

Colorado Voter

Volume 30, Number 3, February 2017

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF COLORADO Educate, Advocate, Im pact!



Forty-three Leaguers braved the nice weather and crowds to participate in the Women's March in Denver on January 21. Members of the League also marched in Cortez, Estes Park, Steamboat Springs, and Washington, D.C.!



Andrea Wilkins, her brother-in-law Tom Hoaglund, and her extended family marched in Washington D.C.



Catherine Lykken with friends at the March in Steamboat Springs



A sign, very relevant to League concerns, in the trash in front of the Capitol post-March

Board of Directors 2016-2017

Barb Mattison, President mattisonleague@gmail.com	303.322.4878	
Nancy Crow, President-elect crow.nancyc@gmail.com	703.489.9303	
Toni Larson, 1 st VP, Program toni.larson@gmail.com	720.387.8487	
Cath Perrone, 2 nd VP Administr pcperrone@yahoo.com	ation 303.809.6625	
Sue Vaughan, 3rd VP Local Lessuev53@aol.com	ague Support 303.277.0145	
Gerry Cummins, 4th VP Voter Service gerry.cummins@prodigy.net 303.771.0115		
Jean McGuire, Secretary jeanmcguire7777@gmail.com	630.414.5259	
Bobbie Heisterkamp, Treasurer bdheistkmp@aol.com	303.333.6818	
Lisa Forbes, Communications communication@lwvcolorado.org 720.282.9449		
Marilyn Brown, Voter Editor votereditor@lwvcolorado.org	970.946.6523	
Cinnie Auer, Development cauer56662@aol.com	303.756.2943	
Ann Roux, Development landaroux@comcast.net	303.506.8860	
Karen Connor, Vote411.org kconnor1941@gmail.com	970.275.1314	
Marlu Burkamp, Director-at-La marluburkamp@gmail.com	rge 303.798.2939	
Linda Porter, Director-at-Large lporterlwv@q.com	303.425.3634	
Jean Fredlund, Legislative Activ jandjfredlund@comcast.net	on 303-428-5420	
Linda Rinehart, Legislative Action l.rinehart167@gmail.com 720-989-8944		

Staff

Julie Leonard, Executive Director info@lwvcolorado.org 303-863-0437

Colorado Voter, February 2017 Published quarterly by League of Women Voters of Colorado 1410 Grant Street B204, Denver CO 80203 Phone: 303.863.0437 Fax: 303.837.9917 E-mail: <u>info@lwvcolorado.org</u> Website: <u>www.lwvcolorado.org</u>

Our President's Message

ACTION AFTER THE WOMEN'S MARCH

Over 110,000 Colorado residents participated in the Women's March on January 21, 2017 in solidarity with groups across the U.S. The League of Women Voters was present in marches across our state. Excitement was everywhere. We are a force to be reckoned with and here is how we're moving forward.

Chris Carson, President, LWVUS, sent five recommendations for action: 1. Join the League of Women Voters!

- Coll Congress and coll them often!
- 2. <u>Call Congress and call them often!</u>
- 3. Register to Vote and help your friends get registered!
- 4. Make a Donation to Defend our Democracy!
- 5. <u>Become an e-Activist!</u>

The LWVCO Board recommends the following action steps for state and local Leagues:

• Fulfill our statewide goals under Making Democracy Work

- Educate the public by showing LWV Boulder's Money in Politics slide show.
- Take action on the electoral college support efforts for Colorado to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact
- Register voters at naturalization ceremonies and those returning to society from incarceration.
- Advocate for a redistricting proposal that would create a redistricting commission to draw district lines for congressional seats similar to the commission in Colorado that draws district lines for members of the state legislature.
- Object to any attempts to undermine government functioning in areas of concern to us including voter fraud, environmental rules and regulations, and regressive tax structures.
 - Educate citizens on proposed health care plans.

And here are actions for individuals:

- Subscribe to the LWVCO Legislative Letter and help lobby the issues LWVCO supports.
- Be informed and active at the local level apply to serve on boards and commissions.
- Run for public office! Here's a organization that trains women candidates - Emerge Colorado – website: http://www.emergeco.org/.

League across Colorado is a powerful force. We are moving forward on the goals above. Join us!

LWVCO CONVENTION MAY 20-21 IN FORT COLLINS!

The final call for Convention will go out in late March, along with materials to prepare delegates for issues to be discussed and voted: proposed nomination slate, budget, bylaws, program, and consolidation of LWVCO into a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Convention will be held at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Fort Collins.

SHOWCASE LWVCO LEAGUES AND MEMBERS AT CONVENTION

By Sue Vaughan, LWVCO 3rd VP, Local League Support Local Leagues presidents and state contacts have recently received three nomination forms for the LWVCO 2017 Convention awards. Please take advantage of this special opportunity to honor a local LWVCO League and any LWVCO member.

This year LWVCO will present four awards. The LWVCO Community Connections Award will be presented to a League with 60 or fewer members and to a League with greater than 60 members. This award will honor two local Leagues that have advocated for issues that have positively and visibly impacted and affected their local communities. With the LWVCO Individual Achievement Award, we will honor an individual who has provided innovative and effective leadership at one or several levels within his or her local League. These levels might include various committees, media involvement, League organization, League visibility, community programs, advocacy issues. etc. A very distinctive award, the Eva Fifkova Lifetime Achievement Award, will honor a League member who has demonstrated a lifetime of outstanding participation and achievement within the community and the League of Women Voters.

The deadline for all nominations is April 1, 2017. Completed nominations should sent to the LWVCO office, email: <u>info@lwvcolorado.org</u> OR USPS mail: 1410 Grant St. B204, Denver, CO 80203. Refer to each nomination form for more information. Please share the great work and accomplishments of your League and dedicated members.

GENEROSITY THROUGH CO GIVES DAY!

Colorado Gives Day in December brought to the LWVCO Ed Fund over \$4500 this year, a 12% increase over last year's results. The Ed Fund share of the incentive fund provided by FirstBank and Community First Foundation was \$142.31. This financial incentive is offered for giving on that particular day in order to encourage donations to nonprofits. We are grateful to our generous donors and appreciative for their support of Ed Fund projects.

LASSO THE HISTORIC ROCKIES WITH THE LEAGUE

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS | AUGUST 19 - 26, 2017

The League of Women Voters of Colorado has worked together with Trafalgar to infuse this custom trip with the best moments, like exclusive insider experiences, VIP treatment, and relaxing free time. We're committed to giving you the best educational vacation memories.

Highlights of the Re-created Famous 1920s Circle Trip

Union Station, Denver Molly Brown House Museum Ralph Carr Judicial Center Big Thompson Canyon Stanley Hotel, Estes Park Old Fall River Road, Rocky Mountain National Park Holzworth Ranch Boat Tour of Grand Lake Zephyr Express chairlift to top of Winter Park Continental Divide at Berthoud Pass Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave

Take a few minutes to become familiar with the exciting itinerary by visiting <u>www.lwvcolorado.org/lwv/event/lasso-historic-</u> rockies-tour/

and downloading the detailed trip brochure. To have the itinerary and application form mailed to you, or someone who might be interested, please contact the LWVCO office.

NEW GOOGLE AdGrant AD FOR LWVCO

By Linda Rinehart, LWVCO Board

Our Google AdGrant Ad has been updated to reflect the theme of "Making Democracy Work." Here's what the ad looks like on Google:

League of Women Voters of CO - Protecting Your Voice & Vote www.lwvcolorado.org/ (303) 863-0437 Join us in Making Democracy Work & Protecting Your Voting Rights

A quick analysis of the ad account shows that the ad is getting close to a 5% click-through rate (CTR), that is, the percentage of clicks our ad gets every time it appears in search results. AdGrant advertising can help drive more traffic to our LWVCO website and bring about more engagement from people searching for an organization like the League. Google for Nonprofits provides up to \$10,000 a month in "free" in-kind advertising benefits to promote LWVCO and its mission. The grant does not expire as long as we actively manage our account and adhere to the grant's basic requirements.

NEXT STEPS IN PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION OF TWO ARMS OF LWVCO

By Toni Larson, LWVCO 1st VP, Program

As previously reported, the League of Women Voters of Colorado appointed a taskforce to explore the topic of consolidating the 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) arms of the Colorado League. The taskforce's work is complete up to the point of bringing several points for decisions by the delegates to the state League Convention in May 2017. This article will bring up to date and open discussion within your Leagues, which should determine how your delegates vote on this issue at Convention.

The state board has voted to propose to the membership consolidation of the two entities and continuation of only the 501(c)(3) organization. The 501(c)(4) would be disbanded. Thus, the board recommends approval of all necessary steps to accomplish these actions. Two additional documents, *Talking Points* and *Frequently Asked Questions*, that present and explain reasons for the consolidation, will be emailed to local League presidents and state contacts with the Convention Packet in March.

After consolidation of the League of Women Voters of Colorado (c)(4) with the League of Women Voters of Colorado Education Fund (c)(3), the (c)(3) entity will become the one remaining organization and will be the membership organization called the League of Women Voters of Colorado. The nomenclature "Education Fund" will be dropped and all the functions under this rubric will continue under the combined organization. All activities of the League henceforth will be within the (c)(3) organization will no longer exist.

Steps taken to date:

- The 501 Taskforce has, in draft form, restated and amended the 501(c)(3) <u>Articles of Incorporation</u> to change the name from League of Women Voter of Colorado Education Fund to League of Women Voter of Colorado and to strengthen 501(c)(3) provisions.
- 2. The 501 Taskforce has, also in draft form, restated and amended the 501(c)(3) <u>Bylaws</u> to (a) change the name, (b) strengthen the 501(c)(3) provisions and make necessary additions, and (c) make it a membership organization.
- 3. The board of the (c)(4) organization recommends to our membership disbanding this organization and placing all its functions in the 501(c)(3) organization.
- 4. The board of the (c)(3) organization recommends to our membership accepting the functions of the (c)(4) organization.

To complete this proposed consolidation, here are the steps needed by the delegates to the LWVCO Convention in May 2017:

Approve consolidation Approve disbanding the 501(c)(4) organization Approve naming the remaining organization League of Women Voters of Colorado Approve the 501(c)(3) organization's restated Articles Approve the 501(c)(3) organization's restated Bylaws Approve the 501(c)(3) Budget Elect Board of Directors and Officers (to serve one and two year terms)

After the vote to disband the (c)(4) organization, the rest of the steps are necessary to establish a functioning (c)(3) organization. The consolidation would take place July 1, 2017.

In other words, first, the delegates need to vote for consolidation, then to disband the (c)(4) organization, approve naming the (c)(3) organization League of Women Voters of Colorado, approve the Articles and Bylaws for the (c)(3) organization, approve the proposed (c)(3) budget and elect directors and officers for the (c)(3).

This is a major change for the League of Women Voters of Colorado, but we are not the only League in the country doing this. Four state Leagues have made the change along with many local Leagues. Others are considering it. If you have questions at this point, don't hesitate to email or call either Toni Larson at toni.larson@gmail.com or 720-387-8487 or Marilyn Brown marilbrown@aol.com or 970-946-6523.

Save the date! 2017 Leader of Democracy Award Event Monday, June 12, 2017 5:30 - 7:30 pm More details on LWVCO's website!

2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PRIORITIES

By Linda Rinehart, Chair-elect, Legislative Action Committee If national politics have got you down, there's plenty going on in our Colorado Legislature to be revved up about. Here's a glimpse of several issues quickly taking shape early in the session:

--Debate over the scale and shape of *health care*. Anticipating federal repeal of the Affordable Care Act, Colorado Senate Republicans have introduced SB17-003, "Repeal Colorado Health Benefit Exchange," This bill repeals the act, effective January 1, 2018, and allows the exchange to continue for one year for the purpose of winding up its affairs. The bill also requires the board to transfer any unencumbered money that remains in the exchange to the state treasurer, who shall transfer the money to the general fund. This bill will likely pass in the Senate and be killed in the House.

--How to fund *infrastructure and road repair*. While there are no specific bills or proposals yet, there is little disagreement that our state's infrastructure badly needs a facelift. CDOT estimates \$9 billion in transportation needs over the next ten years. Various transportation improvements and increased transportation options are needed. Needs of urban and rural areas of the state, as well as the needs of disabled and elderly populations must be met (Colorado is reported to have the second fastest growing population of senior citizens). Expect to see a revival of the debate over whether to convert the hospital provider fee under TABOR to an enterprise fund outside of TABOR, or legislators could refer a sales tax increase measure to voters, possibly with specific language as to how increased revenues may be spent, and a sunset provision.

--How to *revitalize the building of condominiums*. The affordable housing market throughout CO was hit hard by the downturn in the housing market as well as "condo" defects laws. An onslaught of building "luxury apartments" and a

lesser number of single-family homes have led to an almost nonexistent supply of affordable housing. House Speaker Duran and Senate President Kevin Grantham are trying a new strategy to bring condo construction back to CO: ease insurance premiums for developers aspiring to build multifamily, owner-occupied projects in the state. The League may not have much impact on this bill as it is technical and only indirectly affects affordable housing, our focus. (SB17-045).

--How to *elect the president and vice-president of the United States by popular vote*. SB17-099, the National Popular Vote (NPV) Agreement, sponsored by Sen. Kerr (D) and Rep. Rosenthal (D), has its first hearing in the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee. While League is strongly supporting NPV, this bill will likely get killed in the Senate, if it makes it past its first hearing on February 15. Other voting and voting-rights bills are being followed. LWVCO President-elect Nancy Crow has incorporated support for NPV into our Making Democracy Work goal.

--How best to take *care of persons with mental illness and/or substance use disorder*. A two-year pilot program in Pueblo and Routt counties aims to fight and reduce the epidemic of opioid addiction with a Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program. Another bill intends to provide housing assistance to mentally ill persons released from the justice system. There is also another bill that seeks to assure medication consistency for those who are mentally ill and are in the Colorado Criminal Justice system by adopting a medication formulary, creating a collaborative purchasing system and improving the technology of medical records and governmental reporting requirements.

Beyond the current session, some are looking at reapportionment and redistricting of Congressional and Legislative boundaries. It's not too early at all to be thinking about this. Don't like how things have been going? Well, in a couple more years, your voice and your vote are going to matter even more.

It's Not Too Late to Subscribe to the Legislative Letter

Stay up to date during the 2017 Colorado legislative session—still only **\$20**. The biweekly letter is created by the Legislative Action Committee and our staff lobbyist, who follow proposed legislation and analyze pending bills based on League positions.

Name_

Mail to

Two payment options (\$20 annual subscription):

- Check made out to LWVCO
- Credit card at <u>lwvcolorado.org/legislative-action.html</u> (no PayPal account necessary)

1410 GRANT ST STE B204, DENVER CO 80203 · Fax 303.837.9917 · info@lwvcolorado.org

LWVCO BOARD EXPANDS GOAL II, 'MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN COLORADO'

By Nancy Crow, LWVCO President-elect

The LWVCO Board added four objectives to Goal II in the continuing cooperative effort between the LWV Colorado and local Leagues to implement the LWVUS campaign to "Make Democracy Work." Two objectives under Section A and two new sections, D and E, were added:

A. Promoting Voter Service (local Leagues)

- 1. Voter Mobilization.
- Register those re-entering from institutions such as the penal system and/or the behavioral health system.
- 2. Voter Protection (local Leagues).
- Contact local election officials for information on any voting irregularities.

D. Advocate and Educate (LWV Colorado and local Leagues)

• Colorado joins the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

E. Advocate for Redistricting (LWV Colorado)

• Advocate for a redistricting proposal being put forth that would create a redistricting commission to draw district lines for Congressional seats similar to the commission in Colorado that draws district lines for members of the state Legislature.

Local League Presidents/State Contacts and Program chairs have been advised of these additions. The LWV Colorado Board has also provided local leaders with some specific activities/actions to meet each of these objectives.

SAVE THE DATE! Leadership Retreat July 21-22, 2017 Frisco, Colorado Winning Strategies to Knock It Out of the Park

Leadership Retreat provides local League leaders with information, resources and tools to facilitate effective leadership and long-term visibility of their local League.

