



# Denver VOTER

League of Women Voters of Denver

February 2012

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Denver, CO 80220

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## Your Board Needs You

This year your LWV Denver Board has been working to find a plan in which our board can function without a president. We have had several "special" meetings to discuss what that future model might look like. Although we will have to make adjustments that are best for Denver, we have kept in mind the model Larimer County League has used for several years as they faced the same challenge of no president. They select board members and then decide who does the various tasks that need to be done once they are on board. We are not ready to set this model in stone, but this year we would like to try selecting board members in this way.

We are looking for members who will come on board for two years, look at what needs to be done, and select a job description that fits them. Some people on our board will be in the second year of their term next year. We will soon know who on our present board want to stay on for another term and who might want to stay in a different job. We have also talked about finding new members for our board who would work for a year with a mentor who has done the job before. Most members of our board are willing to do that. We can also do more job sharing. Maybe you even have someone in mind with whom you would enjoy working.

We are developing a simple application and we are hoping some of you will literally nominate yourselves. Maybe you are a new member; maybe you are a 50-year member. Please consider joining us. Contact me or our office if you'd like an application. Call me or any member of our board if you have questions (the list of current board members can be found in the Roster). We will be contacting the units too, but please let me know if you have a recommendation of Leaguers you think would be good board members. We will call them and send them an application.

We need members who are willing to look at League in

## February Briefings

### The Impact of Budget Reductions for Denver's Human Services

Monday, February 6, 5:45 p.m.

McCullum Room

### Update on Health Care Reform in Colorado

Tuesday, February 21, 5:45 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

a new way. Although being on the board is a responsibility, we are trying to find ways to make it less demanding. It's definitely rewarding.

We need you!

*Marty Sloven*  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

During her tenure, former LWVD President Sandra Shreve developed this list of desirable skills and characteristics for board members:

- Willingness to commit time and talents to the growth and development of the organization
- Effective communication and decision-making skills
- Ability to plan and position the organization for its future
- Ascribes to the organization's core values
- Flexible and inclusive team player

We know so many of you fit this profile!

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## The Impact of Budget Reductions for Denver's Human Services

**WHEN:** Monday, February 6 (*Note the change of date*)

**WHERE:** McCollum Room  
Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church  
1980 Dahlia St.

**TIME:** 5:45 p.m. Snacks  
6:00 p.m. Program  
7:15 p.m. Adjourn

**THE PANEL:**

- ◆ Julie Kerksick, Office of Economic Security, Colorado Department of Human Services
- ◆ Penny May, Manager, Denver Human Services Department (invited)
- ◆ Laurie Harvey, executive director, Center for Work, Education and Employment, CWEE (invited)

**MODERATOR:** Elizabeth Horn

## Update on Health Care Reform in Colorado

Tuesday, February 21  
5:45 p.m.

Montview Presbyterian Church  
Fellowship Hall

Senators Irene Aguilar and Morgan Carroll and the new executive director of the Health Benefits Exchange for Colorado, Patty Fontneau, will be joining us February 21 at 5:30 p.m. for our rescheduled health/legislative briefing. With the legislative session one third of the way through, this will be a good time for Senators Aguilar and Carroll to brief us on health care bills being considered or in the process of being proposed. This will also be our opportunity to meet Patty Fontneau, hear her take on her new position as executive director of the Health Benefit Exchange, and be updated on the Exchange.

*Bev Bridges*  
*Health Care Committee*

## LWVUS Legislative Priority Suggestions

In her monthly e-letters, the national president asked Leagues to send what they feel should be National's priorities for advocacy and lobbying. Advocacy covers a broad range of activities League can do to impact public policy decisions. Lobbying means addressing a specific bill being considered by a legislative body. I am on an e-mail list-serve through which I receive e-mails from League members all over the country. The overwhelming topic that Leagues want us to work on at the national level is campaign finance, specifically fighting the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. I don't know how many local and state Leagues are on this list-serve, but most of them have signed on to fight Citizens United. Another topic often mentioned is voting rights, especially the ID requirements that disenfranchise so many potential voters. We are fighting on this front in Colorado. Other topics mentioned are clean air/water and retaining health care reform.

