

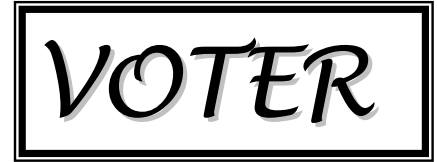


September 2018

Membership: 42

[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> and on **Instagram:**

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello from your newbie President! I hope you are enjoying the clearing air and the cooler temperatures, as I am.

I am sure we all share the awareness that in this year’s political climate, especially, the non-partisan voice of the League is needed as never before! Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy is our mission. Our work to increase the number of registered voters and to educate them is in full swing!

I am so proud of all we’ve accomplished so far this year, and look forward to all we will accomplish ongoing. To update you all, for Women’s Equality Day, we marched to celebrate 98 years of commitment to League work. We raised funds at Horsefly’s Tap Night, while registering Voters. We applied to LWVCO for and won, thanks to Gretchen Nicholoff, an EZ Grant to enable outreach to young (16-35) and Hispanic voters. We have provided voter registration opportunities at two schools and two concerts, and many more opportunities are upcoming, thanks to Cheryl Gibson, who stepped forward to organize a number of events prior to Election Day. We are enrolled as a Partner in National Voter Registration Day on September 25, and are working with the Western Colorado Association’s Western Slope Youth Voting Initiative. We will be coordinating and moderating at least two candidate forums, and delivering at least two ballot issues presentations.

If this sounds like a lot we have on our plates, you’re correct. We do! And, frankly, our resources are stretched, human and otherwise, to carry out our commitments. We need all of the members on board somewhere, in whatever way they can best serve. It will take all of us to do what we are committed to doing.

Please refer the email that Nancy Ball has sent. I’ve “claimed” my spots and hope that you will, too. If the dates and activities don’t fit for you, please find a way to support those activities in a way that does fit. I’d also welcome your input, suggestions and contacts for fundraising and partnerships, to help us to do more, do it better, and reach further. Whatever your form of contribution, we need you!

Jan Edwards, President

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## LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

### **SEPTEMBER 13 TEA & TREATS THE WESTERN SLOPE YOUTH VOTER INITIATIVE**

Our League hopes to join with the Western Colorado Alliance to promote the above student initiative. Come and learn about the amazing students who are coordinating a 4-county **student-driven peer-to-peer non-partisan voter registration** effort and "get out the vote" project at Vista Charter School at noon on Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup>. Jeriel Clark will be the featured speaker and will show videos created by the students. Please RSVP to [nancyball@montrose.net](mailto:nancyball@montrose.net) or 249-8963 by the 11<sup>th</sup>, and feel free to bring a friend!

### **SEPTEMBER 25 IS NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY. PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**



About 15 venues in Montrose, Olathe and Delta have been set up for assistance with online voter registration at varying hours, so many volunteers are needed! You received recently an e-mail showing the various locations and times, so please, if at all possible, donate an hour or two or more of your time!!! RSVP to Cheryl Gibson at 249-7212 or [cherylreginagibson@gmail.com](mailto:cherylreginagibson@gmail.com). Our success depends on having as many participating members as possible!

### **98<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT**



30+ strong, an enthusiastic group of women and men, both League members and residents of the community, paraded around the courthouse and up Main Street to Horsefly Brewing Company, amidst honking horns, clicking cameras, and cheers, for Community Tap Night. Great exposure for League thanks to the Montrose Press, an opportunity to register voters at the brewery, and a nice donation too. Thanks to all participants and to those folks who spread the word about the very worthwhile event!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER, SUE HANSEN, ON WINNING THE DISTRICT 2 SEAT AND BECOMING OUR THIRD COUNTY COMMISSIONER!**

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO**

### **LWVCO MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK! CONFERENCE 2018**

*GROWTH, CHANGE, and OUTREACH*

Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am – 3 pm, Denver

Embracing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is core to the League's mission to empower voters and defend democracy. Learn how we will begin this journey to improve partnerships and collaborations for greater impact and embrace DEI. Plus, get educated on November ballot issues and get an update on the LWVCO Strategic Plan and meet fellow Leaguers from around the state.

Interested in attending? Contact Nancy Ball.

#### **REFERRED BALLOT ISSUES – November 2018**

By Gerry Cummins, Voter Services

The General Assembly has referred several measures to the November 2018 ballot. All are constitutional changes and will need to pass by 55% as required by Amendment 71 of two years ago. They are as follows:

- **Amendment V – Proposes a reduction in the age qualification for running for the General Assembly from 25 years to 21 years.**

- **Amendment W- Ballot language change for judicial retention elections**

Under the current language in the constitution, county clerks are required to write a separate retention question for each justice or judge on the ballot for retention. This change would allow county clerks to write a single ballot question for each level of courts. It would shorten and simplify the ballot.

- **Amendment X – Moves industrial hemp from constitutional to statutory regulation**  
Changes the definition of industrial hemp from a constitutional definition to a statutory definition and align the definition of industrial hemp in state statutes with the federal definition.

- **Amendment Y – Congressional Redistricting\***

Establishes a 12-member, independent, citizen commission to draw Congressional district boundaries. The Commission is comprised of 4 members from each major political party and 4 citizens who are unaffiliated.

- **Amendment Z – Legislative Redistricting\***

Establishes a 12-member, independent, citizen commission to draw state legislative district boundaries. The Commission is comprised of 4 members from each major political party and of 4 citizens who are unaffiliated.

- **Amendment A – Repeals the exception to the constitutional ban on slavery**

Prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime and in all other circumstances.

## News from the Boulder League

Many thanks to the Boulder League for the “**Money in Politics**” e-blast below:

On July 16, 2018, the US Treasury, headed by Steven Mnuchin, said [it will no longer require certain tax-exempt organizations to identify their financial donors](#) to IRS authorities. The League of Women Voters (League) and others who support great transparency oppose this move.

There are twenty-nine types of nonprofit corporations in the IRS code, including the well-known 501(c)(3) designation for religious, educational, charitable, etc. organizations. The Treasury’s change in policy is NOT directed at 501(c)(3)s, but at “certain” nonprofit organizations like:

- **501(c)(4)**: social welfare, civic leagues, and local associations of employees; examples: National Rifle Association and the Sierra Club
- **501(c)(5)**: Labor, agricultural, and horticultural; examples: American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Working America
- **501(c)(6)**: business leagues, chambers of commerce, real estate boards, etc.; examples: The US Chamber of Commerce, The American Medical Association, PhRMA, Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, Americans for Job Security

This new policy is in stark opposition to LWVUS’s recommendation to strengthen existing rules:

Strengthen and enforce 501(c)4 political activity rules (action by the Internal Revenue Service; IRS). To be tax-exempt as a social welfare organization according to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 501(c)(4), an organization must not be organized for profit and must be operated exclusively to promote social welfare. It is argued that the promotion of social welfare does not include direct or indirect participation or intervention in political campaigns on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. However, under long-standing IRS regulations, a section 501(c)(4) social welfare organization is allowed to engage in some political activities, so long as that is not its primary activity. There is need for strict enforcement of the rules applicable to 501(c)(4)’s. The IRS could close loopholes that allow unlimited secret spending in elections by 501(c)(4) groups while protecting truly non-partisan voter service activity.

### **What can you do to combat the corruptive influences of “dark money” in national politics?**

1. CALL your elected officials to ask that they support the DISCLOSE Act, reintroduced in both houses of Congress this summer. This legislation proposes amending the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA) to, among other actions, disclose donations from corporations, labor organizations, and other special interests including foreign donors.
2. NEGATIVE ADS? JUST SAY NO. The vast majority of negative ads are “dark money” ads. They’re designed to motivate voters in ways that benefit donors. Russian trolls? Anonymous LLC’s? Friends? Foes? Who can tell? Don’t get sucked in!

3. LEARN ABOUT DARK MONEY at the federal level on the Open Secrets website:

[Open Secrets: Dark Money Basics](#)

4. JOIN the League of Women Voters and other organizations working against the power of dark money. Here are some ideas to start you out:

5. MOTIVATE OTHERS! We can overcome the influence of big money if we ACT. The enemies of democracy are desertion and complacency.

6. TAKE ACTION! Call, visit, e-mail, and/or write your elected officials. Go to town hall meetings to tell your story and speak your truth. Find and help candidates you support.

7. CONFIRM YOUR REGISTRATION and VOTE!!!!

### **Options for Reforming Money in Politics. Start with an ACTION list. (from LWV MIP Action Kit)**

- Legislative Approaches: • Disclose sources of contributions and expenditures (Congress and states). • Tighten rules governing coordination by Super PACs (Congress and states). • Adopt public funding for all candidates (Congress and states). • Prohibit members of Congress from fundraising the interests they most directly regulate (Congress). • Change the makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court by including more justices friendly to reform (Congress and/or the President). • Use or expand state corporate law (states).
- Regulatory Approaches: • Enforce campaign finance laws. • Adopt a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rule governing corporate political expenditures (SEC or Congress). • Strengthen and enforce 501(c)(4) political activity rules (Internal Revenue Service (IRS))
- Other Approaches: • Pass state laws that plug loopholes or continue to challenge Buckley and/or Citizens United rulings Supreme Court decisions. • Work for or with Congress members who are committed to reform. • Amend the U.S. Constitution to overturn rulings (Congress and states)

### **\*REDISTRICTING MEASURES WILL BE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT\***

The two redistricting measures that the League supports (see Page 3), referred to as Senate Concurrent Resolutions 004 and 005, have passed both the state Senate and House unanimously. **Amendments Y and Z will appear on the November 2018 ballot.** More information will be made available closer to the November election. For now, stay connected by subscribing to [Fair Maps Colorado](#) updates at their [website](http://www.fairmapscolorado.com/) fairmapscolorado.com/

**EMPOWERING VOTERS – DEFENDING DEMOCRACY!**



## **LWVUS AND LEAGUES ACROSS THE NATION**

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

**MISSION:** Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

**5 CORE PROGRAMMATIC STRATEGIES:** Ensure voter access Mobilize Voters Provide voter education Ensure voter protection Promote transparency and accountability in government

### **LWVUS Joins Empower Coalition**

LWVUS is excited to join the [Empower Coalition](#), a coalition of organizations coming together with a united purpose: supporting and strengthening the youth movement in the United States to enact change in the midterm elections. We'll have more information for how state and local Leagues can engage with this new Coalition in the next few weeks.

### **League Joins Ad Thanking Congressional Champions**

The League joined [a full-page ad](#) in Politico on May 22, 2018. The ad thanks Congressional Champions for standing against attacks on public lands and waters in Alaska. The League will continue to work with Congressional leaders to defend some of the wildest places left in America including the Tongass Rainforest and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

### **League Joins Letter Opposing Trump Administration's Rescissions Package**

LWVUS joined [a letter](#) sent to the U.S. House and Senate urging the rejection of a \$15.3 billion rescission package proposed by the Trump Administration. The package eliminates funds to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), cuts funding to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation and other programs that address public health, education, job training, and housing.

### **DC League Succeeds with Public Campaign Financing for DC**

Public campaign financing will come to the District of Columbia in the 2020 election cycle, and the DC League was an active and effective partner in the District-wide coalition that made it happen.

**LWVOH** is challenging the state's U.S. congressional districts as unconstitutional. [The federal lawsuit](#) alleges the current map violates Ohioan's right to have their votes count and their voices heard.

**The LWV of Tennessee Valley** hosted a [Voter Restoration Clinic](#), helping many of the nearly 280,000 people of Alabama who lost their right to vote get that right back.

**LWVFL** and students from the University of Florida and Florida State University are suing the state's top election official in an attempt to overturn a [4-year-old ban on early voting on college campuses](#).

### **LWVAZ Sues AZ Secretary of State**

Secretary Reagan is failing to ensure that Arizona voters' addresses are updated in accordance with federal 'Motor Voter' requirements. [And we're fighting to make sure that changes.](#) LWV Arizona along with partners Mi Familia VOTA and Promise Arizona are asking for fairness and equity in this lawsuit—500,000 voters are currently being disenfranchised. Motor Voter laws were meant to make it easier for voters to register and to stay registered to vote. With this suit, we seek to make sure that Arizona voters will not be turned away at the polls.

## **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!**

**2018-2019 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  
The Montrose Mirror  
Dennis Olmstead  
Ron Britten  
Karen and Bob Nicholson  
Judy Kittson**

**Local League Calendar**

**Mark Yours!**

**Saturday, Sept. 8, 10:30-Noon  
Voter Registration  
Maggie's Book Store**

**Thursday, Sept. 13, Noon  
Western Slope Youth Voter Initiative  
Vista Charter School**

**Tuesday, Sept. 25  
various venues & hours all day  
National Voter Registration Day**

**Tuesday, Oct. 2, 6:30  
Delta Candidate Forum  
Bill Heddles Recreation Center**

**Thursday, Oct. 4, 6:30 pm  
Montrose Candidate Forum  
Elks Civic Building - City Council Chambers**

**Thursday, Oct. 11, Noon  
Ballot Issues Forum  
Montrose Library Community Room**

**Check out our Website:**

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

Our webmaster, Tanya Ishikawa, keeps 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.

Tanya has set up a LWV Instagram account too!



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 League of Women Voters of Montrose County  
serving Montrose & Delta counties - 2018-2019  
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

**2018-2019 Officers & Board**

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

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Barb Krebs, Treasurer/Voter Service  
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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.**