



League of Women Voters
of La Plata County

VOTER

Volume 11, Issue 4

Sixty-six Years Serving La Plata County
92 Members

November, 2011

www.lwv.org

www.lwvlaplata.org

www.lwvcolorado.org

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November Calendar

ELECTION DAY – Mail-in only.

Tuesday, November 1. Ballots must be returned to County Clerk's office by 7 pm.

Save Our Snow: Climate Change, Fracking, Ski Areas and Water Quality in Colorado and the West

Thursday, November 3, 5:15-6:15, 130 Noble Hall, Fort Lewis College

Speaker: Mark Williams, Professor of Geography, CU-Boulder

Presented by Mountain Studies Institute, info@mountainstudies.org

Federal Role in Education (national study and consensus)

Friday November 4, 9-12:30, Christ the King Church, 495 Florida Road, Durango

Light breakfast provided

Please note day and time change!

See the article below for additional information and reading materials.

Board meeting, Thursday, November 10, 1:30-3:30 pm, Trish Pegram's home

Thursday, November 24, THANKSGIVING DAY

December – Holiday Social, Friday, Dec. 9, 11:30-1:30 pm

Articles of Interest

Federal Role in Education Study

Our study committee, consisting of Mary Barter, Carol Blatnick, Barbara Cristol, Ann Flatten, Connie Jacobs, Sandra La France, Bev Wells, and Marilyn Brown (facilitator), has consolidated

and summarized all the information we have gathered from the position papers received from the national study committee and from our own interviews to help you answer the consensus questions on November 4. *Please plan to come whether or not you have been able to read the preparatory material.* We will have some handouts and the committee plans to present summaries of the material prior to discussing each consensus question. We hope you can attend the entire session. If you cannot, please come when you can and participate in the questions we are discussing while you are there.

NOTE: As always, our meetings are open to the public; however, only members can actively participate in the consensus process. This is a good opportunity for non-members to *observe* grassroots consensus, the most important process in the LWV.

Click [here](#) to see the following LWVUS background papers online or ask to read them in the white notebook at the Reference Desk of Durango Public Library.

- Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives
- Common Core Standards and Assessments
- Funding and Equity Issues
- Early Childhood Education, Equity and Funding
- Legislation and Funding for the Education of Children who are Disadvantaged

Click [here](#) for our locally generated documents:

- Consensus Session Agenda
- Consensus Process for National Study
- Consensus Questions
- Ground Rules
- Glossary/Acronyms
- Federal Role in Public Education: Considerations
- Historical Background – Highlights
- Common Core Standards and Assessment – Background
- Importance of Early Childhood Education Federal Role in Education Study
- Legislation and Funding for the Education of Children Who Are Disadvantaged (summary)
- Federal actions that changed the face of early care and education

We will have handouts for everyone of some of the documents and copies of others to share.

Ballot Issue and School Board Candidate Forums

Voter Service Chair Stephanie Huss and faithful assistant Marilyn Sandstrom worked very hard arranging and presenting three forums in October. We were especially pleased that Conoco-Phillips stepped forward to underwrite the videotaping, webcasting and rebroadcast of the Durango 9-R School Board candidate forum on CitySpan10. Many thanks to all the LWV members who moderated, timed, photographed, summarized and assisted in other ways to make these three forums a success.

Click [here](#) for Lou Falkenstein's report and photos of the Ballot Issue Forum, October 10.

Click [here](#) for Ross Park's summary and Deb Ruddell's photos of the Bayfield School Board Candidate Forum, October 19.

Click [here](#) for Gail Harris's report and Suzanne Becker's photos of the Durango 9-R School Board Candidate Forum, October 20.

Gerrymandering: a free documentary film

A recent LWV Leader's Update mentioned an excellent 77-minute film on gerrymandering, centering on the campaign in California, in which the LWVCA was involved, to change their redistricting process to an independent commission similar to ours in CO. The film makes it clear why voters should care about how their voting districts are designed. The 77-minute film is viewable [here](#) on the internet free until November 15. It's well worth watching.

National Study: Privatization of Government Services

Does this topic intrigue you? We have a few volunteers but we still need you. Become a member of our local study committee, which will begin work after the first of the year. Study materials will arrive from national starting this month. Working on a study committee is the perfect way for newer LWV members to participate in the grass roots process of an LWV study, the very core of our advocacy mission.

The purpose of the privatization study is to identify the parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. We will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good. The timeline requires us to study and come to consensus by May 2012. Contact Marilyn Brown, email address in newsletter heading, for more information. A brief description of the study timeline and recommended reading are available on our website [here](#).

Great Decisions 2012

The topics have been announced and our sessions have been set up! 2012 topics include:

Middle East realignment,
Promoting democracy,
Mexico,
Cybersecurity,
Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq,
State of the oceans,
Indonesia, and
Energy geopolitics.

Click [here](#) for the flier and send in your \$22 check to reserve a briefing book.

Just For Fun...

A friend of LWV member Pam Patton found these interesting [old postcards](#) of Durango on the internet. Take a minute to remind yourself of what used to go on here and to savor old times...

HAPPY THANKSGIVING !!

Unsubscribe: Please let me know at marilbrown@aol.com if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter.