



Greetings League Members,

This is my last official correspondence as your Colorado State Board President. What a ride this past two years has been! In addition to the usual challenges of assuming a new role, I got to do it during a pandemic! We all learned to navigate Zoom, as well as master other technologies that would allow us to continue to do our work — there was much work to be done, and work we did!

I am proud of what has been accomplished during my tenure. We have made progress on our Strategic Plan and continued to make subtle changes to transform our working Board into a governing board that works, as well as strengthen our relationship with our Local Leagues. A high five to all of our members on the ground working every day to “Empower Voters. Defend Democracy.”

I feel especially privileged to have worked on Colorado’s Election Security Position as well as the white paper, “Colorado’s Innovative and Stellar Election System.” The Election Security Position was adopted by Colorado membership earlier this year, and we had very much hoped that it would be adopted at the national convention, enabling Leagues nation-wide to use it. Sadly, that was not to be. We are not defeated, however, and our committee is in conversations to come up with other approaches. With ongoing efforts to undermine confidence in our elections, a robust position on election security is important, and this was reinforced for us time and again by convention attendees who were in awe of how we conduct elections in Colorado and who expressed support for a more detailed national Election Security position as the result of challenges they are facing in their own states.

The white paper committee presented a caucus at convention with feedback from attendees indicating that our title, “Colorado’s Innovative and Stellar Election System,” was indeed appropriate. How lucky we Coloradans are to live in a state with the election processes in place that we have! The committee is now gearing up to make presentations across the state to interested Leagues as well as other organizations interested in educating their members on Colorado’s gold standard election system. Mark your calendar to attend a state-wide presentation on August 25 at 5:30. If you have League friends or family in other states that you think might be interested in having us present, or another organization in Colorado with whom you are affiliated that might be interested, please [email me](#) and we’ll work with you to set up a presentation.



Completing the white paper was the first step; sharing it widely both in-state and out-of-state is the next step so that *all* voters can learn what constitutes a “gold standard” election system. It is only when voters know what processes actually ensure a safe and secure election that they will be armed with the knowledge needed to question their legislators regarding proposed legislation that might be motivated more by politics than a real desire to ensure the security of their state elections.

It has been a privilege to serve as your state League President, and I look forward to continuing to work with Local Leagues in my new role as Board Director of Local League Support.

This Monday we will celebrate the 247th birthday of the founding of this country. It was considered a bold experiment embodying the possibility that this country might be governed by ordinary citizens. When Franklin was asked, “What kind of government have you given us?” he responded, “A republic, if you can keep it.” We have witnessed challenges the past six years that may cause us to doubt if we can, in fact, keep this republic, but witnessing the dedication of League members across Colorado and America, I am heartened that while challenges exist, we are up to the task. Happy Fourth of July, and God Bless America. Here’s to another 247 years!

In League,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Karen Sheek". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Karen Sheek
President, LWVCO