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



<https://instagram.com/lwvbc>

## **President's Message**

### *Happy Holidays*

I feel a renewed energy in the League of Women Voters of Boulder County! Here's another Boulder County Voter with the details. Be sure you don't miss an alert from the Social Policy Team on how you could help in their advocacy work on Dec.

17<sup>th</sup> and the specifics on program planning and consensus meetings on Money in Politics.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Oct. fund raising letter to members and friends. We raised ~\$1,560 from 12 donors. And thank you for donations made as a result of the dues notice. If you'd still like to contribute, please do so. These resources help us reach out to our community. Thank you to Lois Linsky and Louisa Young for their leadership in fund development this year.

It's time for us to say congratulations and farewell to our intern Jessica Yan. We hope we have inspired her to continue the League mission of informed and active participation in government, educating and advocating in the community and practicing her right to vote. She has inspired us. Jessica will do well in all her future endeavors! Go to our website to see the amazing video Jessica produced on her experience. We are actively recruiting our next intern for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. If you know of a student who would be a good fit, have them contact me.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the League of Women Voters of Boulder County. We can have community impact!

*Ruth*



*Editor's Note: This issue of The Boulder County Voter has been edited to correct the meeting place of the Human Relations Commission.*



## Update: Meetings Schedule

From Peggy Leech

As you all know, we have been having a series of consensus meetings, with the Money in Politics consensus meetings to be conducted January 18-19-20.

Program planning meetings will also be conducted in January, on the 13th. (See information elsewhere in this issue.)

We are now working on community meetings for February, March, and April. These will be open to the public, with different locations, times, and formats than our traditional meetings, as we hope to engage the community in some dialog about topics of interest to the community.

February: Transportation in Boulder County

March: Behavioral Health

April: To be determined. Several topics are being considered.

We will have more details in the next Boulder County Voter, as well as on our website and in all-member emails. Stay tuned....

*League of Women Voters of Boulder County*

*Box 21274, Boulder CO 80308*

[www.lwvbc.org](http://www.lwvbc.org)

*Membership: 184 as of December 2015*

*President: Ruth J. Stemler*

[president@lwvbc.org](mailto:president@lwvbc.org)

*Membership: Liz Black*

[membership@lwvbc.org](mailto:membership@lwvbc.org)

*Boulder County Voter*

*10 issues per year*

*Editor: Rionda Osman*

[editor@lwvbc.org](mailto:editor@lwvbc.org)

### Mark Your Calendars

#### Human Relations Commission

6:00 pm Thurs, 17 Dec 2016  
West Boulder Senior Center,  
909 Arapahoe, Boulder

#### Program Planning

2:30–4:30 pm, Wed, 13 Jan 2016  
Frasier Meadows Retirement  
Community (Sky Lounge 5<sup>th</sup> Floor),  
350 Ponca Place, Boulder

and

6:30 – 8:30 pm Wed, 13 Jan 2016  
Front Range Community College, Rm  
C1480 (Community Room next to the  
Bookstore)  
Classroom Bldg, 2121 Miller Drive,  
Longmont

#### Consensus Meetings: Money in Politics

2:30–4:00 pm, Mon, 18 Jan 2016  
Frasier Meadows Retirement  
Community, (Club Rm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor),  
350 Ponca Pl, Boulder

10:30 am–noon, Tues, 19 Jan 2016  
The Egg & I Restaurant,  
2055 Ken Pratt Blvd, Longmont

11:30 am–1:00 pm, Wed, 20 Jan 2016  
Boulder Public Library (Arapahoe Rm),  
1001 Arapahoe Ave, Boulder

6:00–7:30 pm, Wed, 20 Jan 2016  
Double Happy Restaurant,  
740 Main St, Louisville

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## Membership Report

From Liz Black

As membership team leader I've had the privilege of meeting some amazing women and men who belong to our league. I have four of their stories to share with readers of this issue.

### Doris Flax

Doris Flax lived in New York, then spent 18 years in Arizona before moving to Boulder. Early in her career she taught and was a reading consultant. Later she worked with an advisory committee to select instructional videos that complimented the K-12 curriculum and were made available by the PBS affiliate to teachers and home schools throughout the broadcast area. When Doris arrived in Arizona she learned that the state was home to more charter schools than were in all the other states combined. She was distressed by the lack of oversight for those schools as well as inequities in opportunities for Spanish speaking students. These factors led to years of intense involvement with the League. She led a statewide study of charter schools and once members adopted a position by consensus, she lobbied and saw improvements in the system.

