

# The Boulder County Voter

League of Women Voters of Boulder County \* September 2018



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## Monthly Events Calendar

- September 3: Labor Day Parade
- September 8: Voter Registration
- September 11: Superior Trustee Candidate Forum
- September 22: Fall Kickoff
- September 25: Voter Registration Day
- September 29: Making Democracy Work! Conference
- September 29: Voter Registration

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LWVBC Social Media

## Follow the Money on Political Attack Ads

By Carolyn Elliot, co-chair, Money in Politics Team



Sandra Fish



Political Mailers

**"Candidate X has done terrible things that harm Colorado/American voters in QRS ways. Candidate Y holds the best interests of all Colorado/American voters, a clear choice."**

Usually speaking, purveyors of almost all such attack ads get their money from "dark" sources. The donors and the amounts of their donations remain unknown, because the purveyors and donors skirt around the laws and regulations, or flat out do not report. The intent of these "dark" donors is to manipulate the electorate to the desires of the dark donors, including lying or skewing the truth in their ads, be they television, radio, social media, mailer, or anything else. Super PACs also often implement this tactic.

As a defense against these dark intentions, Sandra Fish, data researcher and journalist, articulately recounted various dark acts in Colorado's political scene. We had a good turnout at our August 13<sup>th</sup> Drinks and Dialogue event at the St. Vrain Cidery in Longmont. She reported to us about entities (donors and purveyors or ad consultants) creating shell (fake) companies to funnel money through, thus eliminating any credible source of actual names and contact information, as well as many more examples of nefarious uses of campaign finances.

*(continued on page 6)*

## President's Letter

By Peggy Leech, LWVBC President

"All hands on deck!" That is the message from the LWVBC Board, as we all need to focus on the upcoming election for the next two months. This means focusing on Voter Service activities (see elsewhere in this newsletter), and efforts to get Amendments Y and Z passed in Colorado (to end gerrymandering). Many events are currently being planned, so keep your eye on our website calendar, and we will be sending out emails.

At our recent Strategic Planning Retreat, we discussed goals from the Issue Teams (first time ever during our strategic planning journey) and the Operations (support) Teams. We are moving steadily toward a coordinated effort to Making Democracy Work for All, as agreed upon by our membership during Program Planning discussions last January. Thanks to all of the teams for their hard work!

Please plan to attend our Fall Kickoff meeting on September 22, and LWVCO's Make Democracy Work Day on September 29. More information can be found elsewhere in the Voter.

Attendees at the LWVUS Convention in late June were very impressed with the League's emphasis on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). In addition to changing League culture, we all can use some



training, or at least some reflection, on our individual attitudes toward people who are different from ourselves. Some of you may have seen the Daily Camera's series on the "Inclusion Illusion" in Boulder. We have a long way to go as individuals, as an organization, and as a community. My challenge to you this month is: Engage with people who are different from you. Differences can be in so many areas, such as race, ethnicity, political thought, religion, economic status, and so many other factors.

### Recent board decisions:

- Rossana Better will be the LWVBC delegate to the CIRC statewide assembly in late September. LWVBC will pay her registration fee.
- LWVBC will be a sponsor for the CIRC statewide assembly at the "Community Advocate" level.
- LWVBC will officially become a member of the Women's Collaborative of Boulder County.
- LWVBC will again participate in the LWVCO MLD (Membership Leadership Development) program.

## Member Announcements

### Grocery Cards

Did you know? You can use your credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover, whatever) to reload your grocery store gift card. That way you can get your airline miles just like you do when you buy groceries directly with your credit card.



To get your card call or email **Louisa Young** (303-444-6429 or [louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU](mailto:louisa.Young@Colorado.EDU)).

### LWVCO is looking for an Executive Director



The League of Women Voters of Colorado has a position open for an Executive Director to lead the organization as it develops and implements a new strategic plan. This is a full-time position, and the Executive Director would work with one other staff person, a board of directors, and many volunteers. The League nationally is close to being 100 years old with organizations in every state. In Colorado there are 18 units across the state. This is an

interesting opportunity for someone ready to lead a transitioning organization. The League is an equal opportunity employer.

Please send cover letter and resume to: [hr@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:hr@lwvcolorado.org) by 10/1/2018.

### Louisville Labor Day Parade

Please join us at the Louisville Labor Day parade, beginning near Louisville Middle School at 9:00 AM on September 3. LWVBC and allies will carry banner and signs noting League accomplishments between 1920 and 2018. Volunteers are invited to wear costumes from each decade of the League's existence. Candy and League info will be handed out along parade route. Contact **Jeanine Pow** (303-915-8915 or [powpc@hotmail.com](mailto:powpc@hotmail.com)) for more information.



