

**Omega State Colorado**

**Educational Law & Policy Committee**

**DKG Society International Purpose #4** –To initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and women educators.

There are activities that may be done anytime during the year to educate and engage DKG members to better understand and participate in the political process. The primary objective is to introduce members to resources, processes and strategies to become an educated voter and participant in democracy.

Listed below are activities and resources that chapters may engage in during the year relevant to Purpose #4. If you do not have access to computers, reserving time at libraries may be a good way to work with members. Secondly, if there is a Colorado League of Women Voters (LWVCO) near your chapter, they can provide excellent speakers and additional information. You may also contact Barb Whinery who will put you in contact with someone near your area.

 **Websites for General Election and Voter Information:**

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

 • http://[www.sos.state.co.us](http://www.sos.state.co.us)

**Summer & Fall Activities:**

**Fall Elections**: A variety of websites will assist with voter registration timelines, places to vote, and state ballot Issues. Resources available are the Colorado Bluebook, LWVCO Ballot Issue Pamphlets; Think before you Ink campaign materials and on-line candidate Information.

* http://[www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org),

**Winter & Spring Activities:** Follow State Legislation, bills, hearings, committee votes and look up state Senators and Representatives on the Colorado General Assembly website. Explore other information available on the website.

* http://[www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us)
* https://[www.digitdemos.com](http://www.digitdemos.com)
* http://[www.coloradocapitolwatch.com](http://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com)

Information about spring caucuses and primary elections can also be found on the LWV Colorado website. Many voters still are unfamiliar with how to get involved and the procedures for putting candidates on the ballot and the process of primary elections. The purpose of the Primary Election is to narrow down the field of candidates from each party for the fall election.

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**Send A Message**

It is important to weigh in with your state Representative and/or Senator on pending legislation by going to [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us) to send an email directly to your legislator or to obtain their office information.

An excellent resource for getting involved with political action is a book by Morgan Carroll (2011), Take Back Your Government: A Citizen’s Guide to Grassroots Change. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-5591-445-5 (pbk.)

**Ideas for Chapter Meetings:**

* Explore websites: Develop a Scavenger Hunt
* Research Ballot Issues- purpose, what they will do – implications for change, who is promoting the ballot issue, pros/cons
* Research Educational Bills that the Chapter may be interested in following: read the bill, listen to the committee hearings, listen on- the website or watch the debates on the floor of the House or Senate via Comcast Channel 165
* Follow local issues with city government, school boards, county government
* List other ideas:

**Contact Education Law & Policy Committee Members for additional information:**

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