

*“The secret of getting things done is to act.”*

— DANTE ALIGHIERI



*We (normally) meet the first Wednesday of the month*



*Celebrating Our 14th Year!*

**NOT JUST POLITICS AS USUAL**

**[longmontdems.org](http://longmontdems.org)**

**[longmontareadems@gmail.com](mailto:longmontareadems@gmail.com)**

# THANK YOU FOR COMING...

## Who We Are:

Longmont Area Democrats is not “the Party”, but we are a club of committed, unapologetic Democrats who inform, engage and provide action items that promote democracy on all levels.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Wednesday, January 18:** A Faith Leaders Community Conversation: Sanctuary Cities, 2–4pm, Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder, 5001 Pennsylvania Ave., Boulder

**Thursday, January 19:** BCDP Outreach & Inclusion Team Meeting, 6–8pm, Marcelo Fernandez's gallery, 364 Main Street, Longmont

**Friday, January 20:** JUST BE: an LGBTQ-focused Dance Party, 9pm–2am, Boulder House Nightclub, 1109 Walnut St, Boulder.

**Saturday, January 21:** Women's March on Colorado, 9am–3pm, Civic Center Park, Denver.

**Saturday, February 4:** Boulder County Democratic Party Re-Org Meeting (for members of Central Committee), 8am–1pm, Centennial Middle School, Boulder, CO

**Monday, February 6:** Making Democracy Work For All — How Can We Eliminate the Electoral College? 5:30–6:30pm St. Vrain Cidery, 350 Terry Street Longmont

**Saturday, February 25:** El Comite Annual Fundraiser, 5:30–8:00pm, First Lutheran Church, 803 3rd Avenue, Longmont.



# TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- Our Platform, Our Community, Our Electeds and Representatives
- What do we aspire to be as a community?
- How do we effectively engage?
- At Risk: healthcare
- How to be an activist
- Updates on CLEAN
- Coming Attractions at LAD!



# Our Platform:

- ★ **We support** the enactment of comprehensive reform to immigration law, providing a clear pathway to citizenship, that will include the full protection of U.S. labor law, protection against exploitation, and the rejection of discrimination.
- ★ **We support** the establishment of an open, transparent, and publicly financed election system that minimizes adverse influence on the political process.
- ★ **We support** an amendment to the Constitution to make clear that corporations are not persons and therefore are not afforded the rights of persons.
- ★ **We support** the protection of our planet and the improvement of our environment, which requires the development of: effective regulation, conservation programs, the protection of our air, water, and other limited natural resources, as well as alternative energy sources to lessen the world's reliance on fossil fuels.
- ★ **We support** the continued withdrawal of all American troops from Iraq and Afghanistan in a safe and measured way. While we believe that war must be waged only as a last resort, we are always prepared to defend our nation and our values, when the pursuit of all diplomatic options, both regional and international, have been exhausted.
- ★ **We support** the continued implementation and improvement of the Affordable Care Act and believe that ultimately, the United States should enact a single payer universal healthcare system.
- ★ **We support** legislation and programs that make all public and adult education accessible and affordable, no matter the neighborhood or socioeconomic status of the student.
- ★ **We support** the development of governmental policies that ensure living wage jobs and protect workers from wage theft, thus benefiting the economy and increasing the standard of living for all Americans.
- ★ **We support** legislation and initiatives that protect and restore our civil liberties, reproductive rights, personal dignity, choice and respect of all human beings. Every citizen must be treated equally under the laws of our land.
- ★ **We support** responsible gun ownership and gun safety programs, and are determined to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals. We strongly urge universal background checks, closing gun show loopholes, banning semiautomatic assault weapons and limiting high capacity magazines to 15 rounds.



# ACTION IS NECESSARY AND REQUESTED

## Just since the 2016 Election:

- Boulder County District Attorney Stan Garnett has conducted several meetings
- Out Boulder County meeting at Longmont Museum
- Anti-Muslim incident at Roosevelt Park
- Swastika at Loomiller Park
- Hobby Lobby on Hover — “Trump won, I don’t have to help you.”



**THANK YOU**  
Councilwoman **Polly Christensen** for sponsoring!

# LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION R-2016-123 (12/13/2016)

**THANK YOU**  
Councilwoman **Joan Peck** for supporting!

To affirm our constitutional rights and the rights granted by amendments to the constitution; and  
To confirm our community values as a safe, healthy, respectful and welcoming community with fair opportunities for all residents to live, work and play in Longmont; and  
To state that we are not a city ruled by fear; and  
We will not stand for bullying, threats, violence or bigotry.  
Furthermore, the people of Longmont stand together to protect and respect each other, no matter what our difference; and  
We celebrate our rich and abundant diversity, as well as take pride in our strength together.



R-2016-123 passed on December 13, 2016.

## VOTING RESULT:

**FOR**

**AGAINST**

Polly Christensen

Brian Bagley

Joan Peck

Bonnie Finley

Jeff Moore

Gabe Santos

Mayor Dennis Coombs



# WHY TAKE ACTION?

Simply put, our President-elect,  
our Congressman (CO-04),  
one of our US Senators,  
and HALF of our City Council  
are demonstrating actions that are  
***inconsistent with what we stand for  
and our core values.***



# ASPIRATIONS

- What does a safe Longmont look like?
- What does a community that embraces inclusivity and diversity look like?
- What does a community standing together look like?

# STRATEGIES

- What can you do?
- What would you like to do?



# Here's our 3 Month Plan for Education, Engagement & Action:

## JANUARY

- Our Platform
- Call to Action
- Our Aspirations
- Education, tools, engagement, communication

## FEBRUARY

- Hearing from our community
- Issues
- Needs
- Legislation
- Local Measures
- Training for responding to hate

## MARCH

- Implications for 2017 —  
Elections:
  - Mayor
  - City Council
  - School Board



# ACTION TOP 3:

**1. Visibly Support Your Community**

**2. Know Your Districts, Know Your Electeds**

**3. Take Action, Speak Out**



# ACTION TOP 3:

## 1. Visibly Support Your Community

- We'll announce upcoming events. Be sure you're on our blast list, and show support by showing up.
- Display signs, stickers, wear buttons.
- Volunteer at events, help with registration & clean up.



# ACTION TOP 3:

- 2. Know Your Districts, Know Your Electeds**
- Keep their contact information close at hand.  
You'll need it!



# ACTION TOP 3:

## 3. Take Action, Speak Out

- Speak at City Council's "Public Invited To Be Heard"
- Speak at County Commissioner meetings
- Testify at Committee hearings at the State Capitol for or against bills
- Attend and ask questions at local Town Halls
- Write emails, LTEs, make calls



# LAD has a history of showing up...



# ...and we'll continue to do so!



GUEST SPEAKER:

**Dr. Laird Cagan**



# notes on **ACTIVISM**



*Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue  
but with actions and in truth.*

— 1 JOHN 3





# ACTIVISM

Let's start with the basics:

**We still have a representative government.**

People elect people to represent them.

Our Electeds write laws and enact policy that affect every single aspect of our lives.





# ACTIVISM

When something presents itself to you that you believe should change *for the good of everyone*, **the seed of activism is planted.**

**All activism ultimately leads to who represents you**, because they stand to change — or obstruct changing — what you're concerned about.



**Did you know** that at any given time, a single person has at least 19 elected people representing their interests? 19 people that you have the opportunity to vote for:

At Large city council members (NP)

Your ward's city council member (NP)

Mayor (NP)

County Sheriff **(D)**

County Assessor **(D)**

County Treasurer **(D)**

County Clerk **(D)**

County District Attorney **(D)**

County Commissioner for your District

— though you vote for all district County

Commissioners **(3 Ds)**

State Representative **(11th–D, 12th–D)**

State Senator **(17th–D, 18th–D)**

State Treasurer

Secretary of State

Attorney General

Governor **(D)**

US Congressperson

US Senators (2) for your state **(1 D)**

President

*— this list does not include judges, or people who serve on boards and commissions, such as RTD, etc.*

*NP: Non-partisan race D: Democrat*





## ACTIVISM

**Know your districts. Know who represents you.**

### **Why is this important?**

- If you don't know who represents you, how do you know they're doing a good (or bad) job?
- People tend to make generalizations about politicians being "all bad", or Democrats not being "progressive enough". Knowing who represents you, gives you a more realistic picture.



## KNOW YOUR DISTRICTS & PRECINCT NUMBER

Go to [govotecolorado.com](http://govotecolorado.com) (Colorado Secretary of State).

Click **Find My Registration**. (Fill in Name, Zip, & Birthdate)

