



The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

October 2012

Membership 88

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Only 37 days to go!

In the meantime see the voter registration reports, details about candidate forums, ballot explanations and other related election information inside. There's also a summary of the LWVCO's League Day activities, a look at our October unit meetings on the state-wide ballot issues and a public meeting on the Affordable Care Act in Douglas County. We're also planning a November public meeting on the election aftermath. Good lord. Do you think we need an election intervention? .

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Candidate Forum @ 6:30 pm
Southglenn Library

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Candidate Forum @ 6:30 p.m.
Smoky Hill Library

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

Presidential Debate

Thursday, October 4, 2012

Candidate Forum @ 6:30 p.m.
Englewood Municipal Building

Monday, October 8, 2012

Unit Meeting: Ballot Issues @ 5:30 pm.
Garcia's Mexican Restaurant
5050 S. Syracuse St., Centennial

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Last Day to Register to Vote

Thursday, October 11, 2012

Unit Meeting: Ballot Issues @ 9:30 am
Castlewood Library, 2345 S Uinta St.
Centennial

Thursday, October 11, 2012

Vice presidential Debate

Sunday, October 14, 2012

Public Meeting: The Affordable Care Act @ 12:30 pm
Highlands Ranch Library
9292 Ridgeline Blvd.

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Presidential Debate

Monday, October 22, 2012

Presidential Debate

Monday, October 29, 2012

Management Team Meeting @ 6:30
Sonya Pennock's house
6751 S. Marion Circle W., Centennial

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT PUBLIC MEETING

On Sunday, October 14, the League will hold a public meeting in Douglas County on health care costs and the Affordable Care Act. Featured speaker will be Bob Semro from the Bell Policy Center. This meeting is similar to the one we sponsored in July as Mr. Semro will explain the act, it's benefits, the costs, and how we will pay for it. The program will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the Highlands Ranch Public Library, 9292 Ridgeline Blvd.

The meeting was arranged by the LWVAC's Douglas County members at the request of several Douglas County residents who want to know more about the Act. All LWVAC members are invited. If you missed the July program, plan on attending this one. Its worth the effort.

Information: Barbara Barlow, 303-346-4496; Marilyn Ayers, 303-471-8301

OCTOBER UNITS

The October unit meetings will focus on the three state-wide issues on the November 6th ballot. Ballot issue pamphlets will be available and we anticipate a lively discussion on the pros and cons of each issue. Here's a summary of the three issues, courtesy of the Bell Policy Center, with additions from the LWVCO's ballot issue pamphlet.

As noted in previous explanations, this year it took 85,853 valid signatures for the Secretary of State to certify the ballot. One did not make it. The Personhood initiative was denied by the Secretary due to lack of valid signatures.

Amendment 64: Use & Regulation of Marijuana

Amends the state constitution to permit the state and local government to regulate marijuana sales like those of alcohol. It is an initiative submitted by citizens who support the regulated use of marijuana.

It would legalize the possession and use of 1 oz of marijuana by individuals 21 years and older. It requires an ID to purchase the product and prohibits driving under the influence. Also allows persons, 21 years and older, to possess and grow no more than six marijuana plants. If passed, it will not affect Colorado's medical marijuana provisions and regulations.

Amendment 65: Colorado Congressional Delegation to Support Campaign Finance Limits.

Amends the state constitution to change state law from "encouraging campaign spending limits" to "establishing spending limits;" instructs Colorado's Congressional delegation and the Colorado State Legislature to propose and support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that allows Congress and the states to limit campaign spending. This is a citizen's initiative.

It would also amend the Colorado Revised Statutes to instruct the Colorado Congressional delegation to propose and support, and the Colorado State Legislature to ratify an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to limit campaign contributions and spending. Since, however, a state ballot measure cannot tell members of Congress or state legislatures how to vote on certain issues, this measure is largely symbolic and will not have any legal force.



Amendment S: State Personnel System

This was referred by the Colorado legislature and amends the state constitution. It would allow the governor more power to hire people in his or her administration by removing some positions from the protections of the state personnel system; grants the governor the power to dismiss members of the state personnel board; and makes various other changes to the state's hiring process.

