

The Boulder County Voter



*League of Women Voters of Boulder County * May 2018*

“Better Voting Methods” Promises to be a Hot Topic at LWVUS Convention

by Celeste Landry, Voting Methods Team

State and local leagues proposed multiple separate caucuses on voting methods at the national League convention. Due to a limited number of slots, we had to negotiate among ourselves down to two caucuses.

The LWV of Central Delaware County (LWVCDC) in Pennsylvania will hold a caucus on June 28th, the first evening of the convention, because they are advocating for a national study on alternative methods for electing members of the US House of Representatives. One such method is spelled out in House Resolution 3057, The Fair Representation Act (see page 6). The LWV of Sacramento wanted a caucus slot to educate Leaguers about HR 3057 so they may coordinate with LWVCDC on the caucus.

LWVME (Maine) applied for a caucus slot to tell about Maine’s successful fight via ballot initiative to adopt instant-runoff voting (IRV) for the governor, state legislature, and non-presidential federal elections. LWVME also planned to hold an IRV election to illustrate IRV’s superiority over plurality. Note: Maine uses the more generic term “ranked choice voting” or RCV, but RCV can refer to IRV or STV.

Meanwhile, LWVCO proposed a caucus on better single-winner voting methods. Because one of the methods for caucus attendees to experience is IRV, the two state leagues didn’t need to duplicate efforts, and LWVCO will lead the second caucus slot on single-winner voting methods.

(cont’d on page 6)

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



<https://instagram.com/lwvbc>

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May Events Calendar

- May 2: CFR Team Meeting***
- May 2: Candidate Forum: Volunteer Now!***
- May 3: Hunger and Democracy***
- May 6: Bee Colony Collapse – Drinks & Dialog***
- May 12: Annual Meeting***
- May 14: Equal Means Equal Film Screening***
- May 21: Big Sky, Big Money Film Screening***

President's Letter By Peggy Leech, LWVBC President

As we wind down this League fiscal year, we have several major activities to look forward to! I urge everyone to register for our **May 12 Annual Meeting** (registration deadline Tuesday May 8). This is such a great time to see our League friends again and get caught up. We will hear from 2 speakers from CIRC (Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition), and we will present awards to 2 community leaders. Our Community Partner Award goes to Elvira Ramos, from the Boulder Community Foundation, and our Public Official Award will be presented to Stan Garnett, who was Boulder County's District Attorney until very recently. And, of course, we will recognize some of our members with awards, and conduct the annual business.



Elisabeth MacNamara

In early June, a couple of delegates will attend the **LWVCO Council**, where the state's Strategic Plan will be rolled out. In late June, we are sending a delegation to the **LWVUS Convention**, and we expect to hear about strategic planning efforts on the national level, too. In addition, members from our Voting Methods Team will be presenting a caucus at the Convention about alternate voting methods (see article on pages 1 and 6).

We thoroughly enjoyed hearing from **Elisabeth MacNamara**, past President of LWVUS, at our April 11 fundraiser. She gave an inspiring talk: Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Many thanks to Louisa Young and Lois Linski for planning this successful event, and to Marlys Robertson for connecting us with Elisabeth.

At its April board meeting, the board voted to support Initiatives 170 and 171, which are the redistricting initiatives that LWVCO has been working on for more than a year. We also voted to support Initiative 93, which would raise more money for education funding in the state. This is supported by LWVCO, too.

We are now starting to gear up for the elections, especially with the primaries happening in June. This is the first time that unaffiliated voters can vote in the primaries, so there is some voter education needed for that process.

To reach LWVBC President Peggy Leech, you can email her at president@lwvbc.org



Have you heard of Louisville Live? It's a great partnership between LWVBC and the Louisville Library, to build understanding and community among residents in Louisville and Boulder County. In April, participants (photo, left) discussed immigration. For information on the next event, contact Peggy as noted above.

Annual Meeting Time: Register Today!

We have an exciting, engaging Annual Meeting coming up on May 12 in Lafayette. Have YOU registered yet? Please do so today!

We'll have a program including committee reports, a special discussion with our friends from the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, member awards and two special community awards. All that, plus great food and great League friends!

**LWVBC 2018
ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, May 12, 2018
9:00 – 11:30 am
Nissi's at 2675 North Park Drive,
Lafayette (near 95th & Arapahoe)

Our website makes it convenient to register online with a credit card – no paper, no stamp – just go to <http://lwvbc.org>.



LWV of Boulder County
Annual Meeting Registration Form

Please register online at <http://lwvbc.org> and pay with a credit card (so convenient!).

If you are unable to register online, fill out and mail this form, along with a check payable to LWVBC, to: LWVBC, P.O. Box 21274, Boulder, CO 80308.

When: Saturday, May 12, 2018, 9:00 – 11:30 am
 Where: Nissi's, 2675 Northpark Drive, Lafayette (near 95th & Arapahoe)
 Cost: \$25.00
 Deadline to Register: Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Number of persons attending: _____ X \$25.00 = \$_____

Name of attendee (please print):

Name of attendee (please print):

Urgent: Volunteers needed for May 2 Forum!

Can you please help with the candidate event on May 2, for the Louisville Fire District?

We have six candidates committed to attending the event and we need 5 more volunteers for table moderators. Volunteers will also function as greeters, assigning attendees to tables.

