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<http://www.facebook.com/lwvbc.org>



<https://instagram.com/lwvbc>

Welcome Back from Our President

I hope everyone had a great summer and is ready to take on a very busy League fall!

Last Spring your Board of Directors diligently completed Environmental Scans in our Boulder County community to learn more about Young People, the Latino community and

Partner organizations. Using the information gathered we met with our facilitator, Ginny Trierweiler, on July 25th to complete the next phase of the Strategic Plan. We are now working on specific, measurable Action Plans for Year One in five Strategic Areas: Outreach, Marketing and Partnerships; Leadership and Governance; Fund Development, Education and Advocacy (Issue Teams), and Voter Services. Our primary goal is to ensure that LWVBC is having an impact on our community. We will keep you informed on our progress.

We are also making progress on our Internship program. We are working with the University of Colorado and Front Range Community College to find a student who would like to work with us. To fund a stipend for the Intern we are using the money raised in Dec 2014 at our League social event and a grant we received just this month from the LWVCO Project Fund. On Sept 8th we will submit a grant to the Boulder Community Foundation to further fund this project. We are excited about the potential to engage the next generation of League Leaders.

We are fast approaching our busy election season. More information will be coming your way soon on candidate forums, ballot issue education, and our informative website, www.VOTE411.org.



continued on the next page

The Boulder County Voter

1 September 2015



Welcome Back (continued)

We have 3 important Consensus Meetings this fall so plan now to attend and participate! We will take on a Behavioral Health Study (LWVCO), Constitutional Amendment Study (LWVUS), and Money in Politics Review (LWVUS). Dates will soon be announced.

Reminder: If you haven't already "liked" us on Facebook please do so and ask your friends, neighbors, children and grandchildren to do the same. We also have a new Instagram account and we need you to "follow" us there, <https://instagram.com/lwvbc>.

Last but not least, I invite you to attend our Fall Kick-off meeting on Sat. Sept 26th to view the film *Do You Know Who I Am?* and to discuss the issue of immigration reform with Ana Christina Temu of Northern Colorado Dreamers United. This meeting will be a great opportunity to learn more about all the League activities we have planned for this year.

Wow there's a lot going on!

See you on the 26th, Ruth

League of Women Voters of Boulder County
Box 21274, Boulder CO 80308
www.lwvbc.org

Membership: 180 as of September 2015

President: Ruth J. Stemler
president@lwvbc.org

Membership: Liz Black
membership@lwvbc.org

Boulder County Voter
10 issues per year
Editor: Rionda Osman
editor@lwvbc.org

Mark Your Calendars

19 September 2015:

LWVCO League Day

Holiday Inn Select Denver Cherry Creek
Featured speakers include The Honorable Wayne Williams, Colorado Secretary of State, and our own Toni Larson, LWVUS VP Program. See: www.lwvcolorado.org/news.html#league

22 September 2015:

National Voter Registration Day

26 September 2015:

Fall Kick-Off

10:15 am – 12:30 pm at the Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street Louisville CO. Speaker: Ana Christina Temu of Northern Colorado Dreamers United. Award-winning film *Do You Know Who I Am?* See: www.lwvbc.org

1 October 2015:

Louisville City Council Candidate Forum

7 – 8:30 pm in the Louisville City Council Chambers. To be broadcast on Louisville Channel 8 and repeated thereafter.

8 October 2015:

Lafayette City Council Candidate Forum

TBD

3 November 2015:

GENERAL ELECTION

Last day to Vote is November 3
Voter Service & Polling Centers open by October 26 and remain open through November 3rd, except Sundays. Mail-in ballots will be sent to all registered voters who registered **on** or **before** October 26th.



Sneak Preview: Meetings Schedule

We have an unusual situation this year, as we have 3 consensus studies being conducted, with all consensus results due by February 1. So we will have 3 sets of consensus meetings:

October 5,6,7: Behavioral Health (state League study)

November 9,10,11,12—Constitutional Amendment (national League study)

January 18,19,20—Money in Politics update (national League study)

These consensus meetings will be in the traditional settings, although we have discontinued the Reynolds Library location. This means we are down to 4 locations.

