



Legislative Priorities on Education 2012

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports legislation and adequate funding for public educational programs from early childhood through higher education that help ensure all students optimal prospects for success throughout life.

In the 2012 Legislative Session, LWVNM supports:

**HB 53 Rep. Miera, HB 54 Rep. M. H. Garcia, SB 50 Sen. Lopez
Limit School Retentions through Remediation
SB 96 Sen. Smith Limit School Retentions through Interventions**

A quality education is essential to preparing individuals to succeed throughout their academic careers and in the workforce, to function within an interdependent, global economy, and to contribute to their communities and the nation.

Regarding financing of public education, the League supports

- Progressive, equitable taxation, that adequately finances education as an essential government obligation, taking into consideration relevant differences in personal income and corporate responsibility to pay their fair share of taxes on income earned in New Mexico;
- Modification of the New Mexico School Funding Formula as an effort to achieve equality and provide a sufficient public education across New Mexico, recognizing the increased cost of living in certain districts;
- Reducing bureaucracy and returning fiscal decision-making to local school districts, giving them control over the allocation of funds from the state in accordance with their approved Educational Plans for Student Success, with appropriate measures to insure real accountability; and
- New Mexico's current scholarship programs (including the NM Lottery, College Affordability, and Bridge to Success scholarships and designated scholarships for those in high demand careers including health careers and teaching.)

Regarding public education programming, the League supports

- Programs and strategies that help New Mexico students succeed in K-12 and higher education and address the "achievement gap" among ethnic groups;
- Quality educational programs that develop student's intellectual, physical, social, and emotional well-being, creativity, civic awareness, and financial responsibility;
- Health and social services personnel in pre-K-12 schools to identify and work with at-risk children and their parents or caregivers, with referrals to appropriate community agencies when necessary;
- Academic enrichment and remediation programs, student services, and career advisement to assist students in higher education with their educational goal attainment and preparation for the world of work;
- Improved teacher preparation and professional development programs to train and retain quality educators and educational leaders; and
- Increased efforts to increase parental involvement and community member participation to improve public education at all levels.

Contact Information:

Meredith Machen (505) 988-4523
meredith.machen@gmail.com