



# League of Women Voters of Montezuma County

# VOTER

Montezuma County, Colorado

[www.lwvmontezuma.org](http://www.lwvmontezuma.org) Total Membership: 26

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, promotes informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

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### Mark Your Calendar

**Saturday, 11** Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 a.m. Topic to be discussed is *Europe's 'far east: the uncertain frontier*, 2010 Great Decisions book.

**Friday, 17** LWVCO Training on Ballot Issues 2:00 p.m. Visitor's Center Conference Room

**Monday, 20** LWVMZC Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 9:30 a.m.

**Monday, 20** LWVMZC & SWAT Meeting, Calvin Denton Room 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Ballot Issues

**Thursday, 23** Governor's Mansion Fund Raiser 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for League

**Saturday, 25** League Day in Denver – two local members attending the Denver events

**Monday, 27** Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 a.m.

**Monday, 27** Begin Ballot Issue Speaker Presentations

**Thursday, 30** Ballot Issue Forum, City Council Chamber 7:00-8:30 p.m. Pros and Cons

### Join Us!

Join the League of Women Voters of Montezuma County to help make your community a strong, safe and vibrant place to live. Help shape the important issues that affect you and your family with rational discussion.

Memberships are \$50 per individual and \$80 for households. For more information call Betty Janes at 533-1051, our membership chairperson, or go to our website and print the membership form.

<http://www.lwvmontezuma.org/Join.html>

The League is extremely grateful to all of its members whatever their participation!

### President's Message

I want to express my gratitude to Judy Schuenemeyer who wrote the document and organized the event around the Mayor of Cortez, Dan Porter, signing a "Proclamation for Women's Equality Day." She planned a "photo op" and invited several women leaders in Cortez to be present for the signing on August 24. Thank you to Judy for organizing and arranging the whole event. Here are the words of the proclamation.

#### PROCLAMATION

for

#### WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

WHEREAS: August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave U.S. women full voting rights; and,

WHEREAS: passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was the first step to enable women to become full participants and leaders in the civic affairs of our country; and,

WHEREAS: our community, state, and nation have benefited tremendously from the participation of women in the processes of representative government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dan Porter, Mayor of the City of Cortez, Colorado, do hereby proclaim the 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010,

#### Women's Equality Day

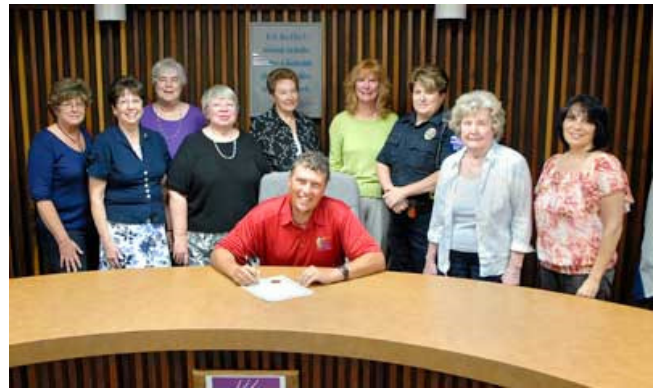
And urge all residents of Cortez, Colorado, to recognize women who work to make our community healthy, vibrant, and strong.

Witness my hand this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010.

Dan L. Porter, Mayor

I appreciate all those who participated.

— Eleanor Kuhl



Journal/Sam Green  
Cortez Mayor Dan Porter signs a proclamation declaring Women's Equality Day for Aug. 26, the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. From left are Pat Rule, Carol Tullis, Jodi Foran, Eleanor Kuhl, Sherry Dyess, Jackie Fisher, Diane Fox, Mary Lou Asbury and Donna Foster.

### LWVCO League Day

The annual League Day is set for Saturday, September 25 from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Colorado Room, Holiday Inn Select Denver, 455 South Colorado Blvd. Leagues will receive their Colorado Ballot Issues pamphlets and information for our redistricting informational meetings. The pros and cons of the ballot issues will be presented and League positions (support or oppose) will be discussed. The candidates for the gubernatorial and U.S. Senatorial races have also been invited. That alone could be worth the \$32 registration fee. The registration form was in your Colorado Voter, which was sent last month.

We expect to have two members of the League of Women Voters of Montezuma County attending the League Day in Denver.

