

ACTION ALERTS 2019 Session

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

Action Request

The National Popular Vote (NPV) legislation passed by the Colorado General Assembly and signed by the governor is under attack. Petitions repealing the legislation that passed in the 2019 session of the state legislature are being circulated. The latest information is that the opposition has gathered 100,000 signatures. The required number of valid signatures is about 124,000; they have until August to gather a target goal of 200,000 to insure they have enough valid signatures.

It is critical that League members and friends publicize in one form or another the importance of retaining the National Popular Vote legislation passed this last session of the state legislature. We are in danger of losing a hard-won piece of important legislation. Between now and August the emphasis should be on encouraging people not to sign the petition. Should the repeal get on the ballot, the League will then join a campaign to fight the ballot initiative.

It is a lot easier and, particularly, less expensive to defeat a petition drive than to run a campaign, so please do what you can over the next month and a half to defeat the petition drive and educate your friends about these three reasons to retain the National Popular Vote legislation to achieve a popular vote for president:

1. The person with the most votes should win
2. Every vote should be equal – instead of the current system whereby voters in swing states, aka battleground states, have far more influence in an election than voters in any other state.
3. Voter turnout in non-swing states is far lower than that in swing states.

Here is a link to a [National Popular Vote Toolkit](#) with information that was distributed at the pre-convention workshop at the end of May. It contains background information and a presentation for use in giving educational forums, writing letters to the editor, providing flyers, etc. Please contact Toni Larson (303-249-2064) or Linda Sorauf (408-710-6164) if you have any questions.

Think Before You Ink!

Selection of the President LWV Position

Statement of Position on Selection of the President, as announced by the National Board, January 1970, revised March 1982, updated June 2004 and revised by the 2010 Convention: 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 League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system—from

the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with enough information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.
(Impact on Issues, 2018-2020)

Clean Campaign Act of 2019

SUPPORT HR19-1318

Sponsors: [Rep. M. Weissman](#) | [Sen. J. Bridges](#) | [Sen. M. Foote](#)

Legislation was introduced in the Colorado Legislature that will shine light on secret political spending in Colorado elections and help our state hold those that break campaign finance laws accountable. Reforming money in politics will help detect and deter corruption, stop foreign financial influence, and increase transparency.

During the 2018 election cycle in Colorado, more than \$82 million was donated to Independent Expenditure Committees (IECs), Colorado's version of SuperPACs. These committees can raise and spend unlimited sums of money for, or against, political candidates.

- Over 75% came in donations of \$100,000 or more
- Over 80% came from sources that are hard to trace, or corporations

Current Colorado law on IECs does not require disclosure of the original source of high-dollar contributions and instead encourages political committees to move hard-to-trace money between various shell companies to hide the original source of a contribution, even if it comes from a foreign national or foreign corporation.

- Banning Foreign Money in Colorado's Elections
- Stopping Dark Money
 - Shining Light on Secret Political Spending
 - Exposing Corporate Political Spending
 - Requiring "Paid For By" Disclaimers
- Limiting Coordination
 - Limiting Pre-Candidate Coordination
 - Prohibiting Organizations from Coordinating with Candidates on Communications
- Re-authorizing Small-Scale Issue Committees
- Enforcing Campaign Finance Laws

[MORE INFORMATION AND BILL TEXT IS HERE.](#)

Please contact members of the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee and urge them to pass HR19-1318 ahead of TOMORROW'S MEETING at 1:30pm.

[Rep. Chris Kennedy](#), Chair (303-866-2951)
[Rep. Sonya Jaquez Lewis](#), Vice Chair (303-866-2920)
[Rep. Monica Duran](#) (303-866-5522)
[Rep. Stephen Humphrey](#) (303-866-2943)
[Rep. Susan Lontine](#) (303-866-2966)
[Rep. Jovan Melton](#) (303-866-2919)
[Rep. Janice Rich](#) (303-866-3068)
[Rep. Emily Sirota](#) (303-866-2910)
[Rep. Dave Williams](#) (303-866-5525)

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK ACT

SUPPORT [SB19-085](#)

Sponsors: Sens. Danielson & Pettersen; Reps. Buckner & Gonzales-Gutierrez

SB19-085 creates the “Equal Pay for Equal Work Act”, a Colorado solution to address pay and gender equity with two key elements:

- Common-sense prevention and transparency measures such as posting salary ranges for jobs and notifying current employees of promotional opportunities
- The ability for women to challenge pay disparities that exist with male colleagues

ACTION PLEASE!

