

**May 2021**

# **The VOTER**

**Vol. 86 No. 5**

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

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico  
2021 Annual Meeting of the organization will be held

**Saturday, May 1, 2021**

**TO BE HELD VIA ZOOM**

Login information will be posted on the website and on LWVCNMTopics

Registration starts at 9:30 am

10:00 am Business Meeting

11:15 am Guest Speaker: The Honorable Tom Udall, Former U. S. Senator

Have this Voter available for the meeting.



## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS, KAREN DOUGLAS AND KAREN WENTWORTH**

The year 2020 was difficult for voter education in many ways, but it proved to be a great time to launch our online voter information platform VOTE411. For

the first time, the League of Women Voters of New Mexico had a way for voters statewide to access questions about their state and federal candidates. It was a breakthrough in voter education efforts and the website had more than 47,000 visits from voters seeking information.

Locally, the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico completed Voter Guides for all four counties in our service area. This is the first time printed copies were available at the clerk's offices in Torrance and Valencia counties. In Bernalillo and Sandoval counties, the county clerks made the guides available in early vote centers. The league printed 12,500 copies of the guide.

APD Forward initiatives 2020-21 have involved frequent interactions with CABQ, US Attorney's office/DOJ, and participation in Federal Court hearings. CABQ created a new Public Safety Department with a separate arm for 911 calls not requiring uniformed officers and expanded the Crisis Intervention Teams by formation of the new Mental Health Response Advisory Committee. 2021 Selection of a new APD Chief followed months of public surveys and Zoom public interviews with the 3 finalists. The 6 Community Policing Councils were transitioned under the umbrella of the city-council appointed Civilian Police Oversight Agency and resumed monthly meetings via Zoom. Albuquerque's continued ranking as the US city with the highest per capita violent crime has inhibited efforts to reform police practices. Heightened public concerns regarding unconstitutional policing practices followed awareness of the widespread Black Lives Matters movement and has sometimes conflicted with residents' concerns for safety. US DOJ placed CABQ/APD under a stipulated order winter 2021 for continued excessive use of force, inadequate discipline, and other violations of the 2015 Consent Decree. DOJ appointed an External Force Investigation Team to train APD Internal Affairs and ensure timely officer discipline would be imposed when warranted.

Linda Adcox-Kimmel assumed management of the LWVCNM office summer 2020 and managed systems and staffing during these pandemic months. LWVCNM moved several blocks in July 2020 to a brighter office space with promises of a daily janitorial service and a conference room which could be reserved.

*Continued on page 3.....*

**THE VOTER**

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**Co-Presidents:**

Karen Douglas  
 Karen Wentworth

**1st Vice President:**

Mary G. Wilson

**2nd Vice President:**

Vacant

**3rd Vice President:**

Jennifer Black

**4th Vice President:**

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**Directors:**

Judith Binder  
 Lani Desaulniers

**Director and Office Manager:**

Vacant

**Technology:**

Cheryl Haaker

**Advocacy:**

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).

May 1 — 10 am ANNUAL MEETING

June 10—Monthly meeting: 2021 NM legislature

June 12—Calendar planning meeting

The deadline for the monthly Voter remains the 15th of each month. Articles and pictures are always welcome.

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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.**

**Calendar Planning Invitation**

Join the LWVCNM on Saturday, June 12, 10 AM-Noon, for our next Calendar Planning meeting. We met in August 2020 to plan our monthly educational meeting topics and speakers through September 2021. Please join us with your ideas for topics and speakers for October 2021 through May 2022. Hopefully, we will be meeting for lunch again at some point during this next program cycle. In the interim, watch for the Zoom information for this June planning session. We look forward to planning another timely program schedule with and for you.

Jennifer Black, 3rd VP

**OFFICE HOURS**

Closed until further notice due to Covid concerns.

*The VOTER Editor:*  
 Mary G. Wilson  
[T3Wilson@aol.com](mailto:T3Wilson@aol.com)

**A NOTE FROM MARYELLEN SMITH, Voter Services Chair.....**

**SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION IN CD 1  
June 1, 2021**



There will be a Special Election to fill the vacancy for CD1 left when deb Haaland became the US Secretary of the Interior. Congressional District 1 includes most of Bernalillo County, all of Tarrant County, parts of Sandoval, Santa Fe, & Valencia Counties. Check online at each County Clerk offices for additional information.

