

July 2019

# The VOTER

Vol. 84 No. 07

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

2315 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite F-6 Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158 (505) 884-8441  
www.lwvcnm.org <https://www.facebook.com/LWVCNM>

## YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE JULY 11, 2019 LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL NM

**Featured speaker: Katy Duhigg, Albuquerque City Clerk**

The Local Election Act has transformed the timing and administration of local elections in New Mexico. Instead of voting in October, March, or February, voters be selecting local officials in municipalities which have opted into the LEA this November 5. Likewise, other bodies such as the Albuquerque Public Schools Board will be selected in the November election. City and APS bond issues and other issues placed on the ballot will also be on the November election. This has dramatically changed the role of the city clerk in local elections. Come and hear Katy Duhigg talk about these changes as well as about the campaign financing rules that are in place for Albuquerque city council candidates.

**#VOTE  
LOCAL**

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019  
EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL  
1000 Woodward Pl ace NE

Register by phone or email [lunch@lwvcnm.org](mailto:lunch@lwvcnm.org) by 10 am July 8  
Lunch is \$22

### FROM THE DESKS OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS.....



Summer is a time of year when many LWVCNM members may be on vacation or engaged in recreation, but significant events requiring our attention are still continuing. Annual LWVCNM Calendar Planning was held June 15, 2019 (see article on page 9). This event always highlights LWV issues of importance to the membership and we gather member recommendations for speakers and public policy issues of interest to members. The LWVCNM 2020 Suffrage Anniversary program and events are being coordinated under the capable management of Jeanne Logsdon and already some dates for significant events are being finalized surrounding both the February 14, 2020 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters and the August 26, 2020 anniversary of the incorporation of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment into the United States Constitution, thereby granting women the right to vote.

*(continued on page 3)*

**THE VOTER**

Published monthly

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of Central New Mexico  
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**LEAGUE CALENDAR**

**July 2019**

**Thursday, July 4** No Board Meeting  
**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**Monday, July 8** Deadline for July luncheon mtg. reservations  
10AM  
**Thursday, July 11** 11:45 am LUNCHEON UNIT MEETING  
Speaker: City Clerk Katy Duhigg  
**NE HEIGHTS UNIT MEETING WILL NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL SEPTEMBER**  
**Saturday, July 20** LWVNM Board Meeting, Albuquerque

**August 2019**

**Thursday, August 1** 5:30 pm LWVCNM Board Meeting,  
Sutin, Thayer & Browne Conference  
Room 4th floor, 6100 Uptown NE  
**Monday, August 5** 10:00 am Deadline for luncheon reser-  
vations  
**Thursday, August 8** 11:45 am LUNCHEON UNIT MEET  
ING. Speaker Topic: National Issues  
**Monday, August 26** Women's Equality Day



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**August 29, 2020**  
**The 100th Anniver-**

**sary Committee of LWVCNM requests that you save this date for a very special Centennial dinner celebration. Time, location, and other details to be announced later.**

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, a tax exempt 501 (c ) (3) organization is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy by education and advocacy.

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday—Wednesday—Friday**  
**10 am — noon**

## FROM THE DESKS OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS.....continued from page 1

Perhaps the most significant activity of vital interest to LWVCNM are milestones during summer 2019 related to the November 5, 2019 Local Elections. In addition to the Albuquerque City Council members in some districts, elections will be held for local officials in the Village of Tijeras and the Village of Los Ranchos and other communities in our area, the Board of Albuquerque Public Schools, the Board of Directors of Central New Mexico Community College, Flood Control Districts and areas with special zoning. June 3, 2019 was the final deadline for submission of funding sources for publicly financed candidates for City of Albuquerque Council races in accordance with the Ethical Elections Code. June 28, 2019 is the deadline for Albuquerque City Council candidates to submit nominating petitions (with the signatures of 500 registered voters from their district) if they want to appear on the ballot. August 27, 2019 is the deadline for Declaration of Candidacy in Albuquerque City Council elections. The Voter Guide serves as the most widely visible public service provided by LWV and requires long hours and multiple decisions by a cadre of dedicated LWVCNM volunteers. (See page 7).

In addition to the Voter Guide, LWVCNM moderators and timekeepers will be available for candidate forums and forums for ballot issues. Mary H. Smith is in charge of all requests for moderators and timekeepers. If your neighborhood association or other organizations with which you are affiliated in our four-county area would like to sponsor a forum, contact Mary at [maryhenrie@msn.com](mailto:maryhenrie@msn.com).

Have a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and enjoy this beautiful summer month!

Your Co-Presidents, Karen Douglas and Karen Wentworth



## SUPREME COURT ISSUES RULING ON PARTISAN GERRYMANDERING.....

The long-awaited decision on partisan gerrymandering in *Rucho et al. v. Common Cause et al.*, No. 18-422, was rendered by the United States Supreme Court on June 25, 2019. This case involved gerrymandering along party lines in North Carolina which favored the republican and in Maryland which favored the Democrats. The LWV of

North Carolina was a party to the NC case and the League of Women Voters of the United States filed an amicus brief in the consolidated case in the US Supreme Court. The opinion in the case written by Chief Justice John Roberts in with Justices Thomas, Alito, Gorsuch and Kavanaugh concurred is a very readable opinion. We encourage all interested members to read it in its entirety at [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-422\\_9ol1.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-422_9ol1.pdf) The dissent in the case was written by Justice Elena Kagan and joined by Justices Ginsburg, Breyer and Sotomayor.

In the case the plaintiffs alleged that the partisan gerrymandering which occurred in MD and NC after the 2010 census violated the First Amendment, the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, the Elections Clause, and Article I, §2, of the Constitution. In brief, the Court decided that the questions presented were “political questions” outside the purview of the Courts and a decision would require the Court to determine the “fairness” of such redistricting for which no judicial standard could be articulated. The Court left the issue of partisan gerrymandering to the State legislatures and to Congress. As a result of this case, it is imperative that the Leagues across the country continuing their lobbying efforts to ensure that legislation is enacted which assures that redistricting will be taken out of the hands of partisans and placed in the hands of independent redistricting commissions. As LWVUS President Chris Carson said in her June 28 press release, “[T]here IS a path forward. Through the establishment of independent, citizen-led redistricting commissions at the state level to draw electoral districts, we can put power back into the hands of the people, not politicians. Redistricting commissions —such as those passed in Colorado, Michigan, and Utah in 2018—have been highly successful in ensuring that district maps fairly represent the population. Fair maps are also possible through Congressional action. The For the People Act, which the League helped to shape earlier this year, includes fair redistricting standards for the entire country. This legislation has already passed in the U.S. House of Representatives, but it needs more support in the Senate.” See page 10 of this *Voter* for more information about this Act.

*Rucho case continued on page 5....*

## NEW AND EMERGING ECONOMIES IN NEW MEXICO



Did you know there are no state regulations for ways to measure the length and weight of hemp grown in New Mexico? That's not surprising since the legislation allowing New Mexicans to grow hemp only passed in January. What is surprising is the difficulty in assuring that it is hemp and not cannabis that New Mexicans are growing, since the two are very similar in appearance.

That is one of the challenges the state faces as it gears up to regulate the hemp economy. It's also the job of Brad Lewis, an expert at New Mexico State University in economic entomology and the division director in the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. He answered a variety of audience questions as leaguers tries to understand the complexities of this new economic sector.

The panel on New and Reemerging Economies at the June 13 Luncheon meeting of LWVCNM was moderated by T.J. Cook, the executive director of ABQid, Inc. His organization helps early-stage companies with growth potential connect with resources and seed capital. One of the companies he works with is Teeniors, started by Trish Lopez, the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico's third vice president in charge of program.

Terri Nikole Baca is president of AT&T New Mexico. She says AT&T is currently focused on how to bring broadband to the vast and empty reaches of New Mexico, especially as 4G and 5G technology is rolled out across the United States. That ignited a discussion of government barriers and changes in actual technology. It's not clear whether the future of broadband in NM is actual wires or signals bounced from low earth orbiting satellites!

This luncheon panel was so lively that there was barely time to hear Galina Kofchock, the owner and chief financial officer of OE Solar speak about the need for continuing tax credits to allow solar energy companies to compete with traditional electrical suppliers, or how the solar energy industry will fit into the governor's push toward renewable energy sources.



*June Luncheon panel pictured left to right: T.J. Cook, Terri Nikole Baca, Brad Lewis, Galina Kofchock, and Crystal Coffman*

Crystal Coffman represented Pattern Development, a wind energy company that is seeking to build long distance lines through central New Mexico to transport electricity to urban centers where it will be used. She spoke of the challenges of building new lines to transport the electricity.

The everyday economy of New Mexico is moving so quickly that it is almost impossible to keep up as technology makes it possible to connect people in ways that couldn't be done ten years ago to power sources that are only now becoming technically practical. Everyone who missed this lunch meeting missed one of the most interesting programs of the year.

By Karen Wentworth, Co-President

## RUCHO V. Common Cause, continued from page 3.....

So that our members will have a true flavor for the opinion itself, we present the following excerpts from Justice Roberts' opinion:

Chief Justice Marshall famously wrote that it is “the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is.” *Marbury v. Madison*, 1 Cranch 137, 177 (1803). Sometimes, however, “the law is that the judicial department has no business entertaining the claim of unlawfulness—because the question is entrusted to one of the political branches or involves no judicially enforceable rights.” *Vieth v. Jubelirer*, 541 U. S. 267, 277 (2004) ...In such a case the claim is said to present a “political question” and to be nonjusticiable—outside the courts’ competence and therefore beyond the courts’ jurisdiction. *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U. S. 186, 217 (1962). Among the political question cases the Court has identified are those that lack “judicially discoverable and manageable standards for resolving [them].” ....

Partisan gerrymandering is nothing new. Nor is frustration with it. The practice was known in the Colonies prior to Independence, and the Framers were familiar with it at the time of the drafting and ratification of the Constitution. See *Vieth*, 541 U. S., at 274 (plurality opinion). During the very first congressional elections, George Washington and his Federalist allies accused Patrick Henry of trying to gerrymander Virginia’s districts against their candidates—in particular James Madison, who ultimately prevailed over fellow future President James Monroe....

The initial difficulty in settling on a “clear, manageable and politically neutral” test for fairness is that it is not even clear what fairness looks like in this context. There is a large measure of “unfairness” in any winner-take-all system. Fairness may mean a greater number of competitive districts. Such a claim seeks to undo packing and cracking so that supporters of the disadvantaged party have a better shot at electing their preferred candidates. But making as many districts as possible more competitive could be a recipe for disaster for the disadvantaged party. As Justice White has pointed out, “[i]f all or most of the districts are competitive ...even a narrow statewide preference for either party would produce an overwhelming majority for the winning party in the state legislature.” *Bandemer*, 478 U. S. at 130 ....

There are no legal standards discernible in the Constitution for making such judgments, let alone limited and precise standards that are clear, manageable, and politically neutral. Any judicial decision on what is “fair” in this context would be an “unmoored determination” of the sort characteristic of a political question beyond the competence of the federal courts. *Zivotofsky*, 566 U. S. 189, 196 (2012)....

Our conclusion does not condone excessive partisan gerrymandering. Nor does our conclusion condemn complaints about districting to echo into a void. The States, for example, are actively addressing the issue on a number of fronts. In 2015, the Supreme Court of Florida struck down that State's congressional districting plan as a violation of the Fair Districts Amendment to the Florida Constitution. *League of Women Voters of Florida v. Detzner*, 172 So. 3d 363 (2015). The dissent wonders why we can't do the same. See post, at 31. The answer is that there is no "Fair Districts Amendment" to the Federal Constitution. Provisions in state statutes and state constitutions can provide standards and guidance for state courts to apply. (We do not understand how the dissent can maintain that a provision saying that no districting plan "shall be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party" provides little guidance on the question. See post, at 31, n. 6.) Indeed, numerous other States are restricting partisan considerations in districting through legislation. One way they are doing so is by placing power to draw electoral districts in the hands of independent commissions. For example, in November 2018, voters in Colorado and Michigan approved constitutional amendments creating multimember commissions that will be responsible in whole or in part for creating and approving district maps for congressional and state legislative districts. See Colo. Const., Art. V, §§44, 46; Mich. Const., Art. IV, §6. Missouri is trying a different tack. Voters there overwhelmingly approved the creation of a new position—state demographer—to draw state legislative district lines. Mo. Const., Art. III, §3.

Other States have mandated at least some of the traditional districting criteria for their mapmakers.

[continued on page 12]

## Spotlight on LWV Members....

*Beginning a series of reminiscences by longstanding League members for the LWV 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Feb. 14, 2020. By Vivian Skadron*

### Margaret Olson, LWV Life Member

Margaret Olson, a 52 year life LWV member, first joined the League in Champagne-Urbana, Illinois where her husband had accepted a faculty position at the University of Illinois. At the time, Margaret was searching for involvement in her new community and was drawn to an article in the local newspaper on the LWV. She remembers going alone to a large home for her first meeting and being among 60+ stimulating women, many of whom were also faculty wives. She joined and became involved in two studies: one on the inadequate living conditions of people living on the north end of town, and the other on desegregation of the public schools.



At that time the Champagne County LWV had over 450 members. Margaret became an active member and even attended the National LWV Convention in Chicago in the 1990s. One of the workshops was on use of the Internet for League purposes. Margaret had a background in computer programming and quickly realized how beneficial computerization of the Chapter's communications would be to the local chapter. Ergo – Margaret became the League's computer guru, and she set up a League information site online for meetings and announcements. She

contacted the County Clerk and persuaded him to put county information online. Using county government data, she helped put out the LWV's Who's Who and distributed copies to six villages in Champagne County. In addition, she was given the job of preparing the LWV newsletter, which she did for many years.

LWVCNM is very glad Margaret moved to our area! Today, Margaret and her husband, Ed, live in *The Neighborhood* in Rio Rancho. She now attends League meetings on site and hopes to participate in the 100-year LWV celebration.

Members make the League a very happy place.....

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

KENDALL KELLEY

SUE WEST, known as Sandra West, a member transferring from the Los Alamos League

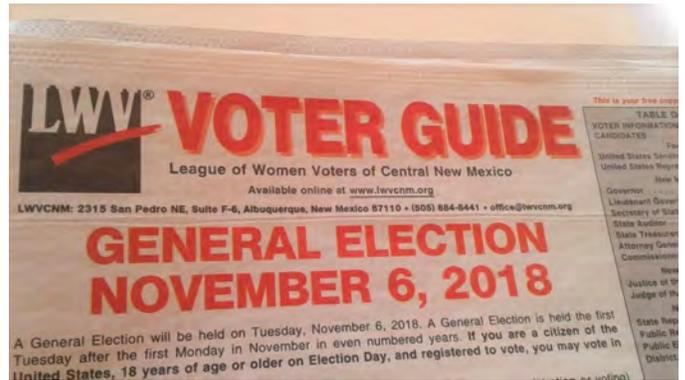
United States  
**Census  
2020**

**The other Supreme Court case issued June 27...** Your Editor was not ignoring the other very important court case decided at the time of this publication. The decision regarding the citizenship question on the Census is an extremely crucial decision for all of us. It will be covered in detail in the August VOTER.

## 2019 VOTER GUIDE.....

Our members have always been the backbone of the Voter Guide we publish every year. We thank our members who have always been incredibly generous with donations to fund the Guide which costs between \$6000 and \$10,000.

This year is no different — your help is needed to insure that the LWVCNM can bring this important piece of voter information to the electorate for the local elections that will be held November 5. Many have said that good public policy begins at the local level. It is imperative that the League encourage voters to VOTE and that they have good, non-partisan information about the upcoming local election and the candidates and the issues that will be on the ballot.



**PLEASE HELP US! FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANY SIZE ARE WELCOME. HELP US PUBLISH THE VOTER GUIDE.**

We hope you will add your contribution to this important endeavor by filling out the donor form which appears below and sending it to LWVCNM, Attn: Jan Strand, 2315 San Pedro NE, Suite F-6, Albuquerque, NM 87110. All contributions are tax deductible.

**I want to help the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico publish the Voter Guide for the November 5, 2019 election. Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. I understand that my contribution is tax deductible.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

## LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR CENTENNIAL.....

LWVCNM is hard at work planning activities for the 100th anniversary of the League and of the 19th Amendment which secured the right to vote for women. For the next year we will be presenting various items of historical interest in the Voter regarding the League and women's suffrage. The below tribute to

the work of the League by the late Senate Pete Domenic appeared in the Congressional Record on February 14, 1995, the 75th anniversary of the League. Cong. Rec. Vol 141, No. 29, pages 52640-52645. In subsequent months we will be printing the delightful article he mentions that was inserted into the record. That article was written by Shelley Shephard, former President of LWVCNM and long time League member.



“Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, 1995 is the 75th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

The year 1995 is also the 75th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. I want to commend the league for its efforts to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. I particularly want to recognize

the activities of the League of Women Voters in New Mexico. In 1924, 4 years after the formation of the national league, the New Mexico League started its first chapter in Albuquerque. The league concentrated upon informing citizens on legislation before the New Mexico House and Senate. By 1949, three league chapters were active in Albuquerque, Los Alamos, and Las Vegas, NM. By 1953, two more chapters had been added in Las Cruces and Santa Fe, and members were being recruited for chapters in Tucumcari and Gallup. As membership grew, local league chapters began to work on local and federal issues in addition to issues before the State legislature. Today, before every general election, local leagues publish voters guides and hold candidate forums and debates. Between elections, the league publishes Who's Who pamphlets listing the names of local elected officials and holds seminars on issues important to New Mexicans. Issues including health care, transportation, and children and youth have been the topics of recent seminars. These publications, forums, and seminars are valuable resources for citizens. I would like to salute the New Mexico league for its untiring efforts to inform citizens about State, local, and national issues. I would like to particularly recognize five members of the New Mexico league who will be honored by our Governor Gary Johnson on February 24: Trula Johansson, Jessie Rudnick, Marjorie Burr, Barbara Bell, and Elizabeth Platts. Trula Johansson joined the New Mexico league in 1948 and was president of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County chapter; Jessie Rudnick started a league-sponsored farmers market in Los Alamos; Marjorie Burr was a founder of the Las Cruces chapter; Barbara Bell organized a member-at-large league in Grants; Elizabeth Platts is past president of the Santa Fe league. These five women are outstanding examples of the contributions the league has made to New Mexico. I also want to recognize the efforts of those who helped New Mexican women gain the right to vote. The New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs and the Congressional Union, an organization of suffragettes, were instrumental in pressing the New Mexico State Legislature to ratify the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. President, I request that an article that better describes women's suffrage in New Mexico be inserted into the Record at the conclusion of my remarks.

Mr. President, I salute those who worked to give women the right to vote. I salute the members of the New Mexico League of Women Voters and the principles in which they believe and support. The league believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States, that democratic Government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens, and that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people. The league's education and advocacy activities in support of these principles have served all New Mexicans well by helping them better exercise their right to vote. On behalf of all New Mexicans, I want to express my appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the members of the League of Women Voters.”

## WHAT'S ON THE CALENDAR FOR THE LWVCNM 2019-20 YEAR?

Each June members gather to plan the Calendar for the coming year. What they want to learn about. Who they want to hear. The planning meeting held on June 15 was a terrific and fun meeting to do just that. And members showed all their enthusiasm and strong opinions about the topics they think are important to our community. Here is what they decided should be the subjects of the monthly meetings for the next year:

August 2019: National issues especially Should Congress have the responsibility for declaring War.

September 2019: How judges are elected and Qualification

October 2019 – Census Demographics in NM, Redistricting,

November 2019 – Reproductive Rights

December 2019 – LWVNM Legislative Priorities

January 2020 – Nuclear Waste Storage facilities update

February 2020 – Public Transportation

March 2020 – Sunshine Month

April 2020 – Medicare for All

May 2020 – Annual meeting,—Elections/electoral system and Third party involvement

June 2020 – Civics in Education

July 2020 - Youth in Politics

Third Vice President Trish Lopez and her volunteers will be very busy getting speakers on all these topics to help educate our members throughout the year. If you know of great speakers in any of these areas, contact her at [trishlopez33@gmail.com](mailto:trishlopez33@gmail.com).



### AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SEPTEMBER 17.....

LWVCNM Centennial Committee is pleased to announce that the UNM International Studies Institute and the NM Jewish Community Foundation Fall lecture series will bring Dr. Joyce Antler, Professor of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University. to speak on campus, Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 4:00 p.m. in the UNM Student Union, (room TBA). Dr. Antler has written widely on women's history. WATCH for more information in the August and September Voters. YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT!



Office workers. And Volunteers to help with the Centennial dinner. Contact Karen at [ug90t16@unmalumni.com](mailto:ug90t16@unmalumni.com)  
 Voter Guide Manager. Contact Mary at [T3Wilson@aol.com](mailto:T3Wilson@aol.com)  
 APD Forward monitor. Contact Karen at [kwentworth@comcast.net](mailto:kwentworth@comcast.net)  
**PICTURES FOR VOTER BADLY NEEDED. Contact Mary at [T3Wilson@aol.com](mailto:T3Wilson@aol.com)**

## For the People Act of 2019.....

A very important piece of legislation passed the United House of Representatives in March that would help greatly reform and secure our elections. The entire NM House delegation voted in favor of it. It is the For the People Act which was promptly presented in the Senate by our own Senator Tom Udall joined by 46 other senators. Unfortunately, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has vowed to never bring it to the floor and President Trump has indicated he would veto the legislation if it reached his desk. Leagues around the country have been working to pass this bill into law. Go to the [house.gov](http://house.gov) website and review the bill in its entirety to see the integrity it would bring to our voting systems. Here is a summary of some of the salient points:

This bill addresses voter access, election integrity, election security, political spending, and ethics for the three branches of government. Specifically, the bill expands voter registration and voting access, makes Election Day a federal holiday, and limits removing voters from voter rolls.

The bill provides for states to establish independent, nonpartisan redistricting commissions.

The bill also sets forth provisions related to election security, including sharing intelligence information with state election officials, protecting the security of the voter rolls, supporting states in securing their election systems, developing a national strategy to protect the security and integrity of U.S. democratic institutions, establishing in the legislative branch the National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions, and other provisions to improve the cybersecurity of election systems.

This bill addresses campaign spending, including by expanding the ban on foreign nationals contributing to or spending on elections; expanding disclosure rules pertaining to organizations spending money during elections, campaign advertisements, and online platforms; and revising disclaimer requirements for political advertising. This bill establishes an alternative campaign funding system for certain federal offices. The system involves federal matching of small contributions for qualified candidates.

This bill sets forth provisions related to ethics in all three branches of government. Specifically, the bill requires a code of ethics for federal judges and justices, prohibits Members of the House from serving on the board of a for-profit entity, expands enforcement of regulations governing foreign agents, and establishes additional conflict-of-interest and ethics provisions for federal employees and the White House.

The bill also requires candidates for President and Vice President to submit 10 years of tax returns.

(See page 11 for information contained in the bill regarding *Citizens United*)



### Calling All Teachers, Past and Present.....

LWVCNM needs teachers' input with information and ideas concerning a project for the League's 100th anniversary in 2020. This centennial project seeks to have in-class presentations given in high school civics or history courses next school year.

We are looking to give a short speech, with handouts, related to the history of suffrage, the League, and the importance of voting. Your academic knowledge and ideas are needed so we may present this information to our next generation of voters. Please contact Lindsey Ritscher [lindseyritscher@gmail.com](mailto:lindseyritscher@gmail.com), Donna Rigano [djrigano@swcp.com](mailto:djrigano@swcp.com), or Janet Blair [jkblair@swcp.com](mailto:jkblair@swcp.com) Their phone numbers are in the Member handbook.

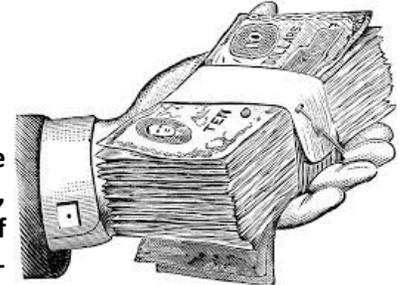
## For the People Act and Citizens United

HR 1, the For the People Act, passed in March by the United States House of Representatives had this to say about money in politics.

### SEC. 5001. FINDINGS RELATING TO CITIZENS UNITED DECISION.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The American Republic was founded on the principle that all people are created equal, with rights and responsibilities as citizens to vote, be represented, speak, debate, and participate in self-government on equal terms regardless of wealth. To secure these rights and responsibilities, our Constitution not only protects the equal rights of all Americans but also provides checks and balances to prevent corruption and prevent concentrated power and wealth from undermining effective self-government.



(2) The Supreme Court's decisions in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) and *McCutcheon v. FEC*, 572 U.S. 185 (2014), as well as other court decisions, erroneously invalidated even-handed rules about the spending of money in local, State, and Federal elections. These flawed decisions have empowered large corporations, extremely wealthy individuals, and special interests to dominate election spending, corrupt our politics, and degrade our democracy through tidal waves of unlimited and anonymous spending. These decisions also stand in contrast to a long history of efforts by Congress and the States to regulate money in politics to protect democracy, and they illustrate a troubling deregulatory trend in campaign finance-related court decisions. Additionally, an unknown amount of foreign money continues to be spent in our political system as subsidiaries of foreign-based corporations and hostile foreign actors sometimes connected to nation-States work to influence our elections.



(3) The Supreme Court's misinterpretation of the Constitution to empower monied interests at the expense of the American people in elections has seriously eroded over 100 years of congressional action to promote fairness and protect elections from the toxic influence of money....

(13) In order to protect the integrity of democracy and the electoral process and to ensure political equality for all, the Constitution should be amended so that Congress and the States may regulate and set limits on the raising and spending of money to influence elections and may distinguish between natural persons and artificial entities, like corporations, that are created by law, including by prohibiting such artificial entities from spending money to influence elections.



LET'S KEEP IT THE LAND THAT WE ALL CAN LOVE AND HAVE OUR VOICES BE HEARD IN WITHOUT BIG MONEY POLLUTING OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM.



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**JUSTICE ROBERTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5.....Some have outright prohibited partisan favoritism in redistricting. See Fla. Const., Art. III, §20(a) ("No apportionment plan or individual district shall be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent."); Mo. Const., Art. III, §3 ("Districts shall be designed in a manner that achieves both partisan fairness and, secondarily, competitiveness. 'Partisan fairness' means that parties shall be able to translate their popular support into legislative representation with approximately equal efficiency."); Iowa Code §42.4(5) (2016) ("No district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, incumbent legislator or member of Congress, or other person or group."); Del. Code Ann., Tit. xxix, §804 (2017) (providing that in determining district boundaries for the state legislature, no district shall "be created so as to unduly favor any person or political party"). As noted, the Framers gave Congress the power to do something about partisan gerrymandering in the Elections Clause. The first bill introduced in the 116th Congress would require States to create 15-member independent commissions to draw congressional districts and would establish certain redistricting criteria, including protection for communities of interest, and ban partisan gerrymandering. H. R. 1, 116th Cong., 1st Sess., §§2401, 2411 (2019). Dozens of other bills have been introduced to limit reliance on political considerations in redistricting. In 2010, H. R. 6250 would have required States to follow standards of compactness, contiguity, and respect for political subdivisions in redistricting. It also would have prohibited the establishment of congressional districts "with the major purpose of diluting the voting strength of any person, or group, including any political party," except when necessary to comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.... Another example is the Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act, which was introduced in 2005 and has been reintroduced in every Congress since. That bill would require every State to establish an independent commission to adopt redistricting plans. The bill also set forth criteria for the independent commissions to use, such as compactness, contiguity, and population equality. It would prohibit consideration of voting history, political party affiliation, or incumbent Representative's residence. H. R. 2642... We express no view on any of these pending proposals. We simply note that the avenue for reform established by the Framers, and used by Congress in the past, remains open.... No one can accuse this Court of having a crabbed view of the reach of its competence. But we have no commission to allocate political power and influence in the absence of a constitutional directive or legal standards to guide us in the exercise of such authority. "It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is." *Marbury v. Madison*, 1 Cranch, at 177. In this rare circumstance, that means our duty is to say "this is not law."**