



League Contacts

LWVNM
Judy Williams
president@lwvnm.org

Central New Mexico
2315 San Pedro NE, #F6
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505-884-8441
Co-Presidents:
Karen Wentworth
Leah Ingraham
office@lwvnm.org

Greater Las Cruces
P.O. Box 8322
Las Cruces, NM 88006
Kim Sorensen, President
president@lwvnlc.org

Los Alamos
P.O. Box 158
Los Alamos, NM 87544
Barbara Calef, Co-President
Rebecca Shankland, Co-President
president@lwvlosalamos.org

Santa Fe County
1472 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Laura Atkins, Representative
president@lwvsfc.org

La Palabra Editor
Barbara Calef
bfcalef@gmail.com

La Palabra Publisher
Janet Blair
505-259-0203
jkblair@swcp.com

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.



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## *President's Corner*

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



Greetings, Fellow League Members!

Election season is upon us, and we have welcomed new opportunities and challenges. We are working toward a statewide voter guide, which will allow the League an online presence in all counties for the first time. We expect this effort to be somewhat bare-bones this time, but look forward to creating a full guide with questions answered by at least all state legislators.

The biggest challenge – and opportunity- has been producing **12 separate** printed Voter Guides for the counties with significant Native American populations. We began this in late July at the request of the Secretary of State's office, which said this population significantly lacks internet access and general access to voting information. The project is a collaboration with the Native American Voting Task Force, which will handle the distribution. We requested, and received, a generous donation from the Thornburg Foundation to cover the printing.

I cannot say enough about Diane Goldfarb, our state Voter Services Chair. She has, in spite of being new to Voter Services, has pulled off all 12 Guides almost single handedly, though volunteers helped along the way. She has performed well above her pay grade (that's a joke, folks!), working with the SOS office, the printer and others. The Native American Voters Task Force will distribute the guides to the pueblos and reservations.

The local Leagues are in the midst of producing their Voter Guides, conducting or moderating candidate forums, and registering

voters. The Secretary of State's office has declared the Voter Guides to be nonpartisan, so county clerks should now allow them to be in voting locations. CNM will be placing their Voter Guides in all voting places for the first time in memory.

After the election, we will turn our attention to the 2019 legislative session and the 2020 Census activities.

League Day at the Legislature kicks off with the traditional Legislative Reception on February 6, which also serves as a great networking session for League members from around the state. The next day, February 7, is our day to get together in the morning and then fan out to visit our legislators. I hope you will plan to attend.

*The Secretary of State's office has declared the Voter Guides to be nonpartisan, so county clerks should now allow them to be in voting locations.*

To get ready for the 2020 Census, we are looking to partner with organizations to reach out to all New Mexico residents about the importance of completing the Census forms, and trying to assure people of the confidentiality of their information. By law Census data with identifiers may not be shared with any other agencies – it will be important to emphasize this in order to reduce suspicions that the government will use it for unintended purposes.

We are looking for volunteers for both League Day and the longer-term Census project. Please let me know if you're interested – [president@lwvnm.org](mailto:president@lwvnm.org).

## Action Committee Report

*By Dick Mason, Action Committee Chair*

### 2019 Promises to be a Busy Legislative Session – The League must be prepared.

Legislative leadership has told us this is going to be a very busy legislative session and that legislation that is early-filed – mid-December – has the best chance of passing. The Senate Rules Committee, where many bills start in the Senate, will be very busy with confirmations of new cabinet secretaries and other appointees.