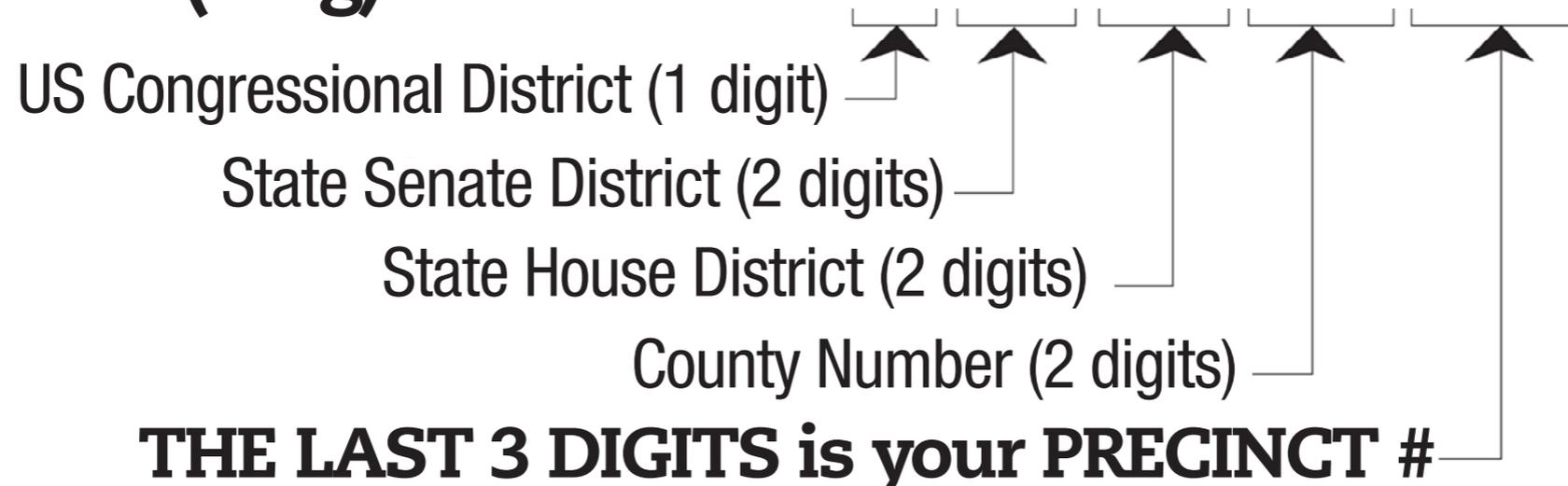
Click **Search**.

**Scroll down to District Information.** All of your districts will be listed.

**DID YOU KNOW** that the long version of your precinct number lists all of your districts? Under District Information, you'll find **Precinct Number**.

Follow this guide to see your districts within that number.

**Your (long) Precinct # is:**



**Get to know your Precinct Leader**, and if you don't have one, become one!  
Go to [boulderdems.com](http://boulderdems.com) and use "Precinct Leader Lookup"



# ACTIVISM

## How effective your representative is depends on:

- whether they campaigned for election with the same values as you — they may be from a different party.
- whether their party is in the majority.





## ACTIVISM

**Why is this important when it comes to activism?**

— Occupy Movement

— Tea Party Movement

The Indivisible Guide uses tactics borrowed from the Tea Party Movement.

***The difference is, Democrats stand for the right things.***





# ACTIVISM

**TIP: Find out who your precinct leader is, introduce yourself, or if you don't have a PL, become one for your neighborhood.**

**(Go to [boulderdems.com](http://boulderdems.com) and use the Precinct Leader lookup tool.)**





## ACTIVISM

### **Know your history.**

Drawing context from history lends a deeper perspective.

### **Know what you are motivated by.**

(It will alleviate burnout.) It also helps to know what others are motivated by.

**What do you stand for? Write it down.**





# ACTIVISM

**Progressives/Democrats must always fight against cynicism.**

Solutions and strategies — however incremental — always thwart cynicism.





## ACTIVISM

### **FALSE EQUIVALENCY — A HUGE “DON’T”:**

Don't fall into the false equivalency trap, either:

— by inferring that both parties are the same —  
*nothing could be farther from the truth.*

Compare platforms and you'll see why.

— or promoting to others, especially those who are thinking of becoming active, that both parties are the same.



**Without *also* highlighting positive strategies, false equivalency thinking is dangerous because it:**

- discourages people from voting, much less voting the whole ballot
- discourages people from getting involved (“what’s the use?”)
- throws good Democrats under the bus.
- makes it even harder for Democrats to achieve majorities, so they spend precious legislative time blocking bad bills, not writing progressive ones!



# ACTIVISM

**Please note:** if folks know you are a Democrat or that you claim to be a progressive — and you **only** complain about Democrats, you might unwittingly be promoting false equivalency.

(The media does this enough as it is!)





# ACTIVISM

**Solution or Strategy Thinking Engages People**

**Don't get stuck in complaining.**

When you talk about **actual things you can do** or describe filters by which to look at a problem, **people feel empowered.**



**TIP: Think of one thing — beyond what you are doing — to do.**

Are you voting every election? If so, are you voting the whole ballot?

If you've signed email petitions, have you called a congressional office?

If you've called, have you written a letter to the editor? If you've written a letter to the editor, have you spoken at city council?

If you've spoken at city council, have you testified at the state capitol in favor or against a bill?





