

League at the Legislature 2014

Legislative Reception, Monday, January 27, 5:30-7:30 PM
Garrett's Desert Inn, 311 Old Santa Fe Trail
(just down the street from the Roundhouse)

Panel Discussion: Tax Fairness in New Mexico
League's Budget Priority: Making NM's Tax System More Progressive

Senator Peter Wirth, District 25, Santa Fe
Richard Anklam, Executive Director, New Mexico Tax Research Institute
Bill Jordan, Policy Director, New Mexico Voices for Children

**This is a great opportunity to meet with legislators informally
and to get to know League members from around the state.**

League Day, Tuesday, January 28
Committee Hearings at the Roundhouse from 8:00 AM on

NM Land Office, Morgan Hall, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail

Inequality for All, a film about economic disparities, 8:30 -10 AM

While we prefer that members attend hearings, we are showing this important, non-partisan film in the event that there are no hearings of interest being held at this time. This DVD will be available for home viewing through Netflix and for purchase through Amazon.

Information about Other League Issues, 10:30 AM to Noon

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**Voting, Campaign, & Ethics Legislation -Viki Harrison,
Executive Director, Common Cause NM**

**NM's Behavioral Health Crisis- Linda Siegle,
National Association of Social Workers-NM Chapter**

The 2014 Legislative Session is limited to budget items, vetoed legislation from 2013, and legislation that the Governor puts on her call. The League opposes the regressive tax policies and loopholes from recent years that have reduced the availability of funds for essential programs. We'll be supporting a number of tax proposals aimed at making New Mexico's tax structure more progressive. Other League priorities for this session include education, behavioral health, and health care funding and policies, driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants, and environmental protection. Packets of materials will be available at the Reception Monday evening at Garrett's Desert Inn and on Tuesday morning at the Land Office, Morgan Hall. Members are encouraged to leave LWVNM Fact Sheets at legislators' offices as well as to attend committee hearings and/or House and Senate sessions.

SPEAKER BIOS

Legislative Reception

Sen. Peter Wirth was elected to the NM House of Representatives in 2004 and re-elected in 2006. Since 2008, he has represented Senate District 25, Santa Fe. Over this time, he has sponsored numerous budget reform bills. Peter sits on the interim Legislative Finance and the Revenue Stabilization & Tax Revenue Committees. He also chairs the Senate Conservation Committee and serves on the Judiciary Committee, which meets Monday afternoons (which may cause him to run late the evening of the reception.) Peter is committed to working on tax reform bills as long as he is in office, knowing that New Mexico needs to put to good use the valuable dollars we are losing because of the numerous tax exemptions, credits, and rebates that are burdening our system. Peter recently won Common Cause NM's "Best in Government Award" because of his ability to work across the aisles and get things done.

Richard Anklam is the President and Executive Director of the New Mexico Tax Research Institute, a nonpartisan, member-supported organization that analyzes the effects of tax policies on New Mexico. Prior to this position, Richard spent much of his career working in the arena of state and local taxes, including a stint as the Assistant Secretary/Director of Tax Policy for the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. The NM Tax Research Institute informs the public and tax policy-makers about taxation issues. Their principles, fact sheets, and publications on tax policy are available at <http://www.nmtri.org>.

Bill Jordan is the Policy Director for New Mexico Voices for Children, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of New Mexico's children and families. VOICES' Fiscal Policy Project provides timely and credible analysis of budget, tax, and related issues in New Mexico to educate lawmakers. For 15 years, Bill has led VOICES' legislative advocacy efforts in Santa Fe and Washington D.C. He served on Lt. Governor Denish's Early Childhood Action Network and Governor Richardson's Budget Balancing Task Force.

League Day

Viki Harrison, Common Cause NM's Executive Director, organizes and coordinates legislative programs, conducts research, directs fundraising initiatives, and serves as a lobbyist. Common Cause has been a strong supporter of campaign finance reform on both the national and state level. Before joining Common Cause, Viki was the Executive Director of New Mexico Repeal, where she led the successful campaign in New Mexico to abolish the death penalty. Viki has extensive knowledge of the legislative process in New Mexico, having successfully lobbied for animal rights, human rights, and citizen advocacy issues since 1997.

Linda Siegle, health, education, and civil rights advocate, has represented non-profits and health care associations in New Mexico since 1992 through her firm, Resources for Change. Her clients include the American Cancer Society, NM Mexico Nurses Association, NM Nurse Practitioner Council, Occupational Therapist Association, NM Child Care and Education Association, and the National Association of Social Workers-NM Chapter. She has served on the Governing Board of Santa Fe Community College since 1998 and is a very involved volunteer with several non-profit organizations. Linda is also the League's representative to the All Families Matter Coalition, which is fighting for equal rights for the LGBT community and for marriage equality in New Mexico.

Accommodations: Garrett's Desert Inn is offering League members a special rate of \$59 plus tax that includes free parking (normally \$8/day). Use "Swing Vote" as the rate code and reserve before **December 27 to get this rate, 1-800-888-2145.**

Parking: The \$8.00 parking fee at Garrett's is waived if you are staying overnight and when you are attending the League Reception.

Food: Lunch is "on our own" this year. Santa Fe Bite, the restaurant attached to Garrett's has a good variety of offerings. You can find descriptions of nearby restaurants on **www.santafe.com**.

**Let's make our voices heard even more in 2014!
We make a difference!**

Action Alerts will be sent out throughout the 2014 Legislative session. If you are not part of the LWVNM Action List, please sign up on www.lwvnm.org. For more information, please e-mail Dick Mason at action@lwvnm.org or call 505-239-3804.