1. Contact your elected officials in the [House](#) and [Senate](#) today and show your support.
2. Join us for **Equal Pay Day** at the State Capitol on **Tuesday, April 2!** Wear **RED** if possible.

Equal Pay Day, April 2, represents the day on which women have finally “caught up” with men’s earnings from the prior calendar year. That means four additional months of work!

Event Schedule

8:15 am – Registration in Senate Committee Room 351
8:45 am – Overview of Legislative Process and Grassroots Lobbying
8:55 am – Overview of Bill and Key Talking Points
9:05 am – Head to Senate and House Floor
9:15-10:30 am – Lobbying on SB 85: Equal Pay for Equal Work Act
10:45 am – Reconvene and Debrief in Senate Committee Room 351
11:05 am – Gather on West Steps of Capitol (Rainy day location: Room 271)
11:30 am – Press Conference & Rally with Sponsors and Supporters

NOTE: INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE MEMBERS CAN’T SPEAK FOR THE WHOLE LEAGUE, BUT YOU CAN REFER LEGISLATORS TO THE LWVCO POSITION ON A BILL FOUND IN THE [LEGISLATIVE LETTER](#).

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE AGREEMENT

SUPPORT [SB19-042](#)

Sponsors: **Sen. Foote; Reps. Sirota & Arndt**

This bill enters Colorado into the National Popular Vote Agreement to elect the president by popular vote. States that enact the National Popular Vote Agreement will award all their electors to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in the fifty states and the District of Columbia.

[SB19-042](#)– National Popular Vote has passed out of the Senate Committee of State, Veterans, and Military Affairs. The next step will be a floor vote by the Senate on MONDAY, JAN. 28th.

**Please contact the following Senators THIS WEEKEND and voice why this issue is important to you.
Urge them to vote YES on SB19-042.**

Sen. Robert Rodriguez (Denver) – 303-866-4852 robert.rodriguez.senate@state.co.us

Sen. Rachel Zenzinger (Jefferson) – 303-866-4840 senatorrachelz@gmail.com

Sen. Kerry Donovan (Chaffee, Delta, Eagle, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Lake, Pitkin) – 303-866-4871 kerry.donovan.senate@state.co.us

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE AGREEMENT BACKGROUND

- The League of Women Voters has long held the position that the direct popular-vote method for electing the president is essential to a representative government.
- The National Popular Vote Compact, or National Popular Vote Agreement, is a method to achieve the direct election of the President of the United States without the passage of a Constitutional amendment.
- Under the U.S. Constitution, states have exclusive power to allocate their electoral votes and may change their state laws concerning the awarding of their electoral votes at any time.
- Today, all states except for Maine (ME) and Nebraska (NE) award their electors by a winner-take-all system in which all of a given state's electors are awarded to the winner of that state's popular vote. With the National Popular Vote Compact, every vote for president will count equally.
- This agreement will take effect only when enacted, in identical form, by enough states to have a majority of the electoral votes (270 are needed for a majority).
- In this way, the person with the most votes is guaranteed to have the electoral votes needed to win the presidency.
- To date, the National Popular Vote Agreement has been adopted by 11 states and the District of Columbia, amounting to 172 electoral votes of the 270 electoral votes needed to activate the agreement. Colorado has 9 electoral votes to help this effort.

NOTE: INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE MEMBERS CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE WHOLE LEAGUE, BUT YOU CAN REFER LEGISLATORS TO THE LWVCO POSITION ON A BILL FOUND IN THE [LEGISLATIVE LETTER](#).

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE AGREEMENT

SUPPORT [SB19-042](#)

Sponsors: **Sen. Foote; Reps. Sirota & Arndt**

This bill enters Colorado into the National Popular Vote Agreement to elect the president by popular vote. States that enact the National Popular Vote Agreement will award all their electors to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in the fifty states and the District of Columbia.

The [Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs committee](#) will hear the bill on **Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 1:30 pm** in Room SCR 357 in the Capitol.

Please contact members of the committee and voice why this issue is important to you. Urge them to vote YES on [SB19-042](#)

Senator Mike Foote 303-866-5291 mike.foote.senate@state.co.us

Senator Rhonda Fields 303-866-4879 rhonda.fields.senate@state.co.us

Senator Lois Court 303-866-4861 lois.court.senate@state.co.us

Senator Vicki Marble 303-866-4876 vicki.marble.senate@state.co.us

Senator Jerry Sonnenberg 303-866-6360 senatorsonnenberg@gmail.com

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE AGREEMENT BACKGROUND

- - The League of Women Voters has long held the position that the direct popular-vote method for electing the president is essential to a representative government.
- - The National Popular Vote Compact, or National Popular Vote Agreement, is a method to achieve the direct election of the President of the United States without the passage of a Constitutional amendment.
- - Under the U.S. Constitution, states have exclusive power to allocate their electoral votes and may change their state laws concerning the awarding of their electoral votes at any time.

-
- Today, all states except for Maine (ME) and Nebraska (NE) award their electors by a winner-take-all system in which all of a given state's electors are awarded to the winner of that state's popular vote. With the National Popular Vote Compact, every vote for president will count equally.
-
- This agreement will take effect only when enacted, in identical form, by enough states to have a majority of the electoral votes (270 are needed for a majority).
-
- In this way, the person with the most votes is guaranteed to have the electoral votes needed to win the presidency.
-
- To date, the National Popular Vote Agreement has been adopted by 11 states and the District of Columbia, amounting to 172 electoral votes of the 270 electoral votes needed to activate the agreement. Colorado has 9 electoral votes to help this effort.

NOTE: INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE MEMBERS CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE WHOLE LEAGUE, BUT YOU CAN REFER LEGISLATORS TO THE LWVCO POSITION ON A BILL FOUND IN THE [LEGISLATIVE LETTER](#).

ACTION ALERTS 2018 Session

SUPPORT [HB 1232](#)

Please contact members of the [House Education Committee](#) to urge support for HB 1232 New School Funding Distribution Formula (Rep. Young; Sens. Coram and Kerr). (LL#3, p. 1) A vote on the bill will be taken in the committee this Wednesday, April 18, upon adjournment.

LWVCO supports HB 1232 because:

-
- The concept supports the League's basic position on funding for public schools—adequate and equitable.
-
- The bill has been created by almost all of our 178 school superintendents reflecting real needs throughout the state and a broad coalition of support and collaboration—rural and urban.
-
- The distribution formula more closely meets the needs of students—particularly those with special needs, including English Language Learners, at-risk, and the gifted.

- - All districts will see an increase in funding, albeit in differing degrees due to student needs. See [Appendix A](#)
- The enactment of the bill is tied to the successful passage of Initiative 93 (greatschoolsthivingcommunities.org), which asks of those in our state who have benefited the most from our thriving economy additional support for our schools. Colorado remains \$2600 below the national average for per pupil school funding.

Please contact your Representatives and voice why this issue is important to you. Urge them to vote YES on HB 1232.

NOTE: INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE MEMBERS CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE WHOLE LEAGUE, BUT YOU CAN REFER LEGISLATORS TO THE LWVCO POSITION ON A BILL FOUND IN THE [LEGISLATIVE LETTER](#).

Find Legislators' name and contact information [here](#).

LWVCO President's Letter to Gov. Hickenlooper

Requesting that Colorado **JOIN** the Paris Accord Climate Coalition

June 16, 2017

Dear Governor Hickenlooper,

The League of Women Voters of Colorado applauds your statement of June 1, 2017 – “It is a serious mistake to back out of the Paris Accord. This is a historic global agreement between almost every nation on earth to address the single most pressing issue facing humanity.” This aligns completely with a statement issued by Chris Carson, President of the LWV US – “Withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement is a giant step in the wrong direction for the health of the planet and all living beings. President Trump’s decision today will undermine global cooperation and have a harmful impact on U.S. relations with our most trusted world allies.”