There are more than seven provisions to this amendment, including changing the way merit-based appointments are currently made. If passed, the provisions would alter the current state personnel system and some hiring procedures.

See unit meeting times and locations on the front page.

VOTER SERVICE

LWVAC CANDIDATE FORUMS

Final October Dates

Tuesday, October 2, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.

Arapahoe County District #1 County Commissioners

Nancy Doty (R) Carrie Warren Gully (D)

RTD District H Candidates

Kent Bagley, Tom Grushka, Ken Mihalik

Southglenn Library, 6972 S. Vine St.

In the Streets of Southglenn, Centennial

Tuesday, October 2, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.

Arapahoe County District #3 County Commissioners

Mollie Martin (D) Rod Bockenfeld (R)

Smoky Hill Library, 5430 S. Biscay Circle

Centennial, Colorado

Tuesday, October 4, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.

Colorado Senate District #26 Candidates

David Kerber (R) Linda Newell (D)

Colorado House District #3 Candidates

Daniel Kagen (D) David Jurist (L)

Community Room, Englewood Municipal Building

Second floor

1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood, Colorado

POLL MONITORS ARE STILL NEEDED

Just Vote Colorado is still looking for volunteers to be poll monitors. All you have to do is work 2 hours or more at the vote centers on November 6th and attend a training session with *Just Vote Colorado Election Protection*.

As a monitor you will observe that is happening at the polls, be a resource for voters to answer basic questions and ensure they know their rights. You can also direct voters to the *Just Vote* hotline with questions and problems and report any deceptive activities that may occur to the *Just Vote* legal team.

Help monitor the vote. Go to www.justvotecolorado.org/volunteer
They need your help.

VOTER REGISTRATION DATES

**OCTOBER 9, 2012
LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE**

Please, please make sure your family and friends are registered to vote. Additionally check your registration status to ensure your information is up to date and that you are still listed to receive your mail-in ballot. Don't count on receiving it, Check, Check, Check. And help League spread the word by talking to all you know about checking and updating their registration status. It is vitally important this year.

Go to: sos.state.co.us Click on "My Voter Information" under the Elections & Voting section.

To date, LWVAC has registered **452** voters, including the voters we registered at the Aurora Central Library on National Voter Registration Day. Whew!

In the meantime here's the remaining LWVAC voter registration dates:

- ▶ **September 30**
St. Andrew United Methodist Church
- ▶ **October 1**
Highlands Ranch High School
Classroom presentations on League and Voter Registration procedures
- ▶ **October 5**
Englewood Meridan Retirement Center
- ▶ **October 6**
Littleton Crafts Fair





Check the new LWVUS's election database for your information needs. Beyond being able to check out your personal voting information, you can find the answers about voting hours, vote center locations, candidate profiles, ballot issues and election dates. There are even responses from the presidential candidates!

1. Go to www.vote411.org
2. Enter your personal address information
3. When the next section opens, click "Get Your personalized ballot and candidate information."
4. Verify your location and click "continue." There are different pages for each office. Click on the
5. candidates to get their answers. If you click on a second candidate, there will be a side-by-side comparison. Maneuvering the site takes some patience, but keep looking and you will find what you need.

I have printed out some of the candidate's answers, including the presidential candidate responses, If you wish to see these let me know. But do look at Vote411.org. We even have our candidate forum dates there.

