

The Voter - October 2018 Issue

The League of Women Voters of Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARAPAHOE AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES

THE VOTER

October 2018 Issue

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EVENT SUMMARY:

October 3, 9:30 AM - Ballot Issues Presentation

October 8, 5:00 PM - Ballot Issues Presentation

October 8, 5:30 PM - October Combined Meeting

October 15, Time TBD - Ballot Issues Meeting

October 17, 7:00 PM - Ballot Issues Forum

October 22, 6:30 PM - Management Team Meeting

HOW SAFE IS YOUR BALLOT?

October Combined Meeting

Matt Crane, Clerk and Recorder of Arapahoe County and Judd Choate, Director of Elections for the Colorado Department of State will be the speakers for the Monday, October 8, 2018 general meeting of the League of Women Voters of Arapahoe and Douglas Counties.

Matt Crane will report on changes in the Arapahoe County Elections Office and on legislative actions proposed for the upcoming year to safeguard Colorado elections.

Judd Choate is the director of the Elections Office for the state of Colorado and will discuss changes that have been made in the state to increase security in the elections process and will report on how the office is proposing to address areas of concern in the future.

A recent report by the Center for American Progress entitled "Election Security in all 50 States" gave Colorado high marks for efforts to defend our elections but noted that there is further work to be done. We need to ask Mr. Judd how Colorado can go from a "B" to an "A" in protecting against hacking and machine malfunction.

A story in the New York Times on September 26, 2018, "The Crisis of Election Security" describes some of the emerging problems in protecting our election system. It's more complicated than anyone could have dreamed even five years ago.

Come prepared to ask lots of questions as only League members can.

Arrive by 5:30 p.m. to socialize.

Monday, October 8, 2018
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Las Brisas Mexican Restaurant
Clinton Shoppette
6787 S. Clinton St.
Englewood, CO 80112

Las Brisas is southeast of I-25 and Arapahoe Rd. Go south on Clinton St from Arapahoe Rd. It's next door to Target. There will be a 20% gratuity and individual checks.

[map](#)

Questions? Contact Maggi Markey:
maggimarkey@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please welcome our newest members -

Mana Smith Jennings
Aurora, CO
auroramousie@comcast.net

Karen Hecomovich
Centennial, CO
karen.hecomovich@gmail.com

Amanda Hesterman
Centennial, CO
ahesterman51@gmail.com

Patricia Mossop
Parker, CO
pjmossop2347@gmail.com

Pat Smith
Centennial, CO
pjsmith614@aol.com

Know someone who's interested in joining? Invite them to an event or contact Jo Feder for more info, joluvs10s@gmail.com.

2018 COLORADO BALLOT MEASURES PRESENTATIONS & FORUM

We are holding several events to educate the public on the many ballot measures we will be voting on in November. Details below. Please help us spread the word by sharing these events on your nextdoor, facebook & twitter accounts and with all your interested contacts.

Attendees will learn about the ballot issues and receive a brief explanation of the pros and cons of each. The purpose of these presentations is to provide voters with the necessary information to be an informed and active participant the upcoming November 6 election. The presentations will last approximately 1 ½ hours during which each issue will be discussed separately. Pamphlets produced by the League will be available for attendees.

Ballot Issues Presentations -

Wednesday, October 3, 2018
9:30 a.m. - noon
Philip S. Miller Public Library
100 S Wilcox St.
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Monday, October 8, 2018
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Philip S. Miller Public Library
100 S Wilcox St.
Castle Rock, CO 80104

For more information about the event, contact Alice Ramsey at alice@ramsisle.com.

Ballot Issues Forum -

Wednesday, October 17, 2018
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Koelbel Public Library
5955 S. Holly St.
Centennial, CO 80121

For more information about the event, contact Sonya Pennock at sonsu@earthlink.net.

2018 COLORADO BALLOT MEASURES

LWVCO POSITIONS

Amendment V - Lower Age Requirement for Members of State Legislature Not

Taking a Position (because we have no League position)

Amendment W - Election Ballot Format for Judicial Retention Elections

Support

Amendment X - Industrial Hemp Definition

Not Taking a Position (because we have no League position)

Major Provisions:

- The definition of industrial hemp would be removed from the state constitution to a statutory definition.
- Allows the use of the definition of industrial hemp found in federal law or in state statute.
- Would enable the state legislators to respond more quickly to changes made at the federal level for industrial hemp growers

Amendment Y – Congressional Redistricting

Support

Why We Support:

- The amendment limits the role of partisan politics in the redistricting process by establishing an independent commission made up of equal number of Democrats, Republicans, and unaffiliated representatives. It makes the process of redistricting more transparent by requiring open meetings and public engagement during the planning process.
- It creates fair criteria for drawing of district maps to maximize the number of competitive congressional seats, protecting communities of interest and keeping districts compact.

