



May 2014

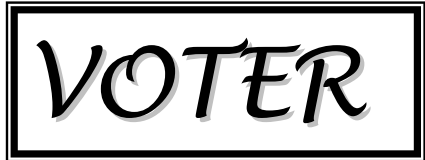
Membership: 28

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

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

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

[www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)



## OUR ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY, MAY 1, 11:30am



**DRAGON WALL - private meeting room  
216 NORTH TOWNSEND AVENUE,  
MONTROSE**

**Guest Speaker: Franklin Eccher, junior at Montrose High School, Western Slope Youth Voting Initiative**

**New officers will be elected and installed  
2014-2015 budget to be approved**

**YOUR ATTENDANCE IS REALLY IMPORTANT! SEE YOU THERE!**

Please bring an article to share on a topic of interest to you.

Come enjoy a savory buffet lunch, socialize and get better acquainted with local League members, relish memories of the accomplishments of the past League year, show your appreciation to last year's officers and board members, and help plan our upcoming year.

Invite a friend who might be a potential League member!

**DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!**

**LEAGUE  
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**RED BARN  
RESTAURANT**

1413 E. Main Street,  
Montrose

**WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 7, 5:30pm on**

**10% of the dinner  
proceeds will be  
donated to our  
League!**

**Here is a tasty and  
convenient way to  
support League!**

## Letter from the President



League Members,

It has been an honor and a privilege to represent you and the League at the local and state level for the past three years. We have accomplished a lot, and I believe that the community of Montrose has gained a wide respect for the League and what we do. For the past three years DMEA has asked us to conduct candidate forums for their annual Board elections; there has been great community participation in our two Making Democracy Work Award events; we have participated in national and state consensus studies with community participation at the various programs; as we addressed local issues, attendance at many of our community programs increased; we were asked to host the recent school board candidate forum; we collaborated with Montrose High School students to assist 16-18 year olds to register to vote online; our membership roster has not increased but we have gained new members as others have moved away.

Your Board has been phenomenal in planning programs and balancing our books, and I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to work with. However, it is with regret that many of the current Board members, including myself, will be stepping down as we have all been serving for a long time. I will continue to serve on the State Board and head up the VOTE411project for this election. But it is time for others to take the reins and continue to make our local League an integral and respected part of our two communities, Montrose and Delta.

Again, it has been an honor to represent all of you as your President.  
Karen Connor, President

## APRIL PROGRAM REPORT

### **AGRICULTURE UPDATE CONSENSUS QUESTIONS MEETING**



Eight enthusiastic and hardy members, Nancy and Norm Ball, Kathryn Carson, Bob and Karen Connor, Sheryl Clapton, Barb Krebs and Tammy Theis, met at noon on April 10 in the Montrose Library Community Room to address the 11 multi-part consensus questions prepared by the LWVUS for its agriculture update study.

The questions focused on what we felt the role the government should be in providing financial support to farmers and ranchers, regulation of animal management practices, research and development on the "many scientific processes for developing new crops or animals" and food safety and food labeling.

A 2-1/2 hour work session, which was interesting, educational, and full of lively discussion, resulted in the group reaching consensus, with comments, on all but one section of one of the questions. Our completed consensus report was sent to LWVCO on April 7 and all such reports from across the country were due to be received by April 18. The outcome of the national study, and any resulting changes in the national League's position on agriculture, will take several months. The Voter will keep you updated as this topic and its outcome are very important to the counties we serve.

## **STATE LEAGUE NEWS - LWVCO**

**Council - May 16 & 17 - See June Voter**

## **NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS - LWVUS**

**Law Day 2014: May 1**

**"American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters"**

LWVUS is once again supporting the American Bar Association's Law Day activities. This year's theme aligns nicely with the work Leagues are undertaking across the country to protect voters' rights and coincides with our annual meeting

### **What is Law Day?**

A national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share. Law Day also provides an opportunity to recognize the role of courts in this democracy and the importance of jury service to maintaining the integrity of the courts.

### **How did Law Day begin?**

In 1957, American Bar Association (ABA) President Charles S. Rhyne, a Washington, D.C., attorney, envisioned a special day for celebrating our legal system. In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day as a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law. In 1961, Congress, by joint resolution, designated May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day. In addition, every year since 1958 the president of the United States has issued a Law Day proclamation recognizing the importance of this day.

Regarding its 2014 theme "**American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters**", the American Bar Association had the following message:

One of our most cherished national ideals, expressed eloquently by Abraham Lincoln, is "government of the people, by the people, for the people." It is a principle enshrined in our nation's founding documents, from the Declaration of Independence's assurance that governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed, to the opening three words of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, "We the People."

The right to vote is the very foundation of government by the people. For this reason, striving to establish and protect every citizen's right to vote has been a central theme of American legal and civic history. Much of the struggle for voting rights began decades ago, but the work is far from complete, and a citizen's right to cast a ballot remains at risk today.

As this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and next the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the 2014 Law Day theme "**American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters**" calls upon every American to reflect on the importance of a citizen's right to vote and the challenges we still face in ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to participate in our democracy.

Look for the LWV Montrose County exhibit at the Montrose Library.

## Understanding Elections: Primaries 101

By: Renee Davidson 03/11/2014 , LWVUS Blog

### **Every year, millions of voters across the country head to the ballot box to vote in primary elections.**

Primaries, a key part of our voting system, are held for most public offices when there are multiple candidates, usually from the same party, seeking office. Primaries offer a crucial opportunity for voters to take control and weigh in on the issues that matter to them most. During a primary, voters narrow down the candidates, usually selecting the one person that will represent each party, in advance of the general election for the office. Primaries can be held anytime throughout the year but most primaries are held February through June. In many areas, the outcome of primary elections has a major impact on the outcome of general elections. Unfortunately, very few voters actually go to the polls for a primary election. But this means any increase in participation can have a significant impact!

Who votes in primaries? And what happens next? The rules about primaries, including when they are held and who can participate in them, vary widely by state. Here's a quick look at primaries to help answer your questions about this pivotal part of our voting system.

### **When Is My State's Primary?**

[VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), a project of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF), is a one-stop-shop for election related information. Simply enter your address or search for your state to find everything you need to know about your state's primary or upcoming elections, including deadlines for voter registration, early and absentee voting opportunities, voting rules and more. The Federal Election Commission (FEC) also keeps up-to-date lists of primaries and elections. **Colorado's congressional primary date is June 24.**

### **Who Can Participate in Primaries?**

**Rules on what type of voters can participate in primaries vary greatly by state.** Generally speaking, individuals designate the political party whose primaries they will vote in when they register to vote or update their voter registration, but some states let you make this choice on Election Day. Overall, states hold one of **four main types of primaries**:

- **Open Primaries:** In some states, voters can cast a vote in a primary, regardless of his or her political affiliation. This means that as long as you are registered to vote, you may choose which party's primary you want to participate in when you get your ballot.
- **Closed Primaries:** In some states, only voters who are registered members of a political party prior to the primary may participate in choosing that party's candidates. In states where the majority of voters typically vote for a certain party, closed primaries can play a large role in determining the winner of the general election.
- **Semi-closed or Hybrid Primary:** In these states, voters who have not previously chosen a political party have the option to choose which party primary to vote in, while voters registered with a party may only vote in that party's primary. This system represents a middle ground in that independent or unaffiliated voters can still participate, but voters cannot vote outside of their party. **Colorado has this type of primary election**, as do 23 other states.
- **Top-Two Primaries:** Voters select their choice for nomination from a list of all candidates, regardless of party affiliation. The two candidates who receive the most votes become the candidates in the general election.

A minority of states hold a **nominating caucus** instead of a primary. In a nominating caucus, a small group of party leaders or a broader group of voters choose the party's nominee for the general election. In some states, voters from any party can participate in any party's caucus. Unlike a primary election, nominating caucuses are run by the party itself, not the state or local government.

Two side notes, by 2015, the Millennial generation will account for one third of the electorate! Voter ID laws are currently in place in more than 30 states. Due to the 24th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prohibits poll taxes, states that require Voter ID must provide an ID to voters at no cost.

# Wyoming best, South worst for women candidates, study finds

By Mark Z. Barabak, The Los Angeles Times, March 26, 2014



\* Includes general and special elections from 1989 - March 2014  
Compiled by Smart Politics

Smart Politics reviewed more than 5,300 U.S. House general and special elections conducted over the last 25 years to grade the states according to their tendency to election female representatives.

Taken from the article (and as you can see, Wyoming received the only A+):

"It turns out Wyoming, hardly renowned as a bastion of political progressivism, leads the country on a percentage basis---though it may have something to do with the state containing just a single congressional seat. Wyoming has elected a woman to its at-large House seat in each of the last 10 elections, and 10 of 13 contests since 1989, according to [the Smart Politics study](#). That works out to 76.9% of the time, well ahead of South Dakota, which has elected women to its at-large seat in six consecutive contests and six of 13 races during the span, or 46.2% of the time. Wyoming has historically been a friendly place for women candidates and causes. Nellie Tayloe Ross became the nation's first female governor in 1925 when she was elected to finish her late husband's term. The state also granted women the right to vote well ahead of the rest of the country."

Analyzing the percentage of U.S. House seats won by women by state from 1989-2014, **Colorado ranks at 20.5% having elected women to 16 House seats out of 78 contests.**

By the way, have you ever wondered why elections are held on Tuesdays? In 1845, Congress set Tuesday as the day for federal elections to bring some uniformity because of widely inconsistent state practices. Because voters were often traveling over distances to the county seat to cast a ballot, and doing so on horseback or by horse and buggy, many voters had to travel the day before election day to be there for voting. Congress ruled out Monday as a voting day because this would require many voters to travel on Sunday, the Christian Sabbath. By holding elections on Tuesday, farmers could get back home in time for market day, often held on a Wednesday. Although new technologies and industrialization have rendered this reasoning obsolete, elections are still held on Tuesdays as a vestige of the United States' agrarian roots.



## D.M.E.A. CANDIDATE FORUMS

Karen Connor, president of the Montrose County League of Women Voters, serving Montrose and Delta counties, was contacted recently by Delta-Montrose Electrical Association and asked by the local co-op to once again host its pre-election candidate forums for board seats, and she again accepted.

Each year there is an election to determine the representative from three of the nine board districts. In 2014, seats are up for election are: **District #7** including Cedaredge, Eckert, and Orchard City, **District #6**, including much of Delta and the surrounding area and the **North Region** including all service territory North of the Delta-Montrose county line.

League will moderate the DMEA candidate forums in Cedaredge on May 6 at 6pm and in Montrose on May 13 at 6pm.

**Thursday, June 11, 2014** Deadline voted ballots to be received by mail. An announcement of the election results comes at the end of the annual meeting to be held on **June 12, 2014**.

## LWVCO Council in Grand Junction May 16 and 17

Our local league will be sponsoring Kathryn Carson and Tammy Theis as representatives. Additionally, Karen Connor will attend as a LWVCO state board member, while Nancy Ball and Sheryl Clapton will attend as local league observers.

Board elections, including a new state League president, adoption of the 2014-15 budget, the Legislative Wrap-up, and leadership workshops will be the order of business. An important feature of this year's Council will be the presentation of the report of the LWVCO's Mental Health Task Force on Colorado's Behavioral Health System (mental health and substance abuse), including its relationship with gun violence.

Look for reports in the June Colorado and local Voter newsletters.

## 2014 LWV Community Support

The Montrose County League of Women Voters thanks these local businesses, organizations and individuals who have donated financial and in-kind support for the 2014 year. Please add your thank you when you patronize these businesses or visit with these individuals.

Alpine Archaeological  
Horsefly Brewing Company  
Red Barn Restaurant  
Camp Robber  
Julie Gleason  
Dennis Olmstead  
Ellie and Steve Dooley  
Sarah Combs  
The Montrose Mirror  
Rod Britten

## League Calendar

**May 1, 11:30am: Annual Meeting,  
Dragon Wall, 216 No. Townsend,  
Montrose**

**May 6, 6pm: DMEA candidate forum  
in Cedaredge - League will moderate**

**May 7, from 5:30 pm: Fundraiser at  
Red Barn Restaurant**

**May 13, 6pm: DMEA candidate forum  
in Montrose - League will moderate**

**May 16-17: LWVCO Council, Grand  
Junction**

**Join League of Women Voters of Montrose  
County  
2014-2015  
Not for Women Only!**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_ **Individual \$55** (Of this amount \$31 goes to National League; \$18 goes to State League; \$6 is retained by the Montrose League)

\_\_\_ **Household \$90** – Two members in one household (National League receives \$46.50; State League \$27; \$16.50 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 Kathryn Carson, 62431 N. Star Dr., Montrose CO 81403.

Membership Questions? Contact Tammy Theis, 209-4507, [unionyes@montrose.net](mailto:unionyes@montrose.net)

**2013-2014 Board Members**

**President:** Karen Connor, 249-2135  
[kconnor1941@gmail.com](mailto:kconnor1941@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Joan Elliott, 240-4945,  
[joamar1@juno.com](mailto:joamar1@juno.com)

**Treasurer:** Kathryn Carson, 249-3776,  
[pkcarson@bresnan.net](mailto:pkcarson@bresnan.net)

**Delta Representative:** Peggy Baxter,  
856-6225, [peggybax@gmail.com](mailto:peggybax@gmail.com)

**Delta Representative:** Martha Grewal,  
856-4748, [grewalmartha@yahoo.com](mailto:grewalmartha@yahoo.com)

**Voter Newsletter:** Nancy Ball, 249-8963  
[nancyball@montrose.net](mailto:nancyball@montrose.net)

**Website:** Susan Chandler-Reed, 249-1076,  
[susan.chandler.reed@gmail.com](mailto:susan.chandler.reed@gmail.com)

**Voter Service:** Rod Britten, 240-1119,  
[rodbritten@montrose.net](mailto:rodbritten@montrose.net)

**Membership:** Tammy Theis, 209-4507,  
[unionyes@montrose.net](mailto:unionyes@montrose.net)

**At Large:** Rosemary Murphy, 249-3925,  
[mmurfh@hotmail.com](mailto:mmurfh@hotmail.com)

**Fundraising:** Caitlin Switzer, 275-5791,  
[caite@montrose.net](mailto:caite@montrose.net)

**LWVUS Agriculture Study:** Barb Krebs,  
249-3989 [stukrebs@hotmail.com](mailto:stukrebs@hotmail.com)



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MONTROSE COUNTY**  
Box 3321  
Montrose, CO 81402

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.

**Check out our Website:**

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

Our webmaster, Susan Chandler-Reed, is doing a terrific job keeping us updated on and linked to local, state and national activities, issues and websites.

