



THE VOTER

october 2008

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Albuquerque, NM 87110
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OCTOBER 2008 UNITS — TAX INCREMENT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS (TIDDS)

The speakers at our October Units will be discussing their respective organizations and their involvement with the complicated issues of tax increment funding (TIF) and tax increment development districts (TIDDS). Although TIF has been a part of state law for a number of years, serious problems arose with the 2006 amendments to the law. These amendments allow a new use of TIF through the creation of TIDDS. This new use has resulted in two main concerns. The first is the risk of reducing state revenues, and, therefore, funding, for statewide programs. The second is the use of state and local taxes to subsidize sprawl development.

Tax increment funding is an economic development tool that provides funding for public infrastructure. Its original purpose was to encourage redevelopment in blighted or slum areas by reducing the risk for private developers investing in those areas. Funding comes from increased

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Thursday, October 9, 11:45 a.m., Luncheon Unit

Reservations are required*

Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel
2910 Yale SE

Speaker: Bob Hearn

Bob Hearn retired from a career as a research engineer and DOD program manager. He then began a new career as a volunteer in community service. He was a founding member of the Quality Growth Alliance of Dona County, with other concerned citizens working on good planning and growth for Las Cruces. He worked on an analysis of a TIDD proposal to Dona Ana County, supported local legislators with TIDD-reform legislation during the 2008 New Mexico legislative session, and is preparing to help create and support TIDD-reform legislation for the 2009 session.

Wednesday, October 15, 12:00 Noon, Sandoval County Unit

Corrales Community Center Meeting Room,
4234 Corrales Road

Speaker: Javier Benavidez

Mr. Benavidez serves as the statewide outreach director of the Conservation Voters New Mexico Education Fund (CVNMEF), a non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to make environmental values a top priority for elected officials, political candidates, and voters across the state. He is currently pursuing two masters' degrees at UNM, one in Public Administration, and another in Community and Regional Planning. Prior to joining the CVNMEF, Mr. Benavidez served for four years as a policy analyst to City Council members Martin Heinrich, Debbie O'Malley, and Eric Griego.

Monday, October 20, 1:30 p.m., Midtown Unit

Manzano del Sol, Hobby Room, 5201 Roma NE

Speaker: Anne Stauffer

Ms. Stauffer is a policy analyst with New Mexico Voices for Children. She evaluates whether the state's budget and tax policies benefit low-income families and children. She joined Voices in 2007 after eight years of working in government budget development and oversight for New Mexico and the federal government.

Tuesday, October 21, 6:00 p.m., Evening Unit

Fire Station #20, 7520 Corona Ave NE

Speaker: Lora Lucero

Ms. Lucero is a member of LWVNCM, and also serves as a LWVNM director with responsibility in the realm of natural resources public policy. She has worked in land use law, and is a member of the American Planning Association.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Tuesday, October 7, 5:00 p.m. — Reception Launching 2008

General Election Voters' Guide

Albuquerque Academy's Simms Center

6400 Wyoming Blvd. NE

(See page 2 "Invitation" & Page 7 "Raffle")

Saturday, October 18, 10:00 a.m. — Membership Coffee

For Sandoval County

(See page 3 and flyer insert)

Wednesday, October 22, 5:30 p.m. — Judicial Forum

UNM School of Law

1117 Stanford NE

(See Page 3)

*Cost of the luncheon is \$16, payable at the door. Reservations are required. Call the office at 884-8441 by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, October 6. If you prefer a fruit plate rather than the menu item, please let us know at the time you make your reservation.

**LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
CENTRAL NEW MEXICO**

Board Meeting

1st Thursday of each month
5:30 p.m.
Offices of
Sutin, Thayer & Browne
6565 Americas Parkway NE

Program Committees

Check with the following
League members about
community activities:

Advocacy

Delores Watkins

Drug Policy

Delores Watkins

Natural Resources

JoAnne Ramponi

Includes transportation,
land use, air quality,
water and energy

All League members
are welcome at all
unit meetings, committee,
and board meetings.

The *VOTER* is published
each month by the
League of Women Voters
of Central New Mexico.

Let it be noted that this
October 2008 *Voter* is the
first issue to be published
under the name League of
Women Voters of Central
New Mexico.

— Ed.

President's Corner

I hope all of our members will try to attend the unit meetings this month. The topic for October is the controversial Tax Increment Development Districts, or TIDDs. Helen Wright has arranged for speakers who will address this issue so significant to future city development.