If you are interested in receiving the president's letters or being on League sponsored e-mails, you can sign up on the [national web site](#). But you must be prepared for a lot of e-mails!

*Marty Sloven*

## Election Year 2012 Resolutions from National

Instead of the usual New Year's resolutions, the League put together a list of election year resolutions and hopes for the coming year:

- Ensure all eligible voters are registered to vote and can exercise their right to vote without having to overcome unnecessary and restrictive hurdles
- Educate the electorate on the candidates and issues on their ballots and help them find their polling place
- Encourage informative and productive debates between candidates so voters can learn about their elected representatives through more than just sound bites
- Fight to make sure voters decide the outcome of elections, not special interest money

*from Alison McQuade on the National League [website](#)*

## The Caucuses are Coming

The purpose of the caucuses is to determine preferences for candidates, to elect delegates to county assemblies and to begin discussing the party platform. In order to vote at a precinct caucus, a person must be a resident of the precinct for 30 days, must have registered to vote no later than 29 days before, and must be affiliated with the major party holding the caucus for at least two months.

Information about how to participate in the Republican or Democratic caucuses is available on their web sites, [denvergop.org](#) and [denverdemocrats.net](#). Contact the Green, Libertarian, American Constitution and Colorado Reform parties for their information.

Republican Party Precinct Caucus Day  
Democratic Party Precinct Caucus Day

Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.

## Reporting in, LWVD City Government Committee

### Denver Board of Ethics

The board met for a special session on December 2, 2011, to consider a request for an advisory opinion by John Huggins, Director of the Denver Office of Economic Development from July 2003 to March 2007. In 2004, Huggins approved some loans to expedite the redevelopment of the former Lowenstein Theatre by the St. Charles Town Company Theatre, LLC. In August of 2011, Huggins purchased a portion of a default loan, which had been subordinated to the city's loans in September 2007. Huggins was concerned that this may have been perceived by some to be a conflict of interest or an unethical involvement. Some City Council members had encouraged him to seek an opinion from the Ethics Board.

Huggins purchased the 2.2 million loan from U.S. Bank for 56 cents on the dollar, keeping the senior rights on the total restructuring over the City and County of Denver's loan. The original loan had been in default since February 2011. The city's ethic's policy is that former employees must wait six months before doing business with projects where they played a major role.

The City Council Business, Workforce and Sustainability Committee was presented the result of the Ethics Board opinion by letter on December 7, during their consideration on the restructuring of the loan package. The Board ruled there had not been any impropriety. David Broadwell, city attorney to council, concurred with the ruling, as he did not find anything in the ethics rules that would advise otherwise. He also added that there weren't any state or city laws to the contrary either. Councilwoman Jeanne Faatz referred to the situation as follows: "I am uneasy having an individual player come back after having had that person at the table promoting a deal, having it go south and then yet having that person make a profit from it."

*Suzanne Gilbert*

### Denver Economic Development and Financial Arrangements with Development Projects

Paul Washington is the new director of the Office of Economic Development (OED) for Denver. He and his staff have been concentrating on reviewing the status of the existing loan portfolio of \$127 million and the viability of the individual projects. Currently, 15% or \$19.6 million of

the total portfolio of loans from the last administration's deals are in default or at risk. The first one brought to the attention of City Council comprises 2% of the portfolio – the Lowenstein project on East Colfax, which includes the Tattered Cover Book Store, Starz Film, Twist and Shout and other restaurant vendors. The committee approved a restructuring of the loan, and this restructuring plan was presented on council floor on December 12 for first reading with passage possible 4 weeks thereafter.

For a good, in-depth, easily understood review of how Denver works to spur economic development and the role that this office takes on for Denver, view the OED presentation to the City Council Business, Workforce & Sustainability Committee on December 7. Find the [video](#) on the City Council website at [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org).

