



# The Voter

League of Women Voters® of Arapahoe County

March 2012

Membership 79

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What? Another oil and gas program? Again?

Yes, there is another oil and gas program sponsored by LWVAC on March 4th at the Smoky Hill Library. We think this will be our last, but we're popular. Both this one and the one we conducted in Byers in February were requested by the Arapahoe Library District staff for their patrons. Take that Josh Fox!

At our March & April unit meetings we will present the LWVUS study on the Privatization of Government Services and the corresponding consensus questions. Please come. We need your opinions!

**Fridays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2012**  
Great Decisions  
9:30-11:30 am @ Castlewood Library  
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

**Sunday, March 4, 2012**  
Oil & Gas Program  
2-4 p.m. @ Smoky Hill Library  
5430 S. Biscay Circle, Centennial

**Tuesday, March 6, 2012**  
Democrat & American Constitutional  
Party Caucuses

**Thursday, March 8, 2012**  
Unit Meeting on Privatization  
9:30 a.m. @ Castlewood Library  
6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial

**Sunday, March 11, 2012**  
LWVAC Management Team Retreat  
1-6 p.m. @ Julie Beekhuizen's Home  
1834 W. Cape Code Way,

**Monday, March 12, 2012**  
Unit Meeting on Privatization  
5:30 p.m. @ Garcia's Mexican  
Restaurant  
5050 S. Syracuse Street

**Thursday, March 15, 2012**  
Lunch Bunch  
11:30 a.m. @ Hacienda Restaurant  
10500 Bierstadt Way, Lone Tree

**Saturday, March 17, 2012**  
St. Patrick's Day

**Monday, March 19, 2012**  
LWVAC Management Team Meeting  
6:30 p.m. @ Highlands Ranch Library  
9292 Ridgeline Blvd., Highlands Ranch

**Tuesday, March 20, 2012**  
First Day of Spring

## Register for the March 4th Program Now

**How is the oil and gas industry regulated in Colorado? Are the regulations adequate? Do Colorado cities and counties have the right to enact local land use regulations for oil and gas and fracking operations?**

The last question is being hotly debated in cities and counties throughout Colorado. Some favor strong local land use regulations; others believe the state rules suffice. The last public program in our oil and gas series will address this question on **Sunday, March 4, 2-4 p.m. at Smoky Hill Library, 5430 S. Biscay Circle, Centennial**. Topics will also include an explanation of the current drilling and production methods; the environmental impacts, the current oil and gas regulations and the role localities can play in regulating oil and gas development within their boundaries. A panel of experts will weigh in on this issue followed by an audience Q & A. Free and open to the public, but as it is co-sponsored by the Arapahoe Library District, registration is required. Call 303-542-7279  
Program Information: 303-730-2356.

# UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

## MARCH & APRIL UNIT MEETINGS PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**What is privatization of government services all about? Is this a wise direction? How would that affect our current governmental services?**

The League of Women Voters around the country will be exploring this issue and the services that are traditionally performed by our government at all levels - local, state and national.

Privatizing of government services is not a new idea. Government has often sought ways to become more efficient and economical. Today this is even more relevant due in large part to the uncertain state of our economy. Downsizing and outsourcing are tactics often taken to achieve savings. Privatizing is another. It is true that the success or failure of these efforts is often in the eyes of the beholder. However, the issue needs to be looked at dispassionately so we can better understand it.

At the March and April unit meetings we will learn about, and discuss in depth, relevant aspects of privatization that directly impact the decision as to whether to privatize or not.

- Will the process be transparent and accountable, thus providing easy access to records?
- Will the public's well being be protected?
- Will quality increase and cost decrease?
- Will the economic impact on the community be negative or positive?
- Is there a process in place to keep the public informed?
- How will the public be made aware of the process?

These meetings are in response to a request from LWVUS to explore this issue and come to an informed conclusion - the process we call consensus. At the conclusion of our meetings, our consensus will be forwarded to the LWVUS who will then form a position on privatization to use for advocacy and other action.

The March unit meeting dates are on the front page. A separate attachment to this newsletter contains information to read before the meetings. Come prepared to voice your informed opinion. After all, that is what being a league member is all about!

*Chris Angle  
Program Chair*



## GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION PROGRAM

The Great Decisions Discussion Program continues. As indicated on the calendar, it meets every Friday from 9:30 a.m. at Castlewood Library and is open to all. If you are interested contact Monique Hea, 303-220-9273, [heamph@hotmail.com](mailto:heamph@hotmail.com) or Vicki Harimon, 303-770-8738, [vickiharimon@aol.com](mailto:vickiharimon@aol.com).

PS: One of the meetings will be held at Southglenn library so be sure you call Monique or Vicki for the right place.



## LWVAC LUNCH BUNCH

The next lunch bunch be Thursday, March 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the Hacienda Restaurant, 10500 Bierstadt Way, Englewood (though really in Lone Tree.) This is just east of I-25 and north of Lincoln. They suggest you call, 303-858-8588 for detailed directions if you are not familiar with the location. We have a reservation under the name of League of Women Voters.

This is open to all league members and guests.