## ACTIVISM

**TIP: Meetings and events are OPPORTUNITIES.**

Before the meeting, ask the meeting organizer if you can announce an event, and after the meeting, introduce yourself, network, exchange contact info, or distribute flyers of events you want to promote.

**TIP: Always offer to work registration** at an event (great way to get to know folks —and it's fun), **or to clean up** (put chairs away, etc.)



## Be a creative activist:

- Stage an event that incorporates music or political rap.
- Put together an inspirational music mix for yourself or to play at political events.
- Come up with the perfect bumper sticker quote.
- Start a political blog or personal diary — helps to get the frustration out.
- Listen to the *Hamilton* soundtrack, watch *All the President's Men*, *Spotlight*, *Suffragette*, *Gentlemen's Agreement*, etc., for inspiration.





# ACTIVISM

**Whatever action you take, make it fun —  
incorporate humor, music, energy.**

As Shari Malloy says, “put the ‘party’ in party politics!”





# ACTIVISM

**REMEMBER:**  
**No question is dumb.**

**You aren't alone.**

**Any level of consistent positive involvement will make progress.** Let's say all you ever do for the rest of your life is vote the whole ballot and encourage others to do the same — that's more than most people do!



*“The work of democracy has always been hard. It’s always been contentious...**democracy does not require uniformity...democracy does require a basic sense of solidarity** — the idea that for all our outward differences, we’re all in this together; **that we rise or fall as one.**”*

— PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA





**CLEAN:** Citizen Legislative Early Action Network  
*presents*

# Making Your Voice Heard

INFLUENCING YOUR STATE AND  
FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

# WHAT IS CLEAN?

(Citizens Legislative Early Action Network):

- Ordinary citizens are at a major disadvantage to large corporations and moneyed interests when it comes to getting legislation passed through the Colorado Legislature — especially when the only people legislators hear from are special interests and corporate lobbyists.
- Further, citizens are not aware of issues regarding bills until it's too late to voice their concerns.

**CLEAN seeks to level the playing field.**



CLEAN: Citizen Legislative Early Action Network

**CLEAN** provides Longmont Area Democrats (LAD) members, activists, and concerned Democrats in Colorado counties up-to-date information on important activity in the Colorado House and Senate and is now expanding into the Federal level using *The Indivisible Guide*.



CLEAN: Citizen Legislative Early Action Network

**CLEAN's** goal is to be aware not only of bills being heard in the State Legislature or Congress, but to provide ordinary citizens an avenue to influence the way bills are crafted, communicate the type of bills that we would like to see from our representatives, and help discourage "bad" bills from passing. This last item will be the focus of our Federal work.



CLEAN: Citizen Legislative Early Action Network

# MEETING WITH STATE LEGISLATORS AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS:

- ★ You pay their salary — they work for you!
- ★ Cultivate a good rapport with the staff — they can be helpful.



CLEAN: Citizen Legislative Early Action Network

# THE TEN TOP STEPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISIT WITH A LEGISLATOR OR STAFFER:

- ★ **ONE:** Practice beforehand.
- ★ **TWO:** Develop at most 3 talking points.
- ★ **THREE:** Go with a group of other advocates — define your arguments and who should give them.



## TEN TOP STEPS (continued):

- ★ **FOUR:** Come early — especially when attending hearings on bills (the room number often gets changed).
- ★ **FIVE:** Humanize, localize, personalize the issues — what is the impact *on people*?
- ★ **SIX:** Listen to the legislator or staffer.
- ★ **SEVEN:** Match your points to the concerns of the legislator.



## TEN TOP STEPS (continued):

- ★ **EIGHT:** If asked a question you're not sure of the answer to, say so, and get back to them.
- ★ **NINE:** Close the deal — make sure you tell the legislator or staffer what you want them to do (Example: Vote NO or YES on a bill.
- ★ **TEN:** *Most important* — **BE YOURSELF** — talk about what you know, what you care about and why. If you have a personal story, tell it.



# WAYS TO INFLUENCE A LEGISLATOR:

- ★ Personal emails — NOT group blasts. The more the better.
- ★ Phone calls and messages. All the legislators have voicemail for their phones.
- ★ Use the same approach for these as for face-to-face meetings.
- ★ Scheduled appointments with a legislator.



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# WHERE TO FIND US

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**email:** [longmontareadems@gmail.com](mailto:longmontareadems@gmail.com)



 Longmont Area Democrats



 LongmontDems

SEND AN EMAIL WITH "SIGN ME UP" IN THE SUBJECT LINE TO SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL BLASTS. ALL SLIDES FROM THIS EVENING (INCLUDING CLEAN TRAINING SLIDES) WILL BE POSTED ON LONGMONTDEMS.ORG SOON... **THANKS!**

