

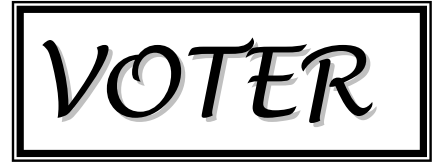


November 2017

Membership: 41

www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
Serving Montrose and Delta Counties



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MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK --- FOR EVERYONE!

ALL THINGS ELECTIONS & VOTING---#3



REDISTRICTING/GERRYMANDERING: HOW THEY AFFECT OUR DEMOCRACY

What are they? Who draws the lines? Why do they matter? What are some solutions?

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, NOON
MONTROSE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM**

Bring a friend!

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LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

TIME TO RENEW YOUR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP!

Thank you for your past support and for renewing NOW so we can continue to have the impact you have come to expect. League needs your renewed membership to ensure that we can accomplish our ambitious schedule of activities in the coming year.

In this time of heightened partisanship, gridlock between policy makers and increased frustration among the public, there has never been a more urgent need for the reasoned, factual and civil voice the League of Women Voters brings to our community, state and nation. **As a member, you are a crucial part of League's non-partisan, hands-on work to safeguard democracy and create lasting change.**

Our local chapter dues are \$60.00 annually (\$5.00 per month) to encourage maximum participation from the community. Disbursement of funds is as follows:

Individual \$60 - National League receives \$30; State League \$20; \$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

Of course, please feel free to build upon your dues to include either a contribution toward our general fund or a tax-deductible to LWVCO Education Fund.

If you joined the local League after our annual meeting in May of this year, your membership is NOT due at this time.



Also, it's time for planning our annual Christmas party. Ideas welcome! Want to assist? Call Barb Krebs at 970-596-7870 ASAP!



**Still looking for a Voter editor! Fresh eyes for our new year...
If you are interested in taking on this role, contact Nancy Ball at 249-8963.**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

The State of Redistricting in Colorado

Recently a few questions have emerged about Colorado state redistricting initiatives. LWV-Colorado has been involved in the work but has not yet decided whether to support the final initiatives. The two initiatives are now in the approval process. If the initiatives make it to the ballot we will have time to educate ourselves on their merits and vote on whether or not the LWV Colorado will support both, either of them, or neither. At a special board meeting on October 26, 2017, the following motion was voted on and approved:

"The State Board of the LWV of CO supports the concepts and process of the Fair Districts Colorado Committee. We understand that representatives from the League are supporting LWVUS and LWVCO League positions in their work on the Committee. The final wording of the proposal is still being developed to address some minor lingering issues."

Clarification from LWVCO President Nancy Crow:

Early in 2017 the League of Women Voters was invited to participate in a committee to draft a proposal for establishing an independent redistricting commission. Common Cause was also invited. This committee was formed by many of the same persons who had made a similar proposal last year. The name of the 2016 committee was No More Gerrymandering. This year the committee is named Fair Districts Colorado.

Hopefully, Fair Districts Colorado efforts to establish an Independent Redistricting Commission are successful. **However, it must be made clear that the LWV Colorado Board of Directors has not yet voted to support these ballot initiatives.**

All political parties have tried to gain the advantage in drawing district lines since political parties were formed in Washington's second term. Most agree that it is impossible to draw truly fair lines. The League needs to investigate a systemic change – proportional representation seems to work in other democracies.

LWV Colorado Position

REDISTRICTING LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

POSITION IN BRIEF:

Support of measures to establish an agency other than the General Assembly to redistrict the Colorado General Assembly and the Colorado Congressional Districts. Support of redrawing the districts of both houses of the state legislature and the Colorado U.S. congressional districts based on specific criteria.

POSITION: *(Adopted 1973, rev. 1983, 2011)*

Support for the following criteria for drawing the boundaries of legislative districts of both houses of the state legislature and of Colorado U.S. congressional districts:

- Each district should have a population as nearly equal as may be required by the Constitution of the U.S., but in no event shall there be more than 5% deviation between the most populous and the least populous district.
- Each district shall be as compact an area as possible and the aggregate linear distance of all district boundaries shall be as short as possible.
- Except when necessary to meet equal population requirements, no part of a county shall be added to all or part of another county in forming districts. Within counties whose territory is contained in more than one district, the number of cities and towns whose territory is contained in more than one district shall be as few as possible.
- Consistent with the preceding criteria, communities of interest including ethnic, cultural, economic trade area, geographic and demographic factors shall be preserved within a single district wherever possible.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE U.S.

The League Update by Chris Carson, LWVUS President

October 12, 2017



LWV CEO WYLECIA WIGGS HARRIS SPEAKS IN FRONT OF THE SUPREME COURT DURING GILL V. WHITFORD ARGUMENTS

Last week, as the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the Wisconsin redistricting case of [*Gill v. Whitford*](#), League members and staff participated in a rally outside of the high court.

LWVUS CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris addressed the crowd saying "it is high time the court took charge of partisan gerrymandering... because voters should select their elected representatives. Elected representatives should NOT choose their voters." We expect the Court will have a decision on this case by June 2018. In the meantime, you can read more about the League's position in this case in [our amicus brief](#).

EDUCATE, ADVOCATE, IMPACT!

**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**

**Local League
Calendar**

Mark Yours!

Thursday, November 16

**Noon - Montrose
Library Community
Room**

**Re-districting
Gerrymandering**

Check out our Website:

www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org

Our new 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.



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 - 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**

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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.