### Fall Kickoff Meeting

Please join us to learn what our new student members are up to. You'll also learn about our new Planned Giving Program. And what is happening with our Issues and Operations Teams as we kick-off a new year. We'll award certificates for years of membership. And you can network with new and long-time friends. Hope to see you there!

Saturday, September 22, 2018

10:00-11:30 AM

Mountain View United Methodist Church

355 Ponca Place, Boulder

Light refreshments will be served!



### LWVCO Making Democracy Work! Conference

The LWVCO Making Democracy Work! Conference (formerly League Day) will be held on Saturday September 29th. This year's theme is **Growth, Change, and Outreach!** and will cover a lot of topics while exploring some new possibilities that your League can offer this coming year.

## LWVCO Making Democracy Work! Conference

*(formerly League Day)*

**Saturday, September 29th**

**8:30 am - 3 pm** *Program starts at 9:30 am*

**Holiday Inn Stapleton Denver East**

3333 Quebec St, Denver 80207

**\$65 per person includes all events, continental breakfast and buffet lunch.**

Purchase your ticket via charge card or check.

Online Credit Card at [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org) (No PayPal account required.)

Mail check to LWVCO 1410 Grant B204, Denver 80203

## Voter Service Wants You!

By Susan Saunders



Boulder County voters depend on the League to provide voter information. We can't let them down. It's election season again and volunteers are needed immediately for several tasks. Don't hesitate to volunteer, even if you've never done these things before - we provide instructions and assistance and you don't work alone.

Ballot Issue pamphlet preparation, presentations, distribution to area libraries, etc. - contact Susan Saunders at [okbeeb@gmail.com](mailto:okbeeb@gmail.com)

Candidate Forum Ushers, Timers, Question Screeners, Moderators - contact Susan Saunders at [okbeeb@gmail.com](mailto:okbeeb@gmail.com)

Voter Registration Drives - contact Jeanine Pow at [powpc@hotmail.com](mailto:powpc@hotmail.com)

Please choose one or more that interest you and contact the person listed for details. We actually have fun providing these services and getting to know each other!



## CU Volunteer Day

By Mandy Nuku

LWVBC participated in the CU Volunteer Fair in August. I interacted with many students and shared how LWV is making democracy work for all. I look forward to following-up and connecting with the students I met. Several students had participated in league events in other states and were excited to see us! It was a great opportunity to be where students are and share the important work we do and volunteer opportunities.



## Follow the Money on Political Attack Ads *(continued from page 1)*

Following our discussion, Ms. Fish asked everyone to send any political ads they receive to her website, "Follow the Money,". She explains in her postcard:

What's in your mailbox? If it's a political ad, don't toss it just yet! Share it with Follow the Money!  
At <http://ftm.copolitics.co/>, journalist Sandra Fish is collecting mailers, robocalls, TV ads and more. We do some fact-checking or share fact-checking by other journalists, and we describe where the money for the message came from. The idea is to inform Colorado voters about who is paying for what in the 2018 election cycle. But we need your help. So before you toss (or recycle) that flyer, take photos of the front and back, then submit them here: [http://ftm.copolitics.co/new\\_message/](http://ftm.copolitics.co/new_message/) or e-mail to [fish@copolitics.co](mailto:fish@copolitics.co) (not com!)

Beyond Ms. Fish's presentation, several credible sources give further evidence to the questionable benefits of attack ads. As National Public Radio (NPR) reported April 4th, 2012, people stick to their beliefs, and ignore facts that counter those beliefs. However, people are tired of attack ads, and often ignore them, as The New York Times reported April 18th, 2014. Nevertheless, like a perpetual motion machine, ad consultants perpetuate the use of negative ads, because doing so gives them more business, as Scientific American reported this year.

Given the problem with dark money, and attack ads, it behooves the voter to get correct information about candidates and issues. Certainly, Sandra Fish's site is one excellent source. Another outstanding site is our own League of Women Voters' site, [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org). Other nonpartisan, credible, reliable sites are listed below. For the fall, 2018 elections, be on the lookout for credible, reliable sources, and avoid attack ads at all costs. Follow the money!

**Sandra Fish** wrote for the Colorado Independent during the primaries and will be helping cover the general election for the Colorado Sun.

Associated Press

[https://ballotpedia.org/Main\\_Page](https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page)

Center for Public Integrity

Center for Responsive Politics

Christian Science Monitor

[Congress.gov](http://Congress.gov)

C-SPAN

[FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org)

Harvard Political Review

<https://maplight.org/>

<http://www.pewresearch.org/>

<https://www.reuters.com/>

<https://sunlightfoundation.com/>

The Economist

United Press International

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