



### League Contacts

#### LWVNM

Hannah Burling  
president@lwvnm.org

#### Central New Mexico

2315 San Pedro NE, #F6  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
505-884-8441  
Co-Presidents:  
Karen Wentworth  
Karen Douglas  
office@lwvnm.org

#### Southern New Mexico

P.O. Box 8322  
Las Cruces, NM 88006  
Eileen VanWie, Co-President van-  
wieek@yahoo.com  
Kathy Brook, Co-President Kathy-  
brook@comcast.net

#### Los Alamos

P.O. Box 158  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
Barbara Calef, Co-President  
Rebecca Shankland, Co-President  
president@lwvlosalamos.org

#### Santa Fe County

P.O. Box 31547  
Santa Fe, NM 87594  
Laura Atkins, Representative  
wvsfc@gmail.com

#### La Palabra Editor

Barbara Calef  
bfcalef@gmail.com

#### La Palabra Publisher

Janet Blair  
505-259-0203

*The League of Women Voters of New Mexico, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

### President's Corner

*Hannah Burling*

*LWVNM President president@lwvnm.org*



At the end of August, the LWVUS announced a new campaign on redistricting. The campaign will be coordinated nationally, staff will be hired, help will be available to the state Leagues and grants will be given to each state League.

Fair redistricting depends in part on accuracy of the census, which begins on April 1, 2020. It affects every aspect of our lives. Will New Mexico be accurately counted? Or will a combination of the inherent difficulties of counting our population and the efforts to suppress participation in the census result in an undercount with serious political and financial effects? The census is a national priority for the League and we can become involved at the state and local level. Your local League can participate in your county's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, help find volunteers, and educate the public about the census.

As part of our movement toward diversity, equity and inclusion, two of our members, Rebecca Álvarez and Brittany Dutton-Leyda of LWVSFC, are compiling a list of organizations in New Mexico with more diverse memberships than the League has. We have much to learn and much to do as we begin to fully integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) into our mission work. Members of the League will be encouraged to join these organizations, so that we can connect with others, learn from them, and be of use.

League Day at the Legislature will be different in 2020. It will begin with the traditional Legislative Reception on February 5th, but will be followed on February 6th by a celebration of our 100th anniversary in the rotunda of in the Round House. It's a great time to get to know League members from around the state and I hope you'll come.

### Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Improving Redistricting in NM	2
Advocacy Workshop	3
Independent Ethics Comm Report	4
Save the Dates!	4
LWVLA Meets with Blalock	4
Action Committee Report	5
League Day Suffrage Anniversary	5
Suffrage Timeline for NM	6
SNF Advocacy Group Report	7
Local League News	7

---

## Improving Redistricting in New Mexico: LWVNM Launches the Fair Districts for New Mexico (FDNM) Project

By *Dick Mason*:

As stated in the last La Palabra, the LWVNM has received a grant to engage the public and policymakers on how to make the redistricting process fairer and more transparent. Since the last La Palabra we have learned that the LWVUS has also made improving the redistricting process a national priority and allocated \$500,000 assist in that effort. Judy Williams, the LWVNM's past president will be attending a 3-day LWVUS conference on the subject in October.

---

We ask that League members let policymakers know that fair redistricting is important to them. We will be posting resources League members can use at: [www.fairdistrictsnm.org](http://www.fairdistrictsnm.org).

---

By the time you receive this publication, Dick Mason, Chair of the LWVNM's Action Committee, will have presented to the Interim Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee on the Fair Districts for New Mexico project. At that meeting Wendy Underhill, from the National Conference of State Legislatures, will be presenting on how seven other neighboring states approach redistricting.

We ask that League members let policymakers know that fair redistricting is important to them. We will be posting resources League members can use at: [www.fairdistrictsnm.org](http://www.fairdistrictsnm.org). Please check the web site for regular updates on the Fair Districts for New Mexico Project. If you need further information or have suggestions or comments, please contact: Dick Mason: [act@lwvnm.org](mailto:act@lwvnm.org)

Advocacy Workshop  
2020 Legislative Session  
The League of Women Voters  
of New Mexico Presents:

Effective Citizen Advocacy at the Legislature  
Special Focus on the Budget and Revenue Process

Saturday, December 7, 2019, 10 a.m. to Noon  
New Mexico State Capitol, Room 322 (enter on the East side only)  
The public is invited.