And, yes, we will have some ballot issue meetings in October (20th and 21st), although these will be more of a community meeting setting. And we still plan to have Program Planning meetings in January.

After that, we hope to have a series of “Community Conversations” on various topics in February, March, and April.

More information can be found in the member handbook, on our website, and in the *Boulder County Voter*. Stay tuned...

Peggy Leech

Our Next Consensus Meetings

Monday, 5 October 2015:

2:30 to 4:00 pm at Frasier Meadows Retirement Community, (Sky Lounge 5th Floor) 350 Ponca Place in Boulder

Tuesday, 6 October 2015:

10:30 am to 12:00 at The Egg & I, 255 Ken Pratt Blvd in Longmont (arrive at 10 am to order food)

Wednesday, 7 October 2015:

11:30 am to 1:00 pm, Arapahoe Room, Main Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave in Boulder

Wednesday, 7 October 2015:

6 to 7:30 pm, Double Happy Restaurant, Louisville (arrive at 5:30 to order food)

League Members in Action



Three of our League members were recognized at the LWVCO Recharge Dinner this year.

Liz Black (left) received her award for "Excellence in Financial Education."

Peggy Leech (right) was recognized for "Positive Attitude and Energy."

Julie Leonard received an award for "Excellence in Team Coordination."



Taking Action: Election Season is Upon Us

With the political scene what it is these days, it seems the season never leaves Colorado! However the LWVBC is working to keep its non-partisan approach to elections available to all the county's citizens. Candidate forums have been set for Louisville, Lafayette and Boulder. We just received a request to hold a forum for the Boulder Valley School Board slate and I believe Longmont has Council elections too. Watch our website for details as they are confirmed.

We will participate in VOTE411 this year, if we can come up with a few good questions for each batch of candidates. This is where WE NEED YOU! Please submit your questions for council candidates (note your city) or school board candidates to Susan Saunders by September 11 (email to voterservices@lwvbc.org).

Voter Registration drives are being planned. Fairview High School and Boulder High School are on board for National Voter registration Day, September 22. Other sites and dates are in the process of being nailed down by our new VRD coordinator, Jeanine Pow. Please keep your eye out for emails soliciting volunteers to help with these events. As part of our strategic plan implementation, we hope to enlist volunteers from outside our membership as well so that we capture the enthusiasm of our county's young people, the Latino community and organizations with like interests.



Taking Action: Municipal Wages

The Social Policy Team (SPT) has been observing the effort in the city of Boulder to improve wages and benefits of municipal contract, seasonal and part-time workers. Team members have learned that in November or December 2015, the city of Boulder Housing and Human Services staff will deliver a report to city council that includes recommendations to council on these matters. In preparation, SPT members are organizing a breakfast meeting on Wednesday morning, October 14th, for Boulder County religious, non-profit, and political leaders. Our purpose is to alert participants to the upcoming report and council discussion, and encourage them to attend and speak at the Boulder City Council meeting, write letters to the editor, and communicate their concerns to council members. One of our ultimate goals is that the council will add to its contract language a labor practices clause that will specify minimum wages and benefits that the city requires contractees to comply with in their own hiring practices. More information will be in the October Boulder County Voter. —Mary Ann Wilner, Social Policy Team Leader (SPteam@lwvbc.org)



Taking Action: Voter Registration Drives

LWVBC needs your help! Volunteers are needed to assist at Voter Registration Drives (VRDs) being conducted on National Voter Registration Day, September 22, 2015, as well as on other dates:

If you can volunteer, please email me with the dates, times and locations that you can volunteer. (I plan to have two people at each location). Additionally, if you have not completed the Circulator Training in 2015, please email me and I'll send you the link and instructions. (State law requires that VRD volunteers take a 15 minute online Circulator Training every calendar year before working on a drive).

