



March 2021



## Leader of Democracy 2021

FOR THE LOVE OF DEMOCRACY. FOR THE LOVE OF THE LEAGUE.



Sen. Polly Baca Elizabeth Ensley Lauren Casteel Jackson Moody

*A great many thanks to all who participated in making this a successful event!*

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### Amazing people

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Anne Trujillo, Event Emcee  
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Bobbie Heisterkamp, Awards  
Beth Barela, Colorado Women's Hall of Fame  
Jill Tietjen, Colorado Leaders of Democracy Exhibit  
Karen Sheek, LWVCO President



[View Leader of Democracy 2021 here](#)



## General Assembly Reconvenes

Andrea Wilkins, Legislative Liaison

The Colorado General Assembly reconvened the 2021 legislative session on Tuesday February 16, following a month-long temporary adjournment COVID-19 pandemic. It is unclear exactly when policymakers will conclude business, though if the General Assembly meets for the full 120-day session will fall on June 12.

Since the January 15 adjournment, a lot of work has been underway with the Joint Budget Committee receiving budget briefings from the various departments and engaging in figure-setting discussions, while the General Assembly as a whole has continued developing legislation and engaging stakeholder meetings and discussions. Policymakers introduced well over 200 bills upon reconvening this week.

[Read more here](#)

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## Introducing SB 108

Amy Sherwood

SB21-108: [Public Utilities Commission Gas Utility Safety Inspection Authority](#) (Sen. Story) introduced Feb. 18 and assigned to Transportation and Energy.

This bill increases and clarifies the rulemaking and enforcement authority of the Public Utilities Commission and will eliminate a gray area that gas lines fall into, where neither the Public Utilities Commission nor the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission were inspecting. This bill will give authority to do so by protecting homeowners and businesses close to pipelines.

[Read more here](#)

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## Income Assistance

Debby Vink

The League of Women Voters of Colorado supported [SB20-200 Implementation of Colorado Secure Savings Program](#), which passed in the 2020 Legislative Session and required retirement program for Colorado's Private Sector Workers whose employers are not currently offering their employees a retirement savings plan. Our support is in League positions which support help to achieve income independence and promote economic justice. Over half of Colorado workers in the private sector lack an employer sponsored retirement program, and adequate individual savings. Without retirement assets, our aging population will suffer and could potentially cost the State of Colorado dollars within the next fifteen years. The lack of savings affects the most vulnerable of our population the most severely, a shortfall made so much worse by COVID.

[Read more here](#)

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Webinar Town Hall



H.R. 1

## FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Learn more about this comprehensive legislation that will:

- Expand voting rights
- Limit partisan gerrymandering
- Reform campaign finance laws
- Create new ethics rules for federal officeholders

Speakers include Congressman Joe Neguse, Congresswoman Diana DeGette, Congressman Jason Crow, and LWVUS Legislative & Policy Coordinator Priya Pandey

Tues., March 2 at 5:00pm

Free of charge but registration is required at

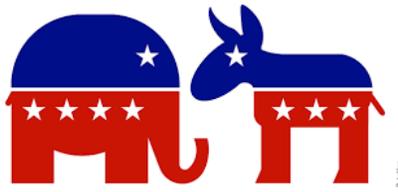
[www.lwvcolorado.org](http://www.lwvcolorado.org)



[REGISTER HERE](#)

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RESOURCES FOR  
PROMOTING CIVIL  
DISCOURSE



[Recording of Beyond Polarization with Dr. Mart in Carcasson, session 1 \(2/24/21\)](#)

[Center for Public Discourse resources page](#)

[Resource Guide on Public Engagement](#) by the National Coalition for Dialogue & Discourse

[Process Matters: Human Nature, Democracy, and a Call for Rediscovering Wisdom](#) (full report - 66 pages) by Dr. Martin Carcasson

[Why Process Matters: Democracy and Human Nature](#) (summary of the above report - 4 pages) by Dr. Martin Carcasson

[Counteracting Polarization: the Critical Role of Bridging Institutions](#) by Dr. Martin Carcasson, North Forty News, 12/30/2020

[Recording of Promoting Civil Discourse in Politics with Rep. Jeni Arndt and Cheryl Graeve 12/16/2020](#)



During LWVCO's Dec. 2020 webinar *Promoting Civil Discourse in Politics*, State Rep. Jeni James Arndt told of growing up with a Democratic mother and a Republican father and their dynamic family conversations. She's accustomed to hearing both sides so she sits with the Republicans in the Legislature. She suggested to a past Speaker of the House that they integrate by seating the Democrats, Republicans & Independents together so they can get to know each other. She even went so far as to suggest joint lunch or dining rooms. Neither idea went anywhere.