### Mark your calendars for the 2019 Session

**November** – Legislative preparation meetings at local Leagues

**December 8** – Advocacy Workshop – State Capitol – 10 am to noon,  
see details elsewhere in this La Palabra

**December 17, 2018– January 11, 2019** – Early filing of legislation

**January 15, 2019** – session starts at noon – New governor delivers message

**February 6, 2019** – LWVNM reception – Garrett’s Desert Inn 5:30 -7:30 PM

**February 7, 2019** – League Day at the Legislature – location for educational meeting  
TBA

**March 16, 2019** – session ends at noon

**April 5, 2019** - legislation not acted upon  
by the governor is pocket vetoed

### LWVNM Legislative Priorities for the session

- Tax Reform & Funding – tax reform and funding proposals are going to be a major focus of the 2019 session. Most funding proposals being discussed are ones the League has supported in the past.
- Automatic Voter Registration/Same Day Voter Registration/extend voter registration period. Legislation is being drafted now, with Senator Steinborn as the sponsor. The Election Administration Coalition (League is a member) has decided to file Same Day Voter Registration – Senator Steinborn will sponsor. There may also be legislation to allow voter registration up until 14 days before the election.
- Iowa Redistricting Model - LWVNM will present to the Courts, Corrections and Justice interim committee on October 18 on this model. The LWV of Iowa was instrumental in passing this in Iowa in the 1970s.
- Assuming the State Ethics Commission ballot question passes, the legislature will have to enact enabling legislation; we have to advocate for an effective Commission.
- Make woman’s right to choose New Mexico law. Present New Mexico law makes obtaining an abortion a criminal offense. This has not been enforced because of Roe v. Wade. It is time to get this archaic law out of New Mexico statutes.

### Save the Date for League Day at the Legislature, February 6 and 7, 2019

Legislative reception at Garrett’s Desert Inn, Wednesday, February 6, 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

League Day at the Legislature Thursday, February 7.

Speakers, 10:30 – noon, location TBA but near the Capitol

League table at the Roundhouse all day – NEED VOLUNTEERS! Please contact Judy Williams at [President@lwvnm.org](mailto:President@lwvnm.org). Meet with legislators as individuals or in groups.

Rooms are available at Garrett’s Desert Inn for \$79 plus tax (free parking). Ask for the League of Women Voters block. The rooms will be held only until January 16, 2019.

## Transfer of Federal Public Lands Report: Study Summary

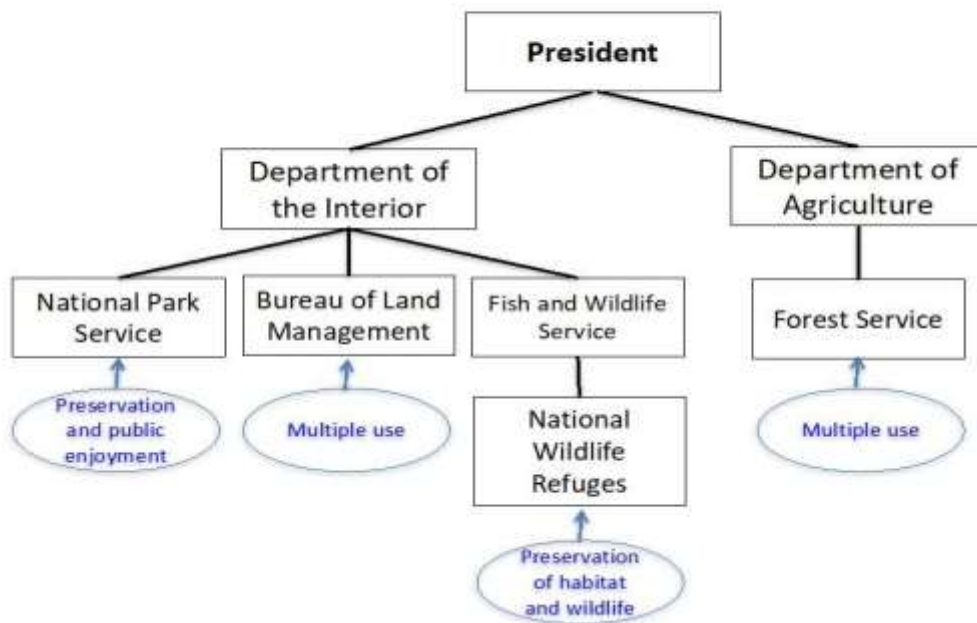
By Judy Williams, TFPL Committee Co-Chair

### Introduction – Background - Context

The U.S. Government owns about 28% of the land in the United States. While every state contains some federal property, the largest holdings are in the western states. In New Mexico 35.4%, or 27.5 million of the state's 77.8 million acres are federally owned. In comparison, the New Mexico State Land Office owns about 13 million acres.

Federal lands include national parks, national monuments, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands; U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands; U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) lands (refuges and responsibilities, including endangered species, and animal control); and other

### Federal Agencies with Public Lands Jurisdiction



government installations (such as courthouses, military and border installations which are not covered by this study).

