



Making Democracy Work™

Denver VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

September 2019

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info@LWVDenver.org

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“Is Democracy Dying?” Cheesman Unit Discussion and Dialogue

At its 2016 National Convention, the League of Women Voters US began a “Making Democracy Work” Campaign that has been the credo for our local programming and activities. So when Sue Stark brought to our attention that the entire October 2018 issue of *The Atlantic Magazine* was devoted to addressing the question “Is Democracy Dying?,” the Cheesman unit decided to devote a summer meeting to reading, reviewing and responding to its articles. Eighteen Leaguers met at Bobbie Heisterkamp’s home to tackle this difficult topic on July 30.

Sue Stark researched and developed a handout that we used as a starting point called “What Is a Democracy: Definitions and Explanations” (available on LWVD website). Bobbie Heisterkamp organized our discussion by assigning each of the nine articles to a Cheesman member, asking that we give a brief synopsis and pose two questions from the article’s main focus. The writers’ topics were wide-ranging from:

- whether the US is moving toward the autocracy of an imperial presidency to
- warnings from the possible demise of some European democracies to
- whether technology favors tyranny over democracy to
- losing the habit of practicing democracy in our local organizations to
- the rise of factionalism, tribalism and ethical division to
- examining how the checks and balances written into the Constitution were meant to cool off the passions



Fall Briefings

Fall Kick-Off

Taming Tax Policy: Taking on TABOR in 2019
Monday, September 16, 5:30 p.m.
McCollum Room
Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church

Tour of Emily Griffith Technical College

Thursday, October 3
10:00 a.m. Emily Griffith Campus
1860 Lincoln Street
1:00 p.m. Emily Griffith Trades Building
1205 Osage Street

of the masses and give elected representatives time to think to

- our country’s unresolved challenge of racism and the influence of the judicial branch in supporting Rule of Law as the keystone for a humane, just, and civilized society.

Though our discussion certainly focused on the concerns and fears raised by contributors to *The Atlantic*, we endeavored to steer away from partisan commentary. We were also able to find hope in the civic reawakening manifested by recent public demonstrations, the actions of more bi-partisan compromise in state and local governmental bodies, and states/cities becoming “laboratories” for alternative equitable voting methods. We hope the League goal of increasing voter turnout will prevent extremes at both ends of the spectrum from taking control. We left the gathering more energized and with an even stronger desire to Make Democracy Work for all.

Sue Stark

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Kick-Off Briefing

Taming Tax Policy: Taking on TABOR in 2019

Monday, September 16
 5:30 p.m. Social Time/Announcements
 6:00 p.m. Program Begins

McCullum Room
 Montview Presbyterian Church

TABOR (the Taxpayer Bill Of Rights) does way more than just require that Colorado citizens vote on every tax increase. LWVCO understood that when we opposed the measure in 1992. Most voters did not. When voters understand the complex ramifications of the amendment, they are more likely to understand why we need to tame it. The Monday, September 16 briefing will address Colorado Proposition CC (on the ballot in November) and additional possible approaches to dealing with TABOR.

Carol Hedges, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Colorado Fiscal Institute, has been studying the effects of TABOR on our state and will lead the discussion. Proposition CC would allow the state to retain revenue for transportation and education rather than refund the excess revenue required by TABOR. Hedges will also discuss the ramifications of the Colorado Supreme Court ruling that TABOR could be removed entirely with one vote in 2020.

Sally Augden

Tour of Emily Griffith Technical College

Thursday, October 3

10:00 a.m. Meet at Emily Griffith Campus, 1860 Lincoln Street

1:00 p.m. Meet at Emily Griffith Trades Building, 1205 Osage Street

In 1916, before women even had the right to vote, Emily Griffith opened the first adult public vocational school in the nation providing training in job skills and English. Today, Emily Griffith Technical College (EGTC), formerly Opportunity School, carries on its founder's tradition and inspiration by continuing to provide job skill training in highly sought-after professions and industries and English acquisition skills for non-native speakers. These students generally graduate with little or no debt. Join us for a tour, designed specifically for LWVD, of EGTC faculties and programs.

