League of Women Voters of New Mexico La Palabra

Vol. 66 No. 4

www.lwvnm.org

Spring 2019

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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.



Call to State Convention The Los Alamos League of Women Voters invites you to the 2019 LWVNM Convention May 17-19, 2019 in Los Alamos, New Mexico

You will:

- network with members from all over NM
- enjoy a stunning view of Northern New Mexico (and delicious hors d'oeuvres) from a League home on Barranca Mesa
- bid on treasures donated by fellow League members
- kick off the meeting with a welcome from our delightful new County Council chair
- consider the good work of the past two years and plan for the next two
- learn the secrets of the legislature from Rep. Christine Chandler during lunch
- enjoy an afternoon talking with fellow portfolio holders and/ or explore the wonders of Los Alamos (ride with Atomic City Tours, visit the History Museum, Nature Center, or NM Consortium, hike a wonderful trail—May is outstanding for wildflowers)
- feast on "A Taste of New Mexico" 5-course (small plates) dinner at our celebrated Pig + Fig in White Rock and hear what's up at the State Land Office from newly elected commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard
- elect a new board, consider bylaw changes, adopt a program for study and action, and of course adopt a budget
- take home your silent auction treasures—and your memories of a great convention!

Registration and Schedule, pages 4 to 6

Please bring this issue of La Palabra with you to the Convention

President's Corner

Judy Williams LWVNM President president@lwvnm.org

President's Message



It has been a privilege working with you all during the last two years. We have been quite active at the legislature, in the newspapers and in our local Leagues. We embarked on a new venture, publishing voter guides for heavily Native American areas of the state, continued our robust local and state voter guides, and maintained a reputation as the most trusted voice in New Mexico in many policy areas.

You all have much to be proud of, but we also face many challenges ahead. These include watching the rollout of the State Ethics Commission, increasing voter awareness of issues and candidates, encouraging people to vote under new and more voter-friendly guidelines, and helping to ensure that New Mexicans are ALL counted in the 2020 Census. I'll still be here to help in any way I can, along with you. Thank you. Judy

Making sausage in the NM Legislature

The wild and crazy 2019 Legislative session is finally over. It was a whirlwind of bills, endless hearings, and the maddening calm of waiting around for things to happen. A total of 1,658 items had to be dealt with: bills, joint memorials, joint resolutions and memorials.

Some of our League priorities went astray in impenetrable ways toward the end of the session and then came back. Two examples stand out.

HB84, Automatic Voter registration and HB86, Election Day and Early Voter registration, both passed the House on February 20. Eventually they showed up on the Senate Rules Committee agenda. After several days there they simply disappeared, re-emerging in SB 672, previously a Public Peace, Health, Safety and Welfare, also known as an emergency ("dummy") bill. That bill appeared in and was passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee at 7 pm on March 12, and passed the Senate that same evening! The House passed it on March 14 and sent it to the governor.

The real doozy was the state ethics commission The House ethics commission bill bill(s). (HB4), sponsored by Rep. Daymon Ely (D-Sandoval), passed the House on March 4, following a pretty smooth hearing process in front of two committees. The League and other good government organizations supported that bill, though we had a few questions. The bill was then sent to the Senate Rules Committee and placed on the agenda but was not heard. Instead, the chair, Senator Linda Lopez (D-Bernalillo) introduced SB619, which was dramatically different and included few of the transparency items in HB4. I went to at least 8 Senate Rules Committee hearings, waiting for it to come up. When it finally did, on Sunday, March 10, it failed to get out of the committee, as did HB4. Both bills died in Committee.

After this, most of the action was behind the scenes. The day after the bills foundered in Senate Rules, another bill appeared. Senator Mimi Stewart took one of her emergency, or "dummy" bills and created a new proposal, SB668. The Legislative website says it was reported out of Senate Education with no

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recommendation, but the bill never went to that committee! It was sent to Senate Judiciary and got a Do Pass with virtually no discussion and no audience comment on Tuesday, March 12. In between these meetings, one senator changed the bill significantly, and amendments flew behind the scenes for two days.

Immediately after leaving Senate Judiciary the amended SB688 went to the Senate Floor and was passed 40–0. Then, on March 14 to the House Judiciary Committee, where it was again rewritten. The good government organizations as well as the League came out in support of the newest version as amended by Rep. Ely; it restored most of the transparency items by combining large parts of SB668 and HB4.

The final day, March 15, was a continuation of the mad flurry of amendments and deals flying back and forth. Rep. Daymon Ely (D-Sandoval) was at the center, along with Rep. Greg Nibert (R-Chavez and Lincoln) and Sen. Daniel Ivey-Soto (D-Bernalillo). Advocates for good government huddled day after day and participated in a texting blitz on Friday. Blackout periods expanded and contracted, powers came and went, commission staff came and went, until finally the bill was introduced on the House floor at 10:20 Friday night. A couple of minor amendments were offered, Rep. Nibert spoke, and the deal was done – some version of HB668 passed unanimously. That meant that compromises had to be made, and Rep Nibert was key in holding his caucus together. The Senate later concurred with the House amendments.

The bipartisan outcome was good, as both sides had voiced worries about "rogue" investigators – Ken Starr and Bob Mueller were mentioned repeatedly. This commission has been 12 years in the making. The process was anything but transparent, but this appears to be the way much business is done in the Roundhouse. What meets the eye is not always what is going on. For example, none of the Senate ethics bills posted online resembled the reality of amendments and further amendments.

League of Women Voters Honors Former Representative Jim Dines

On League Day at the Legislature in Santa Fe, former Representative Jim Dines was honored for his tireless work to create an Ethics Commission for New Mexico. In 2018 voters approved a Constitutional Amendment to create an Independent Ethics Commission by a 3-1



margin. Dines was ready to help with the enabling legislation that would set it into action—but he lost his re-election campaign by a mere 79 votes.

In presenting the award to Dines, State League Action Committee chair Dick Mason and President Judy Williams praised him for "always standing up for open and accountable government." They called him the "ideal public servant" and noted his famous refusals to take donations from special interests and political action committees.

Photo by Rebecca Shankland

2019 State Convention Schedule

Friday, May 17

5:30-7:30 p.m. H	Evening reception at the home of Mike and	Kyle Wheeler
18	55 Los Pueblos, Los Alamos*	-

Saturday, May 18 Holiday Inn Express, 60 Entrada Dr.*

- 8-9 a.m. **Registration.** Collection of silent auction items
- 9 a.m. Welcome from Los Alamos County Council Chair Sara Scott
- 9:25-11:55 First Plenary Session
- Noon-1:30 Lunch from the Los Alamos Co+op State Representative Christine Chandler will discuss her first experience as a legislator.
- 1:30-4:30 Afternoon Activities Visit museums, nature center Portfolio manager and 100th Anniversary Committee meetings Tour the NM Consortium (free) or go on the Atomic City Tour (\$25) Hike
- 6:00-9:30 **Banquet at Pig+Fig, White Rock*** Speaker: NM State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard
- Sunday, May 19 8:30-9 Holiday Inn Express Registration
 - 9 a.m. -noon Second Plenary Session
 - 10:30-10:45 Silent auction ends
 - Noon Convention Adjourns

LWVNM Board Meeting begins 15 minutes after the convention is adjourned. Lunch for board members from Los Alamos Co+op

Room Reservations: The Holiday Inn Express is reserving a block of rooms for delegates at \$99.99/night + tax, one king-size bed or two double beds per room until April 17. To reserve a room, call (505) 661-2646, mentioning the League, or by email: League of Women Voters of <u>NM</u>

*Directions to the Holiday Inn Express, 60 Entrada Dr.: The hotel is just off Route 502 at the entrance to Los Alamos from the east. Route 502 climbs to the altitude of Los Alamos (7,300 feet) from the Rio Grande. At the top of the hill, look for the turnoff to Entrada Dr. and the sign for the Holiday Inn Express on your right. After you turn right, Entrada Drive is the first left.

Silent Auction Fundraiser: Time to polish and shine those auction items to bring to Convention! Please turn in your silent auction items in good condition beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 18. Bidding will continue through much of Sunday morning, culminating in picking up your winning treasures after the plenary session ends. Come bid on items for yourself or for your family and friends.

*Directions to the Wheeler house at 1855 Los Pueblos (Friday reception): From the Holiday Inn Express follow Route 502 west through town. Turn right onto Diamond Drive at the fourth traffic light. Continue on Diamond to the roundabout. Take the third exit, San Ildefonso Road. After 0.6 miles the road bends. Take the right fork, Barranca Rd. Drive 1.1 miles to Los Pueblos and turn right. Continue 1.4 miles. The house will be on the right. Allow 20 minutes for the drive. Lunch on Saturday will be served in the meeting room. It will consist of fruit, salads, and pinwheel wraps, with cookies for dessert.

***Directions to Pig+Fig, 11 Sherwood Blvd, White Rock:** From the Holiday Inn Express turn left onto Rte. 502 and continue down to the ramp leading to State Rte. 4 (Sign says "White Rock"). Follow Rte. 4 to White Rock. From the traffic light, it is 0.4 miles to Sherwood Blvd. (The library is on the corner.) Turn left onto Sherwood and immediately turn left into the restaurant parking lot. Allow 20 minutes for the drive.

The menu is called "A Taste of New Mexico History" and includes hors d'oeuvres and four courses, ranging from quesadillas of calabacitas and asadero cheese to piñon tartlets.

Saturday Afternoon Activities

Museums, Nature Center, Historic LA self-guided tour: <u>http://www.visitlosalamos.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/2017_HistoricWalkingTourMap_HorizontalLayout.pdf</u> Near-by attractions: Bandelier, Tsankawi, Valles Caldera

Atomic City Tour: Learn the multi-faceted story of Los Alamos and peek at Los Alamos National Laboratory with a native Los Alamos guide. "Our comfortable van tours are rich in history, archaeology, geology, and scenic beauty." 1 ½ hours, \$25

NM Consortium tour of the biological laboratory and greenhouse. 1 hour, free

**Meetings of portfolio managers (treasurers, fund drive chairs, etc.), 100th Anniversary Committee

2019 LWVNM CONVENTION

MAY 17-19 HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, LOS ALAMOS, NM

Name:
Email: Phone:
Street Address:
City State Zip
REGISTRATION STATUS (PLEASE CHECK ONE)
State Board Member Local League Delegate Member-at-Large Representative (fee prepaid by the Leagues for official delegates)
All Others: (include registration fee of \$35 below)
REGISTRATION FEE AND MEALS
Registration Fee @ \$35 (includes reception, snacks, coffee and tea, lunch on Saturday, May 18 th)
Saturday Banquet at Pig and Fig in White Rock @\$40 Dietary Restrictions for Lunch and/or Dinner: Vegetarian Gluten-Free Vegan
Post-Convention LWVNM Board Meeting box lunch @\$10
ADDITIONAL GUEST MEALS:
Luncheon Guest(s) @ \$15
Banquet Guest(s) @ \$40 Dietary Restrictions? VegetarianVeganGluten Free
TOTAL: REGISTRATION AND MEALS
Will attend the Friday night reception (please indicate number)

REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE OF 5/3/19

Mail To: LWVLA, P.O. Box 158, Los Alamos, NM 87544 505-662-3825 www.lwvlosalamos.org

Program Items to be Considered by the 2019 State Convention

By Chris Furlanetto, LWVNM Program Chair

Several LWVNM positions have been revised and five new positions have been adopted by the Board since the 2017 Convention. See below for further information on these changes. Please note that within revised positions, added or relocated text is underlined and deleted text is in [brackets]. New positions appear as approved by the Board.

Part I – Changes to existing LWVNM positions made since 2017 Convention

Education – Existing text from the 1^{st} paragraph of the Charter School position moved to between the 1^{st} and 2^{nd} paragraphs of the education position (adopted 1987; revised 1995, 2009, 2015, 2016, 2017, 3/9/19)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVNM) believes that education is the cornerstone for perpetuating a strong and viable democracy. The public education system should impart to all students an understanding of the nature of democracy and the responsibilities of citizenship, the ability to think critically, and the skills necessary to continue to learn and function as adults in a complex society.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that every student should have access to a high quality, publicly funded education regardless of race, ethnicity, family income, or geographical location. The League believes in accountability, transparency, and equity in the use of public funds for education.

The League supports public schools as the primary method of educating students. The League opposes the presence of private, for-profit companies in the governance, management, and provision of public education. LWVNM believes that a regionally elected State Board of Education should be responsible for appointing a Superintendent of Public Instruction and directing education policy, regulation, and finances.

Election Procedures - revisions to existing position (adopted 1969; revised 1999, 2001, 2007, 2018)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports:

- 1. protection of the right of every citizen to vote;
- 2. procedures to guarantee the integrity of all statutory methods of voting in New Mexico;

3. funding to meet the requirements of the law and to serve the needs of the voters to ensure that elections are conducted accurately, fairly, and efficiently;

- 4. a centralized voter registration and election management system;
- 5. statewide uniformity in early voting for all elections;

6. an all-inclusive system of voting that allows all registered voters to participate in the primary election;

7. more direct citizen involvement in the candidate selection process for special elections to fill a vacancy [in the US House of Representatives];

8. ranked choice voting (RCV) for all elections;

9. consolidation of elections in New Mexico;

10. methods that increase voter participation, including automatic voter registration and sameday voter registration;

11. systems that improve the election experience and provide ease of ballot access including vote-by-mail, supplemented by secure ballot drop boxes and accessible voting centers.

[amending the State Constitution to allow run-off elections in the case of non-partisan elections.]

Gun Safety – Change in one word in existing position proposed by LWVSFC (LWVUS position on Gun Control in brief, revised 3/9/19).

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for <u>public</u> [consumer] safety.

Health Care – Added text to existing position proposed by Akkana Peck (LWVLA) (adopted 1991; revised 1993, 2005, 2007, 2017, 3/9/19)

LWVNM believes that any health system implemented should have the following:

(as is)

(as is)

- Effective cost management: Cost management should increase the health care benefits that accrue to patients from any given level of spending. Cost and pricing data from private and government sources should be transparent.
- (as is)
- Equitable funding: Reform should seek to reduce or eliminate cost-shifting across categories of insurance programs and payers, both public and private, and to make the distribution of financial burdens more equitable. <u>Billing should be comprehensible and transparent.</u>
- (as is)
- (as is)

Selection of Judges – Revised text proposed by Suzanne Ronneau (LWVSFC) (adopted 3/9/19)

Judges of the [higher] <u>New Mexico state courts, i.e. Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and</u> <u>District Courts, should be appointed by the governor from a screened list submitted [from] by a</u> non-partisan nominating commission and <u>only</u> be subject, at intervals, to <u>non-partisan</u> election for retention or rejection.

Judges of limited-jurisdiction, i.e., magistrate, municipal, probate and metro courts, should be qualified for their position, at a minimum having a Certificate of Good Standing from the New Mexico Supreme Court, and be elected in non-partisan elections.

Wildlife – Existing text from the 1st paragraph of the introduction to the Natural Resources section moved to a new separate heading under Natural Resources (adopted 2018)

The League supports the conservation and protection of wildlife and their habitats for the contribution they make toward the health and sustainability of the environment.

Part II – New positions through Concurrences with positions of other Leagues

Net Neutrality, High-Speed Internet, Public Access Media – New position proposed by Akkana Peck (LWVLA) through concurrence with the LWVCT position (adopted 5/19/18)

Net Neutrality

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that a free and open Internet is increasingly important to the protection of individual liberties - freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of association - guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. LWVNM also believes that net neutrality protections are essential for political discourse, dissemination of news, and democratic participation. Therefore, LWVNM supports protecting the open, neutral,

and nondiscriminatory nature of the Internet.

Universal High-Speed Internet for New Mexico

High-speed affordable Internet access is an essential service that should be readily available to all New Mexico residents and businesses. State and local government policies should support affordable broadband, wireless, and other means of high-speed Internet deployment throughout the state and should encourage consumer choice in broadband providers. Furthermore, LWVNM supports making high-speed Internet access available to all New Mexico residents, without charge, through schools, libraries, and other secure public buildings.

Efficient, high-speed access to the Internet for all New Mexico residents - regardless of geographic location or neighborhood demographics - is a necessity for assuring equal access to local and state government, for maintaining openness and transparency in government activities, for communicating with legislative leaders, for engaging in political discourse, for competing in the global marketplace, and for assuring that voters receive the information they need to participate in our democracy.

Public Access Media

LWVNM believes that community access television and radio channels – for public, educational, and governmental programming – must be adequately protected, promoted, and funded for New Mexico residents. Community access media should be available on basic service tiers and over the Internet. Government should provide opportunities for citizen participation in decisions regarding community access media.

Access to the public airwaves is essential to the public interest and to the League of Women Voters' mission and purpose: to protect civil liberties, to ensure open, transparent government, and to promote the public's right to know.

Immigration – New immigration position proposed by Meredith Machen (LWVSFC) through concurrence with a portion of the LWVMN immigration position (adopted 3/9/19) LWVNM supports:

- promoting reunification of immediate families;
- meeting the economic, business and employment needs of the United States;
- providing due process for those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises;
- providing for student visas;
- ensuring fair treatment under the law for all persons;
- incorporating immigrants into our communities by providing access to education;
- endorsing the development of secure identification documents;
- respecting the right of state and local law enforcement personnel to perform their duties without the burden of enforcing federal immigration policies.

In transition to a reformed system, LWVNM supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Legislature

New position proposed by Meredith Machen (LWVSFC), created by 1) moving text from the existing Campaign Finance position and by concurrence with a portion of the legislature position of LWVMA (adopted 3/9/19)

1)Text moved from 2nd paragraph of existing Campaign Finance and Ethics position:

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports legislative compensation that is fair and reasonable, recognizing that there is a cost to government and that the cost should be paid by the taxpayers of New Mexico.