- 9/22/15 10-12:00 p.m. Caffé Sole
Table Mesa Shopping Center ,637 S. Broadway, Boulder, CO 80305
- 9/22/15 10:30-12:30 p.m. Boulder High
1604 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder, CO 80302
- 9/22/15 10:45-1:45 p.m. Fairview High
1515 Greenbriar Blvd., Boulder, CO 80305
- 9/24/15 5:00-8:30 p.m. Everly Montgomery Football Stadium
(for Longmont High home football game), 1027 Francis St., Longmont, CO 80501
- 10/02/15 5:30-9:00 p.m. Everly Montgomery Football Stadium
(for Silver Creek High home football game) 1027 Francis St., Longmont, CO 80501
- 10/08/15 5:30-9:00 p.m. Everly Montgomery Football Stadium
(for Skyline High home football game) 1027 Francis St., Longmont, CO 80501

Let's make this a banner year for voter registration! Jeanine Pow (powpc@hotmail.com)

Consensus Review

The League of Women Voters of the United States has provided this definition of consensus:

It is easier to say what consensus is not, than what it is. Consensus is not a vote; rather, consensus is mutual agreement of League members arrived at through discussion. During discussion, everyone has an opportunity to express their viewpoints, and the issue is examined from all sides. Consensus questions, created by the study committee and approved by the Board, provide structure for the meeting. Members discuss the pros and cons until it becomes apparent that consensus has or has not been reached on each question. A committee will analyze the consensus responses, look for areas of member understanding and agreement and, using this information, will create a position statement. (see: <http://lwv.org/content/what-consensus>).

The League of Women Voters takes action on an issue or advocates for a cause when there is an existing League position that supports the issue or speaks to the cause. It is the consensus statement – the statement resulting from the consensus questions – that becomes a position. Firm action or advocacy can then be taken on the particular issue addressed by the position. Without a position, action/advocacy cannot be taken.

A useful resource is the *Handbook for Successful Consensus Meetings*, available at on the [LWVUS website](#).

LWVCO Behavioral Health Study 2015 – Consensus Process

LWVBC's October 5, 6 and 7 consensus meetings will follow up on LWV Colorado's 2015 Behavioral Health Study. Our Boulder County Health Care Team will lead the process. After working with the 2014 task force results this past year, our Team now has the 2015 formal report, which updates the 2014 version, and we are preparing for educational and advocacy efforts. First we have a December 1 deadline to accomplish consensus. We invite all members' enthusiastic participation! Here's a preview of the topic, plus the list of questions. Please plan to bring the questions with you in October. A link to the 2015 Behavioral Health Study is online at lwvbc.org on the Health Care page under Issues and Teams.

What Is "Behavioral Health"? This umbrella term covers mental health as well as substance use disorder (i.e., addiction). As noted in the report, mental illness involves "a wide spectrum of brain disorders, from mild to severe," including addiction, which "means a brain change – [also] a brain disorder." Dual diagnosis (illness and addiction) is frequent, with complex interactions of cause and effect. Contrary to what we see in media coverage, most individuals with a mental illness are not violent; in fact, they are more likely to be victims of violence.

continued on the next page

LWVCO Behavioral Health Study 2015 – Consensus Process (continued)

Most families have experienced—or will experience—behavioral health challenges. National statistics tell us that 19% of American adults will have a diagnosable mental health condition in any given year and that 50% of us will experience such a condition in our lifetime (Mental Health America data). Among diagnoses in any one year, here are typical proportions: anxiety disorder 18.1%, major depressive disorder 6.7%, substance use disorder 3.8%, bipolar disorder 2.6%, eating disorders 2.1%, schizophrenia 1.1%.⁽¹⁾ One half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14; three quarters by the age of 24 (National Alliance for Mental Illness data).

Where does the League come in? Our interest is in assuring resources to diagnose and treat people with behavioral health challenges. The goal of treatment is a recovery model—to assist and support individuals so that they can lead meaningful and productive lives. At present, Colorado has made progress in crisis response services and to some extent, in integrating physical and behavioral health services. (The Affordable Care Act requires parity in access to and coverage for physical and mental health services, but challenges remain.) Colorado ranks 52nd nationally in number of beds for in-patient mental health care, and as is true most places, the criminal justice system ends up housing people with behavioral health issues because jail is the available option.⁽²⁾ In Colorado’s prison system, 36% of inmates have a mental health diagnosis; 73% have moderate to severe substance use needs. Some innovative programs are developing, but there’s a long way to go. The shortage of behavioral health care providers (locally and nationally) contributes to the difficulty of achieving parity in access to care for mental and physical conditions.