Amendment Z – Legislative Redistricting

Support

Why We Support:

- This proposal limits the role of partisan politics in the redistricting process by establishing an independent commission made up of Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated voters.
- It makes the process of redistricting more transparent and provides an opportunity for public participation. The amendment creates fair criteria for the drawing of legislative districts, prioritizing communities of interest and political competitiveness.

Amendment A - Prohibit Slavery & Involuntary Servitude in All Circumstances

Support

Why We Support:

- Freedom and equality are fundamental human values which should be reflected in the Colorado Constitution.
- The language to be eliminated is archaic. It was written in the 19th Century, when not all people were treated with human dignity or even considered human. Colorado must heal racial divides, and removal of racially divisive symbols will move us toward that important goal.
- The state constitution already prohibits slavery, except as a punishment for crime. This would clarify that slavery and involuntary servitude are not allowed in any circumstance.

Amendment 73 - Funding for Public Schools

Support (with Comments)

Major Provisions:

- Raises money to be spent exclusively on pre-primary, primary and secondary education.
- Directs revenue to increase per pupil funding by 7.8% from FY 2018; fully fund kindergarten; increase funds for special education, gifted/talented programs, English language proficiency, low income students/schools, and preschool.
- Adds additional funds to supplement and not supplant current funding from the General Fund. The General Assembly may adjust how funds are spent in the future, according to need, although the monies must continue to supplement and not supplant General Fund support to pre-primary, primary and secondary education.
- Changes Colorado's state income tax from being a completely flat tax (currently 4.63% of federally adjusted gross income) to slightly progressive, by instituting a gradual tax increase for incomes over \$150,000, and increasing corporate tax rates to 6% from 4.63%.
- Reduces property tax rates on non-residential property.
- Changes tax rates for residential property by a reduction from current levels, but an increase from projected levels.
- Exempts additional revenue from spending limits set forth in article X, section 20, of the Colorado Constitution.

Why We Support:

- Historically LWVCO has been a champion for quality education in Colorado.
- Colorado has been underfunding its schools by close to \$1B for almost ten years; \$830 million in the 2017-18 school year.
- The state is facing a serious teacher shortage.
- 95% of teachers in rural districts don't make enough salary to meet the cost of living. New teachers in the metro-Denver area cannot afford to buy a house.
- The achievement gap is widening.
- While the state ranks in the top 10 for personal income, we rank close to the bottom (just above West Virginia) in spending for public schools.
- Colorado has one of the fastest growing economies, yet spends roughly \$2,800 less than the national average and has the least competitive teacher wages in the country causing teacher shortages in the majority of Colorado school districts.
- Strong public schools are the backbone of healthy communities, and

one of the government's most important duties is to provide students with a quality education. This proposal will give local school districts the funding they need by creating a new revenue stream for local schools that legislators can't raid. This measure would provide equitable funding for all Colorado school districts by asking those benefiting the most from Colorado's growth—corporations and the wealthy—to contribute a little more.

Comments:

- Amendment 73 is a constitutional amendment that changes the state income tax rate for those making \$150,000 and above and raises the corporate tax rate. It is likely this will also change the residential property tax as it affects school districts. It is also unclear how that may affect other districts dependent on their property taxes. Should Amendment 73 pass, any future changes to the provision or funding structure would need voter approval of 55%.
- The amendment's new tax bracket does not allow income tax thresholds to adjust for inflation. This will remain in place unless changed by a vote of the people.
- Amendment 73 sets up a tiered property tax system. There is one rate that would be applied for school districts and another rate for the special districts found on your property tax bill. In future years the residential property tax would be higher. The non-residential property tax would be lower.

Amendment 74 - Just Compensation for Fair Market Value

Oppose

Why We Oppose:

- This proposal will impact taxpayers and governments in Colorado. The scope of this measure will have far-reaching and significant consequences regarding future decisions made by governments that benefit their citizens. Even though safeguards may be supported by the citizens, governments may choose to ignore community protections for infrastructure, water quality and air quality.
- Taxpayers will be responsible for payments to property owners for any loss in property value due to a government action that reduces the value of their property. Compensation may be ordered even if property owner continue to use their property profitably.
- By amending the Colorado Constitution, this amendment is asking to allow any corporation or person who owns property to sue the government over virtually any regulation, from city planning to basic health and safety protection. LWVCO supports measures to improve the coordination, effectiveness, efficiency and economical operation of local government units.
- This amendment goes quite far in undermining local control and land use decisions.

Amendment 75 - Campaign Contributions

Oppose

Why We Oppose:

- Colorado's campaign finance system is broken, and this measure further complicates the system without truly addressing financial disparities among candidates. This increase in campaign contribution limits will allow all candidates, including wealthy candidates, to collect more money, further inflating election spending. Opening the door to more money is not the way to fix Colorado's campaign finance system. This opens the door to more contributions, further inflating election spending.
- There is some question as to a Constitutional challenge, based on case law regarding campaign finance limits of a self-funded campaign.

Proposition 109 - Authorize Bonds for Transportation Projects

Oppose

Why We Oppose:

- Earmarks General Funds for transportation at the expense of other state needs
- Does not provide for multimodal or local transportation
- Is not adequate to meet the backlog of state transportation needs

Proposition 110 - Transportation Funding (sales tax increase)

Support

Why We Support:

- We support adequate funding for state services—roads and bridges certainly fall in this category. LWVCO historically has supported a number of efforts to raise money for transportation funding—1986, 1988, 2009.
- Support of more energy-efficient transportation systems and 110 provides 15% of the funds for multimodal transportation such as mass transit, bike paths and sidewalks to preserve air quality.
- Provisions of this bill are paid with sales tax that is also paid by tourists who use our roads.
- A balanced transportation system is one which includes a variety of modes in an appropriate mix for each area and helps improve mobility and quality of life for all residents. 110 would appear to meet this criterion in that it provides for multimodal transportation projects as requested with matching funds by local governments.
- New revenue sources, as needed, should be considered but not limited to user fees, appropriations from the General Fund, revenue bonds and private funds.

Proposition 111 - Limitation on PayDay Loans

Support

Why We Support:

- Payday lenders prey on vulnerable families, taking advantage of them by charging interest rates that can go as high as 200%. Lending money at outrageously high interest rates to hard-working families is just wrong, and Colorado government should not enable companies to continue this predatory practice. Payday lenders are operating within a loophole that exempts them from Colorado's usury laws. By reducing the cost of payday loans, this measure provides the same 36% APR rate cap that is

applied to other loans in Colorado.

- The League supports programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Proposition 112 - Setback Requirements for Oil and Gas Development

Support

Why We Support:

- This proposal will establish a commonsense buffer zone between new oil and gas development and homes, schools, playgrounds and drinking water sources. The distance of 2,500 feet, almost ½ mile, aligns with evacuation zones used by first responders and a growing body of peer-reviewed studies that show an increased risk of negative health impacts within ½ mile, including elevated cancer risk, respiratory problems, birth defects and low birth weight.
- This proposal will update Colorado's regulations to address new technologies and the scale of current drilling to protect our health, safety and quality of life with the inevitable harms and associated with hydraulic fracturing near neighborhoods and our water

GET YOUR LEAGUE T-SHIRT!

Contact Marlu to get one of these great t-shirts. Supply is limited. The cost is \$11.

Marlu Burkamp
marluburkamp@gmail.com

GREAT DECISIONS

We will be discussing the 13 statewide ballot issues. Each attendee will receive a copy to take home of the LWVCO Ballot Issues pamphlet with the pros and cons.

Great Decisions
Friday, October 12, 2018
9:30-11:30 AM
Southglenn Library
6972 South Vine Street
Centennial CO 80122
303-542-7279

For information contact:

Vicki Harimon
vickiharimon@aol.com
OR
Monique Hea
heamph@hotmail.com

LWVADC VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

A few updates from our Voter Service Team -

September was an unusually productive month for Voter Registrations. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Center in Centennial required Voter Registration Services by LWVADC on 5 occasions in September. The number of paper registrations collected totaled 77.

In West Arapahoe, Marilyn Ayers and Marlu Burkamp conducted VRDs at the Highlands Ranch Library's naturalization ceremony and at Arapahoe Community College for a total of 39 registrations

In Aurora, St. Andrews Village residents were offered the opportunity to update their addresses for the Colorado State voter records. Several were able to ensure their eligibility and 2 submitted paper registrations.