Please come one and all to the October 7 launching of the *2008 General Election Voters' Guide*. This will be a festive occasion that we hope will bring public attention to the *Voters' Guide* and the work of the League. Let's have a good League turnout for our biggest project of the year. And wear your red, white and blue!

The Sandoval County Unit will host a coffee for prospective members on October 18. We have a growing contingent of Sandoval County members who are actively promoting the League. Thank you, Sandoval County.

Our judicial forum, "Safeguarding U.S. Democracy by Promoting an Independent Judiciary" will take place at the UNM Law School on October 22. This forum, funded by a grant through our national organization, will focus on the New Mexico judicial selection process and the challenges to judicial independence.

Unfortunately, LWVCNM was unable to arrange a forum for the First Congressional District candidates. We attempted to put on a forum co-sponsored with three other women's organizations, but the candidates declined. Fortunately, they will be participating in other forums, so try to attend one before you cast your vote.

And finally, thanks to Dee Watkins for her collaboration on last month's LWVCNM Board retreat. As many of you know, Dee is a delightful person with whom to work and an inspiring leader. A very special thanks goes to Lisa and George Franzen for hosting this event at their lovely Placitas home. And further appreciation goes to Jennice Fishburn, Helen Wright and Geta Gatterman for their participation in the program. It was a productive day.

Diane Goldfarb

AN INVITATION

Please join the League of Women Voters
of Central New Mexico
for the Launching of the *2008 General Election Voters' Guide*
at a reception on

Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 5 - 6:30 p.m.
Foyer of the Simms Center for the Performing Arts
Albuquerque Academy
6400 Wyoming Blvd. NE.

This will be your first opportunity to pick up copies of the *Voters' Guide* before it is distributed. Mary Wilson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States will speak, and there will be a raffle to benefit the LWVCNM Education Fund.

League members, donors, candidates and the general public are invited.

Bring your friends, neighbors, relatives to learn about:

Safeguarding U.S. Democracy by
Promoting An Independent Judiciary
A Judicial Forum Sponsored by the
League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

When: Wednesday, October 22 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.
Light Refreshments: 5:30-6:00 PM, provided by the
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Forum begins: 6:00 PM

Where: UNM School of Law, Bondurant Lecture Hall
1117 Stanford Dr.NE

Candidates: Justice Charles Daniels, Supreme Court;
Judge Reed Sheppard, 2nd Judicial District Court;
Judge Maria Dominguez, Metropolitan Court; and
Edward L Benavidez, Public Defenders Office,
candidate for the Metropolitan Court. None of these
candidates have opposition in the General Election.

Focus: To educate the public about the judicial selection process in New Mexico, the pivotal role the judiciary plays in our democratic system of checks and balances, and to discuss the challenges to our independent judiciary.

This forum is supported by a grant from the League of Women Voters Education Fund and the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute.

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TIF & TIDDS

future tax revenues generated by the new development and most TIF projects borrow against the estimated future increased taxes in order to fund current costs. In most states, TIF is paid for with city or county tax revenues, since these kinds of developments generally occur at the city or county level. In New Mexico, however, TIF is now allowed for new development in undeveloped (greenfield) areas and uses state-level gross receipts taxes (GRT). Applying TIF in this manner is a potential problem because the vast majority of state GRT is used for ongoing statewide programs, not for local development projects. There are other concerns regarding TIF in New Mexico, including control over public funds, management of the districts, reporting and accountability, and insufficient funds generated to cover the costs of state and local government services and operations within the TIDD.

OCTOBER 18 COFFEE

LWVCNM invites individuals in Sandoval County and north Bernalillo County who are interested in League activities to attend a coffee on Saturday, October 18, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Member Ann Kirkpatrick will open her Corrales home for this meeting where guests will learn about League and enjoy refreshments provided by League members. A flyer is included in this *Voter* for you to give to anyone that you feel may be interested in attending this event.

Reservations are requested and directions will be given by calling JoAnne or Ann at 884-8441. Reservations should be in by Wednesday, October 15.

