



# Denver VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

September 2017

www.LWVDenver.org  
info@LWVDenver.org

1980 Dahlia Street  
Denver, CO 80220

Phone: 303-321-7571  
Fax: 303-320-8557

## The Fall Election Season Begins

Denver faces a Coordinated Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. It seems quite a ways off, but mail ballots will drop the week of October 16. I have used the language "coordinated election" for years, but decided perhaps I should look up what that really means. I'm sure our League readers know, but in case . . .

"A coordinated election is defined by law as an election where more than one political subdivision with overlapping boundaries or the same electors holds an election on the same day, and the County Clerk and Recorder is the coordinated election official for the political subdivisions. (See C.R.S. § 1-1-104 (6.5)) This means there may be local or state initiatives or referenda on the same ballot containing candidates for School District Director." (Source - [Denver Election Division](#))

And we will have local ballot issues and the school board candidates on the ballot in November.

There are four Denver Public School board seats up for election in November—At-large, District 2, District 3 and District 4. All current seated board members are eligible to run, though Rosemary Rodriguez has announced that she will not seek re-election. As of this writing, it looks like all four seats will have at least two candidates running. Petitions began circulating on August 9, but are not due to the Secretary of State's office until September 1. Petitions must be signed by at least fifty (50) eligible electors from throughout the school district.

There will be no state ballot issues, but we anticipate possibly four local issues. First, the City and County of Denver has proposed a General Obligation Bond ballot issue (GO Bond) meant to provide funding to restore, replace, and expand infrastructure and capital assets across the city. It is based on Elevate 2020, the 2015-2020 Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). It will be divided into seven separate questions by category.

There are three other potential issues on the ballot. A Democracy for the People initiative is a citizen-initiated ordinance that promises to reform and modernize elec-

## A Very Special Kick-Off Celebrating LWVD's 85th

Thursday, September 14  
11:30 a.m.

The Brown Palace Hotel

## Drinks and Dialogue: Voter Suppression Fact or Fiction?

Monday, September 18  
5:30 p.m.

Bogey's on the Park  
2500 York Street

tions in Denver. The Denver Green Roof Initiative would require gardens atop most new buildings of at least 25,000 square feet. And finally, an initiative to amend the city charter to change the name of the Dept. of Environmental Health to the Dept. of Public Health and Environment and to increase the size of its board may make the ballot.

As part of the Denver Decides consortium, we will participate in four candidate forums and one Ballot Issues Forum. They will be held at the Channel 8 studio, streamed live on-line and available on the Channel 8 website.

### Tuesday, October 10

7 p.m. School Board District 2 (SW Denver)

8 p.m. School Board District 3 (E Denver)

### Thursday, October 12

7 p.m. School Board District 4 (NE Denver)

8 p.m. School Board At Large

### Tuesday, October 17

7 p.m. Ballot Issues

Please send us questions for the candidates.

Pearlann Zelarney  
Director of Communications

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 303-321-7571  
 Fax: 303-320-8557

[www.LWVDenver.org](http://www.LWVDenver.org)  
[info@LWVDenver.org](mailto:info@LWVDenver.org)

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Postmaster, please send  
 address changes to:

Denver VOTER  
 LWV Denver  
 1980 Dahlia Street  
 Denver, CO 80220

## **Drinks and Dialogue: Voter Suppression—Fact or Fiction?**

Monday, September 18  
 5:30 p.m. Social Time  
 5:50-6:10 p.m. Secretary Williams' presentation  
 6:10-6:30 p.m. Q&A

Bogey's on the Park  
 2500 York Street

Join us in welcoming Secretary of State Wayne W. Williams for a discussion of voter suppression. Wayne Williams was elected Colorado's 38th Secretary of State in 2014 after serving as the El Paso County Clerk & Recorder from 2011 to 2015. Before that he served as an El Paso County Commissioner from 2003 to 2011.

**Q:** Why is the League of Women Voters interested in whether voter suppression is fact or fiction?

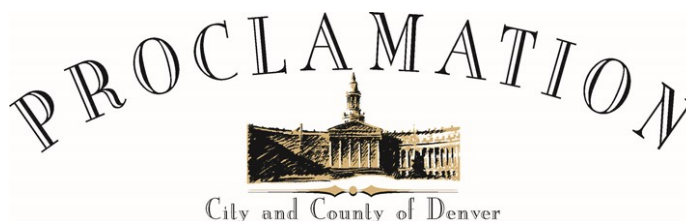
**A:** The League of Women Voters has a long history of protecting voting rights. Protecting the right to vote is indivisibly part of the League's basic purpose and voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

**Q:** Why do we want to have a public dialogue with Secretary of State Wayne Williams?

**A:** One of the duties of the Secretary of State is to ensure the integrity of elections. Integrity of our elections is a "hot topic" that needs to be addressed.