### Madonna Lawless

Madonna Lawless has always been interested in politics, and has lived in a number of communities in the Denver metro area before moving to Lafayette. She says she has met the most interesting people in the League. A highlight of her work with the LWV of Adams County was a study of the County's Master Plan, which, at the time, was a new concept to direct growth within a suburban area. I was intrigued on learning that Madonna lived a few years in Vienna, Austria, while her husband completed an assignment with the United Nations.

### Debra McKee

Debra McKee spent 33 years as a special education teacher and consultant, primarily in the Jefferson County schools and tells me it was a wonderful career. She's lived in Longmont for 13 years now, and since that city was so badly flooded two years ago, she and her friend Micaela Chacón have both put many hours into efforts to see that flood victims could find the resources needed to rebuild their lives. Debra explains that through this work they've met many Latino families, both documented and undocumented residents. Another person they met was Beverly Springer who invited the two of them to the LWVBC annual meeting last May. We are extremely pleased that both Debra and Micaela have become members.



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## **Membership Report (continued)**

### **Kay Palmer Marsh**

Rev. Kay Palmer Marsh has enjoyed her connections with the LWV since years ago attending evening meetings in the Chicago area, scheduled for the convenience of young women like herself whose days were full with work and studies. Kay has degrees in sociology, urban studies, divinity and preaching, and explains that the common thread that has tied these fields together has been her interest in the behavior of groups. In the past she has led little churches, one of which transitioned during her term there into a medium sized suburban congregation. Her current challenge involves becoming more familiar with the Ft. Lupton community. She lives a couple of days in the parsonage there and the rest of the week in the home she shares with her husband in Longmont. She finds it a conundrum that while 90% of oil revenues in the state comes from within Weld County, Ft. Lupton is also emerging as home to the alternative energy industries, where traffic pauses each time a windmill is shipped out. The mayor of Ft. Lupton recently asked her to serve on the Urban Renewal Advisory Board for the city, where I'm sure her views will add a balanced perspective as stakeholders plan for their community's future.

I encourage everyone to strike up conversations with someone you don't already know when at a League meeting or at other events. Although gaining additional members for our organization is something we celebrate, of more importance is deepening our connections with others. A friend shared with me *The Art of Happiness: A Handbook for Living*, based on conversations between the Dalai Lama and his co-author. An insight I've taken away from this book is that appreciating others' backgrounds and being open-minded and honest are factors which can help us better relate to one another. Please let me know if you meet someone whose story you'd like to appear in another issue of *The Boulder County Voter*.

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## **FYI: Theatre in the Community**

Motus Theater, the group that performed at our Kick Off Meeting [<http://motustheater.org/news> ], invites our members to attend one of their *SALSA* performances which will explore the lives of Latina immigrants in our community. English language preview performances of *SALSA* will be at the Dairy Center for the Arts:

**When:** Saturday, 12 Dec 2015 at 7pm & Sunday, 13 Dec 2015 at 2pm

**Tickets:** <https://ticketsthedairy.org/Online/SALSA>

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## **Program Planning: Two Times and Locations**

Program planning is the opportunity for members to recommend and select issues for study, and to review existing positions to see if they meet today's legislative and societal needs.

This year, League members will be asked to consider existing local and national positions and make any suggestions for those that should be reviewed or dropped; recommend proposals for new studies; or ask that a position from another League be adopted by concurrence.

To suggest a new local study, there must be a team of at least three members willing to conduct the research and present it to local League members. A proposal for a new local study should include a timeline and the scope and the rationale for the study. Suggestions from program planning will be approved by the Board of Directors and discussed and voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Choose to attend one of the two general meetings, either in Boulder (day) or in Longmont (evening). Content will be the same at both meetings.

