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*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.*

**Call to State Convention**

The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico  
invites you to the  
2021 LWVNM Convention April 24-25, 2021  
via Zoom

You will:

- Network with members from all over New Mexico
- Kick off the meeting with a welcome from a Las Cruces City Councilor
- Hear from our LWVUS Liaison
- Learn the forecast for the economic future of New Mexico
- Learn the forecast for the future of our democracy
- Elect a new board, consider bylaws changes, adopt a budget, and more
- In lieu of a silent auction, please make a donation to the LWVNM

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Since the meeting is via Zoom, there is no registration fee.

To make a donation, send a check to the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, 2501 San Pedro NE Suite 216, Albuquerque NM 87110 or go to <https://www.lwvnm.org/support.html>.

## The President's Corner

By Hannah Burling

LWVNM President: [president@lwvnm.org](mailto:president@lwvnm.org)

It's been quite a year so far and we are still in March! The attack on our Capitol in early January, which was strongly denounced by LWVUS, has brought home the importance of our mission to defend democracy. Voter suppression efforts have made us all the more aware of our original purpose, to empower voters and protect voting rights.

We are close to the end of the New Mexico legislative session and we have had some great victories, notably the decriminalization of abortion, which is already law. However, as I write we don't yet know the outcome of our redistricting efforts. Fair redistricting has been the League's biggest concentrated campaign since ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. See Dick Mason's column for more details.

On January 23rd, the Women's March, sponsored by LWVNM, took place virtually, thanks to the efforts of the JEDI committee. This event brought together women's groups from all over New Mexico. There were wonderful speakers, Deb Haaland among them. I particularly enjoyed Governor Lujan Grisham's appreciative words about the League and the Women Lowriders of Española.

Our convention is scheduled for April 24th and 25th. It will be hosted by LWVSNM and held on Zoom. Among other business, we will be looking at new positions to adopt, notably an updated Education Position and a brand new Spent Nuclear Fuel Position. The process of study and the adoption of positions are how the League comes to advocate. Careful attention to our approach gives us the credibility that allows us to be effective.

Join us at convention! Learn more about the League and find opportunities to volunteer. I hope to see you there.



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**People Powered Day of Action**

April 29, 2021

**LWV**



# CONVENTION REGISTRATION and SCHEDULE

## ZOOM REGISTRATION

**Registration for two separate days must be received by the deadline of April 15, 2021.**

**Saturday, April 24, 2021, 8:00 AM to 1 PM**

**You are invited to a Zoom meeting.**

**When: Apr 24, 2021 08:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)**

**Register in advance for this meeting:**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlodOCsqDgiHNBeXvkjZfOsKzeK-FGkuRFFJ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9168298040)**

**Sunday, April 25, 2021, 8:30 AM – 12:45 PM followed by board meeting**

**You are invited to a Zoom meeting.**

**When: Apr 25, 2021 08:30 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)**

**Register in advance for this meeting:**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtcuitrT0jHNTpZof6CMPuS-5b0AdfOiAm5](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9168298040)**

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.**

**Please also fill out and SEND THIS FORM TO: [lwvsnm@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsnm@gmail.com)**

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION STATUS (PLEASE CHECK ONE)**

**State Board Member** \_\_\_\_ **Local League Delegate** \_\_\_\_

**Local League Member** \_\_\_\_

# 2021 STATE CONVENTION SCHEDULE

*Saturday, April 24*

**8:30-9 a.m.**                      **Registration and Pre-Convention Coffee (Bring your own beverage)**

**9-9:05 a.m.**                      **Welcome “to Las Cruces” – Yvonne Flores  
LC City Councilor and League Member**

**9:05-9:30 a.m.**                      **Address – Liz Bander LWVUS Liaison**

**9:30-11:45 a.m.**                      **First Plenary Session**

**Break (10:30 -10:45 a.m.)**

**11:45-1:00 p.m.**                      **Lunch**

**Lunch Speaker 1 – Dr. Jim Peach (12:00-12:30 p.m.)**

**Future of New Mexico’s Economy**

**Lunch Speaker 2 – Dr. Christa Slaton (12:30- 1:00 p.m.)**

**Future of Democracy**

*Sunday, April 25*

**8:30-9:00 a.m.**                      **Registration and Pre-Session Coffee (Bring your own beverage)**

**9:00-Noon**                              **Second Plenary Session**

**Break (10:30-10:45)**

**Noon**                                      **Convention Adjournment**

**12:15-12:45 p.m.**                      **Lunch Speaker: Johana Bencomo, Las Cruces  
City Councilor  
Border and/or Criminal Justice Issues**

**BOARD MEETING – 1:00 p.m.**

# Program Items to be Considered by the 2021 State Convention

By Chris Furlanetto, LWVNM Program Chair

## ***POSITIONS***

Since the 2019 Convention, three LWVNM positions, **Education, Election Procedures, and Transfer of Federal Public Lands**, have been revised. One new position, **Reproductive Health**, has been adopted through concurrence; and one new position, **Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel and Greater than Class C Waste**, has been adopted through consensus. See below for further information on these changes.

### ***PART I – Changes to existing LWVNM positions made since 2019 Convention***

**Education** Revision to existing position (Adopted 1987; revised 1995, 2009, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021) Proposed by Meredith Machen and Eileen VanWie, Education Committee co-chairs, adopted by the Board January and March 2021. Post-secondary Education section is by concurrence with LWVCO.

**Added/relocated text in this revision is underlined; previous headings and notes are in brackets. Note that deleted text is not included here. Some text in previously existing sections has been rephrased/reformatted with numbered bullets for consistency with the style of new sections.**

#### **[General]**

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that education is the foundation for a strong and viable democracy. As a multicultural and multilingual state, New Mexico must incorporate the principle of educational equity in its practices and policies to ensure the highest level of academic achievement for all students. The public education system should impart to students an understanding of the nature of democracy, the ability to think critically, and the skills necessary to function successfully in a complex society.