Legislature position of LWVMA (adopted 3/9/19)

1)Text moved from 2nd paragraph of existing Campaign Finance and Ethics position: The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports legislative compensation that is fair and reasonable, recognizing that there is a cost to government and that the cost should be paid by the taxpayers of New Mexico. 2)Proposed text added by concurrence with LWVMA:

The League recommends:

- paying a salary that is high enough to attract and retain qualified, committed legislators;
- providing legislators with adequate legal research and office assistance
- requiring legislative procedures and schedules to promote efficiency, transparency, accountability, and public accessibility.

Civil Engagement/Civil Discourse – New position proposed by Hannah Burling (LWVSFC), by concurrence with LWV San Luis Obispo County (adopted 3/9/19)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico promotes civil discourse through action and education for all government bodies, staff, and citizens for the purpose of improved public policy decisions and processes. Civil discourse means, at a minimum, mutually respectful, courteous, constructive, and orderly communication.

Part III – New Position through Consensus

Transfer of Federal Public Lands – New position developed by consensus, Barbara Calef (LWVLA) and Judy Williams (LWVSFC), study committee chairs (adopted 3/9/19)

The League believes that federal public lands should benefit all Americans. The lands should remain under the jurisdiction of the federal government and be managed according to the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield policy. We support improvements in management and regulation.

Federal law allows for the sale or exchange of federal lands if it is in the public interest. Prior to any transfer, a comprehensive assessment that covers the following issues should be performed:

- environmental analysis, including air and water quality, biodiversity, endangered and threatened species
- health impacts
- environmental justice
- suitability of proposed land use
- subsurface resources
- financial/economic impacts
- cultural resources
- public access
- management for fire and other natural disasters
- tribal consultation.

The League is opposed to the sale of federal lands to private entities except for small tracts surrounded by nonfederal lands.

The League is opposed to the transfer of subsurface rights to the state or other entities. Any development of subsurface rights on federal land should benefit all Americans.

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

The following are proposed changes to bylaws. Underlined material is new. [Bracketed text] is to be deleted. The LWVNM Board has approved the changes.

Article II PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 2. Types of Membership.

- Voting Members. Persons of at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues or [state] member-at-large [(MAL)] units, and of LWVNM and LWVUS.
 - A.) Individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other League.
 - B.) Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be [state MALs] members-at-large.
 - C.) Those who make a lump-sum life membership payment to LWVUS shall be paid life members and those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.
- 2.) Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

Article IV OFFICERS

Section 1. Enumeration, Election, and Duties of Officers. The officers of LWVNM shall be president, a <u>first vice-president/president-elect</u>, <u>a second vice-president</u>, <u>the action chair</u>, <u>the past president</u>, a secretary, and a treasurer. They shall be elected at the Convention and shall take office immediately after the Convention. They shall hold office until the election at the next biennial Convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified. If the position of president is vacant and [the] neither vice-president is [unable] able to assume the responsibilities of the president, the board shall function as a leadership Team and shall possess all the powers and perform the duties of that office until that office is filled.

Section 3. [The Vice-President. The vice-president shall perform such duties as the president and the state board may designate, filling in during the absence of the president. In the event of the absence, resignation, disability or death of the president, the vice-president shall assume the office of the president, possessing all the powers and performing all the duties of that office. If the vice-president is unable to serve as president, the state board shall elect one of their members to fill the vacancy.

The Vice-Presidents. The vice-presidents shall perform such duties as the president and board may designate. The two vice-presidents, in the order of their rank, shall in the event of absence, disability or death of the president, possess all of the powers and perform all the duties of the presidency until such time as the board of directors shall select one of its members or a former president to fill the vacancy in the office of president. In the event of the resignation, disability or death of the first vice-president/president-elect, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board. Before the office holder may succeed to the presidency at the next state convention, that name shall be submitted, with those of the other nominees for office, to the membership for vote.

Section 4. <u>The Action Chair</u>. The action chair will coordinate action activities for the LWVNM.

Section 5. The Past President. The president from the previous biennium will provide guidance and continuity to the board.

Section 6. The Secretary.

Section 7. Treasurer.

Section 8. The Leadership Team. When a president is not elected and the vice-president/<u>president-elect</u> is unable to assume the responsibilities of the president, the board shall govern the organization as a leadership team. At the first board meeting following the biennial Convention, officers and directors that were elected to serve on the board will volunteer, self-select, or be nominated to accept the leadership position(s) of president or vice-president/<u>president-elect</u>. Two or more individuals may serve [in this capacity (co-president, co-vice-president).] as co-presidents. The leadership team will identify the responsibilities of each member of the team and have responsibility for the routine business of the League (e.g., calling meetings, preparing agendas, chairing meetings).

Article V BOARD OF DIRECTORS (STATE BOARD)

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The board of directors shall be members of LWVNM and shall consist of the officers of LWVNM, not more than [six] eight elected directors, not more than six appointed directors, and the presidents of the local Leagues and <u>member-at-large</u> [MAL] units. The directors elected at the Convention shall take office immediately after the Convention. They shall hold office until the election at the next biennial Convention. The appointed directors shall be appointed by the state board as ad hoc directors as the need arises in relationship to projects adopted by the state board, and shall serve until the project is completed or dropped or until a replacement is secured in case of resignation, illness or other cause(s). Presidents of local Leagues shall serve during their term of office and may serve in other capacities on the state board. While serving on the board, the ad hoc directors and the presidents shall have full voting rights.

Section 3. Powers and Duties. The state board shall have full charge of the property and business of the corporation with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the Convention. The state board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program adopted by the Convention. It shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the board of directors of LWVUS for the organization and development of all Leagues and <u>member-at-large</u> [MAL]units within the state. It shall also accept responsibility for implementing state and national program and transmission of funds toward the support of state and national budgets. The state board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Article VI RECOGNITION OF LOCAL LEAGUES AND STATE MEMBER UNITS.

Section 2. [State] <u>Member-at-Large</u> Units. [State member] <u>Member-at-large</u> units may be formed by the state board in areas where the population dictates such organization. Rules and procedures for the formation and operation of [state] member-<u>at-large</u> units shall be the responsibility of the state board.

Article VIII CONVENTION

Section 4. Representation. The members of LWVUS who are organized into recognized local Leagues and state MAL units in the state of New Mexico shall be entitled to voting representation in the Convention as follows:

- A.) The president and one delegate who shall be chosen by the board of each local League; each local League having more than 15 voting members shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 voting members or major fraction thereof.
- B.) Each [state MAL] member-at-large unit shall be entitled to one delegate chosen by their members.
- C.) Members-at-large shall be represented by a [MAL representative] member-atlarge delegate to be selected by the state board.
- D.) The numbers of delegates shall be established by membership count of paid voting members as of February first of said year.
- E.) In the event any delegate chosen is unable to attend the Convention, a substitute may be selected by the board of the local League, provisional League, or [state MAL] unit.

Article IX COUNCIL.

Section 1. Place, Date, and Call. A meeting of the Council shall be held in the interim year between Conventions, approximately twelve months after the preceding Convention, at a time and place to be determined by the state board. A formal call shall be sent to the presidents of the local Leagues and [state MAL] member-at-large units at least 30 days before a Council meeting. Special Council meetings may be called by the state board.

Section 2. Composition. The Council shall be composed of the following delegates: the presidents of the local Leagues, or an alternate in the event the president is unable to attend; one delegate chosen by each local League and each [state MAL] member-at-large unit; a [MAL] member-at-large representative to be selected by the state board; and all members of the LWVNM state board.

Article XI PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Section 1. Principles. The principles are concepts of government supported by the League and are the authorization for adoption of national, state and local program.

Section 2. Program. The program of LWVNM shall consist of action to implement the principles and those governmental issues chosen by the Convention for concerted study or concurrence and action as follows:

- A,) The boards of local Leagues, LWVNM committees, and [state MAL] member-at -large units may make recommendations for program including amendment of a state League position or adoption of a position by concurrence. Recommendations must be sent to the state board at least ten weeks prior to the Convention.
- B.) The state board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which shall be sent to the membership at least 30 days prior to the Convention.
- C.) Any local League, LWVNM committee, [state MAL] <u>member-at-large</u> unit, or the state board planning to propose the amendment of a state position or adop-

tion of a position by concurrence shall send background information, including pros and cons on the issue and an explanation of the rationale of using concurrence, to all Leagues at least 30 days prior to the Convention.

- D.) The Convention shall adopt a program by a majority vote on each subject presented to it.
- E.) A program recommendation properly submitted by a local League, LWVNM committee, or by a [state MAL] member-at-large unit at least ten weeks prior to Convention but not proposed by the state board may be so considered only if it is ordered by a majority vote of the Convention and the vote on adoption comes on the following day. Adoption of any such recommendation will require a two-thirds vote.

LWVNM Reports and Updates Natural Resources Report

By Barbara Calef



On March 12 the Natural Resources Management Act became law. It adds more than 1.3 million acres of wilderness, protects 367 miles of rivers and creates four new national monuments across the country. New Mexico gains 272,586 acres of new wilderness. The legislation also permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which reinvests royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling into a wide range of conservation and outdoor-friendly projects. The five members of New Mexico's congressional delegation all supported the legislation.

The recent New Mexico legislative session has produced some important new laws to protect our natural resources. The landmark Energy Transition Act (SB 489) includes a plan for closing the coal-fired San Juan Generating Station by 2022 while creating funding for worker severance and retraining; it also commits the state to 100% carbon free power by 2045.

Other bills were merged to produce legislation that restores the authority of the Oil Conservation Division to enforce the Oil and Gas Act in court, to assess civil penalties for violations, and to regulate waste water from oil wells. The legislature appropriated \$242,000 in funding for the Strategic Water Reserve, allowing it to continue to acquire water rights to enhance flows in New Mexico's rivers.

The Wildlife Corridors Act passed, calling for a plan to identify and protect wildlife corridors and making an appropriation for implementation of the plan. The bill to ban coyote killing contests also passed. Governor Lujan Grisham is expected to sign those bills into law.

LWVNM Spent Nuclear Fuel Research and Advocacy Group Report

By Karen Douglas, Chair

During the January 2019 LWVNM Board meeting the Spent Nuclear Fuel Study Committee was directed to continue as a Research and Advocacy Group as the board felt that a new position on Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Storage was not needed.

The LWVNM SNF Research and Advocacy Group met March 2, 2019 and continues to evaluate the status of the two license applications for Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities (CISF) currently under review by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

They are NM/HOLTEC/ELEA CISF located midway between Hobbs and Carlsbad, New Mexico and Texas Interim Storage Partners/WCS CISF located on the TX/NM border, five miles from Eunice, NM.

The committee members continue to participate in opportunities for public involvement. Prior involvement has included attending numerous public meetings held by the NRC, reading about and listening to the recordings of other meetings, and corresponding with the NRC about the committee's concerns. Laura Atkins read and summarized a paper on the geology of the Holtec site for the committee, noting the risks from sinkholes and subsidence in the area.

The committee is working on a detailed fact sheet that will be of value to League members seeking information about the issue of spent nuclear fuel and its disposition.

Both the HOLTEC and ISP/WCS CISF license applications are currently under review by NRC, which is awaiting responses from both license applicants to Requests for Additional Information.

The LWVNM Research and Advocacy Group anticipates receipt of the Spring 2019 NRC Scoping Report for HOLTEC and plans to continue with review of CISF information as it becomes available with submission of additional correspondence during public comment periods. LWVNM will be discussing concerns with NM officials in the interim and continuing to participate in public meeting opportunities.

2019 Legislative Session – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

By Dick Mason

Note: This article was written as the session ended; the Governor has until April 5th to sign or veto legislation. Any legislation not acted upon is pocket vetoed.

The Good and the Bad - The disposition of League priorities for the session

HB51 – Decriminalization of Abortion – passed House, lost in Senate – see separate article **SB688** – State Ethics Commission – won – see separate article – on the Governor's desk HB55 – National Popular Vote – won – expect the Governor to sign it. This bill pledges New winner Mexico's electoral votes to the of the national popular vote SB672 – Early and Automatic Voter Registration – won – expect the Governor to sign it HJR1 – Land Grant Fund for Early Childhood – lost – passed House, but killed in Senate

Rules

SB1 & HB5 – Public Education Changes – won – Additional \$450 million in the budget **HB6** – Tax Changes – The bill that passed the House would have raised \$320 million in additional revenue and restored fairness to the tax system. The Senate gutted most of that and it went to Conference. It ended up generating only \$70 million in additional revenue and doing almost nothing to restore fairness to the tax system.

SB416 – Iowa Style Redistricting Model – passed Senate Rules with a unanimous vote, then stalled. This was a League-initiated bill and we did not expect it to pass in this session. It was part of a longer-term strategy to improve the 2021-22 redistricting process₇. Stay tuned. **HM6 & SM11**—The League spoke to several committees about the urgent need to fund state outreach efforts ahead of the 2020 Census. The legislators had not realized the funding concerns with the federal Census effort and the need for state level action. The big budget bill, HB2, now has about \$3.5 million for the effort.

The Ugly – The use of "dummy" bills in the Senate.

Dummy bills are those that are filed after the filing deadline without content. According to the New Mexico Constitution, they are only supposed to be used for emergencies. The League has long been critical of their use. In the Senate during this session dummy bills were used to pass the State Ethics Commission (SB688) and improve voter registration (SB672). The League supported both of these bills, but that doesn't mean we support the process. Both the ethics commission and the voter registration bills had House and Senate versions. The House versions had passed that chamber. So why was it necessary to introduce new bills after the filing deadline? The League will continue to be critical of the process.

In balance, the session was a successful one for League priorities despite the losses on reproductive rights, revenue generation and funding for early childhood. Expansion of voting rights, a state ethics commission and expanded funding for education have all been long-standing priorities for the League and we were able to achieve them in this session.

Report on HB 51

By Diane Goldfarb, Reproductive Rights Chair

One of the big disappointments of this legislative session was the failure of HB 51, introduced by Rep. Joanne Ferrary to decriminalize abortion. Concerns over the future of *Roe v. Wade* prompted the effort to get the outdated NM statute making performing an abortion a crime removed from the books. We knew it would not be an easy task, and indeed, the opposition was fierce. Ultimately HB51 passed the House and made it to the Senate floor.

Despite strong support from the governor, eight Democrats sided with all Republicans to defeat the bill on an 18-24 vote. League members gathered names on petitions and contacted legislators. Linda McDowell represented the League in the NM Coalition for Choice during the session, and Pat Pedersen spent many long hours in committee hearings for us. A heartfelt thanks goes out to all of you and to the legislators who supported this cause. It will not be the end of our effort to protect women's reproductive rights in New Mexico.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham Signs Ethics Bill Into Law



By Judy Williams, President LWVNM

This is an important milestone for New Mexico. The legislature has struggled for a decade to create such a commission, and received a boost when 75% of voters approved a commission in 2018. The legislature and the advocacy groups were well-represented. Common Cause, which took the lead; the Thornburg foundation, Ethics Watch and NM First. In the photo above are the chief sponsors at the signing ceremony with Gov. Lujan Grisham, (left to right) Representative Daymon Ely (D-Sandoval). Senator Linda Lopez (D-Bernalillo), the Governor and Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto,(D-Bernalillo).

Here are the basics on the new commission:

- Seven members: Five appointed by governor and legislature, two appointed by the other commissioners
- Complaints must be notarized
- Structure: executive director, general counsel, hearing officer
- Jurisdiction over state officials including elected officials
- Presumption of eventual expansion to local governments
- Complaints secret until 30 days after finding of probable cause (compromise)
- Hearings will be public
- 60-day blackout period before elections (compromise) except for infractions of the Campaign Reporting Act or the Voter Action Act
- May petition court for subpoenas and their enforcement; judiciary will appoint one judge to receive requests (compromise)
- May issue advisory opinions
- Produce and publish an ethics guide for all affected;
- Work in agreement with Secretary of State as appropriate
- Refer issues to the Interim Legislative Ethics Committee that only they can handle censure, impeachment
- \$500,000 initial funding

Local League News

Central New Mexico Report

By Leah Ingraham and Karen Wentworth, Co-Presidents

Program Planning Committees Begin Work on Many Issues

This year we tried something a little different with our annual Program Planning/Review meeting. The members attending the meeting discussed the issues most important to them personally and put together some committees to research and determine whether we need to take specific advocacy stands. The discussion broke down into these groups:

Public Transportation

Sharon Moynahan led a passionate discussion on the problems involved in trying to take public transportation in Albuquerque. As a regular bus rider, she has great familiarity with the problems of poor scheduling, hopeless connections and complete lack of service on important routes. Volunteering to work with her on the project of finding a way to make the city transit department listen are Judy Binder, Terry Dettweiler and Eva Stricker.



Education/Civics

Leah Ingraham is one of many members particularly concerned about the problems around the teaching of civics in the This is from the Albuquerque Public Schools bond forum at the KANW studio. About 100 people attended in person. KANW said they expected a radio audience of 75,000. Mary Smith is on the far left. She was our question sorter. Mary Wilson is at the microphone facilitating the discussion.

public schools. She and Jan Strand will be working with Judy Binder, Shelly Roberts and Karen Douglas.

Voting Issues

Ashley Benning, Peggy Howell and Mary Ellen Smith are focused on voting issues and are looking at what our local League should be doing to improve access for voters. They are also interested in redistricting efforts.

Drunk and Drugged Driving

George Richmond and Susan Blasco are interested in steps that can be taken to limit the number of drunk and drugged drivers on Albuquerque streets. George says he is particularly concerned about drivers who are arrested multiple times.

Spent Nuclear Fuel

Karen Douglas is leading an advocacy committee on Spent Nuclear Fuel. Karen Wentworth is a member of the group. Karen Douglas invites any member who is interested in learning more about the problem of spent nuclear fuel and the current applications to bring it to Southeast New Mexico and West Texas to join the study group.

Recycling

Carol Tucker Trelease and Terry Dettweiler are both interested in problems with recycling, but have not yet formed a group to work on the issue.

Affordable Housing

Linda Kessler is interested in the problems of affordable housing and is looking for others interested in the issue.

All of these groups are interested in finding new members with common interests. Please think about joining a group to help us become more deeply involved in solving the many problems in our community. You can join a group by contacting one of the members. Contact information for all CNM members is in the member handbook.

Greater Las Cruces Report

By Kim Sorensen, President LWVGLC

50th Anniversary. February saw the conclusion of the activities celebrating the 50th anniversary of the in-ception of LWVGLC with a Tea February 23rd. Speakers for the event included Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver and US Representative Xochitl Torres Small. Over 60 members and guests attended the Tea. Marjorie Burr was recognized with an award as a charter member and for her 50 years of dedication to the League.

ists on two outstanding issues forums that were moderated by Dr. Fred Mar-



Issues Forums. Jane Asche and Vic- Left to right: Win Jacobs, Marjorie Burr, Christina Little, Gwen ki Simons organized and were panel- Hanson, Barbara Goedecke, Kathy Brooks, Johnnie Aldrich, Maggie Toulouse Oliver, Kathy Mathews, Kim Sorensen, and Xochil Torres Small. (photo by Lindsey Bachman)

tino and televised on KRWGTV in early February. Jane Asche, Betsy Cahill, and Mary Parr-Sanchez were the panelists for the education forum. They shared their expertise on what NM needs to do to improve education, including early childhood education, and responded to excellent questions from the audience. The forum on access to affordable health care, was organized by Vicki Simons. Panelists included Vicki Simons from LWVGLC, Dr. Davena Norris from the Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign, and Colin Baillio from Health Action New

Mexico. Topics included the Health Security Act and Medicaid Buy-in.

The Youth Engagement Committee, chaired by Erika Graf-Webster, continues to make progress in advancing civic engagement in the LCPS. A team of teachers and YEC members meet monthly to develop a Civic Engagement Project that will ultimately be introduced from kindergarten through high school.

The Program Planning Meeting took place in mid-February. Members felt that we should concentrate on the two active committees (Youth Engagement, Affordable Housing) as well as revive the Immigration Committee. A committee chaired by Erika Graf-Webster met before the meeting to revise the Election Procedures Position and the County Government Position. Erika gave a report and the revisions will be presented for adoption at the annual meeting. No new studies or position at the local or state level were recommended.

The Immigration Committee has met a couple of times to formulate goals and strategies. The goal for this committee is to influence LWVUS to make immigration reform a national priority. Because we are a border state and feeling the impact of current practices and policies very personally, it is hoped that other LWVNM Leagues and other local Leagues from the neighboring border states will want to collaborate on this effort.

Dinner with a Speaker. Finally, **Dr. Bill Spotz, from Wolf-Pac,** gave the presentation at the March Membership Meeting. Wolf-Pac is a national organization whose goals are to end corporate personhood and for all elections in the US to be publicly financed.

Santa Fe County Report

By Laura Atkins, Representative

Membership: We have 133 members as of February 22.

Programs: Our program planning meeting was held January 29, 2019. Thirteen members attended. The group recommended a change to the LWVSFC position on the Medically Indigent Fund, which was approved by the board at the February meeting. The group also voted to change the LWVNM position on the judicial selection process. This was also approved by our board and was adopted by the state board at the March 9 LWVNM meeting.

Our legislative preview luncheon was held January 9. All nine of the invited legislators came - six representatives and three senators. A good summary of the meeting appears in the February issue of the Voter.

The second National Popular Vote public forum was held January 12. LWVSFC member Hannah Burling spoke along with Mimi Stewart, one of the key sponsors of the bill. This bill has been passed by the legislature.

Our next general meeting will be our Sunshine Week meeting. Mayor Alan Webber will update the state of Santa Fe city finances and the results of the McHard report.

Los Alamos Report

By Barbara Calef and Becky Shankland

Our legislative preview, co-sponsored with AAUW, was well-attended. Senator Martinez was ill, but but Senator Cisneros and our new state representative, Christine Chandler, participated. The state demographer, Robert Rhatigan, also participated. He emphasized the need for counting every New Mexican in the census because of its impact on federal funding for NM. More than a dozen League members from Los Alamos traveled to Santa Fe in February for the two big state League events, the legislative reception and the League Day at the Legislature. This is more than we've ever had attending—everyone enjoyed the speakers and then visiting the legislature in the afternoon.

To our great disappointment we had to cancel our February Lunch with a Leader program about the zero-waste movement. A foot of snow fell during the night before the meeting, closing the schools and the lab. Some of us were prepared to ski to the library, but the logistics and lunch orders were too complicated. The speakers will come in May instead.

In February members of the Los Alamos League met for a wide-ranging discussion of the program at the state and local levels. There were no recommendations for changes to any of the positions at that time. We did discuss the desirability of dispensing with the partisan election of judges, but did not find a position with which to concur. We are delighted that Suzanne Ronneau (LWVSFC) brought the issue to the state board.

Review of the program for the past year revealed that many of our local goals have not been achieved, although there has been some progress. For instance, we still need to advocate for weekend bus service in the county and we have more work to do to increase recycling by residents. The members of our League would also like to see greater transparency in the legislature.

League Day at the Legislature

The League's Legislative Reception and League Day at the Legislature were a great success. On the evening of February 6^{th} we had a reception at the Rio Chama restaurant with Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver as our speaker. She gave a great overview of the voting and election issues in the Legislative session.

The following day our educational events at the New Mexico Land Office opened with a welcome from our new Land Commissioner, Stephanie Garcia Richard. Our first speaker was former State Representative Jim Dines, who was the man behind the legislation that put a State Ethics Commission on the 2018 ballot. He gave an insightful presentation on what should be the components of an effective State Ethics Commission. The League then presented Dines with an award for his commitment to transparency and accountability in government. Our second speaker, Amber Wallin of New Mexico Voices for Children, gave a very informative presentation on the revenue generating and fairness bill being considered in the Legislative session.

League members also attended hearings and visited their legislators to advocate for League priorities. Members also staffed the League table in the Roundhouse.

