



OCTOBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

UPDATES FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

WHY VOTERS SHOULD PAY ATTENTION AND VOTE IN SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

In November, voters living in the Cortez RE-1 and Mancos RE-6 school districts will vote to fill seats on their local school boards. Though congressional and presidential candidates get a lot of attention, school board elections rarely garner the same level of interest even though school boards make extremely important decisions that impact not only students, but the greater community as well. The largest group of elected officials in this country is school board members, but too often voter turnout is low resulting in a small percentage of eligible voters choosing the individuals who will fill these very important positions.

What do school boards do? Candidates and voters need to have a sound understanding of exactly what school boards do. The school board sets the vision and establishes both long and short-term district goals. It regularly reviews, tweaks, and adopts new policies that are used to achieve these goals, and "students first" should be the most important consideration in any decision the board makes.

The school board has one employee: they hire, oversee and evaluate the superintendent. They do not micromanage the day-to-day operation of the district, nor do they oversee other employees. They set policy, establish a direction for the district, and then hold the superintendent accountable for achieving the goals and implementing the adopted policies.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- Updates from around the county
- Events in our community
- Resources to learn more



School boards oversee the budget and district facilities, ensuring that district resources are wisely used to best serve students and the community. School boards have an integral role in building community support for schools and educating the community on what constitutes a quality public education. Board members should be willing to meet with their constituents, consider community views when making decisions, and should be transparent which then fosters confidence in the board.

What qualities make a school board effective? Effective school boards, first and foremost, understand that their most important role is to support student learning. While every child can learn, not every child comes to school with the same preparedness. Needs, resources, and educational backgrounds all differ from student to student. How to allocate limited school resources to address these differences can be challenging. Demanding access to reliable data, then making time to understand and discuss that data, is critical if the board is to make wise decisions when adopting programs and providing services. Encouraging community involvement and nurturing a collaborative relationship with both the staff and the community are paramount to achieving success. Providing a quality education requires a partnership which includes all the stakeholders.

What should voters look for when vetting candidates? Does the candidate understand the role of the board vs. the role of the superintendent? Do they have a student-centered vision they can readily articulate? Ask candidates to provide examples of their ability to work collaboratively and be a good listener who respects diverse viewpoints. Does the candidate have the time and willingness to commit significant hours each month to school board business? If the candidate is an incumbent, review their record; watch past school board meetings to get a sense of how they interact with their board colleagues and the public. Are they conscientious in attending board and district functions? Talk with the candidates to learn how they plan to interact with the community.

The Montezuma County League of Women Voters is hosting a Cortez RE-1 School Board Candidate Forum, 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 16 at the County Annex, 107 N. Chestnut St., Eleven candidates are running to fill five board seats. We encourage community members to attend these forums; then vote!

-Karen Sheek

*You can [watch recordings of Board meetings here](#) and find [agendas/meeting times here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR REGION:

- **League of Women Voters of Montezuma County's Monthly Meeting**
 - October 11 from 10:15AM-12PM – Cortez Library – 202 N Park St, Cortez
 - Join Guinn Unger, President of the Colorado Healthcare Coalition, for an update on the proposed study by the CO School of Public Health to investigate the possibility of universal healthcare for all Coloradans.
- **Montezuma Cortez Re-1 School Board Candidate Forum**
 - October 16 from 6-8PM – Montezuma County Annex – 107 N Chestnut St, Cortez
 - Come meet the candidates running for school board for Montezuma Cortez Re-1. The League will host a forum from 6-7:30PM with a 30 minute meet and greet till 8PM.
- **Indivisible to host a No Kings Rally**
 - October 18 from 10-11AM – Meet at the Cortez Welcome Center – 928 Main St
 - Please bring non-perishable food items for Good Sam's.
- **Upcoming Ballot Issues Presentation**
 - October 20 at 5:15PM – Cortez Library – 202 N Park St, Cortez
 - Come learn about Proposition LL and MM as well as the other topics that will be on your November ballot!
- **The national League is sponsoring a series: Democracy in Your Hands from June-October**
 - **October's Topic = Building Coalitions to Amplify Action**
 - Date/Time: October 22, 2021 at 1:30PM MST
 - Online; [register here](#) - official League members only
- **Special Legislative Update with CO Rep. Katie Stewart & Senator Cleave Simpson**
 - November 8 from 10:15AM-12PM – Dolores Library – 1002 Railroad Ave, Dolores



RESOURCES

Our priority is to provide factual, unbiased information and connect groups across our community. To that end, here are some suggested resources to stay informed and learn more:

- [Colorado League of Women Voters](#)
 - [Colorado Voting Rights Act](#)
 - [Legislative Action Report](#)
 - [Where the League Stands](#)
 - [Legislative Conference 25](#)
 - [Redistricting in Colorado](#)
 - [Contact Elected Officials](#)
 - [LWVCO Task Forces](#)
- [5 Calls](#) >> scripts for callings your representatives about a variety of issue areas
- [League of Women Voters Bill Tracker](#)
- [Just Security](#) >> litigation tracker with updates
- [Congress.gov](#) >> find your federal Representative and Senators
 - Remember to sign up for their newsletters!



How to Get Involved

- Attend our regular meetings, the second Saturday of each month, usually at one of our county libraries;
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), check out our [website](#) and/or newsletter calendar for other League sponsored events;
- Join the League. You can register online: [portal.lwv.org](#) or in-person at one our meetings;
- Keep us in the loop if you hear of events or projects you believe the League might want to promote or partner with.
- We can be reached at lwvmzcc@gmail.com.