

What to Do? 2021 Colorado Redistricting

Toni Larson, LWVCO Director of Action & Advocacy

Redistricting legislation was passed overwhelmingly by the citizens of Colorado in 2018. This legislation is often referred to as Y and Z; it sets up two commissions, one for the state legislature and one for congressional representatives, to carry out redistricting for Colorado. Y and Z are now a part of the Colorado constitution. Also established in Y and Z is a timeline for producing maps and commission protocols. Suddenly, the COVID pandemic enters the picture, forcing the US Census Bureau to establish different expectations, primarily around collecting

Suddenly, the COVID pandemic enters the picture, forcing the US Census Bureau to establish different expectations, primarily around collecting necessary population data. The COVID pandemic affects almost all, if not all, the details of our lives. Redistricting is no exception. The census bureau had to push back the deadlines due in large measure to safety issues around people being in contact with each other.

This change in deadlines at the federal level directly affects the timelines set up in the Colorado constitution. The Colorado commissions have been forced to face the reality of changing the Colorado timelines. Doing this, however, violates the Colorado constitution. What to do? <u>Click here to read more.</u>

2021 Environment and Energy Wrap-Up

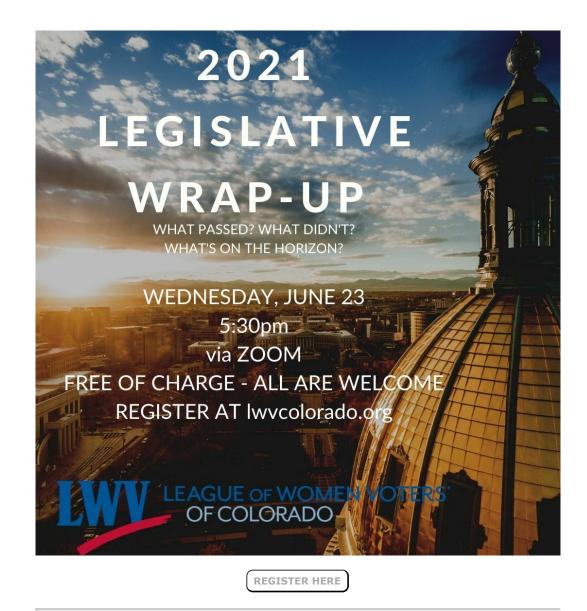
Amy Sherwood

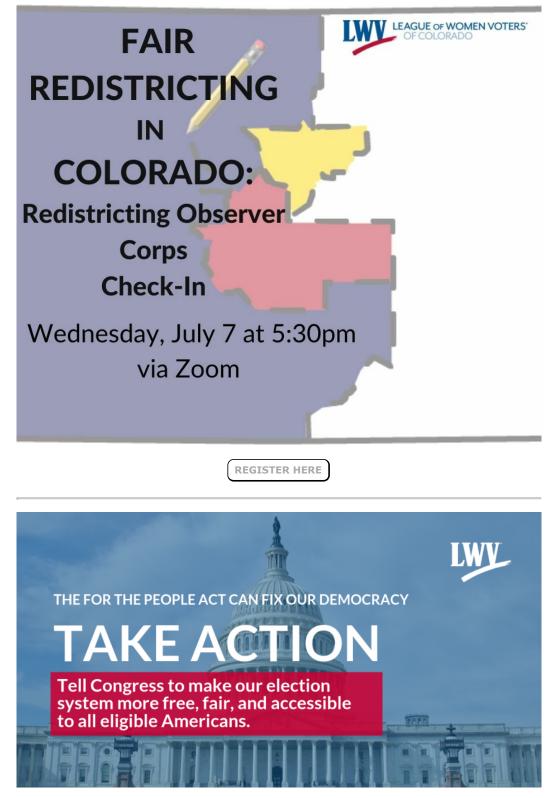
LWVCO supports diversity, equity and inclusion in legislation. In regards to climate change and limiting global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius, the League believes that science-based solutions must lead. Transportation, Electricity, Buildings and Industry Sector solutions led this legislative session, in Energy and Environment bills, that League supported in these two important areas. The General Assembly passed the following:

<u>HB 1286</u>: **Energy Performance in Buildings** tackled ways to improve energy efficiency in buildings by requiring owners of large buildings to collect and report energy-use benchmarking data and comply with standards related to greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening energy performance requirements. The aim is to decarbonize buildings and make them net zero emissions. The RMI (Rocky Mountain Institute Building) a two story, 15,600 sq.ft. building is such a structure in Basalt, Colorado.

<u>HB 1303:</u> Global Warming Potential for Public Project Materials limits the global warming potential for certain materials used in construction of public projects.

HB 1238: PUC Modernize Gas Utility DSM (Demand Side-Management) Standards modernizes the gas energy efficiency programs. Click her e to read more.





Resources: the For The People Act

Bill summary

Annotated Guide to the For the People Act by the Brennan Center for Justice

Talking points

Social media materials

Letter to the Editor template



BLOG: In the Know: How the League is Transforming Money in Politics

Meghan Browder

For years, the League of Women Voters' campaign for Making Democracy Work® has focused on five key areas: money in politics, voting rights, redistricting, the census, and improving elections. The first part of this initiative is our commitment to promoting an open governmental system that is representative and accountable through campaign finance regulations. We believe that elections should be about voters, not wealthy special interest groups. <u>Read more here.</u>

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