2012 ELECTION CALENDAR

- October 3** Presidential Debate @ DU
- October 9** Last Day to Register to Vote
- October 15** Mail Ballots go out
- October 16 - November 6**
Mail Ballots may be dropped off at designated Locations
- October 11** Vice Presidential Debate
- October 16** Presidential Debate
- October 22** Presidential Debate
- October 22—November 2**
Early Voting for General Election
- October 30**
Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot by mail
- November 2**
Last day to apply for mail-in ballot by person
- November 6** Election Day

ELECTION INFORMATION TIBITS

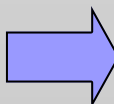
- ◆ The LWVCO website has copies of the state ballot issue pamphlet that can be downloaded by anyone wishing to obtain a copy. It also has an audio version that can be used by blind or seeing impaired voters. www.lwvcolorado.org
- ▶ For vote centers and polling places, early voting and mail ballot drop off locations, and other election information you can also go to www.arapahoevotes.com, or www.douglas.co.us/clerk/elections/index.html This will also help new voters who have questions and need information about voting. Also remember the secretary of state's site: www.sos.state.co.us
- ▶ **Breaking News:** Just received an email from the Foreign Policy Association about an election guide they published. I gave it a quick glance and it looks interesting. It gives the background, and highlights the difference in the foreign policy objectives of President Obama and Mitt Romney. It also looks at the five most debated foreign policy challenges facing the U.S. in 2013: the economy, Iran, defense & tourism, Israel, and energy.

The Foreign Policy Association is the organization that provides the Great Decisions Program and Informational books, but I can't guarantee its objectivity. Go to www.fpa.org and follow the links to the Election Guide.

MEMBERSHIP BRIEFINGS



The LWVAC Membership Drive begins this month and we hope you will renew your membership. To this end, a letter regarding membership renewal and a list of “opportunities” for member involvement, will arrive in your “snail” mail box shortly. In reviewing just a few of the activities we conducted during the 2011-2012 League year, we couldn’t have done it without you. To wit:

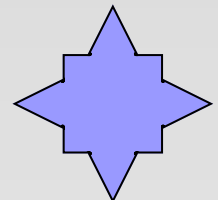


Staffed tables at local libraries to explain the Arapahoe County Clerk’s new Vote Center concept; held Littleton, Englewood and Centennial City Council Candidate forums; participated in the Aurora City Council and Mayoral Candidate forum; moderated the Douglas County School Board Candidate forum; attended several Colorado Reapportionment Commission hearings; conducted three unit meetings on the role of federal government in public education, sponsored five lunch bunch gatherings and three non-fiction book club meetings; held three public meetings on fracking, a public debate on Proposition 103, a new member orientation, the annual Great Decisions program, testified at the Arapahoe County Planning Commission and Commissioners hearings on land use regulations for fracking; held two units on privatization, and a public meeting on voting rights and voter suppression.

To be honest most leagues are as busy or busier. It’s just the nature of the beast. But that’s why we need your continued support. Five years ago, we had 63 members. We now have 88 and our League has grown into an strong and viable organization. **Your support made it all possible.** The level of participation is up to you. Some members choose to support League only through their annual dues. Others attend programs and join discussion groups. You are all valuable to the success of our organization.

Welcome to new member **Judy Dearasaugh**.

Judy was born in Little Rock, AR. and graduated from high school in Amarillo, TX. She attended Texas Tech for two years; received a BA from the University of OK and a masters in Social Work from Tulane University. She has three children and 11 grandchildren. Lived in Kansas, West Virginia, New Jersey, Tennessee, Northern Virginia, Tehran, Iran, Castle Pines and now Windcrest. Also volunteered at the White House during the last election campaign.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWVCO LEAGUE DAY SUMMARY

The annual LWVCO League Day started off with a stirring address by LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara. As part of her 2012 election road trip, to Ohio, Missouri, Michigan and beyond, MacNamara visited Colorado for a few days to meet with members of the media and election officials as well as Colorado league members. Her message: Protect the right to vote by ensuring that everyone is not denied their rights by efforts to limit voting access.