Learn tips from legislators and a professional lobbyist about how to interact with legislators, speak at hearings, and advocate for your cause.

Speakers:

Senator Sander Rue - Member of the Senate Finance Committee  
Representative Christine Chandler - Member of the House Taxation & Revenue Committee  
Ruth Hoffman, Retired Director of the Luther Advocacy Ministry. Hoffman was previously the program director of the NM Center on Law and Poverty and also served as executive director of Common Cause-NM.

*This is training on the legislative process. Questions about positions on specific issues will not be permitted.*

## Report on the Independent Ethics Commission

by Judy Williams

In November 2018 voters approved a constitutional amendment to create an independent ethics commission by a 3 to 1 margin. The legislation creating the commission passed the legislature and was signed by the governor in the 2019 session.

The commissioners appointed by the legislative leadership and governor are Hon. William Lang, Stuart Bluestone, Hon. Garrey Carruthers, Dr. Judy Villanueva, and Frances Williams. The final appointees, Ron Solimon and Jeff Baker, were chosen by the board.

### NM Independent Ethics Commissioners:

**Hon. William Lang**  
**Stuart Bluestone**  
**Hon. Garrey Carruthers**  
**Dr. Judy Villanueva**  
**Frances Williams**  
**Ron Solimon**  
**Jeff Baker**

The Commission has held two meetings, which have been devoted to organizing activities. At the last meeting, the Commission voted to hire an executive director, Jeremy Farris, who was previously the General Counsel for the Department of Finance and Administration. It is widely thought to be an excellent appointment. The Commission is working on a budget for the next phase; operations start January 1, 2020. They are also recruiting for the general counsel position, and have retained consultants to work on rules, joint powers agreements and management. They don't yet have a website.

LWVNM is a founding member of the ethics coalition that is watching the implementation. The other members at present are New Mexico First, which acts as the convener and administrative support; the NM Foundation for Open Government, Ethics Watch, and Common Cause NM. Several work groups have been formed to work on funding issues, policy, communications, rules and overarching policy goals. Judy Williams, Past President of LWVNM, is the League's lead on the project.

We are watching the rule development, interagency agreements and other activities of the Commission. The ethics coalition will be active in the 2020 legislative session to monitor for legislation that would weaken the commission.

### Save the dates:

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

*Reception at the Rio Chama, Santa Fe*

*5:30 to 7:30 p.m.*

Thursday, February 6, 2020

*New Mexico Legislature*

*Public Program: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the  
Rotunda*

*Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of  
The League of Women Voters and  
Women's Suffrage*

*Full details in the Winter La Palabra*

## LWVLA Meeting with Brian Blalock, Secretary of Children, Youth, and Families Department

*By Barbara Calef and Becky Shankland*

Five LWVLA board members – Becky Shankland, Barbara Calef, Kathy Taylor, Ellen Mills, and Karyl Ann Armbruster – met with the new CYFD Cabinet Secretary Brian Blalock on August 6 in Santa Fe. Blalock has a wide-ranging background, starting with teaching in a poor area of New York City (the kids who are dealers have a good grasp of math, he commented), two degrees in law and theology, and, most recently, working with Bay Area non-profits helping to raise families out of poverty and assist homeless youth.

Blalock plunged into an account of his efforts during the 2019 legislative session. The department had six priority bills. His goal was to be totally non-partisan, to seek sponsors from both parties. He was very pleased that five of the bills passed. However, he stressed the need to convince legislators and the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) that it's important to fund CYFD for community-based health services.



Brian Blalock, NM Secretary of Children, Youth and Families. Photo courtesy of the State of NM

One of the bills that passed, HB 230, the Plan of Safe Care Act, is a best-model statute that mandates medical care for substance-exposed newborns. Surprisingly, Blalock commented, it was a struggle to pass the legislation because the anti-abortion groups opposed it.

