

**January 2022**

# **The VOTER**

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**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO**  
**6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suite 124, Albuquerque, NM 87109**

## **MONTHLY CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT** **by** **KAREN DOUGLAS AND DONNA SANDOVAL**

January 2022 opens with mixed concerns for LWV members and NM residents. The freedom we enjoyed summer 2021 following widespread vaccinations is now threatened by the more deadly Delta variant and more contagious Omicron variant of COVID, which has paralyzed our lifestyles for nearly two years. Recent hybrid LWV board meetings were planned as rehearsals for general LWV meetings, with the Zoom option providing a greater variety of expert speakers and more convenient attendance for those with caregiving responsibilities or demanding schedules. LWVCNM cautiously awaits decisions regarding the ever-growing precautions and appreciates the generous services offered by a multitude of first responders and essential personnel.

LWVCNM also voices disappointment with the New Mexico Legislature's selection of redistricting maps not recommended by the Citizens' Redistricting Committee. LWV's efforts to represent citizens were championed by Fair Districts NM and LWVNM, both of which contributed many months of dedication and expert testimony during the December 2021 Special Session. LWV now turns to issues permitted during the Winter, 2022, 30-day legislative session which begins January 18<sup>th</sup>.

The LWVCNM Program Planning session scheduled for Saturday, January 22, 2021, (*see separate Program Planning article, pages 4 and 5*) will consider studies proposed by members and concurrence with the California LWV's Criminal Justice Reform position (dependent on LWVNM Board decision Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>). Many LWVCNM members viewed the November 9, 2021 Criminal Justice Panel discussion that featured experts who commented on the CA Position and offered a broad range of insights regarding the current Consent Decree between the US DOJ and the City of Albuquerque addressing excessive APD Use of Force (*see separate APD Forward article, pages 6 and 7*).

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**LWVCNM Leadership****Co-Presidents:**

Karen Douglas  
Donna Sandoval

**1st Vice President/**

**Vote411.org:**

Karen Wentworth

**2nd Vice President/**

**Membership:**

Cassandra Spacek

**3rd Vice President/Program:**

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**Sustainability/Climate Change:**

Jeanne Logsdon

**Office Manager/Webmaster/**

**Zoom Host:**

Starlyn Brown

**Advocacy Team/Observer**

**Corps:**

Alan Ramos

**LEAGUE CALENDAR**

All of the following are Zoom meetings. Members will receive invitations on the LWVCNMTopics listserv. Anyone who does not receive an invitation can email [president@lwvcnm.org](mailto:president@lwvcnm.org). If you need help with Zoom, please reach out to our Zoom host, Starlyn Brown, at [sbrown@unm.edu](mailto:sbrown@unm.edu)

January 13 (Thursday), noon—Dick Mason & Kathleen Burke of Fair Districts New Mexico will join us to discuss the redistricting process and the results of the December redistricting special session of the Legislature.

January 22 (Saturday), morning—LWVCNM Program Planning meeting. We will consider the California Position on Criminal Justice Reform. Members may also propose other studies leading to development of new Positions for advocacy.

February 10 (Thursday), noon—LWVCNM is excited to announce that Carol Pierce, Director of Family and Community Services for the City of Albuquerque, will present “Mayor Keller’s Homelessness Initiatives”. Many of you will remember Carol Pierce, as she served as President of LWVABC from 1991-1993 and was recognized on the 1999 LWVABC Roll of Honor.

The deadline for the monthly Voter remains the 15th of each month. Please submit your articles to Anne Pierce-Jones, VOTER editor, at [apiercejones@outlook.com](mailto:apiercejones@outlook.com).

**OFFICE HOURS**

Closed until further notice due  
to Covid concerns.

*The VOTER Editor:*

Anne Pierce-Jones

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## CO-PRESIDENTS' MONTHLY REPORT, continued from page 1....

LWVCNM values your membership and offers many opportunities for you to volunteer your talents to provide betterment of our communities and state. Please contact us with any ideas you may have or service you can provide.

At the December 2, 2021 LWVCNM meeting the board approved to change student memberships to be free! The website was changed and now includes a link to the Student Membership Form, the link is below.

[Join / Renew – LWVCNM](#)

Students, please join us. We are a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

### **Work On Sandoval County Municipal Elections Is Beginning, and We Need You!**

Candidates running for municipal offices in Bernalillo, Corrales, Cuba, Jemez Springs, Rio Rancho and San Ysidro must file for election in early January. The League is looking for people interested in learning a little more about these communities to help us track down candidates and publicize this election.