**Bring your LWVBC 2015-2016 Handbook for a review of local and national positions.**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2016 (Day, Boulder)**

Time: 2:30 pm-4:30 pm

Place: Frasier Meadows, Sky Lounge (5<sup>th</sup> Floor)

**Wednesday, January 13, 2016 (Evening, Longmont)**

Time: 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Place: Front Range Community College, Room C1480

In the Classroom Building, 2121 Miller Drive.

Room C1480 is the Community Room, which is next to the bookstore.

## **Program Planning: Proposal for a Name Change Discussion**

From Sara Michl

For our program planning meetings in January, we ask you to think about this: Is the 21st century the time for the LWVUS to assume a gender neutral name?

The first reaction of nearly all of us is likely to be "Why?" Why change our name when it has worked well for us? ("If it ain't broke, don't fix it"). The LWV is a well-recognized and respected organization with roots in the women's suffrage struggle a century ago. Why risk losing a sense of our history, and of our hard-earned legacy as an important organization promoting informed citizen participation in government? Since the League opened membership to men in 1973, many men have in fact joined and become very active, and people familiar with the League know this.

Times are changing fast, and if the League is to be relevant, we all know that as an organization, we must also change. The alternative is to risk dying on the vine. In fact, we are constantly working and evolving on many fronts: We are embracing new technologies to communicate with one another, with the public, with policy makers. We know that we must BE RELEVANT to people in their everyday lives, and this requires tackling and working effectively on issues that people see as important. We



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## Program Planning: Proposal for a Name Change Discussion (continued)

are working on this, increasingly reaching out to and teaming up with a range of other groups with similar interests, including younger and more socially and economically diverse communities. We also know we must attract and develop strong leaders from within, and the League is working on this from the national level on down.

With all these needs, why spend time and energy discussing a name change? To be active, effective and relevant should be our primary focus.

But when our very name, League of Women Voters, seems to shut out half the population, we limit our ability to be as active, effective and relevant as we'd like. No matter how well informed we are, and no matter how welcoming we are to men, most people—men or women—who are not already familiar with the League do not realize that ours is not, in fact, a women's organization.

Therefore, several of us in the LWVBC would like to open, yet again, a discussion among members nationwide about whether and how to make the name of our organization better reflect who we are and who we strive to be and represent. Should our name be more inclusive? Many men and women who seek make a difference in the world around them, especially younger people, want to participate in activities and organizations that are gender neutral. We believe that with a gender neutral name we can expand our base, reach more people, and increase our relevance and effectiveness—our ability to accomplish what we need to accomplish—in the larger society in the 21st century.

We invite you to think about this proposal and to discuss your thoughts at our January 13 program planning meetings.

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## League Members in Action



### **Taking Action: Join Us on 17 December 2015**

#### **LEAGUE MEMBERS TO SPEAK ON LIVEABLE WAGES AT HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING**

Ruth Stemler and several members of the Social Policy Team will be speaking to the Human Relations Commission at their December 17th meeting. They will urge the HRC to recommend that City Council raise the minimum hourly wage for all municipal employees to \$15. In addition, the speakers will advocate for the inclusion of a "labor practices clause" in all city contracts so that custodial and other workers who are hired through city contracts will be paid a liveable wage and offered benefits.

We invite all LWVBC members to come to the HRC meeting to show widespread support for the League positions. This is the final step before the issue reaches Boulder City Council who, in February 2016, will (hopefully) legislate improvements in pay and benefits to municipal seasonal, part-time, and contract workers. The HRC meeting on Dec 17 will be held at 6 pm at the West Boulder Senior Center (909 Arapahoe, Boulder).



## Taking Action: Sign Up for a Blast

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM TEAM GETTING THE WORD OUT

From Shirley Jin

The Campaign Finance Reform Team periodically sends out an email 'Money in Elections Blast' of new information about campaign finance to people who have indicated they wish to receive it. To get your copy, send an email request to [Blast Subscription](#).

The CFR Team developed a presentation about Money in American Elections. Its purpose is to educate people about the massive money that is being spent in our elections and the danger the money poses to our Democracy. We have given the presentation to 18 groups in Boulder County and two other Leagues (Denver and Pueblo) have each given it once. More than 350 people have attended a presentation.

We will continue the presentations in the New Year and we have a modified presentation that we hope to take to the schools. Currently, we are preparing to lead the LWVUS Money in Politics Consensus meetings in January. We hope to expand our activities and very much welcome new members.

Contact Shirley Jin at 303 499-1574 or email to [CFR Team Leader](#).

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## 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](#).

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## Consensus Results: Behavioral Health

From Mary Anna Dunn

During October, 52 LWVBC members participated in consensus meetings about behavioral health, a process assigned by LWV of Colorado. The Health Care Team thanks everyone! The results showed “strong agreement” with all the statements on parity and accessibility, children’s behavioral health, case management, and education. Our report to LWVCO also included several comments to encourage advocacy on related issues, such as more housing and more treatment facilities. One group said “agree” rather than “strongly” on one item because of concern that the statement was overly specific.

The report as submitted and a background document, as well as the Powerpoint presentation used in the meetings, can be found on the LWVBC.org website. Click on Issues and Teams and choose [Health Care](#).

The LWVCO Board will consider our report and those from other Colorado chapters on December 7, when they work on updating the state’s health care position to include behavioral health. The plan is to present our new Colorado position for consensus at the 2016 LWVUS convention. Stand by for further developments!

## Consensus Results: Amending the US Constitution

From Sara Michl

Our November consensus units were on Amending the US Constitution, a LWVUS study. With considerable, very thoughtful discussion, the 50 members participating reached consensus on most questions, but frequently "with conditions"; e.g., while we had strong consensus that a Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret, on another question we stipulated that conceivably there could be other reasons to amend the Constitution, in addition to making our political system more democratic or protecting individual rights, the only choices given. On other questions we reached no consensus, e.g., "Should the League consider supporting a Constitutional amendment that will advance a League position, even if there are significant problems with the amendment as proposed?" But we had much stimulating discussion!

Thanks to all who participated. The local consensus results have been approved by the Board and forwarded to LWVUS. We await national League's report on the results of this nationwide consensus study.

## Our Next Consensus Meetings

- Monday, 18 January 2016:  
2:30 to 4:00 pm at Frasier Meadows Retirement Community (Club Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), 350 Ponca Place in Boulder
- Tuesday, 19 January 2016:  
10:30 am to 12:00 at The Egg & I, 2055 Ken Pratt Blvd in Longmont (arrive at 10 am to order food)
- Wednesday, 20 January 2016:  
11:30 am to 1:00 pm, Arapahoe Room, Main Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave in Boulder
- Wednesday, 20 January 2016:  
6 to 7:30 pm, Double Happy Restaurant, 740 Main St in Louisville (arrive at 5:30 to order food)



## Consensus Study: Money in Politics Background

The League of Women Voters of the United States is conducting a study of Money in Politics (MIP) to determine whether we should update our present position on campaign finance. Our Campaign Finance Reform Team is leading our League in the consensus. The team members have prepared summaries of information to guide us all through the questions we need to consider, and they have placed information on the [LWVBC website](#) to provide background for the issues we will be discussing in the consensus meetings.

### Our Current Position

The 2014 LWVUS Convention adopted a program to review our League position on campaign financing. The conclusion of that review was that the current position, which focuses on campaign financing as relating to the democratic process, does not address First Amendment issues. This consensus is meant to fill in that gap.

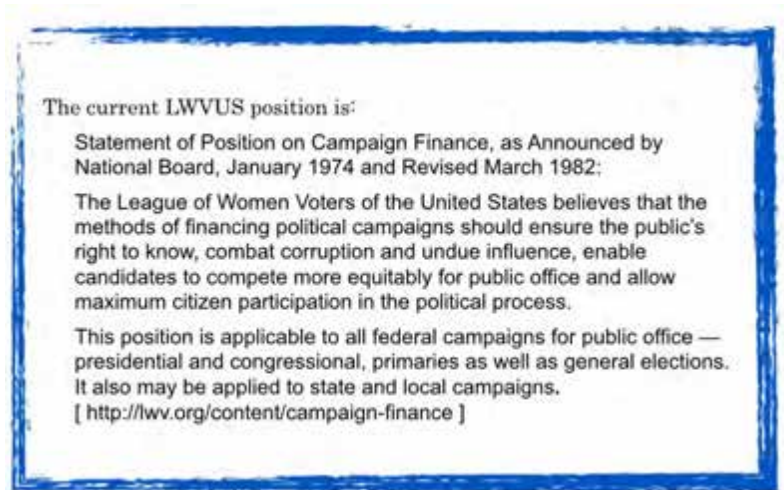
The League's position reflects continuing concern for open and honest elections and for maximum citizen participation, fighting for comprehensive reform since 1974. To update the League position on campaign finance to include the First Amendment requires member understanding and agreement. It is important that one continually keeps combining campaign, communication, free speech, and money in their thinking.

