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



<https://instagram.com/lwvbc>

## President's Letter

### It's almost Spring!

Plan to join us on Wed. April 6th to hear former League President Mary Wilson speak on Immigration. Go to our website to learn the details and pay for this event online!

Join me in congratulating the Social Policy Team on making the lives of Boulder working families better! Mary Ann Wilner,

Deborah Hayes, Louisa Matthias, Louisa Young, Peggy Leech, Liz Black, Beverly Springer, Angie Layton, Jan Buchanan, Deb McKee, Shirly White, Sara Michl, Mickey Greenberg and Laurel Herndon have had community impact. This Team is a perfect example of the League influencing and building coalitions. Please read Mary Ann's report in this issue of the Voter. This Issue Team is just getting started!

Our League work continues as we execute our Action Plans on Education and Advocacy, Governance and Leadership, Fund Development, Marketing and Outreach, and Voter Services. Your

*continued on the next page*



Ruth Stemler, President, LWVBC

## Make Your Plans !!

### Special Evening with Mary Wilson

*"Immigration: Where Do We Stand? And What Can We Do?"*

Wednesday, 6 April 2016, from 6:30-8:30 pm

Use the registration form at end of this newsletter or get more details online at [Wilson Event page](#) on our website.

1 March 2016

## President's Letter (continued)

Board of Directors is committed to our Strategic Plan. We believe we can acknowledge our heritage while we seek a path to the future of the League in Boulder County. We believe that our Plan will achieve greater engagement in the League's mission, leading to more informed citizens, greater civic engagement, better government, and making people's lives better. Ask a Board member for more details and volunteer to help! We need your energy.

Our membership numbers are trending up. The following figures compare February membership for the last four years: 172 in 2013, 171 in 2014, 165 in 2015, and 178 in 2016. Let's celebrate with Liz Black and the Membership Team!

There are many educational events planned for this Spring for members and the community. Please look inside the Voter to learn more. I understand that there are many social aspects to League membership so bring a friend, neighbor, colleague, family member, enjoy a snack and networking, and learn about the issues in our community.

Ruth

League of Women Voters of Boulder County  
Box 21274, Boulder CO 80308  
[www.lwvbc.org](http://www.lwvbc.org)

Membership: 176 as of February 2016

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

8 March 2016:

### **Community Conversation on Behavioral/ Mental Health Care with Andrew Romanoff**

5:30-7:30 pm, at the Firehouse Art Center,  
677 4th Avenue, Longmont.

For more information, consult the [LWVBC website](#) and [Mental Health America of Colorado](#).

9 March 2016:

### **"A Day for Grace: A Chance to Talk about Mental Health in Longmont,"** a

performance and discussion sponsored by  
the City of Longmont

6:30 pm, at the Longmont High School  
Auditorium, 1040 Sunset Street, Longmont.

For more information, consult [News from the City of Longmont](#).

14 March 2016:

### **2016 Erie Candidate Forum**

6:30-7:30 pm, at the Vista Ridge Academy,  
3100 Ridge View Drive, Erie.

22 March 2016:

### **Climate Change - Addressing the Challenges Panel Discussion**

7-9 pm, at the Shepherd of the Hills  
Presbyterian Church, 11500 West 20th  
Avenue, Lakewood

For more information and directions,  
consult the [Natural Resources](#) page on our  
website.

6 April 2016:

### **Special Evening with Mary Wilson "Immigration: Where Do We Stand? And What Can We Do?"**

6:30-8:30 pm, location to be announced.  
Register by mail using the form at end of  
this newsletter or online at [Wilson Event](#)  
page on our website.

# The Boulder County Voter



1 March 2016

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## Thanks to Our Donors

We thank all our donors for their contributions and especially those who are able to make additional gifts to our operating budget and to our Education Fund. Please let us know if you are listed incorrectly or were omitted.

### Operations Support

Maryann Balassa	Susan Maxwell
Vincent Bates	Joan McConkey
Inger Bell	Sara Michl
Elizabeth Black	Semay Nelson
Elaine Brenner	Elizabeth Nick
Catherine Felknor	Anne Norwood
Anne Fischer	Rionda Osman-Jouchoux
Ann Garstang	Marion Read
Marcia Hoffmeister	Judith Reid & Richard Collins
Frieda & Richard Holley	Gail Rowe
Eddie Hooten	Ceal Ruffing & Robert Wham
Pat Johnson	Susan & Jim Saunders
Robyn Landry	Rebekka Struik
Prue Larson	Jean Walker
Peggy Leech	Alice Wallace
Mary Leonard	Sue Weatherley
Ray Lindsey	Shirly White
Lois Linsky	Mary Ann Wilner
Margaret Lloyd	Katherine & Mark Young