### LWVCO 90th Birthday Party

The LWVCO Education Fund is hosting a 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party fundraiser, Thursday, September 23 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Governor's Residence, Boettcher Mansion, 400 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Denver. Honorary Chairpersons are First Lady Jeannie Ritter and CSU Chancellor, Joe Blake. Donation is \$50 per person and is tax deductible.

## **League Celebrates 90th Anniversary Around the World**

The League of Women Voters of the United States is co-hosting a series of events with valued partners around the world to celebrate its 90th Anniversary. On August 9-10 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the League partnered with Fundación Directorio Legislativo to discuss the importance of strengthening the work of the women's caucuses with elected women in Argentina. This was followed by an international conference, "The Role of Women in Electoral Activities," in Ganja, Azerbaijan, on August 24-25. The series of events will conclude in Brazil in April 2011.

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### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Colorado was the first state to elect women to its legislature - in 1894, decades before women nationwide got the right to vote.

Source: League-Voice Newsletter, August 31, 2010

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### **Here Comes the Judge.... Here Comes the Judge**

First, copy this website down or bookmark it. [www.knowyourjudge.com](http://www.knowyourjudge.com).

That's the new website that tells you all about the judges that will be on the ballot this fall, how they are evaluated and whether they should be retained or not. People don't know about our judges. In fact surveys show that voters either skip them on the ballot, vote "yes" on all, "no" on all or a "yes, no, yes, no" pattern. The site was developed in conjunction with the LWVCO, the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, and the Colorado Bar Association. Public Service announcements are also being aired on TV and radio.

### **JOIN US NOW !!!**

To join the League of Women Voters of Montezuma County, complete the form at the end of the newsletter. and mail with your check, made payable to LWVMZC to:

LWVMZC, Denis Boon, Treasurer  
LWV of Montezuma County  
P.O Box 1753  
Cortez CO 81321

Dues are for the calendar year and include membership in our local League as well as the Colorado State LWV and the National LWV. Dues do not cover our costs, so please add a contribution if you can.

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### **GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP**

I attended the discussion group at the Dolores Public Library on August 28. There were eight persons present and facilitation was handled beautifully by LouAnn Burkett. The topic was a difficult one – the International Financial Crisis. I especially appreciated the input from retired college professor Ned Harper who has taught for thirty years and was one of my colleagues at Diné College at the Shiprock Campus.

Plans have been determined for the next two months. Three copies of the Great Decisions book are available at the main desk of the library and anyone who might plan to drop in at one of the discussions should read the chapter in advance. It helps to have some preparation for the discussion.

Saturday, September 11, at 10:30 AM, the topic will be *EUROPE'S 'FAR EAST'*.

The October session will be on Saturday, October 23, at 10:30 AM, and the topic will be *THE U.S. AND THE PERSIAN GULF*.

I sincerely appreciate the work of LouAnn Burkett in facilitating the discussion group and I appreciate the Dolores Public Library for allowing us to meet in their spacious meeting room.

Eleanor Kuhl

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### ***Fair Elections Now Act (HR 1826)***

In regards to Fair Election laws pending in Congress, the Boulder County League asks local Leagues and members of local Leagues to:

- Contact your Congressional Representatives and ask them to vote in favor of the Fair Elections Now Act (H.R. 1826).when it comes to the floor of the House, probably in September.
- Become informed and write a letter to the editor of your local papers about the Fair Elections Now Act.

Different terms have been used for publicly financed campaigns: Clean Elections, Fair Elections, Clean Money, Clean Campaigns, Publicly Financed Campaigns, and Voter Owned Elections.

In March 2009, the Fair Elections Now Act was introduced in the Senate (S. 752) and in the House of Representatives (H.R. 1826). The bill would allow candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to run for office without relying on large contributions, big money bundlers, and donations from lobbyists. Candidates would be freed from constant fundraising.

In order to qualify for Fair Elections funding, candidates would raise a large number of small contributions from their constituents. Contributions are limited to \$100. Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives would have to collect at least 1500 contributions from people in their district and raise a total of \$50,000 in order to qualify. For U.S. Senate Candidates, the minimum number of required contributions equals 2000 plus 500

times the number of congressional districts in the state.

Qualified candidates would receive Fair Elections funding in the primary, and, if primary winners, for the general election at a level to run a competitive campaign. Qualified House candidates receive \$900,000 in Fair Elections funding split 40% for the primary and 60% for the general. Qualified Senate candidates receive \$1.25 million plus another \$250,000 per congressional district in their state. The funding is also split 40% for the primary and 60% for the general election.