The chart below shows the organizations and their position in the government. The Department of the Interior has responsibility for most federal public lands.

### The League Study

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico voted to undertake a study of federal lands and issues involved in transferring these lands to states. Interest was spurred by efforts in some states and among some politicians to turn over federal lands to states.



Many background papers were prepared for the study, including summaries of economic analyses, history of federal lands, legal and constitutional issues and political movements. Team members interviewed the U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester, the New Mexico State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the New Mexico State Land Commissioner and Deputy State Land Commissioner, and the president of Rio Grande Foundation.

Background papers will be available on the LWVNM website for further reading.

### History, legal and political underpinnings

The impetus behind transfer efforts is largely ideological, though there have also been legal arguments and studies of the costs and benefits of transfers.

The federal government obtained title to lands beyond those claimed by the original thirteen states by means of either purchase or treaty. Most of New Mexico was acquired by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War. The remainder was acquired from Mexico through the Gadsden Purchase.

The federal lands were never private and never belonged to the states. When the state enabling acts were signed, the federal government retained ownership of certain lands. Article XXI, Sec.2 of the New Mexico Constitution states: “The people inhabiting this state do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated and ungranted public lands lying within the boundaries thereof, and to all lands lying within said boundaries owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes, the right or title to which shall have been acquired through the United States, or any prior sovereignty; and that until the title of such Indian or Indian tribes shall have been extinguished the same shall be and remain subject to the disposition and under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the congress of the United States;”. Thus, for New Mexico to request or demand transfer would violate the state constitution.



Legal arguments have been made about the intent of the Enclave Clause and the Property Clause in the U.S. Constitution. The Enclave Clause allows the federal government to acquire property from a state or states for specific, essential government uses, most notably to create the nation’s capital. Proponents of transfer argue that Congress has jurisdiction only over the District of Columbia and other places purchased by Congress with the consent of the state legislature for the specified purposes. However, the Supreme Court has rejected this interpretation; Congress holds the power to dispose of land.

The Property Clause grants Congress the power to dispose of and regulate federal property. Federal policy was never restricted to disposal. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century federal lands were withdrawn from disposal for national parks and, eventually, for the National Forests. A New

Mexico case, *Kleppe v New Mexico* (1976), resulted in a unanimous decision by the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirming the Property clause and stating that the federal government has the right to exercise authority over activity, including protecting wildlife, on its lands. In this case, a rancher had argued that wild horses and burros (protected by Congress in 1971) were encroaching on his grazing leases.

Additional ideological impetus came from the Sagebrush Rebellion, which began over a century ago when the federal government started reserving public lands. It took off in the 1970s when many miners, loggers, ranchers, and politicians in the West rose up in opposition to new environmental laws, from the Wilderness Act to the Endangered Species Act. They were especially angry about the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976, which formally ended the policy of transferring federal lands to private ownership and adopted a policy of retention of those lands by the federal government.

The Rebellion was personified by the Bundy family, who have illegally grazed their cattle on federal lands in Nevada for decades, refusing to pay the grazing fees on the grounds that it was “their” land. It has since spun into such displays as ATVs on sacred lands in Utah and the occupation of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge.



Cliven Bundy greets supporters

The culmination of all this unrest over federal lands in the West was the Utah Transfer of Public Lands Act, enacted by the Utah legislature in 2012. The Act demands that the federal government transfer 31.2 million acres – 60% of Utah’s land area - of federally owned lands to the state by the end of 2014. The U.S. Government has yet to make any response.

## **Implications of transfer – the analyses**

### **Regulations**

It is nearly universally acknowledged that the current federal regulatory landscape on federal lands is overly complex, duplicative or conflicting among federal agencies, and sometimes outmoded. Plans for various uses such as roads and endangered species have often created much resistance and at times have been scientifically flawed.

In late 2016, the BLM released a new regulation, the Planning 2.0 Rule, designed to revise the 1983 resource management and planning process. It modernized how the public and other stakeholders engage in order to improve management decisions. The rule had been widely expected to reduce public-private and federal-local conflicts over how land is used.

The rule reaffirmed the policy guidance in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976; FLPMA requires management of public lands for multiple-use and sustained-yield. Planning 2.0 included a definition of the concept of sustained yield.

Congress repealed the rule 2017. The repeal was widely seen as a setback.



### **Economic analyses and arguments**

Most of the economic analyses we read point out the differences in management structures on current federal and state lands, as well as the varying fee structures.

Most federal lands (BLM, U.S. Forest Service) are managed under a multiple-use, sustained-yield mandate; state lands are typically managed under a revenue-maximization mandate. One result is that non-revenue

producing resources are protected under the federal mandate but not under state mandates.

Federal fees, such as those for grazing, are low and have not been raised in decades. Fees on state lands, including in New Mexico, are usually higher in order to comply with the revenue mandate. Fees on extractive industries generally follow the same pattern. Most of the analyses point out that states would likely raise fees on all of those industries on transferred lands, possibly angering those currently pushing for transfer.

In terms of economic value of Forest Service lands, recreation and tourism now contribute far more than mining, grazing and logging combined. Water is also a major component of the economic value of USFS assets as the agency is tasked with headwaters management.

Usually unmentioned in the economic analyses is the cost of fire management. The federal government expends significant funds managing and extinguishing fires in the West. Economic analyses have not monetized the costs of coordination, management, personnel and equipment that would have to be provided by the states. This can amount to hundreds of millions of dollars of unpredictable expense in Western states where, in contrast to the federal budget, budgets must be balanced.

The federal government returns funds to states in the form of Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to compensate for all the federal land exempt from property taxes. Loss of these revenue streams would have to be put into the profit and loss equation for a meaningful analysis.

Most of the analysts who have considered subsurface mineral rights seem to think the federal government would not easily, or ever, turn over those sources of revenue to the states.

A detailed analysis for the Utah legislature concluded that the state could run the federal lands at a profit – but only if they assumed high prices for oil and gas, increased production and higher royalty rates far into the future. As recent history has demonstrated, this is a risky bet. One official we interviewed said he believes New Mexico can count on no more than 25 to 30 years of oil and gas income.

Not considered in any of the economic analyses are the possible environmental impacts of transfer. If states were granted all of the federal public lands within their borders, it could create a short-term boon to their economies and long-term destruction of the environment unless they also adopt the multiple-use/sustained-yield mandate that requires managers to consider the best use of specific public lands and to regulate any natural resource production in such a way that the lands will produce in perpetuity.

If applied to lands transferred from the federal government, the revenue maximization

requirement would likely mean that states would not wish to preserve lands for endangered species or for their beautiful landscapes. The relative values of protecting headwaters and watersheds also would have to be carefully assessed.

### TFPL Consensus Questions with Pros and Cons

*The LWVNM Board approved the following consensus questions at the July 21 board meeting. The Transfer of Federal Public Lands Committee will visit each local League during the next few months to discuss the study and to seek consensus on the questions. Please bring the questions with pros and cons to the meeting. Below is the schedule:*

*SFC Nov. 13, 10 a.m.*

*CNM Nov. 29, 1:30 p.m.*

*Los Alamos Dec. 6, 7 p.m.*

*GLC Jan. 14, 1:30 p.m.*

Following each question, the arguments are presented with the no-transfer arguments first.

#### **1. Federal lands are meant to benefit all Americans. Would turning them over to New Mexico abrogate that promise? Why or why not?**

**Yes**, it does abrogate the promise because:

- *With the introduction of the multiple-use sustained-yield policy, the government has made the public lands cherished by the vast majority of Americans (poll).*
- *There is no evidence that the states could or would manage the lands for the same multiple uses and public access. Access could be restricted and/or user fees could be increased.*
- *States could relax current federal environmental standards resulting in environmental damage.*
- *Transferring lands to the states would likely result in ranchers having to pay higher grazing fees, etc.*

**No**, it does not abrogate the promise because:

- *Some people argue that the enclave and/or property clauses in the U.S. Constitution require transfer.*
- *Some states say they can manage them as or more effectively than can the federal government.*
- *Transfers might reduce resentments in the West against the federal government.*

#### **2. Should New Mexico require that any transferred public lands retain the same use mandates and accountability to the public as applied before transfer? Why or why not?**

**Yes**, because:

- *The multiple-use sustained-yield mandate and the requirements for accountability assure that the land will benefit all New Mexicans, not just the extractive industries.*
- *New Mexico could raise revenue through all the multiple uses, including outdoor activities.*

**No**, because:

- *Eliminating the mandate could encourage a pivot to extractive industries if they are*



*believed to be more profitable.*

**3. Are challenges with federal management and regulation sufficient reason to support the transfer of federal public lands? Why or why not?**

**No**, because:

- *The wider American public could be excluded from oversight and decision-making, leaving the power in the hands of a few local groups or individuals.*
- *Federal oversight and regulation can be improved without transferring the lands.*
- *States do not necessarily have the expertise or the funds to manage the varied types of federal lands.*

**Yes**, because:

- *Some state governments maintain they would be more responsive to area residents' desires and concerns.*
- *Some state governments say they can streamline regulations.*
- *Decision-making should always be at the lowest level that is appropriate.*

**4. Does the LWVNM support the transfer of federally owned subsurface rights to the state in split-estate situations? A split estate is an estate where the surface rights and the subsurface rights belong to different parties. Why or why not?**

**No**, do not support transfer of subsurface rights because:

- *The development of subsurface rights should benefit all Americans.*
- *The historical precedent is that the federal government retains subsurface rights upon transfers.*
- *States already get a share of the revenue from extractive activities on federal lands within their boundaries.*
- *There is no evidence that state ownership of subsurface rights would make them more attractive to the extractive industries.*

**Yes**, support transfer of subsurface rights because:

- *Revenue from development of subsurface rights could be used to fund education or other services in New Mexico.*
- *The State Land Office, with its local focus, could be in a better position to pursue this revenue source.*

**5. Should New Mexico or the federal government require that federal public lands transferred to the state not be sold to private entities? Why or why not?**

**Yes**, it should be a requirement because:

- *Once sold to private entities, the lands will be inaccessible to the general public and be lost as a source of ongoing revenue.*
- *Private entities may be unable or unwilling to bear the costs of maintaining the land.*
- *Private owners may allow destruction of ecological and/or cultural assets on the lands.*

**No**, it should not be a requirement because:

- *The state may be able to generate immediate revenue by selling some of the lands.*

**6. What kinds of studies of immediate and future impacts should precede federal land transfer to New Mexico?**

Environmental, including air quality, water quality, land quality, biodiversity, endangered and threatened species?

Financial/economic?

Cultural resources?

Public access?

Management for fire and other natural disasters?

Other?

**7. Are there any other reasons to justify or oppose transfer?**

**8. Should the League of Women Voters of New Mexico support the transfer of federal public lands to the state of New Mexico? Why or why not?**

**No**, do not support transfer because:

- *The cost of administering the public lands will be high and, if the state lacks the necessary funds, could result in great pressure to sell them.*
- *Such a transfer goes against many decades of legal precedent and historical practice.*
- *The New Mexico state budget must be balanced. Managing and recovering from unpredictable natural disasters, such as wildfires or floods, would severely strain state finances.*
- *New Mexico would be responsible for the deferred maintenance costs on any transferred lands, placing additional strain on state finances. This could lead to degradation of the lands.*

**Yes**, support transfer because:

- *New Mexicans are able to determine the best use for lands within their borders.*
- *New Mexico could generate additional revenue.*
- *There could be fewer regulations governing the use of the land.*

*TFPL Study Committee*



***Save the Date!***

**Legislative Advocacy  
Workshop,  
Saturday, December 8,  
10 to 12, Room 322,  
New Mexico Capitol,  
Santa Fe.**

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## Report on Presentation by Early Childhood Intervention Expert

By Laura Atkins

How can proponents of early childhood intervention and those who are skeptical both be right? Dr. Rebecca Kilburn, a Senior Economist at the RAND Corporation, who spoke at the LWVSFC general meeting on September 12, explained.



Dr. Rebecca Kilburn

In a presentation rich in data and analysis, Kilburn presented the results of the latest study by the RAND Corporation on 115 programs involving 3,182 child outcomes. More than three quarters of these outcomes were in three domains: behavior and emotion, cognitive achievement, and child health. Of the 115 programs, 102 had a positive effect on at least one child outcome. However, only about one third of all outcomes measured were favorable. This is important for influencing policy makers. Some may say that since only one third of the outcomes were favorable, the program wasn't worth the cost. But when a benefit-cost analysis is considered, the ratios of benefits typically range from \$2 to \$4 for every \$1 invested. Higher and lower ratios are possible.

Though these estimates demonstrate that early childhood interventions can more than pay for the costs down the road, the estimates come with considerable uncertainty, in part because some benefits, such as behavioral improvements, cannot be easily quantified. Some cannot be ascertained without long-term follow up.

As part of the discussion after the presentation, Kilburn described the unique problems facing New Mexico because of the rural nature of the state and the great distances between rural communities. She cited an example of a new preschool which was set up in a rural area. While many children were eligible for the preschool, the attendance was low because parents couldn't take the time or afford the long drive to get to the school. The conclusion is that the unique aspects of each state or county must be considered in designing early childhood programs.

For more information, see:

***Investing Early: Taking Stock of Outcomes and Economic Returns from Early Childhood Programs***

Research Brief: [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_briefs/RB9993.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9993.html)

Report: [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR1993.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1993.html)

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### Local League News....continued from Page 16

On September 27 we held our first candidate forum of the season for County Council candidates. Because attendance was so high at the pre-primary forums, we moved from the lecture hall to the student center at UNM-LA. Once again, the audience numbered well over 100. There will be a second forum next week for the candidates for sheriff, magistrate judge, municipal judge, and NM. District 43.

## Local League News

### Santa Fe County Report

*By Laura Atkins, Representative*

**Membership:** Eleven new members signed up in August, bringing our total membership to 160. We held a new member coffee on August 24 to welcome those who joined since December 2017. Five new members attended.

**Programs:** LWVSFC members attended the 2018 Santa Fe Fiesta Melodrama & Happy Hour at the Santa Fe Playhouse on August 24. League libations is held the fourth Tuesday of each month. This provides an informal setting for members to get to know one another.

General Meeting, September 12: Dr. Rebecca Kilburn, senior economist at Rand Corporation, delivered an excellent presentation about the latest research by Rand Corporation on early childhood interventions. A summary is included in this issue.

**Voter services:** Kelly Davis has officially replaced Ann Coulston as Voter Services chair. Voter registration has begun at sites around Santa Fe. High school voter registration will be conducted in September. Candidate forums have been planned and the voter guide is being prepared.

#### Candidate forums in Santa Fe:

September 18, 5:30-7:30: State Representative District 50 - Eldorado Community Improvement Association Admin Building Railroad Room, 1 Hacienda Loop, Eldorado

October 3, 6:30-8:30: Secretary of State and Land Commissioner, Higher Education Center (HEC), 1950 Siringo Rd.

October 19, 5:30-7:30: US Representatives District 3, – Higher Education Center, 1950 Siringo Rd.

**Administrative:** We are still working with a web designer on the website. The calendar and event registration functions are complete and the membership section is nearly complete. We no longer have a volunteer web master and are looking to fill that position or divide the work amongst board members.

### Training for Activists

Please plan to attend the local meetings next month as Dick Mason tours the Leagues to give a briefing on our priorities, recruit and train legislative advocates for LWVNM. Some of them have already been scheduled:

Greater Las Cruces: November 12 11:30-1 p.m., Good Samaritan

Los Alamos: November 14 7 p.m., 1372 47<sup>th</sup> St.

Santa Fe County: November 10, location and time to be determined

- watch for notices

CNM - not scheduled yet, possibly late November (board has to decide)



## Greater Las Cruces Report

*By Kim Sorensen, President LWVGLC*

Scott Krahling gave an informative talk on the Local Election Act and the implications for Las Cruces during the Dinner with a Leader on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Passed during the 2018 Legislative Session, the Local Election Act will simplify elections for voters by creating a consistent election day in November every year; general elections held on even numbered years and municipal elections on odd numbered years. Las Cruces City Council chose to opt-in to both Consolidated Elections and Ranked Choice Voting.

The Annual Fiesta Showcase was held on Sept 10<sup>th</sup>. After hearing reports from the leaders of our committees (Youth Engagement, Voter Services, Observer Corp, and the Voter Impediment Study), Ashley Beyers, gave a report on the need for a Development Committee. The meeting ended with a lively discussion on what LWVGLC can do to maximize our impact for Dona Ana County (DAC) in 2019. Advocating for adequate funding for education rose to the top of the list.

Besides education, we are also committed to advocating for the LWVNM priorities for the upcoming legislative session that were approved by the state board in July. These priorities include Tax Reform and Funding, Automatic Voter Registration, Redistricting (Iowa Model), and Reproductive Choice. Dick Mason, the LWVNM's lobbyist will be speaking about the priorities at the November 12<sup>th</sup> Lunch with a Leader. Please try to attend.

The 50h Anniversary Committee held its 3<sup>rd</sup> forum on September 20<sup>th</sup> entitled "School/Community Partnerships: Ensuring All Our Children Succeed." The presentations focused on the need for early childhood education and community schools, both of which contribute to high achievement and how community members can be advocates for change. Speakers included: Dr. Steven A. Sanchez, LCPS Deputy Superintendent of Instruction & Student Information Systems; Lori Martinez, Executive Director of Ngage New Mexico; Dr. Betsy Cahill Co-Director of the School for Teacher Preparation, Administration & Leadership, College of Education, NMSU; Dr. Maria Artiaga, LCPS Executive Director of Federal Programs; Maria Zuniga, Programs Manager, Children's Reading Alliance; Mary Parr Sanchez, LCPS Community School Liaison; and Sylvia Chavez, Community School Administrator Lynn Middle School.

**The League of Women Voters of New Mexico will present its annual workshop on Effective Citizen Advocacy at the Legislature**

**Saturday, Saturday, December 8, 2018, 10:00 am to Noon  
New Mexico State Capitol, Room 322  
(enter on the East side only)**

**The public is invited.**

- **Learn tips from legislators and a professional lobbyist on how to interact with legislators, speak at hearings, and advocate for your cause.**

**Speakers:**

- **Senator Peter Wirth, D-Santa Fe, District 25**
- **Senator Sander Rue, R-Albuquerque, District 23**
- **Jim Jackson, Formerly CEO of Disability Rights New Mexico**

**Forum Schedule:**

State offices with KRWG were on Tuesdays: September 4, 4:00-5:00 Attorney General  
September 18, 4:00-5:00 Secretary of State September 25th, 4:00-4:30 State Auditor October  
23, 4:30-5:00

PRC Dist. 5 October 30, 4:00-4:30 and 4:30-5:00 Public Lands Commissioner Dona Ana  
County Sheriff. DAC has confirmed the dates of Wednesday, October 3rd and Thursday,  
October 4th for dates for our local forums at the County Government Building. We are still  
hoping to schedule a gubernatorial forum and CD2 forum. TBA.

**Central New Mexico Report**

*By Leah Ingraham and Karen Wentworth, Co-Presidents*

In July, LWVCNM's change to a 501(c)(3) organization was nearly complete. We await the  
final IRS notification, which should come in the next 60 days.

Second Thursday Luncheons are now being held at the Embassy Suites at 1000 Woodward  
Place. The August speaker was US Attorney John C. Anderson, who  
spoke on "Violent Crime in New Mexico." We resume unit meetings in  
September with discussions on election security.



Susan T. Loubet

Following the Luncheon speaker in August, a Social Media 101  
workshop was conducted for League members with the assistance of  
Trish Lopez and the Teeniors Group. This was an attempt to allow our  
group to become a little more familiar with their devices.

Voter Guide - Candidate responses to questions are being collated and  
the draft of the Voter Guide will be completed in the near future. Note  
that we already are receiving many queries in the office about the  
availability of the Voter Guide, indicating the high interest of the public  
in the upcoming election. A letter seeking support for publication of the Voter Guide has  
resulted in several donations.

On August 26th the LWVCNM initiative to support voter turnout was launched in Albuquerque  
at the Tigeux Park. Guest speakers included Mrs. Elizabeth Kisten Keller, the Mayor's wife as  
well as Martha Burke, money editor of Ms. Magazine and Susan Thom Loubet, Host of  
Women's Focus on KUNM.

A voter registration table was set up and some attendees did take the opportunity to register.  
An activities table was also set up for children attendees. Note that all League members in  
attendance wore white and the planning committee for the event provided yellow sashes with  
the motto "Vote New Mexico."

Several callers to the LWVCNM office are requesting voter registration assistance. These calls  
are collated and the LWVCNM Voter registrars are notified of the requests. Currently 24  
LWVCNM members are Voter Registrars. League members are putting together a plan to  
register voters at two Roadrunner Food Bank distribution centers, after Roadrunner contacted  
us requesting assistance.