LWVNM believes that every student should have access to a high-quality, equitable, publicly funded education regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, family income, or geographical location. Each student should be respected as an individual in learning environments that value diverse cultures.

The League supports public schools as the primary institutions for educating students and opposes the presence of private, for-profit companies in the governance, management, and provision of public education. LWVNM believes that the Public Education Commission should use its Constitutional authority to advise the department on policy matters and perform other functions as provided by law.

The League believes in accountability, transparency, and equity in the use of public funds for education.

Essential elements for a high-quality, equitable education system include knowledgeable and skillful educators provided with relevant professional development options; early childhood education and care programs; multicultural and multilingual education with challenging academic content; physical, social, and mental health support services for students based on data; learning technologies and infrastructure; college and career preparation programs; and opportunities for post-secondary education, with sufficient funding and resources distributed effectively and equitably.

#### **1 Teachers, Administrators and Staff:**

1.1 Implement measures to improve the preparation, recruitment, and professional development of

quality educators with in-depth knowledge in core academic subjects and instructional strategies.

1.2 Provide adequate funding to attract and retain an educational workforce that reflects the diversity of New Mexico's students.

1.3 Ensure that educators utilize materials that are culturally sensitive and address potentially prejudicial or biased information and behavior.

1.4 Provide educators with strategies to help them explore the cultural backgrounds of their students and develop content relevant to their students' experiences.

1.5 Train educators to use effective strategies to help English language learners.

1.6 Provide meaningful, ongoing professional development in technological, multicultural, and social-emotional learning to support students in classroom and online learning.

1.7 Provide high-quality mentoring and teaming opportunities for teachers.

1.8 Compensate educators with salaries that are competitive with other professions requiring similar skills and implement measures to attract and retain well-qualified teachers, support personnel, and administrators.

## **2 Early Childhood Education:**

2.1 Fund sufficiently a broad base of social service agencies, providers, and schools to foster the development of children from birth to age five and prepare them for success in school and life.

2.2 Provide quality early childhood care providers and educators with culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate programming and access to resources through cross-agency partnerships.

2.3 Emphasize holistic development of preschoolers through programming that supports social, emotional, cognitive, and physical learning.

2.4 Provide programs that encourage increased family involvement in the education of their children.

## **3 K-12 Education: [Practices for Student Success]**

3.1 Use the Common Core State Standards to provide a framework for knowledge and the academic skills that students are expected to master, with flexibility to determine how the standards are learned and assessed.

3.2 Develop to each student's highest potential the knowledge and skills needed for success along with a broad understanding and appreciation of history and prospects for the future.

3.3 Cultivate each student's capacity to solve problems and make decisions.

3.4 Provide opportunities for all students to develop their aesthetic awareness and creative abilities.

3.5 Foster an awareness of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of participation in a democratic society.

3.6 Foster an understanding of basic economic principles and the need to manage resources for the benefit of both present and future generations.

3.7 Provide the tools to make wise college and career choices and to understand the importance of each individual's work in the local, national, and world economies.

3.8 Promote practices that lead to physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

3.9 Enhance the sense of community within the school, as a microcosm of the larger society, through standards of conduct that reflect a concern for the opinions, values, aspirations, and well-being of all.

3.10 Develop the critical thinking and problem-solving skills of students through experiential learning, project-based learning, and through the use of technology.

3.11 Maintain and use health and social service teams in the schools to identify and work with students and their parents or caregivers, with referrals to appropriate community agencies when necessary.

3.12 Integrate civics education at all educational levels.

#### **4 Promoting Continuous Improvement in Learning: [Evaluation of Teachers, Students, and School Performance]**

- 4.1 Focus student evaluation on student academic progress rather than rigid standards of proficiency.
- 4.2 Use student testing to assist teachers in providing effective and timely strategies for student academic achievement.
- 4.3 Implement measures to improve the preparation, recruitment, professional development, and retention of quality educators with in-depth knowledge in core academic subjects and instructional strategies.
- 4.4 Follow due process procedures when terminating teachers and principals who do not meet minimum standards.
- 4.5 Base assessment of school and teacher performance on overall quality of the education provided to the students and improvements in student academic growth as measured by multiple methods, including professional observations.

#### **5 Post-secondary Education:**

The League believes that all qualified students should have the opportunity to acquire a post-secondary education and that successful participation should be aided by a variety of resources. Post-secondary education includes public career-technical, community college, undergraduate, and graduate institutions. Preschool, elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education should be viewed as a continuum leading to lifelong learning.

Effective programs:

- 5.1 Prepare students for increasingly difficult academic work and explain graduation standards and expectations.
- 5.2 Provide information to middle school and high school students and families regarding academic and financial issues related to attending postsecondary education institutions, including the variety of options and dual credit.
- 5.3 Provide state-funded need-based financial aid to enable all qualified students to attain a postsecondary education.
- 5.4 Increase state-funded merit-based scholarships to attract and retain high quality students from New Mexico.
- 5.5 Facilitate positive engagement in learning, using a variety of resources to support students socially and emotionally and improve academic performance.

#### **6 Community Involvement:**

- 6.1 Collaborate with all sectors of the community to improve public education at all levels.
- 6.2 Seek business cooperation in offering work schedules that support school attendance.
- 6.3 Ask businesses and community organizations to provide support and find work or service opportunities for students, to create incentives to encourage students to develop career skills and graduate from high school and post-secondary institutions.
- 6.4 Implement programs that increase the engagement of families in the education of students at all grade levels.
- 6.5 Develop partnerships in order to provide expanded and enriched learning opportunities, student health and social services, active family and community engagement, and collaborative leadership practices.

