



Making Democracy Work™

# Denver VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

April 2018

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info@LWVDenver.org

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Denver, CO 80220

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## Observatory Unit Takes Action and Visits Day of Remembrance

On Sunday, February 18, four members of the Observatory Unit attended the 76<sup>th</sup> Day of Remembrance, held annually at the History Colorado Center, in honor of the 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were imprisoned during WW II and others, many from the camps who served in the armed forces in the war. February 19 commemorates the day in 1942 when President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized West Coast Japanese Americans to be transported to camps in the interior of the west. Some citizens were forcibly removed from their homes and imprisoned without charges. Many lost livelihoods when they sold businesses and farms. Children and parents lived in single room dwellings with communal dining halls. Leaguer Rose Tanaka was one of the children interned. For many years the survivors did not talk about their lives and even today, US History classes cover the topic only briefly, if at all. Colorado Governor Ralph Carr stood up against the wide spread racism of that day and invited many Japanese to live safely in Colorado.

We also learned from the main speaker, Peggy Nagae, Esq. of the Japanese American Citizens League, how redress of this shameful event was made through legislative and peaceful means. American survivors were awarded \$5,000 and Peruvian Japanese were given \$2,500 each, and a national apology was issued by President Reagan with the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Then on February 27, in an effort to be pro-active, informed voters, Observatory Unit members met and discussed positions the state and national League have taken on gun safety, especially military style weapons. We then wrote out our personal concerns on post cards and sent them to our representatives in the legislature.

*Jeanette Scotland, Co-Leader  
Observatory Unit*

## April Briefings

### Public-Private Partnerships

Tuesday, April 3, 5:30 p.m.

McCollum Room

Montview Presbyterian Church

### Water Briefing

Monday, April 16, 5:30 p.m.

McCollum Room

Montview Presbyterian Church

## Cheesman Unit: “Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax”

The Cheesman Unit met at our usual time on February 27, but since the briefing had been cancelled, we talked about what issues are important to us. Our list: sharing the streets of Denver with bicycles, voices of youth and sustaining their activism and hoping they vote, how we get our news and check facts, gerrymandering and funding the 2020 Census, gun safety, and really listening to different opinions. Leaguers are involved in so many issues, trying to make democracy work for all. We are an amazing group of people, and it was fun to hear from each other. We also reaffirmed the need to support the “Women to Watch” project that the Denver League started several years ago.

*Mary Ann Thompson, Co-Leader  
Observatory Unit*

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## Public-Private Partnerships – What Are They and How Do They Affect Us?

Tuesday, April 3

5:30 p.m. Social Time/Announcements

6:00 p.m. Program Begins

McCollum Room

Montview Presbyterian Church

At this briefing we will be taking a look at the growth of Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) in Colorado. The P3 funding model has been used in Colorado for quite a few surface transportation projects (i.e., roads), including E-470, US 36, and the I-70 Mountain Express Lanes. In Denver, the P3 funding model has been used for several notable projects, including Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium, Union Station, and Denver International Airport. And, like Colorado's population, P3s are growing rapidly in response to the ever-increasing demands for roads, transportation-centric development, and urban renewal projects and housing.

Please join us as we explore the public-private partnership funding models and how Colorado and Denver use these partnerships to complete necessary infrastructure and urban renewal projects. It will follow nicely after the TABOR briefing in March. We will look at the advantages and disadvantages to these models and what the long-term affects may be for the residents of Colorado and Denver. There will also be some discussion of potential advocacy for those that are interested.

*Peggy Pitchford, Assistant  
 Director of Program*

## Water Briefing

Monday, April 16

5:30 p.m. Social Time/Announcements

6:00 p.m. Program Begins

McCollum Room

Montview Presbyterian Church

Come to this briefing to understand the vision for the future of water in our rapidly growing metropolitan region. Lisa Darling, Executive Director of South Metro Water Supply Authority, and representatives from Denver Water, will be our speakers. Lisa will speak to the innovative planning that is taking place across the metro area. The Denver Water representatives will speak about what is being planned for the Water Resource Center at the National Western Complex.

At the Water Resource Center, Colorado State University, Denver Water, and other partners are working to create state-of-the-art research, education and laboratory spaces that facilitate collaboration around water quality, conservation, reuse-recycling, treatment and other important aspect of water planning in the West. The Center will bring together academia, practitioners, and community members to create one of the most unique cooperative efforts the nation.

This should make for a very interesting and timely topic for League.



