

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

2315 San Pedro Drive NE, Suite F-6 ♦ Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158 ♦ 505.884.8441 ♦ www.lwvcnm.org ♦ https://www.facebook.com/LWVCNM

May 2017

The VOTER

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Congresswoman Michelle Lujan-Grisham to address LWVCNM Annual Meeting

U.S. Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham will address the LWVCNM May 6th Annual Meeting to discuss impacts on New Mexico resulting from the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Federal Budget reallocation and FY18 Budget priorities. Congresswoman Lujan Grisham serves the residents of the 1st Congressional District of New Mexico, which covers central New Mexico and includes all of Torrance County and parts of Bernalillo, Sandoval, Santa Fe, and Valencia Counties. Congresswoman Lujan Grisham will provide insight from her experience serving on the US House of Representatives Budget Committee to evaluate current FY17 Federal funding actions and planned FY18 budget allocation. Proposed reallocation of the FY17 Federal budget from programs serving the health care, social service, and educational needs of the most vulnerable to greatly increase funding to both DOD and DHS (Immigration Enforcement) programs is currently being considered in Congress. NM includes many residents served by existing social programs funded by the Federal Government which are now threatened with reduction or extinction. LWVUS Positions supporting these concerns regarding funding of programs include:

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Social Policy

Education, Employment, and Housing

Healthcare

Immigration

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Child Care

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

LWV has made official statements voicing concerns regarding recent expansion of DHS authority and activity. Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham, a 12th-generation New Mexican, is serving her third term representing New Mexico's 1st Congressional District. Representative Lujan Grisham was recently chosen by her colleagues to serve as chairwoman of the prestigious **Congressional Hispanic Caucus**. The Congresswoman serves on the Budget Committee, Agriculture Committee, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in the U.S. House of Representatives. Prior to serving in Congress, Lujan Grisham served as a cabinet secretary for three different New Mexico governors – overseeing the Department of Aging & Long-Term Services and the Department of Health. She also started her own small business and was elected as a Bernalillo County Commissioner. Lujan graduated from [St. Michael's High School](#), received a B.S. degree from the [University of New Mexico](#) (UNM) in 1981, and earned a law degree from the [UNM School of Law](#) in 1987.

The LWVCNM Annual meeting will be held at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul Blvd. NE, with Brunch served at 11:30 am. Congresswoman Lujan-Grisham's address will be begin at 12:00 pm. Please make reservations for the LWVCNM Annual Meeting by emailing lunch@lwvcnm.org or by calling the LWVCNM office (884-8441) prior to 10:00 am Wednesday, May 3.

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Office Hours
May 1-26
Monday - Friday
10 am to Noon
Office Closed
May 29 in observance of
Memorial Day

May 2017

Wednesday, May 3 10:00 am *Bruch Reservation Deadline*

Saturday, May 6 11:45 am **Luncheon Meeting**
MCM Elegante Hotel Albuquerque
2020 Menaul NE

Monday, May 29 **Memorial Day - Office Closed**

New Members

Frank Jerabek
Jenifer Kihm
Anne Isham
Jennifer Chambers

Jane Braithwaite
Michael Carpinelli
Sandra Rourke

Members



Our annual meeting is Saturday May 6 at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE beginning at 9:30 a.m. Come early to register. There will be coffee and tea at 9:00 a.m. The buffet brunch will be available after the meeting closes around 11:30 a.m. Representative Michelle Lujan-Grisham will be our speaker.

Make your reservations by [10:00 a.m. Wednesday May 3](#) by calling the office at 884-8441 or email lunch@lwvcnm.org.

The buffet brunch menu is scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, vegetable medley, fresh fruit, green chili and salsa, vegetarian refried beans, hash browns, pastries, muffins, assorted fruit juices, regular and decaf coffee and hot tea. The price is **\$20 per person**; please pay at the door.

Please bring your April *Voter* to this meeting. We will be electing officers, going over the budget, approving bylaws changes, and electing the nominating committee for next year. See you there!

Democracy is not a spectator sport

Thank You to our 2016-2017 Operating Fund Donors

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Book Review

Three Days in January: Dwight Eisenhower's Final Mission by Bret Baier with Catherine Whitney, 2016, William Morrow, hardcover, 346 pages.

This book provides a short history of the Eisenhower administration, but focus on two events at the end – his farewell address and the transition to the Kennedy administration. However, it also provides us with a look at an effective administration when government actually worked well. Among Eisenhower's accomplishments were ending the Korean War, the Interstate Highway System, progress on civil rights, eight years of peace during the Cold War, and economic growth which benefited most of the country (and with at least a 70 percent top tax rate). And he did this in spite of having a Republican Congress for only two of his eight years. His approach was pragmatic and willing to make compromises and cut deals to get things accomplished. Also he could disagree with people over policy, but never made it personal.

Eisenhower was only the fourth president who had never held elective office before. The other three were Zachary Taylor, Ulysses Grant, and Herbert Hoover, none of and

The other three were Zachary Taylor, Ulysses Grant, and Herbert Hoover, none of whom were very successful. Although Eisenhower had never held elective office, he had been Supreme Commander of the European Theater during WW II and Supreme Commander of NATO, so he had dealt with large, complex organizations on multiple, complex issues and differing interests in an international context.

Eisenhower considered Kennedy inexperienced in many policy areas and in how to organize and run large complex organization. His transition from Truman had been minimal because of personal animosity, although with Eisenhower's experience it was not a serious problem. Therefore, he was determined to provide a smooth transition for Kennedy and support the president-elect and his transition team to the extent they wanted it. Kennedy and his advisors thought they could govern with a much smaller staff so they drastically reduced the NSC (National Security Council). Eisenhower's position was that it was not enough to read position papers or even listen to individual advocates make and support their position. You needed to get them all in a room and let them debate among themselves to really understand the issues and come up with the best position. *Continued on page 4*

Continued from page 3... The Bay of Pigs disaster and Eisenhower's critique of it for Kennedy proved his point. For example, when he asked Kennedy why the air support for the invasion was cancelled, he was told it would have made it obvious that the US was behind the operation. Eisenhower's reply was that that was an invalid reason since the rest the world would still know it was a US operation so that argument shouldn't have affected any of the decision.

The other big event was Eisenhower's farewell address several days before Kennedy's inauguration. This is where he warned about the military-industrial complex and its unwarranted influence whether sought or unsought. He was worried that the massive military budget and its impact on research was having too much influence on government priorities and the country's culture. This issue had been simmering throughout his administration and was not a response to Kennedy's campaign about the missile gap and the need for a larger defense budget. It got Eisenhower's attention early in his administration when aides pointed out that over 25,000 companies were doing defense work and that major defense companies were advertising and doing public relations in most general circulation media, not just the technical press addressing their customers. Eisenhower's point was not that we didn't need defense, but that we needed to keep a balanced perspective and realize the tradeoffs that were involved. Earlier he had made the case that every strategic bomber meant thousands of schools or hospitals not built. It is interesting to compare his farewell address to the types of political speeches we see today.

While the history is interesting, perhaps the strongest lesson from the book is how effective bipartisan government can and should work and how hard it is going to be to get us back to that point.

Olin Bray

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