LWVGV's Legislative Committee loved Rep. Arndt's approach and proposed that every League member write a letter to every State Legislator and member of Congress representing them (5 letters) asking that they (like Rep. Arndt) sit with members of the other party.

[Click here for more information and a letter to mplate.](#)



## NEWS LITERACY

Promoting awareness of source bias and fact vs. opinion

[Recording: Media Literacy webinar 2/23/2021 with Repts. Cutter and MacLachlan and LWV Larimer](#)

[Text of HB21-1103 Media Literacy Implementation](#)

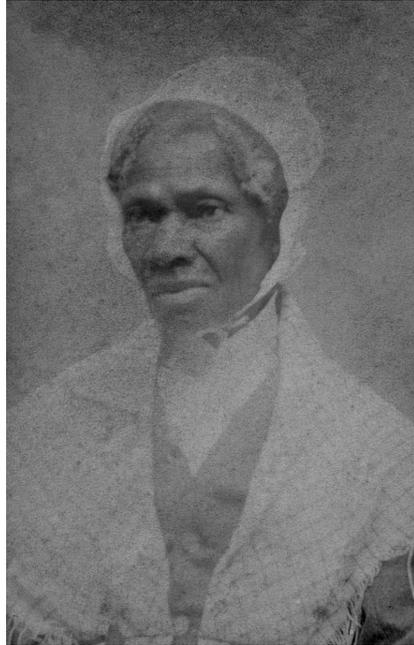
[Lots of articles, resources, and quizzes on NEWS LITERACY from LWV Larimer County.](#)



## ALTERNATIVE VOTING METHODS

Rep. Chris Kennedy (HD23) spoke on Feb. 16 about his recently-introduced legislation, HB21-1071, to allow ranked choice voting in Colorado nonpartisan elections, and Marcus Ogren provided information about alternative voting methods, including STAR and approval voting.

[Presentation recording](#)



## SIX MINUTES OF SUFFRAGE: SOJOURNER TRUTH

Sharon Cave, LWV Montrose

Isabella (Belle) Baumfree, later known as Sojourner Truth, was born in 1797 in Ulster County, New York. Her parents were slaves. When she was nine years old, she was sold at a slave auction to John Neely for \$100 and a flock of sheep. Neely was a cruel and violent master and beat Belle regularly. By 1810, when she was 13, Belle had been sold two more times, ultimately ending up in West Park, New York with John Dumont and his wife. At age 18, Belle fell in love with another slave from a nearby farm. They were not allowed to marry as they had different owners. Instead, Belle was forced to marry Thomas, one of Dumont's slaves. Thomas and Belle had five children: James, Diana, Peter, Elizabeth, and Sophia.

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

BE ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF PROTECTING DEMOCRACY!

Apply to be a member of the Board of Directors  
of the

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO



### Qualifications:

- PASSION FOR THE LEAGUE'S MISSION
- BELIEF IN DEMOCRACY FOR ALL
- ENERGY & ENTHUSIASM
- BIMONTHLY MEETINGS VIA ZOOM
- TWO-YEAR TERMS
- ALL ARE WELCOME TO APPLY
- BE A PART OF STRENGTHENING OUR FRAGILE DEMOCRACY

### Special Skills Needed:

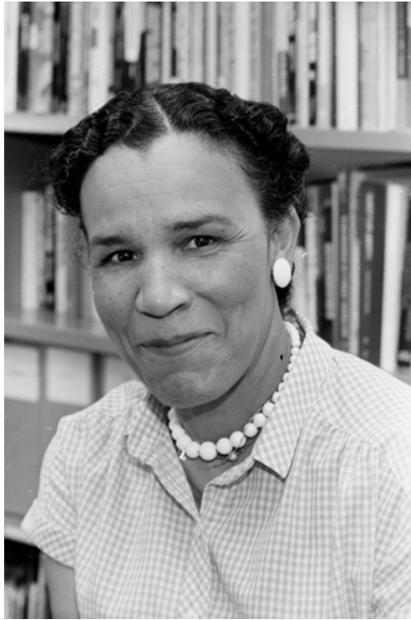
- FUNDRAISING
- VOTER EDUCATION
- ADVOCACY

APPLY AT <http://bit.ly/LWVCOboardapp>  
by 3/1/21

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF COLORADO

EXHIBIT:  
COLORADO LEADERS OF  
DEMOCRACY

BY JILL TIETJEN  
FOUNDER  
COLORADO WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME



Women are leaders of democracy – working to further the form of government that we revere in the U.S. and working to strengthen our communities. Colorado has led the nation in democratic progress and women's rights in many instances: Colorado was the first state in the US to expand suffrage rights to women, the first state to elect female state legislators, including those of color, and Colorado women regularly turn out to vote in numbers that dwarf other states' records.

But women's leadership in Colorado began long before official statehood – not surprisingly, our region's indigenous and pioneer populations produced women with the strength and courage to demand equal voice and power and serve as leaders of their communities. One powerful platform for these leaders has been and remains the nonpartisan League of Women Voters of Colorado, established in 1928.

This exhibit is a collaborative effort between the League of Women Voters of Colorado and the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame to celebrate these outstanding women "Leaders of Democracy" through history.

[VIEW THE EXHIBIT HERE.](#)



## FROM LWV SAN LUIS VALLEY

It's not Christmas — what are all those ornaments hanging on a tree in downtown Alamosa? It's a "Communi-Tree," a project of the San Luis Valley Women Alliance for Change Together (SLV ACT). Mirrored after a similar tree in Boulder, the tree is meant to bring harmony and goodwill to the San Luis Valley and beyond.

Individuals and groups decorated 4-inch wooden discs with expressions of shared goals for humanity, the environment, and the world. The discs were then weatherproofed and hung on the tree for everyone to see and read. The project began in January. Discs will remain on the tree until the tree leafs out in the spring.

The Communi-Tree was supported by the San Luis Valley State League Unit of the League of Women Voters of Colorado. For further information, contact Jan Oen at 719-480-4771.

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF CHAFFEE COUNTY  
*Empowering Voters - Defending Democracy*

**Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Legislation Open to the Public Zoom Event**  
**March 8th**  
**12 p.m. to 1 p.m.**

Sandy Long, Group Leader of the Chaffee County Citizen's Climate Lobby, will focus on climate change impacts, current Colorado state regulations and actions that can be taken to help pass the bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763 and S.3791) now before the U.S. Congress.

*"Climate change affects everyone—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents," Ms. Long notes. "Now is the time for bipartisan action...We can all see the impacts of warmer temperatures, such as the longer wildfire season, increased droughts, shorter ski seasons and shorter rafting seasons."*

To Register, to submit questions for the panel and to obtain the link to the Zoom meeting, go to [lwvchaffeecounty.org](http://lwvchaffeecounty.org)  
For more information about the House and Senate bills—H.R. 763 and S.3791—visit <https://energyinnovationact.org/>

## LWV CHAFFEE COUNTY CLIMATE PRESENTATION

Sandy Long of the Chaffee County Citizens' Climate Lobby will focus on climate change impacts, current Colorado state regulations, and actions that can be taken to help pass the bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763 and S.3791) now before the U.S. Congress. "Climate change affects everyone — now is the time for bipartisan action."

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON H.R. 763 AND S.3791](#)

# A FORCE FOR CHANGE FOR 90 YEARS

A PRESENTATION ON THE HISTORY  
OF  
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

by  
Bobbie Heisterkamp & Rona Shor

MARCH 18 at 4pm

via Zoom

Free to attend but registration is required



[REGISTER HERE](#)

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SITES IN COLORADO

Join the Colorado Historical Foundation to learn about its recent project to identify places associated with the Women's Suffrage Movement in Colorado.

The presentation will give an overview of the movement's history in the state beginning in the 1860s when Colorado was still a territory up through the state's role in the national suffrage effort that culminated in the 1920 ratification of the 19th amendment. Places around the state that are associated with the different eras of the movement will be highlighted, as will the plan to continue that identification effort moving forward.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

5:30pm

via Zoom

No charge but registration is required

Pictured: Hinsdale County Courthouse, where Susan B. Anthony spoke in 1877.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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Done