### Education Projects

Gwen Ball
Judy & Neil Bicknell
Mary Anna and John Dunn
Ann Garstang
Janet Gollin
Mickey Greenberg
Diana & Hugh Haskell
Jeannette Hillery
Angelique Layton
Lois Linsky
Sara Michl
Judith Reid & Richard Collins
Marlys Robertson
Linda Shoemaker
Ruth & Dave Stemler
Rebekka Struik
Betty Wickstrom

### Other Contributors:

Ingrid Becher  
Margaret Murray  
Beth Williamson

### Other Contributors:

Margaret Murray  
Chuck Palmer

Grants were received this year from The League of Women Voters of Colorado, the Community Foundation Serving Boulder County, and the Wells Fargo Corporation. These grants allowed the LWVBC to expand its Youth Engagement program and upgrade equipment for its voter registration drives.

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# The Boulder County Voter



1 March 2016

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## Update: Community Conversations

from Peggy Leech

Since the last issue of the Boulder County Voter, we have had three Community Conversations, in three different communities within Boulder County. We are very much in a learning process as we start this project of trying to increase our engagement in the community. Below is a recap of the first three conversations:

January 28, 2016, Louisville Library, Topic: Common Core. Evie Hudak from the Colorado PTA explained how the Common Core standards were developed and talked about some common myths. Approximately 15 people attended, mostly LWVBC members. 2 new members joined the League that evening. Members of the Schools Team provided refreshments and arranged the event.

February 9, 2016, Longmont Chamber of Commerce, Topic: Public Transit. Prue Larson moderated a panel discussion between Will Toor (Southwest Energy Efficiency Project), Judy Lubow (RTD board of directors), and Phil Greenwald (City of Longmont Transportation Dept.). Audience members then joined in with questions and comments. Approximately 34 people attended, including about 23 non-members. Ruth Stemler, Judy Burris, and Shiquita Yarbrough provided refreshments and made the arrangements.

February 10, 2016, Boulder Chamber of Commerce, Topic: Living Wage. Ken Miller from KGNU radio moderated a panel discussion between Carmen Atilano (City of Boulder Office of Human Rights and Community Relations), Aubrey Hasvold (Colorado Center on Law and Policy), Mary Young (Boulder City Council), and Christina Suarez (Latino Task Force of Boulder County). Audience members also asked questions. Approximately 30 people attended, including at least 20 non-members. Members of the Social Policy Team provided refreshments, and the speakers were arranged by the Self-Sufficiency 2016 Coalition. The program was broadcast on KGNU radio on February 24.

## Our Next Community Conversation

Please mark your calendars for the next Community Conversation, to be held on

March 8, 5:30-7:30 pm  
Firehouse Art Center  
677 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Longmont



Andrew Romanoff, from Mental Health America of Colorado, will be speaking on the topic of Behavioral/Mental Health Care. Members of the Health Care Team made the arrangements for our speaker, and will be providing refreshments. Carpooling to this event is encouraged, and it gives us all a chance to catch up with our LWVBC friends!

### Breaking News !!

Stay tuned to KGNU! Andrew Romanoff will be interviewed on Monday, 7 March 2016, on the topic of Behavioral Health before our meeting. **Check your local listings for airtime.**

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# The Boulder County Voter



1 March 2016

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## 2016 ELECTION CALENDAR from LWVCO

January 4	Last day to affiliate with a political party in order to participate in the precinct caucus
March 1	Precinct Caucuses are held
June 20 – 28	Voter Service & Polling Centers open for Primary Election (except Sunday)
June 28	Primary Election – polls open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Oct 24 – Nov 8	Voter Service & Polling Centers open for General Election (except Sundays)
November 8	General Election – polls open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

## VOTING AND BALLOTS

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS WILL RECEIVE A BALLOT IN THE MAIL

Voters may complete the ballot and return it by mail, or take it to a drop-off location

A mail ballot must be received by the county clerk no later than 7 PM on Election Day

Voter Service and Polling Centers will be located in each county to provide election services.

Services include:

- Voter registration at any time up to and including Election Day
- Voters may change their address if registered elsewhere in Colorado
- Voters may drop off their completed ballot
- Voters may surrender their mail ballot and cast their vote in person
- Voter Service and Polling Centers will be open at least 10 days before the Primary Election and at least 15 days prior to the General Election.