## 7 Charter Schools: [Charter School Regulation]

Charter schools are discretionary programs intended to fill unmet needs and/or to test innovative instructional strategies to produce quality educational outcomes. Before authorizing or reauthorizing charter schools, policy makers must ensure that adequate funds are available for traditional public schools. A charter school should not be authorized unless it would serve a need the traditional schools cannot and there is a demonstrated need based on student population projections. Appropriate instructional and support services must be provided in all public schools to meet the diverse needs of individual students.

For the sake of assuring accountability and transparency and minimizing the fiscal impact of charter schools, LWVNM recommends the following:

- 7.1 Require charter school finances and budget processes be available for public scrutiny and provide opportunities for public input into decision-making.
- 7.2 Require charter school governing council members to adhere to standards and best practices as delineated by the NM School Boards Association, Public Education Department regulations, and state statutes.
- 7.3 Minimize the amount allocated to for-profit management and business operations with oversight provided by state-approved auditors.
- 7.4 Make funding equitable for charter schools and traditional public schools.
- 7.5 Fund virtual charter schools less per student since schools do not require brick and mortar facilities.
- 7.6 Enforce an effective performance-based accountability system with benchmarks for increased proficiency, academic growth, and college/career readiness standards to ensure that charter schools demonstrate positive student outcomes.
- 7.7 Put charter schools that do not meet the established benchmarks on time-limited improvement plans and do not allow them to increase enrollment or continue unless they have met the benchmarks.
- 7.8 Disseminate effective charter and traditional public-school innovations to improve the educational system at large.

## 8 Funding for Public Education:

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports sufficient funding for a high-quality, equitable educational system for all students that is consistently and fairly applied across the state.

- 8.1 Fund programs that foster children's development from birth to age 5 for success in kindergarten and beyond.
- 8.2 Use the New Mexico State Equalization Guarantee funding formula to achieve equity and provide fair funding for every student based on need, regardless of location, making periodic modifications to assure that the formula is faithful to its original intent.
- 8.3 Fund internet services and technology infrastructure, educator training, extended learning time, and other programs to support students in high-quality online, hybrid, and remote instruction.
- 8.4 Fund structured information exchange among educators to improve learning outcomes.
- 8.5 Fund career-technical programs and magnet schools in accordance with their increased costs.
- 8.6 Fund programs that support successful transitions from high school to postsecondary education, careers, and work, including dual credit.
- 8.7 Fund school social workers, health care providers, and career counselors as professional educators.
- 8.8 Allow local school districts to control the funds distributed to them.
- 8.9 Fund all state and federal mandates so as not to place an undue burden on public schools.
- 8.10 Fund public post-secondary education sufficiently reflecting the types and levels of educational institutions, program offerings, differences in student needs and preparation, educator qualifications, and



other expenses.

8.11 Fund scholarships, low-interest loans, and loans for service to incentivize students' completion of post-secondary degrees and certificates.

***Election Procedures*** - Revision to existing position (adopted 1969; revised 1999, 2001, 2007, 2018, 2019, 2020) Proposed and adopted in September 2020 by Meredith Machen by concurrence with a portion of LWVME's position.

***Added text is underlined.***

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports:

1. protection of the right of every citizen to vote;
2. verifiable and auditable procedures to guarantee the integrity of all statutory methods of voting in New Mexico;
3. funding to meet the requirements of the law and to serve the needs of the voters to ensure that elections are conducted accurately, fairly, and efficiently;
4. a centralized voter registration and election management system;
5. statewide uniformity in early voting for all elections;
6. an all-inclusive system of voting that allows all registered voters to participate in the primary election, so that
  1. voters who are not enrolled in a major political party may vote on one ballot per primary without having to enroll in that particular party; and
  2. voters enrolled in a major political party can vote only on the ballot of their party;
7. more direct citizen involvement in the candidate selection process for special elections to fill a vacancy;
8. consolidation of elections in New Mexico;
9. methods that increase voter participation, including automatic voter registration and same-day voter registration;
10. systems that improve the election experience and provide ease of ballot access including vote-by-mail, supplemented by secure ballot drop boxes and accessible voting centers;
11. amending the State Constitution to allow run-off elections in the case of non-partisan elections.

***Transfer of Federal Public Lands*** Addition to existing position (adopted 2019) in June 2020 to clarify the 2nd sentence, 1st paragraph.

***Added text is underlined.***

The League believes that federal public lands should benefit all Americans. The lands should remain under the jurisdiction of the federal government with Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands managed according to the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield policy. We support improvements in management and regulation.

Federal law allows for the sale or exchange of federal lands if it is in the public interest. Prior to any transfer, a comprehensive assessment that covers the following issues should be performed:

- environmental analysis, including air and water quality, biodiversity, endangered and threatened species
- health impacts
- environmental justice
- suitability of proposed land use
- subsurface resources

- financial/economic impacts
- cultural resources
- public access
- management for fire and other natural disasters
- tribal consultation.

The League is opposed to the sale of federal lands to private entities except for small tracts surrounded by non-federal lands.

The League is opposed to the transfer of subsurface rights to the state or other entities. Any development of subsurface rights on federal land should benefit all Americans.

## ***PART II – New position through Concurrence with position of another League***

**New positions appear as approved by the Board. All text is new.**

***Reproductive Health*** Adopted through concurrence with LWVFL in 2019, proposed by Barbara Calef and Meredith Machen

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports every woman's right to access affordable, high-quality reproductive health care, including access to abortion services and birth control.

LWVNM supports:

- reproductive rights — including access to abortion — as a health care issue decided by a woman and her health care provider
- birth control as well as access to publicly funded family planning services.