## Join Us for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 5

For many years our Annual Meetings have been at the Park Hill Golf Course and this might be the last one. Discussions have been going on relating to the possible sale of the land for the last few years. The future of the clubhouse building is part of the discussion.

As usual, the breakfast buffet begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by our speaker and then finally the business meeting, all to be finished by 11:30 a.m. Our keynote speaker will be Lynn Bartels, Communications Director for the Colorado Secretary of State's office. Lynn Bartels worked as a journalist for 35 years, including 16 years at the Rocky Mountain News and six years at the

Denver Post. When asked for a snappy title of her talk, she came up with "I can neither confirm nor deny."

Included in this Voter is a registration form plus a nomination form for our special awards given out each year. The Marty Sloven Mother Lode Award honors someone who has made a major contribution this year. The Shirley Weaver Suffragist Lifetime Achievement Award honors a member who has served Denver League well over the years. Please return the award nominations to the office by April 15.

*Marge Fisch*  
Director of Organization

The League of Women Voters of Denver has raised the cost of Annual Meeting from \$25 to \$30 this year. Additionally, some members who have paid and cannot attend have donated their seats to other members who would like to attend but cannot, due to budget constraints. If you would like to donate an annual meeting seat to a member or guest, or you would like to attend but cannot because of budget constraints, please contact Kali in our office for ways to donate or to receive a seat. Any funds donated for the Annual Meeting that are not used will go to the Denver League of Women Voter's operating fund.

## Bulbs, Bulbs, Bulbs What we sell in April and May

Although we did well last year, we didn't have quite the flower bulb sale success that we had the last two years. I know we can do better. There is someone you all know who would buy at least a dozen or two, or who needs an amaryllis for a holiday gift. We need the sale to be successful to keep our office going, and we certainly want to do that.

For those of you who may be new to this project or just haven't tried it before, we have packets we carry around in April and May with pictures of all the products we sell. The pictures sell the bulbs. We sell and collect the money in the spring when people see what their yards need, and the high-quality bulbs are delivered directly from Holland the middle of October. We also have indoor forcing bulbs for those who no longer have gardens. We have ways to donate bulbs to Denver parks, etc., and the bulbs make wonderful gifts.

We appreciate that so many of you make an effort to buy bulbs or make cash donations, but we need more Leaguers to **sell**. Carry the packets with you as you in-

teract with those you see at other activities. You will be surprised how easy it is. Some members put a notice

about bulbs to sell on Next Door, an internet site for neighbors helping neighbors. If people respond, you drop off a packet. If you are willing to do this, it could significantly raise our sales.

We have the pictures online, and we are working on how we might offer the opportunity for customers to order and pay online. We will keep you posted.

I'll be handing out packets at the April 3 briefing or you can get a packet during office hours.

I would also be happy to drop a packet (or two to three) at your home or office. We would like the packets back by the end of May. You can bring them to the Legislative Wrap-Up or drop them off at the office. If you are done selling, you may turn in your packet(s) anytime.

Good luck!

*Marty Sloven*  
Bulb Sale Chair



## Election Year Updates

As initiative filings are approved for petition circulation, they appear on the Secretary of State's website. As we are likely to be approached to sign these petitions, we will be bringing them to you here in the VOTER. We're hoping this will give you time to digest them in the comfort of your own home before deciding to sign.

### Ballot titles and submission clauses:

**#53:** Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes requiring any financial penalty, including a fine or forfeiture, imposed by a government entity to be allocated first to the victim of the offense, if any, with the remainder of the financial penalty allocated to an eligible charity designated by the person paying the financial penalty rather than being retained by the government entity?

**#82:** Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning the issuance of identification documents by the Department of Revenue to individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States, and, in connection therewith, allowing such individuals to present a social security number in lieu of a federal taxpayer identification number when applying to obtain a driver's license, minor driver's license, instruction permit, or identification card as allowed under existing law; requiring such individuals to provide evidence of current Colorado residency when renewing an identification document, but otherwise allowing such individuals to extend, renew, or replace an identification document in the same manner as other individuals; requiring all motor vehicle offices to issue identification documents to such individuals; prohibiting the Department of Revenue from limiting the number of identification documents issued to such individuals; and appropriating sufficient money to the Department of Revenue to fund an anticipated increase in the number of identification documents issued?

