



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Arapahoe
And Douglas Counties

January 2016

Membership 112

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Thursday, January 7, 2016.

Unit Meeting: Money in Politics
5 p.m. @ Heather Gardens
Rendezvous Restaurant
2888 S. Heather Gardens Way
Aurora

Friday, January 8, 2016

LWVADC Discussion Group
10 a.m. @ Southglenn Library
Streets of Southglenn

Monday, January 11, 2016

Unit Meeting: Money in Politics
5:30 p.m. @ Garcia's Mexican
Restaurant
5050 S. Syracuse St. Centennial

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

LWVADC Administrative Mtg.
9:30 p.m. @ Castlewood Library
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Unit Meeting: Money in Politics
10 p.m. @ Southglenn Library
Streets of Southglenn

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Program Committee Meeting
10 a.m. @ Castlewood Library
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

LWVADC Movie Night
6:30 p.m. @ Koelbel Library
Movie Theater
5955 S. Holly, Centennial

Monday, January 25, 2016

LWVCO Legislative Conference
9 a.m.– 2 p.m.
Colorado State Capital/Scottish
Rite Temple (See page 2)

Monday, January 25, 2015

LWVADC Management Team
6:30 p.m. @ Castlewood Library
6739 S. Uinta, Centennial

LWVCO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The second page contains a program and registration form for the annual State Legislative Conference, scheduled for all day Monday, January 25, 2016. Always a good program for new and continuing members as it gives a preview of the 2016 Colorado Legislative session and brief talks by several Colorado Legislators. Other presenters include Kathy Underwood, Hunger Free Colorado and Mizram Cordero & Laura Giocomo, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

At 12:30 p.m. members will cross the street to the Scottish Rite Temple to eat lunch and listen to our LWVCO lobbyist give her analysis of the upcoming bills and programs that may be of interest to League members.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

LWVCO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016
ONLY 150 SEATS AVAILABLE**

OLD SUPREME COURT CHAMBERS - COLORADO STATE CAPITAL
200 E. COLFAX AVE., DENVER, 80203
DOORS OPEN: 8 30 A.M.

PROGRAM

9 a.m.– Noon: Old Supreme Court Chambers

- ◆ Preview of 2016 Colorado Legislative Session
 - ◆ Kathy Underwood, Hunger Free Colorado
- ◆ Mizram Cordero & Laura Giocomo, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

**12:30 - 2p.m.: Scottish Rite Temple
Across from Capital on Grant Street**

- ◆ Lunch
- ◆ Legislative Overview: LWVCO Staff Lobbyist Chris Watson

REGISTRATION FORM
(Deadline: Tuesday, January 19 2016)

Registration Fee: \$30 includes program and buffet lunch of salad and wraps
(vegetarian and gluten-free choices included)

Name _____

Local League _____

Email or phone _____

Pay by: (\$30 per person)

_____ Check payable to LWVCO

_____ Online Credit Card at www.lwvcolorado.org (No PayPal account required)

Send completed form to LWVCO, 1410 Grant #B204, Denver, CO 80203
info@lwvcolorado.org 303-863-0437

JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS

MONEY IN POLITICS



Does the Supreme Court's Citizen's United decision condone bribery? Does it promote corruption? And if so, what are our options?

This year you'll see excessive amounts of money being spent on elections. Where does it come from and what can we, as voters, do about it? We all have our opinions but what is really happening? And how will it play out in 2016?

At the January unit meetings we'll be asking your input on how to update the LWVUS position on Money in Politics. We'll talk about Citizen's United and the other game changing US Supreme Court decisions on money in politics. We'll also debate when money is actually speech and the limits to the protections provided by freedom of speech and the press in this context. Finally, we'll get your input on possible reforms to the almost unlimited amounts of money pouring in to influence elections. **We hope to have a fun, lively discussion of this often vexing topic at each of our unit meetings and encourage your participation.**

But, some preparation is needed. Handouts will be available at the meetings, but we urge you to review these three items. The first gives a short overview about why we are doing this; the second lists the consensus questions we will answer and the third provides definitions relating to campaign finance.

