

EMPOWERING VOTERS, DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

THE VOTER

December 2020 Membership 55

**WE ALL WANT A BETTER FUTURE:
LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!**



IN THIS ISSUE

Our League in Action	Pages 1-5
LWVCO & LWVUS News	Page 6
Government Contacts	Page 7
Community Support, Calendar	Page 8
Website, Membership Application, Local League Officers	Page 9

Local League News

Club Express has notified those of you whose membership dues are due to be renewed. There are two options to do so, and one is on line. Also, locally, we would be happy to accept a check made payable to the LWV Montrose County and sent to P.O. Box 3321, Montrose, CO 81402. If you have a question about your due date, give me a call at 249-8963.

ANNUAL MEETING ---CATCH UP AND PREPARATION FOR UPCOMING YEAR-

You will remember that because of Covid 19 the board asked members for and received permission to delay our annual meeting and the election of new officers and the board agreed to remain in place. Following the oh so busy time surrounding the November 3 general election, our delayed annual meeting was held on December 3 via Zoom with an attendance was 20 members. The first issue on the agenda was the budget. Our Treasurer, Barb Krebs, reviewed expenditures of the past year and presented a proposed budget for the 2020-2021 year (which was a bit of a difficult task due once again to Covid-19 uncertainties) and it was approved.

Next the board members presented a **recap of the important undertakings of the League in 2020**, which were majorly affected by **COVID-19**, requiring creativity and adaptability:



Virtual, Zoom and Social Media were the words of our League's year!

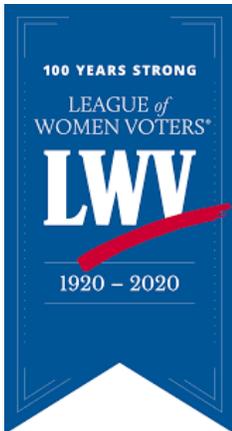


Set up a new website platform thanks to Tanya Ishikawa, and had an increased social media presence on Twitter and Instagram--- @votemontroseco---thanks to Patrice Schell. See page 8.



Partnered with Montrose County's Complete Count Committee on the 2020 Census; Co-sponsored a June primary election virtual candidate forum for CO's 3rd Congressional District seat via Zoom with Fort Lewis College and the League of Women Voters chapters of Gunnison Valley, La Plata, Mesa, Montezuma, Pueblo, and San Luis Valley; also worked with La Plata County League on a virtual ballot issues forum presented via Zoom in October.

Two Historic 100ths



Celebrated the League of Women Voters 100th birthday on February 15 with a party at the Ute Indian Museum thanks to Gretchen Nicholoff and her team, and,



Honored Suffragists and celebrated the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment empowering women with the right to vote by a parade up Main Street to a fundraising event at Horsefly Brewing Company



Held 1st essay and poster contest organized and funded by Caroline Evans and Robin Flom with presentation of awards for winners; and, Suffragist masks handmade by Jan Edwards and Cyndi Holman made for a successful fundraising activity



Other Voter Service efforts: Jan and Gretchen handled VOTE411; Rod Britten, Sarah Coombs, Gretchen, Patrice, and Karen Sherman Perez distributed the League’s ballot issues pamphlets throughout our communities; voter registration and get-out-the-vote info were displayed in our local libraries and at C.M.U; and, an in-person state ballot issues program at the Montrose Senior Center was presented by Nancy Ball.

Another important, but failed, effort was the board’s attempt to obtain a slate of officers for the remaining 2020-2021 year---January through May; however, there was a successful effort to secure volunteer members for a “**steering committee**”. To explain the latter, the committee of approximately 15 members will meet in January, and, with the assistance of the board members, will develop a plan for our governing structure through May of 2021, along with ideas for our education and advocacy efforts factoring in the continuing Covid-19 limitations. Needless to say, our by-laws do not cover that situation, so a motion was made, seconded and passed to temporarily suspend them pending the steering committee’s recommendations, followed by another approval by our members, but to a maximum time of May 2021.

Before adjourning, the attendees heartily thanked Jan, Gretchen, Cyndi and Barb for “over-serving” as our officers. Once more, we thanked to Tanya Ishikawa, this time for handling the technical aspects of the Zoom meeting. Seeing so many League faces and gaining input from the attendees was really meaningful!

Looking Ahead to the Redistricting Cycle



Powered Fair Maps™ is a national redistricting program of the League of Women Voters focused on creating fair political maps nationwide. The program includes actions in all 50 states + D.C. For more information, Google the **LWVUS website**.

The 2020 census is complete, and, combining self-response with follow up, the response rate across the U.S. was 99%!!! States have organized and presented their census results information to the U.S. Census Bureau, which in turn must present the results to the U.S. president by December 31. Hopefully, the Colorado response rate will bring about a gain of one additional seat in the U.S. House.

Now it is time for a task that is very important to our country and to the League---**redistricting**. "The League believes Congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. We oppose partisan and racial gerrymandering that strips rights away from voters. The League works in states across the country to pass ballot initiatives to institute independent redistricting commissions", and, **fortunately... in Colorado redistricting is performed by an independent commission**. That body is currently being formed, and. Linda Gann of Montrose, a League member, has applied to be a member! Members must be selected by January 5, 2021, and the governor must formally convene the commission by March 1.

