

EMPOWERING VOTERS, DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

THE VOTER

January 2020 Membership **50**

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!



And what a year it promises to be!

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!

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Local League News

Holiday Party – Dessert & Dialog



L-R: Marjorie True, Babs Schmerler, Tanya Ishikawa, Cyndi Holman, Jan Edwards, Gretchen Nicholoff, Barb Krebs, Nancy Ball. Not pictured: Diane Balk, Norm Ball. "Teacher" Tanya.

Festivity abounded with holiday spirit in full bloom. We enjoyed the tasty treats, socialized, learned, thanks to Tanya, the beginnings of how to maneuver around both the LWVCO website and our own with the new Club Express platform, and had a robust dialog about the many varied talents of our local members and how they can be applied in the upcoming, sure to be amazing, new year.

It was decided that much foreword planning is necessary for our local 100th birthday/anniversary fete scheduled for February 15, so Gretchen Nicholoff, our chairperson, has scheduled a meeting at the Delta Library from 10am to noon on **Wednesday, January 8**. So many ways to help and to participate! PLEASE try to attend and put forth your ideas! If you are unable to attend, please share your thoughts with Gretchen at gnicholoff@gmail.com.

Jan stressed how vital our planning meeting on Thursday, January 16, from 1-3pm, at the Montrose Library will be. Please mark your calendars and be on hand! Lots to be done but overall it will be meaningful, fun and satisfying to be sure! First on the calendar, the 100th fete, February 15, and second the 2020 Census, March program.

Commissioner Hansen Receives Freshman Commissioner of the Year Award

Kudos to Sue Hansen, a Montrose County Commissioner and local League member, for being the recipient of this prestigious award. Earning this honor, as she truly did, Sue gained statewide recognition from her peers. Commissioner Hansen serves on a number of boards, both state and federal, and was instrumental in establishing the annual Western Slope Water Summit. Be sure to congratulate her when you next see her!

A Special "Thinking of You" to League Member Sarah Combs

Gratefully and oh so happily, following successful open heart surgery in the fall and with good care from Rod Britten, many years a League member, Sarah is on a steady road to recovery. We look forward to seeing you back at League events, Sarah, and looking in the pink!

Membership Renewal Time

Via our new website platform, Club Express, notification of League membership renewals will be sent to you via e-mail. You may renew online or by sending a check to the League at P.O. Box 3321, Montrose, CO 81402. By this new system, renewal for newer members will be based on one year from the month in which they joined. Thank you to those of you who have already renewed, and for those who haven't and have received a renewal, please do so before 1-31...

"2020 marks both the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters and the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, allowing citizen women to vote. Neither of these historic events would have happened if not for the courage and audacity of women who stood up and fought for what's right. The fight continues, and the League of Women Voters of Colorado expects to be at the forefront of that fight during 2020 and throughout our second century."

From Ruth Stemler, LWVCO President, and Beth Hendrix, Executive Director

Note of Interest: COLORADO'S 2019 COORDINATED ELECTION IS OFFICIAL!

The official breakdown of voter turnout is as follows:

Total voter turnout: 1,577,485; Mail ballots: 1,557,115; In-person ballots: 20,353; Provisional ballots: 17

Democrat: 511,254; Republican: 538,515; Unaffiliated: 509,092; Other: 18,624

Female: 815,226; Male: 750,265; Unknown: 11,994

Colorado Prepares for Super Tuesday President Primary

Key dates:

- Jan. 3: Secretary of State certifies the names and party affiliations of candidates on the presidential primary ballot
- Jan. 18: Deadline for primary ballots to be sent to military and overseas voters
- Feb. 3: Last day for voters who are affiliated with a party to change or withdraw their affiliation in order to vote in a different party's presidential primary. Also, last day for unaffiliated voters to select a party preference in order to be sent that party's ballot.
- Feb. 10: First day primary ballots can be mailed to voters
- Feb. 24-March 3: Voter services and polling centers must be open for primary election
- **March 3: SUPER TUESDAY -- Colorado's first presidential primary since 2000**

Did You Know? Spread the Word!

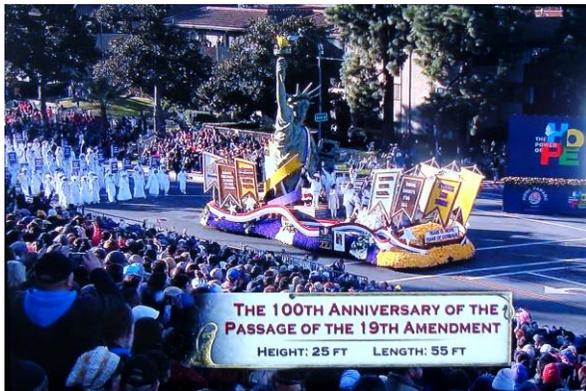
Citizens who will turn 18 before November 3, 2020, are eligible to vote in Colorado's primary election. Register at vote411.org or govotecolorado.gov



LWVUS News

LWV Rang in 2020 and its' 100th Anniversary in the Rose Parade®

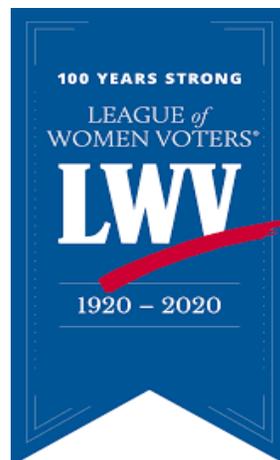
The League of Women Voters was featured on the "Pasadena Celebrates 2020" Suffrage float in the Rose Parade on January 1, 2020. Riding along with League president Chris Carson and League CEO Virginia Kase, the float included a "Bouquet of Suffrage Descendants" - those in direct line to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ida B. Wells, Susan B. Anthony, and Fredrick Douglass---and many marchers in Suffragist dress carrying signage---how very appropriate!!!



2020 Women's March

2020 marks the 4th anniversary of Women's March, and the League of Women Voters is proud to continue our partnership. Just recently announced, the march will take place Saturday, January 18, 2020. There will be a main march in Washington, DC, with sister marches planned around the country.

League of Women Voters 100th Birthday



Per LWVUS president Chris Carson, "On **February 14**, 2020, the League of Women Voters will turn 100 years old. For this milestone anniversary, we want to celebrate our history, our future—and most importantly, the power of our members. In line with the fact that we were born from the suffrage movement, the theme of our 100th anniversary year is ***Women Power the Vote.***" Friday, February 14 will be an official **Day of Action** on which to amplify the League's message and visibility." Our League plans to take action per Page 2. Stay tuned and participate too!

LWVUS Joins U.S. Census as Official Partner---and our local League is one too through the Montrose County Complete Count Committee!

The League of Women Voters is now listed as an official partner organization of the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2020 Census! The League's name will be included on the public list of partners and used in presentations by the Census Director, along with the other 750 national companies/corporations/non-profits. The League will also be included on the list submitted to the Under Secretary of Commerce. It is estimated that the total number of national, state, and local partners will be 300,000 by March.

League of Women Voters Praises U.S. House Passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act

12/6/2019

WASHINGTON – Today the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, by a bipartisan vote. The VRAA restores protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that were stripped by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013.

"Today's vote is exactly what the American voters need to see right now: representatives working for the people to make our elections more accessible and strengthen voter protections for people of color," said Chris Carson, president of the board of the League of Women Voters of the United States. "In recent years, we have seen voter suppression increase across the country, but passing the VRAA is a major step towards correcting these injustices."

This legislation restores the protections against racial discrimination in voting that the Supreme Court rolled back in the *Shelby County v. Holder* decision of 2013. The elimination of these protections has made it easier for states and localities to practice discriminatory actions that restrict the voting rights of millions of minorities across the country.

"While we celebrate this moment, it is important to remember that for a full victory the Senate must pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore our ability to mitigate racial discrimination in our elections," said Virginia Kase, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States. "Now is the time to get this done ahead of next year's critical elections so that we can have free and fair elections that build the representative democracy America deserves."

The League provided testimony and evidence at hearings around the country held by U.S. House Committees collecting evidence of the continued discrimination that voters face to vote and will be meeting with Senators to discuss how to move this measure forward. The League was also active on Capitol Hill, meeting with Representatives to encourage their support, while also engaging our members and supporters to send thousands of letters in support of passage of the final bill.

As the VRAA advances to the Senate, the League of Women Voters looks forward to working with Senators to ensure full passage of this vital legislation.

EMPOWERING VOTERS, DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

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!

**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
Horsefly Brewing Company
The Montrose Mirror
Dennis Olmstead
Alicia Conroyd**

LOCAL LEAGUE CALENDAR

Mark Your Calendars!

**Wednesday, January 8
10:00am - Noon
Delta Library
100th**

**Birthday/Anniversary Fete
Planning Meeting**

**Thursday, January 16
1:00-3:00pm**

**Montrose Library
Community Room
2020 Action and
Pre-Planning Meeting**

**Saturday, February 15
LWV 100th
Birthday Celebration---
Stay Tuned!**

A Special Thank You!

A **sincere** vote of appreciation to Alpine Archeological Consultants, Inc. for its **generous** donation to our local League Education Fund **and** to the local League members who donated to our Ed Fund.

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>

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

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

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

Barb Krebs, Treasurer
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Tanya Ishikawa, Communications-
Webmaster
1-303-819-7784
itanya2008@gmail.com

Nancy Ball, at Large & *Voter* editor
249-8963, nancyball@montrose.net

**Free student memberships
available! Contact Nancy or
Barbara for more information.**



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

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.