LWVCO PROJECT FUND AND EZ GRANTS

By Liz Nick, Chair, Grants Committee

Now is the time to think of applying for a *Project Fund Grant* (maximum \$1500) awarded in August or an *EZ Grant* awarded in July. Submission dates are in the calendar on the last page of this Voter and application forms are in the LWVCO dropbox.

Specific *EZ grant* choices are (1) purchase of Great Decisions materials (\$300 maximum), (2) voter education activities, i.e. advertising Vote411 or other types (\$500 maximum), and (3) outreach and marketing to support local League events (\$300 maximum).

Both grants are made possible by the Eva Fifkova Bequest and funded by the interest earned, not the Education Fund. Questions regarding these grants may be sent to Liz Nick, committee chairwoman, <u>anthro@privatei.com</u>, or the LWVCO office.

VOTER REGISTRATION AT NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

By Gerry Cummins, LWVCO 4th VP, Voter Service

Last fall, Barbara Mattison, LWVCO President, asked the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) if League could join the list of organizations approved to register new citizens at the U.S. naturalization ceremonies. This request was one of the goals developed by LWVCO Board as part of their participation in LWVUS's Make Democracy Work campaign.

Following several months of discussion, LWVCO was notified in January that approval was given and would subsequently receive notification stating the dates and times we could participate. We were immediately notified that we could register new citizens at three naturalization ceremonies in February. Many of the naturalization ceremonies are held in the USCIS Field Office in Arapahoe County and the Arapahoe/Douglas League will be the first League to participate.

While this is a LWVCO project, it is open to all League members in Colorado. Requests for further participation will be sent to the LWVCO Executive Director, who will handle the request in coordination with the appropriate League(s). It is the intent that all League members have a chance to participate in this project; however, the location of the naturalization ceremonies is determined by USCIS. For these initial ceremonies, we have been told to anticipate that 25-75 people will be naturalized. As other organizations also register voters, a rotation exists among the organizations that have been approved for this project. Notification of the schedule for the ceremonies is announced by USCIS the last week of the month prior to naturalization ceremonies being held.

[Ed. Note: Naturalization ceremonies beyond the Front Range are arranged by the Federal Courts. Depending on our success on the Front Range, LWVCO will work for expansion of volunteer efforts into Western Slope venues.]



The Scottish Rite Masonic Center, only a block from the Capitol, provided a comfortable venue for our record attendance at Legislative Conference 2017

RECORD TURNOUT AT 2017 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

By Linda Rinehart, Chair-elect, LAC

A record turnout of 142 League members from across the state, plus six very interesting, engaging, and energetic guest speakers, helped make this year's Legislative Conference one of the most successful ever!

--Andrew Romanoff, President of Mental Health Colorado (MHC), spoke on the mental health challenges facing the state of Colorado and legislative priorities for MHC this legislative session

--Jen Boulton, Legislative Liaison for the Audubon Society of Greater Denver, addressed sustainability issues locally, statewide, and nationally

--Lt. Gov. Donna Lynne, described her dual roles as Lieutenant Governor and Chief Operating Officer for Colorado, with the latter focusing on maximizing effectiveness and efficiency of state government and bolstering collaboration and innovation among and across state agencies

--Ellen Golombek, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment, shared the vision for CareerWise Colorado, a new apprenticeship program in Colorado which aims to help teens get on a career path and earn a credential (college credit) in one of four initial areas: Business Operations, Advanced Manufacturing, Information Technology and Finance.

--Juston Cooper and Alex Landau of the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC), educated us on voting rights for those reentering society from the Colorado Criminal Justice System. The CCJRC focuses on making sure everyone involved in the voting process, from the county clerks' offices to the vote center workers, as well as the potential voters themselves, understand and respect the rights of folks re-entering society from the criminal justice system.

LWVCO Staff Lobbyist Andrea Wilkins gave an overview of state legislation LWVCO is particularly interested in this session. LWVCO President-elect Nancy Crow provided a snapshot of LWVCO's Goal of "Making Democracy Work." The event, held entirely at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center diagonally across from the Capitol, also raised \$530 for the LWVCO Lobby Fund.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK WITH VOTE411.ORG

Believe it or not, the 2017 election season is here and four local Leagues have already signed up to participate in the online voter guide, VOTE411.org. (Jeffco, Pikes Peak, Boulder and Larimer County). Don't let your League be left out of this opportunity. More than ever Leagues need to provide voters with information about candidates and issues. VOTE411 gives us this opportunity. What better way to Make Democracy Work!

