



Making Democracy Work™

Denver VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

April 2018

www.LWVDenver.org
info@LWVDenver.org

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Redistricting Update

The League of Women Voters of Colorado, as part of a bipartisan coalition (Fair Districts Colorado) is taking action on redistricting reform with the filing of initiatives for the 2018 ballot. The initiatives work to ensure democracy and fair representation in Colorado by establishing an independent commission to draw fair state legislature and congressional district lines.

As we have mentioned before, on March 22, two initiatives were agreed upon by Fair Districts Colorado and People Not Politicians. They were filed with the Secretary of State office and both are awaiting an initial hearing. Read them here: [#170](#) and [#171](#). (Hint: They are almost identical, except for some legalese, numbering of the sections, etc.)

Things are moving along, though of course, never as quickly as we would like. The two groups working together to develop two proposals on redistricting of the legislature and Congress, plan to use a dual process. The proposals have been introduced in the legislature (Senate) and have been submitted to the Title Board process. We have good feedback from both parties and are in the process of getting strong sponsors in both houses.

LWVCO Redistricting Position-In-Brief

Support of measures to establish an agency other than the General Assembly to redistrict the Colorado General Assembly and the Colorado Congressional Districts. Support of redrawing the districts of both houses of the state legislature and the Colorado U.S. congressional districts based on specific criteria.

We have good feedback from both parties and are in the process of getting strong sponsors in both houses.

Please note the article in the Denver Post on March 27, 2018. This is the first of an ongoing campaign to publicize and explain both the need for these initiatives and how they will meet that need.

At the same time, we are beginning to solidify a structure to go forward. We will have a new name for the com-

May Events

Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 5, 8:30 a.m.
Park Hill Golf Course
4141 E. 35th Ave.

Legislative Wrap-Up

Monday, May 21, 5:30 p.m.
Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church
McCollum Room

bined groups and a new committee that will include all the pertinent players. We are in the process of leaving behind any competitiveness and trying to be aware of each groups' needs. In that vein, please remember that Common Cause, the ACLU, the NAACP, and Mi Familia Vota are all non-partisan, just as is LWV. Thanks for your attention and interest in this important issue.

Jean Fredlund, Member-at Large LWVCO State Board, LWVCO Redistricting Committee Chair.

To learn more, please visit [Fair District Colorado website](#) or reach out to the League at info@lwwcolorado.org.

Correction

The article about the Day of Remembrance incorrectly stated the reparation amount to the 100,000 people of Japanese descent who were incarcerated in US internment camps during World War II. The Civil Liberties Act, after a decade-long campaign by the Japanese-American community, offered a formal apology and \$20,000 to each surviving victim. (Source: [NPR](#)).

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Annual Meeting

“I can neither confirm nor deny”

Saturday, May 6
8:30 a.m.

Park Hill Golf Course Clubhouse
4141 E. 35th Ave. (Just off Colorado Blvd.)



Marge Fisch, Director of Organization

Reservations are still available – just call the office by May 1. Buffet breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. followed at 9:15 a.m. by our guest speaker Lynn Bartels, Community Director for the Colorado Secretary of State’s office. Lynn is a seasoned journalist of 35 years. We are in store for a special presentation. The business meeting follows as does the announcement of our Annual Awards.

Legislative Wrap-Up

Monday, May 21

5:30 p.m. Social Time/Announcements

6:00 p.m. Program Begins

McCollum Room

Montview Presbyterian Church

The 71st general assembly will adjourn on May 9. According to leg.colorado.gov, there has been a lot of interest in bills that would modify PERA, address concealed handgun carry with no permit, and repeal the ammunition magazine prohibition. Our League lobbyists have been hard at work all session following bills and advocating for League positions. They have been paying particular attention to the gun-related bills in light of the #MarchforOurLives movement.

This always well-received and interesting briefing will bring us a review of the session with an emphasis on League issues and the bills we supported or opposed.

Andrea Wilkins, LWVCO staff lobbyist, and Denver members of the Legislative Action Committee will share the results. Study up and be prepared by checking out the LAC’s Legislative Letter at <http://www.lwvcolorado.org/>



Important Business for Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters groups across the country have traditionally been designated 501(c)(4)s by the IRS, meaning that they were potentially lobbying groups, attempting to influence legislation. They were still nonprofits, but not tax exempt. That is why the national, state, and some local Leagues, including Denver, formed Education Funds, which were strictly educational and therefore earned 501(c)(3) status and could accept tax deductible donations. However, the IRS has now redefined the definition of a 501(c)(3) and is measuring “substantial” lobbying by amount of money spent. The Denver League would be allowed to use up to 20% of its total expenditures towards lobbying. In the past that actual expenditure has been much smaller. Since League lobbying is almost solely by volunteers with only a small portion of budgets spent on attempting to influence legislation (and virtually none in Denver), we now qualify for 501(c)(3) status. Leagues across the country are making this change. LWVCO and Boulder County are just two examples.

The LWVD Board recommended we make this change and several Denver Leaguers have been working hard to accomplish this conversion to a single organization. The decision must be made by a two-thirds majority at Annual Meeting. Included in this *Voter* are proposed amendments to both our Articles of Incorporation and our Bylaws. Bobbie Heisterkamp will explain the process and changes at Annual Meeting, but we recommend that you look over these documents and bring your questions to Annual Meeting.

Toni Larson, LWVCO President, has shared a list of the advantages of becoming a 501(c)(3):

- Eliminates the need to transfer money between the two organizations (only one treasurer needed)
- Eliminates the need to prepare two IRS forms and Secretary of State forms and payments
- Simplifies fundraising—all donations and **membership dues** would be tax-deductible
- Allows all purchases by the organization to be tax-exempt

This decision is important to the future of the League of Women Voters of Denver. We encourage you to get informed and support this process.

Directors Marge Fisch, Marty Sloven, Pearlanne Zelarney

Board Nomination Report 2018

The full membership will elect a new Board at the Annual Meeting. Here is the current slate, but nominations may also come from the floor provided the nominee approves.

Beginning a Two-Year Term:

Assistant Director of Program	Peggy Pitchford
Director of Communications	Pearlanne Zelarney
Secretary	Beth Kieft
Membership	Patty Cordova
Public Relations	Marcia Verba
Unit Organization	Jackie Long
Treasurer	Andrea Mitchell
Assistant Voter Service Chair	Anne Duncan
Member-at-Large	Pat Horoschak

Continuing a Two-Year Term:

Director of Organization	Marge Fisch
Director of Program	Marty Sloven
Voter Editor	Pearlanne Zelarney
Voter Service Chair	Jeanette Scotland
Member-at-Large	Brenda Sanders

Off Board:

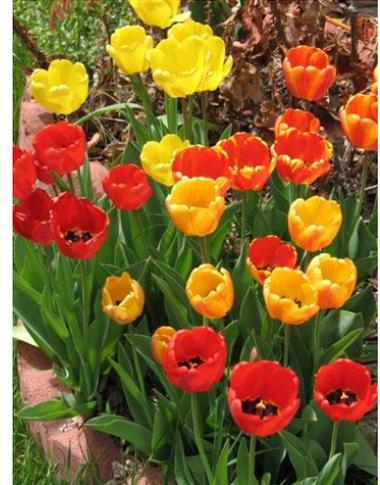
Development	Mary Dee Morrow
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Is Your Bulb Packet Making the Rounds?

If you look at the enclosed budget, you will see that the bulb sale is a huge part of our income. We depend on it and we depend on all of you to do what you can. If you haven't picked up a bulb packet, they will be at Annual Meeting or I would be happy to drop one or two off at your home. Bulbs are looking great this year, so people can see what they are missing in their yards. We also have indoor forcing bulbs for the holidays, and they work great at gifts. You have until the end of May, so there is plenty of time. Don't hesitate to contact me with questions.

Marty Sloven, Bulb Sale Chair

MSloven25@aol.com or 303-333-3148



Voter Service Update

Anne Duncan has agreed to be Co-Chair of Voter Services and will work on Denver submissions to Vote411.org. She has already led a voter service drive at the Denver Public Library where new citizen registration was held on April 12.

Gerry Cummins of LWVCO gave a training for interested people on March 19. A larger than expected group turned out and there are now eleven people certified as Circulators and more have expressed interest helping.

Jeanette Scotland



Anne Duncan, Sheila Porter, Paula Kauffman, and Ann Kusic at the March 19 training

Speakers Bureau Requests

LWVD has recently received an unusually high number of requests for speakers. These requests are coming from community centers, local non-profits, clubs, and elsewhere. Leaguers have been asked to speak on city issues, education, justice, healthcare, voting, natural resources, and women's issues. If you are interested in speaking on any of these topics on an on-going basis, please contact the office and we will add your name to a new list of League speakers. In the fall we will also be looking for speakers on the ballot issues pros and cons. Email at info@lwvdenver.org or call Kali at (303)321-7571.

Election Year Updates

As of April 17, 15 initiatives are approved for petition circulation and this does not include the two that LWVCO is supporting, #170 and #171! Wonder how many petition circulators this translates to.

#66 Limit on Local Housing Growth*	▼ 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
#97 Setback Requirement for Oil and Gas Development*	▼ Details
#108 Just Compensation for Reduction in Fair Market Value by Government Law or Regulation*	▼ Details
#109 Just Compensation for Damage Due to Government Law or Regulation*	▼ Details
#110 Just Compensation for Damage Due to Government Law or Regulation*	▼ Details
#111 Taking Property for Public Use*	▼ Details
#112 Just Compensation for Damage Due to Government Law, Regulation or Regulatory Condition*	▼ Details
#113 Taking Property for Public Use*	▼ Details
#123 Transparency in Health Care Billing*	▼ Details
#146 Transparency in Health Care Billing*	▼ Details
#164 Prohibit Sales of Smartphones to Preteen Minors*	▼ Details

US League Sends Letter to U.S. Senate on Need to Reduce Gun Violence

The League sent a letter on March 22 to the U.S. Senate outlining the policies needed to curb gun violence. The League believes it is time for Congress to adopt legislation that will close the gun show loophole, increase penalties for straw purchases of guns, ban assault weapons, place limits on high capacity ammunition magazine size, and fund research and reporting on gun violence in America. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting with Senate offices regarding this important issue. Read the full text [here](#).

Unit Meetings: *A place for lively conversation!*

Buffalo

Buffalo Unit will not meet in May
Members are encouraged to attend
Annual Meeting and the Legislative
Wrap-Up
Call Joan Friend if you have questions
303-596-1022

Cheesman

Tue., May 8, 9:30 a.m.
Alice Silver
675 S. University Blvd.
720-344-6947
Tue., May 22, 9:30 a.m.

Carla Bennett
1844 S Pontiac Way
303-757-2930

**Cherrington
Thu., May 24, Noon**

Potluck luncheon
Marty Sloven
2990 E. 17th Ave.
1st floor party room
303-333-3148

**Highland/Woodbury
Wed., May 2, 5:45 p.m.**

W. 29th Avenue Restaurant

5560 W. 29th Ave.
Contact Sally Augden
303-455-5800

**Observatory
TBD**

**Whiteman
Tue., May 22, 10:15 a.m.**

Annual Potluck
Joyce Solomon
4855 West Yale Ave.
303-935-7741

May 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		

- 5** Annual Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Park Hill Golf Course
- 8** No Board Meeting
- 21** Legislative Wrap-Up, 5:30 p.m., McCollum Room

**Included in this VOTER
and to be voted on at Annual Meeting:**

- Board Nominations
- Proposed Budget for 2018/2019
- Required documents to convert from a 501(c)(4) to a single 501(c)(3) organization

Office Hours

Office Hours for June and July will be flexible. E-mails and phone calls will be checked. For questions or concerns call Marge at 303-322-4235. Kali returns and regular office hours will resume on August 6.

2018 LWVCO Council Meeting

The Denver League will host the LWVCO Council being held at the Stapleton Holiday Inn on Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2. The planning committee, Mina Soltz, Pam Hovik, Peg Oldham, and Chairperson Marge Fisch, has planned trips to two local area sites. On alternate years, Council convenes with fewer voting members than at the state convention. Denver has two voting delegates but any member is invited to attend as an observer. This is a great opportunity for new members to learn about League. Call the office to participate.



CREATING A
**MORE
 PERFECT
 DEMOCRACY**



From June 28 to July 1 members of the League of Women Voters will gather from all over the country to participate in the 53rd LWV National Convention: Creating A More Perfect Democracy in Chicago, IL. There is still time to register and attend and any Leaguer is able to represent the Denver League. Call the office if you are interested.

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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Periodical Postage
 Paid in Denver



Nancy Ulrich registering voters at the March 30 Naturalization Ceremony

Briefings in March and April



Peggy Pitchford joins speakers Nick Barber at the P3s briefing and Chris Stiffler at the briefing on TABOR



Marty Sloven, Casey Davenport, Abbey Antolovich of Denver Water, Lisa Darling of South Metro Water Supply Authority