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From League of Women Voters of Denver  
Subject LWV of Denver VOTER - October

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The LWVD Newsletter  
October 2021

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## Looking Ahead at Program

Wouldn't it be great if you could sit in the comfort of your own home and receive a curated program to engage your brain, hear from experts, and answer your questions about our amazing city.

Here's the great news . . . with the League of Women Voter Denver Programs you can do just that!

The Program Committee is pleased to present the 2021-22 Program. Meetings are generally held the third Tuesday of the month, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. All of these meetings will be held via Zoom, and that link can always be found on our [website \(www.lwvdenver.org\)](http://www.lwvdenver.org) and on the [events page](#). As we have learned acutely in the past year and a half, details may change, so please be sure to look at the home page prior to the event.

We want to encourage you to invite your friends, neighbors, colleagues and others who love to be informed to join us for these free and open-to-the public events.

**September 21-** Kick-Off to the League Year

**Speaker:** Deborah "Debbie" Ortega, At-Large member of Denver City Council

**League Contact:** Cindy Sestrich

Video will soon be available on our website

**October** - Two Election Briefings to provide voters with sufficient information and time to complete their ballots

**October 5** - Part I of Election Briefing

Initiated Ordinance 300 - Pandemic Research Fund, Initiated Ordinance 301 - Parks and Open Spaces, Initiated Ordinance 302 - Conservation Easement, Initiated Ordinance 303 - Let's Do Better, Initiated Ordinance 304 - Enough Taxes Already, Referred Measure 2G - Fill Future Vacancies for Independent Monitor, Referred Measure 2H Election Day Change

**October 12** - Part II of Election Briefing

Denver Issues: Referred Measure 2F - Safe and Sound Denver, Referred Measure 2A - Denver Facilities System Bonds, Referred Measure 2B - Denver Housing and Sheltering System Bonds, Referred Measure 2C - Denver Transportation and Mobility System Bonds, Referred Measure 2D - Denver Parks and Recreation System Bonds, Referred Measure 2E - National Western Center Campus Facilities Bonds

State Issues: Amendment 78 Legislative Authority for Spending State Money, Proposition 119 Learning, Enrichment and Academic Progress Program, Proposition 120 Property Tax Assessment Rate Reduction

**League Contacts:** Jeanette Scotland and Anne Duncan

**November 16** - Changes and Projections: Colorado in the 2020's

**Speaker:** Elizabeth Garner, Colorado State Demographer

**League Contact:** Susan Stark

**December: Unit's Choice**

**January 18** - Protecting Access to Reproductive Health Care

**Speaker:** Vickie Cowart, CEO Planned Parenthood of the Rockies

**League Contact:** Susan Stark

**February 15** - Discussion and Solutions regarding the Commerce City Oil Refinery

**Speaker:** Alex Valdez, State Representative, District 5

**League Contact:** Barbara Ford

**March 15** - Part 2: Non-Binary Panel Discussion of Socio-Economic Issues for Non-binary and Trans Individuals

**Speaker:** TBD

**League Contact:** Elsie Haley

**April 5** - Public Safety and Community Oversight

**Speaker:** TBD

**April 19** - The Role of Newspapers/Media in Community Oversight

**Speaker:** TBD

**League Contacts:** Barbara Ford and Kathy Yates

**May:** Annual Meeting and Diversity Celebration

**May/June:** Legislative Wrap-Up

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom for all of these events.

Please contact [Barbara Allen Ford](#) or [Kathy Yates](#) with your questions, suggestions or comments about our programs.

Click [here](#) for a printable pdf version of these calendar events.

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## Flower Bulbs Will Arrive in October

We are confident that the flower bulbs will arrive in October, but we have no idea when. Our bulbs usually arrive the middle of October and our supplier is working to make that happen. He moved the shipping date earlier, but he says the shipping industry is very unpredictable right now. We again have the City Park Greenhouse for our use, so as soon as the bulbs arrive, we will get to work. We will again have to limit numbers and be masked. Since our bulbs come in bulk to increase our profit, we always have a big task ahead of us to count, package, and fill orders for, this year, over 16,000 bulbs. There are quite a few of you who have been doing this for many years, standing on cement for hours at a time. If there are some newer members who would like to give it a try, let me know. Regardless, if you bought or sold bulbs, please plan to pick them up promptly. The greenhouse isn't a good place to store bulbs, and people like to get them in the ground. Sometimes customers are not pleased that our bulbs are delivered in October rather than September, but our Dutch supplier, who lives in Colorado half the year, always says it is not good for the bulbs to be planted when it is hot, and we are continuing to feel the heat. We will keep you posted.



Marty Sloven

Bulb Sale Co-Chair

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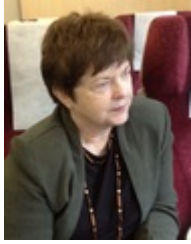
## Board Member Highlight

**Elsie Haley, Director of Communication**

**Editor's Note:** This is the second in a series of articles highlighting Board members. We thought you'd like to know a little more about their backgrounds and what League means to them. We've also asked them for recommendations on books, movies, or activities.

I have been a member of LWVUS for many years; I joined LWV Denver after I retired in the spring of 2015. I'm one of many Leaguers recruited by Peg Oldham. For several years, I attended briefings and was a member of the Cherrington unit. I then served on the board for two years as secretary before being asked to take on the task of Director of Communication.