EGTC has two campuses, each offering different programs. You can take the tour for either one or both of the campuses. The 10:00 a.m. session will provide general information about EGTC and career education and will tour programs including Nursing, Dental Assisting, Culinary, and Cosmetology. The 1:00 p.m. session will tour programs including Automotive, CAD-BIM, Welding, and Water Quality Management. There'll be time for lunch and travel time in between the two sessions. Bringing your own lunch might be the best option.

The tour is free. Transportation is on your own (Carpooling is highly recommended). When we get closer to the date, we will ask you to RSVP.

Pam Hovik

LWVD Member

Emily Griffith Foundation Board Member

You Can Help the League of Women Voters of Denver Through Charitable Donations

The League of Women Voters of Denver recently became a 501(c)(3) organization, which means your donations to LWV will now be tax deductible. Over the next several months you will learn about the different types of charitable donations you can make and the Federal tax benefits you may receive from such donations. We recommend that you consult your legal counsel, accountant or financial advisor before making any substantial charitable contribution.

Below is a summary of the types of giving that will be covered:

Cash Donations - The most common and easiest form of donation is cash. The LWVD is able to accept cash, checks or credit cards.

Donation of Publicly Trade Stock or Mutual Funds - You can also donate publicly traded stock and other securities. A donation of stock or other securities generally provides very favorable tax results if you have held the donated stock or other securities for at least one year.

IRA Contributions - If you are 70 1/2 years of age or older, you can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA and contribute cash, appreciated stock or other assets held in your IRA, without incurring any income tax liability for the IRA or yourself.

Life Insurance - Donors may donate life insurance policies to LWVD or name LWVD as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

Donor-Advised Funds; Private Foundations - Some donors prefer to spread their donations to charities over several years but wish to deduct the aggregate value of the multi-year donations in the first year. You can achieve both by contributing to a donor-advised fund. You can take a charitable contribution deduction in the year you transfer the gift amount to the donor-advised fund even if you direct the donor-advised fund to distribute the funds to LWVD over a number of years.

Post-death Charitable Contributions - Charitable contributions from your estate may qualify for a charitable contribution deduction for purposes of the estate tax without any limit on the amount of contributions. In other words, you can put LWVD in your will.

We will be giving you more detailed information on these many options over the next several months in the Voter. In the meantime if you would like to speak to someone about charitable giving, please call the office and Fran Coleman will direct you to the right person.

*Marilyn Barrett, JD
Development Chair*

Club Express

As you may have heard, LWV Denver is implementing an Association Management System (AMS) called Club Express to help automate some of our routine membership functions. Over the next several weeks we will be updating membership lists, formatting the new system, creating a new website, and providing training for those interested in using the new system.

We will soon be uploading our membership information (name, address, phone, etc.) into the system for all active members. You will receive an email in the next week or so asking you to log into the new system and update your personal information and set your password. Please respond as quickly as you can.

Don't hesitate to contact the office if you need help logging onto the system (info@lwvdenver.org or 303-321-7571).

Frances (Fran) Natividad Coleman, Office Manager

Summary of July Program/Calendar Meeting

We had a lively and productive Program/Calendar meeting on July 23 with 14 Leaguers full of ideas. The enclosed calendar has the results to date of what we decided. We are still working on the details of some events, such as a Drinks & Dialogue evening in September.

We would love to have some members step-up and help with some of the topics we are still considering. Sue Stark needs a couple more members to work on a series of briefings around the issues of what makes up a democracy. Steve Coddington is intent on making a recommendation to City Council on some type of alternative voting method, such as Ranked Choice Voting. We might actually do an official local study on that issue. If so, we need members to help with that.

Denver passed four tax increases last year: parks, college scholarships, mental health, and healthy food. We'd love to have members follow the money as the city implements those changes.

We are starting this League year with an extremely important ballot issue that we must get behind: Proposition CC. (See the article on page 2) As Leaguers, we need to help others understand the importance of supporting Proposition CC.

Marty Sloven
Director of Program

Girl Scout Gold Award Project

On May 18, I had the privilege of presenting my Girl Scout Gold Award Project to a group of women from the League, including Leaguer Kay Shaw, Gold Award Mentor of Colorado. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout can earn. She must dedicate 80 hours to a sustainable project that has a lasting impact on the community.

