



Legislative Priorities on Election Reform 2010

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

*The League of Women Voters believes that voting
is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.*

The League supports legislative efforts to increase voter participation, including **Same Day Voter Registration**. Same Day Registration will enable more qualified citizens, especially the young, the elderly, minorities and those who move frequently, to cast their ballots. Registration currently closes 28 days prior to the election, but much of the general public does not start paying attention to elections until the last two to four weeks; In 2008, NM was ranked 38th in voter turnout among the voting eligible population, while turnout in states with Same Day Registration was 7% higher than other states.

LWVNM supports procedures to guarantee the integrity of voting methods in New Mexico, a centralized election management system, and funding to meet the requirements of the law and to serve the needs of voters.

Voter Identification: The League of Women Voters opposes any voting requirement that discriminates or potentially discriminates against any group. The extension of voter identification requirements beyond the current HAVA mandates and current state law would disproportionately impact the elderly, minorities and low-income citizens, discourage voters and depress voter turnout. The League believes that an improved and accessible centralized voter registration system is a far less intrusive means to address the fear of voter fraud.

In the 2010 Legislative Session, LWVNM supports:

HB 123	Rep. Trujillo	Same Day Voter Registration	Voter may register and vote during early voting with documentary ID, or update registration information.
SJR 6	Sen. Morales	Modernize Election Language, CA	Bring language describing qualified elector into compliance with modern usage and federal requirements.
SB 136	Sen. Duran	Voting System Certification Procedures	Update election code and designate responsibility for purchase and maintenance of voting equipment

LWVNM opposes:

HB 97	Rep. Hamilton	Require Voter ID &	Would require in-person voters to
SB 99	Sen. Neville	Free ID Cards	present photo ID before voting

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