After viewing his explanations of the parameters of the restructuring, I believe Paul Washington to be a qualified person leading this office to negotiate and help to restructure these deals to recover any funds possible for the people of Denver. These loans made by OED and approved by City Council help to spur redevelopment in risky ventures where the private banking world would not approve a singular interest in taking on the project. The East Colfax corridor has now become a vibrant, income-producing section of the city where deterioration existed before. It is a success story in economic development. The presentation points to an increase in jobs and revenue compared to the rest of the city. A new Sunflower grocery store is in the planning stages right now. I'd like to point out that we all have responsibility in making these projects work and keeping them viable by supporting the merchants with our business. For instance, if the Tattered Cover Book Store defaulted, it could cause a domino effect and would drastically increase the possibility of failure for the entire project.

*Cindy Sestrich*

### Redistricting – State Process Affecting Denver

Jenifer Brandeberry and Julie McKenna of Brandeberry-McKenna Public Affairs, lobbyists for Denver government to the Colorado State legislature, gave a presentation to the City Council Special Issues Committee on December 12, 2011. They reported that the final mapping was approved moments before this meeting. The Clerk and Recorder office can now work to complete the precinct

mapping by the due date of January 6, 2012.

One outcome of the adopted state maps was that there is now more than one incumbent in some districts, including that of the current majority leader of the house. Senators Foster and Steadman were put into the same district, so Senator Foster said she would not seek re-election. Another outcome is that legislators in many districts will be campaigning in areas they do not currently represent. Senator Cadman, minority leader, reportedly announced that he will be introducing legislation in the upcoming session to change the process for redistricting in Colorado.

It was noted that there were some changes to areas in Denver that would affect residents. Councilwoman Jeanne Faatz noted that Senate District 32 used to include all of her southwest council district, but now all of her district south of Hampden will be in Senate District 16, inclusive of Jefferson County and to the west.

Councilwoman Robb and Councilman Nevitt reported that they had some citizens challenge the precinct map in the Alamo Placita and West Washington Park borders, along with the unusual boundaries near the areas around Glendale and Indian Creek.

The timeline for approval of the council redistricting map will begin in earnest after Jan. 6 and ends when the council must approve the map at the end of April. The council committee will hold five public sessions once council members have maps for citizens to review. There will be one in each quadrant and one in a committee session in the City and County Building. The committee will try to avoid having several maps on the floor of council and find cohesiveness before the committee session date is announced.

*Cindy Sestrich*

Note: The new precinct maps may be found at [Denvervotes.org/reprecincting](http://Denvervotes.org/reprecincting).

An information page and map (11" x 17") for individual districts as they were drawn during the 2011 reapportionment process is now available on the [Colorado Reapportionment Commission website](http://Colorado Reapportionment Commission website), part of the [www.Colorado.gov](http://www.Colorado.gov) website. The information page includes demographic data, voting information, and a listing of communities and school districts within the district.

### **Upcoming Briefing Choices: How much and what type of services are you willing to pay for in Denver?**

**March 13, 2011 (Note the change of date)  
5:45 p.m., Montview Presbyterian Church**

Denver finds itself in the middle of a declining income climate, with less sales taxes collected due to fewer goods purchased and lower property taxes. The result is an ongoing and growing \$30 million plus deficit. This is not only a factor of a low economy, but also from new purchasing trends affecting our entire country at all levels of state and local government. The choice of how to maintain necessary services and provide the basic needs of citizens, including social welfare, is of concern. Even when the economy returns to an upward trend, the old system for collecting taxes will not keep pace with demand.

#### **Of Note**

Councilwoman Robin Kniech is giving an informal talk and discussion on privatization/contracting out city services in Denver to the City Government Committee on February 28 at 5:00 p.m. in the Denver LWV Montview offices. Please email Cindy Sestrich if you are interested in attending so we may set up the room.

The City Government Committee will invite a panel of city officials, a City Councilperson, a Structural Financial Task Force representative and others to explain possible creative

solutions to keep Denver a viable and productive city in which to live and work. We will also have the results of a current study we are conducting on the efficiencies and status, along with future needs, of individual agencies in our Denver government. We guarantee this will keep you on the edge of your seats. You will be faced with a decision on initiatives on future ballots to remedy this trend.

*Cindy Sestrich*

## Unit Meetings

**Buffalo**

No meeting in Feb.  
Call Joan Friend for info.

