

July 2020

# The VOTER

Vol. 85 No. 7

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO  
2501 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite 216 Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158

**WE MOVED....** Effective July 1, the LWVCNM office has moved to 2501 San Pedro NE, Suite 216.

## FROM THE DESKS OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS



Linda Adcox-Kimmel, LWVCNM Director, has assumed LWVCNM Office Manager responsibilities from Karen Douglas, Co-President. Due to the recent CoronaVirus Social Distancing precautions and measures recommended by Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham, routine office staffing was discontinued early March 2020 with a few volunteers covering daily during the weeks immediately preceding the June 2, 2020 Primary election. During this recess the LWVNM Board selected a new office located at 2501 San Pedro NE which features a brighter, open environment and a conference room which may be reserved. During the July 2, 2020 Board meeting the schedule and plans to resume office staffing will be considered. As many



current office volunteers may desire to remain in their homes as a health measure, additional volunteers will be needed and encouraged to join the ranks. Linda is currently putting together Covid-19 procedures for volunteers who wish to work in the office.

LWVCNM would like to welcome our summer intern, Audrey Brunner, who will be assisting in development of Instagram capability. The website will target High School students learning about the voting process and explore Vote411 features. Examples may include US Senate races for NM with a link to the Vote411 responses by the candidates. LWVCNM members will supplement this tool by providing photographs of NM citizens registering to vote or exercising their right to vote at a Polling Place.

The Voter Guide preparation for the November 2020 general election is underway and LWVCNM volunteers are needed. Specific jobs include:

1. Calling candidates to make sure their information is sent in.
  2. Help with writing the sections on how to vote, and on ballot and bond initiatives.
  3. Volunteers to help Board Member Lani Desaulniers with distribution of the guides in early October
- Please contact Mary Wilson [t3wilson@aol.com](mailto:t3wilson@aol.com) or (505) 975-0685 (mobile) if you would like to volunteer for any of these Voter Guide projects.

Karen Wentworth and Karen Douglas, Co-Presidents

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** YOU ARE MISSING OUT ON GREAT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE NOT SUBSCRIBED TO [lwvcnmTopics@mailman.swcp.com](mailto:lwvcnmTopics@mailman.swcp.com) . IF YOU HAVE BEEN USING THE OLD LWVCNM TOPICS ADDRESS, PLEASE DELTE THAT FROM YOUR ADDRESS BOOK. WE ARE NO LONGER USING THAT TO COMMUNICATE WITH OR AMONG MEMBERS.

## THE VOTER

Published monthly

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## OFFICE HOURS

Closed until further notice.

## LEAGUE CALENDAR

**Watch the Voter for details about League events as we hold meetings online in order to social distance and avoid CoVid 19. The Deadline for the monthly Voter remains the 15th of each month. Articles and pictures are welcome.**

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. The first one is being planned for July 9. **SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS.**

**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. **Contact Karen Wentworth at [kwentworth17@comcast.net](mailto:kwentworth17@comcast.net) if you need help.**

**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.

Like so many other State and Local events, the big banquet to celebrate the centennial of women suffrage originally planned for August will be postponed until some time in 2021.

## 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

**EXTRA SPECIAL ADDITION:** Starting July 1, 2020 at 12 noon NMPBS will present a special podcast series:

As a tie-in to the National PBS Program, "American Experience: The Vote," New Mexico PBS is producing a short-run podcast series on the women's suffrage movement in New Mexico. Our state offers an unusual opportunity to present stories of the vote because of our history as a Western frontier state, but also one that had an existing political structure and culture long before it became part of the United States. Women's clubs, made up mostly of Anglo Protestant women, began to organize around suffrage in New Mexico in the 1890s. But those early efforts did not include many women of color and Native Americans. And yet, it was Hispanic women who would prove crucial in getting the 19th Amendment passed in New Mexico. And yet, it was Hispanic women who would prove crucial in getting the 19th Amendment passed in New Mexico.

In this event, segments of the "American Experience: The Vote" program will be shown, and then Megan Kamerick will lead a conversation about the women's suffrage history in New Mexico which will give attendees a taste of the podcast series.