For my Gold Award, I decided to help people become more informed voters. While I won't be eligible to vote for two more years, I have noticed that people tend to vote based on a certain single policy issue or on how a candidate presents him or herself. I decided that I wanted to help people become more well-rounded voters. When I vote for the first time in the next presidential election, I want to understand the whole candidate and all of his/her positions. Ultimately, I think that is what every voter wants.

To achieve this goal, I created a survey for the Denver mayoral candidates. I developed questions that narrowed down the slate of candidates to a single candidate that would best suit the person taking the quiz. The survey showed the people taking it how many policy issues that they need to consider throughout the election, and how their answers could strongly affect the person whom they were told to vote for.



I shared the survey with family and friends before I had the League presentation attendees take it. At the end of the survey, I heard many mumbles in the room, "well I'm not voting for him" or "this isn't right." Many women were shocked with their results. This was the same response that my Grandpa had when he took the survey. This is because many voters were planning on voting solely based on a specific policy issue such as Executive Order 300 (the urban camping ban) or they were voting either in favor or in opposition to Denver development or they just liked the candidate but didn't understand his or her policies. Policy questions that people did not consider were things such as should RTD be free to those reliant on public transportation or should there be safe spaces for people to smoke marijuana in public? Since the quiz took all the candidates' positions into account, the best candidate to represent all of the voter's concerns was often different than expected.

I plan to continue working on my survey tool with the help of Dr. Pavielle Haines, a researcher at the Center on American Politics at the University of Denver in hopes that it will be updated by her students to fit the issues and candidates of all future elections and that it will be shared with the League for distribution to make better informed voters.

Fiona Goe

Membership

Notes from the LWV Denver Membership Team

Patty Cordova, Barbara Ann Ford, Joan Friend, Bobbie Heisterkamp, and Chris Humphries

As we start the new League year, we have a little over 300 members. We have had a sizable membership gain since the beginning of 2019, and we plan to continue to add more members this fall.

Our new members have been participating in voter service projects, the Women to Watch program, State Legislative Action Committee, program planning, briefings in the McCollum Room, Unit meetings and more. However, some newer members are still wondering how best to "fit in." We have a plan to help the "fitting in" process and need your help:

- If you have been a member for years, please consider mentoring a new member.
- If you are a newer member, please don't hesitate to ask for a mentor.

For either, please call Fran at the office (303-321-7571). She will be helping us match up mentor pairs.

Busy and Productive Summer

Normally the office is closed for part of the summer. This year was different as a number of additional goals needed to be met prior to September.

- The Board held a retreat in June and set goals for the upcoming year.
- Fran Coleman and Andrea Mitchell spent countless hours setting up Club Express, the software we purchased with the generous contributions from our members. It will improve membership and payment data, update our website and give us a technology boost.
- The LWV of DENVER is now a tax-deductible organization. All donations to the League are deductible, including your dues, and any amount over the actual cost of your event fees.
- The Future Fund had a goal of raising \$100,000 by 2020. It now has \$85,000, just \$15,000 short of

the goal.

- The office will be painted in August. Fran and Nancy Ulrich are designing the office to make better use of the space. It has been a great opportunity to dispose of many items outdated and just gathering dust.
- The Program Council met and continues to plan outstanding briefing programs which draw large attendance. If you know of a group that might like to partner with us on a briefing, please contact Marty Sloven.
- The Denver Decides committee began their planning meetings in preparation for the important School Board election in November.

Marge Fisch, Director of Organization

League of Women Voters and Denver Eclectics Pair Up

Two excellent programs that were originally briefings from the League of Women Voters of Denver are coming to Denver Eclectics this year. Denver Eclectics is an educational membership organization that welcomes guests.

1. Five Dreamers: Presented by Dick Alweis at the Denver Country Club (1700 E. 1st Ave.), Monday, September 16, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Jane Wasson first brought the film and the dreamers to our attention last January. The program is both humbling and poignant.
2. Growing Forward: What is Driving Colorado Population Growth? Presented by Elizabeth Garner, state demographer on November 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Denver Country Club. Sue Stark introduced Elizabeth Graner to the League earlier this year to an enthusiastic crowd.

Each event is \$25, the first with optional dinner for \$60 and the second with optional lunch for \$25. Contact Rona Shor, ronashor@gmail.com or go to www.denvereclectics.com for more details.

Rona Shor, 917-756-6066

Unit Meetings: A place for lively conversation!

Buffalo

Mon., Sept. 23, 5:30 p.m.

Location to be determined

Contact: Joan Friend 303-596-1022

Capital Hill

Sat., Sept. 28, 10:00 a.m.

Natural Grocers Community Room
1433 Washington St.

Contact: Sandy Spon 505-281-5375

Cheesman

Tue., Sept. 24, 9:30 a.m.

Irene Ludwig
290 High St. #D
303-562-5657

Cherrington

Thu., Sept. 12, 1:00 p.m.

Marcia Verba
910 S. Clayton Way
303-629-0614

Thu., Sept. 26, 1:00 p.m.

Twyla Boe
9355 E. Center Ave., #9C
303-344-5430

Highland/Woodbury

Wed., Sept. 25, 5:45 p.m.

W. 29th Avenue Restaurant
5560 W. 29th Ave.
Contact Anne Duncan
773-852-3197

Observatory

Tue., Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m.

Carol Pace
7804 E. Colgate Place
303-751-4125

Whiteman

TBD

September 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				

16 Kick-Off Briefing, 5:30 p.m., McCollum, Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church

19 Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., League Office

New Saturday Unit Starting in Capitol Hill!

Introductory meeting

10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 24 (continuing to meet the 4th Sat., Sept-April)

Natural Grocers Community Room

Washington and Colfax (1433 Washington St.)

Meet Sandy Spon, Unit Leader, and enjoy refreshments and conversation and learn about the League of Women Voters. Members are of course welcome, but please also tell friends and neighbors! This Unit will continue to meet the fourth Saturday from September through April.

For questions, contact Fran at the office: 303-321-7571.

Welcome New and Returning Members

Theresa "Terry" Cookro, 4444 King St, 80211, inforocks@gamil.com, 303-455-2405

Lois Harvey, 3115 W. 35th Ave, 80211, Lois431@gmail.com, 720-984-7660

Linda Moery, 21 S Garfield St., 80209, Lnmoery@gmail.com, 303-884-3856

Sally Ortiz, 2367 Hudson St., 80207, sallyopoet@gmail.com, 303-322-4875

Paul Sims, 1663 Steele St., Apt 405, 80206

Karen Taylor, 4102 King St, 80211, karentaylorphd@gmail.com, 303-548-4116

King Soopers/Kroger Rewards Program

It is now easier than ever to support the League of Women Voters of Denver with every King Soopers purchase including prescriptions, gas, and groceries!

Instead of the reloadable gift cards, now every time you use your Loyalty Card (points card) or enter your Alt ID (usually your phone number), you will support the League. But, you must take the steps below to link your card or Alt ID to League of Women Voters of Denver.

- Got to kingsoopers.com/topic/king-soopers-community-rewards and click on “enroll Now”
- Check “create an account” (near the bottom)
- If you don’t want to receive emails from King Soopers or have your shopping habits tracked, uncheck the boxes
- Complete the rewards form and select **League of Women Voters of Denver** to receive the contribution

If you have any trouble, you can speak to a real person at 800-677-KING (5464) and get help to connect your card or Alt ID to League of Women Voters of Denver.

Andrea Mitchell, Treasurer

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.)

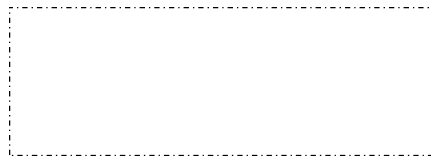
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____



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Board Highlights August 15, 2019 Meeting

- Approved a revised budget due to the elimination of the Education Fund, now that the League of Women Voters of Denver is a 501(c)3 organization
- Reviewed goals for 2019-20 that we set at the retreat in June
- Welcomed Membership Chair Patty Cordova's plan for putting a mentoring program in place
- Reviewed the fall calendar (included in this Voter)
- Discussed the importance of advocating for Proposition CC and getting members and the public out for our Kick-Off meeting Sept. 16, which will help us understand the proposition fully
- Voted to continue to support the National Popular Vote and to actively oppose the 2020 ballot initiative which would remove Colorado's participation