



## Voter Service Report 2020-2021

In the year of COVID with no gathering of groups and a contentious election year, the League of Women Voters had to look for alternative ways to reach the public with our nonpartisan election information. The use of technology was key to our efforts – by virtual platforms (zoom), websites (VOTE411 and lwvcolorado.org) and the use of social media.

### Ballot Issues

There were 11 state-wide ballot issues on the ballot in November 2020. A number of volunteers researched, wrote and published *Ballot Issues 2020*. Our printer printed 42,000 copies in English and 5,000 copies in Spanish. These pamphlets were then distributed throughout Colorado through our network of local Leagues and other contacts. In addition to the printed *Ballot Issues*, resources provided for local Leagues included a prepared speech for Ballot Issue presentations, a PowerPoint to accompany the speech, and videotaped presentations of the ballot issues. All of these resources were available in English and Spanish.

Researchers: Amendment B – Gallagher Amendment Repeal, Sonya Pennock, Arapahoe/Douglas  
Amendment C – Charitable Gaming Activities, Gerry Cummins, LWVCO Voter Service  
Amendment 76 – Citizenship Qualifications of Electors, Fern Black, Arapahoe/Douglas  
Amendment 77 – Approval of Casino Bets & Games, Diane Young, Denver  
Proposition EE – Cigarette, Tobacco & Nicotine Tax, Deb Armbruster, Arap/Douglas  
Proposition 113 – National Popular Vote, Steve Coddington, LWVCO & Denver  
Proposition 114 – Reintroduction of Gray Wolves, Jeanette Hillery, Boulder County  
Proposition 115 – Prohibit Late-Term Abortions, Gaythia Weis, Boulder County  
Proposition 116 – Reduce State Income Tax Rate, Lis Brown, Denver  
Proposition 117 – Voter Approval of Fee-Based Enterprises, Trish Pegram, LaPlata  
Proposition 118 – Paid Family & Medical Leave Insurance Program, Andrea Wilkens, LWVCO Lobbyist

PowerPoint: Bobbie Heisterkamp, Denver

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## **VOTE411 – Cath Perrone**

The League's award-winning online Voter Guide [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org) went live on February 4, 2020 for the Presidential Primary. In Colorado, more than 91,000 voters used VOTE411, and there was a 257% increase in statewide VOTE411 usage between 2017–2019.

For the General Election in November 2020, we were live on October 1st, 2020 with every race and issue that appeared on Colorado ballots posted on [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org). All in, there were 262 races with 537 candidates and 134 referendum posted for the Nov 2020 Election. During 2020, over 107,000 Colorado voters turned to [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org) for their election information.

The General Election revealed misinformation being spread that was causing disenfranchisement among some voters. The League used [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org) as one of the tools to provide voters reliable, up-to-date election information. As wildfires and a pandemic caused epic challenges for our Election Officials, the League supported their efforts posting accurate info on how to register, where to drop-off ballots and more in this easy-to-use 24/7 online resource. The VOTE411.org Team worked to empower voters to make ensure their voices were heard.

In July 2020 Colorado was part of the LWVUS launch of the complete [VOTE411.org/es](https://vote411.org/es) Spanish website – meaning that all our VOTE411 election information was now available to Spanish speaking voters! All Colorado candidates were offered the opportunity to respond in both English and Spanish. All of the Colorado ballot issues and election information was posted in both languages and will be going forward.

## **SQUINT – Rionda Osman**

LWVCO was contacted by MITRE Corporation, under contract with Homeland Security, and LWV Alexandria, VA, asking the League to participate in the SQUINT program. After speaking with the program director at MITRE, the LWVCO Board approved our participation on 9 July. The SQUINT project monitored social media for misinformation and disinformation surrounding the November Election 2020.

Volunteers were recruited through an enrollment form posted online, and by July 31 we had our first slate of volunteers. A second call to sign up was sent out September 7, 2020. We had approximately 50 enrollees.

These volunteers worked with the electoral security team at the Secretary of State's Office. When the SQUINTers report incorrect or misleading election information found on social media, the security specialists at the Colorado Secretary of State's Office received a report. The League supported their efforts to combat misinformation and disinformation.

There is a webpage: [LWVCO SQUINT webpage](https://lwwco.org/squint) and documentation has been posted in the Document Library at [lwwcolorado.org](https://lwwcolorado.org).

## **Your Voice, Your Vote**

Your Voice Your Vote (YVYV), a publication with information on voter registration and election procedures, was updated to include recent changes in law regarding voter registration and the change in the Secretary of State's website for voters from 'govotecolorado.com' to 'GoVoteColorado.gov'. The Approval Voting minority party has been added.

## **Send A Message**

Send a Message, a directory of elected officials, is being updated and ready to print at this writing. It is available to local Leagues and to the public.

**Voter Registration at Naturalization Ceremonies**

Due to COVID restrictions, the League has been unable to provide voter registration at Naturalization Ceremonies for new citizens. That project has been suspended for the time being.

Gerry Cummins

Director, Voter Service

League of Women Voters of Colorado