



**Colorado Votes:** Some 58 percent, or 2,436,584, of Colorado's registered voters have returned their ballots as of Oct. 31, according to the Colorado Secretary of State. That includes 260,449, or 63 percent, of all registered voters in Arapahoe County. In Douglas County, 182,211, or 65 percent, of registered voters have returned their ballots.



### Important Dates

- Oct. 1 -- 5:00 p.m. LWVCO Prop. 113 webinar (National Popular Vote)
- Oct. 9 -- 2:00 p.m. Program Committee meeting
- Oct. 12 -- 7:00 p.m. General member meeting Colorado statewide ballot issues
- Oct. 21 -- 9:00 a.m. Voter Services meeting
- Oct. 26 -- 6:30 p.m. Management Team meeting

### Democracy is Worth the Wait

*(The following is excerpted from a recent League of Women Voters blog post.)*

There are a lot of predictions about how the 2020 election will play out this November, but one thing is almost certain: we are not going to have results on election night.

And that's okay.

With the increase in mail-in ballots in every state this year due to COVID-19 risks, immediate results are not possible on November 3. This means we are going to go to bed on election night, not knowing the

results of the presidential election or the dozens of down-ballot races in every state. It may take a week, or even four weeks, for final election results in multiple races—especially when we consider possible court challenges.

And we will be fine. This year, we are going to have to wait for democracy to run its course. We need to allow time for every vote to be counted accurately and completely. We need to allow time to exercise a core tenet of our democracy: every vote—and the voice it represents—counts.

We also need to demand that candidates and the media wait as well. We are all familiar with the ‘too close to call’ races. Candidates should not be declaring victory with only a fraction of results or only in-person votes tallied. We, the voters, have the power to choose our elected representatives. We must demand that the politicians and the parties wait for the official result.

As American voters, we have become accustomed to learning our election outcomes on the same day we cast our ballot, or in some cases, even before the polls close and every vote counted.

This year many states have eased their restrictions on mail-in voting, not requiring an excuse to vote absentee, and some states have even gone as far as to join the ranks of Washington, Oregon, Hawaii and Colorado and provide all registered voters with a ballot in the mail.

But mail-in ballots require additional time for election officials to count and process, which flies in the face of the instant results we have come to expect on election night. And we need to remember, not every state count ballots at the same time.

[More than 20 states count mail-in ballots that arrive after November 3](#), as long as they are postmarked on or before Election Day. In Michigan, Wisconsin [cannot legally begin until polls close on Election Day](#), despite how many people mail-in their ballot early. And in even more states, voters can return their ballots on Election Day—either by mail, ballot drop box, or in-person at a polling location. Due to the surge in absentee-, early-, and mail-in voting, it is likely that results in those states will take a while to certify.

Here is where delayed results will happen, but it’s a good thing.

Let’s think this through. We want complete and accurate local and state election results. So, if we are waiting while ballots are counted—instead of rushing—we won’t learn the election outcomes on November 3, but it means our system is working. It means that everyone’s vote will be counted, and their voice heard.

Consider that national, local and state-wide elections could be close. Allowing the amount of time needed to guard against voting discrepancies and fraud should be our priority. Slowing down the process will strengthen the integrity of our election results and the accuracy of our democratic system.

--Virginia Kase, CEO, LWV-US



**STILL NEED TO VOTE?**

Go to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) to get personal voting information on your local elections.

Want information on the 11 statewide ballot issues?

The League of Women Voters of Colorado has a helpful summary of the pros and cons of each question on the ballot. It's available in English [here](#) and in Spanish [here](#). The League has taken positions on some of the ballot questions. You'll find those evaluations [here](#). If you'd like to read the complete Colorado Legislative Services blue book analysis of the ballot questions, it's available in English [here](#) and in Spanish [here](#).

It's too late to mail in your ballot, but you can drop it off at an official ballot box or a voter service/polling center location before 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3 Election Day. Postmarks don't count.

