



# The Voter

League of Women Voters of Arapahoe  
And Douglas Counties

October 2015

Membership 112

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Fall is upon us and so are the many voter service activities we are conducting. Volunteers are needed to help register voters, welcome voters at candidate forums, and distribute ballot issue pamphlets. While many believe local elections and the voter service activities we conduct are not important, they are wrong. Everything starts at the local level.

So attend a candidate forum, help register voters, remember to vote and tell your friends and neighbors to vote. If you don't, you may end up with elected officials that don't represent your viewpoint.

### Thursday, October 1, 2015

Unit Meeting: Behavioral Health  
5 p.m. @ Heather Gardens  
Rendezvous Restaurant  
2888 S. Heather Gardens Way  
Aurora

### Thursday, October 8, 2015

Unit Meeting: Behavioral Health  
9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library  
6739 S. Uinta, Centennial

### Friday, October 9, 2015

LWVADC Great Decisions Group  
10 a.m. @ Southglenn Library  
Streets of Southglenn

### Friday, October 9, 2015

Money in Politics Committee Mtg  
2 p.m. @ Castlewood Library  
6739 S. Uinta, Centennial

### Monday, October 12, 2015

Unit Meeting: Behavioral Health  
5:30 p.m. @ Garcia's Mexican  
Restaurant  
5050 S. Syracuse, Centennial

### Friday, October 16, 2015

LWVADC Administrative Meeting  
Time @ place  
address

### Monday, October 19, 2015

LWVADC Program Committee  
Time & Place  
Address

### Monday, October 26, 2015

LWVADC Management Team  
6:30 p.m. @ Castlewood Library  
6739 S. Uinta, Centennial

**LWVADC Candidate forum  
schedule on page 4**

## CANDIDATE FORUMS

**Can't repeat this enough. This year the focus is on local elections - the elections that matter the most to us in our daily lives. As a country we usually ignore the local, municipal and school board elections. And guess what? Candidates who you don't want may be elected.**

**We have sponsored several candidate forums in September and there are more this month. Please review the forums and VOLUNTEER to help at one. This is a service that League is noted for and League members are urged to participate. Also urge your friends and neighbors to attend their local candidate forums. Learn what the candidates stand for and why, then vote. To volunteer call Vicki Harimon, 303-770-8738.**

# OCTOBER PREVIEW

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STUDY AND CONSENSUS

I hope you all reviewed the information sent to you last week regarding the October unit meetings and their topics.

The meetings this month are updates to last year's LWVCO Behavioral Health study. It is designed to provide additional information about services we reviewed last year, and to conduct a member consensus on a series of 9 behavioral health questions. Your participation in this consensus process will help determine whether a new behavioral health statement should be added to the LWVCO Health Care position. Currently the LWVCO's position does not include such a statement.

LWVCO member, Linda Rinehart, noted mental health expert and a member of the LWVCO's Task Force, will present the power point presentation. The member consensus will be conducted by LWVADC League members.

The consensus questions are attached. Please bring them to the unit meetings.

### Unit Meetings

Thursday, October 8, 2015

9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library

6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

(Castlewood Library is located on Arapahoe Rd, across the street from Benedict's, Elephant Bar, and the Macaroni Grill restaurants. The library is easily identified by a large cone attached to its building. Coming east on Arapahoe Rd. it is two blocks west of the I-25 exit. Going west on Arapahoe Rd. it is two blocks east before the I-25 exit. Turn onto S. Uinta St. to enter the library's parking lot.)

Monday, October 12, 2015

5:30 p.m. @ Garcia's Mexican Restaurant

5050 S. Syracuse St., Centennial

(Garcia's is located two blocks from the corner of Belleview Ave and So. Syracuse. Coming east on Belleview turn right on S. Syracuse just before the Belleview exit to I-25. There is a fountain on the corner. Going west turn left on S. Syracuse. It is one block from the Belleview exit to I-25. Look for the corner fountain. The restaurant is two blocks from the corner of Syracuse and Belleview Ave.