LWVNM Proposed Budgets for 2019-2021

		current budget		Actual 2017-18	Proposed 2019-20		Actual 2018-19	Proposed 2020-21	
Income									
Contributions					£.,				
1. From Members		1	\$	50.00	\$	200.00		\$	200.00
2. For Centennial		3	\$	265.00	\$	200.00		\$	200.00
Total Contributions			\$	315.00	\$	400.00		\$	400.00
Fundraising Events					1.	energe and		1.2.5	
For Centennial		1		1	\$	300.00		\$	600.00
Total Fundraising					\$	300.00		\$	600.00
Local League PMP									
1. Central New Mexico	\$	2,398.50	\$	2,359.00	\$	2,112.50	\$ 2,093.00	\$	2,112.50
2. Las Cruces	\$	1,027.00		1,033.50		1,209.00	\$ 884.00	\$	1,209.00
3. Los Alamos	\$	793.00	\$		\$	884.00	\$ 910.00	\$	884.00
4. Santa Fe	\$	1,930.00	\$	1,748.00	\$	1,514.50	\$ 1,514.50	\$	1,514.50
Total PMP	\$	6,148.50	\$	5,764.50		5,720.00	\$5,401.50	\$	5,720.00
MAL Dues	\$	135.00	\$	180.00	\$	90.00	\$ 45.00	\$	90.00
Other Income									
1. Special Events for Centennial					\$	300.00		\$	500.00
2. Interest	\$	1.50			\$	1.50		\$	1.50
3. Convention/Council Auction			\$	723.00	\$	700.00		\$	700.00
Miscellaneous			\$	4,629.53	\$	100.00		\$	100.00
Total Other Income	\$	1.50	\$	5,352.53	\$	1,101.50		\$	1,301.50
Grants									
1. For Centennial					\$	1,000.00		\$	3,000.00
2. Diversified Membership	3	19 X			\$	1,000.00		\$	1,000.00
3. Thornburg - Native Voter Guide	es							<u> </u>	
Total Grants					\$	2,000.00		\$	4,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$	6,285.00	\$	11,477.53	\$	9,611.50	\$6,946.50	\$	11,311.50
Expense									
Board Administration									
Meeting expense									
Total Board Admin.	Г				1				
Delegate expenses									
1. LWVNM Convention	\$	525.00	\$	675.00	\$	525.00		1	
2. LWVNM Council	\$	150.00					\$ 176.00	\$	200.00
3. LWVUS Convention	\$	2,700.00					\$ 2,400.00	\$	2,700.00
4.LWVUS Council					\$	1,700.00			95
Total Delegate expenses	\$	3,375.00	\$	675.00	\$	2,225.00	\$2,576.00	\$	2,900.00
Fundraising expenses									
1. Events for Centennial					\$	100.00		\$	100.00
2. Other Events					\$			\$	12
Total Fundraising expenses	1				\$		1	\$	100.00

LWVNM Proposed Budgets for 2019-2021, continued

		600.00	Actual 2017-18		Proposed 2019-20		Actual 2018-19		Proposed 2020-21	
Some member services		30.00								
categories eliminated	\$	200.00		1				ſ	-	
Member services	\$				ċ	25.00			\$	25.00
5. Newsletter editor's expense	\$	25.00			\$	25.00			ş	25.00
6. Membership development	\$	-		64.00	\$	cc 00	\$	64.00	\$ \$	
7. Member At Large PMP	\$	99.00	\$	64.00	\$	66.00	\$		\$	66.00
Total Member services	\$	954.00	ş	64.00	\$	91.00	Ş	64.00	Ş	91.00
Operating expenses						coo oo		coo oo		600.00
1. Office use	\$	600.00	\$	650.00	\$	600.00	\$	600.00	\$	600.00
2. Office supplies	\$				\$	-		1	\$	-
Constant Contact support	\$	400.00	\$	390.48	\$	400.00			\$	400.00
5. Website	\$	20.00			\$	20.00			\$	20.00
6. Copying	\$	20.00			\$	20.00		0.0000000	\$	20.00
7. Insurance	\$	475.00	\$	475.00	\$	475.00	\$	475.00	\$	475.00
8. Miscellaneous	\$	100.00	\$	35.00	\$	35.00	\$	10.00	\$	35.00
Total Operating expenses	\$	1,615.00	\$	1,550.48	\$	1,550.00	\$	1,085.00	\$	1,550.00
Program - Advocacy										
1. League Day	1				\$	150.00	\$	22.31	\$	175.00
2. Position support	\$	175.00	\$	128.54	\$	25.00			\$	25.00
3. State Studies	\$	25.00			\$	(1940)			\$	
4. Legislative Reception	\$	700.00	\$	1,075.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	1,470.38	\$	2,000.00
5. Miscellaneous	\$	125.00	\$	119.50	\$	125.00	\$	26.79	\$	125.00
Total Program - Advocacy	\$	1,025.00	\$	1,323.04	\$	2,300.00	\$	1,519.48	\$	2,325.00
Voter Services										
1. Other Native Am Voter Guides	\$				\$	-	\$	810.75	\$	-
2. Newspaper ads	\$	500.00	1		\$				\$	500.00
Total Voter Services	\$	500.00	T		\$		\$	810.75	\$	500.00
Centennial					1		1		1	
1. February 14, 2020 Event					\$	2,500.00				
2. August 26, 2020 Centennial					1				\$	5,000.00
Total Centennial					\$	2,500.00			\$	5,000.0
Fotal Expense	Ś	7,469.00	S	3,612.52	_	8,766.00	Ś	6,055.23	\$	12,466.00
ncome/Loss	\$	(1,184.00)			\$	and the last of th	-	4443.USA-CS	\$	(1,154.50

Notes: A Budget can be considered a guide. Holdover funds will be used to balance income/expense.

The committee assumed National PMP will be \$33 for MAL's.

The committee eliminated expenses for the newsletter printing and postage.

The committee assumed no change in the number of delegates to the state convention.

The Diversity Membership grant is for outreach to under represented populations.

Guidelines and standards must be developed.

Budget Committee: Gwen Hanson, Rosmarie Frederickson, Jan Strand (Chair)



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 <u>www.lwvnm.org</u> 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.