



The Boulder County Voter

1 December 2016

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Happy holidays to all.

I hope your Thanksgiving was fun and your upcoming holiday plans include family, friends and lots of good cheer! Thank you to everyone who supported our LWVBC holiday event and helped us welcome new faces.

I recently participated in a very exciting local League Presidents' call hosted by the LWVCO Board of Directors. It was an opportunity for the local leaders to discuss the new Campaign "Making Democracy Work for All in Colorado." This Plan was conceived by LWVUS and introduced at the June convention. Each state League is charged with developing specific objectives for their state. Our Colorado plan will include promoting voter service such as voter mobilization and protection, expanding education on money in politics at public meetings throughout the state and advocating for a bill in the Colorado Assembly for easier access to voter registration. We also discussed how the 2016 election might affect our Colorado Plan. This is a great opportunity for LWV to speak with one voice, have impact and work towards positive change. Our Campaign Finance Reform Team is considered experts in the area of money in politics so I'm sure they'll be involved! *Please let Shirley Jin know if you'd like to volunteer some time to learn and teach others.* And continue to look for more information on our websites ([LWVCO](#) and [LWVBC](#)) and in the Voters as the Campaign rolls out.



Ruth Stemler, President, LWVBC

I look forward to seeing you on January 5th in Longmont or January 9th in Boulder at the Program Planning meeting.

I hope you have renewed your membership. We need your support and we look forward to your continued involvement. Thank you. Happy 2017!

Ruth



Remember to reload your grocery card. Every time you do, the League gets money !! Email [Louisa Young](#) for details.





The Boulder County Voter

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Program Planning in January: Two Meetings

Longmont Evening Meeting

When: 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Thursday, 5 January 2017
Where: Front Range Community College, Classroom Bldg, Rm C1480, 2121 Miller Drive, Longmont
(In the Classroom Building, Room C1480 is the Community Room, which is next to the bookstore)

Boulder Daytime Meeting

When: 2:30 pm-4:30 pm, Monday, 9 January 2017
Where: Frasier Meadows, Sky Lounge (5th Floor), 350 Ponca Pl, Boulder

Program planning gives members the opportunity to hear about issues that are vital to members, meet other people who care about their community, watch the League at work, and ask questions of other League members.

This year, League members will be asked to consider existing local and state positions, and whether to recommend position changes, new studies, advocacy, or educational events. Keep in mind that our goal is to "Make our Democracy Work".

Choose to attend one of the two Program Planning meetings, either in Longmont (evening) or Boulder (day). Content will be the same at both meetings. Bring your Member Handbook for review of state and local positions, or study these positions on our [website](#).

Mark Your Calendars

16 December 2016

LWVCO Lobbyist Workshop

9am-noon, LWVCO Office, 1410 Grant St, Denver
For details, contact [LWVCO](#)

5 January 2017:

Program Planning-Longmont Evening Meeting

6:30-8:30 pm at Front Range Community College, Classroom Bldg, Rm C1480, 2121 Miller Dr, Longmont

9 January 2017

Program Planning-Boulder Daytime Meeting

2:30-4:30 pm at Frasier Meadows, Sky Lounge (5th Floor), 350 Ponca Pl, Boulder

30 January 2017

State Legislative Conference

8am-2:30pm, Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1370 Grant St, Denver
For details, contact [LWVCO](#)

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

Membership: 209 as of December 2016

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president@lwvbc.org

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Boulder County Voter
10 issues per year
Editor: Rionda Osman
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Letter to the Membership

21 November, 2016

Dear Members,

It's that time of year again – time to renew your League membership! Thank you for past support and for renewing today so we can continue to have the impact you've come to expect from the League! For the time being, basic individual dues are set at \$60 but the board has voted to recommend an increase for next year. If you pay ahead now for future year(s) you can lock in the dues at the \$60 rate. Another option, for those who can do so, is to add a donation or renew at the sustaining level to provide additional funding for our work in the coming years.

For those who are life members or have already extended their membership into 2017, we appreciate your continued support and involvement. If your membership is no longer current, renew with the form at the back of this newsletter, do it online at lvvbc.org, or mail back the postcard reminder with your payment.

Sincerely,
Liz Black, Membership Director



League Members in Action Community Conversations on the Rights of Non-Citizens

In November, the Immigration sub-team of the Social Policy Team held two Community Conversations on the Rights of Non-Citizens.

On November 15, at the Louisville Fire Department, the panel spoke to a standing-room-only crowd. We saw many new faces, and interest was very high. The venue was interesting, too, as we had to compete with the Fire Department's intercom while a call was coming in about an emergency.