**#83:** Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning modification of the state income tax system, and, in connection therewith, reducing the state income tax rate from 4.63% to 4.6%; repealing, and replacing for all individuals, all current state income tax credits; allowing each adult full-year resident taxpayer to claim a new state income tax credit of up to an equal share of the sum of all state income tax credits in 2018 plus all state tobacco settlement revenue, all state regis-

### Approved for circulation

*\* Unofficial caption assigned by legislative staff for tracking purposes.*

# 53 Disposition of Government Fines, Surcharges, and Forfeitures*	▼ Details
# 82 Issuance of Identification Documents by the Department of Revenue*	▼ Details
# 83 State Income Tax*	▼ Details
# 93 Funding for Public Schools*	▼ Details
# 94 Severance Taxes on Oil and Gas*	▼ Details

tration fees over \$10 per vehicle, all non-federal revenue to state enterprises started after 2000 without voter approval, and all excess state revenue retained as authorized by state voters in 2005; simplifying state income tax returns; and changing procedures for the collection, enforcement, and administration of state income tax?

**#93:** Shall state taxes be increased \$1,600,000,000 annually by an amendment to the Colorado constitution and a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning funding relating to preschool through high school public education, and, in connection therewith, creating an exception to the single rate state income tax for revenue that is dedicated to the funding of public schools; increasing income tax rates incrementally for individuals, trusts, and estates using four tax brackets starting at .37% for income above \$150,000 and increasing to 3.62% for income above \$500,000; increasing the corporate income tax rate by 1.37%; for purposes of school district property taxes, reducing the current residential assessment rate of 7.2% to 7.0% and the current nonresidential assessment rate of 29% to 24%; requiring the revenue from the income tax increases to be deposited in a dedicated public education fund and allowing the revenue collected to be retained and spent as voter-approved revenue changes; requiring the legislature to annually appropriate money from the fund to school districts to support early childhood through high school public educational programs on an equitable basis throughout the state without decreasing general fund appropriations; directing the legislature to enact, regularly review, and revise when necessary, a new public school finance law that meets specified criteria; until the legislature has enacted a new public school finance law, requiring the money in the fund to be annually appropriated for specified education programs and purposes; requiring the money in the fund to be used to support only public schools; requiring general fund

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

appropriations for public education to increase by inflation, up to 5%, annually; and requiring the Department of Education to commission a study of the use of the money in the fund within five years?

**#94:** Shall state taxes be increased \$307,000,000 annually by a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning the severance tax on oil and gas extracted in the state, and, in connection therewith, increasing the severance tax rates by 5 percentage points; eliminating a credit against the severance tax based on property taxes paid by producers; reducing the maximum amount of oil or

gas that a severance tax-exempt well may produce without all production from the well becoming taxable; exempting the severance tax revenue and related investment income from the state fiscal year spending limit; requiring 44% of the severance tax revenue to be credited in equal shares to the severance tax trust fund and the local government severance tax fund and 56% of the severance tax revenue to be spent in equal shares for the purposes of providing all-day kindergarten and public school funding and providing medical care and treatment to people suffering negative health impacts proximately caused by oil and gas production?

## Mark Your Calendar for the 2018 Elections

### Primary Election

June 26

Ballots will be mailed to active voters the week of June 4.

### 2018 General Election

November 6

Ballots will be mailed to active voters the week of October 15.

## New LWVUS Mission, Vision and Value Statements

Mission Statement: **Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

Vision Statement: **We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.**

Value Statement: **We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.**

Source: February *Colorado VOTER*

At the LWVCO Board meeting on March 8 the Board voted to adopt the LWVUS Mission and Vision Statements.

The LWVCO Board decision to adopt the Mission and Vision statements was based on information in the *LWVUS Transformation Roadmap* and *Transformation Action Steps*. Those two documents provide state and local Leagues with important information on the LWVUS Transformation process and plans. Specifically in the *Transformation Action Steps* under Strategic Focus, Goal I 2017/18, it states the following:

State and local Leagues: All state and local Leagues adopt use of the new mission and vision statements in all communications, including websites.

The LWVCO Board decided to postpone discussion on adopting the LWVUS Value Statement, "The League believes in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy," until after the Strategic Planning Retreat on April 25, 2018.