LWVNM opposes:

- statutory and regulatory restrictions on birth control and/or abortion.

## ***PART III – New Position through Consensus***

**New positions appear as approved by the Board. All text is new.**

***Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel and Greater than Class C Waste.*** Proposed by Karen Douglas, Nuclear Waste Storage Committee chair. Adopted in 2021 through consensus based on study and advocacy; advocacy was approved by LWVUS.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVNM) supports comprehensive measures to provide protection of human health and the environment from any adverse effects of the storage of radioactive materials produced by nuclear energy, including Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) and Greater than Class C Waste (GTCC).

LWVNM supports the storage of SNF/GTCC only when it is implemented in a manner that protects public health, safety and the environment and when it is in compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations.

In general, the League supports:

- Policies for the management of SNF/GTCC wastes to protect public health and air, water, and land resources;
- The establishment of processes for effective involvement of state and local government and citizens in siting proposals for storage of radioactive wastes;

- Full environmental review of storage facilities for radioactive wastes;
- Safe transport, storage, and disposal of radioactive wastes;
- Financial guarantees to cover costs of accidents, clean-up and reclamation; and
- Federal ownership and management of storage facilities.

## **1. Federal vs Private Site Ownership and Management**

The League strongly recommends Federal management of SNF/GTCC storage facilities rather than management by private corporations to maximize oversight and transparency. The public must be able to monitor the adequacy of operations and the implementation of safety measures to reduce radiation exposure to the lowest reasonably achievable level.

Radiation exposure must consider time (radioactive decay), distance (proximity to radioactive material), and shielding (adequate containment that maintains its integrity throughout the storage and related transport, inspection, and handling operations). Contamination of the soil and surface and ground water must be prevented.

Privately owned/operated facilities should be considered only if the operations comply with all federal laws.

## **2. Public Participation**

The public has the right to know the potentially harmful effects of materials they encounter in the workplace and community. Residents must be included in the planning and decision-making processes for SNF and GTCC material management decisions. Adequate funding to promote public participation should be available and all options, including in-person and virtual means, for participation during public comment periods must be made available to all residents. Local communities of all sizes, including sovereign nations, must be involved to the greatest extent possible.

## **3. New Mexico Regulatory Structure**

The State of New Mexico should establish an integrated regulatory structure with provisions at least as strict as those of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) clearly delineating jurisdictional and agency responsibilities for the safe storage of radioactive waste generated from power operations. The regulatory agency should include adequate budget and staff and be accountable to the public. It must be adequately staffed by qualified technical personnel with the education, experience, and authority necessary to sufficiently monitor SNF/GTCC storage facility compliance. The body must have the authority to impose penalties for any violations.

## **4. Specific Criteria**

When considering any license application or proposal for developing an interim storage site, whether from a public or private entity in New Mexico, the following criteria must all be satisfied:

- a) Ensure that any privately owned/operated SNF/GTCC storage facility, if approved, operates in accordance with all safety controls required for licensing of government-owned or utility-owned SNF storage facilities;
- b) Ensure that current Aging Management Programs (AMPs) are imposed at all SNF and GTCC storage facilities. The AMPs must be monitored and upgraded as new research results become available and new technologies are developed to minimize radiation exposure and to extend storage for a longer period if needed.
- c) Require that SNF storage facility owner/operators adequately characterize the subsurface geology and hydrology of a proposed site using modern techniques to ensure that no potential hazards are present and

to ensure that no hydraulic fracturing or wastewater disposal wells are located close to the site. Require the evaluation of the impact on local archaeological and cultural sites and consultation with the New Mexico Environment Department.

- d) Ensure that any private contracting of SNF/GTCC transportation complies with both NRC/Department of Transportation/Agreement State requirements and with the same New Mexico and tribal notification requirements as for government transportation.
- e) Ensure that financial and liability responsibilities for transporting the waste, for funding for necessary upgrades to rail lines and roads used for SNF transport, and for cleanup in case of an accident are assigned to the federal government, not to New Mexico, prior to license approval for interim storage facilities.
- f) Ensure that the federal government is responsible for costs associated with emergency responders in case of accidents during shipping.
- g) Ensure that requirements for repackaging SNF/GTCC prior to acceptance at a proposed SNF storage facility will be sufficient to resist fuel degradation and cask corrosion or deterioration so integrity of casks is maintained throughout the storage period. Require contingency plans for maintaining cask integrity at interim sites.
- h) Ensure that NRC evaluation of the licensing documents for a SNF/GTCC storage facility adequately covers all risk factors prior to approval. Ensure that the 2020 NRC rulemaking for GTCC storage provides adequate protection of the public and the environment until a permanent U.S. solution for SNF/GTCC disposal is approved.
- i) Require a private applicant for a storage facility license to establish a liability trust fund, analogous to the decommissioning fund, as a financial assurance to the community in case of an accident. Alternatively, require a private owner/operator of a nuclear waste storage facility in New Mexico to have a letter of indemnification from a bank or other financial institution to pay for costs incurred in the event of an accident at the site, a leak of radioactive materials, and clean-up of the site after abandonment. Such indemnification should cover individuals and/or communities for economic damages caused by involuntary exposure to radioactive materials.
- j) Require that financial resources be available to comply with safety regulations or that the storage facilities be indemnified by federal government extension of the Price Anderson Nuclear Industries Indemnification Act to ensure continued worker and public safety and protection of the environment.
- k) Require compensation to the local community and to the state for normal operations. Funding committed to communities should be defined prior to approval and transparency measures should permit New Mexico to determine whether these financial assurances are adequate. The compensation should be commensurate with the risk of having a SNF/GTCC waste storage facility in New Mexico for sixty or seventy years as tourism and development may be impacted significantly, requiring more incentives than the limited employment that these facilities will contribute to the economy.

