

Greetings League Members,

At a February 7 meeting, members unanimously approved the adoption of the Election Security Position. Colorado has an official position, and it's now on to National! Meanwhile, the committee is asking for Local League support of the position when completing your LWVUS Program Planning Report Survey. Language you might use can be found here, and the LWVUS survey is here. The surveys are due March 1. Thanks to all who participated in the concurrence discussion, provided input, and then voted unanimously to approve the position. Your support and positive feedback were most appreciated. (Note: the LWVCO Program Planning Survey is also due March 1 and may be accessed here.)

The Legislative Session is in full swing, and the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) is hard at work analyzing bills, testifying, and recording their recommendations. Currently there are 37 House bills and 17 Senate bills posted.

Our LWVCO website has an abundance of information on current legislation, as well as advocacy, that is quickly and easily accessible. Centered in the black banner across the top of the LWVCO homepage you will see **LEGISLATIVE ACTION**. If you click on this drop-down menu, you have the choice of several links, including <u>Legislative Action Report</u>, <u>Where the League Stands</u>, <u>How To Take Action</u>, and <u>Contact Elected Officials</u>.

Legislative Action Report: This link provides access to information on individual bills, an analysis of how the Colorado General Assembly votes so you can track your individual legislators, write-ups on individual bills and their potential impact — both positive and negative — and LAC member testimony. Near the bottom you will find links to categories of bills, i.e., Education, Elections & Voting, Energy, Environment & Climate, Fiscal & Tax Policy, Gun Safety, Healthcare & Behavioral Health, Higher Education, Housing, Justice System, Transportation, and Water. If you have an area of particular interest, these links make it very easy to locate all those bills that have anything to do with that particular area.

The <u>2022 Master Bill Tracker</u> is a spreadsheet. The first column lists each bill by number with a link to the bill sponsors, a summary, lobbyists, and additional information of interest. This column is followed by the Title; Bill Subject; League Position; Status. It's an easy way to keep track of all legislation. In a recent conversation with Toni Larson, the Board Director of Action & Advocacy, she suggested that two categories of bills were of special interest during this session: <u>Education</u> and <u>Gun Safety</u>. If you click on these links, you will find a posting of all the bills in these categories, including who introduced the legislation, a summary, and the current League position. There are five Education bills; the League *Supports* two and *Strongly Opposes* three. Three bills fall under Gun Safety; the League *Opposes* one and *Strongly Opposes* two of these bills.

Where the League Stands: This section is a compendium of League positions on issues, including 2022 LWVCO Positions for Action and 2021 Ballot Issues Positions. There is a link to National Impact of Issues 2020-2022 Program Book along with links to positions by category.

How To Take Action: Want to know how YOU might take action? This link provides four ways. You may already be a League member; how about encouraging a friend or family member to join the League or share information about our Legislative Action Report for those you think might be interested? You might Respond to Action Alerts, Join the Legislative Action Committee or Join a Task Force. Information for engaging in all four ways is shared under the How To Take Action link.

<u>Contact Elected Officials</u>: Make your voice heard! Contact your elected officials. They work for YOU, and it's important for them to know how you feel about current legislation or the kind of job they are doing. The Elected Officials section provides links to all Colorado elected officials, including judges, along with "Tips to increase your impact." It's easy to make your voice heard, and with current technology, it's how you can engage from your home.

From events in our own communities to those occurring on the world stage, it would be easy to despair over the challenges we face. I frequently have conversations with family and friends about the current state of our democracy and our world and sometimes shed tears; perhaps you have as well. Then, I think of this quote from Margaret Mead:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Leaguers are a not-so-small group of committed citizens, and we have already changed the world . . . we will continue to do so!

In League,

Karen Sheek

President. LWVCO