- May 4 Early voting starts at County Clerk’s offices
- May 15 Additional polling places open
- May 22 Absentee ballot requests end
- May 29 Early voting ends

Candidates : Melanie Ann Stansbury – Democrat; Mark David Moores – Republican; Christopher Manning – Libertarian; Aubrey Dunn —Independent. Laura Olivas and Robert Ornelas have qualified as write-ins, but their names won’t appear on ballot.

LWVCNM has published an online Voter Guide at VOTE411.org. Six questions have been asked of each candidate. Check out their responses.



**CO-PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT, continued form page 1....**

August landlord changes resulted in cancellation of the janitorial service and repurposing of the conference room. As subsequent negotiations with the Landlord were unsuccessful in resolving these concerns, LWVCNM has now formed a committee to consider alternate locations for another move.

This year, Central New Mexico is also improving our effectiveness by setting up committees to work on specific issues. LWVNM conducted Observer training during September for the four local leagues and LWVCNM initially had 13 Observers for periodic government meetings who have been publishing reports in the monthly Voter. The CNM observer corps is merging with the Local Advocacy Committee, headed by Alan Ramos. Jeanne Logsdon and Athena Christodoulou are working on a Climate Change committee and developed a local Climate Change/Sustainability Position by Concurrence. LWVCNM is also forming an education committee that will work on civics and voter education. All of these committees welcome new members.



**Redistricting Happenings  
APRIL 29 at 10 am (MDT)  
a Zoom Webinar**

**New Mexico’s Citizen Redistricting Committee –  
A Comparison with Similar Models  
with Peter Wattson**

**Register at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CzXwQP0bStS0T1OzwUsdug](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CzXwQP0bStS0T1OzwUsdug)**

Mr. Wattson will discuss redistricting models similar to the Citizen Redistricting Committee (CRC) created by SB304 in other states. He will also advise on what we can do to prepare even before the CRC starts. Mr. Wattson will take questions as they arise. Peter S. Wattson is beginning his sixth decade of redistricting. He served as Senate Counsel to the Minnesota Senate from 1971 to 2011 and as General Counsel to Governor Mark Dayton from January to June 2011. He assisted with drawing, attacking, and defending redistricting plans throughout that time. He served as Staff Chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures’ (NCSL) Reapportionment Task Force in 1989, its Redistricting Task Force in 1999, and its Committee on Redistricting and Elections in 2009. Since retiring in 2011, he has participated in redistricting lawsuits in Arkansas, Kentucky, and Florida, and lectured regularly at NCSL seminars on redistricting.

THE LWVCNM BOARD HAS EXAMINED THE PROPOSED FY 21-22 BUDGET AND HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS SHOWN IN THE FAR RIGHT COLUMN BELOW. THESE CHANGES WILL BE CONSIDRED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