## IDENTIFICATION

To vote in person, a voter must show an acceptable form of ID. When voting for the first time by mail, a voter may be required to send a copy of an acceptable form of ID.

For more information, visit the website of the [Colorado Secretary of State](#) or the [Boulder County Clerk](#).

# The Boulder County Voter



1 March 2016

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## League Members in Action



### Taking Action: Remarkable National League Leader Coming to Boulder County

**From Louisa Young and Lois Linsky  
Co-chairs Fund Development Team**

Mary Wilson is coming to Boulder, and we will have the opportunity to hear her speak on “Immigration: Where Do We Stand and What Can We Do?”

If you haven’t been in the League for very long, you might ask, “Who is Mary Wilson?” She is an attorney practicing in New Mexico, and she is past national League President, which demands anyone’s respect. Her two terms spanned the period from 2006-2010 when our current President, Elisabeth MacNamara, was elected.

During her tenure, the national study on Immigration was undertaken. Also Vote411 was initiated during that time. Mary lobbied for the Affordable Care Act, and, immediately after the Citizens United decision she testified before a Senate Committee chaired by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, encouraging the Senate to develop and pass legislation that would at least require more disclosure about the contributors to PACs. (Mary says that during the hearing, Sen. Feinstein took the opportunity to tell everyone that she got her start in politics as a member of the League.) She was honored by Oxfam with a Sisters on the Planet Climate Leader award because of her personal work on the issue of climate change, particularly lobbying Congress about the adverse effect climate change was having on women around the world.

She lives with her husband on a ranch that was homesteaded by her husband’s grandfather in 1914. She originally comes from that part of Ohio which is near where Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia come together.

Because of her knowledge and expertise, Mary was invited to participate in the Conference on World Affairs this year. Since she is in town anyway, she has graciously agreed to be the center point for an LWVBC event.

Special Evening with Mary Wilson  
“Immigration: Where Do We Stand? And What Can We Do?”

Wednesday, 6 April 2016, from 6:30-8:30 pm

Register by mail using the form at end of this newsletter or online at [Wilson Event](#) page on our website.

Don’t miss this opportunity to mingle with Leaguers, not just from Boulder County but other local Leagues, as well as members of the public. Your admission fee will go for our Education Fund account with the state League, and it’s tax deductible.



Mary Wilson, past president of the League of Women Voters of the United States

1 March 2016

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## **Taking Action: Doing Democracy Day (DDD)**

**From Liz Black**

This annual event provides young people who are interested in politics the opportunity to meet with peers from other schools in the area and consider the pros and cons of implementing changes in public policy. This year DDD VII is Tuesday March 29th at the Longmont Civic Center and our local league is a co-sponsor. Why? This fits with our strategic goals of increased engagement with youth and seeking to be more visible in our community.

Each student participant is randomly given one of 6 questions to consider and assigned to a team with 4 or 5 others. In the morning the teams learn more about their issue, agree on the position they will take, and prepare and rehearse a presentation meant to win the audience over to the stand the team has taken. In the afternoon all teams make their pitch to one of several sets of volunteer judges. All but the best-performing teams are eliminated in the first round and in the final round the judges do a ranking of the teams after watching repeat performances of those teams' presentations.

You can assist with this event as a resource for student interviews in the morning or a judge in the afternoon. DDD needs individuals who can speak on the "how it's done" aspect of public policy as well as those who have special knowledge of the issues. Coffee, morning snacks and even lunch are provided and wearing a League button is an easy way to make our organization better known. To volunteer, contact Kent Willmann, DDD Program Director, at 303-506-1861. To carpool with others from the League, get in touch with Liz Black, 303-666-5248.

The issues students will consider are these:

- Should local communities petition the state to change laws and allow 16 year olds to vote and serve on city council and school boards if elected?
  - Should local communities drastically reduce enforcing laws against homelessness and focus instead on providing support services including mental health treatment?
  - Should cities allow marijuana shops and use the tax money on prevention programs in middle schools?
  - Should St. Vrain institute a required training program for school personnel on LGBT awareness and sensitivity?
  - Should the St. Vrain Valley voters be asked to increase local taxes to provide college and post secondary training scholarships for all local students?
  - Should local communities restrict private drone use in city limits?
- 



## **Taking Action: Campaign Finance Reform Team in Schools**

**From Shirley Jin**

During the month of February, the CFR team has reached out to High Schools with a slightly modified version of our "Money in American Elections" presentation for adults. The presentation was given to three political science classes at Niwot High School and two classes at Silver Creek High School in Longmont. For more information about our events and copies of our slideshows, visit the [Campaign Finance Reform Team page](#) on our website.

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1 March 2016

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## Taking Action: Climate Change - Addressing the Challenges Panel Discussion

From Jeanette Hillery

7pm - 9pm, Tuesday, March 22nd, 2016  
Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church  
11500 West 20th Avenue  
(20th Ave & Simms St), Lakewood [\[Directions\]](#)

Learn About: Significance of the United Nations Climate Summit  
Colorado's Efforts to Manage Climate Change Vulnerabilities  
Advances in Renewable Energy Technologies

Panelists (scheduled to attend):

Dr. Max Boykoff  
Associate Professor, Center for Science and  
Technology Policy  
University of Colorado-Boulder (Attended the UN  
Climate Summit)

Dr. Dennis Ojima  
Professor and Senior Research Scientist, Colorado  
State University  
Lead Editor, Colorado Climate Change Vulnerability  
Study

Taryn Finnessey  
Climate Change Risk Management Specialist  
State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Chuck Kutscher  
Director of the Buildings and Thermal Systems  
Center  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

Thank you to our co-sponsors: [American Association of University Women](#) / Lakewood  
[League of Women Voters of Jefferson County](#)  
[PLAN Jeffco](#)

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## Unity in the Community

LWVBC participated in "Unity in the Community" a city-wide event sponsored by the Longmont Chamber of Commerce on February 25th. Elected officials, non-profits, businesses, SVVSD and city government were all represented. The Chamber planned for 1,000 people to be in attendance. Many individuals stopped by the LWVBC table to learn about what we do and how to become a member, pick-up a flyer on upcoming events, ask to be added to our e-mail list and discuss an issue that concerns them. Others signed up for LWVBC to make a ballot issue presentation or hold a Voter Registration drive at their organization. Building a Better Colorado (BBC) even stopped by to network! LWVCO strongly supports participation in these BBC discussions across the state. Two members had a great time discussing with a Vice-Principal in SVVSD how the League could work with Middle Schoolers!! And they plan to follow-up. Thanks to Judy Burris, Shaquita Yarbrough, Diana Haskell, Pat Long, Sarah Levison, Lurbin Moore and Ruth and Dave Stemler for attending and showing your enthusiastic support for LWVBC. Longmont Leaguers in attendance commented on what a great event this was!

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1 March 2016



## Taking Action: Living Wage Victory

From the Social Policy Team

At the Boulder City Council meeting on Tuesday, 16 February 2016, the City Council took the first steps to bring some contract workers back into the City employment system. LWVBC Social Policy Team members, as part of the [Self-Sufficiency 2016 Coalition](#), participated in the discussion that led to this plan.

The Social Policy Team along with the Self-Sufficiency 2016 coalition presented their resolution to Boulder City Council on Tuesday February 16. The resolution asked the City Council to:

- Reaffirm the interim measure by the City Manager to raise wages of part-time and temporary city employees as of Feb. 2016.
- Pay all city employees and all employees of city contractors a Living Wage.
- -Pay all employees of for-profit contractors of the city a Living Wage for all hours they work on City of Boulder projects.
- Establish the living wage at \$15.67 per hour, based on the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Boulder County.
- Pay a higher living wage to those city employees and employees of for-profit contractors who are not provided benefits.
- Direct city staff to create an ordinance consistent with the above conditions which shall relate to wages, benefits and working conditions.
- Direct the city to work to overturn the state-wide ban on local minimum wages.

Ruth Stemler and Mary Ann Wilner from the LWVBC; Amy Zuckerman, Commissioner of the Human Relations Commission and Laurel Herndon of the Self-Sufficiency 2016 Coalition testified at the meeting. In addition, the Social Policy Team invited other community members to speak to council. Claire Levy, Rabbi Fred Greene, former Boulder Chief District Judge Roxanne Bailin, Judy Nogg and others gave thoughtful, forceful speeches.

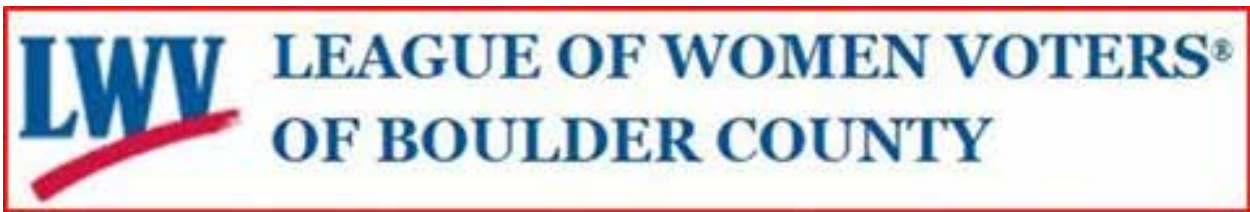
Council members Sam Weaver, Lisa Morzel, Aaron Brockett and Mary Young were staunch advocates for using the Self-Sufficiency Standard of \$15.67 and for ensuring that contract workers who are without benefits are paid a higher wage.

Council members Matt Applebaum and Bob Yates, wanting to avoid renegotiating contracts, suggested the city bring the custodial and landscape workers back in-house as city employees. Jan Burton expressed concern that existing city employees may want comparable raises, a situation called "wage compression."

By the end of the more than two-and-a-half-hour discussion, the council had voted to:

- Bring the custodial and landscape contract workers back in-house by Jan. 1, 2017, pending cost analysis by city staff; (9-0 vote).

For more information on the issue of Living Wage and the Self-Sufficiency 2016 Coalition, visit our [Social Policy](#) webpage.



***Special Evening with Mary Wilson***

***“Immigration: Where Do We Stand? And What Can We Do?”***

Registration Form

When: Wednesday, 6 April 2016, from 6:30-8:30 pm  
Where: To Be Announced  
Cost: \$25.00

Please mail this form and a check payable to  
LWVCO Education Fund  
and write on the memo line:  
“Boulder County”

Mail your check to:  
Frieda Holley  
830 Columbia Place  
Boulder, CO 80303

Guests are welcome!

Number of persons \_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

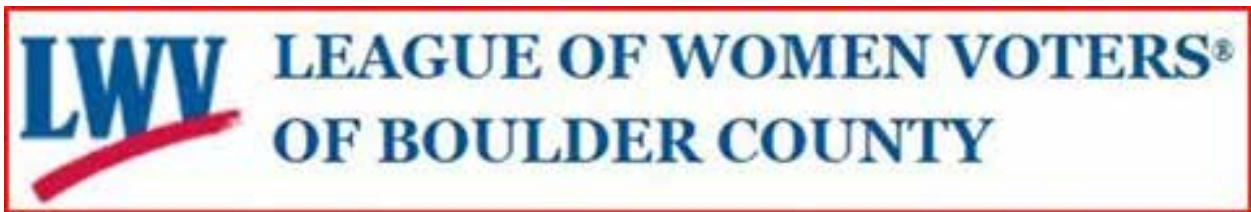
Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email address \_\_\_\_\_



## **Voter Registration Services**

### **2016 Voter Registration Drive Circulator Training**

Dear Boulder County League Members:

We are gearing up for a very busy 2016 Voter Registration Drive (VRD) season. We will be conducting numerous VRDs throughout the county between now and October 17th and hope you can volunteer as a Circulator (someone who helps sign people up to vote) as your schedule permits.

Because voter registration and voting are fundamental to our democracy, anyone participating in 2016 VRDs must complete a short VRD Circulator Training. (This is true even if you trained as a VRD Circulator in a prior election year). Please complete the following Circulator Training steps:

First, watch the short Secretary of State Circulator Training video: [Click here](#) to view online. [Note: There is no audio. You can stop at each frame by clicking the symbol on the bottom left side of the screen. When you have finished viewing the video close all the screens.]

Second, read the attachment "2016 Voter Registration Drive Training Tips" found here: [View Online](#).

Finally, print this page and fill out the following verification:

I, (print name) \_\_\_\_\_, have completed the 2016 Voter Registration Drive Circulator Training and understand all the materials.

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail the signed form to:

Jeanine Pow  
1185 Drexel St  
Boulder, CO 80305  
(303) 915-8915

Within the next couple of weeks, I will begin sending out emails to trained Circulators requesting volunteers to work scheduled VRDs. (If you know of any upcoming events in Boulder County where we might be able to conduct a VRD please send me the name of the event and contact information for the event organizer). If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Many thanks, Jeanine Pow

March 2016							
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
10	28	29	1	2	3	4	5
11	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
13	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
14	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
15	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

April 2016							
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
14	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
15	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
18	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

## LWVBC Calendar

- 8 March 2016: Community Conversation on Behavioral/ Mental Health Care with Andrew Romanoff
- 9 March 2016: "A Day of Grace: A Chance to Talk about Mental Health in Longmont"
- 14 March 2016: 2016 Erie Candidate Forum
- 22 March 2016: Climate Change Panel Discussion
- 6 April 2016: Special Evening with Mary Wilson

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