



Hello!

What an honor it is to be serving you as President of the League of Women Voters of Colorado. This tremendous opportunity is not lost on me. My hope is that in partnership we will continue to forge ahead, building a strong, supportive, and collaborative organization that is ready to face these important times before us.

I have been a self-proclaimed political nerd my entire adult life. Having been fortunate enough to have served as Mayor of Crescent City, California as well as worked with the League in Texas, I hope to bring a nice balance of experience, enthusiasm, and practical skills to this role. What I'm most excited about however, is continuing the synergy of the state and Local Leagues, while making sure that YOU feel supported and have the tools needed to do the grassroots work that you're so good at; that LWV was built on and continues to be known for. I am exceedingly proud to stand with you.

Since taking the reins from Karen on July 1st, our Board has met twice including our strategic planning virtual retreat and the regular monthly Board meeting. As a reminder, these meetings are always open and you are welcome to attend!

At the strategic planning session, a recap of LWVCO's FY19-21 strategic plans and their outcomes was given, and last year's (FY22) goals and objectives were discussed. LWVCO will wrap up our five-year plan this year and will be planning our *next* five years, which is exciting to think about!

We looked at the results of the Board's organizational assessment titled "14 Attributes of Nonprofit Health," comparing last year's results to this year's, which show strong growth in organizational maturity. We also discussed some ongoing priorities from last year, including:

- Forums for Local Leagues
- Membership Engagement/Leadership Development
- Treasurers
- Voter Service
- Communications
- Fundraising
- Partnerships and nonpartisanship
- JEDI
- Study & discuss addition of Program Manager to provide direct support to Colorado Leagues
- Formal JEDI education for BOD, Local Leagues, and public



- Development of Civics Education programming, in alignment with LWWUS

LWVCO will have at least three major legislative priorities: reproductive justice, gun safety, and news access, on top of Making Democracy Work. Local Leagues have asked for help in the areas of member engagement, leadership development, and fundraising. It seems clear that supporting our LLs with improved toolkits and programs-in-a-box to increase member engagement would be quite helpful and necessary, as well as providing support towards fundraising at the local level. With this in mind, we will work to develop a minimum of two programs in both Voter Services and Action & Advocacy for use at the local level, while offering at least two programs in both Voter Service and Action & Advocacy at the state level. Member forums will continue to support League members, in particular League jobs and League development as this seems to have been a success so far, and a monthly Fundraising Forum has already been added to the events calendar—anyone is welcome to attend.

Conversations continue to be had around JEDI and the training needed—if we continue to only speak to certain segments of our population and in a language only people some understand, it's all for naught. Please join these conversations as everyone needs to be heard. We have a JEDI Task Force, you can talk to your LL leadership, or I welcome a conversation anytime I can be of service.

We are also excited to have recharged and made an ambitious plan for fundraising with new ideas and fun developments, as last year presented many challenges. We hope you'll join us for these at new events and supporting interesting concepts. Despite last year, LWVCO remains financially stable.

In January 2023, we'll start work on our next five year plan with a 360 process: having meaningful conversations with members, partners, staff, and Board to get ready for some deep thought on who we want to be five years from now. I am so eager to get to work.

Thank you for your support, your kindness, and your friendship. I *can't wait* to see all we are going to get done.

*Irene*