



Colorado Voter

August 2010, Volume 24, Number 1

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF COLORADO

LWVCO League Day

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Registration 8:30 a.m., Conference 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Colorado Room, Holiday Inn Select Denver, 455 South Colorado Blvd.

The hotel is located just north of the intersection of

South Colorado Boulevard and Cherry Creek Drive North.

Hotel sleeping rooms available to Leaguers for \$99.00 plus tax.

Call 888-388-6129 for reservations.

Registration Fee \$32.00 (The registration fee covers meeting room, lunch, audiovisual equipment, refreshments prior to the conference, and conference materials.)

Local Leagues will have the opportunity to pick up their Colorado Ballot Issues pamphlets—hot off the press—and receive information for their own Redistricting Informational meeting. The pros and cons of the Colorado ballot issues will be presented. League advocacy positions (support or oppose) on the issues will be discussed.

Candidates for the gubernatorial and US Senatorial races have been invited for debates, but only one has committed to appear as of August 4. Local League presidents, as well as those who have sent in their registration form, will receive the confirmed program to send to their members prior to League Day.

Colorado League Day Registration Form - Deadline Friday, September 17

Registration Fee \$32.00 (No refunds after September 17)

Lunch includes dessert and coffee or tea Please circle the number of your lunch choice that follows your name on this form. **(1) Orange Chicken Salad** (tossed Romaine and spring lettuce mix, oranges and cashews, topped with grilled chicken breast, balsamic vinaigrette served on the side). **(2) Turkey Cobb** (diced smoked turkey breast served over a bed of mixed greens with eggs, bacon, blue cheese, cucumber, tomato, and carrots). **(3) Seasonal Fruit Salad** (assortment of fresh seasonal fruits and berries, served with yogurt.)

Name _____ Lunch choice: 1 or 2 or 3

(Please print name as you wish to have it appear on the name tag.)

Name of League _____

Pay by check (made payable to LWVCO) Visa Mastercard **Amount \$32.00**

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ LWVCO Fax # 303.837.9917

Mail to: LWV of COLORADO, 1410 GRANT ST STE B204, DENVER CO 80203-1855

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Colorado Voter

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From the President

Whoever coined the phrase “lazy, hazy days of summer” was not a Leaguer! LWVCO members have been very active during the summer months.

June 11-15 — LWVUS Convention in Atlanta with 18 delegates from Colorado. Two new studies were adopted: Federal Role in Public Education and the Privatization of Government Function. Three positions were adopted by concurrence: Updated Arms Control, Support of National Popular Vote Compact, and Marriage Equality added to Equality of Opportunity. Six resolutions were supported. Margie Beal was Chairwoman of the LWVUS Resolutions Committee

June 25 & 26 — Leadership Retreat in Frisco. Thanks to LWVCO VP Member Services Lineah Davey (Pikes Peak Region), there were 37 participants representing 15 Local Leagues, 8 State Board members, and 2 Recruitment Coaches.

July 9 & 10 — LWVCO Board retreat in Grand County. Goal for 2010-2011/12: **Strengthening Local Leagues by adding State Value to What it Does.** Strategies to accomplish this goal include: (1) Membership—Support of Local Leagues in retaining and increasing membership statewide 5% over two years, continue to implement Membership Recruitment Initiatives (MRI); (2) Improve Communication; (3) More Visibility; and (4) Update Technology (i.e. conference calls, website, social networking sites, expand voter service/education programs)

August 4 — Board meeting at LWVCO office. Welcomed new Board members: Secretary Allison Beggs (Adams County), 2nd VP Shirley Jin (Boulder County), President Elect Cath Perrone (Jefferson County). Communications Director Sue Pinkham (Estes Park) was unable to attend. Guests: Anne Norwood (Chairwoman of Investment Committee) and Laurie DiBattista (Editor of Colorado Nonpoint Source Newsletter).

Looking forward to the “crazy” days of fall when I’ll be seeing you!

September 23 — Party Time! 90th Birthday Celebration
at the Governor’s Residence

September 25 — League Day: Ballot Issues Pros and Cons pamphlets,
League positions, candidate debate.

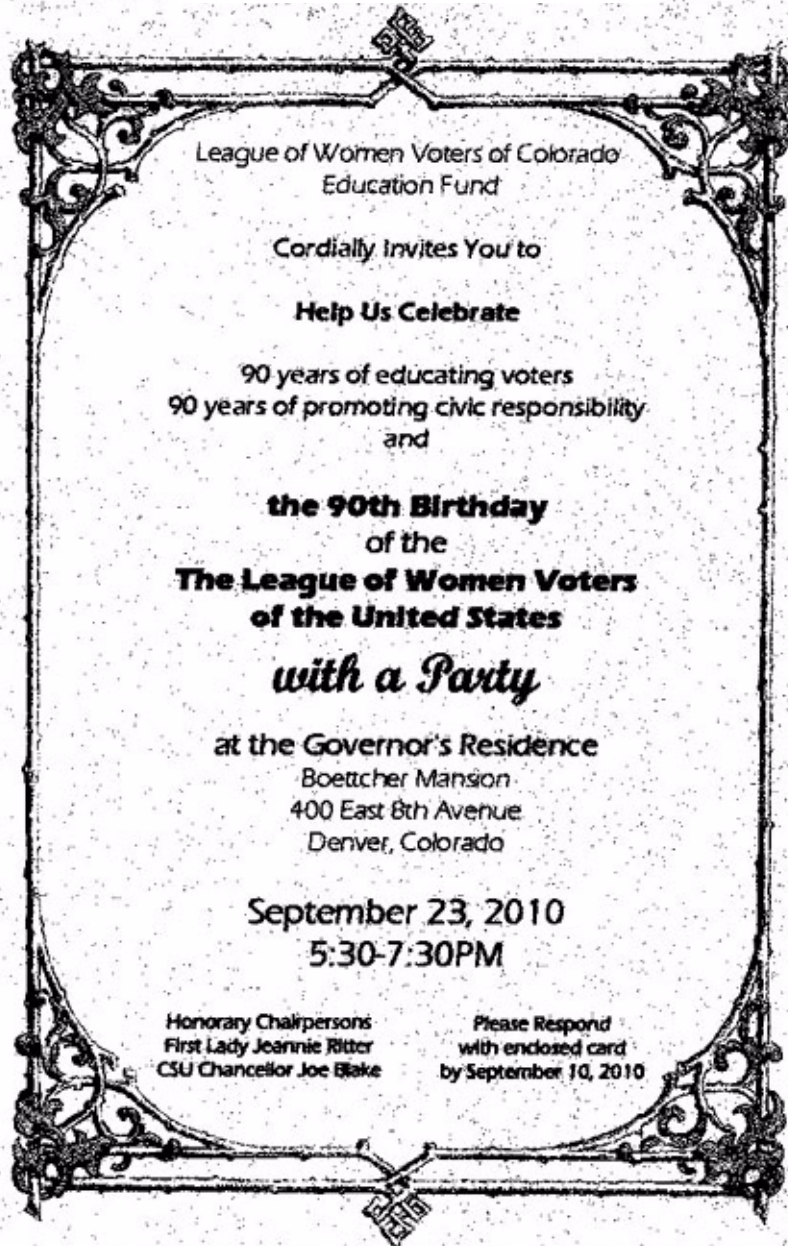
Many thanks for a productive summer, Leaguers!

Patty Cordova

Fifkova Bequest

LWVCO President Cordova recently appointed Anne Norwood, LWV of Boulder County and former LWVCO Board member, to be Chairwoman of the Investment Committee. Other members of the committee are Bobbie Heisterkamp, Flodie Anderson, Marge Fisch, and Beth Daugherty. The Investment Committee and the LWVCO Board have been working together on investing the Fifkova bequest. We are still in the safeguarding stage and have not spent or distributed any funds. More information should be available at League Day, September 25.

This is Your Party!



Don't miss it!

Be there to meet and greet!

An Impressive Venue!

500 Invitations mailed to League Supporters

See the next page for more Good News!