I grew up on a small farm in western Pennsylvania, thirty miles north of Pittsburgh. After getting my BS in Secondary Education from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, I taught secondary English for several years before coming to



Denver for graduate school. I have an MA in theatre and a PhD in theatre and dramatic literature from the University of Denver. In my fifty-year education career, I have taught all levels from seventh grade through graduate school and have served as an administrator in an adult education program, but the bulk of my career (30-plus years) was as a professor of English at Metropolitan State University of Denver. In addition to teaching American literature, dramatic literature, and writing courses, I served seven years as Writing Center director and seven years as Chair of the English Department.

I married a third-generation Coloradoan who I met at DU and have two children, Matt and Erin.

Outside of League, I have volunteered in the homeless program, Family Promise, and spent two years working with Afghan refugees, teaching English to several Afghan women. I hope to resume working with Afghan refugees as they come to Colorado. I enjoy reading, writing, and traveling. The last has been put on hold since COVID, but I hope to be able to resume soon.

Book Recommendations: I have been reading a lot of mysteries since I retired and highly recommend Alexander McCall Smith and Ellen Byron's Cajun Country mysteries, which come with Cajun recipes. I also love Willa Cather (Try My Antonia, Shadows on the Rock, and Death Comes for the Archbishop) and Toni Morrison (Song of Solomon).

Elsie Haley

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## 2021 Denver Ballot Issues November 2021 Coordinated Election

# LWVDenver Positions

The following positions were adopted by consensus at a special LWVDenver Board Meeting on September 20, 2021. For background and major provisions of each proposal, please look at the Denver 2020 Ballot Issues: Pros and Cons, which will be posted soon at [www.lwvdenver.org](http://www.lwvdenver.org). The issues are listed in ballot order.

### **Initiated Ordinance 300 - Pandemic Research Fund**

League Position: Oppose

Justification

LWVCO position on Fiscal Policy supports "an equitable tax system that is progressive." Sales taxes, such as the one proposed here, are regressive. The League also opposes earmarking, especially in this case to a specific institution.

### **Initiated Ordinance 301 - Parks and Open Spaces**

League Position: Neither support nor oppose

Justification

Although we have positions on the local, state, and national level to support the proper management of natural resources, LWVUS Principles indicate that League believes in "representative government" and "transparency." We feel this decision should be handled by elected officials and should not be decided directly by the voters. Few voters will know the history and complicated legal questions at stake in this proposal.

### **Initiated Ordinance 302 - Conservation Easement**

League Position: Oppose

Justification

LWVCO position on Land Use and Planning "... supports measures which promote integrated planning for environmental management, wise use of Colorado's natural resources, comprehensive statewide planning for land use," and the LWVUS position on Natural Resources indicates "... the responsibility for managing natural resources be shared by all levels of government." We believe this initiated ordinance does meet the intent of either position.

### **Initiated Ordinance 303 - Let's Do Better**

League Position: Oppose

Justification

We believe this ordinance does not fully meet the LWVUS position on Meeting Basic Human Needs: "Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing, and shelter. Provide essential support services. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family."

### **Initiated Ordinance 304 - Enough Taxes Already**

League Position: Oppose

Justification

We believe this ordinance does not match LWVUS Principles. In particular, League believes "...government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation" and "... promote a sound economy."

- Referred Measure 2A - Denver Facilities System Bonds**
- Referred Measure 2B - Denver Housing and Sheltering System Bonds**
- Referred Measure 2C - Denver Transportation and Mobility System Bonds**
- Referred Measure 2D - Denver Parks and Recreation System Bonds**
- Referred Measure 2E - National Western Center Campus Facilities Bonds**

League Position: Support

Justification

2B: LWV Denver Position on Housing: "Support the concept of public housing, including dispersed housing."

The rest of the measures are supported by LWVD position on Planning and Zoning, Community& Urban Renewal, & Citizen Participation: "Support of measures which ensure sound planning for Denver and for plans which meet the physical (2A), social, economic (2C), educational, recreational (2D), cultural (2E), governmental and aesthetic needs of Denver's people, with increased citizen participation in the decision-making process.

**Referred Measure 2F - Safe and Sound Denver**

League Position: Oppose

Justification

The original ordinance 2020-0888 was passed by City Council after much citizen input. LWVUS Principles call for "representative government." LWVD Housing position supports, "measures to ensure adequate and affordable housing for residents of all incomes ... including dispersed housing."

**Referred Measure 2G - Fill Future Vacancies for Independent Monitor**

League Position: Support

Justification

LWVD Position on Justice: Support for measures which "... will improve police-community relations."

LWVD Standard on Law Enforcement: "The Internal Affairs Bureau of the Denver Police Department should provide for citizens' input and be made more accountable to the public."

**Referred Measure 2H - Election Day Change**

League Position: Support

Justification

LWVCO Voting Rights Position: "Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote." In addition, this will allow us to be in compliance with US election laws.

Click [here](#) for a printable pdf version.

## Welcome New and Renewing Members!

**Wendy Macklin**, [wbmacklin@gmail.com](mailto:wbmacklin@gmail.com)  
**Elizabel Riggs**, [elizabelriggs@gmail.com](mailto:elizabelriggs@gmail.com)

## Please Renew Your Membership or Become a Member

If you received this email and are not a member, please consider joining us. If it's time to renew your membership, consider doing it on-line. Follow this [link](#) to join or renew at one of our membership levels.

Regular Individual Membership	\$60
Sustaining membership (includes donation)	\$125 (\$60 membership - \$65 donation)
Two regular members at the same address	\$90
Two sustaining members at the same address (includes donation)	\$150 (\$90 membership - \$65 donation)
Member needing assistance with paying dues	\$5
Part or full-time student	\$10

Members: Forward this VOTER and encourage your friends and neighbors to join!

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