Drinks and Dialogue is a concept that has worked very well for the Boulder County League. The idea is to meet at a local restaurant, enjoy a drink and learn about a hot topic. We hope to get some good publicity and have a fun and educational event.

*Patty Cordova*



## **Honoring the 85th!**

The League of Women Voters of Denver will be honored on September 11 with a proclamation from the Denver City Council commemorating their 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Proclamations are usually read between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the City and County building, 1437 Bannock St.

League members wishing to attend should arrive well before 5:30 as it is necessary to go through security. The Council meeting can be viewed live on Channel 8 as well, for those who wish to watch the proceedings.

*Diane Young*

## Tentative LWV Denver Calendar 2017-2018

Sun., August 20	<i>A Vote to Celebrate</i>	5:30-7:30 p.m. <i>Molly Brown Summer House</i>
Thu., Sept. 14	85 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration	11:30 a.m. Brown Palace
Sat., Sept. 16	<i>Making Democracy Work Conference (formerly League Day)</i>	8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. <i>Holiday Inn-Stapleton</i>
Mon., Sept. 18	Drinks & Dialogue Voter Suppression—Fact or Fiction	5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Bogey's on the Park
Tue., Oct. 3	Bond Package/Other Election Issues	5:30 p.m. McCollum Room
Mon., Oct 16 or Tue., Oct. 17	Money in School Board Elections	5:30 p.m. McCollum Room
Tue., Nov. 14 or Thu., Nov. 16	Status & Future of Denver with City Council Members	5:30 p.m. McCollum Room
December	Units Choice Activities	
Mon., Jan. 8	Program Planning Potluck	5:30 p.m. League Office
Tue., Jan. 16	Immigration and “Sanctuary Cities”	5:30 p.m. McCollum Room
TBD	Workshop on Building Trust through Civil Discourse	
Mon., Feb 5	National Program Planning	9:30 a.m. League Office

Other topics to be considered for winter and spring:

- Equity in Education
- Update on Healthcare
- Climate Change
- Redistricting
- Effects of Aging Population
- Meet our Auditor

May 2018	Annual Meeting Legislative Wrap-Up
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Unless otherwise noted, meetings are at Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia.  
*Events in italics are State League events.*

## Unit Meetings: *A place for lively conversation!*

### Buffalo

**Mon., Sept. 25, 5:30 p.m.**

Location to be determined  
For info contact Joan Friend  
303-596-1022

### Cheesman

**Tue., Sept. 26, 9:30 a.m.**

Susan Stark  
310 Bellaire St.  
303-333-4094

### Cherrington

**Thu., Sept. 28, 1:00 p.m.**

Dee Netzel

3775 S. Forest Way  
303-758-6837

### Highland/Woodbury

**Wed., Sept. 6, 5:45 p.m.**

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

### Observatory

**Tue., Sept. 26, 7:00 p.m.**

Marian Colliander

5442 E. Tennessee Ave.  
303-322-3926

### St. Vrain

**Wed., Sept. 20, 10:15 a.m.**

Joan Gendreau  
4570 E. Yale Ave. #703  
303-756-0842

### Whiteman

**Tue., Sept. 26, 9:15 a.m.**

Mary Werner  
4907 W. Yale Ave. Denver  
303-935-5712

## September 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

- 4** Labor Day, League Office Closed
- 12** Education Fund and Board Meeting, League Office 3:00 p.m.
- 14** Celebration of the LWVD's 85th Birthday, 11:30 a.m., Brown Palace Hotel
- 16** Make Democracy Work Conference (formerly State League Day), 8:30 a.m. Holiday Inn - Stapleton
- 18** Drinks and Dialogue, 5:30 p.m., Bogey's on the Park

## Welcome New Members!

**Mary Benoit**, 7566 Union Court, 80005

**Magdalena Brown**, 7693 Grizzly Ct., Littleton 80125

**Jackie Denning**, 755 S. Clarkson Street, 80209, 910-658-3746

**Anne Duncan**, 3030 Clermont Street, 80207

**Carol Jansch**, 4026 S. Magnolia Way, 80237

**Melissa Koop**, 1390 S. Quivas St., 80223, 720-327-0887

**Steve Nissen**, 528 N. Pennsylvania Street, 80203

**Jennifer Robins**, 400 S Lafayette St #601, 80209, 720-550-0481

**Mary Jane Rowe**, 420 S. Marion Parkway #403, 80209, 970-389-5729

## Advocacy

At the August board meeting, LWVD voted to support the Denver GO bond initiative and to add our name to the Colorado Education Network, a group working on increasing funding for public schools, the latter at the suggestion of Leaguer Sally Augden.

The board also discussed Democracy for the People, a citizen initiated ordinance that is currently collecting petition signatures. This effort is being led by Clean Slate Now, an organization founded by former state Senate Majority Leader Ken Gordon and now led by Jon Biggerstaff, who recently ran for Senate District 33. Boulder County Leaguer Shirley Jin strongly urged the Denver League to support it, saying "The initiative does meet the LWVUS position on money in politics. It will increase transparency and set up a small-donation-matching program. It will prohibit candidates from accepting contributions directly from

Continued from page 4

corporations, require thorough disclosure of money spent on behalf of or against a candidate (commonly called dark money), and reduce contribution limits that are uncommonly high compared to state elections.” Denver Leaguer Toni Larson represented the League in a larger group of organizations that was considering a similar initiative. She also feels we should support this measure.

The Board, however, had some concerns and decided to table discussion of supporting the initiative until it was certain to be on the ballot. Concerns included:

- Is there enough organizational and financial support?
- Would next election season be a better time?
- Does Denver really need this initiative as the election process is run well now?
- What about money in school board elections, which is not addressed in this initiative?

Here are some additional references:

[Democracy for the People website](#)

[OpEd in the Denver Post by Vincent Carrol](#)

### Ballot Title

Shall the voters of the City and County of Denver adopt an amendment to the Denver Revised Municipal Code requiring disclosure of independent spending and electioneering, requiring political advertisements to identify who paid for them, banning corporations, labor unions and other entities from donating directly to candidates, and lowering contribution limits; and adopting a new Article VIII to Chapter 15 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code creating a dedicated fund within the City’s general fund, capped at 8 million dollars per 4-year election cycle, as appropriated by City Council and Mayor to match donations of 50 dollars or less at a ratio of 9 to 1 to candidates who voluntarily agree to raise money in lower amounts and do not take contributions from political committees?

## 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:	<input type="radio"/> Regular member .....	\$60.00
(for Denver, State &	<input type="radio"/> Two residing at same address .....	\$90.00
National)	<input type="radio"/> Sustaining member .....	\$125.00
	<input type="radio"/> Two sustaining members at same address .....	\$185.00
	<input type="radio"/> Student .....	\$25.00

CONTRIBUTIONS:	<input type="radio"/> To LWV Denver .....	\$ _____
	<input type="radio"/> 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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### **From the LWVUS:**

#### **Reject “Election Integrity” Commission’s Voter Suppression Agenda!**

Voting brings us together as Americans—it is the one time we are all equal. But a new national task force, created to justify President Trump’s false claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2016 elections, is laying the groundwork for dangerous voter suppression across the country.

The so-called “Election Integrity” Commission, chaired by Vice President Mike Pence and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, is seeking to find potential fraudulent registration on voter rolls across the country. They’ve requested personal, confidential information from all fifty states that threatens the privacy of Americans.

This Commission is not interested in facts, but rather false accusations in order to implement dangerous election policy. The League will not let this Commission intimidate voters but we need your help. Tell the Commission you won’t let anything stop you from exercising your right to vote.

Visit the [League of Women Voters of US website](#) to sign the petition. Over 12,000 citizens have already signed.



*League of Women Voters of Denver*

*It's Our Turn to Celebrate  
Our 85th Birthday!  
Luncheon*

*85 Years of serving the Denver Community with Studies on Key City Issues, Advocacy and  
Voter Service*

*Our newly published "LWVD History Book 1932-2017"  
tells our remarkable story*

*The Birthday Party/History Book Presentation will take place  
September 14, 2017, 11:30 a.m.*

*At*

*The Brown Palace Hotel, our Co-Sponsor*

*You can sign up early to reserve your place. Speaker: Former Denver Mayor Wellington E. Webb  
with Anne Trujillo of Channel 7 as Emcee.*

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Yes, I want to celebrate on September 14, 2017  
\$50.00 individual ticket, includes lunch and book

*Name(s) of attendee(s):* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_ *City* \_\_\_\_\_ *State* \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone:* \_\_\_\_\_ *E-Mail:* \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ *Check is enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$50 per ticket) payable to LWV Denver.*
- ☐ *Credit Card online at [lwvdenver.org](http://lwvdenver.org) (no Pay Pal account required)*
- ☐ *I am unable to attend. My donation is enclosed.*

QUESTIONS?  
Call 303-321-7571

*Registration deadline is September 5, 2017. For vegetarian meal check here \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Mail checks and form to: League of Women Voters of Denver, 1980 Dahlia Street, Denver, CO 80220-1239**