Qualified candidates would also be eligible to receive additional matching Fair Elections funds if they continued to raise small donations from within their state. Donations of \$100 or less, beyond the number of donations required for qualification, from in-state contributors would be matched from the Fair Elections Fund at a rate of four to one. The maximum Fair Elections funds a candidate can receive is limited to three times the initial allocation for the primary and again for the general election.

Fair Elections helps offset the high cost of media. Participating candidates receive a 20% reduction from the lowest broadcast rates, and media vouchers are allocated based on office and population.

A small fee on large government contracts would pay for the cost of Fair Elections for Senate races. The cost for House races would come from 10% of the revenues generated through the auction of unused broadcast spectrum.

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### ***Colorado Non-Point Connection E-newsletter***

The LWVCOEF continues to inform Coloradans about protecting water quality. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the Non Point Source (NPS) Connection e-newsletter is free and published quarterly and is available on the Website [ourwater.org](http://ourwater.org). Check it out. The

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment fund this nonpartisan project through grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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### ***Greater Need Than Ever For Alternative Energy and Vigilance***

The recent deep-water drilling accident for oil in the Gulf of Mexico has brought about a greater focus on the best and safest alternative energy resources in our country. Moreover, on the need to find alternative sources rather than depend primarily on oil. Montezuma County has solar in abundance, wind, and natural gas natural resources along with our most valuable resource: water.

The Colorado Legislature recently passed laws pertaining to mining in the State of Colorado. The state Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB) is defining the regulations for implementing these laws. It is even more important that the public remain vigilant and insist that the intent of the mining laws is followed.

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### ***LWVMZC Voters Service Forums***

**Monday, September 20, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Calvin Denton Room, Empire Electric Association**

- This Forum is sponsored with SWAT.
- Various taxing districts and organizations will speak for 5-10 minutes on the affects if Proposition 101 and Amendments 60 and 61 pass.

**Thursday, September 30, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, Cortez City Council Chambers for the public**

- Judy Schuenemeyer and Jodi Foran will team to present “pros

and cons” from LWVCO 2010 Ballot Issue pamphlet.

**Monday, October 4, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Cortez City Council Chambers for the public**

- General Election Candidate Forum moderated by Judy Schuenemeyer will follow League procedure.
- Candidates from the following races have been invited: US Congressional, State Senate, State 58 District Representative, State 59 District Representative, District Attorney, County Commission, County Clerk, and County Sherriff.

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### ***Montezuma League to Participate in State Ballot Issue Training***

LWVCO Board members, Gerry Cummins, Voter Service Chair, and Patty Schoedler Assistant Voters Service Chair will be coming to Cortez **Friday September 17**, to offer speaker’s bureau training as well as advocacy training on fiscal ballot issues to be voted on in the 2010 General Election.

**Friday, September 17, 2:00 PM, CO Visitor’s Center**

Even if you do not want to participate in a speaker’s bureau, join us and **find out what positions League has taken on the issues on the November ballot!**

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### ***Voters service activities are numerous and important!***

Your involvement is **needed and welcomed** by the Voters Service Team

We have already held five candidate forums and three more public forums are planned.

We need help for the following

- Speakers Bureau Ballot Issue presentations and information distribution, from Sept. 25 until the election.
  - LVMZC and SWAT needs speakers to inform groups about 2010 ballot issues.
  - Our League in 2008 received 14 requests for talks.
  - Again our League will provide non-biased factual information on 2010 ballot issues
    - Judy Schuenemeyer has already given three presentation including to the Tea Party.
    - Judy and Jodi are scheduled to talk to the Cortez Business Club and Chamber of Commerce in October
  - Informal training will be available for inexperienced speakers or those who want a brush-up and we will pair speaking partners. Please volunteer to help – our state needs all the informed voters we can get!
  - To Help, contact Jodi Foran [jodi@foran.net](mailto:jodi@foran.net) or 882-2401
- Help at Forums
  - Timer
  - Two greeters, passing out question cards and ensuring political information is outside

***Gerry and Patty ALERT!!!!***

**Ballot Issue Presentation by LWVCO Voters Service Chairs**

**PLAN to attend a presentation to our Leaguer, Friday, September 17 by LWVCO Voters Service Chairs who are driving from Denver to discuss the ballot issues with us. Let's have a good turn out to show our appreciation of them coming to Cortez.**

Gerry has served as LWVCO state president and Voters Service chair many years. She and Patty have been working with the Secretary of State's Office since February and are the primary writers of the LWVCO 2010 Ballot Issue pamphlet.

