

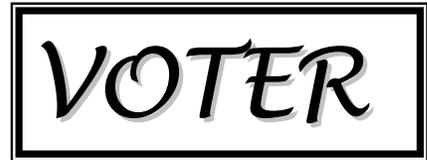


October 2014

Membership: 28

www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
Serving Montrose and Delta Counties



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ELECTION TIME! LEAGUE VOTER SERVICE PROGRAMS CALENDAR

**BALLOT ISSUES PRESENTATION + "2014 ELECTION BRIEFING" BY
FRAN LONG, MONTROSE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2 AT NOON
MONTROSE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM**

**A MEET & GREET FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES
FOR DISTRICT 3 SEAT
MARCIA NEAL (R-INCUM.) & DR. HENRY ROMAN (D)
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, FROM 4:30 - 6:30 PM
TWO RASCALS BREWERY, 147 N. First Street, Montrose**

**Ballot Issues Presentation for Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 7:15 PM
WHEELER ROOM-MEMORIAL HALL, 175 N. 1st Street, Hotchkiss**

**CANDIDATE FORUM
STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 61, Millie Hamner and Debra Irvine
and STATE SENATE DISTRICT 5, Kerry Donovan, Lee Mulcahy, and Don Suppes
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 6:30 PM
MEMORIAL HALL, 175 N. 1st Street, Hotchkiss**

**CANDIDATE FORUM
MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT SEAT 2
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 7 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 107 N. Cascade, Montrose
FOUR CANDIDATES, TOWN HALL FORMAT, DOORS OPEN AT 6:30**

**BALLOT ISSUES FORUM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 7 PM
MEMORIAL HALL, 175 N. 1st Street, Hotchkiss**

STATE BALLOT ISSUES & LWVCO POSITIONS

•**Amendment 67**, Definition of a Person and Child, would include the words “person” and “child” in the Colorado Criminal Code and wrongful death statutes to include unborn human beings. (constitutional)

OPPOSE

•**Amendment 68**, Horse Racetrack Casino Gambling, would permit casino gambling at horse racetracks in Arapahoe, Mesa and Pueblo Counties and distribute revenue from the new casino gambling tax to K-12 education. (constitutional)

OPPOSE

•**Proposition 104**, School Board Meeting Requirements requires that local school boards or representatives negotiate collective bargaining agreements in open meetings. (statutory)

OPPOSE

•**Proposition 105**, Labeling of Genetically Modified Food which would require foods be labeled that are genetically modified or produced by genetic engineering. (statutory)

NO POSITION

LOCAL BALLOT ISSUES & LWV MONTROSE COUNTY POSITIONS

3A, A mill levy override of property taxes that will result in \$2.9 million each year through 2019 for the RE1-J School District for hiring additional highly-qualified teachers, instructional and curriculum materials, technology designed to be used in the classroom, professional development and training for educators, and needed maintenance and improvement of classroom and school facilities.

SUPPORT

5A, A mill levy increase of 4.5 mills to property tax for Olathe residents with the revenue to be used for the payment of salaries and associated expenses for personnel to provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical services of the Olathe Fire Protection District. The total mill levy for Olathe residents would not exceed 9.016 mills in any fiscal year.

NO POSITION



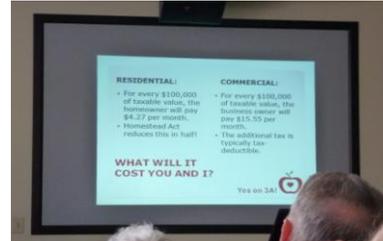
LWVUS is sponsoring the Colorado VOTE411 website where voters can find information on national, state and local candidates, as well as pros and cons of ballot issues that will appear on their ballots. Anyone can access this helpful website via www.VOTE411.org or by going to our local website www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org

“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

LOCAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

"YES FOR OUR SCHOOLS" PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 11, 2014



Caitlin Switzer, president, welcomed the 17 attendees and three presenters, Melanie Hall, Scott Stryker and Paul Zaenger, to the meeting, first giving moving comments about the 13th anniversary of 9/11 before announcing our upcoming ballot issues programs, candidates forums, voter registration efforts, a "meet & greet" for the two state school board candidates for District 3 and then handing the meeting over to our guest speakers.

The "Yes for Our Schools" committee is comprised of a group of local residents that has been working with the school district and the community for the past two years to determine the needs of students, teachers, and facilities and then to distill the most important of those and balance them with what dollar amount the community might be willing to accept as a tax increase. Their efforts have resulted in Ballot Issue 3A, a mill levy override to property taxes that will result in \$2.9 million each year through 2019 for the school district of which \$1.6m will be allocated to hiring additional highly-qualified teachers; \$400K to instructional and curriculum materials; \$350K to technology designed to be used in the classroom; \$348K to professional development and training for educators; and, \$220K to needed maintenance and improvement of classroom and school facilities, after which the issue would again be placed on the ballot for re-authorization to continue the increase. 42% of the \$2.9m increase will be borne by residential homeowners, 38% by commercial property owners, and 4.8% by the agriculture sector. The resulting monies would provide \$454 more each school year per pupil for our over 6,000 students, and the presenters passion was obvious in their advocacy for "our kids", and their futures in the 21st century, as they made a compelling case for passage of the ballot issue.

Questions referencing the "con" side of the argument were fielded from the audience with the assistance of Mark Mac Hale, the Re1-J school district superintendent. Some of the issues addressed were the separation of funds from the general fund; control over those funds and transparency in spending them; class size, teaching methods and student motivation; using a tax increase to fund community development rather than using it for our schools; gauging of results brought by the additional funding; and, percentage of tax increase. The latter brought out the fact that a sample Montrose residence with a 51.7% increase in assessed property value since 1995 has had a 6.4% decrease in property taxes and is now paying 27.7% less to the school district in property taxes than it did in 1995! Commercial property owners have a much different story with a 21% increase.

As yet, no group has contacted our League asking to present the con side of the argument. Nathan Meecham of the *Montrose Daily Press* covered the event.

STATE LEAGUE NEWS

LEAGUE DAY 2014 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014 - Denver



For this year's 150 or so attendees, including Nancy Ball and Karen Connor of our local League, League Day was an outstanding experience!

Highlights of the **Voter Service** segment of the program:

A 1/2 hour debate between Colorado Secretary of State candidates, Wayne Williams, Republican, and Joe Neguse, Democrat (see VOTE411.org). Each clearly defined his vision, and answered questions from the LWVCO and from the audience. Particularly interesting was the "shotgun" portion during which questions came rapid fire and had to be answered with either a "yes" or a "no; curiously enough, the candidates agreed on their support of three of the four state ballot issues, only disagreeing on Proposition 104, Williams for and Neguse against.

"Ballot Issues for Fall Elections" presentation by Gerry Cummins, VP Voter Service, LWVCO. See page 2.

"LWVCO Positions on Ballot Issues" by Nancy Crow, VP Program, LWVCO, and Karen Connor, chair, LWVCO VOTE411 project. See page 2.

Two thought-provoking topics presented in preparation for the upcoming **LWVUS study and review of campaign finance**, and **understanding the League's newly-adopted concurrence on human trafficking**:

"Amending the U.S. Constitution" by Courtenay Daum, Associate Professor, C.S.U. Dept. of Political Science, who held us riveted with her explanation of how amendments are proposed and passed; recent recurring proposals that so far have failed; and her discussion of the unpopularity of the Citizens United vs Federal Election Commission on national, state and local scenes and what it would take to overturn it. PowerPoint available.

"Human Trafficking: Action to Stop" by Kimberly Love and Ken Kyzer, Shared Hope International, follows the LWVUS' recent position that the \$150 billion industry of labor and sex trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. The information presented was shocking, necessarily difficult to hear and unsettling to ponder, but this topic needs to be addressed in this country and around the world.

Local Leagues in Action this year was presented by Carol Pace, Director at Large, LWVCO and covered the topics of "National History Day", "Remote Testimony for Legislative Sessions", and "How to Become an Election Judge" with comments by three League members, one each from Gunnison, Arapahoe and Montrose (Nancy Ball) counties.

The full day concluded with a comprehensive report entitled "**Behavioral Health Task Force - Where from here?**" presented by Barbara Mattison, President-Elect, LWVCO, and Task Force Chair, that gave an update on the progress made by the group on its recent recommendations and what remains to be accomplished by the local and state leagues. PowerPoint available.

In addition to a supply of prized Ballot Issues pamphlets for distribution in Montrose and Delta counties, Karen and Nancy returned home with many ideas for programming activities for our local League.

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

September 25, 2014...It has been quite a week. On Sunday, League members literally from across the country converged on New York City to participate in a [Climate Change March](#). On Tuesday, along with thousands of partners nationwide, the League celebrated **National Voter Registration Day**. At events around the country, League members reminded voters that every election is important and that registration deadlines are rapidly approaching. In total, **Leagues sponsored 400 events**. In New York City, the League and its partners set up tables, provided speakers and entertainment and most importantly, registered dozens of people to vote. But the New York City League was not alone. Around the country, Leagues used creative and entertaining means to draw attention to the importance of registering to vote. In North Carolina, there was a bluegrass concert; in Miami a large-scale community college event. And in hundreds of cities small groups of League members picked up their clipboards and registration forms to hit subway stations, bus stops, grocery stores, schools and baseball games.

In 2012 and 2013, on this single day, thousands of partners helped more than 350,000 voters get registered or update their registration nationwide. Already, we know that tens of thousands of voters were registered on Tuesday—with the numbers still pouring in. **When the stats show one in four Americans is not registered to vote, yet 75 percent of those registered make it to the polls in major national election years, the importance of this day is obvious.** Thank you to each and every League member that has registered voters, answered voters' questions, organized a debate or forum, created a voters' guide on [VOTE411.org](#) or elsewhere, or undertaken any other voters' service activity. This is a busy time of year for all of us and you are very much appreciated! Keep up the great work!

In League, Elizabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS

Our local League assisted eligible students with online voter registration at Delta-Montrose Technical College and the Montrose Campus of C.M.U. on September 25 and September 30 respectively to mark National Voter Registration Day.

OBSERVERING THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE SUMMIT

Excerpts from guest blog post was written by [Rosalee Keech](#), UN Observer and LWVUS board member. 9/25/2014

This week, the United Nations (UN) hosted a summit on climate change with leaders from around the world, including heads of state and government, as well as leaders from business, finance and civil society in order to catalyze ambitious action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen climate resilience, and to mobilize political will toward achieving an ambitious, legally binding international climate change agreement by 2015. **The League of Women Voters of the United States participated with a small group of civil society leaders at the Summit.** The UN has established the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to provide financing to innovative solutions in developing countries to reduce carbon emissions and achieve a reduction by 2 degrees Celsius. Countries pledged reductions in greenhouse emissions and more importantly investment in low carbon resilient development. Recognizing that climate change also effects global prosperity, Ban Ki Moon, U.N. Secretary General, has concentrated on asking for innovative solutions from the private sector.

It was an honor to be able to attend the Summit and to observe these discussions. The League recognizes climate change as one of the greatest challenges of our generation and we are focusing on solutions.

Background: In 1945, at the UN Charter Conference, the League of Women Voters was invited by President Harry Truman to serve as a consultant to the U.S. delegation. Since that time, the League has continued its presence at the United Nations through its one official and two alternate observers. In July 1997, the League was granted Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which provides the opportunity to make interventions on issues the League supports. Consultative status allows the League to: make formal oral or written statements to the UN and be consulted by the UN in areas which the League has expertise.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!



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

We continue to hold our base dues at \$55 annually to encourage maximum participation from the community. Of course, please feel free to build upon your dues to include either a contribution to our general fund or a tax-deductible donation to the LWVCO Education Fund.

2014-2015 LWV Community Support

The League of Women Voters of Montrose County 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 Archaeological
Red Barn Restaurant
Julie Gleason
Dennis Olmstead
Ellie and Steve Dooley
Sarah Combs
The Montrose Mirror
Rod Britten
Horsefly Brewing Company
Montrose Bank**

League Calendar

October

- 2** Ballot Issues Forum + "2014 Election Briefing"- Fran Tipton-Long - Montrose Library Community Room - Noon
- 6** Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Ballot Issues Presentation - Wheeler Room - Memorial Hall, Hotchkiss, 7:15pm
- 7** State House 61 & Senate 5 Candidate Forum - Memorial Hall, Hotchkiss, 6:30 pm
- 8** Heidi's Forum Ballot Issues Presentation-Heidi's Deli - 8 am
- 9** Montrose County Commissioner Candidate Forum - City Council Chambers - doors open at 6:30 pm
- 14** Ballot Issues Forum - Memorial Hall, Hotchkiss - 6:30 pm
- 25** LWV membership drive and voter registration - Connect for Health Colorado Insurance Fair - Centennial Room - 9 am-12 pm

November

6 TBD

December

4 Holiday Get-Together - TBD

**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 P.O. Box 3321, Montrose, CO 81402

2014-2015 Board Members

President: Caitlin Switzer, 275-5791, caite@montrose.net

Vice President: Jean Aaro, 970-872-4256, jean@dvywest.com

Secretary: Nancy Ball, 249-8963, nancyball@montrose.net

Treasurer: Rod Britten, 240-1119, rodbritten@montrose.net

Voter Newsletter:

Website: Susan Chandler-Reed, 249-1076, susan.chandler.reed@gmail.com

Membership:

Program Chair:

Fundraising:

At Large: Karen Connor, 249-2135, kconnor1941@gmail.com

Rosemary Murphy, 249-3925, mmurfh@hotmail.com

Barbara Krebs, 249-3989, 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/

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.