Another successful bill was SB 23, Services for Youth Leaving Foster Care, sponsored by Senator Michael Padilla, who himself grew up in foster care. The statute extends foster care up to the age of 21 and permits a youth to voluntarily leave and then return to foster care.

***Of the 2500 children in foster care in New Mexico, only 23% of them have been placed with relatives. Placements within the family are more effective; relatives are more likely to take in older kids and the rates of reunification are higher.***

Blalock discussed some of his concerns about foster care in the state. There is a need for more appropriate placements for foster children. Of the 2500 children in foster care in New Mexico, only 23% of them have been placed with relatives. Placements within the family are more effective; relatives are more likely to take in older kids and the rates of reunification are higher. Blalock said, "When a child has more than three placements, the outcomes go down." He wants to change the payment rate to make it possible to pay grandmas more to foster their grandchildren.

Benefits are a significant part of the problem. The rate system needs to be improved. (Foster parents in Texas receive much higher payments.) One useful tool is the Voluntary Placement Agreement between the parents, relatives, and the CYFD. There is no court involvement and benefits are granted for foster care.

To address problems in foster care, the legislature passed another of Blalock's bills, HJM 10, which created a Child Protective Services Task Force to improve relations between CYFD and foster families, to recruit and retain more foster families, and to increase placement of children with their relatives.

NM has one of the five best juvenile justice systems in the country. The probation program is effective; high school graduation rates are high; it offers good jobs programs; the number of youth in facilities has declined. Currently



1,000 kids are on probation.

Regarding child care, the LFC looks at the impact it has on academic performance. Blalock says what's more important is that it can move families out of poverty. In New Mexico 70% of children are born into Medicaid! CYFD recently announced that families earning a gross income of up to 200% of the federal poverty level will continue to be eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program. A star system evaluates the quality of child care, with higher pay for those who provide better quality. This is one of the programs that will be transferred to the new Department of Early Childhood Education and Care. Blalock noted that Governor Lujan Grisham wants universal child care.

When Blalock took office, there was a 24% vacancy rate in Child Protective Services. He has hired 70 people; the rate is now down to 10%. He said that 106 new positions are needed to sufficiently reduce the caseloads. He received funding for 23 after the Legislative Finance Committee slashed the request.

Most of the employees who provide services under CYFD programs are not social workers. To improve the workforce, CYFD has entered into a partnership with NMSU and NM Highlands: it helps by paying student loans for those getting degrees in social work. CYFD also gives educational leave for staff who need training.

Next, Blalock wants to expand community-based mental health services. He described a model at San Felipe Pueblo with non-clinical intervention by peer-to-peer mentors who are certified and supervised. This can be billed to Medicaid. Blalock recommended that we arrange a screening of "The Shake-Up," a documentary about the behavioral health care debacle in New Mexico in 2013. He said that the director, Ben Altenberg, might be willing to participate.

## Action Committee Report

*by Dick Mason*

The 2020 session of the New Mexico Legislature starts at noon on January 21, 2020 and adjourns at noon on February 20, 2020. On even numbered years the Legislature only deals with budget items and issues the governor prioritizes. Resolutions and memorials are also allowed. Legislation can be pre-filed starting on December 16, 2019.

Proposed Priorities for the 2020 session:

Budget & Revenue – We need to promote fairer taxation that generates needed revenue for essential programs.

Redistricting reform – See the separate report.

Decriminalization of abortion - This is not a budget item, so the governor would have to approve it being heard.

Solar Tax Credit – We need to incentivize clean energy.

We plan to visit each local League to inform them about these subjects prior to the 2020 session.