FISCAL YEAR 5/1 - 4/30	19-20 ADOPTED	19-20 ACTUAL	20-21 PROPOSED	21-22 PROPOS	NEW 21-22
<b>INCOME</b>					
DUES	10,000.00	10,743.82	10,800.00	10,800.00	10800.00
CONTRIBUTIONS	18,000.00	21,749.33	20,000.00	20,000.00	20000.00
VOTER'S GUIDE					
WHO'S WHO					
<b>BANQUET</b>					
<b>SILENT AUCTION</b>					
INTEREST	20.00		100.00	100.00	150.00
LUNCHEON	9,000.00	9,176.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	5000.00
LWVNM RENT	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
HANDBOOK ADS	400.00	775.00	900.00	900.00	800.00
MISC	200.00	1,040.64	200.00	200.00	800.00
LWVNM PROJECT ADMIN			2,000.00		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>38,220.00</b>	<b>44,084.79</b>	<b>43,600.00</b>	<b>41,600.00</b>	<b>38150.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
NATIONAL DUES	5,352.50	5,200.00	5,264.00	5,264.00	5872.00
STATE DUES	2,112.50	2,112.50	2,139.00	2,139.00	2385.50
PRESIDENT	100.00	50.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	200.00	126.69	200.00	200.00	200.00
MEMBERSHIP	100.00		200.00	200.00	200.00
PUBLIC RELATIONS	200.00		200.00	200.00	200.00
VOTER SERVICES	150.00		150.00	150.00	150.00
WHO'S WHO	1,200.00	1,001.91	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
VOTER'S GUIDE	4,000.00	2,715.39	12,000.00	5,200.00	4,000.00
ADVOCACY	100.00		100.00	100.00	100.00
INSURANCE	505.00	505.00	530.00	530.00	530.00
POSTAGE	350.00	189.15	350.00	350.00	200.00
BULK MAIL PERMIT	225.00	240.00	225.00	225.00	225.00
BULK MAILING	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
OFFICE RENT	4,800.00	4,800.00	6,373.25	6,089.00	6,000.00
TELEPHONE	70.00	72.80	75.00	75.00	75.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	400.00	375.66	500.00	400.00	400.00
PRINTING	350.00	319.58	600.00	300.00	500.00
DMIN COORDINATOR	2,500.00	910.72			-
MEMBER HANDBOOK	1,000.00	919.56	950.00	950.00	1,200.00
LUNCHEON	9,000.00	8,053.92	9,000.00	9,000.00	5,000.00
BANK FEES	150.00	237.09	150.00	150.00	200.00
LWVUS CONVENTION REG	1,350.00			1,350.00	-
LWVNM CON. REG	200.00		200.00	200.00	-
SOS REPORT		16.50	12.00	12.00	12.00
MISC	50.00	2,240.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>34,665.00</b>	<b>30,286.47</b>	<b>40,918.25</b>	<b>34,784.00</b>	<b>29149.50</b>
<b>PROFIT/LOSS</b>			<b>2,681.75</b>	<b>6,816.00</b>	<b>9,497.75</b>



### A History of Mother's Day Quiz

Question: When did Mother's Day begin?

- A. In 1858, when Ann Jarvis, a young Appalachian homemaker, organized "Mother's Work Days" to improve the sanitation and avert deaths from disease-bearing insects and seepage of polluted water.
- B. In 1872, when Boston poet, pacifist and women's suffragist Julia Ward Howe established a special day for mothers—and for peace—not long after the bloody Franco-Prussian War.
- C. In 1905, when Ann Jarvis died. Her daughter, Anna, decided to memorialize her mother's lifelong activism, and began a campaign that culminated in 1914 when Congress passed a Mother's Day resolution.

Answer: All of the above.

Each woman and all of these events have contributed to the present occasion now celebrated on the second Sunday in May. The idea of establishing a national Mother's Day was inspired by all three of these women with the goal of improving the lives of all women. Mother's Day, like the job of "mothering," is celebrated to honor the multiple ways that women are a source of strength for their families and communities.

*From the National Women's History Alliance website which is selling a Mother's Day card as a fundraiser for their Centennial activities. See <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org>*

### ANN MARIA REEVES JARVIS....

Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis' work with women's organizations inspired the creation of Mother's Day as a national holiday. She was born in Culpeper, Virginia, on September 30, 1832, the daughter of the Rev. Josiah W. and Nancy Kemper Reeves. The family moved to Barbour County in present-day West Virginia when the Rev. Reeves was transferred to a Methodist church in Philippi. In 1850, Ann married Granville E. Jarvis, the son of a Philippi Baptist minister. Two years later, Granville and Ann Jarvis moved to nearby Webster in Taylor County.

Jarvis organized a series of Mothers' Day Work Clubs in Webster, Grafton, Fetterman, Pruntytown, and Philippi, to improve health and sanitary conditions. Among other services, the clubs raised money for medicine, hired women to work for families in which the mothers suffered from tuberculosis, and inspected bottled milk and food. In 1860, local doctors supported the formation of clubs in other towns.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad made Taylor County a strategic site during the Civil War. Ann Jarvis urged the Mothers' Day Work Clubs to declare their neutrality and provide relief to both Union and Confederate soldiers. The clubs treated the wounded and regularly fed and clothed soldiers stationed in the area. Jarvis also managed to preserve an element of peace in a community being torn apart by political differences. During the war, she worked tirelessly despite the personal tragedy of losing four of her children to disease. In all, eight of her twelve children died before reaching adulthood.

Near the end of the war, the Jarvis family moved to the larger town of Grafton. Tensions increased as both Union and Confederate soldiers returned at war's end. In the summer of 1865, Ann Jarvis organized a Mothers' Friendship Day at the courthouse in Pruntytown to bring together soldiers and neighbors of all political beliefs. The event was a great success despite the fear of many that it would erupt in violence. Mothers' Friendship Day was an annual event for several years.

Ann Jarvis' life revolved around the church. Under Granville's leadership, the Andrews Methodist Church was built in Grafton and dedicated in 1873. Anna taught Sunday School at the church for the next twenty-five years. After Granville's death in 1902, Anna moved to Philadelphia to live with her son Claude and daughters Anna and Lillian. Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis died in Bala-Cynwyd, west of Philadelphia, on May 9, 1905. Her daughter Anna led a small tribute to her mother at Andrews Methodist Church on May 12, 1907, and dedicated her life to establishing a nationally recognized Mother's Day. The first official Mother's Day ceremonies were held at Andrews Methodist in Grafton and the Wanamaker Store Auditorium in Philadelphia on May 10, 1908. Six years later, President Woodrow Wilson signed a Congressional Resolution setting aside Mother's Day as a national holiday to be celebrated on the second Sunday in May. In 1952, the General Conference of the Methodist Church officially designated Andrews Methodist Church as a National Methodist Shrine.





### CABQ/APD vs. DOJ (February to May 2021 progress)

Albuquerque has had a Consent Decree (aka Court Approved Settlement Agreement, CASA) with the US DOJ since 2015 and is among 18 US Cities with CASAs for Police Excessive Use of Force (UOF). The 2/3/21 CABQ/APD vs. DOJ Status Hearing before Judge Browning was postponed until 2/26/21. The February 19, 2021 meeting involved the US DOJ Civil Rights Division/Paul Killebrew, Assistant US Attorney/Elizabeth Martinez, City of Albuquerque Attorneys/Esteban Aguilar and Lindsay Van Meter, Interim APD Chief Medina, APD Professional Standards and Accountability Deputy Chief Garcia, APD Internal Affairs Commander Lowe, and APD Forward representatives considering the recent court Stipulated Order. The 12<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Independent Monitor's Report (IMR) cited APD failure to impose disciplinary measures recommended by the Civilian Police Oversight Agency Force Review Board (appointed by City Council) for excessive officer UOF cases.

The 9-month Stipulated Order will increase the APD Internal Affairs (IA) Force Division staffing to 25 FTEs. Training by contractor External Force Investigation Team (EFIT) for APD IA investigations will be a 9-month Program. US DOJ will have input on both the EFIT Administrator and Contractor team selection. APD performance improvement in applying discipline within schedule would result in no renewal of the 9-month order. EFIT will have the authority to assume investigations from APD if APD efforts are not timely but will not supervise CABQ employees/investigators. This EFIT contract increasing APD technical assistance resulted from the Court Order filed by the CASA Independent Monitor (IM), Dr. James Ginger. Dr. Ginger will evaluate initial UOF investigations to monitor progress. The contractor team will serve as a buddy system.

The subsequent 2/26/21 Federal Court Hearing addressed the Albuquerque Police Officers Association (APOA represents line APD officers, sergeants, and lieutenants) effort to intervene and dismiss the Stipulated Order. The Stipulated Order requires EFIT training and oversight of APD IA Investigators in an effort to ensure that investigations would be timely and appropriate discipline recommended would be applied within schedule. Federal Judge Browning inquired regarding conflict between the Consent Decree and APOA Collective Bargaining Agreement. US DOJ Civil Rights Division attorney Killebrew emphasized that the 9-month Stipulated Order was much less intrusive than placing CABQ into receivership. The 4/15/21 Federal Status Conference evaluated CABQ implementation of the Stipulated Order. CABQ attorneys Aguilar and Van Meter indicated that 3/5/21 CABQ deadline for issuance of Letter of Interest announcement in efforts to hire the EFIT Administrator required responses by 3/30/21 as required.