Payment by Check VISA Mastercard

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Authorized Signature _____

Mail to: LWVCO Education Fund
1410 Grant Street Suite B-204
Denver, Colorado 80203

The League of Women Voters 90th Birthday Party September 23, 2010 at the Governor's Residence

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City and ZIP _____

of Guests attending: _____ x 50.00 = \$ _____

I can't attend, but would like to contribute \$ _____

All payments will benefit the Education Fund and are tax deductible.
Make checks payable to the LWV of Colorado Education Fund
Only prepaid reservations are accepted for this event.
Please reply by September 10th, 2010.

For more information, call the LWV Office 303-863-0437

The Burnsley

All Suite Hotel

League of Women Voters 90th Anniversary Party Special

Price of \$99 per night, plus tax — Includes breakfast for one each day.

Book your reservation by Monday, August 30, 2010

Call reservations at 303-830-1000 or 800-231-3915

Complimentary shuttle service to the Governor's Residence for the 90th Birthday Party.

Distinguished boutique hotel with 80 suites, separate bedroom with 1 king bed, full kitchen, living and dining areas, private walk-out balcony with city or mountain views, complimentary high speed internet, complimentary covered parking, complimentary shuttle service within 3 miles (including downtown and Cherry Creek).

Here Comes the Judge, Here Comes the Judge

by Patty Cordova, LWVCO President

Click on www.knowyourjudge.com and encourage every Colorado voter to do the same!

This fall Colorado voters will be asked to vote “yes” or “no” on some of our state judges who are up for retention. In past elections, voters have notoriously “skipped,” voted “yes” on all or “no” on all, or have even voted a “yes, no, yes, no” pattern. It appears voters are not familiar with the judges, don't know where to find the information, or are totally surprised that judges are on the ballot.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado has joined the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System and the Colorado Bar Association in efforts to help Colorado voters become informed. Thirty-second public service announcements (PSAs) are being aired on television and radio; and a website has been developed where voters can access information about our Colorado judicial merit selection and retention system.

**In a 2010 Judicial Performance Evaluation poll conducted by RBI Strategies, Inc.,
“trusted messengers are the League of Women Voters and the Colorado Bar Association.”**

LWVCO Office Assistant

by Shirley Jin, LWVCO VP, Administration

Julie Leonard will be assisting in LWVCO's office during the election season beginning August 25. She is a member of the LWV of Boulder County. Julie has a BA in Spanish from Tulane University and a BA in Environmental Conservation from the University of Colorado. Her work experience includes several summers in state parks and four years as the Assistant Manager of an independent book store. LWV is a family affair for Julie. Her mother, Mary Leonard, is a 45 year member and her husband is a member as well.

Colorado NPS Connection E-newsletter

by Laurie DiBattista, Editor

The LWVCOEF continues to inform Coloradans about protecting water quality. Now in its 10th year, the Colorado NPS (Nonpoint Source) Connection e-newsletter has over 600 subscribers. The quarterly newsletter is available on the Web and as a free subscription. Check it out at the website ourwater.org then click on Colorado NPS Newsletter. This nonpartisan project is funded by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment through grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Amendments are proposed changes to the Colorado Constitution. Those with numbers are citizen initiatives, those with the letter of the alphabet are referenda.

Amendment 60: Property Tax

- Repeals all voter approved property tax increases, extensions and abatements which occurred after 1992.
- Requires future property tax rate to expire within 10 years. Any exemptions of property tax refunds are limited to 4 years.
- Requires school districts to cut their non debt paying property taxes in half by 2020 with the loss of income replaced by the state. Eventually all the state’s General Fund would be committed to support education needs.
- Requires publicly owned enterprises such as universities, water companies, DIA, to pay property taxes, reducing the property taxes of homeowners, businesses, and other property taxpayers in the enterprise jurisdiction. Enterprises don’t currently pay taxes. This increases costs to the users of the enterprises.

LWVCO Opposes Amendment 60
based on LWVCO positions:

- Fiscal Policy positions in support of a system to raise revenue which incorporates social, environmental, and economic goals.
- Fiscal Policy positions in support of the following criteria for evaluating Colorado revenue structure: ability to pay, equitable, certain, convenient, economical, and flexible, also adequate, reliable, elastic, diverse and simple.
- Colorado Constitution position supports the establishment of the power to tax but leaves the specifics of structure and detail to enactment by the General Assembly.

Amendment 61: Limits on State/Local Government Borrowing

- Bans all new state government borrowing after 2010. No state department will be able to go into debt of any kind for buildings, roads, airports, prisons, housing, water treatment plants, etc. Includes bonding, short-term borrowing, lease-to-own agreements, and enterprise borrowing.
- Requires new local government borrowing to be voter approved bonded debt and limits it to a 10 year duration. Also limits the debt to 10% of real property value in the district borders.
- For local governments, once the debt is paid the taxes must be reduced by that amount.

LWVCO Opposes Amendment 61
based on LWVCO positions:

- Fiscal Policy positions in support of a system to raise revenue which incorporates social, environmental, and economic goals.
- Colorado Constitution position that supports a flexible framework for effective state and local government, broad enough to allow for changing conditions.
- Local Government position that supports accountable, responsive, flexible, efficient, and effective units, able to raise sufficient revenues to perform their duties.

Amendment 62: Application of the Term Person

- Applies the term “person” to sections of the Colorado bill of rights concerning inalienable rights, equality of justice, and due process of law, to every human being from the beginning of the biological development of that human being.
- Portends extensive legislative and legal debates and court cases to clarify the wording.

LWVCO Opposes Amendment 62
based on: LWVCO and LWVUS positions:

- LWVCO Colorado Constitution position supporting clarity of language.
- LWVUS Reproductive Choice position supporting the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Amendment 63 (?) Health Care Choice

- Bans the state from requiring or enforcing any requirement that a person must participate in a public or private health care coverage plan, i.e. the federal health care plan.
- Restricts the state from limiting a person’s ability to make or receive direct payments for lawful health care services. It is not restricted at this time.
(continued on page 6)

LWVCO Opposes Amendment 63(?)
based on LWVUS position:

- LWVUS Social Policy/Fiscal Policy/Funding of Entitlements position that for health care insurance programs, participation should be mandatory and coverage should be universal.

(continued from page 5)

Amendment P: Regulation of Games of Chance

- Transfers the licensing of games of chance, such as bingo and raffles run by non-profits, from the Colorado Department of State to the Department of Revenue.
- Allows the state legislature to change the department of oversight and the requirement that an organization must exist for 5 years with a dues-paying membership before applying for a license.
- The Department of Revenue already regulates casino gambling, licenses, and other casino related issues.

LWVCO Supports Amendment P

based on: LWVCO positions:

- Colorado Constitution position, supporting a flexible framework for effective state government, broad enough to allow for changing conditions.
- Fiscal Policy position supporting criteria for a revenue structure that is convenient, economical and reliable.

Amendment Q: Temporary Location of the State Seat of Government

- Establishes a process for moving the state seat of government during a declared disaster emergency to a temporary location.
- Leaves the process for permanently moving the seat of government as it is in the Constitution, which requires a 2/3 vote of the legislature to refer the matter to a vote of the people.

LWVCO Supports Amendment Q

based on LWVCO position:

- General Assembly position supporting effective performance of the General Assembly functioning in an efficient manner with a minimum of conflict, wasted time, and duplication of effort.

Amendment R: Exempt Possessory Interests in Real Property

- Eliminates property taxes for individual or businesses that use for private benefit, government-owned property worth \$6,000.00 or less in market value.
- Includes grazing land.

LWVCO Supports Amendment R

based on LWVCO position:

- Local Government position supporting efficient and effective governments.

(Propositions are proposed Statutory changes.)