LWVCO has once again stepped up to cover the overall expense for this online voter guide so all local Leagues can participate with a contribution of only \$50 from Ed Fund or general fund dollars. Just let the LWVCO office (info@lwvcolorado.org or 303-863-0437) know which source you prefer. Then contact Karen Connor (kconnor1941@gmail.com or 970-275-1314) to let her know you are planning to use this opportunity and you will be provided with the password to access the site to get started.

GUIDELINES FOR USING THE LEGISLATIVE WEBSITE

[Ed. Note: The state Legislature has a new website. Thanks to Frank Bennett, member of our Legislative Action Committee, for the following hints to help us all navigate it.]

- I. Bookmark either the legislative home page (<u>http://leg.colorado.gov/</u>) or the "Find a bill page" (<u>http://leg.colorado.gov/bills</u>). The old website is gone, but not all the information from it is on the new site vet.
- II. To find a bill (note, you need to specify that you want 2017 in the session box, or you will get bills from this year and last in the results):
 - A. Are you looking for bills in a topic area?
 - 1. Look down the page at the topic areas they have defined. See if one of those matches what you need (or is close).
 - 2. Click on that topic area.
 - 3. If there are no matches, enter your topic in the search area at the top of the page. (This produces some interesting matches, which I don't understand, but it gives a lot of bills in the area.) Unfortunately, I have not found a way to limit the search to 2017 bills, but you can limit the search to bills by selecting that in "Type" after you put in your area above.
 - B. Do you want to know what a particular legislator is sponsoring?
 - 1. Enter his/her name in the search area. (This gets the bills where the legislator is the primary sponsor and also all those where he/she has signed on as a co-sponsor.) You can specify the year here, and that is a big help.
 - C. Do you know the number?
 - 1. Enter that in the search area. (Entering the whole bill number, e.g., SB17-202, HB17-1234, will give you just the bill. Entering just the number, e.g., 202, 1234, gets you the bill and a whole lot of others.
 - D. To review all the bills, just click on All Bills, then run through them to see which ones are relevant to your area.
 - E. If you just want to look at titles of bills, you can go to the main Legislative page (http://leg.colorado.gov/), scroll down the page until you get to the status sheets for the House and Senate. Clicking on them will give you a list of all the bills that have been introduced so far.

III. To find out when your bill is scheduled to be heard:

- A. Find your bill.
- B. Click on the title of the bill.
- C. Move down the page and look at "Upcoming Schedule."
- D. Click on the committee name to see the schedule for the bill to be heard.

IV. To find out what happened to a bill:

- A. Find your bill.
- B. Click on the title of the bill.
- C. Move down the page and look at "Bill History."
- D. To find out how legislators voted in committee:
 - 1. Click on "Committees."
 - 2. Click on the committee hearing you want to know about.
 - 3. Click on "Vote Summary."

V. General Information

A. The status sheets, calendars for both houses, and journals for both houses are at the bottom of the page for the General Assembly (<u>http://leg.colorado.gov/</u>). At this point, it appears that the journal is continuous instead of being broken up into separate days. I don't find this helpful, but if you open the journals in Acrobat Reader, you can search for the day you are looking for by typing the date into the "Find" area. If that doesn't come up for you, click on the magnifying glass.

Feel free to email me at <u>FrankBennett65@gmail.com</u> or call me at 303-757-2930,

if you have questions or if you have found things that I have not.



Thinking of donating your car to LWVCO? Barb and Roger Mattison just did this and it was SO EASY! The form was simple. The people were extremely polite and prompt. Call or email Cinnie Auer (303-756-2943 or cauer56662@aol.com) for more information.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND EFFORTS TO ABOLISH IT

By Nancy Crow, LWVCO President-elect Why the Framers Set Up the Electoral College

"It was desirable that the sense of the people should operate in the choice of [the President]. This end will be answered by committing the right of making [the choice] not to any pre-established body, but to men chosen by the people for the special purpose, and at the particular conjuncture.