The League asks that you take a step further by joining a coalition of states led by California, Washington and New York working to reduce carbon emissions. History informs that reform in the US has often risen from state and local activism. A coalition of states representing a significant share of the country’s population and economic activity can and should take the role the federal government has abandoned and seek official status with the countries of the world that have signed the Paris agreement.

As a strong supporter of the Paris Climate Agreement, you have the opportunity to make Colorado a national leader in addressing the “the single most pressing issue facing humanity.”

Sincerely, Nancy Crow, President, League of Women Voters of Colorado

ACTION ALERTS 2017 Session

Require Candidates to Disclose Income Tax Returns

SUPPORT [HB2017 1328](#)

Sponsors: Reps. Hooton & Hansen; Sens. Kerr & Jones

This bill, which passed in the state House on April 21, requires candidates for president and vice president of the United States to file with the Colorado Secretary of State the candidates' federal income tax return forms for the last 5 completed tax years. Neither the name of any candidate who fails to comply with the filing requirement nor the name of that candidate's running mate shall be printed on the official ballot.

Four decades of presidential candidates from both major parties have voluntarily released their federal tax returns. The exception has been with the 2016 presidential election and Donald Trump's decision to break with that tradition. A specter of doubt is raising deep concerns about potential conflicts of interest and how possible tax reform measures might beneficially affect Mr. Trump personally. As a result, legislators from 27 states, including Colorado, have introduced this legislation to require the provision of federal tax returns. There have also been bills proposed at the federal level.

Candidates for the highest office should disclose their personal finances to reassure voters that...

- The taxes they pay on their income and assets will not drive federal tax policy.
- Their domestic business interests will not unduly favor certain industries.
- Their foreign business interests will not take precedent over national security decisions.
- Their charitable contributions reflect their capacity to make them and their values.

Cabinet and sub-cabinet level nominees do not get a hearing by the Senate until their tax returns are disclosed and conflicts corrected. Why should they be held to a higher standard than the President? Also, a recent poll by the Global Strategy Group shows that 80% of Americans, including 64% of Republicans, support presidential candidates' federal tax returns being made public.

HB 1328 was introduced in the Senate on April 21 and has been assigned to the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee. It must pass this committee to have a full debate on the Senate floor. Given the Republican control of the Senate, HB 1328 must be bipartisan to become law.

The League believes in full disclosure with regard to money in politics as well as efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates. **Transparency and disclosure are nonpartisan issues.**

Please contact the Senators below who serve on the State, Veterans and Military Affairs committee and voice why this issue is important to you.

Urge them to vote YES on HB 1328.

NOTE: INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE MEMBERS CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE WHOLE LEAGUE, BUT YOU CAN REFER LEGISLATORS TO THE LWVCO POSITION ON A BILL FOUND IN THE [LEGISLATIVE LETTER](#).

Additional Funding Charter School Operating Costs

OPPOSE [SB 61](#)

Sponsors: Sens. Hill and Williams A.; Rep. Sias

SB 61 would mandate that charter schools get an equal per-pupil share when voters approve a mill levy override in their school district. Supporters say that would be more equitable, but **traditional schools are not currently on an equal footing with charters**. Charter schools are automatically allowed [17 waivers](#) from state rules that allow for cost cutting measures, with the option for more.

Some Colorado school districts already share their override funding with charters, typically larger districts that have more flexibility within their budgets. School boards in smaller districts may have made other decisions about use of their **locally raised revenue**.

District school boards are held **accountable** to the public that funds them. Charter school boards are not elected, and there is little transparency of funds they raise through gifts, grants and donations, which they are not required to share with other schools.

SB 61 has passed the Senate and will be heard in the House Education Committee on March 27 at 1:30.

Contact members of the [House Education Committee](#) and your own state Representative. Ask them to VOTE NO on SB 61.

Find your state Representative's name and contact info [here](#).

