



Making Democracy Work™

Denver VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

March 2018

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Redistricting and the League

During the LWVUS 2016 convention, a position on redistricting was adopted by consensus. Here is the Redistricting Position in Brief:

Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation. (Full statement can be found at the LWVUS [website](#).)

In fall 2016, LWVCO was asked to join a group now called Fair Districts Colorado (FDC) to bring two initiatives to the Colorado ballot - one for legislative and one for congressional redistricting (#67, #69). Four Colorado League members joined the group: Jean Fredlund, Chair of the LWVCO Redistricting Committee; Toni Larson, LWVCO President; Barbara Mattison, LWVCO Past President; and Andrea Wilkins, LWVCO Staff Lobbyist.

In December, the State Board voted to support the initiatives developed by FDC. These initiatives have had their title set and have been approved by the Supreme Court. Opposition to these measures developed and an opposing group, People Not Politicians (PNP), has filed two initiatives (#95, #96), which have their title set, but are not yet approved for circulation. FDC has met with representatives from the PNP group and have found several areas for compromise. There is also some opposition to the State League's actions by several individual League members.

We are hoping that a compromise will be introduced in the legislature to bring it directly to the ballot. If not, the State Board will ask local Leagues to circulate petitions to secure their spot on the ballot. We have been asked by the State League to inform our members of the efforts to date and will be sending updates as they become available by e-mail.

A look at Colorado Tracer (tracer.sos.colorado.gov) shows that FDC has received \$26,815 in contributions.

March Events

Drinks and Dialogue: Ask the Auditor

Monday, March 5, 5:30 p.m.
The Irish Snug, 1201 E. Colfax Ave.

Equity in Education, Colorado Style

Thursday, March 8, 5:30 p.m.
McCollum Room

Another Look at TABOR

Monday, March 19, 5:30 p.m.
McCollum Room

All but one range from \$10 to \$285. The exception is a contribution from Nobel Energy of \$25,000. Kent Thiry, CEO of DaVita Inc., has come on board as the FDC Chairman and is expected to further fund the organization.

Currently, the district boundaries for statehouse seats are drawn by an 11-member commission appointed by the governor, legislative leaders and the chief justice of the Colorado Supreme Court. FDC is proposing the creation of an independent commission balanced equally between Democrats, Republicans and Independents. It would also require a super-majority of commission members – including at least two of the Independent members – to approve maps. It would stipulate that only the commission's impartial, non-partisan professional staff may draw the initial maps and would require competitive districts. It would also protect communities of interest, including minority voters and rural communities, from being manipulated for partisan reasons and require the redistricting commission to conduct its business transparently. More on the initiatives can be found on the FDC [website](#).

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Drinks and Dialogue: Ask the Auditor

Monday, March 5

5:30-5:50 p.m. - Gather and visit the cash bar

5:50-6:10 p.m. - Presentation

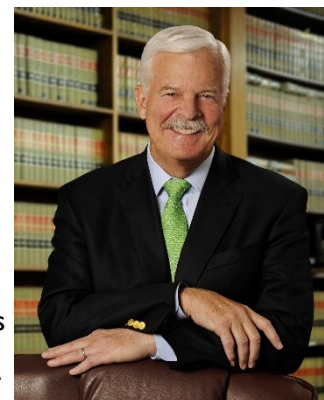
6:10-6:30 p.m. - Q & A

Denver Auditor Timothy M. O'Brien holds the mayor and the city accountable on behalf of all taxpayers. Over the past two years, Auditor O'Brien has expanded the reach of financial and performance audits, encouraged staff professional learning and development, and expanded his robust community outreach programs to hear directly from you.

Auditor O'Brien works for Denver citizens to assure city resources are used as promised. He received national recognition from the American Institute of CPAs as an Outstanding CPA in Government. The Chartered Financial Institute of Financial Analysts Society of Colorado also applauded the Auditor's work.

There's a lot going on in Denver. Auditor O'Brien will update you on what's happening in his office, some of the recent audits his teams worked on which you might have seen in the news, and answer your questions about some major projects and what's going on in the city.

The Irish Snug is 12 blocks east of Broadway at Downing St. Ample parking is available for a nominal fee after 5:00 p.m. in a lot behind the Pub. Metered and handicapped accessible parking can be found in front of the Pub.



Irish Snug
 1201 E. Colfax

Equity in Education, Colorado Style

Thursday, March 8

5:30 p.m. Social Time

6:00 p.m. Program Begins

McCollum Room
 Montview Presbyterian Church

The current word of the day in education is "equity." Some of the powers that be have finally figured out that not only is it important to have adequate funding for our public schools, it is important to meet the needs of individual students and that doesn't necessarily mean equal amounts of funding. Some kids are just more expensive to educate than others.

Our presenters for this briefing will be Dr. Kathryn Young, professor of education at Metro State University, and a representative from Great Education Colorado, a non-profit that has been working for more than a decade on improving funding for Colorado's public schools. Dr. Young will speak to the educational aspects of equity. The Great Education Colorado representative will speak to the equity issues across Colorado and will present information on the Great Schools, Thriving Communities citizen's ballot issue being proposed for the fall election.

Not only will this event provide you with the background for the need for increased equity to combat the achievement gap, as well as the general underfunding of our schools; it will provide participants with specific actions we may take to solve this problem.

Sally Augden

Another Look at TABOR

Monday, March 19
5:30 p.m. Social Time
6:00 p.m. Program Begins

McCollum Room
Montview Presbyterian Church

The League of Women Voters of Denver is taking another look at the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR). TABOR is a Colorado Constitutional Amendment passed in 1992. The three main provisions of TABOR are: (1) Mandates elections for tax or debt increases; (2) Limits on revenue, set at population growth plus rate of inflation; and (3) Prohibits certain types of taxes, including a graduated income tax or statewide property tax. (Source: "[The Purple Book: A Colorado Compendium of Useful Fiscal Facts 2015](#)", pg. 37)

Since TABOR's passage 25 years ago, Colorado's population has increased by 2 million people. Legislators have struggled to find ways to finance necessary investments in our communities, such as schools, roads, healthcare, affordable housing, and other government services. Municipalities have to go to the voters to get rid of the revenue limits, but the state does not have that option. Deferred infrastructure maintenance, reduced government services, and other issues are passed on to the next group of elected officials, who then have no choice but to pass the financing problem on to the voters. What is going to happen to our state in the next 25 years, when our state's population is expected to grow another 2 million people?

Please join us and Carol Hedges, Executive Director of the Colorado Fiscal Institute, and author of "[Ten Years of TABOR](#)", for an insightful presentation on TABOR and what impact it may have on Colorado's future. The Colorado Fiscal Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, independent research organization devoted to economic and fiscal issues in Colorado. You can also obtain a copy of "[The Purple Book: A Colorado Compendium of Useful Fiscal Facts 2016](#)" from the Colorado Fiscal Institute.

Peggy Pitchford

New LWWUS Mission, Vision and Value Statements

Mission Statement: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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

Value Statement: We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

Source: February *Colorado VOTER*

Development Committee Report

The Development Committee had a productive meeting for fundraising on February 8. We invite all members to contact me at 303-935-6481 with ideas for fun fundraising.

The mission of the Development Committee is to fund the Education Fund and the voter services that it supports. With the election coming up we need to fund getting the word out to voters.

Mary Dee Morrow
Development Committee Chairperson

A Follow-Up to the "City Issues Briefing"

As a follow-up to our fall briefing with members from the Denver City Council, I would like to suggest this fun article about their 2018 goals. "[Denver City Council has a lot on its wish list for next year](#)," which can be found in *Denverite*. *Denverite* is a digital news outlet with all local content.

Cindy Sestrich

Unit Meetings: A place for lively conversation!

Buffalo

Mon. Mar. 12, 5:30 p.m.

Location to be determined

Contact Joan Friend for more info
303-596-1022

Cheesman

Tue., Mar. 13, 9:30 a.m.

Marge Fisch

2700 Cherry Crk Dr. S, #101
303-322-4235

Tue., Mar. 27, 9:30 a.m.

Carolyn Georgeson
790 Washington #301
303-863-8522

Cherrington

Thu., Mar. 22, 1:00 p.m.

Charlotte Rubin
2868 S Heather Gardens #304
303-751-9170

Highland/Woodbury

Wed., Mar. 7, 5:45 p.m.