Our hope is to be able to advocate for public and private resources, to assist families and schools in understanding and dealing effectively with these health issues, and to reduce stigma surrounding behavioral health, in part by focusing on stories about successful recoveries—not just on the tragedies.

To be continued! Meantime, feel free to contact Mary Anna Dunn, health care team leader, for more information or to join the team: dunn.maryanna@gmail.com.

(1) Data from a presentation by Kristen Jernigan of the Community Reach Center, as well as NAMI. The total given for “any mental disorder” is 26.2%—higher than the 19% noted earlier in the paragraph. In fact, these proportions add up to 34.4%. Overlapping conditions account for part of the difference. Then we have “lies, d**n lies and statistics!” per Mark Twain.

(2) This is not a typo. The statistic, taken from the LWVCO report, means the 50 United States plus US territories.



The LWVBC will hold consensus meetings on October 5, 6 and 7 to discuss the findings of the LWV Colorado's 2015 Behavioral Health Study. Bring this list of consensus questions with you to consensus meetings.

LWVCO Behavioral Health Study 2015 – Consensus Questions

Note: The responses for each question are in this format:

Strongly agree ___ Agree ___ No consensus ___ Disagree ___ Strongly disagree ___

I. Parity and Accessibility

- A. Behavioral health care should be on par and integrated with physical health care.
- B. All people should be able to access affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services.

II. Children's Behavioral Health

- A. Colorado should emphasize and make available early and affordable behavioral health diagnosis and treatment for children and youth from early childhood through adolescence.
- B. Colorado should support early and appropriate diagnosis and treatment for children and adolescents that is family-focused and community-based.

III. Case Management

- A. People with behavioral health challenges, including those who are chronically homeless, must have access to safe and stable housing.
- B. Colorado should have effective re-entry planning and follow-up for people released from both behavioral health hospitalization and the criminal justice system.
- C. Colorado should have problem-solving or specialty courts, including mental health and drug courts, in all judicial districts to provide needed treatment and avoid inappropriate entry into the criminal justice system.

IV Education

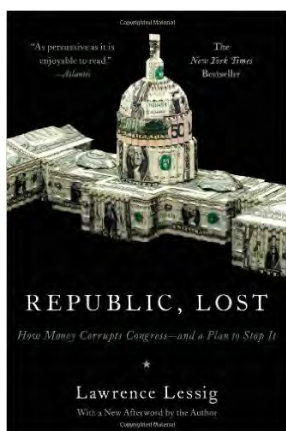
- A. Health education - from early childhood throughout life - should integrate all aspects of social, emotional, and physical health and wellness.
- B. Every effort should be made to decrease the stigmatization of, and normalize, behavioral health problems and care.

Consensus Preparation: Campaign Finance Reform Book Reviews

This year, the League of Women Voters of the United States plans to ask for consensus on our campaign finance reform positions. To prepare for those discussions, LWVUS sent a list of suggested readings on money in politics, and the Campaign Finance Reform Team has undertaken the task of sharing our reviews of these materials. Diana Barney has reviewed Lawrence Lessig's work on the corrupting influence of money.

REPUBLIC, LOST: HOW MONEY CORRUPTS CONGRESS – AND A PLAN TO STOP IT

by Lawrence Lessig 2011



Lawrence Lessig is a Harvard law professor and ardent campaign finance reform champion. In *Republic, Lost*, he tells us that “he is driven by the view that practically every important issue in American politics today is tied to [campaign finance reform].”

The book is roughly divided into three topics: the history of how we got here, the fallout from massive money in our elections, and what to do about it. He does a good job describing the big events of various presidencies and how the law of unintended consequences has shaped our elections. He believes that the corruption of our government is systemic and systematic; that both well- and ill-intentioned actions have led to what he considers a completely broken system. He says “the single most salient feature of the government that we have evolved is not that it discriminates in favor of one side and against the other. The single most salient feature is that it discriminates against all sides to favor itself.”

