**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO**

 **Legislative Priorities 2017**

**EDUCATION – LWVNM Supports**

**SB 35 Sen. Soules Public Schools Funding Sufficiency**

**SB 135 Sen. Muñoz Charter Schools in School District**

**SJR 3\* Sen. M. Padilla Permanent Funds for Childhood Education**

**HJR 1\* Reps. A. Maestas & J. Martinez Permanent Funds for Childhood Education**

SB 35 addresses the need to increase the State Equalization Guarantee funding formula back to the 2007 level adjusted for inflation. SB 135 requires charter schools to be subject to the same rules as district schools in terms of federal land grant funding. **SJR3\*/HJR1**\* call for using a small percentage of the Permanent Fund to improve early childhood education, preparing students for success in kindergarten and beyond.

**ETHICS & TRANSPARENCY – LWVNM Supports**

**HJR8\* Rep.Dines/Sen. Steinborn Independent Ethics Commission**

**HB 93 Rep. Baldonado Cabinet Secretaries Sources of Compensation**

**SB 25/HB 141 Sen. Rue, Rep. Ely Web-Based Capital Outlay Publication**

NM needs an independent ethics commission to investigate complaints fairly. We also deserve to know about potential conflicts of interest of all public officials, especially appointed cabinet secretaries. SB 25 would promote transparency by posting capital outlay requests proposed by the legislators and approved by the Governor be posted on a state website.

**VOTER RIGHTS & ELECTIONS – LWVNM Supports**

**HJR4\* Reps. J. Martinez/Thomson Automatic Voter Registration**If passed, would ask NM voters if they approve of registering eligible voters directly at Motor Vehicle Departments and other sources unless they opt out. This streamlined process improves accuracy and saves time & money.

**HB 174 Rep. Smith/Sen. Ivey-Soto Local Election Act**

Consolidating school elections with other non-partisan elections will increase voter participation.

**HJR3\* Rep. Ca. Trujillo/Sen. O’Neill Independent Redistricting Commission**

An independent redistricting commission would go a long way toward removing partisanship from the redistricting process.

**FAIRNESS, FINANCE, & TAXES – LWVNM Supports
HB202 Rep. Trujillo Tax of Business Without a Physical Presence**

**SB264 Sen. White Taxation of Internet Sales** Online purchases from companies that have a physical facility in New Mexico are assessed a gross receipts tax (GRT). These bills would assess the GRT on those without a physical presence.

**SB199 Senator J.A. Smith Delay Certain Tax Changes**
In the 2015 session legislation was passed that reduced a number of corporate taxes. These reductions were to be phased in. This bill would delay those reductions to help meet the budget deficit.

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\* Joint Resolutions (HJR/SJR) are proposed Constitutional Amendments that go directly to voters on the 2018

ballot if approved by the Legislature. The Governor does not sign Constitutional Amendment proposals

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