W. 29th Avenue Restaurant
5560 W. 29th Ave.
Contact Sally Augden
303-455-5800

Observatory

Tue., Mar. 13, 7:00 p.m.

Jeanette Scotland
3350 S. Clermont St.
303-479-4368

Tue., Mar. 27, 7:00 p.m.

Carol Jones
3004 S. Kearney St.
303-759-2410

St. Vrain

Wed., Mar. 28, 9:15 a.m.

Mary Alyce Behrns
8080 E. Dartmouth Ave. #36
303-771-6955

Whiteman

Tue., Mar. 13, 9:15 a.m.

Connie Bean
5138 S. Perry
Littleton, CO 80123
303-798-0256

Tue., Mar. 27, 9:15 a.m.

Peggy Pitchford
2661 S. Zurich Ct.
303-638-5534



The Highland/Woodbury Unit would love you to join them!

March Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 5** Drinks and Dialogue: Ask the Auditor, 5:30 p.m.
Irish Snug, 1201 E. Colfax Ave.
- 8** Education Briefing, 5:30 p.m., McCollum Room
- 13** Board Meeting, 3:30 p.m., League Office
- 19** Another Look at Tabor Briefing, 5:30 p.m., McCollum Room

Why Did LWV Members Walk?

At the January 23 briefing, I asked some of our members, "Why did you walk in the Women's March?"

Here are their answers:

- Because I walked last year
- To show women's strength and to continue to resist
- To support women candidates and equality.
- It's our responsibility to march for groups that are oppressed
- To show solidarity with the group and to feel energized
- To show that American women want an Equal

Rights Amendment to gain justice, respect, and dignity

An article entitled "Marches do not a movement make" by Krista Kafer caught my attention in the January 26 Denver Post. She said, "They encourage the faithful, but don't necessarily persuade the unconverted. Persuasion is an arduous journey, not a march." Do you agree? If you do, LWVD can be part of the persuasion.

Barbara Ford, Membership

Meeting on Park Hill Golf Course

On Saturday, March 10 at 1:00 p.m., there will be an informational community forum regarding the future of the Park Hill Golf Course land. The forum will be held at the Park Hill Congregational Church (2600 Leyden St.). The community forum is sponsored by Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, Greater Park Hill Community, Inc., the Park Hill Village HOA and RNO, The Overlook HOA and RNO, and City Park Friends and Neighbors. The forum moderator will be Tracey MacDermott, Board Chairperson of Greater Park Hill Community, Inc. Active participation of forum attendees will be encouraged.

A Relevant Voice from the Past

Comments from the President's Report to the Annual Meeting
League of Women Voters of Denver
March 24, 1954

"Because the League is an organization which not only studies but takes action, it is subject to misunderstandings. Some of these are voiced by well-meaning but uninformed people who need only the courtesy of an answer by a well-oriented member. Some of these develop from partisan individuals who do not realize how fully we encompass both Republican and Democracy [Democratic] party members – so that our stands are truly non-partisan in their reflection of majority opinion. The third type of misunderstanding is deliberately provoked by those who seek power through an emotional and unreasoning appeal. The calm factual approach of the League which leads to the well-balance activity of the individual member is a complete denial of tyranny and its methods."

Mrs. John Ehrhart

Brought to us by Bobbie Heisterkamp during her work to extract excerpts from LWVD minutes from 1947-57.

Members, offer this application to friends and neighbors!

League of Women Voters of Denver
1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220-1239

JOIN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY!

Name(s) _____ Email _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

ANNUAL DUES: ☐ Regular member \$60.00
(for Denver, State & ☐ Two residing at same address..... \$90.00
National) ☐ Sustaining member \$125.00
 ☐ Two sustaining members at same address \$185.00
 ☐ Student \$25.00

CONTRIBUTIONS: ☐ To LWV Denver..... \$ _____
 ☐ To Dues Assistance Fund \$ _____

Make check payable to LWV Denver. (Dues are not tax-deductible. Tax-deductible contributions may be made by separate check to LWVD Education Fund.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____



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Empowering Voters Defending Democracy



Jennifer Piper, Interfaith Programming Director of the American Friends Service Committee; Miguel Oaxaca, from Together Colorado; and Paul Lopez, Denver City Council member.

Living in Denver without Documentation Briefing January 23

A lively and informative event that certainly helped empower voters.