Pictures of our two February programs. On the left is the audience at our Byers Oil & Gas program; above is the participants at the Voter Right's program. See program summaries on pages 4 & 5.

## DEMOCRAT & AMERICAN CONSTITUTION PARTY CAUCUSES MARCH 6, 2012

Last month the Republicans held their political caucuses. It's now time for the Democrats and members of the American Constitution Party to hold theirs. These will be Tuesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. at various locations throughout Arapahoe County. Check in is 6:45 p.m.

This date coincides with Super Tuesday, the day that voters in many states note their preference for a presidential candidate and elect delegates to the political conventions. While the emphasis will be on the Republican candidates this year, participants at the March 6 caucuses will elect a caucus chair and secretary, elect delegates to the countywide party meetings, note their presidential candidate choice and consider resolutions.

Additional information about a caucus, how to determine your precinct number, and contact information is on the LWVAC web site, [www.lwvarapahoe.org](http://www.lwvarapahoe.org) under the Election Central section. In the meantime here's the web site and phone numbers for the American Constitutional Party, and the Arapahoe and Douglas County Democratic Parties: [www.americanconstitutionparty.com](http://www.americanconstitutionparty.com), 303-332-5113; [www.arapahoedems.org](http://www.arapahoedems.org).

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BYERS OIL & GAS PROGRAM

More than 70 people attended the LWVAC/ Arapahoe Library District oil and gas program Saturday, February 18 in Byers to hear a panel of experts explain the exploration process and environmental impacts; how to deal with the oil company landmen, and what to consider when signing a contract to relinquish oil and mineral rights.

Thanks to the many LWVAC volunteers who traveled to Byers to help. The event, according to library evaluations, was very successful. A special thanks to the Kelter library staff who also worked very hard with us to coordinate the program and thank you to Deb Armbruster who coordinated the program and arranged for the speakers.

## FIRST CALL FOR LWVCO COUNCIL

The LWVCO Council will be held Friday, May 11– Saturday, May 12 at the Pueblo Convention Center, 320 Central Main Street, Pueblo, Colorado.

Council shall be composed of the president (or alternate) and one delegate chosen by each local League, the leader or designated alternate of each State League Unit (SLU) and the LWVCO Board, League members may attend as observers as space permits. Fee is \$30 per delegate and hotel reservations may be made at the Marriott Pueblo. Detailed information regarding meeting costs, agenda and workshops will be sent to Leagues later this month.

Council is held in the even numbered years. The LWVCO conventions are held in odd numbered years.



The Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners presented their 2010 Stewardship Award to members of the Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails Citizen Advisory Board and supporters for their successful passage of the Open Spaces sales Tax reauthorization. LWVAC member, Ellen Belef, (white shirt) is the chair of the Advisory Board and worked very hard to pass the reauthorization.

## LWVCO ADVOCACY AGENDA 2012

The advocacy agenda reflects the priority issues that will be addressed by LWVCO in both legislative and citizen-education activities across Colorado.

**Government:** voting rights and enfranchisement, fiscal stability and impact on education, and higher education.

**Social Policy:** Health care, including reproductive health care, juvenile justice, and child welfare.

## LWVUS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

These priorities, based on suggestions from league members throughout the U.S., are the LWVUS legislative priorities for 2012

- Voter protection
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Environmental Defense & Health Care defense

The LWVUS noted that these decisions are based on what issues are likely to come before the 112th Congress, the opportunities to make an impact, program decisions made by members at the last Convention, and member interest and available resources.

LWVUS is also establishing a Campaign Finance Reform Task Force of members with experience and training in campaign finance and constitutional law to explore interim and long term solutions on ways to educate league members and the public about the implications of unlimited money in elections and to advocate for legislative reforms. Details to follow.

# LWVAC/LWVUS VOTER SERVICES

## VOTER REGISTRATION

The election year is upon us and voter service activities are gearing up. Marilyn Ayers, the voter registration designee, has already signed up two registration dates and would appreciate volunteer help.

- ◆ Wednesday, March 21, 6-8 p.m.  
Fort Logan Elementary School  
3700 S. Knox Court, Sheridan

Registration forms will be available in Spanish and English, and some help will be available for Spanish speaking citizens, but we could use a league member who is fluent in the language.

- ◆ Thursday, March 22, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.  
Arapahoe Community College  
5900 S. Santa Fe Drive, Littleton

Registration will be in the 2nd floor student lounge near the Starbucks Café. Parking passes are available.

If you would like to help and/or become a voter registrar, or have ideas for a voter registration program, contact Marilyn, 303-471-8301.

[mk303@comcast.net](mailto:mk303@comcast.net).

## VOTER RESOURCES

Voter Service Chair, Karen Hart, has added voter information and news on the LWVAC web site, [www.lwvarapahoe.org](http://www.lwvarapahoe.org). Look for the Election Central section and click on Arapahoe in the News, Douglas in the News, and Candidates.

Karen also has copies of the LWVCO's updated 2012-2013 pamphlet, *Your Voice, Your Vote*. The pamphlet includes registration qualifications, how to register, acceptable identification forms at the polls and, for first time voters, an election and registration deadline calendar for 2012,. It also contains a section on mail-in ballots and early voting, and an explanation of the difference and purpose between a party caucus and the state primary election. Contact Karen, 720-234-5303, [LarkspurKaren@hotmail.com](mailto:LarkspurKaren@hotmail.com)

## LWVAC VOTER RIGHTS PROGRAM

Hats off to Chris Angle for arranging the Voter Rights program for league members and the public Friday, February 24 at Koelbel Library. Despite the fact the featured speaker was late and the audience had to wait, the meeting continued on track as audience member, Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder, Nancy Doty, talked about the upcoming election process and answered audience questions.

Upon arrival, speaker Elena Nunez, Director of Colorado Common Cause, filled us in on the actions many states and localities have taken suppress access to voting rights, including robo calls to people telling them of a wrong polling place, additional restrictions on voter registration, and shortening early voting periods. She urged us to watch the bills being introduced in the state legislature and to support those that keep the vote process in Colorado broad and inclusive. A few that League is watching are listed below.

## ELECTION & VOTING RIGHTS BILLS IN THE COLORADO LEGISLATURE

### Elections

#### SB 135 Secretary of State Post Election Returns

Authorizes the SOS to use some of his cash funds to implement a system which would gather election results from counties and post them online at the SOS website.

#### SB 147 Intentional Communication of False Voting Info

Would prohibit a person from intentionally communicating false information about election procedures or voter eligibility within 90 days prior to an election.

### Voting Rights

#### HB1111 Photo ID

Requires voter to show government issued photo ID to vote.

#### HB1298 Voter Preregistration at 16

Qualified persons age 16 and older, but who will not be 18 by the date of the next election would be allowed to preregister by any authorized means. (Preregistration is currently allowed only for people who will be 18 by the next election.) There are a lot of requirements with this bill, but this is the major issue.

## LWVCO LEGISLATIVE LETTER

The information about the election and voter rights bills on the page 5 were taken from the LWVCO's Legislative Letter. This publication is written and published by the LWVCO's Legislative Action Committee: the league members who follow the bills and listen to committee hearings every day the Colorado Legislature is in session.

You can find this letter on the LWVCO website: [www.lwvcolorado.org/legislative-letters.html](http://www.lwvcolorado.org/legislative-letters.html) All the letters are available for download within 2-3 days of publication, and the League offers the opportunity to become a subscriber or make a donation to support the ongoing production of the letter.

## NEW TAPING POLICY

The LWVCO has approved a new taping and recording policy to be used by local leagues at public issue forums and meetings.

This policy is based on informal discussions with attorneys and a committee of Voter Service leaders throughout Colorado. It deals with the use of electronic devices to capture both the audio and video content of our forums. While the attorneys have said that it is probably within our right to deny individuals the right to tape and record the content of our meetings, they have also indicated that the issue of what is legal/not legal is unclear at this time and that people who want to tape our programs can easily argue a First Amendment right.

The policy outlines what we (the league) say to people who want to record our issue meetings and states guidelines for the use of the material.

To this end, you will hear us state this new policy at each public issue meeting. In the meantime, we are exploring ways to video tape our public meetings with our own personal equipment. We believe that this will give us an accurate recording to show the public if our material is distorted by a "rouge" version. If you would like a copy of the policy, contact [marluburkamp@gmail.com](mailto:marluburkamp@gmail.com)

## LWVUS PETITION DRIVE

Thanks to the hard work of all league members and supporters, the LWVUS surpassed their goal of 25,000 signatures on the FEC petition to the White House. The petition asked the Obama Administration to appoint new commissioners to the Federal Election Commission.

According to LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara, "with campaign spending spinning out of control, now is the time to replace the current commission members, who are refusing to enforce campaign laws that are supposed to protect our elections from special interests." As part of their responsibilities McNarma said this agency is charged with enforcing the law and stopping illegal coordination by candidate Super PACs.

The LWVUS is now awaiting a response from President Obama.

## POWER THE VOTE

The LWVUS & LWVEF Boards have adopted a comprehensive "Power the Vote" initiative designed to encompass all aspects of voter service, including protection advocacy, registration, education and mobilization for 2012. The campaign will set goals and leverage resources at all levels of the League to help serve as many voters as possible. More information will be forthcoming from the LWVUS

## LWVAC MANAGEMENT TEAM NOTES

At the February meeting, the team discussed voter registration, the Byers oil and gas meeting, the upcoming voter rights meeting, the privatization study, ideas for a May field trip, the LWVCO training grant, membership team status, a voter service update and a report on future social activities. The league will also try a test video taping of the voter rights program to see if it is of sufficient quality to tape the March 4th oil and gas program. Team members also set March 11 as a new date for the winter retreat. The original date was cancelled due to snow.



**The League of Women Voters  
of Arapahoe County**

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**LWVAC MANAGEMENT TEAM**

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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 Charlotte Faris, 303-690-8466  
[faris18603@comcast.net](mailto:faris18603@comcast.net)

## League Links

**League of Women Voters/Colorado**  
1410 Grant, B-204  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
303-863-0437 or 1-800-863-8683  
[info@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org)  
[www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)

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