Other topics included:

- ▶ An explanation of the Colorado Ballot issues
- ▶ LWVCO Ballot Issue Recommendations League took “no position” on the ballot issues
- ▶ Explanation of the LWVCO Fracking Study & timelines
- ▶ The Affordable Care Act After the Supreme Court presentation by Bob Semro of the Bell Policy Center
- ▶ Local Leagues in Action
 - LWV Boulder: Keeping Teen parents in school
 - LWV Chaffee County: Website development
 - LWV Larimer County: Old Fashioned Political Rally
- ▶ Hands On Sessions
 - Affordable Care Act Toolkit for education
 - Vote411.org
 - 2013 the Year of the Student

LWVAC attendees included Barb McDaniel, Vicki Harimon, Fay Plummer, Mary Alyce Behrns, Jo Ann Feder, Shirley Thompson, Kathy Brunner, Jeanette Albersheim, Judy Dearasaugh, Alice Ramsey, Chris Angle, Elinor Christiansen, Nancy Jackson, Marlu Burkamp and Gerry Cummins.



LWVAC Members at the Meet & Greet reception with LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara the evening before League Day.

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

Topics for the Great Decisions Discussion Group will be:

- ▶ **Friday, October 12** Castlewood Library @ 9:30 am
The U.S. in Africa—Our Diplomatic & Investment Role
- ▶ **Friday, November 9** Southglenn Library @ 9:30 am
Syria –What is or should be the U.S.’s humanitarian role?
- ▶ **Friday, December 14** Castlewood Library @ 9:30 am
What is or should be the U.S.’s relationship to Israel?

Open to all. For more information contact Monique Hea, heamph@hotmail.com or Vicki Harimon, vickiharimon@aol.com

MANAGEMENT TEAM NOTES

Team members approved spending an additional \$150 to purchase more ballot issue pamphlets and a program on the Affordable Care Act as requested by LWVAC Douglas County members. A proposal to show the film *Patriocracy*, in October was tabled till next year. Plans for the membership renewal efforts were also approved as well as changes in the candidate forum schedule and new dates for voter registration.

The team also approved the new schedule for submitting reports to members of the team for early review.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 29 @ 6:30 p.m. at Sonya Pennock’s house, 6751 Marion Circle West, Centennial

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Charlotte Faris prepares to distribute ballot pamphlets



Barbara –Shannon Bannister and Wanda Ramey at the elections informational table



LWVEF ONLINE VOTE ADS



This is a small copy of the League's Education Fund ad that will appear on websites and mobile and desktop devices. Most are targeted to citizens from underrepresented communities

who may have moved since the last election and will run through the October 9th registration deadline. The ad promotes voter registration and its Vote411.org program, but is very effective and highly visible. Colorado was chosen because all the Leagues in Colorado are participating in the VoteVote411 program and to help increase voter participation.

At the invitation of the Aurora Public Library, LWVAC members participated in **National Register to Vote Day**, September 25 by staffing an election and voter registration table inside the library and handing out ballot issue pamphlets outside the library. We registered 20 individuals and distributed over 300 pamphlets. Our activities and a salute to the LWV's efforts to register voters were highlighted in a TV segment filmed by Fox31.

LWVAC NOVEMBER PREVIEW LESSONS FROM THE ELECTION

Last, but certainly not least, here's the plans for our November public meeting: Lessons From the Election.

The program will begin with a snapshot of how we voted with a breakdown of the Colorado and national demographic numbers. This would include an analysis of the various voting blocks and the influence each carried in determining the outcome of the election.

Then a panel of experts will discuss the factors impacting those results. This would include *Citizens United*, negative ads, what messages and issues seemed to resonate more with voters, the bad economy, etc. The panel would also give us a "Crystal Ball" look at the next four years and beyond, including what issues will dominate the electoral and political landscape.

Details to follow. The date: Thursday, November 29 @ 6:30 p.m. at Koelbel Library.

BALLOT PAMPHLET DISTRIBUTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help! Need League volunteers to distribute ballot issue pamphlets to libraries, city and county offices and other governmental locations.

The is a traditional Voter Service activity to help governmental entities educate their residents about the ballot issues.

I'd be happy to deliver the pamphlets to you or arrange for a central location where they may be picked up. We need to cover every place, including all the city and county offices in Arapahoe County and some in Douglas County.

Contact Marlu Burkamp, marluburkamp@gmail.com 303-798-2939.



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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 Charlotte Faris, 303-690-8466
faris18603@comcast.net

League Links

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