

LWVCNM homepage: <http://www.lwvcnm.org>

NM State Auditor to Address LWVCNM in November

NM State Auditor Tim Keller will present "NM Financial Health" to the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico during the November Luncheon Unit Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12 at 11:45 a.m., at the MCM Elegante (2020 Menaul Blvd NE).

The Office of NM State Auditor is responsible for performing routine and special audits of entities receiving NM State Government Funding. The Financial Audit Division ensures that over 600 governmental entities receive an annual audit and con-

tracts with audit firms to complete these evaluations.

Recent NM State Audit Results include publication of the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the City of Albuquerque. The State Auditor's Government Accountability Office (GAO)



Tim Keller

is responsible for analyzing tax dollar distribution and ensure they are made in accordance with the law. The State Auditor also performs Special Audits and

Investigations from reports of wrongdoing to include:

- *Conflicts of Interest/Favored Treatment
- * Fraud by an Employee (including improper Campaign Contributions)

- * Theft of Time by an Employee
- * Procurement and Contracting Improprieties
- *Improper Loans to Executives or Governing Body Members

- * Financial and Cost Reporting Irregularities

Results of Financial Audits and Special Investigations are also available to the public.

Money in Politics Consensus Meeting

LWVCNM will conduct a Money in Politics consensus meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. at Erna Fergusson Library, 3700 San Mateo Blvd N E. This replaces the League's regular Evening Unit meeting. All members are urged to attend.

Recent Supreme Court Decisions and legislation have rendered the current LWVUS Campaign Finance Position inadequate to address the extent and influence of Money in Politics (MIP).

The current (1982) LWVUS Campaign Finance position is: \$LWVUS believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.\$

The campaign finance position will be
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November Calendar

Nov. 5	Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 10	Money in Politics consensus meeting, 6 p.m.
Nov. 12	Luncheon Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
Nov. 14	LWVNM Board Meeting Los Alamos.

Note: There will be no Northeast Heights meetings in November or December.

**League of Women Voters of
Central New Mexico
Board Meeting**

**1st Thursday of each month
Offices of Sutin, Thayer & Browne,
6565 Americas Parkway NE**

All League members are invited to all unit meetings, committee and board meetings.

The *Voter* is published each month by the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. It is also distributed via email and can be accessed online at our website www.lwvcnm.org.

Oct. 1 LWVCNM Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Peggy Howell, Second Vice President, at 5:30 p.m. on October 1, 2015.

Karen Douglas reported on the well-attended September 23, Youth Town Hall Meeting, sponsored by Strong Families New Mexico, and an event created by the positive direction of APD FORWARD. Youth from the Albuquerque area met in small discussion groups with officers of the Albuquerque Police Department. There was a lot of interaction and ideas for the future. Volunteers from the LWVCNM were Karen Douglas, Peggy Howell, Gail Owens, Sonia and Ken Lersten.

The Money in Politics consensus will be held on November 10, 2015, Erna Fergusson Library at 6 p.m. We expect a good turnout of our members for this important topic.

Approximately 200 attended the City Council district 6 forum. Good questions were asked of the candidates.

The Board accepted the resignation of Marilyn Fifield from the Board and appointed Andrea Targhetta to replace her in the MLD position –Membership, Leadership, Development.

A discussion was held on changing our policy on conducting candidate forums. The Board approved the changes that the moderators want to make in allowing limited wearing of campaign materials.

Message from the Leadership Team

By Peggy Howell, Carol Tucker Trelease, Karen Douglas

Money in Politics is the topic of the National League's most recent study, and LWVCNM will hold Consensus on Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. at Erna Fergusson Library. Our own Jeanne Logsdon is a member of the US Study Committee and will serve as both MIP Presenter/Content Expert for the Consensus meeting and Study Committee Advisor.

The study materials are available at www.lwvcnm.org/Studies/MoneyInPolitics/. For details see the article on page 1.

LWVCNM has been an active participant in the APD Forward Coalition, evaluating issues with excessive use of force and improvement measures identified by the Department of Justice in 2014. The consent decree defines specific criteria and the Independent Monitor Dr. Ginger has agreed to relocate to Albuquerque to ensure measurable progress. The APD Forward Coalition of interested community organizations met with both Albuquerque Mayor Berry and city officials and Dr. Ginger this past summer and met with Chief of Police Eden in October 2015. APD Forward representatives also observed numerous Community Policing Council meetings to evaluate effectiveness.

It is time to renew our memberships. After checking and correcting your contact information for the directory, mail your checks to the office or go to the website to use Paypal. Be sure to note any changes in your information with your check or contact the office. This month we had seven new members.

We thank all of you who sent a donation to assist the work of LWVCNM. The board has decided to postpone until 2016 any specific fundraising activity. For those of you who plan an end of year donation to League, we are grateful for your generosity. Please send your check to the office or go to our website and contribute through PayPal. We will need to fund our *Voters' Guide* for the General Election next year.

End of Year Contributions

The year will be drawing to a close in a few months, and many of us are planning for our last tax deductible charitable contributions. If this describes you, please consider a gift to the LWVCNM Education Fund. You can donate online at lwvcnm.org/donate.html or mail a check made out to LWV ENM Ed Fund to the office, 2315 San Pedro NE, Suite F-6, Albuquerque 87110. All contributions will be acknowledged in writing and greatly appreciated! -- Cheryl Haaker, Treasurer

Book Review – *Running from Office*

By Olin Bray

Running From Office: Why Young Americans Are Turned Off To Politics by Jennifer L. Lawless and Richard L. Fox, 2015, Oxford University Press, hardcover, 211 pages.

At League meetings we have often talked about being an aging organization and having trouble attracting younger members. This book is an in depth study related to that problem. The authors point out that there are over half a million elected offices in the country, but their study shows only 11 percent of young people (high school and college students) have any interest in running for them. It's not that they are not interested in their communities and improving the world. Half of them volunteer in their communities, but they just don't see politics and political office as a viable way to improve things. While a lot of people complain about the problem, the authors base their study on a sample of just over 4200 high school and college students (about half of each) and over 100 in depth interviews.

Specific chapters focus on coming of age in an era of political dysfunction, what do you want to be when you grow up, family discussions and involvement in politics, peer discussions and involvement, their image of politicians, and some recommendations to get young people more involved and willing to run for office. This review mentions just a few of their interesting points. For more details the library has six copies of the book, so take a look.

Only 11 percent of young people have repeatedly thought about running for office, while 61 percent have never considered it. When asked what careers they are willing to consider, only 9.3 percent mentioned mayor, 8.8 percent mentioned a member of congress, and 6.4 percent mentioned president. For those who mentioned three or fewer possible careers (i.e. those who had seriously considered them), the numbers were 1.9 percent, 1.6 percent, and 1.6 percent respectively. However, 50 percent of them were volunteering with various community organizations, so they are not uninvolved. Until age 17 there is no gender gap with only 5 to 8 percent of men or women expressing any political ambition. From 18 to 24 (college students) a gap occurs with about 25 percent of men but only 15 percent of women expressing an interest.

Family and friends are a major influence with more young people interested if they are encouraged by their family or friends. Those with one or both parents active in a political party, or even just identifying with a party, were more likely to consider a political office in the future. The authors identified four key activities – taking a political science or government course, running for student government, talking about politics with friends at least once a week, and visiting a political website at least a few times a week. Of those who did none of the four, only two percent would consider running for office. The more of these activities a student participates in, the more likely they are to consider office. Of the students who did all four, 60 percent would consider running for political office. However, only two percent of students did all four. Most students rarely if ever discuss politics and government with their peers or their family, and when they do, it often focuses on the negative aspects of politics. Most students are turned off by campaigns and political news. This low interest and involvement in politics is even more surprising given that the survey and interviews were done during the end of the 2012 presidential election when interest was probably at its highest.

They recommend five things to increase student involvement and interest. First, increase the non-profit activities such as Boys' and Girls' State, which involves students in mock governments. Second, since students spend so much time on computer games, have some (or more) that related to campaigns and government, such as SimCity. Third, use the college application process to get them involved. When college admissions offices started looking at community volunteer activities, far more students got involved – and usually stayed involved. Therefore, explicitly ask about government and campaign involvement as part of the admissions process. Fourth, focus on getting college women involved since that is where the gap develops. Fifth, develop what they call a GoRun App. They suggest that a person should be able to enter their address and find a list of all of the elected offices they could run for, what they involve, their requirements, and the process for getting on the ballot. It should not be a major research project to find what they can run for and how to do it.

Money in Politics

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updated through a study and consensus process to consider: (1) the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and (2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position

LWVUS established the MIP Committee of members from LWVUS and nine different states to study MIP issues and identify consensus questions for local LWV consideration and reporting. Dr. Jeanne Logsdon, LWVUS MIP Committee and LWVCNM member, presented MIP “Meeting in a Box” during the July 2015 LWVCNM General Meeting. LWVUS MIP background information for study was subsequently posted on LWVUS website and Consensus questions were available 9/30/15.

The LWVCNM MIP Study Committee commenced document review October 2015 with MIP

consensus meeting of LWVCNM membership scheduled for Tuesday Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. at the Erna Fergusson Library, 3700 San Mateo Blvd NE. The LWVCNM MIP Consensus Meeting Committee includes: Facilitator/Chair – Laura Stokes; Presenter/Content Expert – Dr. Jeanne Logsdon; LWVUS MIP Committee; Timekeeper – Sharon Moynihan; Consensus Recorder – Sonia Lersten; and Legal Advisor/MIP – Mary H. Smith

The consensus meeting will include background on current LWVUS Campaign Finance Position, legislation and Supreme Court decisions interpreting acceptability of recent financing practices, a brief explanation of each of three parts of LWVUS MIP Consensus questions prior to consideration of each part, and a summary of LWVCNM MIP Consensus meeting outcome.

Go to this URL

www.lwvcnm.org/Studies/MoneyInPolitics/
to see additional documents in preparation for the consensus meeting.



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