It was equally desirable that the immediate election should be made by men most capable of analyzing the qualities adapted to the station and acting under circumstances favorable to deliberation, and to a judicious combination of all the reasons and inducements which were proper to govern their choice. A small number of persons, selected by their fellow citizens from the general mass, will be most likely to possess the information and discernment requisite to so complicated an investigation."

Alexander Hamilton, The Federalist, No. 68

What the US Constitution Says

The Constitution authorizes each state to appoint a number of electors equal to the number of representatives plus senators that the state has in Congress. To this total of 435 plus 100, the Twenty-Third Amendment added three for the District of Columbia-the same number of electors as the least populous state - bringing the total of the college to 538 members. The Constitution is silent on how a state is to choose its electors. In the early years, legislatures adopted several methods: appointment by legislature, election by the people on the statewide basis, or a combination of these methods. But by 1836, almost every state was using a popular vote system.

The League's Position

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) is an agreement among a group of U.S. states and the District of Columbia to award all their respective electoral votes to whichever presidential candidate wins the overall popular vote in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill has been enacted by 11 jurisdictions possessing 165 electoral votes—61% of the 270 electoral votes necessary to activate it, including four small jurisdictions (RI, VT, HI, DC), three medium- size states (MD, MA, WA), and four big states (NJ, IL, NY, CA). The bill has passed a total of 33 legislative chambers in 22 states—most recently by a bipartisan 40–16 vote in the Arizona House, a 28–18 vote in the Oklahoma Senate, a 57–4 vote in New York Senate, and a 37–21 vote in Oregon House.

In 2006, Colorado's Senate was the first state legislative house in the nation to pass National Popular Vote's legislation for nationwide election of the President (SB 06-223). Among the Senators voting for the bill on its third reading on April 17, 2006, were Senators Ken Gordon (D), John Evans (R), and Lew Entz (R). On January 24, 2007, the Colorado State Senate approved the National Popular Vote bill (SB-07-046). On March 17, 2009, the Colorado House of Representatives passed the National Popular Vote bill (<u>HB 1299</u>). Colorado Representative Andrew Kerr was a sponsor. It has never passed both chambers of the Colorado Assembly in the same legislative session; therefore, Colorado has not joined the compact to date.

Four times since the Civil War, and most recently in 2016, the Electoral College system has awarded the presidency to the loser of the popular vote 1876, 1888, 2000, and 2016.

Check http://lwvcolorado.org/lwv/government/ for additional information

* * *

If you have something you'd like to see on the LWVCO website or on our Facebook page, please contact our Communications Director, Lisa Forbes, at <u>communication@lwvcolorado.org</u> or 720-282-9449

Colorado Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO 1410 GRANT ST STE B204 DENVER CO 80203-1855

Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, promotes informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Interested in the League of Women Voters?

Please join us!

All persons 16 years of age and older are invited to join as voting members. Those under 16 are welcome to join as associate members.

Find a local League in your county or area by checking the LWVCO website at <u>http://lwvcolorado.org/lwv/local-leagues/</u> or contacting the LWVCO office.

If there is no local League in your county, we invite you to join LWVCO as a member-atlarge (MAL). Annual dues are \$50. Please make your check payable to LWVCO or join online.

Name

Address

City_____State___Zip____

_ State_

Email_____

Phone _

Mail the above form, with check, to: LWVCO, 1410 Grant Street B204, Denver, Colorado 80203-1855 or pay online at http://lwvcolorado.org/lwv/join/

Calendar

Feb	20	Presidents' Day*
March	9	Board Meeting,
		LWVCO office
April	14	Good Friday*
	30	EZ Grant application
		period starts
May	1	Project Fund grant
		appl. period starts
	10	CO General
		Assembly adjourns
	19	Board Meeting, noon,
		Hilton Fort Collins
	20-21	LWVCO
		Convention, Hilton
		Fort Collins
	23	Voter deadline
	29	Memorial Day*
	30	EZ Grant application
_		period ends
June	12	Leader of Democracy
	~~ ~ ~ ~	Event, 5:30 pm
	22-25	LWVUS Council
	30	Project Fund grant
	21.22	appl. period ends
July	21-22	Leadership Retreat,
		Frisco
		*Office closed