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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO ANNOUNCES 2019 LEADER OF DEMOCRACY AWARDS

**DENVER, COLORADO** – The League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) today announced the winners of the 2019 Leader of Democracy Awards — annual honors given to a Colorado leader, a nonprofit, and a student project that exemplify the League’s mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

### **Colorado Leader**

The Colorado League has selected Wayne Williams, who served as Secretary of State from 2015 – 2019, as the 2019 Leader of Democracy. During his tenure, Secretary Williams implemented the nation’s strongest cybersecurity measures in Colorado’s elections systems, leading to the Washington Post declaring our state “the safest place to vote.”

### **Nonprofit Organization Leader**

The 2019 Nonprofit Leader of Democracy is FairMaps Colorado, the bipartisan coalition that led the successful campaign for Amendments Y & Z, which create independent commissions to approve redistricting maps, eliminating partisan gerrymandering in our state.

### **Student Project Leader**

The League of Women Voters of Colorado sponsors a special prize for a student with a National History Day Colorado (NHDC) project on an amendment to the US Constitution. The winners of this year’s League Special Prize are Riley Lookadoo and Samantha North of Castle Rock High School for their documentary [Tinker Stands for Students Rights](#); these two student leaders will be celebrated, as well as the director of this valuable program, Celeste Archer.

Awardees will be honored tonight at 5:30pm at the Wellshire Event Center.

Past Leaders of Democracy include Hon. Ken Salazar (2018), former Colorado Speaker of the House Andrew Romanoff (2017); former First Lady Dottie Lamm (2016); Justice Rebecca Love Kourlis (2015); and Carlotta Walls LaNier, the youngest member of the Little Rock Nine.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado is a nonpartisan nonprofit providing education and advocacy to empower voters and defend democracy. Founded in 1928, we envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

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