ADVOCACY CORNER

LWVCNM Advocacy Steering Committee is monitoring the status of the six emerging issues mentioned in the September *Voter*. Each month the *Voter* and Unit meetings will update you on the most active issues and what you can do. There are two issues for action at this time:

Pay Equity Update

Governor Richardson has ordered a pay equity audit of a sample of six departments — two small, two medium, and two large. The report is due before the January 2009 Legislative Session. In Congress, HR1338, to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wage, has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Hearings are pending. Stay Tuned. Senator Bingaman is on this Committee. Twenty-two senators are cosponsors of the pay equity bill but Senator Bingaman is not one of them. In contacting Senator Bingaman say why you think this bill is important and urge him to become a cosponsor.

Pain Management Update

S3387 is also in Congress with the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee. This bill provides for improving coordination of pain research, supporting healthcare professionals' education and training, and creating a national public awareness campaign. All of these issues are mentioned in the new LWVCNM Drug

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Advocacy

Policy Position on pain management. S3387 was introduced with a bipartisan cooperation of Senators Edward Kennedy and Orin Hatch. Senator Bingaman is on this committee and has not as yet signed on as a cosponsor. Urge him to become a cosponsor.

The next Advocacy Steering Committee meeting is Wednesday, October 1, 2008; 1-3 p.m. at the League Office. We will be making plans for the Advocacy Event in November.

SEPTEMBER IS PAIN AWARENESS MONTH

We celebrate many changes in New Mexico since October, 2000. There are state pain policy changes, more continuing education for healthcare professionals, and some attitude changes in consumers and healthcare professionals. Committee members are talking about the many options to manage pain and are educating person to person.

Often, working on these issues is an emotional experience for members of the Committee since some subjects bring up memories of how things were not many years ago. "Al, you shouldn't have died in pain. I wish I had known then what I know now." Dee Watkins

Watch for new information in the *Voter* and at unit meetings.

YOUR LEAGUE AT WORK

A triple-threat team of LWVCNM members participated in the 30th annual New Mexico Conference on Aging from August 26-29. The Drug Policy Study Committee partnered with the New Mexico Pain Initiative to present a seminar on proper pain care and effective communication with medical personnel as well as barriers to pain care. Advocacy skills were also taught. Dee Watkins co-chaired the session. Marita Marshall, Ann Letherer and Marilyn Morgan presented a skit on communicating with medical personnel, pain control methods and medication options. Eileen Longsworth and JoAnne Ramponi told their stories of successfully dealing with chronic pain.

In addition, the League co-sponsored an information table at the Conference. We handed out the Who's Who, purple bandaid holders with "League of Women Voters" on them, and membership brochures for LWVCNM.

Information about pain control and medical communication was distributed. Dee Watkins and Jan Bray staffed the table along with Nancy Wertz, a registered nurse, who is with the New Mexico Pain Initiative. Those who worked at the information table estimated that we talked to 400 people during the course of the Conference.

The Committee was invited to appear at the Sandoval county Health Fair and Senior Picnic on September 12. Education, visibility, membership — this Committee did it all.

Jan Bray



PHOTO BY DEE WATKINS

Our own LWVCNM Acting Company in a skit performed at the August 2008 New Mexico Conference on Aging. Left to right: Marita Marshall, Marilyn Morgan, Ann Letherer.

THE ISSUE OF COMPETITIVENESS /HOW OFTEN SHOULD STATES REDISTRRICT?

Traditionally, states redraw their district boundaries only once every 10 years, following established guidelines associated with data acquired from the mandated U.S. census.

Gerrymandering—the shaping of electoral districts for partisan ends—is as old as the nation, yet in recent years, the extremism of partisan redistricting has escalated, both parties seeking to manipulate the system by drawing their own “safe seats.”

Since 2001, a few states have considered or attempted mid-term redistricting, redrawing states’ existing legal maps of congressional districts without any intervening new census information.

This activity quickly provoked court challenges, the most reported one addressing issues involving the Texas Legislature’s aggressive actions in 2003. On the Supreme Court level, these challenges have been quickly rejected, the court accepting the fact that redistricting is inherently a partisan process. This ruling leaves states to deal with the issues themselves. Many state constitutions regulate the timing of redistricting, but in numerous states, this language is ambiguous enough to provoke dispute, suggesting that this redistricting timing issue may continue.

The Constitution of the State of New Mexico (Art 4 Sec 3 D) states, “Once following publication of the official report of each federal decennial census hereafter conducted, the legislature may by statute reapportion its membership.” (Adopted by the people Nov. 2, 1976)

Considering competitiveness, many abuses of too frequent redistricting may occur. In states where one party controls the redistricting process, partisan gerrymandering becomes more effective since parties can choose the year in which they have maximum control over the process to exert their influence. In states with split control, frequent redistricting increases the strength of a gerrymander that protects incumbents, allowing insiders to hinder specific challengers more reliably by drawing lines to punish or exclude with increased precision or by limiting challengers the ability to plan an effective bid far in advance.

And where significant population shifts have occurred, parties in control can use old census data while relying on the most recent voter registration and turnout statistics to measure the current voting population. In addition, frequent alteration of districts also disrupts the critical link between a representative and his or her constituency, allowing for less accountability in elections and for increased voter confusion as to their precinct boundaries and polling locations.

For additional information and references, utilize the Fair Representation web page.

Lisa Franzen, Fair Representative Study Group

A BIT OF HISTORY: WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE How Quickly We Forget.....If We Ever Knew.....

From a review of the HBO movie “Iron-Jawed Angels”

This is the story of our grandmothers and great-grandmothers; they lived only 90 years ago. Remember, it was not until 1920 that women were granted the right to go to the polls and vote. “Iron-Jawed Angels” centers on the arrest and imprisonment of 33 women who were picketing the White House asking for the right to vote. The women were arrested and convicted of “obstructing sidewalk traffic.” On the night of November 15, 1917, at the Occoquan Work-

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Iron-Jawed Angels

house in Virginia, the warden ordered his guards to teach a lesson to the suffragists because they dared to picket Woodrow Wilson’s White House. Forty guards wielding clubs went on a rampage — grabbing, dragging, beating, choking, slamming, pinching, twisting and kicking the women. By the end of the night some were barely alive.

In the following weeks of their imprisonment the women’s only water came from an open pail and their food, all of it colorless slop, was infested with worms. The leaders among the women, such as Lucy Burns, Dora Lewis and Alice Paul, were singled out for even more punishment. For instance, when Alice Paul embarked on a hunger strike, they tied her to a chair, forced a tube down her throat and poured liquid into her until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks until word was smuggled out to the press.

The movie depicts Woodrow Wilson and his “cronies” as trying to persuade a psychiatrist to declare that Alice Paul was insane so that she could be permanently institutionalized. The doctor refused, saying that Miss Paul was strong and brave but that didn’t make her crazy. The doctor admonished the men saying: “Courage in women is often mistaken for insanity.”

The above summary is of a review of the HBO movie “Iron-Jawed Angels” which was submitted by Ann Kirkpatrick. The review was written by Sue Bracksieck, CSP Career Coordinator, Eastern New Mexico University. Ms. Bracksieck also wrote: “We need to get out and vote and use this right that was fought so hard for by these very courageous women. Whether you vote democratic, republican or independent party — remember to vote. History is being made.”

2nd ANNUAL SALAD LUNCHEON

On Saturday, September 13 a good time was had by all at the 2nd annual salad luncheon. The event was held at Immanuel Presbyterian Church with 35 members and guests (including three new members) in attendance.

The hall was decorated in red, white and blue with flags on the tables; it was very festive. There were displays by the LWVCNM Drug Policy and Advocacy Committees and by the LWVNM Fair Representation Study Group. Diane Goldfarb, President of LWVCNM, gave a presentation on what League is doing. She talked about all of our pre-election events and invited those present to sign up to participate in those events.

There was plenty of time for members and guests to visit and renew old friendships. We are looking forward to having another salad luncheon next year. Thanks to all who attended and to all who helped make this event such a success.

JoAnne Ramponi



Attending the red, white and blue festive event on September 13, standing, left to right: Jan Bray, Olin Bray, Marilyn Hunter-Torburn, Marilyn Morgan. Seated, left to right: Karen Douglas, Michelle MacDonald, Ilsa Garduño.

PHOTO BY CHERYL HAAKER

LWVCNM BOARD: SEPTEMBER 6, 2008



The LWVCNM Board met for “Retreat” at Lisa Franzen’s lovely home in Placitas. “Retreat” is where Board members learn their responsibilities in the planning and decision-making of the Board. Pictured at the easel: Diane Goldfarb; then left to right in the circle: Dee Watkins, Josephine Porter, Helen Wright, Geta Gatterman, Jon McCorkell, Dick Mason, Carolyn DeVore-Parks, Michelle MacDonald, Shirley Ash, Jennice Fishburn, Dolores Waller, Ann Kirkpatrick, JoAnne Ramponi.

PHOTO BY CHERYL HAAKER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Borges
307 Placitas Rd NW 87107

Nancy Wood
9 Hondo Ct
Los Lunas 87031

New or changed email addresses available from office or JoAnne Ramponi for Barbara Borges, Clara Moore, Yvonne Lucero, Nancy Wood

James F. Brown & Beth Ann Herschman
121 Arizona Sunset Rd NE
Rio Rancho 87124-2546

Submitted by:
Kathleen Kimler Altobelli, 9-08-08

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

RAFFLE TO BENEFIT THE LWVCNM EDUCATION FUND

Drawing to be held at the October 7 Reception Launching the 2008 *General Election Voters' Guide*
Many Chances to Win! Prizes Include:

- Two Southwest Airlines tickets anywhere Southwest flies
- Two nights at the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada
- A champagne balloon flight for two with Frank Dickey
- Necklace created by James DeChampion
- Case of wine from Tierra Encantada Winery donated by Janet & Bob Ford
- Two tickets to a New Mexico Symphony Orchestra concert
- Two tickets to a New Mexico Scorpions hockey game

Raffle tickets are \$25 apiece or 5 for \$100. You need not be present to win. Checks or cash only. And for those present, there will be a drawing for a Rum Cake a la Maison, prepared by Dorothy Walton.

In compliance with postal regulations that prevent the mailing of lottery tickets, we cannot mail raffle tickets. We hope you will support this important fundraiser by contacting the League office at 884-8441 so that we can make arrangements for you to purchase raffle tickets and have a chance to win these wonderful prizes. Tickets will also be available at League events and at the October 7 event.

Raffle tickets are not tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.

LWVCNM has received a bequest from the estate of Doris Johnston to the operating fund.

EVENING UNIT CHANGE OF LOCATION

The Evening Unit is now meeting at Fire Station #20, 7520 Corona Ave NE. This address is located two blocks north of Paseo del Norte and Wyoming. Parking is on the west side of the building and on the street. There is easy entry on the south side of the building. If you have questions, call Dee Watkins at 884-8441.

IN MEMORIAM

Our condolences to member Sondra Eastham on the death of her husband, Jack, who was a former League member. Sondra and Jack have been living in Phoenix for the past few years.

Former League member Betty Weir passed away in August. Betty had been living at Manzano del Sol for the past several years. She had been very active in the local League for over 35 years. Our sympathy to her family.

UNIT	LOCATION	LEADER	MEMBERSHIP
Luncheon 2nd Thursday 11:45 a.m.	Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel 2910 Yale SE Reservations required \$16*	Marilyn Morgan	Vivian Boyle
Midtown 3rd Monday 1:30 p.m.	Manzano del Sol 5201 Roma NE Hobby Room (on first floor)	JoAnne Ramponi	Lois Reed
Evening 3rd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	Fire Station #20 7520 Corona Ave NE Optional dinner after meeting	Jan Bray	Delores Watkins
Sandoval County 3rd Wednesday 12 noon	Corrales Community Center Meeting Room 4234 Corrales Road Brown Bag Lunch	Carolyn Lindberg	Mary Mulvany

* Luncheon Unit reservations: call the League office (884-8441) by 10:00 a.m. the preceding Monday. If you do not attend and have not cancelled by the deadline, you will be billed for the cost.

Membership:
You can join LWV anytime of the year. Contact Membership Chair JoAnne Ramponi at 884-8441.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 1 Advocacy Committee, 1 p.m.
- 2 LWVCNM Board, 5:30 p.m.
- 2 Deadline: November Voter
- 7 Membership Committee, 10 a.m.
- 7 **Voters' Guide** Event, 5 p.m.
- 7 Voter registration closes; Absentee voting by paper ballot begins
- 9 Luncheon Unit, 11:45 a.m.
- 13 Columbus Day—Office closed
- 15 Sandoval County Unit, Noon
- 18 Sandoval County Membership Coffee
- 18 Early voting at alternate sites begins
- 20 Midtown Unit, 1:30 p.m.
- 21 Evening Unit, 6 p.m.
- 22 Judicial Forum, 5:30 p.m.
- 23 Drug Policy Committee, 1 p.m.
- 28 Fair Rep. Committee, 1 p.m.

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy.