

## What's your passion?

What's your passion? Join us on January 26-28 to discuss our course for 2021-2022. We need to begin planning our activities for 2021-2022 and it starts with you.

At the program planning meeting January 26, 27, 28 members will discuss the topics that they would like the Jeffco League to focus upon for the coming year. These topics selected will be our League's focus for advocating and educating the public. We will be submitting program proposals for LWVCO.

For this meeting you will need:

Your ideas

This EMM

The LWVCO Guide on How Do We Decide What to Study (attached)

Positions in Brief from our Nuts-Bolts Unit Meeting (attached) (updated)

LWV Jeffco Program and History Book

LWVCO Positions for Action Book

The LWVCO Positions for Action Book and the LWVJeffco Program and History Book may be found on the Jeffco League website under the page found by clicking any of the following:

- About us/Where We Stand
- Get Involved/Join League
- Members, select Documents, Program Books.

Members may find it handy to have the updated Positions in Brief available. (Special Note: Since the Nuts-Bolts unit meeting LWVUS has issued its 2020-2022 Impact on Issues Book) The LWVCO Guide on How Do We Decide What to Study should be reviewed prior to the unit meeting.

### Program Planning begins with you and your ideas.

At the unit level members will propose and select ideas, identify the appropriate League position that the work will fall under and write scope and purpose statements. Each unit is requested to present three ideas for Jeffco. Ideas that are common between units have the best chance of going forward to the Board. Ideas that have a team willing and able to serve on preparing the materials for a meeting have a better chance of going forward. **Be creative in your meeting ideas. Do you know a speaker that aligns with your proposed idea? Include that information.**

Each unit will also appoint a member to represent the unit in a meeting with Karen Connor (2<sup>nd</sup> VP) and Christina Manthey (President) on February 3. **Each unit should forward the names of their representatives and their answers and ideas to Karen by January 29<sup>th</sup>.** We will provide each representative with copies of each of the other units' ideas before the meeting on February 3. The unit representative will present their unit's ideas at this meeting. At that meeting we will then discuss the ideas put forth by the units; aggregate and select the best ideas to submit to the Jeffco Board.

**LWVColorado**

The unit meeting will be broken into discussion potential program ideas for LWVCO and ideas for event planning for LWVJeffco

For the past six years LWVUS has discouraged new studies. LWVUS believes that we should be taking action and that our existing positions can be applied in creative ways that will cover most topics. LWVCO has followed the lead of LWVUS in not recommending any new studies.

For LWVCO the following questions must be answered (unit leaders have the response form):

1. Does your League agree with LWVCO recommendations regarding no new study, review, or concurrence? Comments?
2. Are there other positions your League would like to see removed? Comments?
3. Does your League recommend a new study? (Provide scope and rationale – 300 word limit):
4. Does your League recommend a review of an existing LWVCO Position? (Provide scope and rationale – 300 word limit):
5. Does your League recommend a concurrence with an existing position from another League? (Provide background and the position with which you would concur):

**Ideas: Just to get the flow started. You are not limited to these ideas**

Both LWVCO and LWVUS have recommended areas for focusing.

LWVUS at the 2020 Convention recommended that local leagues focus upon:

- Immigration
- Healthcare
- Climate Change
- Equal Rights Amendment
- Justice Reform
- Reproductive choice.

LWVCO is recommending that Local Leagues focus on:

- Ensuring that Colorado remains one of the best states when it comes to voting rights and voter services
  - Universal voter registration
  - Educate and advocate on Alternative Voting Methods
  - Continue to work with coalition partners on the implementation of Amendments Y and Z (redistricting)
  - Educate and advocate on National Popular Vote Interstate Compact
- Campaign Finance/ Money in Politics
- Provide training and resources for writing legislation/ordinances
- Provide training and examples of actions that can be taken at the state and local level based on current positions (e.g., transparency, corruption, disclosure)

LWVCO is particularly asking if there are any positions in the Positions for Actions Book that members feel should be removed.

At League Day the following items were reported to be priority item(s) at the Legislature:

- Multilingual Ballots
- Alternative Voting Methods and Rank Choice Voting
- Climate and Environmental Protections
- Health Disparities

LWVJEFFCO - The December and January Green Sheets (unit reporting sheets) included a number of recommendations from Jeffco members. These ideas include:

- Affordable Housing in Jefferson County
- Outreach to undersized communities by building relationships and establishing a presence that goes beyond voter registration. Leverage other community connections.
- Civics
  - Review the current civic educational requirements (state and local) and practices
    - Is a second year of American History at the high school level necessary
    - Change the year when students take Civics (9<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade)
    - Mandatory for graduation
  - Address adult education on civics.
    - by purchasing courses from Great Courses and running them at public meetings in Libraries etc. Each unit would sponsor a different course.
  - Make YouTube Public Service Announcements. Make presentations for various age groups about how the electoral process works.
    - Can the Girl or Boy Scout organizations use something for Civic Responsibility badges?
    - Education for 1<sup>st</sup> time voters
  - Discuss Civility and Civics together
- Colorado financial budgeting issues for Jeffco Study
  - How will counties update budgets after COVID-19? Where will money come from?
- Communications
  - Improve League communications
  - The Wikipedia description of League doesn't explain who we are.
  - We could put our own page up Wikipedia
  - More coalitions
  - Better understanding of what our goals are
  - Attend and participate in state/Local commissions of interest
  - Send out and disseminate information to the average person.
- Defunding police.
  - What does defund the police really mean? Examine the police manuals, training materials, recruitment tests, hiring requirements and present practices of the Jefferson County sheriff's dept, and a few select cities within our county to ascertain what, if any, tactics, beliefs, actions cause escalation, rather than de-

escalation of violence within our police forces. This exploration to also include a review of the Colorado legislature 2020 initiative that passed with new restrictions on police, as well as other suggestions that may not have passed into law that may help the de-escalation of violence.

- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Education
  - Restart the Education Committee
  - Restart the Observer Corp for the School Board
- Human Trafficking
  - Update Jeffco LWV human trafficking information. Hold a forum with a number of speakers. There is more information now and issue is more out in the open.
- Immigration
  - Panel discussion
  - Support the work of the committee as it moves forward on their plan for 2020
- LWV Non-Partisan position
  - A deep dive into the LWV's non-partisan stance and what that means
- Making Democracy work in all of its facets
- Misinformation
  - A discussion on the various types of propaganda techniques would expand upon our Separating Fact from Fiction program in November
  - Send our Separating Fact from Fiction program to all other Colorado Leagues (Note: Program has been sent to LWVCO and LWV Arapahoe & Douglas)
- Money in Politics: Review campaign finance positions. We need transparency? What can be done about excessive spending locally? Look at corporate donations and other large donations?
- Open Space update the open space position
- USPS Investigation and Reform
- Accountability for laws breakers
- Contact elected officials regarding defending democracy and other issues to encourage voter engagement
- Sustainability
  - Without the Earth we are nothing
  - Discuss effects of Climate change on Health

- Environmental justice
- Education
- Oil and gas protections
- Corporate community responsibility through environmental, social and corporate governance
- What cities have sustainability plans/what do they say/what have they accomplished/is there more they can or should do. (Lakewood has a coordinator)
- Water conservation/drought issues/planning for the future
- Hazardous waste issues/household hazardous waste in particular
- Recycling
- Voting Rights/ Election Work
  - Can we do anything to counter the efforts of various groups to disenfranchise voters?
  - Work on Building confidence in the election process
  - Election Integrity-educate the public on how to strategically debunk the “big lie” and reinforce support for the Colorado system of voting
    - Educate on voter security and election security
    - Promote the videos on ~~his~~ websites
    - Encourage members to take the behind-the-scenes tour of how the election office runs
  - Address young voters disproportionately having their ballots rejected for mismatched signatures
  - Work on the National Popular Vote Compact
  - Voting Rights
  - Work to have LWVUS promote nationally All-Mail-In Ballot Elections
  - Make elections accessible to all
  - Rank choice voting

Topics left over from last year’s program planning meeting include:

- Regional Transportation District
- Rule of Law
- Voting Rights
- Jeffco Budget Cuts
- Gun Safety

## Good Luck