The November 28 session at Frasier was also well-attended.



The attentive audience at the Community Conversation on Non-Citizen Rights, 15 November 2016, at the Louisville Fire Department.

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League Members in Action



Taking Action:

Voter Service Volunteers Swell with Pride and Sigh with Relief

From Susan Saunders

Voter Registration Drives

What an election cycle it has been! A cadre of 30-40 volunteers carried out a remarkable amount of work in the areas of voter service for the 2016 election cycle. Beginning in the spring and running through the last day allowed for Voter Registration Drives, VRDs were the focus of our efforts. Large and small, 29 VRDs were conducted at colleges, high schools, senior living communities, farmers' markets, Head Start schools, churches and community festivals. We registered voters on paper and on the Chromebooks, purchased through a grant secured by our Finance and Development Team. Many thanks to Jeanine Pow and all her crew for developing such a wide-reaching effort to encourage voting in Boulder County.

Candidate Forums

Candidate forums kept us busy as well. Five events, including 3 that targeted the Latino communities in the county, turned out 30-50 audience members per event to hear the candidates vying to represent the voters' interests. The LWVBC was able to partner with several other community groups to reach a broader audience by sharing the production and advertising of these events. Every one of these forums requires a minimum of 7 active volunteers during the event and a good deal more behind the scenes to schedule, record and publicize the activities. Liz Nick and her teams as well as Manuela Sifuentes, of the Latino Task Force, deserve "un mil gracias" for their efforts to pull together these forums.

Ballot Issues

Ballot issue presentations would not be possible without the research and writing efforts of our members. We made 11 presentations throughout the county, covering our new Community Conversations format, senior living communities, churches and the county's Aging Advisory Council. The 30-85 audience members at each event gained insight into the large number of ballot issues before them. Many more voters were informed by the ballot issue pamphlets, printed and then distributed to area libraries, senior centers and community organizations. Pamphlets for state issues were provided in English and Spanish, 1400 and 600, respectively. County, city and school district issues were provided in English with 300-400 of each being distributed throughout the county. Many kudos to those who wrote, presented and distributed this information to voters.

On the Air at KGNU

Finally, it must be noted that our community radio station, KGNU, coached LWVBC members through two radio shows, advertising VOTE411 and the League's role in educating voters throughout the community. Special thanks go to Diana Haskell, Lurbin Moore and Maeve Conran, for their parts in the production of these educational programs and to all of you who advertised their existence.

Help Us Gear Up for Next Time

This season finishes with an open invitation to LWVBC members and non-members you may know, who wish to be involved with voter service efforts this next year. Already, community issues likely to make the 2017 ballots are appearing in our papers and other news sources. If you would be willing to follow at least one issue for your city or the county this year, please contact Susan Saunders via email at: league@lwwbc.org or call and leave a message at 303-499-4544.

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Maine Electorate Adopts Instant-Runoff Voting

From Celeste Landry & the Voting Rights Team

Maine voters recently passed Question 5 (text below) 52% to 48%:

*Do you want to allow voters to rank their choices¹ of candidates in elections for **U.S. Senate, Congress, Governor, State Senate, and State Representative**, and to have ballots counted at the state level in multiple rounds in which last-place candidates are eliminated until a candidate wins by majority?*

Maine will embark on this adventure in the 2018 primary and general elections. Maine is the first state to reject plurality voting and adopt instant-runoff voting (IRV) for governor, the state legislature and non-presidential federal elections.²

In plurality voting, when there are more than 2 candidates, the candidate with the most votes (a plurality) wins even though in head-to-head contests between candidates, the winning candidate may have been the electorate's least favorite candidate.

Maine was ripe for IRV. Since 1986 there have been more than 2 main candidates in every gubernatorial race in Maine. Only in 1998 did the winner receive 50% of the vote.³ The Maine LWV has supported IRV since 2011 and worked with legislators on Question 5's language.

In IRV, voters rank the candidates 1 for their first choice, 2 for their second choice and so on. If no candidate gets a majority of 1st-choice votes, then the candidate with the least number of 1st-choice votes is eliminated and the top remaining choices on all the ballots are counted.⁴ If a candidate has a majority of the votes in the second round, the candidate wins. If not, the process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of the votes on the remaining ballots.⁵

The first round of counting ballots will occur locally and be reported to the Secretary of State. Subsequent rounds will be tallied in a central location.