*Mental illness is nothing to be ashamed of,  
but stigma and bias shames us all.*

—Bill Clinton

# NOVEMBER PREVIEW

## AMENDING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION & CONSENSUS



There are many groups advocating for amending the current U.S. Constitution. Some want to mandate a balanced federal budget, some want to overturn the Supreme Court's Citizen United decision, still others seek to "rebalance the relative power of the federal government and that of the states." Their reasons are many and the groups supporting or opposing amending the Constitution are as varied as their reasons

But what is the process? And how does Congress and the public decide what should or should not be considered?

This study aims to review these questions. We will learn about the elaborate processes to amend the Constitution, the considerations that should be evaluated before initiating an amendment; ascertain what conditions should or should not be in place for initiating an Article V Constitutional Convention and whether League should consider supporting such amendments.

The consensus will consist of three parts: developing guidelines for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals; reviewing aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention that may be important in conducting such a convention, and balancing questions between the process and League positions.

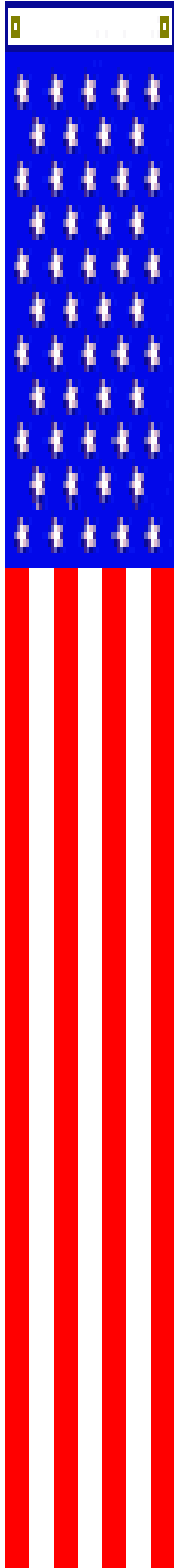
Prospective members are invited to attend and participate in this meeting, but the consensus questions will be answered by League members only.

## ELECTION CENTRAL 2015

As the November 3rd election day approaches League members will be asked about voting and the voting process. For answers check the LWVADC's web site [www.lwvarapahodouglas.org](http://www.lwvarapahodouglas.org) and click on Election Central 2015. You'll find all the Arapahoe and Douglas County municipal, school board and other election information as well as all the candidates and local ballot issues. The site also lists the voting locations, deadlines for voter registration and mail-in-ballot information, and ballot drop off locations. Arapahoe and Douglas County sample ballots are also online. Take a look and tell your friends. And give our web person, Barbara Dungey, enthusiastic applause for compiling all this. She is a wonder.

# VOTER SERVICES

**BALLOT ISSUES, VOTER REGISTRATIONS DRIVES, CANDIDATE FORUMS**



## CANDIDATE FORUMS

### Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Englewood City Council Candidates  
7 p.m.  
Englewood Civic Center Community Room  
1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood

### Saturday, October 10, 2015

Englewood School Board Candidates  
10 a.m.  
The Englewood Campus new high school  
3800 S. Logan St., Englewood

### Monday, October 12, 2015

Littleton City Council Candidates  
6:30 p.m.  
Littleton Bemis Library  
6014 S. Datura St., Littleton

### Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Greenwood Village City Council Candidates  
7 p.m.  
AMG Dome (AMG National Bank & Trust)  
6295 Greenwood Plaza Blvd.  
Greenwood Village, Colorado

**We are pleased to announce that the Littleton candidate forum is a co-sponsorship with the Littleton Independent Newspaper. We are grateful for their participation and community involvement. Way to go Independent.**

**Just learned that at the Greenwood candidate forum we will also working with the Villager Newspaper.**

**Many thanks to all involved.**

## BALLOT ISSUES

Ballot pamphlets re the state-wide ballot issue BB are available to all League members and their friends, and neighbors. They will be available at the LWVADC unit meetings and candidate forums. If you need some let us know, but the supply is limited. PS: League supports BB.

And speaking of ballot issues... in addition to the candidates, the cities and school boards throughout Arapahoe and Douglas Counties have also placed many items on the November ballot. Littleton, for example is asking voters to consider 10 issues. Some may directly affect you and your community so please review them on our Election Central web page at [www.lwvarapahoedouglas.org](http://www.lwvarapahoedouglas.org)

## VOTER REGISTRATION

LWVADC will conduct voter registration at Aurora Community College from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Monday, October 5, Wednesday, October 7 and possibly, Monday, October 12. The college is located at 16000 E. Centretech Parkway, Aurora. To volunteer call Gladys Hodges, 915-525-4982.

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Our September Back to League night (middle & right) drew over 35 members to enjoy wine, appetizers and a talk on the TABOR Amendment by Carol Hedges, Executive Director of the Colorado Fiscal Institute. Check out her powerpoint on our website, [www.lwvarapahoedouglas.org](http://www.lwvarapahoedouglas.org). Could be an item on next year's election ballot. Thanks to Deb Armstrong and Marlu Burkamp for coordinating the event.

The voter registration (left) at Windcrest Community Center was also a success with over 20 registrations and numerous online inquiries. League members Eileen Bond, Lyn and Craig Chambers, Alice Ramsey and Justine Compo assisted voter registration chair, Gladys Hodges.

## LEAGUE DAY REPORT

League members from around the state gathered in Denver Saturday, September 19, for League Day and a program designed to highlight issues around elections and voting. Following a welcome by LWVCO president Barbara Mattison, the group heard from Suzanne Staiert, Deputy to Colorado Secretary of State, Wayne Williams, on an initiative to replace old voting equipment throughout the state, and new equipment currently being tested in a number of counties. She reported Colorado is ahead of many states in the use of technology, citing the statewide electronic poll book, automatic signature verification used by some counties, same day voter registration, the use of mail ballots and the numbers of Voter Service and Polling Centers in each jurisdiction.

Our own Gerry Cummins presented the single initiative, Proposition BB, to be on the statewide ballot on Election Day, November 3. The League supports Proposition BB, a measure to allow the state to retain tax revenue from marijuana sales. A demonstration of voting methods followed including plurality voting, approval voting, range (or score) voting, and instant runoff voter (IRV). Along with detailed explanations of each method, League members learned of the Colorado experience with these various methods, chiefly in non-partisan local elections, and heard from Clay Shentrup of the Center for Election Science on the issues involved. He recommended a book on voting systems by William Poundstone, "*Gaming the Vote*." Various proposed election reforms were then presented, including mandatory voting.

The day ended with an update on the LWVCO Behavioral Health Study, updates on the LWVUS Money in Politics and Constitutional Amendment studies along with an explanation of the process leading to consensus and the materials; and a presentation by LWV Estes Park on political polling and how to understand the results.

Fern Black, LWVADC Management Team

## LWVADC DISCUSSION GROUP

After a summer hiatus the discussion (also known as the Great Decisions) group will meet Friday, October 9 at 10 a.m. at the Southglenn Library in the Streets of Southglenn.

The Agenda includes "Hot Topics" - items of interest from individual members; setting a schedule for the November, December and January meetings and a review of the 2016 Great Decisions topics.

The meetings are free and open to all League members. Information: Monique Hea, [heamph@hotmail.com](mailto:heamph@hotmail.com) and Vicki Harimon, [vickiharimon@aol.com](mailto:vickiharimon@aol.com)

## OIL & GAS UPDATE

In case you haven't seen this the Colorado Supreme Court will hear the case on whether local governments can impose more rigorous rules for oil and gas than the state agency tasked with regulating the industry. At issue is the local government's concerns about the environmental and health effects of fracking and their desire to control such oil and gas development vs the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's (COGCC) contention that case law and regulations only give the state the right to regulate drilling. No court date has been set yet.

## WATER COMMITTEE UPDATE

The committee will tour the Denver Water Recycling Plant at its next meeting, October 22nd. Plans also call for a meeting November 12th to discuss the South Platte Basin Roundtable working group, one of many water groups involved in drafting the Colorado Water Plan due to the governor this December.

Committee members have agreed the focus for a LWVADC update in May will include future development and land use in Arapahoe and Douglas Counties and the need for adequate water supplies.

In a related development an article in the Denver Post reported that Denver Water officials are developing plans to drill super deep boreholes in shale rock to store water for use during future droughts. The project is still in the exploration stage, but if all goes well this project could begin next year.