The current position focuses on financing election campaigns from the perspective of protecting the overall democratic process. It is specifically concerned with undue influence, ensuring equity among candidates, protecting the public's right to know who is wielding influence, and protecting the public's right to fully participate.

### What Has Changed?

The concerns addressed with our current position are no longer the only focus of campaign financing politics. The Supreme Court has shifted its point of view to preserve our ability to express political views through activities being financed. Their recent rulings have focused on: activities funded; interests of donors, candidates, and independent spenders; and free-speech issues such as messages for publication, speeches and debate, and paid advertising.

For more information, consult the LWVUS [MIP Study Team](#)'s discussion on the position and the decision to study Money in Politics.



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## Consensus Study: Money in Politics Background (continued)

### Chronology of the Shift

The chart below lists some of the key legislation and Supreme Court decisions that have shaped the Money in Politics debate. The LWVUS has made a detailed [study of this shift](#) on their website.

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### Chronology of issues related to LWVUS positions on Campaign Finance:

- 1971** – Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA) was created. – Restricted spending, required disclosure of donations and spending, created PACs for corporations and labor unions to make contributions
- 1974** – Post-Watergate amendments to FECA limited contributions and spending and created the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to enforce rules.
- 1974 and 1982** – LWVUS position strongly supported:
  - individuals’ right to know via open and transparent system related to money
  - limiting corruption, influence by money, the appearance of corruption and corruption in politics
  - maximum citizen participation and transparency in political campaign system

### Changes within the US since LWVUS ’74 and ’82 position statement:

- 1976** – Supreme Court disallowed limits on campaign and independent expenditures as infringing on freedom of speech, but maintained disclosure rules and limits on direct contributions (Buckley v. Valeo).
- 2002** – Congress closed the “soft money” loophole, allowed unlimited contributions to political parties, restricted some corporate and union “electioneering communications” (Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) aka McCain-Feingold bill)
- 2003** – Supreme Court affirmed key provisions of BCRA (McConnell v. FEC)
- 2010** – Supreme Court reversed itself in Citizens United v. FEC, determining that “prohibition on electioneering communications by corporations impermissibly chilled constitutionally protected political speech”.

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### PART I QUESTIONS Background: [ see our [Summary of Issues](#) ]

#### Democratic Values & Interests with Respect to Financing Political Campaigns

The Supreme Court rulings in a series of cases, culminating in 2010’s Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission has reversed previous Courts which upheld restrictions on campaign contributions, sources, and amounts. Citizens United also narrowed the definition of corruption to mean only quid pro quo, i.e. out-and-out bribery, and discounts danger from undue influence.

First Amendment analysis asks three questions: is there a compelling governmental interest that justifies some limitation; is the limitation the least restrictive means of protecting that government interest; and does the limitation apply too broadly, to situations where the governmental interest is not in play?



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## **Consensus Study: Money in Politics Background (continued)**

Previous Supreme Courts interpreted corruption to include the distortion of the political process, and that distortion exists when undue influence is brought to bear on candidates and officeholders by large donors. Undue influence includes undue access.

Today's Court, with the Citizens United ruling, explicitly rejects fairness of access as a compelling justification for contribution limits. Likewise, it has narrowed the scope of corruption so it no longer considers corrupt anything less than quid pro quo, saying ingratiation and access are not corruption.

Legal scholars describe a dependency corruption, i.e. the reciprocity which exists between donors and office holders, with lobbyists as go-betweens.

### **PART II QUESTIONS Background: [ see our [Summary of Issues](#) ]**

#### **First Amendment Protections for Speakers and Activities in Political Campaigns**

Beginning in 1971, Campaign Finance legislation focused on individuals' rights to know, the prevention of corruption or the appearance of corruption by money/ donations to campaigns and politicians and full disclosure related to expenditures and donations.