Dr. Ginger, IM, discussed 5/3/21 issuance of the 13<sup>th</sup> quarterly IM Report which, like IMR 12, indicates a systemic culture problem of APD being unable to police itself: "APD treats every situation as though it was a nail and needed a hammer."

Federal Judge Browning will issue his opinion in late April. APD will again meet with APD Forward in late May following review of IMR 13 and DOJ will meet with APD Forward 6/9/21.

By Karen Douglas

**LWVCNM Observer Report Summary: of  
City of Albuquerque Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) Meeting  
April 20, 2021 5-7 pm (submitted by Lani Desaulniers)  
(Full Meeting Agenda and Minutes can be found on the [MHRAC website](#).)**

**Meeting highlights**

**MHRAC**: leadership has requested clarification about their advisory role for the new Crisis Intervention Response services for the new Albuquerque Community Safety Department.

**New Gateway Centers Update**: The city of Albuquerque finalized the purchase of the old Lovelace Hospital facility on Gibson was completed on 4/1. Planning of service center and shelter configuration are in progress. City plans to coordinate services with Bernalillo County

**APD Encampment Policy**: Paul Haidle – Deputy Director of Policy – City of Albuquerque, APD Commander Josh Brown, and Lisa Huval of Family and Community Services (FCS) are soliciting comments and feedback on draft of homelessness encampment policy for APD.

## FINAL LETTER FROM THE CURRENT EDITOR....

It has been my great pleasure to serve as Voter Editor for the last two years...25 issues. I hope you have enjoyed reading the Voter as much as I have enjoyed putting it together for you. I took on the job because I believe that our members deserve to be kept informed about League happenings and about public policy matters that deeply affect all our lives.

The Voter has been a labor of love these past two years (Some months more labor and a lot less love). I appreciate all of you who have contributed articles for the Voter and your proofreading skills. I am happy to turn the job over to Anne Pierce-Jones, a wonderfully capable League member whom you will get to know over the next two years. Don't forget to provide her with as much input as you can for the Voter content...it truly is a product of many minds. And we value your thoughts about what you would like us to tell you about.

Although I will be going off the local Board this year, I hope to stay involved with the League for many years to come.

Fondly, Mary G. Wilson



### Ready to go to work?

Work will begin in early June on the Voter Guide

This November voters in New Mexico will be voting on mayors, city councilors, school board members, local bond issues, local water district members and sheriff's. That means we will need many volunteers. The work will be concentrated in the August-September time frame for the most part. Here's what is needed.

1. 1. Volunteers to work on questions for the candidates. (This might be the most fun.) – June, July
1. 2. Volunteers to call candidates and remind them to answer the questions on Vote411 – August
2. 3. Volunteers to call county clerks, and local water districts to round up the ballot questions. –August, Sept.
3. 4. Volunteers to proof read the Voter Guide – Sept.
4. 5. Volunteers to help distribute the Voter Guide – Sept. early Oct.
5. 6. Volunteers to register voters – June – Sept.

We need your help. If you can lend a hand, please email Karen Wentworth at [kwentworth17@comcast.net](mailto:kwentworth17@comcast.net)  
Or call (505) 263-9066. You've been wondering how to get involved and this is a terrific opportunity.

### NEXT STEPS IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

The April *Voter* stated four facts about climate change: scientific evidence has definitively linked increasing climate volatility to human activity; we are already experiencing disastrous consequences of climate change and are sure to see more over the next decade; the use of fossil fuels is a significant source of human-caused climate change; and every sector will be affected.

The LWVUS joined many other organizations and institutions in declaring a "climate emergency" in 2020. Now we face the challenges of deciding what to do. Some climate-change deniers insist that the evidence is contrived or exaggerated, so it's business as usual. Staying in that mindset, to me, is refusing to adapt quickly enough to avert irreversible disasters. This is a sure-fire hard way to deal with climate volatility with many catastrophic consequences.

The more rational and powerful way to deal with climate change is to analyze how quickly we can shift from fossil fuels (coal, petroleum, and natural gas) to non-carbon energy sources (such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, and perhaps nuclear if safe handling and disposal methods can be found). Yes, other steps can be taken too, such as reducing meat consumption and planting trees, but energy use is by far the most significant source of greenhouse gases.

Fortunately, New Mexico has made some progress on this path. An executive order by our governor in 2019 established greenhouse gas reduction goals that are consistent with the international Paris Agreement. The Energy Transition Act requires NM public utilities to use 50% renewable energy by 2030; 80% by 2040; and 100% by 2045. Solar energy panels and hybrid vehicles are no longer rare. At the local level, the City of Albuquerque presented an updated Climate Action Plan on Earth Day.

What is our role at LWVCNM? How about this: Participate, advocate, and educate. At the May 1 LWVCNM annual meeting, a climate action position will be presented for concurrence. If supported, this will be the basis for our local actions. In addition, we will ask for volunteers to serve on an environment and natural resources committee to guide our work in this area.

2030 is so close for the major energy shifts that need to happen. Let's ratchet up our commitment.

Jeanne Logsdon

## NEWS FROM LWVUS.....

This blog post was written by Maddie Schumacher and Dylan Vargas of LWVUS:

In a late-night vote on March 3rd, the House of Representatives passed, for a second time, the historic democracy reform package, the For the People Act (HR1). With the intent to make voting easier, more accessible, and modernized, the For the People Act is the democracy reform bill the American people want and deserve. It will put power back in the hands of American voters, expand voting rights, and ensure a stronger and more inclusive democracy. But the bill doesn't just make voting simpler—it makes it fairer by outlawing the racial and partisan gerrymandering that keeps power in the hands of the few.

Gerrymandering is the process by which state legislators manipulate district maps to favor or disfavor a group of voters based on political affiliation or race. Certainly, every citizen gets one vote, but gerrymandered maps dilute voters' ability to elect their candidate of choice.

The impact of gerrymandering makes the redistricting process increasingly flawed, corrupt, and undemocratic. Over the decades, we have seen the consequences of heavily gerrymandered districts that prioritize political power over representation. The For the People Act sets out to change that by instituting independent commissions, standardizing criteria, and requiring transparency. These reforms would rewrite the rules of the electoral process and ensure that voters choose their representatives, not the other way around. Now that the For the People Act has passed the House, it's critical that the Senate move immediately to pass the bill.

*[On March 24, 2021, Virginia Kase, CEO of LWVUS, addressed the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, saying, "The 2020 election underscored the urgent need for major democracy reform. Across the nation, Americans experienced unprecedented voter suppression attempts, historic levels of dark money were spent to drown out the voices of everyday Americans, and there were rampant ethical abuses by special interests. Now, many state legislatures are trying to codify these anti-voter abuses in their 2021 sessions. The League believes the For the People Act addresses these pressing issues facing our democracy. S1 is the most expansive democracy reform agenda seen since the Voting Rights Act. It includes elements that align with many of the League's long-held positions."]*



## LWV Supports Senate Filibuster Reform for a Healthy Democracy

3/30/2021

WASHINGTON – Today the League of Women Voters CEO Virginia Kase issued the following statement about the Senate filibuster rule:

"The League of Women Voters calls on the US Senate to amend the filibuster rule that continues to stand in the way of progress for the American people. The League has a history of calling for filibuster reform to ensure a functioning democracy. In 2011, the League called for filibuster reform to end gridlock and partisan warfare in the Senate. Today, we are seeking the same reform to limit obstruction.

"The American voters elected senators to legislate, and we want to see Congress pass laws—not use outdated, arbitrary rules with a history of racist ties to obstruct our democracy. The Senate filibuster is a Jim Crow relic, historically used to protect the South's dependence on slave labor and later to defend segregation and block civil rights legislation.

"The League supports reforming the filibuster to prohibit a minority party from blocking opening debate of a bill. We support instituting a 'talking filibuster,' ending silent holds, putting the onus on minority parties to produce 40 votes, and lowering the cloture vote threshold to bring bills to a final up-or-down vote on the Senate floor.

