



Making Democracy Work™

# Denver VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

December 2019-January 2020

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## League Meets New City Council Members

The LWV Denver held a Meet and Greet event for new Denver City Council members on the evening of Wednesday, November 13, in the social room of the Pinnacle. It was a delightful and informative event which introduced the newest members of the council to those in attendance and offered a casual venue in which to become better acquainted with them.



Council members participating included: Candi CdeBaca, Chris Hinds, Amanda Sawyer (a current League member), and Jamie Torres; Amanda Sandoval was unable to attend.

Cindy Sestrich, who organized the event with Marge Fisch, introduced each member who then graciously shared poignant details about their lives and families and related how past experiences motivated their desire to enter public service. All of the council members



impressed us with their zealous passion and dedication for working as representatives of their Denver constituents. There was

## December/January Events

### Another Look at an Alternative Voting Method

Thursday, December 5, 1:00 p.m.  
League Office

### 2020 Potluck

Monday, January 6, 5:30 p.m.  
League Office

### What's Ahead for the 2020 Legislature

Tuesday, January 21, 5:30 p.m.  
McCollum Room

some time for questions and answers, but all agreed that more in-depth study was necessary in order to discuss some of the issues in question such as homelessness, re-zoning and new development.

All of the council members encouraged us to contact them through email with any future questions, ideas or issues. They assured us that they are eager to get to know, help and advocate for all Denver residents.

Mary Giammari

Thanks to Marge and Mary for organizing food for the event.



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## Another Look at an Alternative Voting Method

Thursday, December 5  
 1:00 p.m.

Montview Presbyterian Church  
**League Office**

We have occasionally scheduled a briefing in our office space and called it a “mini-briefing.” I don’t know if we can call this a mini-briefing since our speaker is planning a PowerPoint on Approval Voting, one of several alternative voting methods used in various states and particularly local elections around the country. Last year, many of us heard presentations on Ranked Choice Voting, which is another alternative to plurality voting. These presentations have shown some of the problems with plurality voting according to the proponents of alternative voting, including increased polarization, hyper-partisanship, and suppression of new ideas.

Aaron Hamlin, Executive Director of The Center for Election Science, will be in Denver the first week in December and has offered to present the advantages of Approval Voting to us. We didn’t feel it was prudent to turn him down even though we usually don’t have briefings in December. I’d encourage you to attend this presentation as alternative voting will undoubtedly become a hot topic in the future, if it hasn’t already.

*Marty Sloven*  
*Director of Program*

## Potluck 2020

Monday, January 6  
 5:30 p.m.

Montview Presbyterian Church  
 League Office

When we started these annual January potlucks 10 years ago, it was to begin the process of what League calls Program Planning. This has been a yearly process in which we look at all our positions at the state and local levels on odd-numbered years and national positions in even-numbered years. For the last several years, neither LWVCO nor LWVUS has encouraged us to suggest changes or new studies. They have instead focused on Making Democracy Work, emphasizing Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting. We don’t know yet what LWVUS will do this year, but Program Planning is not what it used to be.

So, we are not calling this a Program Planning Potluck this year. However, we have enjoyed these potlucks. It’s a chance to meet other Leaguers in a casual setting. We’d love to see some of our newer members there. We’ll probably have some discussion topic, but we will be there primarily to relax and enjoy.

We gather early so we can finish early. We’ll provide paper goods, utensils and beverages (unless you want to bring a bottle of wine to share). Bring a favorite dish and join us. If you are too rushed to bring something, please come anyway. There will be plenty of food. All are welcome.

## A Very Special Holiday Event

Included with this Voter is an invitation to a special holiday event. (E-mail readers will have to print and fold yours.) In honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the League of Women Voters, the League of Women Voters of Denver is inviting you to STAY HOME on New Year's Eve 2020.

Don't buy an outfit, don't get your hair done, and don't identify a designated driver!

