

June 2020

The VOTER

Vol. 85 No. 6

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

WE'RE MOVING.... Effective July 1, the LWVCNM office will be located at 2501 San Pedro NE, Suite 216

FROM THE DESKS OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS



We hope everyone is healthy as we begin coming out of our homes as part of the re-opening of the state.

Our lease is expiring at our current office. That has prompted the board to look around for a possible new office. We have found our new home at 2501 San Pedro NE, Suite 216. It is currently undergoing re-carpeting and repainting. The new office offers us use of a conference room where we can hold committee and board meetings, and is much better arranged to be a more workable space.

We also made some important decisions about how we will operate the League for the next few months. We will have a virtual unit meeting at noon on July 9 using Zoom, a meeting application you can download on your computer or smart phone. If you need help accessing the technology, please contact Karen Wentworth and we will arrange for you to get help downloading and practicing with the application. This meeting will be a panel discussion of issues raised at the League of Women Voters U.S. convention. We are still making plans for the July and August lunch unit meetings, but at this time we expect them to be Zoom meetings as well.

As you may remember, we had planned a march and banquet in August to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment. We have been forced to postpone the banquet until some later time and the march was cancelled by the City of Albuquerque. But we are still looking for ways to celebrate this very important anniversary in August.

We have also decided to postpone our annual meeting. We hope to have it in person in October, but we will be flexible about this. In the meantime, we have appointed Judy Binder, Lani Desaulniers, Kathy Economy, Jennifer Black, Denise Blood and Linda Adcock Kimmel as Directors to the board. Their names will then be placed in nomination to be elected at the annual convention and then there will be six vacant slots for other appointed directors. Current Board members will stay in place until their replacements are elected. We especially want to thank Jan Strand, Andrea Targhetta and Trish Lopez who will be leaving their current board positions after our annual meeting but have been generous enough to continue working through this unusual time. This League would be in trouble without all our members who are willing to go the extra mile to keep things working. We really appreciate the dedication and enthusiasm of everyone. Thank you a thousand times.

We will see everyone in July – even if it's only as a little square on our computer screen.

Karen Douglas and Karen Wentworth, Co-Presidents



See page 8 for details about how all members can see the virtual Convention.

THE VOTER

Published monthly

The League of Women Voters
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Linda Adcock Kimmel

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LEAGUE CALENDAR

Watch the July Voter for details about League events. The Deadline for the monthly Voter remains the 15th of each month. Articles and pictures are welcome. Tell us how you are surviving the pandemic!

At the June meeting of the LWVCNM Board of Directors (held via Zoom), the Board decided that, despite CoVid 19 restrictions, it was important for our members to hear about important public policy issues as we would normally do during unit and luncheon meetings. Therefore, until we can once again hold the in-person monthly meetings that we all enjoy so much, we will be offering online educational opportunities for our members each month. This will likely result in our ability to offer a wider variety of local and national speakers. **WATCH THE JULY VOTER FOR A MORE DETAILED SCHEDULE OF THESE ONLINE EVENTS.** The first one is being planned for July 9.

AND A WORD TO OUR NON-TECHY MEMBERS: Do not be concerned that you do not “do online stuff.” We are working on ways to make these available to you too! This may be through pairing you with a “buddy.” It may be that several members can view the sessions in the conference room at our new office building. Or if you just need a little help using Zoom or whatever meeting software we use, several of our Board members, our Webmaster, or other volunteers may be sent to help you. And summaries of the presentations will appear in the Voter issued after the date of the speaker. I am sure other ways “to make this happen” and keep us all safe will evolve as we proceed.

ANNUAL MEETING— The Board decided to target an annual meeting for a convenient date in October to be decided as soon as we know when in-person gatherings can occur.

The big banquet to celebrate the centennial of women suffrage originally planned for August will be postponed until some time in 2021.

OFFICE HOURS

Closed until further notice.

WE NEED YOU.....

Twitter and Facebook Is for Everyone

We urge members to open a Facebook and Twitter account to help LWVCNM spread our message. We live in a day and age when everyone can practice their right to free speech and get it out to the world. We also live in a time when a great deal of information is being shared and connections are being made on these platforms.

The national League uses these two platforms to further the League mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. LWVCNM posts our events, issues, notices, and nonpartisan information. Both promote ways to access sound, fact-based sources of information online. We all hear about false or bias-confirming "facts" spread on social media. Be part of the solution!

These online tools are what we make of them. Beyond spreading the League's message, you can also search for and follow elected officials, government offices, news venues you currently look at on paper and others available online and causes you want to contribute to. During the current pandemic, this is a great way to stay connected. As one example, the governor's office posts the daily COVID-19 numbers of cases, deaths, and hospitalizations every afternoon.



Besides your computer, these sites can be accessed on your smartphone and tablet using apps. It's easy and quick to post a short message from your mobile devices.

The exceptional thing about Twitter and Facebook is the fact that these forms of communication function in real time. When we post a notice, our followers can send their response back or share it immediately. That's where you come in. We ask that you Like and Retweet or Resend our posts to your followers. This increases awareness of the League, connects us to new ideas, gives us access to public opinion, and boosts circulation of our message.

Thanks for taking part in our social media initiatives.

If getting on Facebook or Twitter is not something you feel comfortable doing on your own, reach out to our social media guru Trish Lopez and her amazing staff at Teeniors.

Ashley Benning

Andrea Targhetta

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

One hundred years after the passage of the 19th Amendment, *THE VOTE* tells the dramatic culmination story of the hard-fought campaign waged by American women for the right to vote — a transformative cultural and political movement that resulted in the largest expansion of voting rights in U.S. history. In its final decade, from 1909 to 1920, movement leaders wrestled with contentious questions about the most effective methods for affecting social change. They debated the use of militant, even violent tactics, as well as hunger strikes and relentless public protests. The battle for the vote also upended previously accepted ideas about the proper role of women in American society and challenged the definitions of citizenship and democracy.

Exploring how and why millions of 20th-century Americans mobilized for — and against — women's suffrage, *The Vote* brings to life the unsung leaders of the movement and the deep controversies over gender roles and race that divided Americans then — and continue to dominate political discourse today.



PREMIERES JULY 6, 2020

The American Experience on PBS

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/vote/>

Monday, July 6, 08:00 pm - Part One - KNME-HD 5.1

Tuesday, July 7, 08:00 pm - Part Two - KNME-HD 5.1

Wednesday, July 8, 03:00 am - Part One - KNME-HD 5.1

Thursday, July 9, 03:00 am - Part Two - KNME-HD 5.1

IN MEMORIAM....

During this time of CoVid pandemic isolation, LWVCNM has lost two longtime members whose memory we honor and cherish. Both JOHN HILL and HAROLD BURNETT were actively involved with the League for many years, but were sadly out of our view for the past couple of years due to age and illness.

JOHN L. HILL, age 92, died April 7 in Albuquerque, NM. He was born, earned a BS in engineering, and met his future wife, Donna in Colorado. They married in 1955. [Donna was one of our 50-year members honored at our February luncheon.]



In Chicago, he joined the machine tool industry, rising to chief engineer. In 1990, he became the Technical Director for the North American Die Casting Association, the industry trade association. He served on the Wilmette (IL) Plan Commission which ruled in favor of the construction of an apartment building for senior housing.

In 1999, the Hills retired to a home in Albuquerque's Heritage East neighborhood. John spoke to organizations and agitated alongside the Sacred Alliance for Grassroots Equality (SAGE) against extending Paseo del Norte Boulevard through Petroglyph National Monument. He was on the board of the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly (now Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates) and testified before the Albuquerque City Council on environmental issues.

The Hills moved to an apartment in La Vida Llena in 2010. Following a mild stroke, John's activism receded, but he continued to attend League of Women Voters activities. He was known for his sense of humor among LVL residents, and he returned to his former neighborhood for block parties. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Donna, and children Steven (Jonathan Herz), in Washington, DC, and Nancy (Michael) Reynolds, in Atlanta, GA. Donna remembers this loving, caring, cherished friend, spouse, and father who was devoted to her and their children.

HAROLD MORRIS BURNETT died April 21, 2020, at 91 years of age, from symptoms of the COVID-19 virus. He was born on August 10, 1928, in Amarillo, Texas, to parents Henry Arnold Burnett and Ivory Ann Rogers Burnett. Harold is survived by his wife of 66 years, Betty Williams Burnett; son, Brian Burnett and wife Celia; daughters, Laurel Burnett and Ardyce Burnett; granddaughter, Rachel Brunton and husband Tom; and grandson, Brandon Burnett. He was a devoted and encouraging Granddad to Rachel and Brandon Burnett and step-Granddad to Kelsey and Russell Sensenig. Harold experienced great joy in his great-grandchildren Kyle, Liesl, and Malcolm Brunton. Harold is also survived by his sister, Janie Vincent and her husband Bill of Indianapolis; and many nieces and nephews. Harold is preceded in death by his brother, Roy Burnett.



Harold had an avid interest in genealogy and researched extensively the Burnett Family heritage that he shared with the entire family. He was a devoted student at all levels, and he remained committed to the philosophy of "lifelong learning." He graduated from Amarillo High School and graduated with honors from the Amarillo Junior College two-year program. After hearing about the University of Texas from friends, he enrolled at Austin. His time at the University of Texas was a milestone life-event, meeting fellow UT student and future wife, Betty, they married on May 22, 1953. Harold went on to earn a B.S. in Chemistry in 1950. He later completed his master's thesis, in Chemistry, in 1955. He continued his education and completed his dissertation in 1966, to obtain a PhD in Chemistry. Harold was always the most pleased to point out one particular sentence in the dissertation: "This dissertation was typed by Betty W. Burnett."

Harold's career was as a chemist, meteorologist, Air Force officer, and small business owner. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Air Force Reserve serving as a meteorologist, chemist, and scientist. Harold and Betty lived in Los Alamos for 34 years where he worked with the Los Alamos National Laboratory and then owned the "Ojo De Dios" Bookstore. He had a special expertise of obtaining scientific and technical books. Harold was often referred to as "Mr. Ojo" by his customers. He enjoyed participating in church events, taking on different leadership roles in the church, and serving as a Stephen Minister. He was a committed and active volunteer within the community: Pack Leader and Scout Master for the Boy Scouts of America, Los Alamos Library Board, League of Women Voters, Heifer International, Science Adviser in the Albuquerque Public School System, Chaplain volunteer program at UNM Hospital, and SouthWest Writers.

Harold and Betty valued meeting so many people from diverse walks of life, with special celebration of "small world stories," after learning about shared events or situations where paths had crossed.



NEW MEMBERS.....

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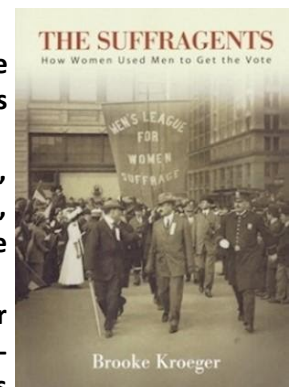
WE ALL MISS THE LATE OLIN BRAY'S BOOK REVIEW THAT WERE PUBLISHED IN THE VOTER FROM TIME TO TIME. Would someone like to read this book and write a book review?

The Suffragents: How Women Used Men to Get the Vote

In this book, Brooke Kroeger examines the critical role men played in the women's suffrage movement through the creation and mobilization of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

From 1908 to 1920, the New York Men's League hosted fundraisers, participated in marches, gave public speeches, and lobbied government officials for the cause. According to Kroeger, the Men's League was a "momentous, yet subtly managed development in the suffrage movement's seventh decade."

While *Suffragents* focuses exclusively on the New York branch of the Men's League, Kroeger acknowledges that the organization was much larger in scope and created a national network of prominent men who advocated for suffrage through their public presence, such as socialist Max Eastman, muckraker Upton Sinclair, historian Charles Beard, and financier James Lees Laidlaw. However, Kroeger asserts that one of the unique aspects of the Men's League was that the men were subordinate to the women and their agenda was largely guided by women leaders of the movement.



KANSAS LEAGUE WINS A COURT VICTORY FOR ALL OF US

A federal appeals court panel ruled that a Kansas law requiring proof of citizenship when registering to vote is unconstitutional and violates the Equal Protection Clause and National Voter Registration Act.

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals panel in Salt Lake City upheld the permanent injunction by U.S. District Judge Julie Robinson banning the statute's use and enforcement of the requirement. The decision extends beyond Kansas to all six states covered by the 10th Circuit: Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah, and it mandates them to comply.

The law, pushed by former Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, illegally mandated that voters show documentary proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or passport, to register to vote.

The lawsuit was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Kansas, and Dechert LLP, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Kansas and residents of Kansas. In June 2018, a previous federal trial court struck down the law after finding it violated the National Voter Registration Act and the U.S. Constitution and prompted the state's appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit.

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 June 15, 2020.



Parliamentary Pointers.....for Effective Meetings

Guidelines for Electronic/Online Meetings...LWVCNM Annual meeting will likely be online.

Parliamentarians prefer to give guidance for meetings before the meeting in order to help the Chairman preside comfortably. This is very true for online meetings!

Online meetings work well when all participants are prepared. The chairman should not host the meeting; another member should manage the technology! Participants must use a computer that has a camera and a microphone; cameras can be attached.

1. Members are notified by email in advance of the meeting. With Zoom it is an "invitation." Some members may prefer to attend by phone.
2. The agenda and other documents are usually emailed separately.
3. Officers and committee chairpersons need to email documents to the chairman and the host; the documents can then be shown during the meeting. Motions can also be emailed to the chairman and to the host.
4. Directions are given for linking on...and for trial/practice sessions a few days before the meeting. Members are given instructions for muting and raising the hand to speak.
Those participating by phone are muted by the host.
5. As members prepare to participate it is important to consider their physical setting.
The participant's face should have light...the light should not be behind the person. It is advised to have a light or lamp in front of the participant...and to the left side.
It works well to have a light colored wall behind the participant.
6. Members link on 15-20 minutes early and check microphones, etc.
7. After linking on, participants may be put on hold until the Host activates them.
Upon entering the meeting, the participants should be greeted by the chairman; the participant should respond.... to show that their microphone works well. **This should eliminate speakers beginning with "do you hear me?!!"
8. Reports by officers/chairpersons are given when called on; debate/discussion is managed by the chairman calling on those who have a raised hand.
9. Votes can be taken by roll call or raise of hand. Motions can also be adopted with general consent (the chairman stating, "If there is no objection....")

If this would be a new experience for you, do look forward to it with confidence! This is how a lot of business is transacted at this time.

Jan Strand, Professional Registered Parliamentarian – Retired



Every two years the League of Women Voters of the United States holds a national convention to elect new officers and board members, adopt a budget, change bylaws, adopt a program for the next biennium and inform and educate our members. AND TO HAVE FUN AND ALLOW MEMBERS TO NETWORK. The 2020 Convention celebrating the league's 100 years was planned to take place in Washington, D.C. on June 25-27. Due to the Covid 19 virus, the League has had to move to a virtual convention online.

BUT the upside of a virtual Convention is that more members get to "attend." LWVCNM has four official voting delegates: Karen Douglas, Mary Wilson, Karen Wentworth, and Jeanne Logsdon. But YOU may register as an "observer" and witness the Convention events from the comfort of your home. Here's how to register:

**OBSERVERS—
MUST REGISTER
BY JUNE 15**

Observers will be able to view plenary via a livestream from Zoom to YouTube. Observer status is offered only to current League members. - There is no cost to register. - Observers are not permitted to submit motions, amendments to motions, participate in debates, or vote. Observers will not have access to any of these functions. - Registrants will receive access instructions to the Youtube stream by the morning of June 26. -Streaming access: - Observers will be able to stream the Friday and Saturday plenary sessions on Youtube. - Thursday's panel event is open to everyone and will be streamed on Facebook. - The plenary training session on Thursday will not be streamed. Please visit lwv.org/2020Convention for all Convention information. This [form](#) is for those registering as non-voting observers. All fields are required. Instructions for accessing the livestream will be sent to all registrants by the morning of June 26.

CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKER.....Friday, June 25 during the first Plenary session at about 2 pm MDT



Ms. O'Donnell's video address will be played for LWV Convention attendees on Friday, June 26 and made available on YouTube shortly after.

Norah O'Donnell is the anchor and managing editor of the CBS Evening News, anchor of CBS News Election Specials, including primary, debate and election nights, and a 60 Minutes contributing correspondent.

Previously, O'Donnell was co-host of CBS This Morning and a contributor to 60 Minutes. O'Donnell joined CBS This Morning in July 2012. Prior to that, she served as CBS News' chief White House correspondent. She is an Emmy Award-winning journalist with more than two decades of

experience covering the world; she has covered six presidential elections and traveled around the globe to interview some of the world's most important leaders, including five U.S. presidents. Since joining CBS News, O'Donnell has conducted numerous interviews with newsmakers including President Donald Trump, President Barack Obama, Vice President Mike Pence and Speaker Nancy Pelosi. She has sat down with some of the world's most influential leaders including South Korean President Moon Jae-in for his first interview in office, His Royal Highness Prince Harry of Wales, Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, and the Dalai Lama. In March 2018, O'Donnell spent a week reporting in Saudi Arabia where she interviewed Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The conversation was his first and only American television interview.

SOME OF WHAT YOU WILL HEAR DURING NATIONAL CONVENTION:

Proposed Program for 2020-2022

Delegates to Convention will vote on the Proposed Program and on any not-recommended items submitted in accordance with the LWVUS bylaws and voted for consideration by the Convention delegates.

Based on Program Planning responses from local leagues, the LWVUS Board recommends retaining all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

The LWVUS Board recommends a League-wide Campaign for Making Democracy Work® Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting

The LWVUS Board also proposes continuing work on urgent issues: Climate Change, the Equal Rights Amendment, Health Care, Gun Safety, and Immigration.

Finally, the LWVUS Board recommends that the Electoral Systems Concurrence should go to Convention floor for a vote in accordance with Article XII, Section 2(C) and (D) of the LWVUS Bylaws along with other concurrences that are properly noticed per same section of the bylaws.

WE MUST NOT FORGET THE CENTENNIAL OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT.....More about New Mexico's role in suffrage and Senator Andrieus A. Jones (D) from Las Vegas, NM who replaced Senator Thomas B. Catron (R) as Chair of the Senate Committee on Woman Suffrage in 1917. Without the leadership and strategic advocacy of Sen. Jones, the 19th amendment could have floundered for many more years. For years, Catron had vehemently opposed women's suffrage, blocked efforts to move the amendment from committee to the Senate floor, and even introduced an anti-suffrage resolution itemizing the reasons why women were not worthy of the vote.

Carrie Chapman Catt thanked Sen. Jones for his long-time efforts on behalf of woman suffrage. She especially appreciated his strategy of changing his vote in the Senate from Yes to No so that the amendment could be considered in the next Congress when Republicans were in the majority. After working with him closely, "Dear Senator Jones, The NAWSA wishes to express the deepest appreciation of the consideration, patience, and courage which has so characterized your every movement in our difficult campaign."

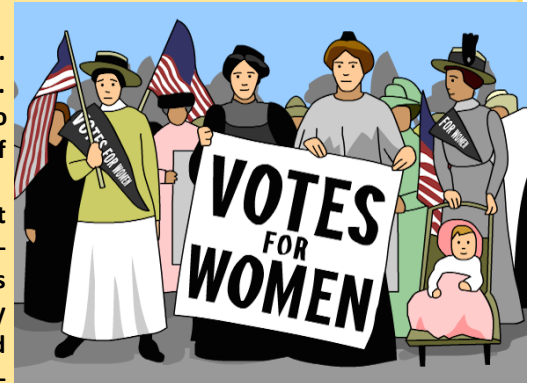
In 1927, Jones died in office unexpectedly and Congress held a memorial for him. Below is the relevant section of the Congressional Record, April 8, 1928, p. 6054. "He distinguished himself in his advocacy of the Nineteenth Amendment. "No man in the entire republic is due more credit for bringing about the enactment of the Woman Suffrage Amendment than is Senator Jones."

He enjoyed the respect and confidence of his colleagues in the Senate without reference to party affiliation. He mastered some of the major problems of modern times, such as income taxes, legislation to raise revenue, and other features of economics in all their complex and complicated aspects. He was prominently affiliated with much legislation of gigantic importance during the World War and following it. He distinguished himself in his advocacy of the nineteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States. No man in the entire Republic is

due more credit for bringing about the enactment of the women suffrage amendment, thus giving to the women of the country a heritage to which they had long been entitled than is Senator Jones. His espousal of the justice of that proposal had much to do with making the amendment a reality.

Although he was indefatigable in industry, possessed of great ability, was calm, forceful, persuasive, and earnest in the presentation of his views, he never offended nor gave cause for resentment on the part of his strongest foes, because they recognized that he was an honorable and upright advocate, never doing that which was unright or unbecoming.

Mr. President, it is my belief that one of the chief needs of the masses of to-day is the services of men like Senator JONES in public office from the highest to the lowest. Able, honest and faithful administration in the affairs, both of the States and the Nation, contribute much to the peace, welfare, and happiness of the Commonwealth. The baneful results which necessarily emanate from a lack of it are obvious. Senator JONES did his part. Let others do theirs.



Contributed by Meredith Machen, LWVNM Centennial Chair

Voter Services Report
MaryEllen Smith, Voter Services Chair

Due to the ongoing pandemic and “voluntary” quarantine, no group voter registration activity has been possible this spring. Extensive publicity regarding absentee voting has been widely disseminated and details re-



garding deadline dates, registration online and the new VOTE411.org site have been repeatedly publicized. Telephone requests by the LWV office have been forwarded and responded to immediately. A “virtual” town hall candidate forum for Bernalillo County Commission District 3 was held May 14 via Zoom and was staffed by LWVCNM Moderator Mary H. Smith; Andrea Targhetta, Timekeeper; and Karen Wentworth and Caroline Yahne, Question Sorters.

On May 24 I sent out a last minute about the June 2 Primary election along with a reminder about completing and

returning 2020 Census forms.

More than 400,000 votes were cast in the Primary election, pushed higher by the number of absentee ballots cast. Santa Fe and Taos Counties got special judicial permission to extend the time for counting absentee ballots until 3 pm, Saturday, June 6. Over 3000 absentee ballots statewide did not get counted because of postal delays in delivering them to county clerks by 7 pm on Election Day. Movement is afoot for legislation to be introduced in the Special Session to minimize that problem for the General Election.

NOTE FROM LWVUS about absentee voting:

With the increased popularity of vote-by-mail in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, use the following messages to counter attacks on vote-by-mail and pivot the conversation to solutions. (Avoid saying the words “voter fraud” when interacting with voters, the general public, or media. Even the mention of potential fraud has a negative impact on voters’ confidence in our elections.)

All states administer elections by mail through the absentee voting process.

All states have systems in place to deter and detect irregularities or violations in the voting process, both by mail and in person.

Vote-by-mail does not favor one party over another.

There is no record of massive or serious election manipulation via mail-in voting (even Fox News anchor Chris Wallace has attested to this).

With an expected increase in vote-by-mail in 2020, now is the time for election officials to make the investments in ballot access and protect the integrity of our elections.

Like all voting systems, vote-by-mail benefits from risk-limiting audits, which allow election officials to double-check the vote count, identify irregularities that need to be resolved, and issue strict penalties for tampering with the process.

AND KUDOS TO VOTE411.ORG: LWVUS’S VOTE411 won the People’s Voice Webby Award! We couldn’t have done it without support from all the League members who voted for the site. This recognition is a testament to the important election information our organization provides to voters every cycle, and just this week we surpassed one million users so far this year – and the primary season isn’t even over yet! Thank you for your dedication to making VOTE411 an award-winning resource.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTER OF THE UNITED STATES ISSUED THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE AND STATEMENTS ON RECENT POLICE BRUTALITY AND BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTS:

With protests happening across the country, we know that many Leagues would like to exercise their First Amendment right for Black lives on the frontline, if you have not already. As you go out to protest, please know the following:
 Yes, you may wear League shirts and use League signage at peaceful protests
 Yes, you may wear League shirts at post-riot cleanups
 Yes, you may offer support to protestors on behalf of the League

LWVUS joined a letter with over 400 civil rights organizations calling on Congress to implement needed policing reforms. The letter urges congressional leadership to swiftly rectify the legacy of white supremacy and anti-black racism that has led to police violence against Black people across our country. The text of that letter is as follows:

June 1, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (The Leadership Conference), a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 220 national organizations to promote and protect civil and human rights in the United States and the 386 undersigned organizations, we urge you to take swift and decisive legislative action in response to ongoing fatal police killings and other violence against Black people across our country. Federal statutory reforms are urgently needed on a range of policing issues, including use of force, police accountability, racial profiling, militarization, data collection, and training.

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

We also respectfully request a meeting with House and Senate Leadership within the week to discuss legislative responses to ongoing police killings against Black people. Abusive police practices coupled with devastating state-sanctioned violence have exacted systemic brutality and fatality upon Black people since our nation's founding. The current protests across our country are not new. They are in response to a long cycle of lawlessness against Black people, from our founding to 1968, the year the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered. This cycle includes deadly incidents spanning from Los Angeles in 1992 to Ferguson in 2014. Police have shot and killed more than 1,000

people in the United States over the past year.

Moreover, Black people are disproportionately more likely than white people to be killed by police. For too long, the cycle of police brutality and racism has been met with cosmetic tinkering instead of substantive structural change. The current public protests in our cities are a response not only to unjust policing of Black people but are a cry for action to public officials for structural change, writ large.

In recent weeks, the chronic structural issue of police killings against Black people across our country has, again, escalated to a boiling point. The February 23, 2020, death of Ahmaud Arbery, who was killed by a former police officer in a Brunswick, Georgia suburb, sparked public outrage and scrutiny. The more recent police killings of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky on March 13, 2020, Dreasjon "ean" Reed in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 6, 2020, George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25, 2020, and Tony McDade in Tallahassee, FL on May 27, 2020 have generated national attention and protest. This spate of cases highlights entrenched, systemic dysfunction that has long plagued police departments and our criminal legal system. Congress must rectify these structural wrongs through legislation before another Black life is needlessly lost.

The recent case of Ahmaud Arbery brings back harrowing memories of Trayvon Martin's February 26, 2012 death. Like Mr. Martin, Mr. Arbery was young, Black, and unarmed when he was stalked and killed by vigilante actors, presumably based on the color of his skin. Mr. Arbery was fatally shot by a former police officer with impunity. It should not have taken three months and public pressure for the shooter to be arrested and charged. Pervasive lack of accountability by police departments persists in far too many agencies and destroys police legitimacy, and must be addressed by Congress.

The case of Breonna Taylor's death on March 13 demonstrates the unresolved problem of militarized policing, which we also saw in Ferguson, Missouri after the death of Michael Brown in 2014. Ms. Taylor was fatally shot eight times by police in her Louisville home, after a heavy-handed, military-style raid. Police executed a no-knock warrant even though the suspect the police were looking for was already detained and did not live where Ms. Taylor was killed. This case demonstrates the need for police agencies to prohibit the use of no-knock warrants and institute mandatory de-escalation training for all officers.

This case also indicates the need for Congress to end the transfer of military weapons to state and local police agencies through the Department of Defense 1033 program and other such programs.

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Black Lives Matter from previous page....

Despite the passage of more than two months to investigate the circumstances surrounding the police killing of Ms. Taylor, none of the officers involved in her death have been arrested or charged. This situation demonstrates the need for federal prosecutors to act when state law enforcement agencies do not. This also demonstrates the need to update the federal criminal civil rights statute –Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law, 18 U.S.C. §242 –so prosecutors can bring criminal charges against officers who violate individuals’ civil rights.

George Floyd’ death reopens the wounds that have barely healed after the death of Eric Garner, who was killed after an NYPD officer placed him in an illegal chokehold in July 2014. Mr. Floyd, like Mr. Garner, was killed at the hands of a police officer as other officers sat idly and refused to intervene. In Mr. Floyd’s case, a Minneapolis police officer forced a handcuffed Mr. Floyd into a prone position and pinned him to the ground by driving his knee into Mr. Floyd’s neck for more than eight minutes until Mr. Floyd stopped breathing. Mr. Floyd, to no avail, repeatedly told the officer that he could not breathe.

The case of Tony McDade, a black trans man, highlights the violence that many black trans, queer and gender nonconforming people face daily. In addition, the lack of coverage of his killing demonstrates a harmful disparity of awareness around violence against this community.

It is past time for Congress to address the use of maneuvers that restrict the flow of oxygen or blood to the brain such as chokeholds, knee-to neck, and similar restraints. These and other such techniques make the death or injuries resulting therefrom a violation of 18 U.S.C. §242. Accordingly, we urge members of Congress to pass legislation that would prohibit the use of such maneuvers.

Additionally, too often police killings involve officers with a history of misconduct complaints. For example, last week, the officer who killed Mr. Floyd allegedly had 18 misconduct complaints lodged against him with two resulting in discipline. The officer who shot and killed 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Ohio reportedly was deemed emotionally unstable and unfit for duty in a previous job: he was ultimately fired from the Cleveland Police Department for lying on his job application. The same officer applied for and was hired to serve in another police department in the state; and

Police executives need information about before hiring them, which underscores the law enforcement officers that compiles the minutes or decertified, involved in misconduct against them. This publicly available data-executives’ access to necessary data to in the public to know the employment histories.

These recent police killings of residents history of fatal police killings against Black gressional action immediately. Sadly, there victims of police use of force, a reality that tion (FBI) Director James Comey acknowledged in 2015.

Congress must ensure compliance with the Death in Custody Reporting Act, which it enacted six years ago, as well as ensure more robust data collection on police-community encounters, including use of force, as it prohibits racial profiling.

We call on Congress to adopt the following legislative measures to ensure that police officers live up to their oath to protect and serve:

1. Require a federal standard that use of force be reserved for only when necessary as a last resort after exhausting reasonable options, and incentivize states through federal funding mechanisms to implement this standard; require the use of de-escalation techniques, and the duty to intervene; ban the use of force as a punitive measure or means of retaliation against individuals who only verbally confront officers, or against individuals who pose a danger only to themselves; and require all officers to accurately report all uses of force;
2. Prohibit all maneuvers that restrict the flow of blood or oxygen to the brain, including neck holds, chokeholds, and similar excessive force, deeming the use of such force a federal civil rights violation;
3. Prohibit racial profiling, and require robust data collection on police-community encounters and law enforcement activities. Data should capture all demographic categories and be disaggregated;
4. Eliminate federal programs that provide military equipment to law enforcement;
5. Prohibit the use of no-knock warrants, especially for drug searches;
6. Change the 18 U.S.C. Sec. 242 mens rea requirement from willfulness to recklessness, permitting prosecutors to successfully hold law enforcement accountable for the deprivation of civil rights and civil liberties;

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the misconduct histories of officers need for a national public registry of names of officers who have been terminated, or who have complaints lodged base would permit law enforcement form hiring decisions and would allow ries of the officers who work in their

across the country are part of a longer people in America and require Congress no reliable national accounting of former Federal Bureau of Investigation

Letter continued from previous page...

7. Develop a national public database that would cover all police agencies in the United States and its territories, similar to the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training' National Decertification Index, which would compile the names of officers who have had their licenses revoked due to misconduct, including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual violence, assault and harassment, criminal offense against minors, excessive use of force, violation of 18 U.S.C. §242; perjury, falsifying a police report or planting and destroying evidence, and deadly physical assault; as well as terminations and complaints against the officers; and

8. End the qualified immunity doctrine which prevents police from being held legally accountable when they break the law. Qualified immunity, a defense that shields officials from being sued, has been interpreted by courts so broadly that it allows officers to engage in unconstitutional acts with impunity.

Now is the time for Congress to pass meaningful police reform legislation. While we appreciate hearings and resolutions, we need comprehensive measures enacted. We need Congress to advance meaningful legislation to protect Black communities from the systemic perils of over policing, police brutality, misconduct, and harassment, and end the impunity with which officers operate in taking the lives of Black people. It is your moral and ethical duty to ensure Black people and communities are free from the harm and threats from law enforcement and to curtail state sanctioned police violence and militarized police responses. We welcome the opportunity for Members of Congress and the principals of our organizations to meet and confirm next steps to advance federal legislation that will save the lives of countless Black people.

Thank you for your consideration.

June 24, 2020 LWVUS Pre-Convention Criminal Justice Reform Caucus

By Karen Douglas

The LWVUS Criminal Justice Reform Caucus is spearheaded by Marjorie Green & Caroline Goodman of LWV Los Angeles where a Consent Decree between US DOJ & City of Los Angeles regarding Police Reform Measures was established and is being monitored. The US DOJ has established 15 Consent Decree/Settlement Agreements (5 prior to Albuquerque) and 10 MOAs with municipalities regarding unsuitable Police Practices since 2009. The Albuquerque City and DOJ Consent Decree/Court Approved Settlement Agreement was established late 2014 and the Independent Monitor, Dr. James Ginger, was named 2015. Dr. Ginger and his staff have issued 11 Quarterly Reports documenting APD progress and deficiencies in meeting the CASA milestones. Following issuance of reports, regularly scheduled Hearings convened by the Federal Judge supervising the IM permit testimony by involved parties.

Measures tracked by DOJ reporting are compared for the involved Police/ Sheriff's Departments and include:

<input type="checkbox"/> Unlawful Use of Force (UOF)	APD
<input type="checkbox"/> Stops, Searches, and Arrests	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bias in Policing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health and Crisis Intervention	APD
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Protests and Demonstrations	
<input type="checkbox"/> Interfering with the citizens' right to record, observe, and comment	APD
<input type="checkbox"/> Language Access for non-English speakers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuous Improvement of policies	
<input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Training reform	

The recent deadly force involving George Floyd in Minneapolis highlights the UOF criteria common to all Consent Decrees. *APD deficiencies* detailed in the 2014 CASA regarding excessive UOF are noted among the categories recorded among all DOJ Settlement Agreements:

Canines, Tazers, Firearms, Choke Holds, Head Strikes, Pepper Spray, De-escalation and Proportionality, Retaliatory Force, Treatment of Handcuffed Victims, and Giving Help after UOF.

I provided the LWVNM 2019 Administration of Justice Position to Marjorie Green for sharing and comparison with other positions provided by LWVs participating in the LWVUS Pre-Convention Criminal Justice Reform Caucus and will provide a follow-up report to LWVCNM addressing Caucus discussions and results.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE.....by Trish Lopez, LWVCNM Board Member

In Support of our Black Community

Something I can't get off my mind this week: the way people use the words "protestor" and "rioter" interchangeably.

I see friends sharing their frustration this way:

"I understand the protests and support them, but... [fill in the blank... rioting, looting, destroying property] is bullshit. They're killing the message!"

No, they're not.

First, the vast majority of protesters are not rioting, and they are not violent. They are protesting for life. This is life and death.

Second, there have now been multiple examples of police and non-protestors initiating chaos in these marches – in my own experience, and in the evidence of others. Like today's video: a car of white people were giving bricks to a group of black men... then were followed and called out by a brave black woman.

I have also seen police who are acting with respect.

The opportunists of every race who are exploiting this movement by looting and inciting violence are, sadly, a part of every movement for change, and this one is no different. It's always tragic and of course none of us wants to see rioting.

But for the very small minority of protestors who ARE actively rioting after reaching their boiling point, can we even comprehend what kind of oppression leads to finally having enough and seeing rioting as your only option to be heard?

We're seeing just a tiny glimpse of these realities on screen - the systemic horrors, the majority of peaceful protesters, the chaos, the pain of lifetimes of injustice.

If you didn't see the 8-minute torture of George Floyd, the literal hunting and killing of Ahmad Arbery, the dog walker in Central Park, or any other videos of the black experience from this year alone, please. don't. look. away. I will share a few in comments below.

So, yes, for some this may be an excuse to start shit or explore their inner anarchist, but don't let them shift your focus. Remember that before this, quiet protests were still criticized by those who insisted on looking away, who turn the focus back to their own limited life experience, who complain about people not respecting the flag, not respecting the police, not being polite when they stand up for themselves.

For those who've been living these atrocities, this is an inevitable moment of action. The evidence of severe, murderous racism exists in every corner of the internet right now and across all cable news networks. Bitter silence, or concern about "what the world is coming to" suggests that we have no idea just how bad things have been, forever. For so, so many. It's never been easier to speak out on their behalf. This is their time.



AND THESE WORDS FROM SENATOR MARTIN HEINRICH.....



Horrific incidents of police violence and unconscionable loss of life have shaken our nation to its core. Our country desperately needs an honest appraisal of the policies that continue to prop up and propel racism. We must address the persistent, unchecked bias in policing, and the violence and hurt it inflicts on our communities of color....I am proud to support my colleagues Senators Cory Booker and Kamala Harris in introducing the Justice in Policing Act to stem the tide of police violence in America. This sweeping police reform legislation includes changes to federal laws that currently stand in the way of police officers being held accountable in court when they violate constitutional rights....I joined my colleagues in the Capitol's Emancipation Hall for a moment of silence. We gathered in memory of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. Our moment of silence lasted 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time that a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee onto George Floyd's neck. On Sunday, I joined the Black Lives Matter march right down to the front of the White House.

AND THESE FROM SENATOR UDALL who also co-sponsored the Justice in Policing Act

Across the United States, the American people are taking to the streets to demand an end to the unacceptable police brutality that disproportionately targets Black people and people of color. We must listen to New Mexicans and Americans of all walks of life who are calling for justice—and we must enact comprehensive, systemic reform to ensure police accountability, build trust between law enforcement and our communities, and prevent these tragedies in the future. Every community deserves to feel safe. This legislation does not denigrate the service of police officers in New Mexico and across the country who serve their communities with honor and integrity. But it does take on the very real issues with this country's culture of policing, and the systemic bias that results in police officers targeting people of color with excessive force.





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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