## ***STUDIES***

One LWVNM study committee, **Judicial Selection**, requests an extension; one new study, **Tribal Law Codification at State Level**, has been proposed.

***Qualifications and Selection of Judges of the Lower Courts*** Extension proposed by Suzanne Ronneau, LWVSFC, Study Chair

The study was approved in 2019 and was expected to continue for two years.

Scope: Study of the current procedures in New Mexico for selection of judges of the “lower courts” or “Limited Jurisdiction Courts:” i.e., magistrate courts, municipal courts, and probate courts. Present findings to members, create consensus questions and develop new LWVNM position on this issue.

Accomplished to date: The Committee has met once in person and once via Zoom and has communicated by email. Several committee members interviewed Judge Casados, President of the Magistrate Judges Association in a conference phone call.

We have allocated tasks to each member, including each member taking several counties for which to interview the incumbent judges, observe courts, and speak with other persons as seems helpful.

As several of our members were actively involved in Voter Services for the 2020 election, and as Covid19 closures and restrictions made in-person interviews and court proceedings impossible since spring of 2020, the committee agreed to more or less pend the study until January 2021. As it is hoped in-person court sessions and interviews can be held beginning in summer or fall of 2021, we ask for an extension of our study.

We plan to develop presentations to the members for 2022, and to hold consensus meetings in 2022 or 2023.

***Tribal Law Codification at State Level*** New study proposed by Rebecca Álvarez, LWVSFC, Study Chair

The proposal is for a one-year study of the pros and cons of codifying federal tribal laws at the state level, and where possible, tribal laws at the state level, considering what is the best option for preservation of tribal sovereignty as well as benefits to tribal populations. The first objective is to educate ourselves about the complexities of enforcing federal tribal law as well as the complexities of balancing tribal sovereignty. The second is to develop a position for advocacy.

The scope will include case studies where federal tribal law has been successfully adopted at the state level, and research on if/where Tribal law has been successfully adopted at the state level. As this is an area where no League research exists, either at the state or national levels, this study will have no League precedent.

Rationale: Recent years have seen efforts to more rigorously enforce federal tribal law and tribal sovereignty in New Mexico and elsewhere in states with large Indigenous populations. We believe it is time to evaluate the issues, potential effects, and pros and cons of adopting and codifying federal tribal laws and tribal laws at the state level.

We expect the study to result in a state position that can be used for advocacy at the legislature and may be adopted by other state Leagues and LWVUS.

League members who have agreed in advance to participate in/consult for the study include Joanna Velasquez, a law student from LWVSFC; Meredith Machen, a longtime LWVNM leader; Donna Sandoval, city controller of Albuquerque from LWVCNM; Maxine McReynolds, an attorney from LWVLA; and Laura Castille, an attorney from LWVSNM. Rebecca Álvarez, a professor of sociology and criminal justice from LWVSFC, has agreed to chair the study. Angel Charley, executive director of the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, which has members from multiple tribal organizations, has agreed to consult for the study as needed.

## **Bylaws Amendments**

*By Barbara Calef, LWVNM 2nd Vice-President*

*Two amendments are required due to changes in LWVUS Bylaws at 2020 Convention. We will not vote on them. They are included for information only.*

## **Article II. PURPOSES AND ~~[POLICY]~~ POLICIES**

**Section 1. Purposes.** The purposes of LWVNM are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

**Section 2. Political [~~Policy~~] Policies.**

1. LWVNM shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.
2. The League is fully committed to ensure compliance in principle and in practice with LWVUS's diversity, equity, and inclusion policy.

**Article III. MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. Eligibility.** Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of LWVUS shall be eligible for membership.

**Section 2. Types of Membership.**

a. Voting Members. Persons of at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues or member-at-large units, and of LWVNM and LWVUS.

1. Individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other League.
2. Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be members-at-large.
3. Those who make a lump-sum life membership payment to LWVUS shall be paid life members and those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.
4. Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full time or part time with an accredited institution.

b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

*The following are proposed changes to the bylaws that must be approved at Convention. Underlined material is new. [Bracketed text] is to be deleted. The LWVNM Board has approved the changes.*

**Article V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Section 6. Electronic Board Meetings.** The board may conduct either regular or special meetings by e-mail or telephone and/or video conferencing provided that all board members shall have access to the electronic media used. Procedures for discussion, debate and voting shall be in place prior to the convening of such a meeting.

**Article VII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION.**

**Section 5. Budget Committee.** The state board shall appoint a budget committee at least four months in advance of Convention. The treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the committee but shall not serve as chair. The committee shall prepare a balanced budget for the next two fiscal years and present it to the state board for approval during the state board meeting preceding the convention.

**Section 6. Budget.** The state board shall approve and distribute a proposed budget for the next two fiscal years to the membership at least [45] 30 days prior to the Convention. A budget shall be adopted by the Convention. The state board shall review the budget prior to the succeeding Council and distribute proposed modifications at least 30 days prior to the Council. Modifications may be made by the Council.



**2021-23 Budget Committee:** Appointed by the state board at least four months in advance of Convention. The treasurer serves as ex-officio member of the committee but shall not serve as chair.

Chair: Rosmarie Frederickson

**2021-23 Nominating Committee:** Five minimum. Elected: three non-board members at Convention; Appointed: two state board members by the board in 2023

Rosmarie Frederickson

Johnnie Aldrich

Karen Wentworth

**Nominations for the LWVNM Board  
Still Open**

**GET INVOLVED!**  
**When the people lead, the leaders will follow. -**  
**Gandhi**  
**If not you, who? If not now, when?**

LWVNM has several important Board positions still open for 2021-23. Please step up and nominate yourself or another member who is willing to serve the organization. Board members work as part of a team, mostly electronically these days, to ensure that we fulfill our mission effectively. As Board director or committee chair, you'll help us examine a variety of issues of public importance, make policy decisions related to state government, and assist with education and advocacy efforts. Please see the vacancies indicated in the Nominating Committee report.

Detailed job descriptions, policies, and procedures can be found in the Member Documents section of LWVNM's website: <https://lwvnm.org/documents.html>

Please contact us if you want more information. Nominations for all positions can always be made by delegates from the "virtual floor" during Convention, but we would prefer to know about them in advance.

**LWVNM 2020-2021 Nominating Committee:**

Meredith Machen, Chair; Karen Wentworth, Appointed by LWVNM Board; Mary Wilson, Central NM; Rosmarie Frederickson, Los Alamos; and Johnnie Aldrich, Southern NM. [Nominations@lwvnm.org](mailto:Nominations@lwvnm.org) email goes to the whole committee.

***LWVNM Proposed Budget for 2021-2023***

*By Judy Williams*

**Budget Committee members:**

Judy Williams, Chair; Rosmarie Frederickson, Treasurer, LWVLA; Denny Blood, Treasurer, LWVCNM; Sadie Velasquez, Treasurer, LWVSNM. Ex Officio Suzanne Ronneau, LWVNM Treasurer.

In order to provide a budget estimate we have made a few assumptions.

- We have assumed PMP, our major income source, will remain the same.
- We are assuming certain events, such as the LWVUS 2023 Convention, and possibly Council, will be held in person, likely in Washington, DC. This will entail expenses for delegate registration.

The proposed budget does not balance income/expense; it proposes using some of the funds on hand, \$30,500 as of 3/6/2021.

There will be no silent auction during Convention and Council does not have a silent auction, so the line was



The major budget item accounting for the deficit is the proposed expenditure for Vote411 in FY 2022-23. We are also providing for additional funds for Voter Services, such as advertising, translation, paid clerical help, or forums. We paid for the first year of Vote411 publicity through a Thornburg Foundation grant. We should seek new grant funds or contributions for Vote411 and other items.

<b>League of Women Voters of New Mexico Proposed Budget fy 21-22 and 22-23</b>				
	<b>Current Budget 2020-21</b>	<b>Actual, Current Budget</b>	<b>Proposed fy 2021-22</b>	<b>Proposed fy 2022-23</b>
<b>Income - Organizational</b>				
Contributions from Members	\$ 200.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Contributions from Non-members	\$ 200.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Central New Mexico PMP	\$ 2,112.50	\$ 2,112.50	\$ 2,359.50	\$ 2,359.50
Southern New Mexico PMP	\$ 1,209.00	\$ 1,137.50	\$ 1,183.00	\$ 1,183.00
Los Alamos PMP	\$ 884.00	\$ 1,014.00	\$ 1,241.50	\$ 1,241.50
Santa Fe PMP	\$ 1,514.50	\$ 1,319.50	\$ 1,612.00	\$ 1,612.00
MAL Dues	\$ 90.00	\$ 295.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00
Interest	\$ 1.50	\$ 117.16	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
Grants				
Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
<b>Total Income - Organizational</b>	<b>\$ 6,311.50</b>	<b>\$ 6,265.66</b>	<b>\$ 6,951.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,951.00</b>
<b>Expense - Organizational</b>				
Delegate expenses -LWVNM Convention/Council	\$ 525.00	\$ -	\$ 525.00	\$ 525.00
Delegate expenses -LWVUS Convention/Council	\$ 1,700.00	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,200.00
Newsletter Editor's Expenses	\$ 200.00	\$ 189.10	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Member at Large PMP	\$ 66.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 96.00
Diversified Membership dues to locals		\$ 160.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
<b>Operating expenses:</b>				
Office use	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Constant Contact	\$ 400.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Website	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Copying	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
Insurance	\$ 475.00	\$ 1,309.00	\$ 1,309.00	\$ 1,309.00
Zoom, SOS	\$ 35.00	\$ 540.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 160.00
SOS filings	\$ 12.00	\$ 11.95	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00
<b>Program - Advocacy:</b>				
League Day	\$ 150.00		\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Position Support	\$ 25.00		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Legislative Reception	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 125.00	\$ 2.92	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00
Vote411			\$ 1,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
Voter Service		\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
<b>Total Expense - Organizational</b>	<b>\$ 6,353.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,458.97</b>	<b>\$ 11,747.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,047.00</b>

**NOTES: PMP paid by local leagues is income to LWVNM; \$13 per individual member, \$6.50 per household member. LWVNM keeps \$13 of MAL dues also. Proposed budget does not balance income/expense; it proposes using some of the existing funds, \$30,500 as of 3.6.21. Grants have provided much of the LWVNM funds in the recent past and applying for grants is very much encouraged.**

## **LWVNM Action Committee Report**

*By Dick Mason*

The session has ended and overall it was a very successful session despite the technology challenges. Below is a report on some key legislation supported by the League.

SB10 - Repealing an outdated law that makes performing or receiving an abortion a crime, has passed the Legislature. It has been signed by the governor. This has been a priority for the League for a number of years and is crucial should the U.S. Supreme Court overturn Roe V Wade.

SB15 – Redistricting Committee and SB304 – Voting District Geographic Data, two LWVNM initiated bills, were merged in the House on the next to last day, passed in the House with only 2 dissenting votes, and passed in the Senate unanimously. The combined bill is SB304. We expect the Governor to sign it. Great victory for the League and for bipartisanship.

HB291 – This was a great tax bill that included raised taxes on those who could most afford it. Those were stripped away in Senate Finance. This bill did leave intact an increase in the Working Families Tax Credit and the Low-Income Comprehensive Tax Credit that provides support to low income and working families. For that reason, the League still supported the legislation. It is on the Governor’s desk.

HJR1 – Constitutional Amendment that would require a one-percent distribution from the Land Grant Permanent Fund for Early Childhood programs. Constitutional Amendments do not require the Governor’s signature. HJR1 has passed both chambers and will be on the ballot in 2022.

HB4 – New Mexico Civil Rights Act limits the claim of “qualified immunity” on the part of public bodies when named in a lawsuit. HB4 has passed both chambers and is on the Governor’s desk. Both HB29 & SB80 – No School Discrimination for Hair are on the Governor’s desk.

Two education bills are on the Governor’s desk. They are: HB22 – Grow Your Own Teachers Act and HB52 – Bilingual Multicultural Education Advisory Council.

Natural Resources bills that are on the Governor’s desk are: SB84 – Community Solar Act, HB 51 – Environmental Data Base, and SB32 – Wildlife Conservation & Public Safety Act.

The League also supported a number of bills in the areas of voting rights and health care that have been passed.



## **JEDI Report**

*By Irene Epp and Rebecca Álvarez*

### **Meeting with the LWVSNM February 6, 2021**

The full JEDI Committee met with the SNM League in a session designed around listening and learning from each other. Epp spoke briefly about JEDI purpose and goals. Katie Christianson presented a report on the Virtual Women's March held in January. As the leader of the JEDI Advocacy Team, Álvarez presented an overview of the planned advocacy work and the importance of this new dimension to JEDI's purpose. Co-presidents Eileen VanWie and Kathy Brook invited their entire Board along with the two general members who are active in the Board's Strategic Planning Group. LWVSNM already has an active local JEDI Committee. LWVSNM's draft Strategic Plan is rooted in JEDI for its guiding principles.

The common ground and interests that emerged during our conversations extended the meeting beyond the planned one hour. The co-presidents will communicate shortly with JEDI on their decision about the member to join the JEDI Steering Committee.

### **JEDI Policy & Advocacy Work**

#### **JEDI Sub-Committee on Policy and Advocacy**

The Sub-Committee, composed of Rebecca Álvarez, Joanna Velasquez, and Donna Sandoval, and Laura Castille, have been active in legislative policy advocacy throughout the legislative session. At Álvarez's initiative, JEDI unanimously agreed to hold a virtual town hall on the topic of police reform bills currently in the Legislature jointly with the ACLU, Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice, and the Welstand Foundation. On February 27 Christianson and Álvarez co-hosted the event, which was attended by 44 people.

The Sub-Committee on Policy and Advocacy has proposed a LWVNM Study on the topic of Indigenous Sovereignty, chaired by Álvarez. The proposal has been approved by the LWVNM Board and the Study Committee already has gained members from all 4 local Leagues.

The entrance of JEDI into policy has been dynamic. JEDI notes Álvarez's leadership. JEDI also appreciates President Hannah Burling's initiative in inviting JEDI to get involved directly in state policy and advocacy.

#### **JEDI Outreach**

JEDI has now had active contact with three of the four local Leagues in New Mexico, LWVSFC, LWVCNM, and LWVSNM. We plan to reach out to LWV of Los Alamos in the near future after the legislative session.

The JEDI outreach plan is to have representation from each local League on the Steering Committee. Donna Sandoval is with LWVCNM. A member each from LWVSNM and LWVLA are being recruited currently.

# Local League News

## **Southern New Mexico**

*By Kathy Brook and Eileen VanWie, Co-Presidents*

In recognition of their work on a project titled Getting to Know Your Local Government, at our board meeting on February 15 we honored representatives of the Las Cruces Public Schools and the City of Las Cruces with a Making Democracy Work Award.

Our work on a strategic action plan for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion continues. An ad hoc committee worked on the plan for a number of months, followed by a review by the board and then unit meetings with the membership. The next step is to coordinate the plan with existing League positions and to possibly identify areas where implementation may require study and adoption of new positions.

In celebration of Women's History Month, we are working with the City of Las Cruces to place a Pomeroy marker at Pioneer Women's Park, an event to be noted in a KRWG TV program on March 25. The marker commemorates the work of the Woman's Improvement Association in supporting the 19th amendment.

We held a meeting on immigration featuring Crystal Massey of the American Immigration Council to learn more about policy changes emanating from the Biden Administration and to discuss actions to raise awareness of immigration issues. Our annual program planning meeting was productive. The Affordable Housing Committee met with the State Land Office to discuss how that office could support efforts to expand affordable housing. We held a number of meetings related to the state study of spent nuclear fuel storage and for consensus on the update of the Education Position.

Statistics on usage of the LWVSNM website for 2020 show greatly expanded visits to our pages. Most frequently the site was used by residents of the U.S., followed by substantial usage from Canada and Great Britain. Commonly viewed materials were related to Voter Services.

## **Los Alamos**

*By Barbara Calef, Co-President*

JoAnn Lysne and Akkana Peck led the consensus meeting on digital privacy on January 4 and on February 25 the LWVLA board adopted a new position on digital privacy. Once the legislative session is over, the Digital Privacy Committee will lobby our local government to find methods for interacting with the public that do not intrude on our privacy.

We held our annual legislative preview on January 7. Our legislators opened with an explanation of how the 2021 legislative session would be conducted during the pandemic. They also explained the bills they were sponsoring before answering questions from the audience.

Lonna Atkeson, Professor and Regents Lecturer in Political Science at the University of New Mexico and director of the Center for the Study of Voting, Elections, and Democracy and the Institute for Social Research, spoke to the Los Alamos League in January. Her talk was based on the numerous surveys and polls conducted during the lengthy election season in 2020. She said the status quo is not as polarized as we think, but large social media platforms have given a voice to extremists on both sides. Election spending doubled nationally. There are still problems with the polls; however, they accurately predicted the outcome of the presidential election in 48 of the

states, although they underestimated the number of votes Trump would get.

At the state level across the country the Republicans flipped 221 seats, Democrats flipped 87 seats, independent/third party candidates flipped 7 seats. Atkeson said that ranked-choice voting is “interesting,” but not the answer to every problem. It leads candidates to not criticize their opponent, but “politics is about conflict,” she said.

At the LWVLA Program Planning meeting the focus was on educating ourselves and the public about recycling. Our study of alternatives to landfills will get underway after our Annual Meeting. No new studies were proposed. At the most recent Lunch with a Leader program LAPS Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Guy described the various approaches the school district has taken to educate the students during the pandemic. Perhaps most surprising is the successful Los Alamos Online Academy with 392 students from K-8. They have committed to fully online instruction for the school year and satisfaction is so great that the district plans to retain some aspects of the program in future years.

## ***Santa Fe County***

*By Judy Williams, SFC Liaison*

In our Action and Advocacy Committee meetings we have closely watched and considered actions about city activities. The most important ones at the moment are the fate of the Midtown Campus, formerly the University of Art and Design, and before that the College of Santa Fe. The city purchased the campus and has been considering future development possibilities. The contractor they hired to do an assessment and develop a master plan has recently asked for a mutual contract cancellation. Their main conclusion is that most of the buildings represent a distressed asset. We have sent letters and organized meetings with staff and consultants for the project.

The second issue the League has weighed in on is the Mayor’s Culture, History, Art, Reconciliation and Truth Committee (CHART), which has been established to foster community conversation and understanding of the various cultures and stories that comprise Santa Fe. The effort was sparked by several events in 2020 that resulted in destruction or removal of various monuments around the city.

Much of our time has been spent on operational issues, such as nominations and a budget for next year. In addition, some members have been engaged in legislative advocacy and monitoring hearings. We have resumed League Libations, now on Zoom, once a month. It’s a good way to meet new members and engage in conversation. The events also have breakout rooms, where people can go for smaller conversations.

The League has convened two consensus meetings, one for Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage and one for Education.

## ***Central New Mexico***

*By Karen Douglas, Co-President*

The nomination of CD1 Representative Deb Haaland to the U.S. Department of Interior Secretary post has prompted candidate forums for those seeking her congressional seat with a projected special election pending confirmation. LWVCNM will produce Vote411 candidate data for consideration by CD 1 residents.

LWVCNM sadly remembers the January loss of Chris Burroughs, longtime CNM Director and Voter Editor. Her lifetime contributions will be observed by a virtual memorial service on March 13.

Linda Adcox-Kimmel, LWVCNM Office Manager, will be departing in the spring to join family members in Maryland. She has been very effective in maintaining LWVCNM services to the public during the pandemic since she accepted the position in June 2020.

**Observer Corps**

CNM Advocacy Chair Alan Ramos has assumed responsibility for coordination of the CNM Observer Corps. Ramos has the remaining NM Observer buttons with reorder information. Other NM Local League Observer Coordinators are Kathy Brook/SNM, Barbara Calef/LA, and Hannah Burling/SFC.

**Program**

Dick Mason, LWVNM Action Chair, addressed LWVCNM on January 14, 2021 discussing the upcoming NM Legislative session and the bills that LWVNM expected to support. He offered predictions for the legislative success of these measures as they progressed through the House and Senate. Dr. David Scrase presented “The Pandemic – A Year Later” during a LWVCNM Zoom meeting on February 11.

Program Planning was held on January 23rd, offering an opportunity for interested members to identify issues not currently addressed in LWV positions and to initiate studies to develop new positions. A municipal climate change proposal by Athena Christodoulou was further developed by Jeanne Logsdon and concurrence with the LWVC position was approved by the LWVCNM Board on March 4. George Richmond discussed the need for full-time city councilors with adequate salaries but later decided to assist Dick Mason with advocacy for full-time NM legislators.

**Local League Consensus Meetings**

The CNM local League consensus meeting for Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Storage Safety was held on January 14 with Donna Rigano/Facilitator, Andrea Targhetta/Timekeeper, and Sonia Lersten/Recorder coordinating the event. Fourteen CNM members participated and Barbara Calef/LWVNM VP assisted in ensuring the results were complete. The CNM consensus responses were combined with those of the other three local Leagues for formulation of the NM SNF Storage Safety position.

The LWVNM Education Committee has been meeting via Zoom to discuss the impact of the recent Yazzie vs. Martinez landmark decision and the need for education equity in NM. Judith Binder and Patsy Nelson have served as the CNM representatives to the committee. The LWVCNM consensus meeting staff included Linda Adcox-Kimmel/Timekeeper, Karen Douglas/Recorder and Laura Stokes/Facilitator with participation by thirteen CNM members.

**CABQ/APD vs. DOJ**

A meeting was convened in February to discuss the recent court Stipulated Order. The 12th Quarterly Independent Monitor’s Report cited the failure of the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) to impose the disciplinary measures for excessive use of force by officers that had been recommended by the Civilian Police Oversight Agency Force Review Board. The new 9-month Stipulated Order will increase the Internal Affairs Force Division staffing to 25 FTEs. A 9-month training program will be conducted by the APD Internal Affairs Department. If the APD performance improves, the Stipulated Order will not be renewed. A challenge to the Stipulated Order by the Albuquerque Police Officers Association was dismissed by Federal Court Judge Browning. Meanwhile the search for a new police chief has been narrowed to 3 final candidates. Mayor Keller’s Executive Team will make the selection by May.



League of Women Voters of NM  
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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.*