NOTE: INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE MEMBERS CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE WHOLE LEAGUE, BUT YOU CAN REFER LEGISLATORS TO THE LWVCO POSITION ON A BILL FOUND IN THE [LEGISLATIVE LETTER](#).

Action based on LWVCO School Finance position: Support for local school district control over the use of funds and the raising of revenue over the state determined level; **and the LWVCO Education Position:** support for equity for students, taxpayers and school districts.

Concerning a Change to the Growth Factor in the Excess State Revenues Cap

SUPPORT [HB2017-1187](#)

Sponsors: Reps. Thurlow, Covarrubias & Landgraf; Sen. Crowder

Are you opposed to restricting our lawmakers' ability to make budgeting decisions that provide adequate funding for the state's most pressing needs? TABOR is a Constitutional amendment that restricts taxes and spending in Colorado. HB 1187 would provide more budgeting flexibility.

HB 1187 proposes modifications to Referendum C, which was a 2005 voter-approved revenue change to the TABOR fiscal year spending limit. The modifications would allow for an annual adjustment for an increase based on the average annual change in Colorado personal income over the last 5 years, as opposed to the current adjustment based on inflation and population increases.

Many suggest personal income is a better measure of state revenue. In addition, the adjustment has the potential to increase the amount the state retains and can spend on essential state programs and services such as transportation infrastructure, education, and healthcare.

HB 1187 passed third reading in the House on March 9 and now heads to the Senate.

Action based on LWVCO position on Fiscal Policy: We oppose constitutional amendments that restrict taxes and spending. These measures undermine the philosophy of representative government and impose severe restrictions that prevent an equitable and flexible system of taxation. They reduce the ability of elected officials to provide adequate funding for state and local government, schools, highways, and public welfare programs.

National Popular Vote Agreement

SUPPORT [SB2017-99](#)

Sponsors: Senator Kerr; Representative Rosenthal

Do you think it's undemocratic that a candidate can lose the presidency, even though a majority of the voters in the US vote for him or her? The National Popular Vote (NPV) Agreement is a way to work around the Electoral College.

If Colorado joins NPV, it will join 10 states and the District of Columbia. Each state that passes it agrees that all of its electoral votes will go to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. The Agreement will take effect only when enacted by states possessing a majority (270) of the 538 total electoral votes.

NPV has passed one house of the Colorado General Assembly on 3 different occasions, but never went all the way. **Let's make it happen this year!**

SB 99 will be heard in the Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs (SVM) committee on Feb. 15 at 1:30 pm.

League has supported direct election of the president by popular vote since 1970.

Action based on LWVUS position on Selection of the President:

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.

Rescind Executive Order Regarding Immigration

SUPPORT [House Joint Resolution 1013](#)

Sponsors: Representatives Hansen and Jenet; Senators Merrifield and Fields

The Colorado House of Representatives has passed a resolution that will now go to the Senate. If passed, the following message will be sent to the President and Congressional leaders, calling on them to remove the blanket ban on all refugees or immigrants from particular countries:

We, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, find that:

The United States should continue to thoroughly review refugee, asylum, and immigration applications on an individual basis to ensure that those entering the country do not pose a threat to public safety, but such reviews should be conducted without establishing a blanket ban on all refugees or immigrants from particular countries and religions...

The President of the United States should immediately rescind the January 27th Executive Order; and Absent immediate action by the President of the United States, Congress should act to supersede and render moot the President's January 27th Executive Order...

Some of the reasons laid out in the resolution are:

- Throughout its history, the United States of America has welcomed people seeking refuge from war, famine, terrorism, and other atrocities occurring in other nations on every continent
- Throughout its history, the United States has benefited from the significant contributions of immigrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees who have become scientists, inventors, and entrepreneurs
- President Donald J. Trump signed a sweeping Executive Order on Friday, January 27, 2017...that blocks as many as 218,000,000 people from entering the United States
- Since its signing, the January 27th Executive Order has had a grave impact on individuals, families, and businesses around the globe

Action: [Ask your state Senator to vote YES on HJR1013.](#)

Find your Senator's name and contact info [here](#).

Action based on LWVUS position on Immigration:

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises.