email/email-me>

Rep. Joe Neguse (CO District 2) | [202-225-2161](tel:202-225-2161) <https://neguse.house.gov/contact>

Rep. Scott Tipton (CO District 3) | [970-241-2499](tel:970-241-2499) <https://tipton.house.gov/contact/email>

Rep. Ken Buck (CO District 4) | [970-702-2136](tel:970-702-2136) <https://buck.house.gov/contact/email>

Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO District 5) | [719-520-0055](tel:719-520-0055) <https://lamborn.house.gov/contact/leave-a-comment.htm>

Rep. Jason Crow (CO District 6) | [202-225-7882](tel:202-225-7882) <https://crow.house.gov/contact/>

Rep. Ed Perlmutter (CO District 7) | [303-274-7944](tel:303-274-7944)

<https://perlmutter.house.gov/forms/writeyourrep/>

## **Contact Info for Colorado General Assembly**

Rep. Marc Catlin (CO House District 58) [303-866-2955](tel:303-866-2955)  
[marc.catlin.house@state.co.us](mailto:marc.catlin.house@state.co.us)

Sen. Don Coram (CO Senate District 6) [303-866-4884](tel:303-866-4884)  
[don.coram.senate@state.co.us](mailto:don.coram.senate@state.co.us)

Rep. Matt Soper (CO House District 54)  
[matthew.soper.house.state.co.us](mailto:matthew.soper.house.state.co.us) [303-866-2583](tel:303-866-2583)

Rep. Julie Mc Cluskie (CO House District 61) [303-866-2952](tel:303-866-2952)  
[RepMcCluskie@gmail.com](mailto:RepMcCluskie@gmail.com)

Sen. Kerry Donovan (CO Senate District 5) [303-866-4871](tel:303-866-4871)  
[kerry.donovan.sd5@gmail.com](mailto:kerry.donovan.sd5@gmail.com)

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

### ***2019-2020 LWV Community Support***

The League of Women Voters of Montrose County, serving Montrose and Delta counties, thanks these local businesses, organizations and individuals who have donated financial and in-kind support.

Please **add your thank you** when you patronize these businesses or visit with these individuals.

**Alpine Archeological      Bank of Colorado  
Coffee Trader      Horsefly Brewing Company  
The Montrose Mirror**

**Dennis Olmstead      Alicia Conroyd  
Margaret Edith Sortor Joseph**

### **Calendar**

**August 10 – September 25**

**Essay & Poster Contest**

**August 25 – 11:30**

**Lunch at Horsefly Brewing  
Company in the patio**

**August 26 – 5:00**

**Suffragist March  
Meet at Montrose County  
Courthouse**

The League of Women Voters of the Montrose County is pleased you are joining us in helping to Make Democracy Work for our community and our country!

**Check out our Website:**

**<https://www.lwvmontrose.org>**

Our webmaster, Tanya Ishikawa, keeps us updated on and linked to local, state and national activities, issues and websites.

**Check us out on Facebook too:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/VoteMontrose>**

Tanya has set up an LWV Instagram account too!

**EMPOWERING VOTERS, DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**

**Join League of Women Voters of Montrose County  
serving Montrose & Delta counties – 2019-2020  
Not for Women Only!**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Individual \$60** - Of this amount \$32 goes to National League; \$20 goes to State League; \$8 is retained by the Montrose League

\_\_\_ **Household \$90** – Two members in one household (National League receives \$48; State League \$30; \$12 is retained by the Montrose League)

\_\_\_ I understand that I can join without being active, and this is my intent at the present time.

\_\_\_ I would like to make a contribution beyond regular dues and understand it will go directly to our local League (Thank You!).

\_\_\_ **Sustaining Member \$100** - Of this amount \$32 goes to National League; \$20 goes to State League; \$48 is retained by the Montrose League

\_\_\_ I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Montrose League. Write a separate check to **League of Women Voters CO Education Fund. Write "Montrose" on the check's memo line.**

Please make checks payable to **League of Women Voters of Montrose County**. Mail to P.O. Box 3321, Montrose, CO 81402

**2019-2020 Officers & Board**

Jan Edwards, President  
1-832-754-6302  
[janmsw96@icloud.com](mailto:janmsw96@icloud.com)

Gretchen Nicholoff, VP/LWVCO liaison  
970-525-3997, [gnicholoff@gmail.com](mailto:gnicholoff@gmail.com)

Cyndi Holman, Secretary  
1-909-556-8118, [cholmaneee@uia.net](mailto:cholmaneee@uia.net)

Barb Krebs, Treasurer  
249-3989, [stukrebs@hotmail.com](mailto:stukrebs@hotmail.com)

Tanya Ishikawa, Communications-  
Webmaster  
1-303-819-7784 [itanya2008@gmail.com](mailto:itanya2008@gmail.com)

Nancy Ball, at Large & *Voter* editor  
249-8963, [nancyball@montrose.net](mailto:nancyball@montrose.net)

**The League of Women Voters, a  
non-partisan political  
organization, encourages  
informed and active participation  
in government, works to increase  
understanding of major public  
policy issues and influences public  
policy through education and  
advocacy.**



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTROSE COUNTY  
SERVING MONTROSE AND DELTA COUNTIES  
P.O. BOX 3321, MONTROSE, CO 81402

**CREATING A MORE PERFECT DEMOCRACY**