

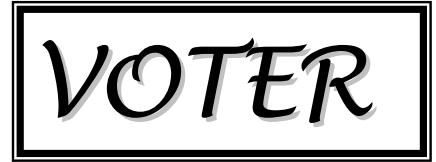


May 2018

Membership: 41

[www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org](http://www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org)

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®**  
*Serving Montrose and Delta Counties*



Follow us on **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/VoteMontrose>

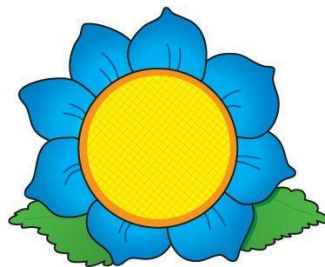
## **IT'S ANNUAL MEETING TIME!**

**THURSDAY, MAY 10 AT 11:45**

**VISTA CHARTER SCHOOL**

**In addition to our vital year-end League business and a tour of the school, we will have an opportunity to get acquainted with our new members, catch up with lives of long-standing members, and put forth ideas for the upcoming 2018-2019 League year.**

**Your attendance is really important! Mark your calendar!**



**BRING YOUR LUNCH**

**ICED TEA WILL BE SERVED**

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## **LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS**

### **Welcome New Members**



**Cyndi Holman**

Cyndi has led a peripatetic life as a child and as an adult because of the U.S. Air Force: she has lived in or taught in Texas, Panama, Germany, California, and she, her dad and her husband are all retired veterans. However, she has "ended up" right where she wanted to be---near "her" mountains, the San Juans. Cyndi received her teaching credential at Texas Tech and has a Master's Degree in environmental education. She retired from teaching eleven years ago and went on to serve for eight years as the president of her local teachers' association in California. She and her husband, Werner, have two children, a son and a daughter, the former lives in Nevada and the latter in California. She and Werner have lived in Montrose for a year and a half after finally deciding that rather than drive from California to where they wanted to be each summer to satisfy their hiking, back-packing and fly-fishing hobbies they should simply move. She loves the wide-open spaces and sunshine Montrose offers. Cyndi is also a quilter and is currently serving as director for this year's Black Canyon Quilt Show.

Cyndi describes herself as "very political" and mentioned that while she was president of the teachers' association she was active on its Political Involvement Committee. The issues nearest to her heart are, obviously, public education, and civil rights.



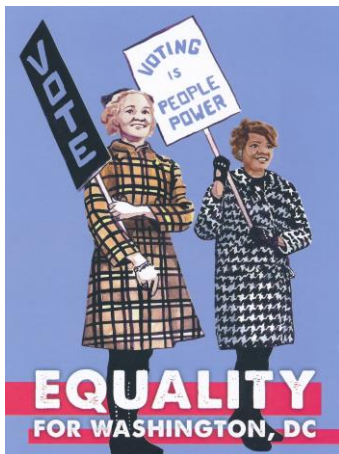
**Cheryl Gibson**

Actually, **Cheryl** is a re-newed member as a number of you may remember. She was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, and received her BA in history from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and her Master's Degree in Reading Education from Michigan State University in Lansing. Having taught in her home state for 14 years, she related that a time of major importance in her life was teaching in an inner

city public high school in Detroit, citing it as "a gift" because she was given the opportunity to learn about another culture. When Gordie, also a teacher, said "Marry me and move to the mountains", she did just that, and in 1976 they moved to Telluride where they lived for 16 years, raised their son, Jack, and their daughter, Kate, taught, hiked, star gazed at night and enjoyed the many days of sunshine. In 1992, the family moved to Montrose where the children finished their secondary schooling, Gordie became principal of Pomona Elementary School, and Cheryl became and continues to be a Shaklee distributor and started a food co-op with organic produce.

Today, Cheryl enjoys gardening, composting, and, as always, reading. She has re-joined the League because she said it "feeds her soul" as she so enjoys surrounding herself with people who value our democracy and the freedoms it brings. She is a strong supporter of young people and encourages them to have their voices heard through exercising their right to vote.

### **Statehood for Washington, D.C. – Fixing the Hole in Our Democracy**



A small but enthusiastic group gathered on April 5 in the Montrose Library Community Room and were presented with a comprehensive PowerPoint program prepared by the LWV Washington DC and Nancy Ball. Prior to the presentation, Tressa Guynes, Montrose Clerk and Recorder and a League member, gave the attendees an explanation of the procedure for the June 26 primary, encouraging us to impress upon any unaffiliated voters we may know that only one ballot may be returned to be a valid vote and that the most efficient and most cost-effective way would be for them to pre-select either the Democratic or Republican ballot be sent to them. See page 4.

History, facts and the path toward statehood followed, and quite a few of us were surprised at how many of the facts we did not know. For example, D.C. citizens were finally granted the right to vote for the U.S. president in 1961 and were only given the right to elect its governing council in 1973 after almost 100 years! However, Congress still has to approve any laws passed by the council before they can go into effect, and the President still appoints their judges! Despite those facts, the almost 700,000 residents in D.C., who in 2016 sent the highest amount of taxes per person to the U.S. government, have no voting representatives in Congress. Isn't that taxation without representation? All that they are asking for is equality and fairness and the voice in Congress that every other citizen living in the U.S. has always had! DC voters have completed three of the five steps to statehood, but the two remaining are formidable: approval of Congress and signature of the sitting President.

**LEAGUE SUPPORTS STATEHOOD FOR D.C. RESIDENTS!**

## UPDATE ON OUR MILLENNIAL OUTREACH

Per the LWVUS, "The goals for the **League of Women Voters' largest-ever Youth Voter Registration Program**, which is strategically focused to expand our electorate in 2018 and 2020 with first-time voters, are high — because it's crucial that this next generation of voters has a say in the health care, immigration, environmental and other policies that will shape their lives. As part of our ambitious goal to register one million voters by 2020, this year the League is going into **400 high schools and community colleges nationwide**. **Be a part of our effort in your communities!"**

**Our local League is doing just that:**

**MONTROSE YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENTATION – APRIL 18**

**SPRING VOLUNTEER FAIR AT RIDGWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL – MAY 8**

**STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION MAY 10 AT 10:45AM & 2PM AT VISTA CHARTER SCHOOL**

## PRIMARY ELECTION – JUNE 26

**UNAFFILIATED VOTERS: LET'S MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS.**

**SEND IN ONE BALLOT**

DEMOCRATIC OR REPUBLICAN

**VOTE ON ONE**

Recent changes in Colorado law now allow unaffiliated voters to vote in a primary election.

**Here's how it works:**

1. You received two ballots in your packet, one Democratic ballot and one Republican ballot.
2. Choose **ONLY ONE** of these ballots and fill it out. Discard the ballot you won't use.
3. Return your **ONE** voted ballot in the return envelope.

**Important things to remember:**

- Sending in two voted ballots will disqualify all of your votes.
- Your vote in this election will not affiliate you with a political party.

Visit [WWW.UCHOOSE.CO.GOV](http://WWW.UCHOOSE.CO.GOV) for more information

**UNAFFILIATED VOTERS VOTE ONLY 1 PRIMARY BALLOT\***

\* Unaffiliated/Independent voters may get a packet with more than one ballot. If you vote and return multiple ballots, the law states that **NONE** will be counted.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LASPIER COUNTY  
The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or parties.

Ballots will be mailed the first week in June. **Be sure to vote and to remind any unaffiliated friends and family members to vote just one ballot.** Remember, they will receive both a Dem and a Rep ballot unless they visit the [www.uchoose.co.gov](http://www.uchoose.co.gov) site and select "pick one ballot now by May 29.

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

**COUNCIL – JUNE 1 AND 2 – DENVER**

Jan Edwards (and possibly Barb Krebs) will be our delegate and she is looking forward to the opportunity to familiarize herself with Vote411.org, to learn about the proposed statewide legislation the League has been following via a presentation by Andrea Wilkins, LWVCO lobbyist, and to get the 2018 statewide election preview from the LWVCO Voter Service committee members.

## **LWVUS and Leagues Across the Nation**

### **Supreme Court Wraps up 2017 Term**

The Supreme Court wrapped up its 2017 term last week and will be issuing decisions as we head into the summer months. Here are a few cases we're watching:

#### ***Gill v. Whitford***

A partisan gerrymandering case that [challenges the state legislative maps](#) drawn by the Wisconsin legislature. In 2010, the majority party in Wisconsin, secretly drew legislative maps that would ensure that their party had control of the legislature for decades to come. [Our brief](#) in this case argues that partisan gerrymandering violates the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

#### ***Benisek v. Lamone***

Another partisan gerrymandering case, this time out of Maryland. The League organized [a rally outside the Court as arguments were heard](#). If the Court declares the state's maps unconstitutional, the decision could impact congressional maps nationwide.

It's likely a decision in both these partisan redistricting cases will be announced together. And since the Court holds the biggest decisions for last, those decisions will probably come out in June. The decisions in *Gill v. Whitford* and *Benisek v. Lamone* could set a standard for determining partisan gerrymandering, something the court has failed to do in the past. This could launch another round of redistricting court challenges around the country and it will most definitely have an impact on how maps are drawn in the next round of redistricting which starts after the 2020 Census.

#### ***Husted v. APRI***

This case is [a challenge to the process that Ohio uses to purge voters](#) from their registration lists. [The League's amicus](#) argues that the Ohio process is illegal, inaccurate and unreasonable under the provisions established in Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act. The decision by the court in this case will change voter purge methods across the country. The wrong decision would open up egregious purging across the country and could make it so thousands if not millions of voters are unable to vote in the 2018 election.

#### ***Minnesota Voters Alliance v. Mansky***

A [challenge to a Minnesota statute](#) that says a "political badge, political button or other political insignia may not be worn at or about the polling place on primary or election day". We [filed an amicus brief](#) arguing the law is designed to safeguard voting rights and should remain. This law is necessary to protect voters from intimidation in polling places. Voters should have a safe, calm place to vote where they are free from outside influence.

### **A Citizenship Question is Bad for our Census**

The Commerce Department is proposing a question that asks the citizenship status on the 2020 Census. This decision is bad for the census, bad for our communities and bad for America.

Every community relies on Census data — from apportioning our national representatives to making decisions about public safety and neighborhood resources — this information impacts every aspect of our lives. A fair and accurate count lets our leaders and businesses make sound investment decisions that keep our communities thriving.

Including a citizenship question on the Census undermines the rights of eligible voters and threatens a process vital to our democracy. There will be a period for public comment, and the League is committed to fighting to keep this question out of the final Census questionnaire. [Sign our petition urging Congress to act and correct this issue.](#)

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE U.S.**

**March was “Women in History Month” with a motto of “Nevertheless We Persisted”, and happily League continues to persist! Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

### **An April “League Update” Highlight from LWVUS President Chris Carson**

LWVUS sent a letter to U.S. Senate offices encouraging Senators to cosponsor and pass **S. 1989 the Honest Ads Act**. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will also be visiting offices on this topic.

April 23, 2018

To: Members of the U.S. Senate  
From: Chris Carson, President  
Re: Cosponsor and Pass S. 1989, the Honest Ads Act

Every American has the right to know who is paying for online political ads, whether it is organizations with ties to foreign governments or wealthy special interests at home. We must work to prevent meddling in our elections, and to ensure that Americans know the source of political messages. The League of Women Voters urges you to cosponsor S. 1989, the Honest Ads Act, if you have not already done so, and to publicly urge passage of this important piece of legislation.

The most important thing we can do to preserve the integrity of our electoral process is to increase transparency. Every American has the right to know who is paying for political ads but the current transparency rules are decades behind the times. Communications methods such as telegrams and typewriters are mentioned while the internet—where 65% of Americans say they received information from during the 2016 Presidential election—is not. It is time to update the outdated transparency rules around electronic communications. Online advertisements have a huge influence on information voters are exposed to and Americans have the right to know who is funding such advertisements.

The Honest Ads Act is bipartisan legislation that addresses the need for new rules that expose efforts aimed at influencing U.S. elections. The Act updates the definition of “electioneering communications” to include paid internet and digital advertisements. This will ensure that digital ads referring to federal candidates in the lead up to elections are subject to the same campaign finance disclosure requirements monitored by the Federal Election Commission as any other ad.

The Act also requires digital platforms, like Facebook and Twitter, to maintain a public file of “qualified political advertisements” and the details around the purchase, payment and targeting of such ads online. Finally, the Act acknowledges that voters have a right know about foreign sponsors and funders of campaign-related ads by requiring broadcasters, providers and online platforms to make reasonable efforts to ensure that qualified political advertisements are not directly or indirectly purchased by a foreign national.

The League of Women Voters strongly urges you recognize the importance of Congressional action on this legislation. This is a manner of utmost importance to our national security, to the integrity of our elections and to protecting our democracy from sabotage by foreign adversaries.

**EDUCATE, ADVOCATE, IMPACT**



## **Contact info for the Colorado U.S. Congressional Delegation**

Sen. Cory Gardner | 303-391-5777 <https://www.gardner.senate.gov/contact-cory/email-cory>

Sen. Michael Bennet | 303-455-7600 / 866-455-9866 <https://www.bennet.senate.gov/?p=contact>

Rep. Diana DeGette (CO District 1) | 303-844-4988 <https://degette.house.gov/contact/send-me-an-email/email-me>

Rep. Jared Polis (CO District 2) | 303-484-9596 <https://polis.house.gov/forms/writeyourrep/>

Rep. Scott Tipton (CO District 3) | 970-241-2499 <https://tipton.house.gov/contact/email>

Rep. Ken Buck (CO District 4) | 970-702-2136 <https://buck.house.gov/contact/email>

Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO District 5) | 719-520-0055 <https://lamborn.house.gov/contact/leave-a-comment.htm>

Rep. Mike Coffman (CO District 6) | 720-748-7514 <https://coffman.house.gov/contact/>

Rep. Ed Perlmutter (CO District 7) | 303-274-7944  
<https://perlmutter.house.gov/forms/writeyourrep/>

## **Contact Info for Colorado General Assembly**

Rep. Marc Catlin (CO House District 58) 303-866-2955  
[marc.catlin.house@state.co.us](mailto:marc.catlin.house@state.co.us)

Sen. Don Coram (CO Senate District 6) 303-866-4884  
[don.coram.senate@state.co.us](mailto:don.coram.senate@state.co.us)



**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

**2017-2018 LWV  
Community Support**

The League of Women Voters of Montrose County, serving Montrose and Delta counties, thanks these local businesses, organizations and individuals who have donated financial and in-kind support.

Please **add your thank you** when you patronize these businesses or visit with these individuals.

- Alpine Archeological**
- Alpine Bank**
- Horsefly Brewing Company**
- La Voz del Pueblo**
- The Montrose Mirror**
- Dennis Olmstead**
- Ron Britten**
- Karen and Bob Nicholson**
- Judy Kittson**

**Local League  
Calendar**

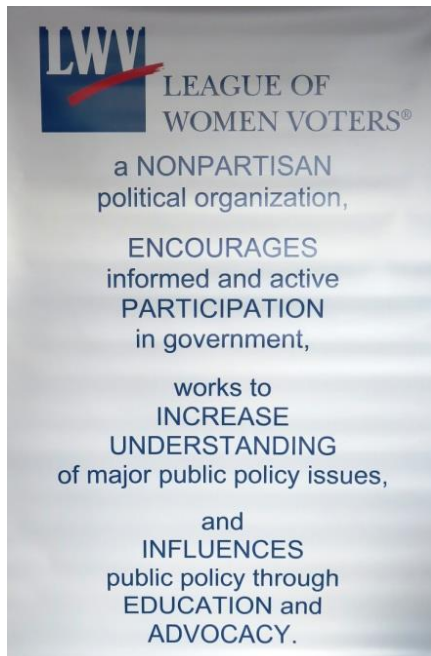
**Mark Yours!**

**Annual Meeting  
Thursday, May 10  
11:45 – 1:30  
Vista Charter School**

**D.M.E.A. Board  
Candidate Forums  
Tuesday, May 15  
Montrose**

**Thursday, May 17  
Hotchkiss**

**League will be  
moderating**



**Check out our Website:**

[www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org](http://www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org)

Our webmaster, Tanya Ishikawa, will keep us updated on and linked to local, state and national activities, issues and websites.

**Check us out on Facebook  
too:**

Google "League of Women Voters of Montrose County, Colorado" and then click "Like us" on Facebook.



**Join League of Women Voters of Montrose County  
serving Montrose & Delta counties - 2017-2018  
Not for Women Only!**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Individual \$60** (Of this amount \$32 goes to National League; \$20 goes to State League; \$8 is retained by the Montrose League)

\_\_\_ **Household \$90** – Two members in one household (National League receives \$48; State League \$30; \$12 is retained by the Montrose League)

\_\_\_ I understand that I can join without being active, and this is my intent at the present time.

\_\_\_ I would like to make a contribution beyond regular dues and understand it will go directly to our local League (Thank You!).

\_\_\_ **Sustaining Member \$100**

\_\_\_ I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Montrose League. Write a separate check to **League of Women Voters CO Education Fund. Write "Montrose" on the check's memo line.**

Please make checks payable to **League of Women Voters of Montrose County**. Mail to P.O. Box 3321, Montrose, CO 81402

**Membership information is available at**  
<http://montrose.co.lwvnet.org/join form.html>

**2017-2018 Administrative Team**

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970-525-3997, [gnicholoff@gmail.com](mailto:gnicholoff@gmail.com)

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[janmsw96@icloud.com](mailto:janmsw96@icloud.com)

Nancy Ball, Treasurer, *Voter* editor  
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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTROSE COUNTY  
SERVING MONTROSE AND DELTA COUNTIES  
P.O. BOX 3321, MONTROSE, CO 81402

**The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan 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.**