The Web Committee continued meeting over the summer, developing plans for upgrade of the LWVCNM web site.

A template for the League business card is available and several LWVCNM members now have League cards.

LWVCNM membership continues to grow with an average of three new members each month. Membership now around 200.

## **Los Alamos Report**

*By Barbara Calef*



Robert Rhatigan, the Associate Director and Senior Research Scientist for the Geospatial and Population Studies Group (GPS) at UNM, was the speaker at Lunch with a Leader in August. Rhatigan is the de facto state demographer and New Mexico's liaison to the US Census Bureau. In preparation for the 2020 census he was granted access to the Census Bureau's list of New Mexico addresses and was able to update it, focusing on addresses in rural areas, which tend to be the least accurate. Nevertheless, he warned that the outlook for the 2020 census is not good.

The Census Bureau has lacked a director for a year and a half and the office of deputy director has been vacant for two years. When Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross told the Census Bureau to add a citizenship question to the census form, the civil servants told him the question was a terrible idea, but he insisted. A number of states, including New Mexico, are suing, but the de facto deadline for a decision is October 1, 2019, when the Census Bureau must begin printing the forms.

The federal government is offering guidance and documentation, but no funds, for outreach. Rhatigan wants Complete Count Committees at every level of the government as well as citizen groups to contact informal leaders who are trusted in rural communities. He would like Governor Martinez to sign an executive order to establish a Complete Count Committee so that the legislature will provide funding during the 2019 session.

Also in August, LWVLA board member Sandra West interviewed David Friedman, the Co-General Manager of Friedman Recycling Companies, to learn how China's decision to ban post-consumer plastics and many other scrap materials is affecting recycling for Los Alamos. She learned that number one and two plastics are sold to a US manufacturer. Plastics with numbers three through seven were going to China. The other items in our recycle bin are purchased and processed by US manufacturers who are primarily located in the southeastern states.

Because of the China ban, the value of plastics has dropped, but there are still viable markets for the materials. Friedman is stockpiling the #3 to #7 plastics, not sending them to the landfill, and is looking for domestic manufacturers who want to expand.

Perceiving improved early childhood education to be essential to combatting poverty and raising the state's ranking in education, the LWVLA, the Los Alamos Branch of AAUW, and

Searchlight, NM organized a forum on early childhood education that was held on September 6. Charles Sallee, Deputy Director of the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), was the speaker. The Legislative Finance Committee employs program evaluators to assess the finances and effectiveness of state-funded programs, among other responsibilities.

New Mexico spends significant funds to address the issues that place the state at the bottom of child well-being rankings, but Sallee said that lack of coordination among the four agencies involved, the Public Education Department, the Department of Health, the Human Services Department, and the Children, Youth, and Families Department, results in inadequate oversight. He supports creating a new department for early childhood education and/or reviving the Children's Cabinet, created during the Richardson Administration. He stressed the need for an action plan.

Sallee said that there are evidence-based programs to address every concern. He wants the legislature to decide which problems they want to solve to determine where to allocate the funds. If they want to change educational outcomes, he said, they should invest in Pre-K; to help families afford childcare, they should put money into childcare assistance.

Sallee is optimistic that the state can improve the outlook for its children. He noted that not all children need to participate in all programs. With a population of 2.1 million people, small focused improvements can make a big difference.

The audience numbered about 70 and included young mothers, teachers, and community leaders. Following the presentation and time for questions, they broke into small groups for discussion.

The citizens of Washington, D.C. voted in 2016 to petition Congress for statehood. In September Yilin Zhang visited Los Alamos to explain the proposal to a group of League members and others. The League of Women Voters has supported full rights for DC citizens since 1920. In 1961 the 23rd Amendment gave them the right to vote for the President and Vice President of the United States, but they still lack Congressional representation, except for a single non-voting member of the House of Representatives. DC Statehood could be passed by



Barbara Calef moderates a Los Alamos League candidate forum

majority vote in Congress; no Constitutional Amendment is required.

The Los Alamos League commemorated National Voter Registration Day by providing registrars at the high school during a state-wide speech tournament on September 22 and at the Los Alamos Nature Center on the 25th.

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League of Women Voters of NM  
2315 San Pedro NE, Suite F-6  
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.