Candidates will move from table to table at ten-minute intervals monitored by a timekeeper. Help setting up and taking down will also be appreciated. Please contact me by email or cell phone, if you are available and willing to help.

Susan Saunders, 303-503-3913 or okbeeb@gmail.com

Candi-dating Forum
Wednesday, May 2
6:30-8:30 PM
Louisville Fire House 1
1240 Main St, Louisville



May Drinks & Dialog: Bee Policy

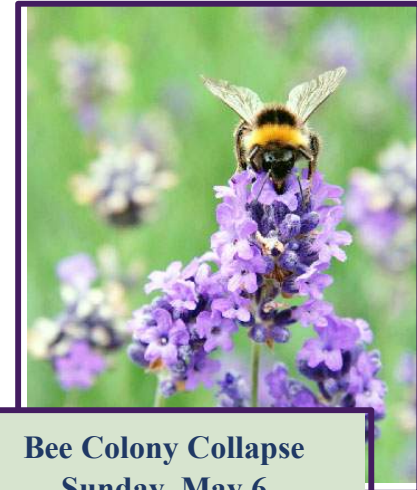
By Louisa Young, Agriculture Team

Join the LWVBC Agriculture Team for an informative session regarding what is behind bee colony collapse. Bees are critical to many eco-systems. Bee keepers raise more money from renting out their bees to farms as pollinators than they raise selling honey.

Neonicotinoids (“neonics”) are frequently blamed for losses. The theory is that neonics interfere with a bee’s ability to find its way back to its colony. Other possible culprits are mites that are a pest for bees, disease, and stress caused by frequent transportation to places that rent bees for pollination. Recently bee colony collapse has slowed, but it is still a very serious problem.

What can consumers do? Do agricultural regulations play a role? Speakers will be:

- * Tom Theobald, Boulder County Beekeepers’ Association
- * Lyle Johnston, CO Professional Beekeepers’ Association
- * Rebecca Larson, PhD, Western Sugar Cooperative



Bee Colony Collapse
Sunday, May 6
3 - 4:30 PM
The Hive
East Simpson Coffee Co.
414 East Simpson Street
Lafayette

There will be opportunities for questions and answers from the audience.

Colorado Redistricting Reform Campaign Update

by LWV of Colorado's Jean Fredlund

Two redistricting measures that the League is supporting have passed the state Senate unanimously. SCR18-004 and SCR18-005 went through third reading on April 30th with one amendment that added the word 'independent' to the title seen by the voters.

Now, on to the House....The House first reading and introduction will be Tuesday, May 1 and will be heard in House State Affairs Committee on Wednesday, May 2. FYI: The House sponsors are Speaker Crisanta Duran (D) and Minority Leader Patrick Neville (R). With only a few days left to the session, we hope to report good news very soon.

As we wait for the outcome from this legislative process, please make time to become educated on these two measures. Here is the latest summary information on the two measures. Please feel free to download or view online this [04202018 Handout SCR18-004 & SCR18-005](#) that covers "What This Proposal Does" along with an updated listing of "Supporting Organizations, Individuals and Election Officials". On the last page, please find a "Comparison Chart with Commission, Criteria, Communities of Interest, Prohibitions, Transparency, Maps and Review information comparing the current method to the proposed".

You can track the campaign yourself at: <http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/scr18-004>, and <http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/scr18-005>

Questions in the meantime? Please reach out to Jean Fredlund at jandjfredlund@comcast.net or 303-428-5420.



LWVBC Drinks & Dialog speaker Ron Tupa updates members on Redistricting.



The Fair Representation Act proposes multi-member congressional districts, which used to be fairly common. In fact, the first woman elected to Congress, Jeannette Rankin, got the second-most votes in an at-large two-member district in Montana in 1916. Under HR 3057, instead of Colorado's current 7 congressional districts, Colorado would be divided into 2 districts: one with 3 congressional members, the other with 4 members.

HR3057 proposes using single transferable vote (STV), a multi-winner ranked voting method. STV promotes proportional representation – hence, the name “The Fair Representation Act.” STV was used to elect Boulder's city council from 1917 to 1947 and has been used in Cambridge, MA, every 2 years since 1941.

HR 3057 is not expected to pass this year. If and when HR3057 gets signed into law, its congressional redistricting proposal would override whatever congressional redistricting is in effect in every state. The LWVCO president sent her Fair Maps Colorado colleagues a copy of HR 3057 to consider as they worked out their broadly acceptable redistricting plans.

Voting Methods (cont'd)

LWVME will share the story of its alternative voting methods victory during its state report to all the convention attendees, rather than with only a subset who attend a caucus. We hope that LWVME will also recommend the LWVCO caucus to convention-goers.

Look for a post-LWVUS-convention report in the August *Voter*.

Order Bulbs by June 4th!

These lovely spring flowers in Lois Linsky's garden were bulbs planted from our annual fundraiser. Now is the time to look around your garden and decide which daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and more will brighten the landscape.

Bulbs are for sale again. Beautiful, high quality bulbs from Holland are available for order as we have done for the last few years.



You can download the **Bulb Order Form** and browse the photos of 39 different flowers in our online **Bulb Sale** photo album. When you have made your selections, mail the form with your check to PO Box 21562, Boulder, CO 80308-4562. Or call or email Lois (303-499-2689) (lflinsky@hotmail.com) or Louisa (303-444-6428) (louisa.young@Colorado.EDU).

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