We will be creating an online guide for the first time in some of the smaller communities. Neither the candidates or the voters will be familiar with what we do.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, we held a Zoom meeting to talk about what we will be doing. We are looking for volunteers to help with specific jobs. This is a short time effort for volunteers. Most of our work will be done in January and early February. The municipal elections are March 1<sup>st</sup>.

We need:

1. Volunteers to work on questions.
2. Volunteers to put together voting information for each community.
3. Volunteers to help us create a marketing campaign for VOTE411, the online election guide we will create.
4. Volunteers to help enter information into the VOTE411 software.

This is a fun and easy way to work on a voter education project for the League! It's also a great way to meet other League members and to celebrate what we are doing to make democracy stronger. We really need you, and so do the voters of New Mexico! **Please reach out to Karen Wentworth (email [kwentworth17@comcast.net](mailto:kwentworth17@comcast.net)) to get involved.**

## Please Join Us!

### Annual Program Planning Meeting

January 22, 2022

10 AM—Noon, Zoom Meeting

*Login information will be provided later. Please watch upcoming member communications for Zoom login information.*

### Overview

LWVCNM members will meet to discuss the educational and advocacy paths to pursue in 2022-23. National, state and local LWVCNM positions are listed in your member handbook. Currently, concurrence with the LWVCA position on Criminal Justice is being discussed on both the LWVNM state as well as on all of the local NM League levels. This position will be the focus of our meeting, but **if you are interested in proposing a new position or an update to a current position for discussion, please prepare a short summary of the issue or revision to present at the meeting.** For background information on the LWVCA position on Criminal Justice, please review:

[Position on Criminal Justice | LWVC.org](#)

### A Few FAQs

#### *Do I need to propose a position or revision to a position to attend?*

No...All LWVCNM members are invited to this excellent way to learn how the League planning process works. Whether you are proposing a position or attending as a learning experience, please review your Member Handbook for current local, state, and national positions. **PLEASE BRING YOUR MEMBER HANDBOOK TO THE MEETING.**

#### *How is Program Planning different from Calendar Planning?*

The annual Calendar Planning meeting selects the topics for our monthly educational unit meetings. Meeting topics are planned through September 2022 and we will meet again in June to plan the next round of topics and dates.

The annual Program Planning meeting results in the education and advocacy positions adopted to move our mission forward. Principles and positions on public policy and actions/activities to implement these principles/positions will then be considered by the Board in March and adopted at the LWVCNM Annual Meeting in May, along with recommended action to implement the proposals.

#### *If I propose a position for study or update to a current position, what work is involved?*

As mentioned, you will need to write a brief summary of the proposed study or update, how the position could lead to local League action with the government entity impacted, and why this is a timely subject for League attention. You should also be willing to serve on a committee to conduct the study/review and assist in the recruitment of other members to the committee.

*Continued on page 5...*

## *Annual Program Planning Meeting, continued from page 4....*

### ***Were there any new proposals/revisions to existing positions adopted by the Board as the result of last year's Planning Meeting?***

While no new LWVCNM studies were initiated by the proposals presented, the Climate Action proposal led to actionable steps on the concepts presented or related issues.

### **Athena Christodoulou's Study Proposal:** Within our four-county area, what is the role of our county/ municipal government regarding climate action?

*Athena opened her presentation with a call for our local/state League "to step up its game on climate action." Athena asked for a discussion on how to better engage the League in climate issues. After discussion, a study of new climate change positions in the formal sense that the League uses the word "study" did not seem necessary. Instead, it was suggested that we implement processes and strategies to champion local actions supported by the national and state positions that the League already has. Jeanne Logsdon has the names of two or three other local League members who have expressed interest in climate/environment issues. Jeanne also noted in her follow-up communication with Athena that she has been attending monthly Zoom meetings of the LWV California climate action group. Per Jeanne, "These meetings emerged out of the national convention last June. Speakers offer great information about what is happening in other cities and states. There is a lot going on everywhere, and lots we can learn from studying best practices developed elsewhere. We don't have to reinvent the wheel." Next steps would be to reinvigorate the Environment/Climate Action/Natural Resources Committee, which in turn would work with the Advocacy Chair and Committee to advance lobbying strategy. Jeanne and Athena have also been frequent contributors to The Voter in 2021, highlighting climate-related issues.*