The Voting Methods Team looks forward to seeing Maine's future election results! Our team focuses on educating people about voting methods, including alternatives to the current plurality voting method. Visit the [Voting Methods web page](#) for more information.

¹Question 5 references ranking choices, i.e., Ranked Choice Voting, but RCV covers other voting methods, such as the Bucklin (aka Grand Junction) method, so this article refers to the voting method by its more specific name, IRV.

²Other state executive officers (attorney general, treasurer, secretary of state and state auditor) are chosen by the state legislature.

³ 2014 LePage 48.2%	1994 King 35.37%
2010 LePage 37.6%	1990 McKernan 46.7%
2006 Baldacci 38.11%	1986 McKernan 39.9%
2002 Baldacci 47.15%	1982 Brennan 61.91% (only 2 candidates)
1998 King 58.61% (King was Independent – plus Republican, Democrat and Green candidates)	

⁴If a voter only ranked the eliminated candidate and no others, then the ballot is "exhausted" and not counted in subsequent rounds.

⁵The claim that IRV "elects majority winners" is misleading. See [Supportive Claim #2](#) in the Center for Election Science's analysis of Question 5.



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Taking Action: Outreach to Schools

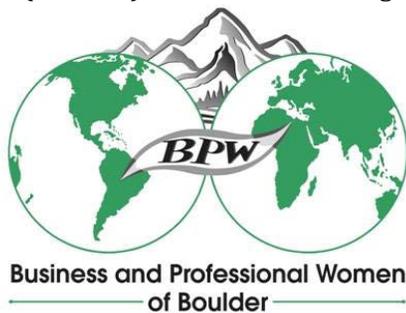
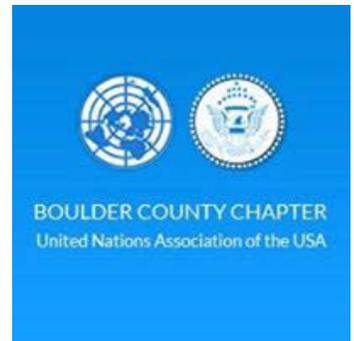
Peggy Leech made a presentation about the history of voting rights to a group of 4th and 5th graders at Jarrow Montessori on October 21.



LWVBC Supports CEDAW Resolution

LWVBC Board of Directors has passed a motion to join the United Nations Association of Boulder County (UNA-BC), Business and Professional Women of Boulder County (BPWBC) and Zonta International in supporting the campaign for the Cities for CEDAW Resolution. This Resolution embraces the principles of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). UNA-BC is working with the City of Boulder and reaching out to all

cities in the county to address this important issue by passing a Resolution. The City Council of Lafayette has recently passed a Resolution. LWVBC continues to work with UNA-BC, BPWBC and Zonta as part of the newly organized Women's Collaborative of Boulder County (WCBC). WCBC is a group of organizations who have come together to cooperate and raise the visibility of important issues in our county.





MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

- \$60 for a basic individual membership
- \$90 for a household basic membership
- \$120 for dues for a sustaining individual
- \$200 for sustaining dues for a household
- Donation of \$_____ from a life member
- \$30 in a life member's household
- \$ _____ now, balance in three monthly installments
- \$30 dues for a student membership
- I am dropping out. For fuller explanation, reach me by (circle one) phone email

The most essential information for us is **your name**. Kindly provide birth year. **List other information only if it has changed recently**. We aim for accurate and up-to-date records. Circle any information that you wish to be left out of directory accessible only to members.

Primary Name _____ Primary Birth year _____

Phone _____ 2nd Phone _____ Years in LWV _____

Email _____

Address _____

For households, complete the first line below and **fill in the rest if not already in our records**.

Additional Name _____ Additional Birth year _____

Phone _____ 2nd Phone _____ Years in LWV _____

Email _____

For our organization to be more responsive to member views, to what public policy issues, in your opinion, ought the league to give its highest priority attention?

Locally _____ In Colorado _____ Nationally _____

So that we can grow as an organization and better reflect the diversity of individuals in our region, tell us someone you know who could benefit from and be an asset to the LWVBC. We will follow up with these leads and you can also personally invite them to any of our events.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Return this form with your check to

LWV of Boulder County
 PO Box 21274
 Boulder, Colorado 80308-4274

December 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

LWVBC Calendar

2 December	LWVBC Holiday Party
16 December	LWVCO Lobbyist Workshop
5 January	Program Planning –Longmont Evening Meeting
9 January	Program Planning–Boulder Daytime Meeting
30 January	State Legislative Conference

January 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

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