The month of September yielded a grand total of 118 registrations from the 8 Voter Registration Drives.

In October, USCIS has requested LWVDC services on 11, 17, 24, and 29, all at 2 p.m. The schedule is already well filled except for the 17th. We need a couple more volunteers to direct newly sworn-in citizens toward voting online. The deadline for submission of paper registrations is Oct. 15.

In addition to Voter Services in October, the Heather Gardens / East Arapahoe Unit has arranged for a ballot Measures presentation to be conducted by Sonya Pennock and Eileen Bond on Oct. 4, at 3 p.m. at Sandburg Auditorium in Heather Gardens Clubhouse.

Our November Unit meeting will be held at the Skyview Room in Heather Gardens clubhouse, Nov. 8, 4:30-6 p.m.

*Contact Gladys Hodges for more information -
Email: hgladys5066@yahoo.com*

HELP WANTED

VOTER SERVICE

No Experience Necessary! Anyone Is Welcome!

Want to help educate citizens so they can make informed choices and get involved in our democracy?

Our Voter Service Committee needs many helping hands. Voter Service is a major League contribution, organizing candidate forums, providing nonpartisan information on registration, candidates, ballot measures, voting rights and effective ways to influence public policy and many other critical duties.

MANAGEMENT TEAM 2018-2020 OPEN POSITIONS

The League has several openings for Management Team positions for 2018-2020. We'd love to tap into your talents, passion, and knowledge to help the League grow and stay vital. One of the most important positions in this election year is Voter Services. Another is the member-at-large/voter registration drives. Several other positions may open up soon. A one-year position is as the 2019 nominating committee chair.

If you would like to join Management Team, or you'd like more information, please email Kris Chipps (kwchipps66@gmail.com) or Jo Feder

(joluvs10s@gmail.com). If you know someone who'd be a great addition, tell us so that we can chat with him/her.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN SERVICE TO VOTERS

LWVCO is looking for young people who are interested in collaborating and learning more about how to provide unbiased non-partisan information on statewide and local candidates and ballot issues in the 2018 general election.

It is critical that information about the candidates is carefully compiled and widely distributed so that every voter can make an informed decision.

Some Volunteer Activities -

- Assist with voter registration drives
- Distribute Voters' Guides and ballot pamphlets
- Be trained in the use of VOTE411
- Enter offices, candidate information and questions for candidates
- Track candidate responses
- Enter ballot questions and initiatives

This program will be run on a local level.

Interested leagues should contact:

Diana Haskell

Email: haskelldiana@verizon.net

Phone: 919-414-6869

ONGOING INITIATIVES

King Soopers Cards, Observers Corp, Equipment Log, Chapter Contact Info

KING SOOPERS CARDS - WE EARNED \$1,600!

Cards will be available at Meetings. **Don't buy them at the store directly**, our League won't get the credit for those cards.

We have earned \$1,600 over the last fiscal year, which makes many of our activities possible. Ann will have cards available at the annual meeting, or you can contact her directly (ph: 303-674-7163). With a very busy voter service schedule coming up in the fall before crucial elections, we can put these profits to good use.

Contact Ann Roux for more information -

Email: landaroux@comcast.net

Phone: 303-674-7163

OBSERVERS CORP

If you are curious, and want to participate and learn at the local level consider participating in the Observers Corp.

As an observer, you will attend governmental meetings, note what happens at the meeting, and report back to the League. By attending these meetings, you and the League, will learn what our government is doing, learn about issues facing our Counties, and if warranted, take action through the League.

Simple Observer forms, as well as "how to" information to participate will be made available— no speaking required.

Contact Jo Feder for more information -

Email: joluvs10@gmail.com

Phone: 904-608-3932

EQUIPMENT LOG

We've created a shared online equipment log in order to better track the location of our equipment and supplies.

If you are in possession of any League items, please go [here](#) and update the log.

Contact Lena Brown for more information -

Email: lenabrown20068@gmail.com

FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

An up-to-date calendar of all monthly meetings and events can be found [here](#).

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

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 dues -

\$60 per individual

\$85 for house-holds

\$25 for students

Contact Jo Feder for more information -

Email: joluvs10@gmail.com

Phone: 904-608-3932

LEAGUE INFO & MISSION, VISION & VALUE STATEMENTS

To learn more about how to contact our League and management members, click [here](#).

Mission Statement:

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Vision Statement:

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

Value Statement:

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.