Hosts: Laurel Wyckoff, NMPBS Education and Outreach Manager  
Megan Kamerick, New Mexico in Focus Correspondent

#### Panelists:

Sylvia Ramos Cruz, M.D.- Women's Suffrage Historian

Martha Burk- Political Psychologist, Author of "Your Voice, Your Vote"

Pamelya Herndon- Lawyer and CEO of the KWH Law Center for Social Justice and Change

**LOG IN FOR THIS PODCAST AT <https://www.newmexicopbs.org/new-mexico-and-the-vote-podcast/>**

**OFFICE MOVE.....**We extend a HUGE thank you to members who volunteered to pack up the old office, sort through all the stuff in the office, and help organize the new office. All while social distancing and staying safe with masks. Pictures below are by Karen Douglas who led the office move.



Thanks to Linda Kimmel-Zamora (pictured at the right) for volunteering to serve as Office Manager.



WHAT A JOB!

*Pictured to the top left is MaryEllen Smith; top left is Linda Kimmel-Zamora who has agreed to serve as the new office manager; to the right is Jeanne Logsdon. (Apologies to Jeanne that the Wine.com box featured so prominently in this picture. Mary Wilson donated the empty box and takes full responsibility for the box and its contents.*



**New office building below:**



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:djrigano@swcp.com) with your preference.

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

### Parliamentary Pointers.....Preparing the Agenda/Order of Business.....the plan for the meeting

The agenda for a meeting is usually developed by the president/chairman/presider with the assistance of the secretary who has the minutes of the previous meeting and can give information on business that must come before the group. The Open Meeting Law governs the agenda of meetings that are controlled by the Law.

Meeting agendas should include the following:

- Call to Order – including the time that the meeting is to be convened.
- Approval of the Agenda – this procedure is used when there may be changes to the agenda.
- Adoption of Meeting Standing Rules – recommended when contention is anticipated.
- Reading/ Approval of Minutes – If the minutes are distributed by email/US Mail several days before the meeting, the reading may not be necessary. Minutes are draft minutes until they are approved. The minutes are the legal document of what was done at the meeting, not everything that was said. (Minutes to be covered in another article)
- Reports of Officers – The list should include only the officers who are expected to report. The officers are listed in the order they are listed in the bylaws. Some organizations have the treasurer report immediately after the reading of the minutes. The report is filed, not adopted.
- Reports of Boards – This may be the report of the Executive Committee, a summary of that meeting. If recommendations are included, the motion to implement the recommendation may be made at the end of the report.
- Reports of Standing Committees – Standing committees are those committees listed in the bylaws; these committees function throughout the year for which the officers serve. The committees are listed in the order in which they are listed in the bylaws. Only the committees expected to report are listed for a specific meeting.
- Reports of Special Committees – Special committees are formed to perform a specific responsibility and do not exist after their final report....after the responsibility is completed.
- Special Orders – These are matters that the bylaws require to be completed at a specific meeting; examples are election of officers, election of nominating committee, etc. It can also be issues made a special order (by 2/3 vote) for this meeting at a previous meeting.
- Unfinished Business and General Orders – Items on the agenda for the previous meeting but not completed at that meeting or items postponed from the previous meeting. (Old Business is no longer used)
- New Business – New issues introduced to the group through the use of a main motion.
- Announcements – Made by the chair or by previous arrangements with the chair.
- Adjournment – When there is no further business, the meeting is adjourned; time for adjournment can be on agenda.

Information on agenda can be reviewed in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*, (RONR) pp. 353-375.

By Jan Strand, Professional Registered Parliamentarian – Retired



## JOIN US JULY 9 .....

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 had to move to a virtual convention online.

BUT the upside of a virtual Convention is that more members got to "attend." More than 1200 delegates joined the meeting! LWVCNM had four official voting delegates: Karen Douglas, Mary Wilson, Karen Wentworth, and Jeanne Logsdon. They will tell our members more about what happened during Convention at the following online unit meeting:

**July 9, 2020**

**Noon**

**Email [KWentworth17@comcast.net](mailto:KWentworth17@comcast.net) for details about log in**

The delegates will tell you about the concurrences on Federal lands Transfer and Election Systems that passed as well as the floor-approved action on the abolition of the Electoral College by Constitutional Amendment. Two resolutions passed: one of Immigration and the other on Racial Equality which is printed in its entirety on page 10 of this *Voter*. Join us on July 9 and ask us questions about what it was like to "attend" a virtual Convention.