"As long as senators can hide behind the filibuster, they are not beholden to the American people. Under current rules, senators far too often abuse the filibuster to delay important legislation and conceal debate behind closed doors, out of the view of the American people.

"This does a disservice to our democracy. The American voters deserve to see which of their elected senators are obstructing a vote on issues that matter to our communities, the nation, and the health of our republic. Those wishing to block action should be held accountable and required to hold the floor of the US Senate to explain themselves to the public.

"Our nation deserves better. The American people are tired of seeing this archaic tool used and abused to delay progress. It is time to amend the filibuster for the health and safety of our democracy."



Virginia Kase



**NM LEGISLATURE ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2021 SESSIONS**

SB 317, which contains innovative measures to lower healthcare premiums and deductibles, and expand coverage to an estimated 23,000 uninsured New Mexicans, by establishing a Health Care Affordability Fund. The bill also increases access to critical behavioral health services by eliminating any cost-sharing for insured patients.

HB 47, terminally ill, mentally competent adults in New Mexico, who are predicted to have six or fewer months to live, will have the option to obtain medication allowing them to pass away peacefully.

SB 10, which repeals the state's antiquated ban on abortion--keeping reproductive healthcare safe and legal in New Mexico no matter what happens in Washington, DC.

HB 112 will require hospitals providing indigent care to treat all non-citizens equally regardless of immigration status, prohibiting discrimination based on immigration status to ensure that everyone can receive access to critical care.

HB 23 will implement needed reforms to the state's medical school licensure system, building quality residency programs within the state, so that homegrown doctors can complete their training and build their careers serving our communities in New Mexico.

Provided help and support by moving money directly into the hands of the businesses and individuals who need it most, providing much-needed economic security: by providing \$200 million in business grants; by appropriating \$500 million in an expanded business loan program; and by providing thousands of low-wage earners with a \$600 tax rebate.

Made tax reforms that enhance and expand two of the most effective poverty reduction policies in our tax code: the Low-Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate (LICTR); and the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC).

House Joint Resolution 1 which is an investment in the future of our children. Voters at the next general election will have the opportunity to expand early childhood education programs and provide additional support for K-12 across the state through a 1.25% funding distribution from New Mexico's Land Grant Permanent Fund, currently valued at nearly \$22 billion.

Major education initiatives include: rethinking the way we fund education to provide more adequate support to districts and schools most in need; and providing large funding increases to both the Lottery Scholarship and Opportunity Scholarship programs.

Civil Rights Act will provide people a path to justice when their rights have been violated;

Healthy Workplaces Act ensures that every worker will have access to paid sick leave.

Passed bills to keep our air and water clean, our lands protected, and promote clean energy alternatives: created the Sustainable Economy Task Force to develop a strategic plan to transition the state economy into the future; and empowered the NM Environmental Department with the tools it needs to ensure that the state can maintain standards for clean air and water; and passed the Community Solar Act, bringing the opportunity of solar closer to more New Mexicans; and passed Roxy's Law, prohibiting trapping on public land.

**PLEASE JOIN US AT THE JUNE 10 MONTHLY MEETING VIA ZOOM TO HEAR LEAGUE MEMBER SENATOR BRENDA MCKENNA SPEAK ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION. SEE JUNE VOTER FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**



**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR ANNUAL MEETING**

The following were not available for the April Voter but will be needed for members to participate in the Annual Meeting on May 1:

See page 4 for recommended changes to the 21-22 budget.

Anne Pierce-Jones will not be a candidate for First Vice President, but will become the off-Board VOTER Editor.

**NEW MEMBERS.....**

Kristin Hashimoto  
414 Silver Ave. SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102-3326  
[khashi99@gmail.com](mailto:khashi99@gmail.com)  
(808) 298-6686

Timothy Voskuil  
1221 Sasebo St NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112-6327  
[tvoskuil@comcase.net](mailto:tvoskuil@comcase.net)





2501 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite 216  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

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, 2501 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite 216, Albuquerque, NM 87110 along with annual dues as follows:

- |                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| First member of household           | \$65 |
| Each additional member of household | \$33 |
| Student member (proof required)     | \$12 |