In Arapahoe County? Find a convenient drop box location [here](#) or voter service and polling center location [here](#). Some Arapahoe County voter service and polling center locations have curbside service available if you call ahead.

In Douglas County? Find a nearby drop box location [here](#) or voter service and polling center location [here](#).

Remember that you must sign your ballot envelope (not your ballot!)

Still need to register to vote or update your address? Want to vote in person?

Voter service and polling center locations are open for those who wish to vote in person, register to vote, update voter information or replace a spoiled ballot. See the links to the County Elections offices above for the location nearest you.

— Barbara Dungey, Webmaster, [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

## **Voter Services Committee Wraps up Busy Election Season**

**Ballot issue pamphlets:** By the time Election Day arrives on Tuesday, your Voter Services Committee will have distributed 3,500 ballot issue pamphlets, including 500 in Spanish. A digital version was shared with several organizations that requested it.

**Ballot issue presentations:** Our League held more than two dozen ballot issue presentations for local groups. Most of those 28 sessions were online, via Zoom.

**Yard sign:** All but nine of the 50 "Your Vote Matters" yard signs we designed and printed have been given out. Remaining signs will be saved for the next election cycle.

**Flyers:** Flyers encouraging students to register to vote have been distributed to area high schools.

**Sunday Updates:** Emails were sent each Sunday with the latest info on voting and election issues.

**Next meeting, next year:** Committee members, please bring your ideas about how we can encourage voter registration to this meeting.

**Disability focus:** The committee also will be exploring how we might expand the information and services we provide to persons with disabilities.

**We will take November and December off!**

**Join us at our next planning meeting, Wed., January 13 at 9:00 a.m.**

*--Paula Moore, Chair*

## October Management Team Meeting Highlights

The management team met online via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 26.

Treasurer Ann Roux reports all accounts are "in good shape" and that our members are very generous with donations above the amount of their dues.

Communications, led by Cyndia Zwahlen, published the October newsletter and four weekly Sunday News Updates to keep up with the fast pace of election news and events. The October newsletter had a 55% open rate, according to the MailChimp contact software we use. That is considered good for nonprofits of our size. The weekly Sunday News Updates also had good open rates, from 49% to 63%. Going forward, we will evaluate the need for regular member communications, aside from the monthly newsletter, based on post-election news and events.

Paula Moore's report, summarized separately in the article above, recorded efforts of the busy Voter Services committee team. The next meeting will be January 13.

Jo Feder, Membership Chair, reports 127 paid members for our 2020-2021 League year.

Irma Princic, Program Chair, said the Oct. 12 general member meeting featuring Colorado ballot measures had 35 attendees. Committee members' ballot presentations were preferred to the video portion of the presentation. General response was positive. The next general membership meeting, to be held online via Zoom, will be November 17. It will be a Drinks and Dialog format to discuss election results, including candidates and issues. Committee will consider ideas for the meeting. The December general membership meeting, tentatively set for December 8, may be a digital social get-together.

The next management team meeting is Monday, Nov. 23., at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

-- Jill Smith, Secretary



**FAIR MAPS: Help redraw Colorado's election district maps!**

There is still time for you to apply to serve on one of Colorado's two new redistricting commissions. **The deadline is Tuesday, Nov. 10.**

Want to see fairer congressional and legislative district maps in Colorado? If the answer is "yes," take the next step and apply to serve on one of two new independent redistricting commissions that will be working to redraw these maps across the state. One will address congressional districts boundaries. The other will work on state legislative districts.

**Most of the 188 applicants so far are white (about 80%), male (70%) and close to half are aged 65 or older, according to state statistics as of Sept. 22.**

**Does that represent you?** If not, make your mark on the state's upcoming efforts to create Fair Maps. Apply today. Information and online applications are available at the [redistricting.colorado.gov](http://redistricting.colorado.gov) website.

## 2020-2021 LWV-ADC Board/Management Team

*Please contact any team member if you have any questions or concerns.*

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### **Our Mission Statement**

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

### **Our Vision Statement**

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

### **Our Value Statement**

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