## League Day Plans Focus on Suffrage Anniversary

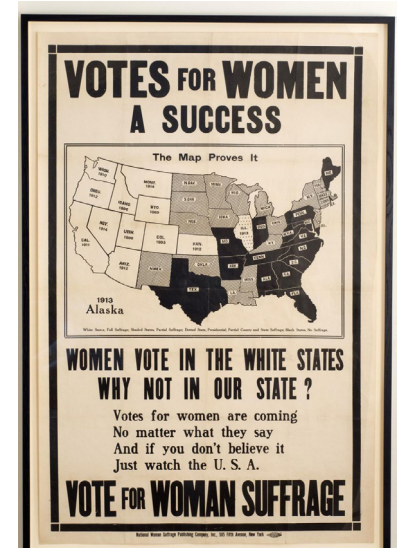
*By Meredith Machen*

On Thursday, February 6, 2020 the public will be invited to an event celebrating both the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters and the centennial of New Mexico's ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Working with allied non-partisan partners, we will have displays appropriate to the occasion, and people will be encouraged to wear suffrage garb. Senator Nancy Rodriguez and Rep. Joanne Ferrary, League members from Santa Fe and Las Cruces respectively, are sponsoring legislative memorials recognizing the League's history and accomplishments that will be read in their respective chambers that day. ...more on page 7

## Suffrage Timeline for New Mexico

Prepared by Meredith Machen LWVNM, [projects@lwvnm.org](mailto:projects@lwvnm.org)

- 1848 First Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, N.Y. passed a resolution calling for full voting rights for women. Elizabeth Cady Stanton authors the Declaration of Sentiments. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration\\_of\\_Sentiments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_of_Sentiments)
- 1868 The 14th Amendment ratified, using the word "male" in the Constitution for first time.
- 1869 National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) works to get women the vote state by state. Women in Wyoming Territory gain full suffrage.
- 1878 Woman Suffrage Amendment is first introduced into Congress by Senator Sargent (CA) at the behest of Susan B. Anthony, who voted illegally in 1872.
- 1893 Albuquerque Suffrage Club works for women's suffrage in NM Territory.
- 1899 Carrie Chapman Catt, NAWSA President, organizes NM chapter in Santa Fe.
- 1910 NM Federation of Woman's Clubs started by Laura E. Frenger, Las Cruces.
- 1910 NM Constitution required for statehood is ratified. A provision that grants women the right to vote in school elections contains a caveat that their vote can be revoked if communities disagree. Legislature rejects full suffrage for women.
- 1912 NM becomes a state. Only men can vote, not Native Americans or women.
- 1913-1920 Suffrage marches and rallies in D.C., NY, Chicago. Parades in Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Las Cruces, Portales, Roswell, Santa Fe, and Silver City.
- 1916 Jeanette Rankin, US Rep. from Montana, becomes first woman in Congress.
- 1916 National Woman's Party formed at the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage Convention in Chicago. Splits from NAWSA, because it calls out anti-suffrage officials and candidates. Takes more radical approaches to gain the vote.
- 1916 Senator Andrieus A. Jones, Las Vegas, NM succeeds Senator Thomas Catron, Santa Fe, who was opposed to suffrage. Sen. Jones becomes Chair of Senate's Woman Suffrage Committee and champions the 19th Amendment.
- 1917 National Woman's Party establishes NM chapter. Nina Otero Warren becomes a leader.
- 1917-1918 Suffragists are arrested and imprisoned for picketing the White House and the capitol. Hunger strikes/force-feeding in jail cause national outcry.
- 1919 Catt persuades President Wilson to support woman's suffrage, using women's contributions to World War I as rationale. Congress passes 19th Amendment, 41 years after it was introduced, thanks to Sen. Jones and suffragists.
- 1919-1920 Suffragists lobby state legislatures to ratify the amendment. NM approves ratification on February 21, 1920, 32nd of 36 states necessary. TN ratifies last. August 26, 1920, Women's Equality Day, is official date of adoption.
- NM women become part of 27 million U.S. women eligible to vote in all elections.



## More on League Day...

We will have 12 display tables in the West Hall starting at 8 a.m. and then break around 12:30 p.m. for some fun. We expect to have speakers and refreshments from 1-2 p.m. We are inviting the governor to speak and deliver proclamations about the dual occasion, and we will celebrate with other speakers, music, and refreshments. Use your creativity to help us recognize this important democratic milestone with flair. Here's to the 2020 Women's Vote Centennial!

## LWVNM Spent Nuclear Fuel Advocacy Group Report

*By Karen Douglas*

The two sites applying to store spent nuclear fuel (SNF) from commercial nuclear power plants are located in south-eastern NM midway between Carlsbad and Hobbs, and on the TX/NM border five miles from Eunice, NM. License application documents for these two sites were submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in 2017-18 and both the applicants, NM/HOLTEC and TX/Interim Storage Partners (ISP – WCS and ORANO corporation), are now responding to NRC Requests for Additional Information (RAI). Both companies anticipate NRC License approval in 2021. They expect to begin operating in 2022-2023 following additional site construction.

The original U.S. plan for the storage/disposal of spent nuclear fuel involved transporting it from all 98 sites to Yucca Mountain, NV for storage (repackaging if necessary) and permanent disposal in a deep geologic repository. This original plan would have required ownership and operation of Yucca Mountain by the Department of Energy (DOE) with regulation by the NRC. Instead, the privately-owned nuclear industry giants are purchasing closed nuclear power plants and performing the decommissioning of reactors. They are also purchasing spent nuclear fuel and interim spent fuel storage installations. If the licenses are granted, these same corporations will also own the consolidated interim storage facilities (CISFs). This may circumvent some NRC/Department of Transportation regulation and definitely removes DOE from the SNF storage/transport/disposal sequence.

The SNF Research and Advocacy Group will meet on October 11 to decide what actions they wish to pursue. No action will be taken without the approval of the LWVNM Board.

## *Local League News*

### Southern New Mexico (LWVSNM)

*By Eileen VanWie, Co-President*

**Name Change.** After collecting feedback from members and discussing boundaries to define “Southern New Mexico,” the LWVSNM Board decided to focus on the goal to be welcoming for potential members outside Doña Ana County by using “passive outreach.” As we get requests from outside of the County, we will support them in ways that we are able. For example, the LWVSNM will provide nonpartisan voter registration services for a harvest festival in Grant County because of a request for such services.

**Member Survey.** An online survey was conducted to assess diversity, meetings, communication, and demographics. Forty-two people (of about 100 members) responded. It was not a surprise that we are primarily older, white



women. Strengths that were revealed relate to educating about voter rights/elections, civic engagement, and the youth engagement project. Areas that need to be improved are community outreach, membership diversity (age, ethnicity, skills), and participation in League-sponsored events. While the results were expected, we now have data as evidence.

**Board Workshop.** At our August 17th workshop with Nancy Barnes-Smith, consultant with Nonprofit Support and Success, the Board discussed a variety of issues that may require changes as a new 501(c)3 nonprofit. It revealed critical legal responsibilities of the Board. Lobbying has been added to our agenda format. An

Ad Hoc By Laws and Policy Committee is being established to re-

visit and update our governance framework. Likewise, a Development Committee is forming to find ways to improve membership diversity and fundraising activities. We wonder what other NM Leagues do about liability insurance. The workshop even provided a “simple” reminder to regularly bring forward to members the League mission, vision, and value statements. Kathy Brook and I had a follow up meeting with Nancy on September 18.



Laura Frenger, early LWWNM leader



Doña Ana County Clerk Amanda Lopez Askin speaking. Photo by Lindsey Bachman

**General Meetings.** The theme of the program for our August 12th meeting was Election Laws Passed and Failed and Ranked Choice Voting, presented by Doña Ana County Clerk Amanda Lopez Askin and Chief Deputy Clerk Lindsey Bachman. Jamie Michael, Director of Doña Ana County’s Health and Human Services, spoke at our September 9th meeting about mental health services provided to individuals who encounter the criminal justice system.



Jamie Michael speaking. Photo by Eileen VanWie

**Committee Work.** Our two ongoing committees have made valuable accomplishments. The Youth Engagement Committee continues to work with Las Cruces Public School educators to expand civic learning for high school students. An eight-lesson unit has been developed by teachers for students to create a “mock city” to be implemented in early 2020. Students will learn issues faced by local governments.

The Immigration Committee plans to conduct a study, invite experts to speak at monthly meetings, write a monthly article for the local League newsletter *The Voter*, and have a program for the general membership in January. On September 17 they had a day in El Paso with the Border Servant Corps to learn more directly about border issues.

The 2020 Suffrage Celebrations Committee is making plans to have a valentine tea party on February 8 to celebrate



100 years of the League of Women Voters and to send valentines to our legislators. We are also collaborating with other nonpartisan organizations to celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage. This includes a celebration and walk in suffragist costumes on February 22, 2020 to recognize the February 21, 1920 date that New Mexico ratified the 19th amendment. We are working with the GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces to nominate the GFWC Woman's Improvement Association (1884-2000) and suffragist Laura Frenger to the National Votes for Women Trail and for a Pomeroy Foundation sponsored metal marker.

## Central New Mexico

*By Karen Douglas*

The LWVCNM Voter Guide for the November municipal election continues to advance toward publication and distribution. The August 27 deadline for declaration of candidacy and verification of nominating petition signatures followed by the September 6 County Clerk notification of candidates placed on the ballot were recent milestones defining which candidates will be included in the voter guide.

The September LWVCNM luncheon unit speaker was Second Judicial District Court Chief Judge Whitaker, who discussed the inner mechanics of the court system and type of cases considered. Reverend Judith Deutsch, a LWVCNM Speakers Bureau representative, will present "Medicare for All Act of 2019 – HR1384" to those attending the September 23 NE Heights Unit meeting.

On September 11 Trish Lopez, LWVCNM 3rd VP and manager of Teeniors, a youth group tutoring senior citizens

on technology use and applications, provided a social media workshop for members interested in improving their skills and access to Twitter, Facebook, Instagram or other technology and communication avenues commonly in use today.



. Los Alamos Suffragists set off on the Rodeo Parade. Courtesy photo.

LWVCNM participated in the UNM International Studies Institute-sponsored September 17 lecture, "Ready to Turn the World Upside Down: Radical Feminism and Jewish Women."

LWVCNM is among the coalition of 18 community-based organizations in APD Forward who united in 2014 to implement a federal Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA) for Albuquerque Police Department (APD) reform, which targeted elimination of excessive use of force by APD Officers.

Peter Simonson, ACLU, represented APD Forward in the 3rd CASA Outcome Hearing and was among the witnesses appearing in the August 20 hearing before Judge Browning. Other witnesses included Assistant US Attorney Martinez, CASA Independent Monitor Dr. Ginger, and Paul Killebrew, Special Counsel in the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, who discussed the APD progress since his initial involvement in 2013. Mr. Killebrew was involved with identifying findings that shaped the CASA. The outcome of the August 20 hearing indicated that Dr. Ginger, the DOJ, and the City of Albuquerque/APD agreed that the APD has made substantial progress toward meeting CASA measures and the CASA will be closed in the near future.

Jeanne Logsdon continues to manage the LWVCNM 2020 Suffrage Anniversary observation. So far NM Supreme Court Chief Justice Judith Nakamura and Governor Lujan Grisham have declined the invitation of the LWVCNM

Suffrage Banquet subcommittee to serve as guest speaker for the August 29, 2020 ceremony and dinner. Services provided through the LWVNM & LWVCNM Office will be impacted by the resignation of the Administrative Coordinator, Margaret Magee and efforts are underway to employ a LWVCNM member for this part-time effort. Margaret conducted correspondence and many other vital LWV support functions.

## Los Alamos

*By Barbara Calef*

Five members of the Los Alamos board met with CYFD Secretary Brian Blalock on August 6. He spoke almost non-stop for 90 minutes about his progress in addressing the many responsibilities of his department. See the report on the meeting.

On August 10 League members participated in Los Alamos County's annual rodeo parade, dressed as suffragists to commemorate the centennial of the passage of the 19th amendment by Congress.

At Lunch with a Leader in August Beverly Williams reported on Global Warming Express, a free after-school program for elementary school students. The children learn about the science of global warming and then are assisted to accomplish a project they choose. (I saw them at a hearing at the Roundhouse speaking in favor of a memorial.)

At the August meeting the LWVLA board decided to share the job of observing the County Council meetings. One board member will volunteer to attend or watch each Council meeting. (The meetings are streamed and recorded.) League member Wendy Swanson has volunteered to be the observer for the Planning and Zoning Commission hearings.

Dick Mason visited Los Alamos on September 4 to give an update on the Fair Districts project. At least 15 League members attended. Since then a couple of members have been researching how the district maps can be designed to be fair.

On September 14 the Santa Fe Parliamentary Unit held a workshop in White Rock on how to conduct effective board meetings. It was an excellent program, led by Jan Strand. The attendees included the chair of our County Council, Sara Scott. One of the many interesting facts I learned is that, according to Robert's Rules of Order, there is no need for a motion to adjourn. When the business has been completed, the president adjourns the meeting!



Gwyneth Doland, reporter for New Mexico In Depth, and LWVNM Action Chair Dick Mason at the LWVSFC meeting on redistricting, September 11. Doland will soon publish a major investigative report on the history of redistricting in New Mexico since 1980.

This year House Bill 407, titled "Election Laws 50-Year Tune-up" was enacted. The new law mandates that the members of our County Council be assigned to districts even though they are elected at large. It also required that we elect four councilors on the presidential ballot and three on the gubernatorial ballot. The Office of the Secretary of State determined that, since we had been voting for four councilors on a gubernatorial ballot, one of them had to be selected for an extended term. Three councilors drew lots; David Izraelevitz was chosen to serve until 2024. But the New Mexico Supreme Court subsequently ruled that extending the length of the term was unconstitutional.

This month the LWVLA published an op-ed titled "How Individuals Can Address Climate Change" in our local newspapers. The article advocates for replacing natural gas with electricity in addition to other ac-

tions to reduce our carbon footprint such as installing rooftop solar.

The League also recommended that the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) vote to expand the solar array on the landfill. The BPU voted against it – they prefer to invest in a larger project that includes wind as well as solar.

## **Santa Fe County**

*By Laura Atkins*

### **Voter Services/Registration:**

The LWVSFC board approved questions for the candidate forums to be held in October for candidates for Santa Fe City Council and for Municipal Judge. City Council candidates will be asked their views on affordable housing, the mid-town campus, and transparency in local government. We will also hold forums for school board candidates in October.

The League's Voter Services Registration/Resources webpage redesign has been completed. You can access the webpage by going to <https://www.lwvsfc.org/> and clicking on voter services. Feedback is appreciated.

Our latest voter registrar training was attended by 24 people. To date, we have registered 80 voters this year. Voter registration (VR) Services continue at the Saturday Santa Fe Farmers Market and the Tuesday Southside Farmers Market. We have five fully trained high school student registrars. They assisted at our VR table at the student climate change strike at the Round House on Friday, September 20.

### **Harvard Case Study Workshop and High School Civics Project:**

Robert Sobel, high school history teacher at The Masters Program high school, attended David Moss's Harvard Case Study Workshop August 17-21 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The workshop, taught by Dr. David Moss, professor at the Harvard Business School, is based on his History of American Democracy curriculum, a case study method of teaching history. Mr. Sobel shared his experiences at the LWVSFC board meeting on September 17. He rolled out the first case to his students on post-Civil War reconstruction.

Mr. Sobel will be sharing what he learned with other high school history teachers providing them with a tool they can use in designing their curriculum. Anne Culp and Randi Lowenthal, the LWVSFC high school civics project coordinators, will oversee meetings with teachers and students at The Master Program and Monte del Sol. LWVSFC will host a community discussion moderated by Robert Sobel, with both adults and students attending.

### **Programs:**

Our first official general meeting for this fiscal year was held on September 11. The topic was redistricting in New Mexico as requested by LWVNM. Dick Mason arranged for the speaker, Gwyneth Doland, who gave a rousing and entertaining talk about the history of redistricting in New Mexico, while pointing out the problems and pitfalls that redistricting can present.

### **Membership:**

We now have ten members covered by the Diversity Fund. Total membership is 161.



League of Women Voters of NM  
2315 San Pedro NE, Suite F-6  
Albuquerque NM 87110

Please consider helping your local League or LWVNM to pay for our voter guides and candidate forums. You can send a tax-deductible gift by check to your local League or to LWVNM. See [www.lwvnm.org](http://www.lwvnm.org) for more information and links to our local Leagues. Thank you for making democracy work!

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that helps the public play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Anyone 16 years of age or older, male or female, may become a member. The League of Women Voters never endorses candidates for office or supports political parties.*