From a 3/12/2018 email from Sue Vaughan, LWVCO 3rd VP, Local League Support

## Unit Meetings: A place for lively conversation!

### Buffalo

Buffalo Unit will not meet in April  
Members are encouraged to attend briefings on Tues 04/03 & Mon 04/16  
Call Joan Friend if you have questions  
303-596-1022

### Cheesman

**Tue., Apr. 10, 9:30 a.m.**  
Marge Fisch  
2700 Cherry Crk Dr. S. #101  
303-322-4235  
**Tue., Apr. 24, 9:30 a.m.**  
Rona Shor  
1200 Acoma  
917-756-6066

### Cherrington

**Thu., Apr. 12, 1:00 p.m.**  
Elsie Haley

1215 Milwaukee St.  
303-321-0729  
**Thu., Apr. 26, 1:00 p.m.**  
Marcia Verba  
910 S. Clayton Way  
303-629-0614

**Highland/Woodbury**  
**Wed., Apr. 4, 5:45 p.m.**  
W. 29th Avenue Restaurant  
5560 W. 29th Ave.  
Contact Sally Augden  
303-455-5800

**Observatory**  
**Tue., Apr. 10, 7:00 p.m.**  
Jan Holzmeister  
12613 E. Bates Circle  
720-535-4500  
**Tue., Apr. 24, 7:00 p.m.**  
Tracey Bedford

6401 E. Cornell Ave.  
303-455-1656

**St. Vrain**  
**Wed., Apr. 25, 9:15 a.m.**  
TBD

**Whiteman**  
**Tue., Apr. 10, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**  
Tour of Marston Treatment Plant  
6100 West Quincy Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80235  
**Tue., Apr. 24, 9:15 a.m.**  
Mary Ullmer  
2655 South Zurich Court  
303-935-9174

## April 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					

- 3 Private-Public Partnerships Briefing, 5:30 p.m., McCollum Room
- 10 Board meeting, 3:30 p.m., League office
- 16 Water Briefing, 5:30 p.m., McCollum Room

## Inserts in this VOTER

- Annual Meeting Flyer
- Award Nomination Form

## Speakers Bureau

LWVD has recently received several requests for speakers. These requests come from a wide range of organizations, from small social clubs to governmental agencies. To accommodate the League's growing need in this area, we plan to put together a new Speakers Bureau. If you are interested in speaking on topics related to League, and eventually the ballot issues pros and cons, please contact Kali in the office at 303-321-7571 or by email at [info@LWVD.org](mailto:info@LWVD.org).

### Welcome New Members

**Anne Olson**, 3050 Glencoe St.  
**Maria Orms**, 9030 E Cherry Creek S Drive, 303-502-7365  
**Janet Williams**, 2980 Syracuse St., #439  
**Judy Woods**, 1650 Fillmore St.#904, 402-980-2589

## Women to Watch 2019 Join Our Committee

The next Women to Watch event will take place in March 2019, during Women's History Month. LWV Denver will once again honor women who have faced and overcome significant challenges in their lives. The actual work of contacting organizations (community colleges, social service agencies, adult education programs, etc.) to solicit nominations of potential awardees and interviewing the women selected will not begin until fall of 2018. Consider joining the committee that makes this great event happen. Please call or email *Susan Stark*, [susanstark1947@gmail.com](mailto:susanstark1947@gmail.com), 303-333-4094.



League of Women Voters of the United States  
53<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION

# CREATING A MORE PERFECT DEMOCRACY



From June 28 – July 1 members of the League of Women Voters will gather from all over the country to participate in the 53<sup>rd</sup> LWV National Convention: Creating A More Perfect Democracy.

The League is excited to have the opportunity to come together and visit with one another. At the convention, significant issues such as budget, program and election of officers, education and advocacy will be addressed. There will also be training modules, planning for our upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, networking and celebrations, and a banquet.

**Whether you are a long-time member or somewhat new to League, consider representing Denver at Convention. We can have up to 5 members attend this year and can cover registration and some of the travel costs. Please call the office if you are interested in attending this event.**

## 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:	<input type="radio"/> Regular member .....	\$60.00
(for Denver, State & National)	<input type="radio"/> Two residing at same address.....	\$90.00
	<input type="radio"/> Sustaining member .....	\$125.00
	<input type="radio"/> Two sustaining members at same address .....	\$185.00
	<input type="radio"/> 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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1980 Dahlia Street  
Denver, CO 80220-1239

Periodical Postage  
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## Empowering Voters Defending Democracy



### **Briefing: Equity in Education, Colorado Style**

Able organized by Leaguer Sally Augden, center, and presented by Dr. Kathryn Young of Metro State university, left, and Susan Meek from Great Education Colorado