***Future Election Related Dates***

**October 4:** Last day to register for General Election

**October 18-29:** Early voting for General Election  
**October 26:** Last day to apply for mail-in ballot for General Election

**October 29:** Last day to apply in person for mail-in ballot for General Election

**November 2:** General Election – balloting closes at 7:00

***MRI – Membership Recruitment Initiative and Leadership Development***

The Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) was established by LWVUS to meet two challenges facing all local Leagues: *membership recruitment and leadership development* and has several foundational blocks:

- Weave our branding message into ALL activities: “The League is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.”
- Include the “ASK” in each activity whether it is a League activity or not!
- Year-round effort!
- Teamwork makes the Difference!
- Coaching each other at all levels of the League.

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### ***SWAT - Working Together***

There are several groups in the Montezuma County area working on educating the public about Amendments 60 and 61 and Proposition 101. The name of the group facilitated by Leaguer Rebecca Samulski (Whitehead) is ***South West Advocacy Task Force***.

The Montezuma League is collaborating with these groups to ensure our energies are used effectively and are not duplicated. The goal of SWAT efforts is to make a significant impact not only with the present ballot issues, but to show a united force that Colorado must put its fiscal house in order.

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### ***Why Raise Funds for our League? \$2.80 Per Member is NOT ENOUGH!***

Our local League dues for a household are \$50 per year and have not increased over the past ten years.

Annually, the national assessment is \$29.20 per member and the state assessment is \$18.00 leaving to our League a grand total of \$2.80 per individual member! Our expenses have primarily been underwritten the past three years by individuals.

Our operating costs include duplication of member information and event publicity

flyers, post office box rental, postage, paper, candidate forum expenses, registration fees, travel costs to events – the normal costs of an organization. Fortunately, we don't pay to rent meeting space or for refreshments.

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### ***Reforestation Fundraiser***

Our League is participating in a unique fund raising project along with Montezuma Climate Action Network (M-CAN) for a very limited time.

For each \$15 sponsorship our League collects, one tree will be planted in a US National Forest in the individual's name, and our League makes **\$10** profit per sponsorship!

**\$10.00 from each sponsorship will go towards our League' operating costs.**

For the Green Tree Reforestation Fundraiser, our League members support our local fundraising efforts by purchasing tree sponsorships. Leaguers can also offer \$15 tree sponsorships to others in the community. For each sponsorship, a tree is planted in a National Forest through an agreement with the National Forest Foundation.

The National Forest Foundation is a non-profit organization chartered by Congress. The National Forest Foundation works with various organizations to plant the sponsored trees as part of its mission to restore National Forests and Wetlands. Only native trees are planted, and they are not planted as part of a monocrop (single species) plantation.

### **Questions about the Reforestation Program**

- **What types of trees are planted for the Reforestation Fundraiser?**

All of the trees are native to the forests in which they are planted, so there are many types of trees that are planted around the country.

- **Who actually plants the trees?**

The National Forest Foundation, a non-profit organization chartered by Congress, works with various organizations to plant the trees as part of its mission to restore National Forests and Wetlands.

- **Can someone find out where his or her tree has been planted?**

Yes, but only after it has been planted. The National Forest Foundation determines which National Forest will benefit the most from the reforestation program.

- **When will the trees be planted?**

The trees are usually planted in the spring, but sometimes they are planted in the fall depending on the conditions of the particular forest.

- **Will the trees have the sponsor's name on it?**

No. In order to preserve the natural beauty of the forest, no plaques or signs are placed on the trees.

- **How do I place my order?**

Write a check to LWVMZC for trees you want to plant with "Reforestation Project" on the memo line.

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### ***Safeway Grocery Cards***

A fund raising project of our League is selling Safeway grocery cards from which we earn \$1.50 for a \$50 card. Contact Denis Boon at 560-0404 to purchase a card from him. Your use of such cards is most appreciated and is an easy way for us to fund our League.