To secure your privilege NOT to attend this spectacular fundraising event, please send the RSVP form with your payment OR make the appropriate [Donation to the League of Women Voters](#) on our web site.

- \$25 OK, you win, I'm not coming
- \$50 I plan to stay home and read a good book
- \$75 I'll be watching a movie at home
- \$100 I'll be ordering a gourmet dinner to be delivered to my home
- \$150 I'll have my own party



We are all looking forward to this non-event!

## Get Ready for our 100th Year!

The League of Women Voters of Denver is planning to celebrate our 100th year and the anniversary of Women's Suffrage with two musical events, one in collaboration with the Denver Women's Chorus and one with the Spirituals Project Choir.

### Make Them Hear You

The Denver Women's Chorus in partnership with the League of Women Voters is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote. The concert, held at three different times, will feature songs of empowerment from across the decades. LWVD will be registering new voters. The program will be two hours long including an intermission.

Friday, January 24, 7:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, January 25, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
 Central Presbyterian Church  
 1660 Sherman St. Denver



Tickets for general seating are \$21.00 and can be purchased online at [Rocky Mountain Arts Association](#) or 303-325-3959.

### Save the Date!

**LWVD Celebrates 100 Years  
 With a Special Spirituals Project Choir Presentation  
 Friday, March 27, 7:00 p.m.  
 Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church**

The Spirituals Project Choir Director Roger Holland will lead the choir in songs of suffrage in addition to their traditional music. The Spirituals Project was founded in 1998 by University of Denver faculty member Arthur C. Jones to preserve and revitalize the music and teachings of the sacred folk songs called "spirituals," created and first sung by African Americans in slavery. Look for more information in future VOTERS. We anticipate a very special event.

## Membership

### Over 300 Informed Voters Can Make a Difference

As we come to the end of the 2019 calendar year and begin 2020, LWV Denver is a little over 300 members strong! You should find your name and contact information in the 2019-2020 Member Roster, which will be mailed to you soon. Please check your information to make sure everything is correct. Call Fran at the office if you need to make changes.

Since 2020 is the “Women’s Vote Centennial,” we are looking forward to celebrating 100 years of bold women changing history. The rich history of fighting for voting rights and the continuing contributions of women across the United States will be illuminated. We also must recognize the League of Women Voters is not for women only. For about 45 years we have added strong men to our ranks, and we are grateful for their contributions.

Some New Year resolutions:

- Read your *VOTER*
- Mark LWVD activities on your calendar
- Invite someone to join you at a League event
- Consider joining a Unit
- Attend briefings
- Help with Voter Service
- Get to know City Council members
- Think about serving on LWVD Board

*Patty Cordova, Membership Chair*

### Welcome New Members

**Julie Neitz Wielga**, 848 Jackson St., [jnwielga@msn.com](mailto:jnwielga@msn.com), 303-589-1336

**Anne-Marie Zuccarelli**, 3080 S Fulton Ct., [amznboyz@gmail.com](mailto:amznboyz@gmail.com), 303-881-8837

### What’s Ahead for the 2020 Legislature

Tuesday, January 21

5:30 p.m. Social Time

6:00 p.m. Program Begins

McCollum Room  
Montview Presbyterian Church

The 2020 Colorado General Assembly convenes Wednesday, January 8—always an important date to the League of Women Voters. For this briefing, we welcome Andrea Wilkins, LWVCO staff lobbyist, to report on the interim committees that have been meeting the last few months and the proposed legislation recommended by the Legislative Council. There may be other legislative issues that League expects to be following.

Also joining us will be Toni Larson, past LWVCO president and now LWVCO Director of Legislative Action, who will bring us up to date on what League has been doing concerning the National Popular Vote, the Census, and Redistricting.

Join us for the first briefing of the new year. If you haven’t gotten into “briefings,” give them a try.

## A Nerve-racking End to the Bulb Sale

Not only did the container with our bulbs sit in the Rotterdam port waiting an additional week, but the bulbs arrived two days before one of the coldest October storms we've ever had. Double headache. But an amazing crew of Leaguers took on the challenge and packaged those bulbs and orders in record time – in time for people to get them in the ground before the storm. However, most people did not, and I worried and worried until the weather turned warm again. I'm hopeful people got them planted. Thanks to the crew of workers, many working both days, all day.

*Marty Sloven  
Bulb Sale Chair*



Marge Fisch delivering bulbs to Tina Romero, a long-time buyer from the Election Division

## Voter Service Kicks Off 2020 with Voter Registration Training

On Tuesday, January 7, the League will have a **Voter Registration Training**. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the League Office for a 90-minute training. You will be able register voters in drives and droves once you are a circulator. You can register new citizens, new neighbors and others with paper or online. Updating registrations will be of importance this year. If you want to do **Jail Voter Registration**, you will need to complete a background check and a jail safety training. So contact Jeanette Scotland at [jscotland@gmail.com](mailto:jscotland@gmail.com) or Anne Duncan at [anned47@msn.com](mailto:anned47@msn.com), or the League office at 303-321-7571, to sign up for the training.

*Jeanette Scotland and Anne Duncan, Co-Chairs*

## Summary of Program Meeting on Calendar

It was a lively meeting when 10 enthusiastic Leaguers gathered November 18 to decide the best briefings to plan for the winter and spring. Everyone had great ideas. The difficulty is to decide what to choose from the multitude of ideas to schedule on the six or seven dates we have available.

We are planning a preview of the Legislative session on Tuesday, January 21. Priorities for February, March, and April are the following: Saving Coloradoans Money in Health Care, Saving Reproductive Rights, Climate Change and Health, Homelessness, How to Save Our Neighborhoods, and a History of Women's Suffrage. However, we also talked about understanding various forms of city government, affordable housing, immigration, the potential changes in Denver Public Schools, voting trends across the country, and transportation. We are also interested in

following where the money is going from the tax increases we voted for last year. Those areas are parks, healthy food, college scholarships, and mental health. A tour of the new VA hospital was recommended, and we discussed the possibility of a film on a topic that would be interesting to see together. We also don't know if we will need to schedule some time for national program planning this year.

If you would be interested in working on any of these topics, please let me know. Some of these topics have someone willing to work on them, some do not. Since we've gone to basically guest speakers, it often just takes making a contact and establishing a schedule. The speakers do the work.

*Marty Sloven (MSloven25@aol.com)  
Director of Program*

## Unit Meetings: *A place for lively conversation!*

### Buffalo

**Mon., Dec. 9, 6:00 p.m.**

Unit's Choice

Contact: Joan Friend

303-596-1022

**Mon., Jan. 13, 5:30 p.m.**

**Mon., Jan. 27, 5:30 p.m.**

Location to be determined

Contact: Joan Friend

303-596-1022

### Capitol Hill

**Sat., Jan. 25, 10:00 a.m.**

LWVC Office

1410 Grant St.

(Note new location)

### Cheesman

**Tue., Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m.**

Holiday luncheon

Fire restaurant

Contact Cindy Sestrich

303-832-6739

**Tue., Jan. 14, 9:30 a.m.**

Alice Silver

675 S. University Blvd. Party Room

720-344-6947

**Tue., Jan. 28, 9:30 a.m.**

Bobbie Heisterkamp

766 Milwaukee St.

303-333-6818

### Cherrington

**Thu., Dec. 12, 11:00 a.m.**

Tour of Senior Planet followed by lunch at a Lowry restaurant

Senior Planet is a non-profit organization that offers free tech training to people 60+. Other Leaguers are welcome to join us.

Contact Peg Oldham

hamnpeg@msn.com or 720-220-3988

**Thu., Jan. 9, 1:00 p.m.**

Peg Oldham

9355 E. Center Ave. 5B

720-220-3988

**Thu. Jan. 23, 1:00 p.m.**

Marty Sloven

2990 E. 17th Ave. Clubroom

303-333-3148

### Highland/Woodbury

**Wed., Dec. 18, 6:00 p.m.**

Potluck at Sally and Ed Augden's

4482 Quitman St.

303-455-5800

**Wed., Jan. 22, at 5:45 p.m.**

West 29th Restaurant and Bar

Contact Anne Duncan

773-852-3197

### Observatory

**TBD**

### Southwest Denver

**Tue., Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m.**

White elephant auction/potluck lunch

Mary Ullmer

2655 S Zurich Ct.

303-935-9174

**Tue., Jan. 28, 9:30 a.m.**

Peggy Pitchford

2661 S Zurich Ct.

303-638-5534

## December Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## January Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**Dec 5** Another Look at an Alternative Voting Method  
1:00 p.m., League Office

**Jan 6** 2020 Potluck, 5:30 p.m., League Office

**Jan 7** Voter Registration Training, 6:30 p.m., League Office

**Jan 20** Church closed—MLK Holiday

**Jan 21** What's Ahead for the 2020 Legislature briefing  
5:30 p.m., McCollum Room

**Jan 24, 25** Make Them Hear You concerts

The League Office will be closed for the Winter holiday from December 20-January 3. If you have any questions, contact Marge at ralphmarj@msn.com or 303-322-4235.

# Community Events



## Women's Vote Centennial COLORADO // 2020 Commemoration. Events. Impact.



As the first state to enact equal suffrage through popular vote on November 7, 1893, Colorado has a lot to commemorate as we recognize the amendment's progress and rally together for greater empowerment and equality.

In anticipation of the centennial, former governor John Hickenlooper signed an executive order creating the Women's Vote Centennial Commission. The Commission and History Colorado lead efforts, together with community partners statewide, to bridge the gap from recognizing the importance of history to understanding how it impacts the here and now.

The Women's Vote Centennial Colorado//2020 gives multi-generational audiences the opportunity to learn about the journey and struggle to achieve voting rights, understand the contributions of women in Colorado history and underscore the value of each of our voices with the right to vote. Look for events here:

<https://www.historycolorado.org/2020-womens-vote-centennial-colorado>

### Members, offer this application to friends and neighbors!

League of Women Voters of Denver  
1980 Dahlia Street  
Denver, CO 80220-1239

### JOIN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

- ANNUAL DUES:       Regular member ..... \$60.00  
(for Denver, State &       Two residing at same address..... \$90.00  
National)               Sustaining member ..... \$125.00  
                                  Two sustaining members at same address ..... \$185.00  
                                  Student ..... \$25.00

- CONTRIBUTIONS:       To LWV Denver ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  To Dues Assistance Fund ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to LWV Denver. (Dues are not tax-deductible. Tax-deductible contributions may be made by separate check to LWVD Education Fund.)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**



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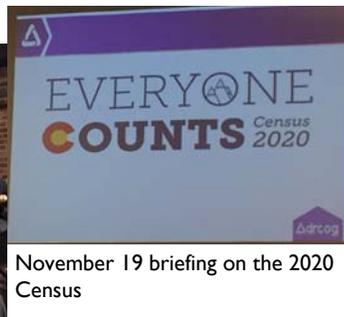
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## Recent Briefings and Activities



November 7 Drinks and Dialogue with new and prospective members



November 19 briefing on the 2020 Census

## Board Highlights, November 21

- Discussed details of the Spirituals Project Choir concert March 27
- Began the process of appointing a committee to review and update the bylaws
- Reviewed fundraising goals and activities for the year
- Received the good news that Club Express is starting to “work” and make office work easier
- Approved a request to purchase a new desk for the office
- Anne Duncan reported on a good discussion concerning campaign finance at the Clerk and Recorder’s modernization meeting.
- Voter Service will be looking for new registration sites in areas of the city with lower voting numbers.