The history is interesting and Lessig has a knack of making things plain. The description of America’s conversation at the crossroads of the 1912 presidential election, ins and outs of various pieces of legislation, the personalities and agendas of our presidents are useful in understanding why we are where we are. For instance, we learn that from 1933 until 1995, Democrats were the majority in the House all but 4 years, and in the Senate all but 10. In 1994, when the Republicans swept in with their “Contract with America” the control of Congress was once again up for grabs. Thus was born the fund-raising Congress.

What to do about the strangling grip special interests have on our elected officials? Lessig offers some courses of action, although he acknowledges none of them are at all likely to occur. One suggestion is for each voter to receive a \$50 voucher to donate to the federal candidate of their choice; another for all donors to be anonymous to the candidates. One far-reaching suggestion is that each party run a reform candidate for president, with both Republican and Democrat agreeing on the reform package they will implement upon either’s election. After the package has been passed by Congress, the president will step down and the vice president will take over. Lessig gives his idea of a Constitutional convention the most chance of succeeding.

The best things about this book are that it provides a clear history of our turning points, and he’s not afraid to discuss any avenue of reform no matter how crazy.



LWVCO Supports Proposition BB: Retail Marijuana Taxes

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Colorado voted on 19 August 2015 to support Proposition BB, which will be the only statewide ballot issue this fall. It will allow the state to spend the tax revenue approved by voters in 2013 and collected in the first year of recreational marijuana sales.

LWVCO POSITION -BALLOT INITIATIVE

By Nancy Crow, LWVCO VP Program

The LWVCO has taken the position of SUPPORT on Proposition BB, Retail Marijuana Taxes. Vote "YES."

The LWVCO Board based its support of Proposition BB on the following League Principle and Position.

LWVUS Principle: The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people...

LWVCO Fiscal Position: Support adequate and flexible funding of state government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive and which incorporates social, environmental and economic goals.

Rationale: Proposition BB if approved would allow the state to spend the excise and sales tax revenue collected on retail marijuana in budget year 2014-2015 rather than refund it to taxpayers. The tax dollars are to be used to regulate the industry, and regulation has added costs in both law enforcement and in the Department of Revenue. Voters have already overwhelmingly approved the taxes. The original constitutional amendment legalizing recreational marijuana required the General Assembly to put a tax measure to the voters, and directed use for regulation and other state purposes. In particular, it specified that the first \$40 million of taxes collected should be used for public school capital construction.

(Thanks to Christine Watson, LWVCO Lobbyist)

Local Leagues are encouraged to advocate for this ballot issue.



LWVCO Supports Abolition of the Death Penalty

The League of Women Voters supports abolishing the death penalty:

- 1) The death penalty is unfair; it targets poor people and members of ethnic and racial minority groups.
- 2) The death penalty is not a deterrent. States without the death penalty have crime rates equal to or less than those with the death penalty.
- 3) Many countries have abolished the death penalty and consider it a violation of human rights.
- 4) The lengthy appeals process postpones the realization of justice and can retard the healing process for victims' families.
- 5) An error cannot be corrected if the death penalty is carried out on an innocent person.
- 6) Imposition of the death penalty is random and costly.

The League supports the Post's call for Governor Hickenlooper and state leaders to move to abolish it.

Barbara Mattison, President
League of Women Voters of Colorado



MEMBER RENEWAL FORM 2015-2016

To simplify collection of annual dues, we ask all members to renew this month. After paying, you will receive this year's materials at the Kickoff meeting on September 26 or soon after. Materials include a Directory of members and the Handbook with calendar and more.

Why renew? The League's voice is stronger with more members. Member financial support enables the League to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide. Only members can participate in discussions leading to League positions on issues such as amending the federal constitution, money in politics and behavioral health. The League is well known for its voter guides and candidate forums and trusted for promoting civil discourse on public policy matters and encouraging citizen participation in government. In the League one can express ideas, learn and practice new skills, make professional contacts and develop lasting friendships.

Make checks payable to LWVBC and send to **Frieda Holley, 830 Columbia Pl, Boulder, CO 80303-3210**. Fill out the form below and include with your payment.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am paying \$60 for an individual membership | <input type="checkbox"/> We are paying \$90 for a household membership (two at same address) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am paying \$120 for an individual sustaining membership (greater financial support for the League) | <input type="checkbox"/> We are paying \$200 for a household sustaining membership (greater financial support for the League from a household) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a life member (50 yr or more) owing no dues but donating _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> I am paying \$30 as I am in a household with a life member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Payment of _____ is enclosed. Bill the rest in three monthly installments | <input type="checkbox"/> I paid ahead or joined quite recently. Tell me if balance is owed for 2015-16 |

Please print name(s): _____

Please provide birthday(s) for use only as a metric on age diversity of members:

- Do not publish _____ with my entry in the member directory
- Do not publicly acknowledge my gift
- Note my changed contact info, shown here:
- Circle items not to be sent to my email address: action alerts Voter newsletters
- I want the print version of the newsletter
- Tell me how to apply for dues reduction

League Day 2015: Making Voices Heard in Colorado

Saturday, September 19th, 2015

Holiday Inn Cherry Creek Denver, 455 South Colorado Blvd., Denver 80246

Check-In starts at 8:30 a.m. with the Conference at 8:50 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

\$32.00 per person / Registration Deadline Friday, Sept. 4th

The hotel is located on the west side of South Colorado Blvd, just north of the intersection with Cherry Creek Drive North. Here is the hotel contact information: www.cherrycreekhotedenver.com and direct phone #303-388-5561.

Parking at the hotel is offered in two onsite garages accessed from the front of the hotel. The larger garage lot is below the hotel, accessed by a ramp on the left (south) side of the hotel entrance, the second is above the hotel and is accessed on the right (north) side of the hotel entrance.

If you are traveling in for League Day or are attending the MLD Training on Friday, you may consider **staying overnight on Friday**, September 18th. Discounted rooms are available at the Holiday Inn Denver-Cherry Creek with double bed rooms at the rate of \$179.00 per night not including the 14.75% tax. Up to 4 persons may share one room. To make your reservations, please visit the web link below or call Katie Halverson at 303-388-5561 ext. 7129. The special rate code is LWV.

<http://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=hi&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=DENCB&PMID=99801505&GPC=LWV>

Colorado League Day Registration Form – Deadline Friday, September 4th Registration fee \$32.00 (No refunds after September 15th)

Lunch includes Dessert and Iced Tea or Lemonade. NOTE: A gluten-free option available for all choices.

- (1) Chipotle Turkey Wrap – Smoked turkey, provolone, avocado, lettuce and tomato wrapped in a tortilla with chipotle spread.
- (2) Roasted Vegetable Wrap – Roasted peppers, tomato and squash on Focaccia with cream cheese spread.
- (3) Roast Salmon Salad – Salmon filet on a bed of field greens, julienne carrots, zucchini and squash, champagne pesto vinaigrette.

Name _____ Email _____
(Please print name as you wish to have it appear on the name tag.)

League _____

Lunch choice (CIRCLE ONE): 1 2 3 Special dietary need: _____

Pay by: (\$32.00 per person)

__ Check made payable to LWVCO

__ Online Credit Card at www.lwvcolorado.org (No PayPal account required.)

Send completed form to LWVCO via

FAX: 303-837-9917 Email: info@lwvcolorado.org or Mail: 1410 Grant St, Ste B204, Denver, CO 80203



LWVBC Fall Calendar

- 19 September: LWVCO League Day, Denver
- 22 September: National Voter Registration Day
Voter Registration Drives: Boulder
- 24 September: Voter Registration Drive: Longmont
- 26 September: LWVBC Fall Kick-Off
- 1 October: Louisville City Council Candidate Forum
- 2 October: Voter Registration Drive: Longmont
- 5 October: Behavioral Health Consensus Meeting, Frasier Meadows
- 6 October: Behavioral Health Consensus Meeting, Longmont
- 7 October: Behavioral Health Consensus Meeting, Boulder Library
Behavioral Health Consensus Meeting, Louisville
- 8 October: Lafayette City Council Candidate Forum
Voter Registration Drive: Longmont
- 3 November: GENERAL ELECTION
- 9 – 12 November: Constitutional Amendment Consensus Meetings

League of Women Voters of Boulder County
P.O. Box 21275
Boulder CO 80308