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## Calendar

<b>September</b>	
Saturday, 11	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 a.m. Topic to be discussed is <i>Europe's 'far east: the uncertain frontier</i> from 2010 Great Decisions book.
Friday, 17	LWVCO Training on Ballot Issues 2:00 p.m. Visitor's Center Conference Room
Monday, 20	LWVMZC Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 9:30 a.m.
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Thursday, 23	Governor's Mansion Fund Raiser 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for League
Saturday, 25	League Day in Denver – two local members attending the Denver events
Monday, 27	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 a.m.
Monday, 27	Begin Ballot Issue Speaker Presentations
Thursday, 30	Ballot Issue Forum, City Council Chamber 7:00-8:30 p.m. Pros and Cons
<b>October</b>	
Monday, 4	Last day to register for General Election
Monday, 4	LWV Candidate Forum for General Election, Cortez City Council Chamber, 7-9 p.m.
Wednesday, 6	LWVCO Board Meeting - Denver
Monday, 11	LWVMZC Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 9:30 a.m.
Monday, 11	LWVMZC General Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 11:00 a.m. dues are due
Monday, 18	Early voting begins
Saturday, 23	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Dolores Library, 10:30 a.m. Topic to be discussed is <i>The U.S. and the Persian Gulf</i> from the 2010 Great Decisions book.
Monday, 25	Great Decisions Discussion Group, Mancos Library, 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, 26	Last day to apply for mail- in ballot if mailed
Friday, 29	Early voting ends
Friday, 29	Last day to apply for mail-in ballot if picked up in person
<b>November</b>	
Tuesday, 2	General Election Day
Monday, 8	LWVMZC Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 9:30 a.m.
Monday, 8	LWVMZC General Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 11:00 a.m, Program TBA
<b>December</b>	
Wednesday, 1	LWVCO Board Meeting
Monday, 13	LWVMZC Board Meeting, Colorado Visitor's Center 9:30 a.m.

Board

Membership.....	Betty Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net
50 Year Member .....	Llois Stein 565-9565 llois@msn.com
Health Care.....	
Voters Service.....	Jodi Foran 882-2401 jofi@foran.net
Environment.....	Eric Janes 533-1051 ejanes@frontier.net
President.....	Eleanor Kuhl 564-0708 ekuhl@frontier.net
President Elect.....	
Secretary.....	Lou Ann Burkett, Betty Janes
Treasurer.....	Denis Boon 560-0404 denisboon@msn.com
Newsletter Ed.....	Chris Foran 882-2401 chris@foran.net
Hospitality .....	Marcia Boon 565-7668 marciaboone@msn.com

**Have you sent in your membership renewal?**

**We need every one of you...**

**Call Betty Janes, 533-1051  
[ejanes@frontier.net](mailto:ejanes@frontier.net).**

**Send the membership form to Denis Boon.**

Our goal is 29 members for 2010

**Join Us!**

Join the League of Women Voters to help make your community a strong, safe and vibrant place to live. Help shape the important issues that affect you and your family with rational discussion.

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<http://www.lwvmontezuma.org/Join.html>

The League is extremely grateful to all of its members whatever their participation!

Sign up to receive the Colorado Voter newsletter electronically. Send an email to the state office to verify your email address: [info@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org)



# League of Women Voters of Montezuma County

## 2010 Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone [h] \_\_\_\_\_ [w] \_\_\_\_\_ [cell] \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Of the \$50 regular membership fee, \$28.60 supports the League of Women Voters of the United States and \$18.00 supports the League of Women Voters of Colorado for their studies, voter education and advocacy on your behalf.

**If you could add an additional contribution to your dues, it would come directly to our local League and support our activities in Montezuma County.**

Dues are payable in September and renewed each year. Should you join midyear dues will be prorated: After April 1: they are \$25, and you will be asked to renew in September for the full amount.

<b>Dues Amounts:</b>	
Regular dues.....	\$50 _____
Additional household member(s)*... at \$30 ea.	\$ _____
<b>Additional Contribution (thank you**)</b>	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

\*Please give names and email addresses below of the other members of your household who are joining:

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Please make checks payable to “**LWV of Montezuma County**” and mail with this form to:

Denis Boon, Treasurer  
LWV of Cortez-Montezuma  
P.O Box 1753  
Cortez CO 81321

\*\*100% of all donations and contributions come directly to your local League.

If you would like to make a **Tax Deductible** donation to the League of Women Voters of Montezuma County apart from membership dues and contributions, please make out and mail to the above address a separate check payable to our 501 (c) (3) Education Fund as follows: “**LWV of Colorado Ed Fund**”, with “**Montezuma**” on the check memo line.

Note that Tax Deductible donations may only be used by our local League for voter education activities such as candidate forums and voter outreach. We may use standard contributions for all purposes, including advocacy and action.