### SPOTLIGHT ON ASHLEY BENNING.....

We continue the series of articles called "Spotlight" which features interviews of current Board Members by Trish Lopez. This article features Director Ashley Benning who has worked on many projects for the League including doing Who's Who and working on VOTE411.

Name: Ashley Benning Position: Director at large Where are you from? I am originally from Augusta, Georgia. Did you go to college? Yes, I went to Southern Methodist University in Dallas. If so, major: I majored in German and minored in art history and political science.

How long have you lived in ABQ? About eight years, and in my 20s I lived in Santa Fe for seven.

What inspired you to get involved in politics and voter rights? My parents always modeled that civic involvement was a natural part of life. There was no question about voting; it is what you did. And my mother as a stay-at-home mom did whatever else she could in the local community. My siblings and I spent hours playing in the halls of Augusta's Municipal Building while she observed city council meetings for the League and worked for the local Revenue-Sharing Board. It wasn't always easy at the time for women putting themselves out there in the public sphere. For myself, it has always seemed to me that when people act out against the best interests of society it is because they do not feel a part of that society. And one way to work toward inclusion is through making information available and promoting involvement in the political process.

Why are you a member of LWV? What led you to where you are today? When I saw our national discourse getting more and more strident and hateful and focused on positioning rather than people, I thought, "Where do you go for a civil, productive discussion of the actual issues: what we need and how we can move forward? Where can you learn more about what is going on right here and now locally?" And of course, my mind went immediately to the League I had watched lead the way when I was a child, and I looked up my local chapter.

What was the most rewarding part of serving on the LWVCNM Board? I don't see the point in joining an organization and not getting involved in some way. That said, I don't think I have necessarily been a good board member, and it was challenging to find a way I can contribute on the board that fits in with my strengths and schedule. But serving on the board has given me a clearer picture of volunteer opportunities within the League, and I found some things I can do on an ongoing basis. It has also given me endless admiration for the commitment and dedication for the rest of the board.



*Continued on page 7.....*

**NEW MEMBERS.....**



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**Tomorrow will be decided today.**

The 2020 Census is still underway, and more than half of households have responded. Even if you have completed the 2020 Census, you may be contacted again to confirm information or to ask follow-up questions about your responses.

Earlier this year, the Census Bureau stopped doing door-to-door collection of data due to the spread of COVID 19. The Albuquerque area restarted sending census workers out in the field in May. Online, phone and mailed responses can be completed throughout the data collection process until October 31, 2020. All data collected will be given to the President by April 30, 2020 and redistricting data will be supplied to the states by July 31, 2021.

This census will help in distributing federal funds for community projects, schools, highways, first responders, Pell Grants and much, much more. To see a list of federal funds distribution, go to: <https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2020-01/Uses-of-Census-Bureau-Data-in-Federal-Funds-Distribution.pdf>.

Please tell all your friends, neighbors, and family to fill out the Census. This information will enable a complete and accurate count of our communities. Let's shape our future.



**ASHLEY BENNING.... Continued from page 6**

What is your favorite law that has been passed in NM? I found it so interesting when the issue of same-sex unions was coming to a head, that the wording of the statutes in New Mexico had already been changed in a way that opened the door for these couples when the equal-protection clause of the New Mexico Constitution was amended in 1972 as part of the national discussion surrounding the ERA. It made me glad that one fight for inclusion had paved the way for another group, and it has always seemed to me that New Mexico focuses on the practical needs of the functioning of a civil society over dogma and abstractions.

Please share one quote or life lesson that you try to live by: "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?" —John Wesley



## THE PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT: HOW THE LEAGUE CONTRIBUTED

[June 27, 2020 was the 30th anniversary of the creation of the Petroglyph National Monument]

LWVCNM (then LWV of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County) played a vital role in supporting the preservation of ancient Native American rock carvings, called "petroglyphs," on the western boundary of Albuquerque, NM, beginning in the mid-1970s. More than 15,000 petroglyphs were found on the site, dating from over 1,000 years ago. This effort culminated in the establishment of the Petroglyph National Monument in 1990. After official designation, our League participated in oversight of the development of the Monument and continued to monitor for threats of encroachment.

Our local League supported an early step to create a small Indian Petroglyph Park in 1975 as part of Albuquerque's open space effort to incorporate parks and undeveloped areas as the city grew in population. In 1986 the preservation issue became critical because a developer had targeted the petroglyph area for a large housing project. The Land Use Committee of the League studied the issue and called not only for opposition to the housing project but also for permanent protection of the entire petroglyph area.

The U.S. National Park Service evaluated the site and confirmed that it met the criteria for designation as a national monument. The Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs was formed in 1986 as a broad coalition of individuals and local groups, including local chapters



of the League, AAUW, Sierra Club, and the New Mexico Archeological Council, to advocate for the creation of the petroglyph as a national monument. League members spoke in many local meetings, conducted tours, and wrote articles to publicize the cultural and historical importance of the petroglyphs. We participated in designing a plan to consolidate existing local and state government-controlled properties with Native American significance in the petroglyph area and to elicit funds from the city, state, and federal governments to purchase private properties to complete the over 7,200-acre proposed site.

Once the plan for local, state, and federal funding was finalized, League members advocated for it in many venues. The first step was to participate in educating local citizens about the cultural and historical importance of the petroglyphs and the need for local funding to protect them. The City of Albuquerque quickly approved its financial contribution by passing a ¼ cent tax for open space acquisition in 1987.



The second step required action by the state of New Mexico. Members of the League's Land Use Committee testified at state legislative committee hearings in 1987, 1988, and 1989 and lobbied in support of state action, along with other groups. Funding was approved for the state's portion of the Monument's cost, and a commitment was made to donate state land within and near the petroglyph area once the national monument status was approved.

The third step involved developing nation-wide support for the formation of the federal-level national monument. One valuable outreach effort that only our League could achieve was publicity at the national League's convention in Denver in 1988. Members of the Land Use Committee designed an educational display in the exhibit area that included a video, brochures, and buttons. They lobbied the 1,200 delegates to vote "yes" on the proposal to support of federal designation of a Petroglyph National Monument. They further urged delegates to take the issue back home and contact their federal legislators in support of the creation of the monument. The LWVUS board endorsed federal legislation, and staff helped to track bills through the legislative process. The U.S. Congress passed the bills that established the monument in 1990.

Once the Monument was officially approved, the League remained involved. It designated an oversight committee of four members to review and comment on alternative plans for access and preservation that were proposed by the National Park Service and the City of Albuquerque between 1992 and 1995. Since then, both the League's Land Use Committee and Natural Resources Committee have monitored threats to the monument. For example, the League opposed a proposal to extend a major roadway through the area in the early 2000s.

This example from the League's history shows how we made a lasting contribution to the quality of life in central New Mexico and can inspire us to do more to preserve and protect our natural environment.

By Jeanne Logsdon

EDITOR'S NOTE: I had the privilege of attending the 1988 LWVUS Convention in Denver, CO at which LWVABC lobbied League members from around the country to support making our beautiful petroglyph area a National Monument. The effort was led by the late Joanne Ramponi, Chair of the local Land Use and Natural Resources Committee. It was a great Convention and fun, fun, fun to support this terrific lobbying effort. Let's plan a celebration at the 2022 Convention in Denver to commemorate our League's work in preserving this precious part of history. MGW



Voter Services Report  
MaryEllen Smith, Voter Services Chair  
New Mexico 2020 Primary Election Summary



- Governor encouraged the use of absentee ballots and early voting due to the pandemic “quarantine”;
- State Supreme Court ordered election officers throughout New Mexico to mail absentee applications to every eligible voter before the election. This was done on May 5;
- By May 21, Bernalillo County mailed out more than 101,000 ballots; 34,000 of which had already been returned; In 2016 only 10,000 people voted absentee in Bernalillo County;
- Early absentee ballot returns matched the total cast in the 2018 Primary;
- As of Monday prior to election day, 260,000+ registered voters had cast ballots, or 26 % of all eligible voters – approximately 77 % of those voting so far had voted via absentee ballot;
- 61 election day convenience centers were open on election day; 43 % of eligible voters (422,008) cast ballots; the highest percentage turnout in 20 years according to the Secretary of State’s office;
- Because of the surge in absentee balloting, 1.3K absentee ballots arrived too late to be counted.

(This information came from the Office of the Secretary of State and Common Cause and was printed in the *Albuquerque Journal*.)

**WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL SESSION ON ELECTIONS:**

**SB 4** - Creates a temporary section effective through calendar year 2020 to regulate and streamline the 2020 General Election. Addresses polling locations on and off tribal lands; requires County Clerks automatically to deliver an application to all mailable voters, as defined; requires the Secretary of State to implement the USPS Intelligent Barcode System; provides deadlines for receipt of mailed ballot applications and procedures for handling mailed ballots. Establishes timelines for the Absent Voter Election Board. Creates a deadline for SOS to procure and distribute personal protective equipment for each polling place. Authorizes the Secretary of Health to issue public health orders for election conduct. Creates the temporary Legislative Electoral Health and Safety Task Force. Requires SOS to conduct a public information campaign about accurate voter registration addresses. Addresses reimbursement of County Clerk, SOS and Department of Health expenses. Where a direct conflict exists with other provisions of the Election Code, provisions of this section take precedence.

**Other actions of the legislative special session included.....**

**HB 5** - Creates a temporary New Mexico Civil Rights Commission to develop policy proposals for laws for a civil right of action for the deprivation of a state constitutional right, privilege or immunity by a public body or a person acting for or on behalf of a public body.

**SB 8** - Requires peace officers employed by municipalities, county sheriffs, State Police or the Department of Public Safety (DPS) who routinely interact with the public to wear a body camera while on duty, and requires agencies to adopt specific policies and procedures governing their use; makes officers who fail to comply liable for the tort of negligent or intentional spoliation of evidence; requires permanent revocation of certification of officers based on the result of certain criminal or civil actions involving unlawful use of force; eliminates public employee immunity from tort liability for negligent or intentional spoliation of evidence in all cases pending or on appeal on or after May 20, 2020.

**Other actions:**

- balanced the ‘20 budget and reduced appropriations for ‘21 until we arrive back in January when further cuts will be required;
- increased the monthly distributions of GRT made to cities and counties and waived certain GRT;
- established a state Small Business Recovery Loan Program with funds to be taken from the Severance Tax Permanent Fund;
- voided unexpended and unobligated funds from 2019 capital projects, changed the road distribution fund and the public school improvements.

## URGENT RESOLUTION

**RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND ALL PEOPLE OF COLOR  
(LWVMO, LWVAZ, LWVCA, LWVDE, LWVMA, LWVMN, LWVNM, LWVNY)**

1. Whereas, the killings of George Floyd<sup>1</sup> and countless other Black people have focused our nation's attention on the continuing structural and systemic racism in law enforcement and the justice system; and,
2. Whereas, Black people and all historically marginalized people of color are disproportionately criminalized and targeted by excessive force and brutality by law enforcement<sup>2</sup>; and,
3. Whereas, delegates to the 2020 League of Women Voters (League) Convention are outraged by these injustices in law enforcement that unfairly target Black people and all people of color; and,
4. Whereas, the current crisis is a result of racism and socio-economic inequalities that have marginalized, discriminated against and harmed Black people and all people of color. Education, housing, employment, healthcare and every aspect of American life have been impacted; and,
5. Whereas, the League acknowledges painfully that America is a nation founded on racism. We must end white privilege and the myth of white supremacy if we are to<sup>3</sup> become the nation we pledge<sup>4</sup> to be; and,
6. Whereas, the League commemorates the centennial of our organization and passage of the 19th Amendment along with the courage, persistence and vision of our founding members. Yet, our past has been marred by racism and it is time to acknowledge this so that we can continue to work toward being Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive, (DEI)<sup>5</sup> and,
7. Whereas, the League believes in individual liberties, civil rights, human rights, and voting rights writ large; we defend democracy and oppose all threats to these constitutional rights<sup>6</sup>; therefore,
8. We Resolve First, That the League advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the harm that it causes; and,
9. We Resolve Second, That the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC)<sup>7</sup> deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

## Footnotes:

1 May 29, 2020 LWVUS Response to Police Killing of George Floyd,

<https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwvus-responds-police-killing-george-floyd>

2 <https://www.vox.com/identities/2016/8/13/17938186/police-shootings-killings-racism-racial-disparities>; <https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/11-15-Police-Force.pdf> ;

