

May 2020

The VOTER

Vol. 85 No. 5

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
2315 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite F-6, Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158



Vote411, the League of Women Voters' New Online Voters' Guide, is Now Live

CoVid-19 has prevented voters from getting non-partisan information directly from candidates at public forums and debates. To assure voters have that information while following the Governor's stay-at-home order, the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, in partnership with the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, is providing an online Primary Election Voters' Guide. The Voters' Guide, VOTE411, is simple, easy to use and free.

VOTE411, developed by the League of Women Voters of the United States, has provided information to over 40 million voters nationwide since its inception in 2010. This year is the first time VOTE411 has been available to New Mexico voters.

This is how it works: Go online at Vote411.org. Enter your physical address to find the candidates on YOUR ballot. You can then see photos of the candidates who responded, read about their qualifications and see their answers to League questions just like you would at a live forum!

VOTE411 features all State-wide and legislative districts as well as local candidates in the Central NM area: Bernalillo, Valencia, Sandoval and Torrance Counties.

This source of voter information is available now in time for voters to study the information before absentee ballots start being mailed. For the primary election, the New Mexico Secretary of State will be mailing absentee ballot applications to all voters registered with a major party in the state. It is very important that the application be mailed back immediately so that voters can receive and return their ballots by election day.

As the information becomes available, VOTE411 will also have information about in-person early voting locations and polling places which are expected to be changed because of CoVid-19 concerns.

"The June 2 primary election in New Mexico can all be handled from home. Apply for your absentee ballot, use Vote411.org to find out about your candidates, and vote from home," said NM League President Hannah Burling.

THE VOTER

Published monthly

The League of Women Voters
of Central New Mexico

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www.lwvcnm.org**Co-Presidents:**Karen Douglas
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Vacant

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Cheryl Haaker

Administrative Coordinator:

Vacant

The VOTER Editor:

Mary G. Wilson

LEAGUE CALENDAR

All League events are cancelled until further notice. The Deadline for the monthly Voter remains the 15th of each month. Articles and pictures are welcome. Tell us how you survived the pandemic!

CENTENNIAL THOUGHTS IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC by Meredith Machen... As we deal with the current emergency with the coronavirus, dressing like suffragists and enjoying suffrage cake and lemonade at the Capitol seems a bit quaint. But think of our foremothers, carrying on the suffrage movement through the raging TB epidemic and the Spanish flu pandemic, through the Civil War and the First World War. What kept our foremothers going will keep us going. Our larger purpose has never been more relevant. We must have strong, enlightened governmental policies driven by the utter commitment to act for the public good. Cooperation, coordinated action, and forward thinking will help us protect the vulnerable and preserve civilization and our environment. As we commemorate the efforts of the past, we remember that through similar crises women did not give up fighting for the vote. We will continue the fight, making sure that every eligible voter has access to the ballot, the precious right that has cost so much blood, sweat, and tears. Our insistence upon organized structures and the sharing of information and resources are our hallmarks. Those who aren't able to care for themselves need governmental safety nets in times of crisis....

As we work together to get out the vote in the upcoming elections and to get a complete count in the Census, we honor our ancestors. And when our descendants look back at this time, they will want to find strong ties that girded our country together when facing adversity. Let's supercharge this election in homage to those who fought so valiantly for those whose voices had been denied. We commit to making progress, holding dear the sacred trust of our foremothers and allies. It is our sacred trust. Thank you to all whose ongoing work makes the League an effective organization and who carry the torch for democracy with liberty and justice for all.

OFFICE HOURS

Closed until further notice.

FROM THE DESKS OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS



Many LWVCNM activities this Election and Suffrage Centennial year are paused as members have adopted the social distancing precautions recommended by NM Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. The May 2, 2020 Annual Meeting was postponed with no evidence of the date when gatherings may resume. This has resulted in a delay to elect and welcome the new LWVCNM Board of Directors, consideration of studies and positions impacting LWV Program and Advocacy, approval of Bylaws and the Nonpartisan Policy, and continuation of subsequent Unit meetings and schedule for summer LWVCNM Calendar Planning.

The Suffrage Centennial Banquet/Fundraiser is planned for Saturday August 29, 2020 with 2019 confirmation of Roberta Cooper Ramo, JD and past President of the American Bar Association, serving as Keynote Speaker. Jan Strand chaired the subcommittee considering venues and finalizing the contract with the Albuquerque Sheraton Uptown Hotel. Regularly scheduled subcommittee meetings progressed until early March 2020 considering the recommended Sponsorship levels and probable Sponsor listing, Invitation list, Reception and Silent Auction, entertainment, and the logo for the Women's Centennial Calendar. The Corona Virus pandemic with social distancing precautions curtailed committee progress in early March 2020 and the committee consensus April 18th was to delay the decision regarding potential cancellation of the banquet until the May 30th deadline specified by the Sheraton Hotel.

The usual LWVCNM/NM Office Staffing schedule during September through May is M-F, 10:00 – 12:00 by member volunteers. However, the LWVCNM decided in March to suspend routine staffing until further notice following NM Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's declaration of Corona Virus pandemic precautions. Several LWVCNM officers continue to check mail and return calls several days weekly during this limitation period.



June 2020 Primary Election

In 2020, LWVCNM has expanded its voter outreach efforts and has compiled an online primary election Voter Guide for Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia counties. Due to the coronavirus precautions, the league has been unable to moderate candidate forums or conduct voter registration drives. However, through Twitter and Facebook posts, we are encouraging voters to register to vote and request absentee ballots.

The June 2, 2020 NM Primary Candidate Questions were developed by the LWVCNM Committee including Janet Blair, Andrea Targhetta, Karen Wentworth, and Mary H. Smith for the online Vote411. Primary Election Vote411 allowed us to ask questions of candidates for every race in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia Counties for Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian candidates. The questions and answers are currently accessible at [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

LWVNM was very disappointed by the recent NM Supreme Court decision to mail Absentee Ballot applications for the upcoming June 2, 2020 Primary election (rather than Mail-In Ballots, requiring a single postal service cycle) to all registered NM Voters. The deadline for return of the completed Absentee Ballot applications by NM voters is May 28 at 5 p.m.

Karen Douglas and Karen Wentworth, Co-Presidents

There is so much more to the census than we realize. By Andrea Targhetta

If you look up Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, you will find that the census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The 2020 census will shape our nation's government, public policy, and budgets for the next ten years.

An accurate count is critical to determine political power and federal tax dollars shared in the U.S over the next ten years. Decisions will be made about our education, healthcare, infrastructure, and political representation. It would make a difference in school lunches, preschool special education and adult education. This count will affect first responders, families in need, highways, roads, and other public services. The count makes a vast difference in the amount of help we will receive for natural disasters and funding for hospitals. The list goes on.



The census must include absolutely everyone in every household living in the U.S. (including children) regardless of citizenship or immigration status. The survey will count deployed troops, college students, the homeless, incarcerated people, those displaced by natural disasters and other groups in unique living situations to name a few.

Historically, American Indians and Alaska Natives are one of the undercounted populations in the U.S. All American Indians and Alaska Natives who live on tribal lands should be accurately counted in the 2010 Census. In areas such as the Navajo Nation or Remote Alaska, they may need to use horses, ATVs, helicopters and even dogsleds to reach everyone. Other challenges include language barriers, and multigenerational living arrangements, which can affect the accuracy of the count.

Latino households are at risk of being undercounted due to language barriers, poverty, education, immigrant status. Special attention will need to be required to reach these households. Recent increase in negative political rhetoric, federal detention, and deportation could reduce participation among immigrant communities.

The Census Bureau is compelled by law to protect all answers and keep them confidential. They cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business. There will be no citizenship question. U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman of New York signed an order permanently blocking this question.

Every household can respond online or by phone (844) 330-2020 even if you do not have a census ID which was mailed to households. Go online as above and follow directions.



Due to COVID 19, this is the first U.S. count that's primarily online. Even though census takers have been suspended until April 15, the count is still on. Further suspension should be expected. The Census Bureau is expected to announce the new population counts by Dec. 31, 2020.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

ADVOCACY STATEMENT ON REDISTRICTING*

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that responsibility for redistricting should be vested in an independent redistricting commission with membership that reflects the diversity of the population.

LWVNM supports a redistricting process and standards that provide the people with a meaningful choice in electing their representatives and facilitate holding government accountable.

The criteria for preparing redistricting maps should require that districts meet all federal criteria including equal population and the provisions of the Voting Rights Act. In addition, it is important that districts

1. be contiguous;
2. provide racial minorities with an equal opportunity to participate in the political process;
3. preserve and protect communities of interest which is defined as an area with recognized similarities of interests, including but not limited to economic, social, cultural, geographic, or historic identities (from the Brennan Center Criteria Guide);
4. minimize the partition of major jurisdictions (counties, municipalities, tribal areas) to the extent possible;
5. be reasonably compact, in terms of travel time from one part of the district to another;
6. avoid crossing geographic barriers to travel, such as mountain ranges;

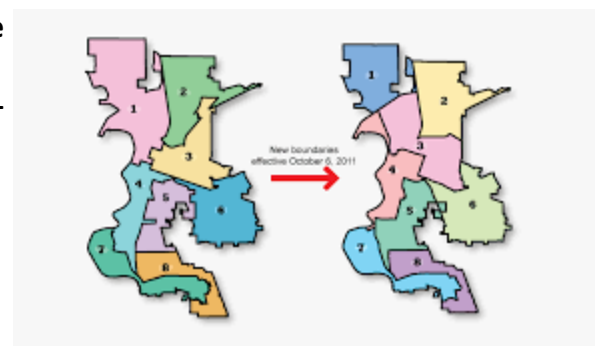
The criteria should exclude

- protection of incumbents through such devices as considering an incumbent's address;
- preferential treatment for a political party.

The process must:

1. provide specific timelines, enforceable by the court, for the steps leading to a redistricting plan;
2. give the public access to all information used in the redistricting process on a timely basis;
3. be subject to open meeting laws;
4. enable the public the opportunity to comment and be heard on the proposed redistricting processes, criteria, and results;
5. include a provision that any redistricting plan should be adopted by the redistricting authority with more than a simple majority vote;
6. establish a protocol for the courts to promptly review and rule on any challenge to a redistricting plan and require adjustments if the standards have not been met;
7. encourage competition to the extent that preceding criteria have been satisfied.

*This document is based upon the redistricting position of the LWVUS and the League of Women Voters of New Mexico Position on Apportionment and Redistricting





LWVNM Council
April 25, 2020
LWVCNM Report

Suffrage Centennial Activities

- The Equal Means Equal documentary was sponsored by the LWVCNM, NOW, and Indivisible Nob Hill during Sunday, January 19th & January 26th at the Albuquerque Guild Theater. Ticket proceeds totaling \$3,000.00 were donated to this NOW Fundraiser for passage of the Equal Rights Amendments.
- The LWVCNM 100th Birthday Party February 15, 2020 honoring 10 LWVCNM Lifetime members (Judith Binder, Jan Bray, Nora (Nan) Clayton, Judith Deutsch, Donna Hill, Ida Humphrey, Margaret Olson (not present), Julia Seligman, Vivian Skadron, Dorothy (Tooker) Walton), each with membership exceeding 50 years. 93 attended this historic event. Mary Wilson, past LWVUS President, provided a tribute to each Lifetime Member and Janet Blair photographed each, memorializing the occasion. NM Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver presented “Election Security in NM”. Megan Holcomb, Mayor Keller’s Constituent Services Representative, read the Mayor’s official Proclamation for LWV’s 100th Birthday. Cynthia Borrego, City Councilor representing District 5, attended and offered the City Council Proclamation during the 2/19/20 City Council meeting. The Birthday Party concluded with Jeanne Logsdon offering a Champagne Toast with all present commemorating the 200th Birthday of Susan B. Anthony. LWVCNM members Denny Blood, Sonia Lersten, Linda Adcox-Kimmel, Andrea Targhetta, Lani Desaulniers, Jan Strand, and Karen Douglas also participated in planning and conducting this 100th Birthday celebration.
- The Suffrage Centennial Banquet/Fundraiser is planned for Saturday August 29, 2020 with 2019 confirmation of Roberta Cooper Ramo, JD and past President of the American Bar Association serving as Keynote Speaker. Jan Strand chaired the subcommittee considering venues and finalizing the contract with the Albuquerque Sheraton Uptown Hotel. Regularly scheduled subcommittee meetings progressed until early March 2020 considering the recommended Sponsorship levels and probable Sponsor listing, Invitation list, Reception and Silent Auction, entertainment, and the logo for the Women’s Centennial Calendar. The Corona Virus pandemic with safe distancing precautions curtailed committee progress in early March 2020 and the committee consensus April 18th was to delay the decision regarding potential cancellation until the May 30th deadline specified by the Sheraton Hotel.

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2019-2020 Municipal Election

- The 2019 election cycle was a time of transition for municipal elections. The City of Albuquerque held a November 2019 election for city council and the Village of Corrales conducted an election February 2020. The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico conducted several voter registration efforts including a multi-day registration at the Roadrunner Food Bank and at two food pantries. The league also published a general election guide for both elections.

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- LWVCNM conducted candidate forums October - November 2019 for City Council Districts 2,4, and 6 races in Bernalillo County with Moderators Mary H. Smith and Diane Goldfarb with Ashley Benning, Jan Strand, Helen Wright, and Karen Wentworth staffing Timekeeper and Question selection roles. The two Corrales Village Council District 2, 5, and 6 and Municipal Judge Forums in February 2020 were moderated by Mary H. Smith and Cheryl Haaker served as Timekeeper.

November 2020 General Election

- In 2020, LWVCNM has expanded efforts and are in the process of compiling a primary election Voter Guide online for Bernalillo, Sandoval, Tarrant and Valencia counties. Due to the coronavirus precautions, the league has been unable to moderate candidate forums or conduct voter registration drives.
- The June 2, 2020 NM Primary Candidate Questions were developed by the LWVCNM Committee including Janet Blair, Andrea Targhetta, Karen Wentworth, and Mary H. Smith for the online Vote411 .

LWVNM was very disappointed by the recent NM Supreme Court decision to mail Absentee Ballot applications for the upcoming June 2, 2020 Primary election (rather than Mail-In Ballots, requiring a single postal service cycle) to all registered NM Voters. The deadline for return of the Absentee Ballot applications by NM voters is May 28 at 5 p.m.

By Karen Douglas

Parliamentary Pointers.....for Effective Meetings

Why Use Parliamentary Procedure?

The use of parliamentary procedure:

1. Helps an organization achieve its purpose. Business conducted in meetings focuses on purposes stated in the bylaws.
2. Provides equal treatment for all. Each member has the right to speak; rules determine how many times and for how long one can speak.
3. Expedites business and saves time. Attendees are not allowed to introduce dilatory issues; the skilled presiding officer keeps the meeting moving.
4. Maintains order. Rules allow the skilled presiding officer to guide the meeting in an orderly manner. Members, knowing parliamentary rules, help keep order.
5. Protects the right of the majority to decide. Business brought before the assembly with motions or resolutions is adopted by a majority or a two-thirds vote.
6. Protects the right of the minority to be heard. Debate can be conducted in a way that each side of an issue has equal time to be heard. Minority reports are heard on some votes.
7. Protects the rights of members. Members have the right to make motions or introduce resolutions, to debate, and to vote.
8. Protects the rights of absentees. Minutes of the meeting inform absentees of the proceedings. Previous notice is needed for introduction of some types of motions.
9. Helps members understand the universal rules that are useful in any organization. Meetings of large numbers of members require more formality; meetings of small groups or committees may be conducted with less formality.
10. Makes for meetings that members want to attend. When there is order and business is accomplished within a reasonable time limit, members gladly attend and participate.

Parliamentary Pointers will appear each month in the Voter. Topics to be covered include planning the agenda, presiding tips for effective meetings, standing rules, committee functions and reports, specific motions for specific problems/issues, debate techniques, etc.

Jan Strand, Professional Registered Parliamentarian – Retired
Albuquerque Parliamentarian Unit



**Who's Who
A Political
Directory**

**Bernalillo and
Sandoval Counties**

**2020
rev. 3/31**

THANKS TO ASHLEY BENNING, the 2020 Who's Who has been updated with information about local officials ELECTED IN March 2020. Go online at lwvcnm.org to see the new information.

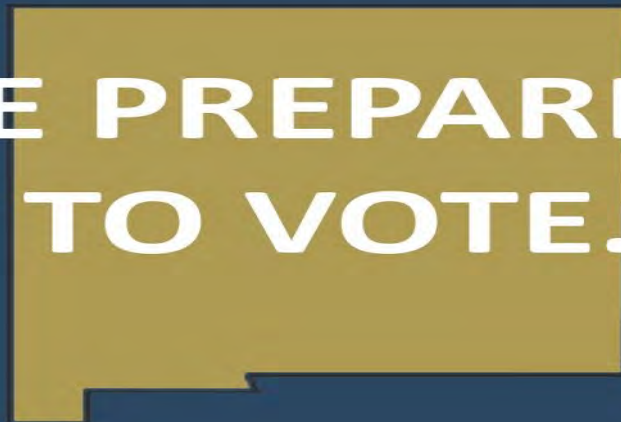


MARY WILSON, First Vice President extends a HUGE THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who helped make Vote411 for the June primary. Special thanks to Ashley Benning and Cheryl Haaker who did the data input for us; to Karen Wentworth, Janet Blair and Jeanne Logsdon who made so many calls getting candidates to respond; and to Trish Lopez and Sandra West for agreeing to do the CNM publicity for Vote411. Our volunteers are THE BEST.



FIND YOUR BALLOT.

**BE PREPARED
TO VOTE.**



Voting During a Pandemic – Confusion for Everyone

Karen Wentworth

When League members began working on the Voter Guide in February, we had no idea what was coming our way. This year, for the first time the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico will put out a Primary Election Voter Guide for all four counties we represent, Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia.

The VOTE411 guide features questions and answers from as many candidates as we could find and persuade to reply. This year the guide is especially important because no group has been able to set up a candidate forum, thanks to the Stay At Home order the governor has issued to combat the Coronavirus. The League has also been unable to set up voter registration drives and candidates have been unable to do the face to face campaigning that has always been so important in this state. But the Coronavirus pandemic has affected more than the primary campaign. There will be a deep impact on the vote itself.

In mid-April March, the New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver and thirty-two county clerks went to the New Mexico Supreme Court asking to be allowed to conduct a mail-in ballot election. New Mexico state election law currently allows that to happen only for special elections and in the eyes of the court this primary election wasn't special enough.

The New Mexico Republican Party opposed the mail-in ballot request, saying the clerks did not have enough time to implement procedures to minimize potential voter fraud.

The justices came to an interesting decision. They ordered every county clerk in New Mexico to send registered voters a request for an absentee ballot. This request must be filled out by voters and returned before they will be mailed an actual ballot. So everyone should receive an absentee ballot request form soon.

There will also be some form of early in-person voting and there will be election day in-person voting, although it is not clear where people will be allowed to vote. Clerks will have to set up some form of social distancing so early voters may be waiting in their cars in parking lots until they are allowed to enter an Early Voting Center to vote.

Election day voting will be even more complicated. Currently libraries, community centers and schools where many people normally vote are closed. No one really knows whether those buildings will be open by June 2. That means the beleaguered county clerks will have to make contingency plans in case normal voting locations are not available. It sounds confusing and it is.

The League is advising members to mail back that absentee ballot request as soon as you see it in your mail box. It is the clearest and easiest way to vote in this election.





Voter Services Report

As a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic, several previously scheduled activities had to be cancelled. These included a registration event at Spanish Trails Rehab Center on March 11 and proposed registration in conjunction with church services at the Most Holy Rosary Parish on April 18 and 19. A tentative registration for the Catholic Charities was postponed until a later date. They will be in

touch with me when and if rescheduling is possible.

Michelle Meadors did attend the Naturalization ceremony at the Convention Center on March 6.

Jan Strand heard from the Director of the Gordon Bernell Charter School where we made our presentation in February, and she indicated that it was so well received that they would like us to come back. Obviously this will now have to wait until next year.

The League office notified me of numerous telephone messages which I answered. One was a registration request from an older couple in Rio Rancho, and Diane Rigano graciously took care of them.

As soon as it was determined that group gatherings were going to be curtailed for an indeterminate time, I did a group e-mail encouraging voter registration on line as well as making requests for absentee ballot voting and giving instructions on how these could be obtained. I also included the dates for specific cut-offs and Primary and General elections.

As further information is received, VRA's will be notified.

MaryEllen Smith. Voter Services

Absentee ballots will be the easiest and safest way for League members to vote in the primary election. If it is close to the mail in deadline and you are worried your ballot won't make it by June 2, you can drop off a n absentee ballot at any Voting Convenience Center. For people who choose to vote in person, it is going to get complicated. Face masks will be required. If you don't have a face mask, you will be given one at the early Voting Convenience Centers. Hand washing or use of hand sanitizer will be required before you enter the building. Only a few voters at a time will be allowed into the early vote centers. Poll workers will be required to wear, and furnished with personal protective gear. Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver says her office has purchased a million dollars work of personal protective equipment with money from a federal grant.

Where you can vote at the Voting Convenience Centers, have not yet been posted on the Bernalillo County Clerk's website. Voting Convenience Center locations will be available on the League website, on Vote411 and the County Clerk websites.

Voting will be a challenge in this primary election, but there are good options to make it easier.

2020-21 Handbook

We are in the process of producing our 2020-21 Membership Handbook. In the Handbook, there is a directory that lists each member’s name, address, email and phone number.

If you prefer not to have any or all of your information published, please contact Donna Rigano at djrigano@swcp.com asap.

If you sent in a physical renewal form and indicated your preference, it is not necessary to contact Donna. If, however, you renewed on-line and wish to omit information from your listing, please contact Donna Rigano at djrigano@swcp.com with your preference.

The cutoff date for this information has been extended to May 15, 2020.



We each have the power to increase voter turnout. Make sure your friends and family are registered to vote.




NEW MEMBERS.....

Karen Morgan
 4701 Morris St NE, Apt 1804
 Albuquerque, NM 87111-7727
morgankaren@gmail.com
 (505) 435-1750

Jean MacLean Fitting
 10801 Lagrima de Oro Rd.
 NE, Apt 814
 Albuquerque, NM 87111-8502
jmacfitt@outlook.com
 (505) 291-5814

Karmen Van Dyke
 8209 Northridge Ave NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87109-3018
kvd@swcp.com
 (505) 301-0033
 (505) 298-0702



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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.

APPLICATION FOR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Mail above information to LWVCNM, 2315 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite F-6, Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158 along with annual dues as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| First member of household | \$60 |
| Each additional member of household | \$30 |
| Student member (proof required) | \$1 |