http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/introduction_and_overview.final_0.pdf

http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/mip_questions.9.15.pdf

Http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/mip_definations_4-19-15_final.pdf

JOIN US

Thursday, January 7 at 5 p.m. Rendezvous Restaurant in Heather Gardens, 2888 S. Heather Gardens Way, Aurora

Monday, January 11 at 5:30 p.m. at Garcia's Mexican Restaurant, 5050 S. Syracuse St., Belleview & Syracuse streets in the Denver Tech Center

Thursday, January 14 at 10 a.m. at Southglenn Library, Room A, Streets at Southglenn, 6972 S. Vine St., Centennial.

FEBRUARY PREVIEW

PROGRAM PLANNING

As is the case every year, in February members of our League will participate in program planning for 2016. This program planning process is how the League remains a grassroots' organization. Because this is an even numbered year, our focus will be on local and national programs. We'll have the opportunity to provide input on program priorities for our local League for the upcoming year and for the LWVUS for the 2016-2018 biennium.

At the February unit meetings we'll review local and national program positions, identify any positions we feel should be reviewed, support concurrence with the positions of other Leagues or recommend that a position be dropped. Do we want to focus on conducting new studies or an action to implement existing positions? This input will help shape the proposed program of study and action for all levels of our organization.

The Boulder League is asking that we consider directing LWVUS to revisit adopting a gender-neutral name for the 21st Century. Name change anyone? And... We'll also solicit your suggestions on topics for unit meetings or public meetings you'd like to see LWVADC consider for 2016.

To prepare for the February meetings, you might want to review our local and national program positions:

<http://lwv.org/content/impact-issues>

http://lwvarapahoedouglas.org/LWV_POSITIONS.html

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWVCO NEWS

NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POSITION

The state-wide League study on Behavioral Health has been completed and after reviewing the favorable consensus responses from 15 Colorado local Leagues, a new LWVCO Healthcare position was adopted by the LWVCO Board at its December 7th meeting. The new position incorporates the current position with additional wording regarding behavioral health. It reads:

Support access to adequate health care with funding by state and federal monies where necessary. LWVCO supports access to affordable, quality in-and-out patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services, for all people. LWVCO supports access to behavioral health care that is integrated with and achieves parity with physical health care.

This statement also contains 15 new support statements that will be listed under the new position. A copy will be sent with this newsletter.

LWVCO has already begun working to convince LWVUS to consider this position and make it part of the proposed program at the 2016 national convention. If that happens LWVCO will ask convention delegates to concur with the LWVCO Behavioral Health position and, if that happens, it will be an official LWVUS position.

MORE LWVCO NEWS: COLORADOCARE AMENDMENT #69



ColoradoCare
YES

In addition to the adoption of the new Behavioral Health position, the LWVCO Board also voted December 7 to support the ColoradoCare Ballot Amendment #69 that will appear on the November 2016 ballot. The vote came after Board members reviewed a summary of the issue compiled by Gerry Cum-

mins, LWVCO Voter Services, and a presentation by the proponent, Colorado State Senator, Irene Aguilar, MD. The Board based its support of the proposed amendment on the LWVUS Health Care position

ColoradoCare would, if approved, seek to replace the coverage currently provided by the Affordable Care Act in Colorado and replace it with a Colorado run health care program that would provide comprehensive coverage for all Colorado residents. The main provisions of the proposed amendment as described by Nancy Crow, LWVCO Program Director, are:

- It uses an option of the Affordable Care Act that allows Colorado to obtain waivers to create its own health care program
- It provides comprehensive coverage for all residents of Colorado
- It uses a member owned cooperative business model: e.g., example Rural Electric Association
- It will provide primary coverage for all except those that have coverage under federal health care programs, i.e., Medicare and Veteran Administration Health. These individuals will use CC as secondary coverage
- It claims it will cost less than the current system

As this proposal would amend the constitution, a practice not usually supported by League, Nancy also added this explanation:

- By going constitutional, it would not be subject to TABOR. It also allows for a separate method of adjusting premiums that would not be subject to TABOR requirement.
- The sponsors choose to write it as a constitutional amendment because they did not want the legislature to decide to go forward or backward on this issue. The amendment is written so that it contains principles but not rules.

There are many details within this amendment that will be reviewed by LWVADC and explained further prior to the November election. In the meantime I have included with this newsletter Gerry's summary, and financials prepared by ColoradoCare.

BUILDING A BETTER COLORADO REMINDER

Just a reminder that community summits to gain our viewpoints on ways to improve Colorado are scheduled this January in Arapahoe & Douglas counties. Sponsored by *Building a Better Colorado*, a coalition of Republican, Democratic and other community leaders, this group is seeking ideas and suggestions about improving Colorado. Topics include how we create laws and amend our constitution and how we manage the state budget. They also hint at putting some of the ideas gained through these community summits on the November 2016 ballot. Register for the meetings at <https://betterco.org/meetings/index>

- January 6, 3:30-5:50 p.m. in Aurora
- January 7, 4-6 p.m. in the South Metro area
- January 13, 4 - 6 p.m. in Highlands Ranch.



Building a Better
Colorado

LWVADC NEWS

LWVADC MOVIE NIGHT RETURNS



Reserve Wednesday, January 20 for the return of the League's movie series - a popular addition to our regular League programs.

This month we will see PRICE-LE\$\$, a documentary that attempts to reveal how campaign money from deep – pocket special interests can influence both our elec-

toral process and national policies like food and energy. The film talks with lawmakers, lobbyists and citizen watchdogs as well as farmers and an unusual group of Iraq war veterans. Meanwhile a classroom full of amazingly savvy civics students provides comic relief.

But wait there's more. The movie will be shown in the new theater forum at Koelbel library. The seats are comfortable, the screen is wide and the setting is just like a movie theater.

So.... plan on attending and having a lively discussion on all the points you learned at the Money in Politics unit meetings. 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 20th at Koelbel Library, 5955 S. Holly St., Centennial. Free and open to League members and their friends.

NEW VOTING MACHINES FOR COLORADO

Colorado Secretary of State, Wayne Williams announced that the Dominion Voting Systems has been picked as the new voting machine system for Colorado.

This decision is in line with Williams effort to move the state towards a uniform voting system. At this stage the purchase of Dominion affects only those counties that have decided to buy new equipment for the 2016 elections. Other counties may delay implementation and use existing equipment. To our knowledge no date has been set for state-wide implementation.

The new system was chosen after extensive tests were conducted in many Colorado counties by a variety of voters and evaluated by a Pilot Election Review Committee of Colorado County Clerks and other voting related organizations.

LWVADC DISCUSSION GROUP

The LWVADC Discussion group will meet Friday, January 8 at 10 a.m. at Southglenn library Room A., Streets of Southglenn. The topic: *The Price of Oil: How is it Determined?* The meeting is free and open to the public.

On February 5, the group will begin their Great Decisions Program at Southglenn Library. That program will last for eight consecutive Fridays.

Information: Monique Hea, 303-220-9273, heamph@hotmail.com or Vicki Harimon, 303-770-8738. vickiharimon@aol.com

JANUARY 4TH DEADLINE FOR CAUCUS

January 4th is the last day to declare a party affiliation if you want to participate in the March caucuses . Only those registered in a political party can participate, so you may wish to change your unaffiliated registration. To change or adjust your registration go to www.govotecolorado.com

NEW COLORADO SENATOR FOR DISTRICT 27

Jack Tate, has been appointed to fill the position vacated by former Colorado Senator, David Balmer.

Balmer, who represented Colorado Senate District 27, resigned prior to the start of this year's legislative session to care for a sick family member and to work as an animal rights advocate. District 27 covers most of Centennial and other smaller areas of Arapahoe County.

Tate formerly represented House District 37. His replacement will be appointed before the start of the 2016 Colorado Legislative session.

Out condolences to Phyllis Graham on the death of her sister, brother and brother in law.

Best wishes to Jan Carlberg, who is undergoing treatment to combat cancer.



This article was written by LWVADC's Oil & Gas Development Committee Chair, Alice Ramsey. It includes an update on what is happening regarding proposed fracking regulations and a preview of what may lie ahead concerning ballot initiatives that may (or may not) make the November 2016 ballot

In the last two months of 2015 there have been several activities concerning the Oil and Gas Industry especially regarding fracking. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) held 3 meetings allowing for comments to regulations resulting from recommendations of the governor's oil and gas task force with contentions on both sides mostly not reconciled.

There are two: No. 17 requires operators to notify and consult with local governments before receiving permits and provides for extra protections to reduce the impact of drilling on nearby communities. No. 20 calls for operators to provide estimates of their plans including wells they intend to drill in the next five years.

After testimony that No. 20 would not be practical due to financial and other issues that make even one year predictions of activity unrealistic, this regulation was dropped. However, No. 17 is ongoing with a major issue that concerns the definition of what kind of O&G operations the task force meant when calling for the reduction of impact on communities and what local governments would have a say and more. The COGCC interpreted the recommendation to mean large-scale operations which would affect only 0.8% of operations which led to the opinion to "why bother". O&G operators argue that they will probably be doing more large operations in the future when regulations are in place. Due to increases in efficiency. Local governments want more say on smaller operations as well.

Weld county where most of the O&G activity is going on says they are happy with their own resolution to the issues and do not want more regulations to duplicate their own and do not want other jurisdictions interfering. There will be another meeting January 25 to wrap things up. On the positive side, a new Oil and Gas Health Information and Response Program began Oct 25 to field concerns and complaints related to health issues from O&G operations. As of the first of December 20 complaints had been received.

On another side 11 ballot initiatives were submitted to the Legislative Council to begin the process of review and comment for the November election. A first hearing is scheduled for Jan 5 at 1:30pm in Rm 109 at the Capital. Eight of the proposals are variations for mandatory setback, while others call for more local control on drilling decisions or even a ban on fracking altogether. The Legislative Council reviews proposals, suggesting possible wording and reviews whether the initiative is a single subject and other possible problems before approving a measure for signature collection.

The group proposing the initiatives contend that the state has not adequately protected the state from fracking concerns especially local control issues. Industry contends that the initiatives would damage energy development and are potentially devastating. Proposing such a large number of similar ballot petitions with, for instance, differing numbers of setback distances has become common as groups try to find the right combinations to attract voters. Each ballot initiative that expects to get to November will have to get at least 98,492 signatures, and probably another 30-40,000 to make up for incorrect signatures. More coming.

LWVADC PHOTO SHOOT

On December 5th Gerry Cummins, LWVCO Voter Service Chairman, and LWVACD member, Marlu Burkamp, had the pleasure of explaining Colorado voting requirements and methods at the Korean-American Community foundation event at Global Village Academy in Aurora.

The event also featured the Colorado Secretary of State, the Korean Consulate General, the Aurora mayor pro-tem and representatives from the Colorado Republican and Democratic parties talking about voting and the importance of all citizens to exercise their right to vote. To ensure our talk was available for the entire audience of 50 plus we worked with the foundation's interpreter to provide a Korean language addition to compliment our English version. Here's Gerry and Marlu at the podium exchanging viewpoints with the audience and the interpreter.



Our Holiday Party on December 3rd at the Willows Creek Neighborhood Mineral Clubhouse in Centennial also drew a merry group of League members and their husbands to enjoy fine wine and a buffet of great food brought by our attendees. We were pleased that more than 40 people attended, including a contingent of our Aurora members who were chauffeured to the party. Way to go Ladies!





**The League of Women Voters
of Arapahoe and Douglas
Counties**

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Mission

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.

Join Us

Join the League to help make your community a strong, safe, and vibrant place to live. Help shape the important issues that affect you and your family.

Memberships are \$60 per individual; \$85 for households and \$25 for students. For more information call Jo Ann Feder, 904-608-3932, jolvs10s@gmail.com

League Links

League of Women Voters/Colorado

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