The Democrat Candidates first primary debate will be October 13 in Las Vegas. The next Republican Candidates debate will be October 28 at CU in Boulder. Both will be televised. League has a multiple page fact sheet on How To Watch a Debate that is full of interesting suggestions on evaluating the candidates and their responses. I can email you one if you wish.

Marlu Burkamp, [marluburkamp@gmail.com](mailto:marluburkamp@gmail.com)

## LWVADC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's that time again ... Time this busy October to renew your membership. October is really League's chance to shine via its many voter service programs and activities. And yes, just like the CPR Pledge drive, it takes financial support to provide these services We do give ballot pamphlets to people and organizations free of charge, but we pay for them from our membership dues and educational fund contributions. The materials you receive at unit meetings are paid for by your membership dues. Ditto for the program position books from state and national as well as the membership booklets and materials. So please continue your support. It means a lot to us.

In September you received a letter and a request to fill out your interest survey. If you've mislaid it, just drop your check in the mail and send it to Jo Feder, LWVADC Membership Chair, 2363 Primo Rd., Unit E, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129. We'll also send you another interest sheet.



**The League of Women Voters  
of Arapahoe and Douglas  
Counties**

5776 S. Crocker Street  
Littleton, Colorado 80120  
303-730-2356

Website: [www.lwvarapahoedouglas.org](http://www.lwvarapahoedouglas.org)

email: [lwvarapahoeinfo@gmail.com](mailto:lwvarapahoeinfo@gmail.com)

Facebook:

**LWVADC MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**Sonya Pennock  
Program**

303-794-0430  
[sonsu@earthlink.net](mailto:sonsu@earthlink.net)

**Alice Ramsey  
Secretary & Key Contact**

303-841-7839  
[alice@ramsisle.com](mailto:alice@ramsisle.com)

**Marilyn Ayers,  
Treasurer**

303-471-8301  
[mk303@comcast.net](mailto:mk303@comcast.net)

**Jo Ann Feder  
Membership**

904-608-3932  
[jolvs10s@gmail.com](mailto:jolvs10s@gmail.com)

**Marlu Burkamp  
PR/Communications**

303-798-2939  
[marluburkamp@gmail.com](mailto:marluburkamp@gmail.com)

**Fern Black, Member At-Large/Legislative**

303-793-0807  
[blackwatch5@hotmail.com](mailto:blackwatch5@hotmail.com)

**Deb Armbruster, Member At-Large/Program**

303-770-5505  
[darmbr@aol.com](mailto:darmbr@aol.com)

**Maggi Markey, Member At-Large/Program**

704-661-9072  
[maggimarkey@mindspring.com](mailto:maggimarkey@mindspring.com)

**Barbara Dungey, Member At-Large/website**

720-253-6629  
[Barbara.b.dungey@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.b.dungey@gmail.com)

**Gladys Hodges, Member At-Large/Voter registration**

915-525-4982  
[hgladys5066@yahoo.com](mailto:hgladys5066@yahoo.com)

**Karen Hart, Member At-Large/voter services committee**

720-234-5303  
[larkspurkaren@hotmail.com](mailto:larkspurkaren@hotmail.com)

**Terry Goldfarb, Member At-Large/Unit Coordinator**

859-489-8790  
[tsgoldfarb@gmail.com](mailto:tsgoldfarb@gmail.com)

**Off Management team: Vicki Harimon, Voter Service  
Coordinator**

303-770-8738 [vickiharimon@aol.com](mailto:vickiharimon@aol.com)

## Mission

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

## Join Us

Join the League to help make your community a strong, safe, and vibrant place to live. Help shape the important issues that affect you and your family.

Memberships are \$60 per individual; \$85 for households and \$25 for students. For more information call Jo Ann Feder, 904-608-3932, [jolvs10s@gmail.com](mailto:jolvs10s@gmail.com)

## League Links

### League of Women Voters/Colorado

1410 Grant, B-204  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
303-863-0437 or 1-800-863-8683  
[info@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org)  
[www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)

### League of Women Voters/US

1730 M Street NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036-4508  
202-429-1965  
[lwv@lwv.org](mailto:lwv@lwv.org)  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)