

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

June 2017

The VOTER

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UNM Professor Sanchez to address Redistricting for the June General Meeting

UNM Political Science Professor and Executive Director of the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation, Dr.

Gabriel Ramon Sanchez, will discuss Redistricting Concerns with LWVCNM during the June General Meeting which will be held Thursday June 8th, 11:45 am, at the MCM Elegante, 2020 Menaul Blvd NE.

Recent changes to the LWVUS Redistricting Position indicate review by the membership may be advisable. The League of Women Voters believes responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups. The LWVUS Position further states elements every redistricting process should include, review by the courts, and the standards on which a redistricting plan is based, and on which any plan should be judged. The LWVUS Representative Government Position on Redistricting seeks to promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. The LWVUS Position on Redistricting was adopted by Concurrence June 2016: <http://forum.lwv.org/document/redistricting-action-kit>.

Dr. Sanchez has conducted applied research on voting rights. With long-time co-author Dr. Matt Barreto (UCLA), Dr. Sanchez has written several expert witness reports utilized in voter ID cases across the country. Most recently Barreto and Sanchez teamed up again to provide an expert report and testify in Veasey v. Perry in

a challenge to the Texas voter ID law, and a Federal Court struck down the Texas ID law as unconstitutional, in part basing her decision on the evidence presented by Barreto and Sanchez.

Dr. Sanchez is one of the leading national experts on Latinos and health policy. Sanchez is an expert on politics in the Southwest having directed many research projects and polls for Latino Decisions in New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona and he has been invited to give talks and presentations at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, LULAC, AFL-CIO, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), and often serves as an expert policy advisor to the New Mexico State Legislature.

Sanchez received his Ph.D in Political Science from the University of Arizona. His research explores the relationship between racial/ethnic identity and political engagement, Latino health policy, and minority legislative behavior. Sanchez has published more than forty scholarly research articles, chapters and books that examine minority public opinion, electoral behavior and racial and ethnic politics more generally in the United States. He is the author of the recent book [*Latinos and the 2012 Election: The New Face of the American Voter*](#), and is currently working on the second edition of this book that will focus on the 2016 election. Sanchez is also co-author of [*Hispanics and the U.S. Political System*](#), one of the most popular Latino Politics textbooks in colleges today.

Please make reservations for the June 8th Luncheon Unit Meeting by emailing lunch@lwvcnm.org or by calling the LWVCNM office (884-8441) by 10:00 am Monday, June 5th. Please specify if you would like a vegetarian meal.

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Summer Office Hours

June 1– September 4

**Monday –Wednesday- Friday
10 am to Noon**

June 2017

Thursday, June 1 5:15 pm Board Meeting
UNM Law School, 2403

Monday, June 5 10:00 am Reservation Deadline

Thursday, June 8 11:45 am Luncheon Meeting
MCM Eleganté Hotel Albuquerque
2020 Menaul NE

Saturday, June 17 10:00 am Calendar Planning
9:30 am Coffee, Tea, Pastries, Fruit available

La Vida Llena
10501 Lagrima de Oro Road NE
Nueva Vista Building -2nd floor Creative Arts Room
Juan Tabo & Lagrima de Oro Road NE
(parking available across the street @ St. Stephen's United Methodist Church)

LWVCNM Annual Calendar Planning

Members and their guests are invited to the 2017-2018 Calendar Planning to contribute ideas for guest speakers at our Unit meetings. Please know that all suggestions for topics and speakers on issues important to the League's agenda will be considered. We all can benefit from your ideas. Come early for coffee and snacks and enjoy the camaraderie of our meetings. Please call 265-4336 if you have any questions.

Saturday June 17th 10:00 am
a Vida Llena, 10501 Lagrima de Oro Road NE
Nueva Vista Building -2nd floor Creative Arts Room

Southwest corner of Juan Tabo and Lagrima de Oro NE
(which is one block north of Montgomery).

The entrance is on the west side of the building..

There are a few visitor slots, but you can also park along Lagrima de Oro or in the parking lot at St. Stephen's UMC on the north side of the street.

The Creative Arts Room on the second floor just left of the elevator.

The elevator is on the left just past the reception desk.

Refill Information for LWV pen:

Refills: Penatia 8004–blue(-21) or black(-22)
Available at Amazon, Office Depot, OfficeMax, Staples and
Any other office supply store that sells Cross pens.

League of Women Voters® of Central New Mexico

A warm thank you to those returning and to our new League members who attended the May Annual Meeting. Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham, our guest speaker and member of the House Budget, Agriculture, and Oversight & Government Reform committees, is determined to make government work for all the people.

To our members who are leaving the Board, Karen Douglas, Sonia Lersten and Carol Tucker Trelease, I am grateful for all of your thoughts and actions that help our League, I thank you, and I hope you will stay close and continue to guide us as we reach out to the greater community.

Now, a bit of history: The current form of Albuquerque City Government was established in 1974. In 1981, there was a sudden vacancy in District 7. Then Mayor Harry Kinney appointed League member Nadine Bicknell to fill that vacancy. She had been our Observer to the Council and had attended many sessions. Nadine was then elected on her own and served until 1987.

We can ALL MONITOR City Council! Think National, State, County, School board. Many of these and other public bodies can now be monitored from home!

I encourage everyone to be mindful and to team up with other League members who live in your Zip Code (please ask for your own zip-coded list). Partner-up, discuss our local positions and League Program, and I urge you all to meet with your legislators. Invite him and her for a Dutch-treat coffee or light lunch. Together, you can acquaint them with our positions on the issues. As recently stated by Chris Carson, LWVUS National President:

We can all use LWVUS positions and priorities to act on the pressing issues facing our communities, and you are not required to ask for permission to use existing national positions when you contact your legislators to bring about change at the state or local level or in turn, to use state positions to take local action.

Our membership has increased, as many of us are more aware of local and national issues. If you missed Annual

Meeting, please take time to fill out the *Interest Sheet* on page 5. Please tell me how you would like to be contacted - phone or email, and the best time to reach you. (I try not to use my devices after 7 pm!) What is your major interest: Voters Service, Phone Squad, Participation in a study group to research or revise a position, Speak to other civic groups or high school students? Would you like to monitor the school board or city or county agencies? Perhaps be like Nadine – even become an elected official.

Judith Binder

Sunday May 7, 2017 Celebration of the Founding of the League of Women Voters®

On Sunday May 7, the LWVCNM met at the Vortex Theatre to enjoy *The Importance of Being Earnest*, written by the great Irish writer, Oscar Wilde. Forty-two of us were at the theatre having a great time, and we made a contribution to the LWV CNM Education Fund by buying our tickets through the LWVCNM. Our new Co-President, Judith Binder, organized a dinner at the nearby Range Restaurant (FYI, the other Co-President is Leah Ingraham.) Ironically the play, a satire on Victorian ways, was first performed on February 14th, 1895 at the St. James Theatre in London. Thirty-five years later, on that date, the LWV was founded, preceding the actual passage of the 19th Amendment by six months. The first National president, Maud Wood Park, made some critical decisions about LWV activity: “It was apparent that the legislative goals of the League would not be exclusively focused on women's issues and that *education aimed at all of the electorate was in order*.”

For more than 97 years, the League has helped millions of women and men become informed participants in government. We are all proud that the League has tackled a diverse range of public policy issues.

Later this year we will begin planning more engaging activities: theatre party/dinner to help fund our LWVCNM Education Fund. I welcome your thoughts: Evenings or Matinees? Musicals or a comedy or drama? I shall enjoy hearing from you, and I am looking for one or two people to help me with fund raising projects and activities.

George Richmond, 4th Vice President

APD Forward

On May 10, 2017 Judge Brack heard the Independent monitor, Dr. Ginger, give his fifth report on the APD's progress with the Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA). The monitoring team noticed deliberate resistance in the supervisor and the command staff. This came in the form of obstructing the use of force reviews. The APD has failed to correct the improper use of force issues, such as performing neck holds on prisoners and using force against handcuffed prisoners. The CASA and our City ordinance requires the Police Chief to respond in writing when the department does not discipline an officer as recommended by the Civilian Police Oversight Agency (CPOA.) The CPOA has had no responses in many cases. The Chief may perform other disciplinary action at his discretion, but must follow through with his reasons for changing the recommendation.

The APD must put into practice the new policies which were written. It seems supervisors and managers are not incorporating a culture which can change the department into a constitutional police force. Words were changed in some incident reports to soften the perspective of a situation. Many police departments blend a form of constitutional and community policing. A good foundation of ethical and lawful practices aids in building trust with our community.

The APD has also been using their social media outlets to malign the Independent Monitor and put a twist on some of the incidents in favor of the department. APD Forward is to have a meeting with the City on this matter.

There are many areas where the APD has been in compliance. Use of Tasers has improved, the SWAT, Canine, and Bomb Squads have modeled good performance. The CPOA is in compliance with its responsibility, and the Crisis Intervention Team is doing well.

One item of note, the Department of Justice (DOJ) gave a complimentary narrative on the APD's compliance and did not mention any of the troubling aspects of the report. This seemed to be approving of APD's progress without looking at the problems addressed. The judge

even asked why he had to be the one to bring up "the elephant in the room" instead of the DOJ concerning the deliberate weakening of words used to report incidents. After the meeting it was theorized the new AG could possibly have directed each DOJ district monitoring agreements, to end them as soon as possible. This is only opinion.

Andrea Targhetta

New Members

Rolene Barnett	Cori Benjamin
Gail Benjamin	Ashley Benning
Susan Hines	Joan Marsan
Mark Schecter	Gail Taylor
Kim Whitman	

Returning Members

Emily Koplik
Carolyn DeVore Parks
Nancy Phillips
Shelly Shepherd

Handbook Correction

Sharon Bode was omitted in error.

If there are any errors in your listing in the Handbook please email Donna Rigano:
djrigano@swcp.com

Book Review

3 books from Economist

Bowling Alone by Robert Putnam, 2000; *The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart* by Bill Bishop, 2008, and *Two Paths: America Divided or United* by John Kasich, 2017.

This review focuses on three books mentioned in a recent Economist article (April 29, 2017, page 24) that suggests a growing problem in our political and civic system.

In *Bowling Alone* (2000) Putnam indicates that more Americans were bowling, but there were far fewer teams

Continued on page 5 ...

....*Book Review—continued from page 4*

and leagues, which suggests we were becoming less civic minded and community oriented. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated curiosity. He had previously done a major study in Italy (*Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*, 1993) to determine in which parts of the country the local governments did well and where they did poorly and was there a difference in which functions they well or poorly. The surprising result was that in the southern part of the country governments essentially did nothing very well, while in the northern parts they did almost everything fairly well. The major difference between the two regions (in addition to the north being wealthier) was that the south lacked civic and volunteer organizations, while in the north they proliferated. These groups are important (in Italy and in America) because they are where people learn to work together, cooperate, and compromise, especially with people with differing interests. Putnam's 2000 book was an early warning that we are losing these organizations and the training ground they provide. These groups are bridging groups where people learn to work together with those with diverse interests. Other types of groups like PACs, single interest political groups, and religious and ethnic groups are bonding groups, bringing together those with similar interests – and sometimes (often?) isolating people and creating an us and them perspective, which is the wrong lesson for effective politics.

Bishop's book goes a step further and identifies another damaging trend. We are sorting ourselves out politically, economically, socially, and culturally by where we live. An indicator of this problem is what he calls "landslide counties," where one presidential candidate beat the other by at least 20 percent. These are major differences as opposed to winners claiming a mandate with a one or two percent win. These landslide counties are becoming more common. In 1976 when Carter won, only 27 percent of the US population lived in landslide counties. In 2004 when George W. Bush was reelected, it was 48 percent of the population. And in 2016 it was 60 percent of the population. Instead of coming together we are looking more like two very different countries within the same borders. Consider the implication of this trend for non-partisan redistricting, which many hope will solve

many of our problems. Even if you eliminate gerrymandering, these highly homogeneous districts would still be safe seats, unless perhaps we gerrymander them explicitly to be more diverse, which is probably even less likely to occur than non-partisan redistricting commissions.

The final book is Kasich's new book, *Two Paths: America Divided or United*. Kasich provides an alternative vision to Trump by suggesting we need to be more concerned with the community and with each other, not just our own narrow self-interest – what he calls a "conservative with a conscience." Without using the same terms he is talking about Putnam's civic, bridging organizations. He suggests that part of the problem is that political and religious leaders are not prepared to stand up to educate and change their base. This is important because until you change the voters the stalemate will continue. As long as either party controls Congress by only a few votes and refuses to compromise, then there will be a stalemate and the handful of extremists on either side will have too much influence. While he identifies the problem and suggests what a solution might look like, unfortunately he does not tell us how to get there.

It's not a very optimistic review, but at least there is plenty of food for thought.

Olin Bray

League of Women Voters® of Central New Mexico
– INTEREST SHEET - June 2017

Name: _____

Best time to reach me: _____

Circle Preferred Contact: Phone Email

Zip Code: _____

Major interest(s):

- _____ Voters' Service*
- _____ Study Group Topic*
- _____ Phone Squad*
- _____ Speak to Groups*
- _____ Other _____

*Information & Training is available

Return to Judith Binder: bjudy@unm.edu

The League Update

May 25, 2017

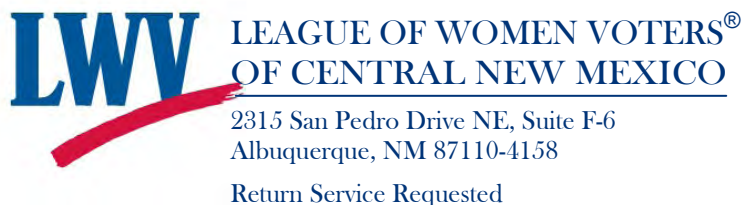
This is a critical win when racial and political gerrymanders intersect. The claim that the lines drawn were based on partisan concerns cannot override evidence that **race, not politics**, was the primary motivation in drawing district lines

This week the [Supreme Court ruled that North Carolina lawmakers used racial considerations to draw congressional districts](#) following the 2010 Census. This decision is a major win in the battle for fair districts and the League is proud to have filed [an amicus brief](#) with the Campaign Legal Center in this case. Illegal gerrymanders have now been stuck down in 5 states: Alabama, Florida, Texas, Virginia and now North Carolina.

Redistricting is a top priority for Leagues around the country, fighting for fairly drawn district lines and enforceable criteria to guard against political and racial gerrymandering. [We will continue to demonstrate leadership on this key voting rights issue](#) and hold our elected officials accountable when they attempt to influence the system for their own benefit.

Chris Carson,

President, League of Women Voters®



June 2017

The League Update

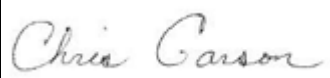
May 2

This is a critical win when racial and political gerrymanders intersect. It overrides evidence that **race, not politics**, was the primary motivation.

This week the [Supreme Court ruled that North Carolina lawmakers used race to draw districts in violation of the 2010 Census](#). This decision is a major win in the battle for fair districting. The American Civil Liberties Union Legal Center in this case. Illegal gerrymanders have now been struck down in North Carolina.

Redistricting is a top priority for Leagues around the country, fighting against political and racial gerrymandering. [We will continue to demonstrate our commitment to accountability](#) when they attempt to influence the system for their own benefit.

Chris

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Carson".