Since changes related to Citizens United in 2010, the focus has been on "rights of free speech" by the "contributors" and corporations. Although, in theory, nothing has been taken away from individual rights stated in the earlier legislation, this Supreme Court decision had dramatic implications for the LWVUS position on Campaign Finance, and for democracy itself. The focus has shifted from the preservation of democracy and transparency with regard to donations, and individual's right to know about campaign donations and expenditures to preservation of "rights of corporations and other entities." Additionally, disclosure requirements put into place as a result of Citizens United remove transparency related to campaign donations and expenditures.

### **PART III QUESTIONS Background: [ see our [Summary of Issues](#) ]**

#### **Methods for Regulating Campaign Finance to Protect the Democratic Process**

It is one thing to have regulations that specify contribution limits, lack of coordination between candidates and outside groups (e.g., Super PACs, 527 Groups, and 501(c) Groups), and requirements for disclosure, but a separate major issue to be able to monitor and enforce such regulations.

The first question (including its several parts) of Part III is designed to gauge members' agreement or disagreement with some possible changes in current methods employed to raise campaign funds, and with possible restrictions/conditions that might be imposed if the League were to support public funding for candidates.

The second question of Part III asks how should campaign finance regulations be administered and enforced. It focuses only on the role of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and provides three possible scenarios asking members to select one or more that would improve the performance of the FEC and thereby meet its regulatory mandates.



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## Consensus Questions: Money in Politics

You can print the consensus questions from our website: [Money in Politics Consensus Questions](#).

### MONEY IN POLITICS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

This update on Money In Politics builds on the League's current position on campaign finance. The consensus questions in Part I address the goals of campaign finance regulation in terms of democratic values. The questions in Part II relate to the extent to which First Amendment protections like free speech and freedom of the press should apply to various speakers and activities in the campaign finance context. Part III asks about methods of campaign finance regulation. **You are asked to respond to the questions without regard for the Supreme Court's current views on the First Amendment.** In responding to each question, please interpret the words in their most general sense. Keep in mind that the LWV intentionally words positions that are derived from member study in the broadest possible way so that our positions have relevance for many years. Future national Boards will determine when and how to apply our positions.

Because issues around Money in Politics and its First Amendment implications are so complex, there is some overlap in the topics covered in the background papers. For each of the three question parts we have matched papers to provide helpful background information on those topics. All of the readings can be found at <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>.

### PART I QUESTIONS:

#### Democratic Values & Interests with Respect to Financing Political Campaigns

#### 1. What should be the goals and purposes of campaign finance regulation? *(Please respond to each item in Question 1.)*

- a. Seek political equality for all citizens.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- b. Protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- c. Enable candidates to compete equitably for public office.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- d. Ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- e. Ensure that economic and corporate interests are part of election dialogue.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- f. Provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- g. Ensure the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- h. Combat corruption and undue influence in government.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus

**2. Evaluate whether the following activities are types of political corruption: (Please respond to each item in Question 2.)**

- a. A candidate or officeholder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor's interests in exchange for a campaign contribution.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- b. An officeholder or her/his staff gives greater access to donors.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- c. An officeholder votes or works to support policies that reflect the preferences of individuals or organizations in order to attract contributions from them.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- d. An office holder seeks political contributions implying that there will be retribution unless a donation is given.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- e. The results of the political process consistently favor the interests of significant campaign contributors.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus

**PART II QUESTIONS:**

**First Amendment Protections for Speakers & Activities in Political Campaigns**

This set of questions is designed to determine the extent to which the First Amendment protections of free speech and freedom of the press should apply to different speakers or activities in the regulation of campaign finance. Free speech and free press provide essentially the same protections to speakers, writers, publishers and advertising, whether or not they are part of the institutional press, and largely regardless of the medium. Essentially, these protections extend to any conduct that is expressive. Many of the options below would be found unconstitutional by the current Supreme Court, but we are seeking your League's views, not those of the Court. These are broad, overarching questions about spending to influence an election, including independent spending, contributions to candidates, broadcast news and other communication expenditures.

**1. Many different individuals and organizations use a variety of methods to communicate their views to voters in candidate elections. Should spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited? (Please respond to each item in Question 1.)**

- a. Individual citizens, including wealthy individuals like George Soros and the Koch Brothers.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- b. Political Action Committees, sponsored by an organization, such as the League of Conservation Voters, Chevron, the American Bankers Association, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), whose campaign spending comes from contributions by individuals associated with the sponsoring organization, such as employees, stockholders, members and volunteers.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- c. For-profit organizations, like Exxon, Ben and Jerry's, General Motors, and Starbucks, from their corporate treasury funds.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- d. Trade associations, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Wind Energy Association, and the American Petroleum Institute, from the association's general treasury funds.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus





- e. Labor unions, like the United Autoworkers and Service Employees International, from the union's general treasury funds.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- f. Non-profit organizations, like the Sierra Club, Wisconsin Right to Life, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, American Crossroads, and Priorities USA, from the organization's general treasury funds.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- g. Non-partisan voter registration and GOTV (get out the vote) organizations and activities, like the LWV and Nonprofit Vote.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- h. Political parties, like the Republicans, Libertarians, and Democrats.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- i. Candidates for public office spending money the candidate has raised from contributors.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- j. Candidates for public office spending their own money.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus

**2. The press plays a major role in candidate elections through editorial endorsements, news coverage, and other communications directly to the public that are often important to the outcome. Should such spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited? (Please respond to each item in Question 2.)**

- a. Newspapers, like the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- b. Television and other electronic media, like Fox News, CNN, MSNBC and CBS.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- c. Internet communications, like Huffington Post, Breitbart, Daily Kos, and individual bloggers.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus

**PART III QUESTIONS:**

**Methods for Regulating Campaign Finance to Protect the Democratic Process**

- 1. In order to achieve the goals for campaign finance regulation, should the League support? (Please respond to each item in Question 1 a and b.)**
- a. Abolishing SuperPACs and spending coordinated or directed by candidates, other than a candidate's own single campaign committee.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
  - b. Restrictions on direct donations and bundling by lobbyists? (Restrictions may include monetary limits as well as other regulations.)  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
  - c. Public funding for candidates? Should the League support: (You may respond to more than one item in Question 1 c.)
    - i. Voluntary public financing of elections where candidates who choose to participate must also abide by reasonable spending limits?  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus



# The Boulder County Voter

11 December 2015



ii. Mandatory public financing of elections where candidates must participate and abide by reasonable spending limits?

Agree    Disagree    No consensus

iii. Public financing without spending limits on candidates?

Agree    Disagree    No consensus

## 2. How should campaign finance regulations be administered and enforced? *(You may choose more than one response for Question 2.)*

- a. By an even-numbered commission with equal representation by the two major political parties to ensure partisan fairness (current Federal Election Commission [FEC] structure)?
- b. By an odd-numbered commission with at least one independent or nonpartisan commissioner to ensure decisions can be made in case of partisan deadlock?
- c. By structural and budget changes to the FEC (e.g., commission appointments, staffing, security, budget, decision making process) that would allow the agency to function effectively and meet its legislative and regulatory mandates.
- d. No consensus.



## December

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

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						

### **LWVBC Calendar**

#### **Human Relations Committee**

6:00 pm Thurs, 17 Dec 2016

West Boulder Senior Center, Boulder

#### **Program Planning**

2:30–4:30 pm, Wed, 13 Jan 2016

Frasier Meadows Retirement Community, Boulder

6:30 – 8:30 pm Wed, 13 Jan 2016

Front Range Community College, Rm C1480, Longmont

#### **Consensus Meetings: Money in Politics**

2:30–4:00 pm, Mon, 18 Jan 2016

Frasier Meadows (Club Rm, 2<sup>nd</sup>Fl), Boulder

10:30 am–noon, Tues, 19 Jan 2016

The Egg & I Restaurant, Longmont

11:30 am–1:00 pm, Wed, 20 Jan 2016

Boulder Public Library (Arapahoe Rm), Boulder

6:00–7:30 pm, Wed, 20 Jan 2016

Double Happy Restaurant, Louisville

*League of Women Voters of Boulder County*

*P.O. Box 21275*

*Boulder CO 80308*