**Cheesman**

Tue., Feb. 14, 9:15 a.m.  
Andrea Skeen  
Tue., Feb. 28, 9:15 a.m.  
Carolyn Georgeson

**Cherrington**

Thu., Feb. 9, 1:00 p.m.  
Carolyn Medrick

**Heritage**

Thu., Feb. 23, 10:30 a.m.  
Regular meeting place:  
Heritage Club  
2020 S. Monroe St.

For info call Betsy Kester

**Highland/Woodbury**  
Wed., Feb. 1, 5:45 p.m.

Regular meeting place:  
Red Tango  
5807 W. 38th Ave.  
Call Sally Augden for info.

**Matchless**  
TBD

Call Ida Schmuck for info.

**Observatory**  
Tue., Feb. 14, 7:00 p.m.

Phyllis Zumwinkel

**St. Vrain**  
Wed., Feb. 15, 9:15 a.m.  
Joan Gendreau

**Thomas Jefferson**

Fri., Feb. 24, 9:15 a.m.  
Terry Walljasper

**Whiteman**

Tue., Feb. 14, 9:15 a.m.  
Joyce Solomon  
Tue., Feb. 28, 9:15 a.m.  
Joanne Kouris-Bell

## February 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			

- 6 Human Services Briefing, 5:45 p.m., McCollum room
- 7 Republican Caucuses
- 14 Board Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- 21 Health Care Briefing, 5:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall

### Welcome New Members!

Claire Pierson  
Sharon Berthrong

We welcome articles and submissions to the VOTER from all members. Here are the upcoming deadlines:

VOTER Month	Submission Deadline
March	2/14/2012
April	3/13/2012
May	4/10/2012

Send your submissions to [info@lwvdenver.org](mailto:info@lwvdenver.org).

### In Memoriam

**Grace Freye**, a longtime League member, passed away in December. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

## Movie Night at the League

Spring is always a good time to try something new! Sometime in March, let's sit down in the beautiful Montview Church Library and watch a movie together. We'd like everyone to be comfortable, so seating will be limited. A small cover will be charged as we will serve a little something to eat and a little something to drink.

League's first movie night will air the film *Matewan* by director John Sayles. In the early spring of 1920, unorganized coal miners in Mingo County, West Virginia began seeking to join the UMWA. The coal operators became alarmed by the organizing activity and locked out the miners. On May 19, 1920, twelve men were killed at Matewan, West Virginia in a gun fight in which the local police and the people of Matewan faced a group of hoodlums hired by the infamous Baldwin Felts Detective Agency at the behest of the coal operators. This same detective agency was a key player in the Ludlow Massacre some six years earlier in Colorado.

The right to work with dignity and in safety is increasingly under attack in our country now. Let's take the opportunity to discuss the movie in relation to today's realities and also have some social time with other Leaguers. Watch for the upcoming particulars in the *VOTER*.

*Erika Paterson*  
League Member

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

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

CONTRIBUTIONS:	C To LWV Denver .....	\$ _____
	C 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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1980 Dahlia Street  
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## Support the League with Your Grocery Shopping

I'd like to encourage all members to purchase and use a reloadable King Soopers Gift Card. This is our easiest fundraiser for the League. From every purchase by our members or friends using these cards, the League receives 5%. These cards have a round orange sticker on them and are available for purchase at most League events or through the office.

You need only purchase a card once for the low, low amount of \$10. Once you have your card, you can then load money on the card at the increments that you would like. I've had the same card for two years and usually put \$200 on my card at a time using a credit card. This way you also get your credit card points. I do this at the checkout stand before I purchase my groceries and then use the card on any purchase at Kings, including gas and pharmacy. The cards are easier to use than credit cards (you don't have to sign) and each receipt shows your balance. All the money you put on the card, including the original \$10, is yours to spend as you will. You still get credit towards gas discounts using the gift cards. Once I have spent the \$200, the League receives \$10.

Really, there is no downside, so consider purchasing a card at the next League event and using it faithfully throughout the year.

*Pearlann Zelarney*  
Board Member