Proposition 101: Reducing Government Charges

- Reduces the state income tax rate from 4.63 percent to 4.5 percent in 2011 and gradually to 3.5 percent.
- Reduces or eliminates taxes on vehicles: 33% on the car sales tax and 88% on car registration, ownership tax (licenses plate) to \$2 yearly on new cars and \$1 on used cars, with a loss of revenue of \$940 million a year. Most of the vehicle and licensing taxes fund construction of roads and bridges. Some pays for State Patrol, snow plowing, and emergency medical services. Ownership taxes go to counties, schools, cities, special districts.
- Eliminates taxes on leases and rentals of vehicles for a revenue loss of \$320 million yearly.
- Eliminates state and local taxes and fees on telecommunications services except 911, greatly reducing assistance for rural areas, the poor and the handicapped. Freezes tax rates for 911 at 2009 level.
- Requires voter approval to increase fees on vehicles and telecommunications

LWVCO Opposes Proposition 101

based on LWVCO positions:

- Colorado Constitution position to establish the power to tax but leaving specifics of structure and detail to the General Assembly.
- Colorado Constitution position providing a flexible framework for effective state and local government broad enough to allow for changing conditions.
- Fiscal policy position supporting a system to raise revenue which incorporates social, environmental, and economic goals.

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

Proposition 102 (?): Criteria for Release to Pretrial Services Programs

(Signatures were turned in to the Secretary of State but it has yet to be determined if it will be on the ballot.)

- Prohibits release of a defendant on an unsecured bond to pretrial services unless defendant is a first time offender for a nonviolent misdemeanor.

LWVCO has **no position** on Proposition 102 (?)

Colorado Delegates at LWVUS Convention, June 2010

Photo courtesy of Patty Cordova



League Leadership Retreat, June 2010



Some of the attendees at the LWVCO Leadership Retreat. A grant from the Gay and Lesbian Fund helped subsidize the two-day training. From left to right: Karen Connor, Montrose County (holding corner of banner); Bob Connor, Montrose County; Nita Stevens, Chaffee County; Jodi Foran, LWVCO Director-at-Large; person not identified; Lineah Davey, LWVCO VP Member Service; Sally Collins, LWV Jefferson County; Patty Cordova, LWVCO President; Rosemary Bergstrom, Larimer County; Elma Hairston, Denver; Joanne Norte, Jefferson County; Marlu Burkamp, Arapahoe County; Beth Smith, Chaffee County; Chris Angle, Arapahoe County; and Wanda Mayberry, Larimer County (holding lower right corner of the banner). Photo by Stephanie Huss.

Adams County League Honors Member Maria Cameron

Members of the Adams County League honored Maria Cameron for her outstanding work in the League when they celebrated the League's Birthday. After retiring as the assistant principal of Adams City High School, Maria became the Voter Coordinator at The Villas at Sunny Acres, arranging candidate and ballot issue forums. She helped establish a separate voting precinct at Sunny Acres where 79% of the residents have become active voters. [Congratulations, Maria!](#)



In Memoriam

Life-long League member, Joe Ann W. Mickelsen, died May 13, 2010. She served on the Colorado League State Board and organized a chapter in Parker. She also served on the Douglas County Planning Commission, co-founded the Douglas Land Conservancy, and was the Douglas County appointee to the inaugural Scientific and Cultural Facilities District Board.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO
 1410 GRANT ST STE B204
 DENVER CO 80203-1855

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<p>Interested in the League of Women Voters?</p> <p>___ Please send information about the LWV of Colorado. ___ I would like to join the League of Women Voters. Annual dues are \$50. Please make your check payable to LWVCO.</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Mail to: LWVCO 1410 Grant Street Suite B204 Denver, Colorado 80203-1855</p>	<p>Mission Statement</p> <p>The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, promotes informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.</p> <p>Join the League</p> <p>Any person of voting age may join the League of Women Voters (LWV). For information or to find the local League nearest you, contact the LWV of Colorado.</p> <p>Phone: 303.863.0437 Fax: 303.837.9917 E-mail: info@lwvcolorado.org Website: www.lwvcolorado.org</p>	<p>CALENDAR</p> <p>2010</p> <p>Sept. 6 Labor Day, Office Closed Sept. 23 90th LWV Celebration Governor's Residence Sept. 25 League Day Holiday Inn Select, Denver Oct. 6 Board Meeting Nov. 5 Voter Deadline Nov. 25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed Dec. 1 Board Meeting Dec. 3 Lobbyist Training Dec. 24-31 Winter Holidays Office Closed</p> <p>2011</p> <p>Jan. 14 Legislative Action Committee Jan. 24 Legislative Conference Jan. 25 Board Meeting</p>
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