3 The Constitution of the United States of America, Article I, Section 2(2)

4 Pledge of Allegiance, <https://www.ushistory.org/documents/pledge.htm?vm=r>

5 See Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy, <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidelines/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-policy>

6 See LWVUS Position on Equality of Opportunity, Pgs 8 & 10, Impact on Issues 2018-2020/Equality of Opportunity, <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/LWV%202018-20%20Impact%20on%20Issues.pdf>

7 <https://www.nytimes.com/article/what-is-bipoc.html>

## KERNER COMMISSION STILL RELEVANT TODAY. In 1967 President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed a 12 member



commission chaired by Otto Kerner, Governor of Illinois, to examine the civil unrest which had occurred and was still occurring at that time in the Black and Latino neighborhoods in major cities. Former U. S. Senator from Oklahoma, Fred Harris, (*pictured to the left*) now a long-time resident of New Mexico, is the last surviving member of that Commission. The LWVNM presented a Zoom presentation featuring Sen. Harris to discuss the continued relevance of that report to the events occurring 50 years later. For the League members who could not attend the Zoom presentation, we thought it would be useful to provide some educational material from the Kerner Commission Report. The following is an verbatim excerpt from the Summary of that Report. The August Voter will feature the recommendations of that Commission. The Editor welcomes Letters to the Editor in regard to this Report vis a vis the serious issues that have re-surfaced in regard to continued racial disparities in our society today.

### REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CIVIL DISORDERS SUMMARY OF REPORT

The summer of 1967 again brought racial disorders to American cities, and with them shock, fear and bewilderment to the nation. The worst came during a two-week period in July, first in Newark and then in Detroit. Each set off a chain reaction in neighboring communities. On July 28, 1967, the President of the United States established this Commission and directed us to answer three basic questions: What happened? Why did it happen? What can be done to prevent it from happening again? To respond to these questions, we have undertaken a broad range of studies and investigations. We have visited the riot cities; we have heard many witnesses; we have sought the counsel of experts across the country. This is our basic conclusion: Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white--separate and unequal. Reaction to last summer's disorders has quickened the movement and deepened the division. Discrimination and segregation have long permeated much of American life; they now threaten the future of every American. This deepening racial division is not inevitable. The movement apart can be reversed. Choice is still possible. Our principal task is to define that choice and to press for a national resolution. To pursue our present course will involve the continuing polarization of the American community and, ultimately, the destruction of basic democratic values. The alternative is not blind repression or capitulation to lawlessness. It is the realization of common opportunities for all within a single society. This alternative will require a commitment to national action--compassionate, massive and sustained, backed by the resources of the most powerful and the richest nation on this earth. From every American it will require new attitudes, new understanding, and, above all, new will. The vital needs of the nation must be met; hard choices must be made, and, if necessary, new taxes enacted. Violence cannot build a better society. Disruption and disorder nourish repression, not justice. They strike at the freedom of every citizen. The community cannot--it will not--tolerate coercion and mob rule. Violence and destruction must be ended--in the streets of the ghetto and in the lives of people.

Segregation and poverty have created in the racial ghetto a destructive environment totally unknown to most white Americans. What white Americans have never fully understood but what the Negro can never forget--is that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it. It is time now to turn with all the purpose at our command to the major unfinished business of this nation. It is time to adopt strategies for action that will produce quick and visible progress. It is time to make good the promises of American democracy to all citizens--urban and rural, white and black, Spanish-surname, American Indian, and every minority group.

Our recommendations embrace three basic principles:

- To mount programs on a scale equal to the dimension of the problems;
- To aim these programs for high impact in the immediate future in order to close the gap between promise and performance;
- To undertake new initiatives and experiments that can change the system of failure and frustration that now dominates the ghetto and weakens our society.

These programs will require unprecedented levels of funding and performance, but they neither probe deeper nor demand more than the problems which called them forth. There can be no higher priority for national action and no higher claim on the nation's conscience. We issue this Report now, four months before the date called for by the President. Much remains that can be learned. Continued study is essential. As Commissioners we have worked together with a sense of the greatest urgency and have sought to compose whatever differences exist among us. Some differences remain. But the gravity of the problem and the pressing need for action are too clear to allow further delay in the issuance of this Report.



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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.

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### APPLICATION FOR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail above information to LWVCNM, 2501 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite 216, 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  |