Additionally, the Program Planning Meeting provides an open forum to discuss LWCNM opportunities and challenges. The meeting concluded with a discussion on member engagement in the Age of COVID: *A structured outreach to new members may be our first step in rebuilding the committee structure—new member outreach being viewed as the top of the committee pyramid. How to best reach out to new members and reinvigorate the committee structure, COVID challenges notwithstanding, will factor into upcoming Board discussions.*

### **Questions about Program Planning?**

Please email your questions or a summary of a position you would like to propose to Jennifer Black at [jblack8162@gmail.com](mailto:jblack8162@gmail.com).

**We look forward to working with our members in the vital League work of Program Planning. Whether you are a new member or a veteran, your input is greatly valued. See you on Saturday, January 22, 2022, from 10 AM to noon.**

## APD FORWARD: RECENT EVENTS

Submitted by Karen Douglas

APD Forward, one of three AMICI groups supporting Albuquerque Police Department (APD) reform efforts, met with Department of Justice, APD, Independent Monitor (“IM”) Dr. Ginger, and the External Force Investigation Team (“EFIT”, which includes training officials with law enforcement expertise hired by the City of Albuquerque in July, 2021, as required by the February, 2021, stipulated order from DOJ) representatives on December 9, 2021, to address the 14th Quarterly Independent Monitor’s Report. CABQ’s hire of EFIT narrowly avoided Department of Justice (DOJ) Contempt of Court proceedings, but these remain an option. Current APD Internal Affairs Force Division (IAFD) investigations regarding use of force are now being processed timely (i.e., within the 90-day deadline required for applying discipline) by newly staffed APD IAFD undergoing training. Civilians were added to uniformed PO staff in 2021 to reach the total of 25 investigators required. Superintendent of Police Reform Stanley (who reports to CABQ Chief Administrative Officer, a position lateral to the APD Chief) has submitted his resignation following criticism from Independent Monitor Dr. Ginger. APD officers/union officials had previously filed numerous complaints, and many officers were leaving APD due to inequitable disciplinary practices. Measures are now employed by IAFD to ensure fairness and consistency. APD Academy Training, the other element addressed in the DOJ Stipulated Order, is now using virtual reality based training, as Dr. Ginger had recommended when pandemic restrictions curtailed 2020 training. APD Chief Medina reiterated that 62 per cent of CABQ residents polled support the current balance of crime-fighting/reform efforts employed by APD.

The December 16, 2021, Federal Court hearing by Judge Browning permitted each of the Consent Decree Parties to offer perspectives and explanations for current CABQ/APD lack of compliance with the 2014 Consent Decree (aka CASA, the Court Approved Settlement Agreement). Those addressing the court included:

- Four US DOJ attorneys representing HQ/Civil Rights Division and the US Attorney’s Office in New Mexico
- Independent Monitor Dr. Ginger and six IM Team professionals
- EFIT Administrator Neier and attorney
- CABQ Attorney Aguilar and Chief Administrative Officer Nair
- APD Chief Medina; Superintendent of Police Reform Stanley; Deputy Superintendent Garcia and Deputy Chiefs; APD Academy Director and Curriculum Director
- Albuquerque Police Officer Association (Union) Attorney Mowrer
- AMICI testimony was delayed until late January, 2022, due to schedule constraints.

The CASA includes 276 measurable paragraphs . The 14th quarterly IM Report discusses Primary (policies), Secondary (officer training), and Operational Compliance (police officer practice in the field) for each of these paragraphs. The recent US Attorney General Garland study recommended that Consent Decree paragraphs in compliance for two years no longer be reported, and it recommended five-year term limits for Independent Monitors. The 14th

*Continued on page 7...*

### *APD Forward: Recent Events, continued from page 6...*

Report alleged APD compliance as “intentional and deliberate” rather than as negligence, and elicited CABQ public protest of this rhetoric. The DOJ expressed full confidence in IM Dr. Ginger and concerns about Internal Affairs’ investigation backlog. Judge Browning will not currently place CABQ in Contempt of Court or in Receivership. The DOJ entered into negotiations with CABQ, which revealed many APD officers leaving the department (152 departing officers in 2021), along with widespread morale issues. Dr. Ginger had recommended that APD leadership positions be filled with outside hires; however, Chief Medina attested to his qualifications and identified management vacancies filled by outside candidates ( APD Academy Director McDermott, with extensive FBI experience, Curriculum Director, Tactical Division Deputy Chief, and APD Chief of Staff Franklin).

A total of 661 UOF cases remained open for more than 90 days (the deadline for imposing discipline), and 28 completed investigations remained on the Area Commanders’ desks longer than 90 days. The 667-case backlog of APD Internal Affairs investigations included 337 cases during the 14th quarterly reporting period and 332 cases from 2021 not assigned to an IA investigator. The DOJ insisted that each case be investigated, with no sampling permitted.

APD leadership and the APOA union expressed inequity, with 25 investigators assigned to Internal Affairs, but only ten assigned to Homicides (where the caseload warrants 16 investigators). UOF investigations take the involved officers from field duty for eight hours. Additional time is required from witness officers. Eleven of the 25 current IAFD investigator positions are filled by civilians who require 2 1/2 months for hiring, more extensive training than sworn officers, and are ineligible for transfer to lateral positions within APD.

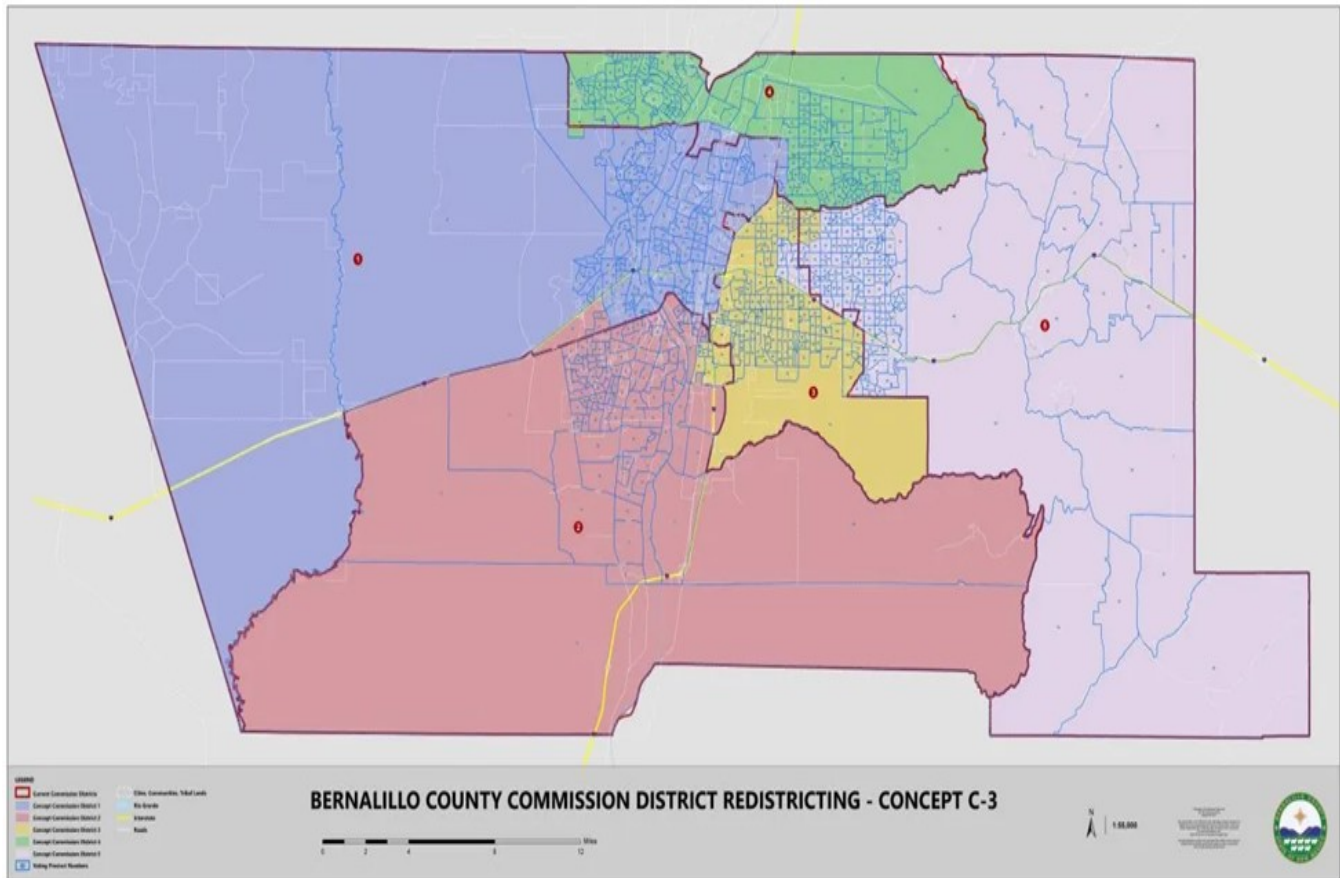
The six Albuquerque Community Policing Councils were commended as role models for the US, but vacancies in the Civilian Police Oversight Agency halted current investigations. CPOA accepts civilian complaints in addition to APD IA investigations and issues noncompliances to APD when charges are sustained. APD may issue nonconcurrency letters to the CPOA with reasons. The CPOA was fully staffed on July 31, 2021; however, Executive Director Harness recently resigned; one staff member recently died; and four Force Review Board members resigned during November and December, 2021, because they had not completed the required 24-hour annual training.

EFIT improvements to investigations included Supervisor on UOF incident scene viewing lapel camera footage on cell phone and uploading same in vehicle, and interview of officer and witnesses. EFIT assisted 198 UOF incidents, of which 74 per cent were Level 2 UOF and 16 per cent were Level 3 UOF. IMT reviewed the initial three joint investigations. Following initial efforts, EFIT filed a September 27, 2021, revised Process Narrative with the Federal Court for APD Internal Affairs investigation guidance. APD was to file a Remedial Action Plan on December 16, 2021.

Crisis intervention techniques used by officers during interaction with the mentally ill or with substance abuse victims require training and supervision. Impacts on mental health, homelessness, or substance abuse cases by reassignment to the new Albuquerque Community Safety Department (ACS) and to the Gateway Center will be recorded in future quarterly Independent Monitor reports.

## Bernalillo County is Redistricted

The Bernalillo County Commission has accomplished a redistricting process that was transparent and open to the public. Here's what the new districts look like:



The biggest changes are in District 4, represented by Walt Benson, which had to be downsized because most of the population growth occurred there. District 5, represented by Charlene Pyskoty, covers the east mountain side of the county and has been expanded to include Uptown. District 3, represented by Commissioner Adriann Barboa, now covers the Kirtland Addition, South Broadway and East San Jose, areas that were previously in another district.

The process was not without drama, when a last-minute map was proposed at midnight the day before the commission meeting. The map consolidated the west side of Albuquerque into one district. That was soundly defeated on a 4-1 vote after a heated discussion. Fortunately the meeting was on Zoom, and only angry words were exchanged.

Submitted by Karen Wentworth



## GET THE INSIDE STORY OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED DURING THE STATE LEGISLATURE'S REDISTRICTING SESSION

It is a tangled tale, but Dick Mason, Advocacy Chair for the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, and Kathleen Burke from Fair Districts New Mexico will be on hand to help us understand what happened when the state Senate drove the redistricting plan onto the rocks. They are our speakers for the first meeting of the new year, on January 13th at noon.

You need a little background for this. Two years ago, the League of women Voters of New Mexico decided to take the lead in trying to assuring that the State Legislature passed the fairest, most equitable district maps possible.

Mason worked with legislators to pass a law creating an Independent Redistricting Commission with the authority and the money to hold public hearings and to hire Research and Polling, Inc., to draw the maps to accurately reflect the Census counts.

LWVNM got a grant from the Thornburg Foundation to hire Kathleen Burke to put together a coalition to support fair redistricting, to create a website, and to put together the public meetings.

So far, so good. But the Legislature put a little caveat into the law creating the commission. The lawmakers gave themselves permission to ignore the findings of the Independent Redistricting Commission if they didn't like the maps the Commission recommended.

That's where redistricting has gone off the track. The session is still in progress as I am writing this, so we don't know yet what happened. But on January 13th we will hear not only what happened, but also why it happened.

It's not often we get to hear a thrilling political story first hand, but this is our chance. See you on Zoom at noon on Thursday, January 13th!

Submitted by Karen Wentworth





6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suite 124  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, a tax-exempt 501 (c ) (3) organization is a nonpartisan political organization, that 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, 6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suite 124, Albuquerque, NM 87109, along with annual dues as follows:

- |                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| First member of household           | \$65      |
| Each additional member of household | \$33      |
| Student member (proof required)     | No Charge |