

# History of the League

## 1920

- FEBRUARY 14 – LWV Founded by Carrie Chapman Catt
- AUGUST 18 - 19th Amendment was ratified. It guaranteed that the right to vote cannot be denied based on sex.



# History of the League

## Voting rights for non-white citizens

- The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment primarily benefited white women
- 1924 Indian Citizenship Act (Snyder Act)
- 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act (McCarran-Walter Act)
- 1965 Voting Rights Act
- 1975 Voting materials translated to other languages
- Voter suppression efforts continue



# History of the League

## 2025: LWV Celebrates 105 Years

- February 14th, 2020, marked 100 years that the League of Women Voters has empowered voters and defended democracy.
- Over the last century, we've fought for election protection, democratic reforms, and equal access to the ballot—all while maintaining our commitment to nonpartisanship and fostering an informed electorate.
- As we look into our next hundred years, we aim to build power for the next generation of leaders and voting rights activists.



# History of the League

## 2025

- There are now leagues in all 50 states, DC, and US Virgin Islands.
- Over 700+ local leagues across the United States.
- 19 Leagues in Colorado



## **Mission/Vision 1920-2025**

### **Our Mission:**

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

We believe in the power of our citizens to create a more perfect democracy. We welcome members regardless of gender.

### **Our Vision:**

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



## Who We Are

### Mission:

- We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government.
- We work to increase understanding of major public policy issues.
- We influence public policy through education and advocacy.
- Our members, women and men ages 16 and up, volunteer their time year-round to help Make Democracy Work!

## Who We Are - Advocacy

- The LWV advocates or lobbies on issues or causes when there is an existing League position that supports or opposes the issue. [A Guide to Policy Positions](#)
- Local, state, and national positions result from a process of study, and positions are developed only when members reach consensus.
- Members are not required to agree with all League positions but cannot speak for the League if they disagree with a League position



## Who We Are – Voting Rights

Voting is a fundamental right and all eligible voters should have the equal opportunity to exercise that right.

- Expanding Voter Access
- Redistricting Policies
- Fighting Voter Suppression
- Money In Politics





## Who We Are - Elections

- Voter Registration Outreach
- Voter Education Events
- Candidate Forums



## Who We Are – VOTE411.org

### Vote411.org

Our one-stop-shop for election-related information provides nonpartisan info to the public. Register to vote, find candidate information, & much more.





## **Who We Are - Structure**

### **National League of Women Voters – LWVUS**

- All policy positions can be found on their website at: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

### **State League of Women Voters of Colorado – LWVCO**

- All policy positions can be found on their website at: [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)

### **La Plata is one of the 19 local leagues in Colorado**

- All policy positions can be found on our website at: [www.lwvlaplata.org](http://www.lwvlaplata.org)



## **The League of Women Voters of La Plata County (LWVLPC) has restated its goals for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI):**

LWVLPC is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. We believe that working for diversity, equity and inclusion is rooted in justice for all. It is the overriding principle for all League activities.



## The La Plata League

- Our membership is strong
- Many are supporting members
- Some members have been elected officials past and present and include:
  - County Clerk and Recorder
  - County Commissioner
  - Durango City Councilors
  - County Treasurer



# The La Plata League

**We hold four membership meetings each year:**

- September - Back to League
- December – Holiday pot luck and guest speaker
- February – Issues for action
- May – Annual meeting

# The La Plata League

## Guest speakers

- County Commissioners
- Jeff Oster, Gunnison League
- Tiffany Lee, County Clerk
- Pam Houston, author of “Without Exception”
- Fort Lewis College Media Literacy Panel
- State Legislators: Barbara McLaughlin and Cleave Simpson





# The La Plata League

## Focus on action and advocacy

- Initiative 89, an abortion rights petitions-drive, 2024
- Amendment 79, embedding abortion rights into our constitution
- Amendment J, Repeals ban on same sex marriage in Colorado





# The La Plata League

## Committees:

- Voter Services: Registration, Education, Candidate Forums
- Action & Advocacy: Healthcare Reform, Justice, Equity & Inclusion (JEDI), Climate Action, Observer Core, Election Reform, Media Literacy)
- Membership
- Communications

# The La Plata League

## Recent Accomplishments:

- LWV La Plata reached over 3000 LPC residents with monthly engagement events
- Fall, weekly events focused on civic information programs, voter education and voter registration
- Conducted candidate videos to educate the public
- Hosted legislative wrap-up with State legislators.
- Partnership with Fort Lewis College Political Engagement Project (PEP) assisted students with ballot issue videos
- Hosted “Undivide US” movie with follow-up discussion.
- Collaboration with “Restore the Balance”
- Sponsored La Plata Healthcare Improvement Coalition (LPHIC)



## Get Involved...

Volunteers are integral to the work of the League of Women Voters at all levels. We appreciate and value our volunteers whether you're able to commit to an hour once in a while, or can contribute more of your talent and time.

If you're interested, have questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact us at [lwvplata@gmail.com](mailto:lwvplata@gmail.com).

## Resources and Links

- National League: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)
- State League: [www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)
- Local League: [www.lwvlaplata.org](http://www.lwvlaplata.org)
- Vote411.org: [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)
- Social Media: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
- Contact us: [Contact Us](#)
- E-Mail: [lwvlaplata@gmail.com](mailto:lwvlaplata@gmail.com)