From Ballotpedia

"On November 6, 2018, Colorado voters approved [a constitutional amendment](#) establishing an [independent congressional redistricting](#) commission. The commission consists of four members belonging to the state's largest political party, four members belonging to the state's second-largest party, and four members belonging to no party. Commission members are appointed by a panel of three judges selected by the Chief Justice of the [Colorado Supreme Court](#). The amendment requires at least eight of the commission's 12 members, including at least two members not belonging to any political party, to approve a map.

The Colorado Constitution requires that state legislative district boundaries "be contiguous, and that they be as compact as possible based on their total perimeter." In addition, "to the extent possible, districts must also preserve the integrity of counties, cities, towns and—where doing so does not conflict with other goals—communities of interest." There are no similar requirements for congressional districts.

The [United States Census Bureau](#) is scheduled to deliver apportionment counts from the 2020 census to the president of the United States by December 31, 2020. The Bureau is scheduled to release counts to the states for apportionment purposes by March 30, 2021."

2020 General Election Voter Participation



Unofficial results on November 13 showed 88% of eligible voters voted in Montrose County, 89% in Delta County, and 90% in Ouray County. Voter turnout was excellent in Colorado, with roughly 87% of eligible voters voting. 70% of 18-34 year olds voted, up from 61% in 2016. The national rate of turnout in 2020, based on the eligible voter population, was the highest it's been in more than a century: 66.5%! Our get out the vote effort was successful - Whether citizens voted Democratic, Republican, Green, Libertarian, whatever, we had our voices heard! Many thanks to all of our dedicated citizens who cherish our voting rights! Thank you to all dedicated League members for doing your part!!

Creating a More Perfect Democracy

News from LWVCO

THANKS TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED LWVCO'S ADVOCACY TRAINING ON NOVEMBER 20



[CLICK HERE](#) FOR A RECORDING OF THE TRAINING; [CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE TRAINING PRESENTATION; [CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE *CAPITOL WATCH* PRESENTATION

INTERESTED IN JOINING LWVCO'S LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE?

Email info@lwvcolorado.org!

News from LWVUS

BASIC OVERVIEW – 2020 CYCLE - From Megan Brown, LWVUS VOTE411 Manager, Mission Impact



This year VOTE411 had over 7.7 million sessions from Jan 1st through Election Day, and nearly 6.7 million of those sessions included the online voters' guides! That represents a 141% increase in sessions nationwide to voters' guides on VOTE411 as compared to the 2016 cycle (technically the most comparable election cycle), and a 20% increase over the 2018 election cycle (the previous year with the most sessions). These are amazing numbers and show just how much the voters turn to the League to find the information they need on Election Day.

On November 3rd we had detailed candidate information on over 41,000 candidates from 22,000 races in all 50 states and DC. That means that we had nearly 20,000 MORE candidates on VOTE411 than in the 2018 cycle, and 28,000 MORE candidates than the 2016 Presidential election. This growth in the number of candidates and races on the site is thanks to you all and the growth in the number of states and Leagues in the VOTE411 voters' guide program. Over 450 Leagues from 44 states (including DC) participated in the voters' guide program this cycle – because of you, we provided more candidate information than ever before to more voters than ever before!

In July 2020 we launched the complete [VOTE411.org/es](https://www.vote411.org/es) Spanish website – meaning that all our VOTE411 election information is now available to Spanish speaking voters! This second, Spanish language website, was made possible through a partnership with NALEO Education Fund who have helped LWVEF staff with the translations of this content since our launch. Since its launch, we have had over 110,000 users access the Spanish language content – a number we expect to see grow as [VOTE411.org/es](https://www.vote411.org/es) is shared more in Spanish speaking communities. We're thrilled to provide this content with new voters and look forward to increasing the Spanish language content in the voters' guide section of VOTE411 in the coming years (with help from you as well!).

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

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

Rep. Matt Soper (CO House District 54)
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

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

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

2020-2021 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 Montrose Press
D'Medici Footwear & Clothing**

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

Calendar
January
Steering Committee Meeting
Date and Time TBD
Update to follow

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!

**EMPOWERING VOTERS!
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY!**

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>
Our social media person, Patrice Schell, does the same, plus on Instagram and Twitter ---
@votemontroseco!

**Join League of Women Voters of Montrose County
serving Montrose & Delta counties – 2020-2021
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

2020 Officers & Board

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1-832-754-6302
janmsw96@icloud.com

Gretchen Nicholoff, VP/LWVCO liaison
970-525-3997, gnicholoff@gmail.com

Cyndi Holman, Secretary
1-909-556-8118, cholmaneee@uia.net

Barb Krebs, Treasurer
249-3989, krebsbarb61@gmail.com

Tanya Ishikawa, Webmaster
1-303-819-7784 itanya2008@gmail.com

Patrice Schell, Communications
1-970-683-0339 allmine@xmission.com

Nancy Ball, at Large & *Voter* editor
249-8963, 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