

July 2022

The VOTER

Vol. 87 No. 7

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

MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM YOUR CO- PRESIDENTS, By Karen Douglas and Donna Sandoval

The June 7th Midterm Primary outcomes this year again indicated that spending and publicity do not always equate to election success. This reinforces League of Women Voters (LWV) confidence in the electorate to make educated decisions and again emphasizes the value of Vote411.org and other methods of informing voters. Unfortunately, callers to the LWVCNM office continue to request the printed Voter Guide and to remind us that many New Mexicans, including those who have access to Broadband and Technology, are more comfortable with printed media.

The June 15, 2022, “Suppressed and Sabotaged” LWVUS Webinar shocked many New Mexico LWV members by reminding us that many states are practicing effective voter suppression by limiting polling place hours, closing polling locations to suppress voter turnout, and selectively removing voters from the rolls. Limitation of mail-in and absentee ballots is also widespread throughout our country, and the film featuring those voters whose votes weren’t counted despite waiting hours to cast their vote provided a distinct contrast to NM citizens’ freedom to elect officials. The lengthy waiting times due to this suppression in many locales nationwide also effectively instituted a “Poll Tax” by requiring time off from employment or additional childcare compensation.

During its June 2nd meeting the LWVCNM Board considered the suggestion of members serving as poll workers and donating the income to LWVCNM as a fundraising measure or serving as a voluntary poll observer (not watcher). These options could both serve our 4-county region and offer a service to our County Clerks with an additional opportunity for LWV

Continued on page 3...

LWVCNM Leadership

Co-Presidents:
Karen Douglas
Donna Sandoval

**1st Vice President/
Vote411.org:**
Karen Wentworth

**2nd Vice President/
Membership:**
Elizabeth Shields

3rd Vice President/Program:
Jennifer Black

**4th Vice President/
Development Committee Chair:**
Vacant

Treasurer:
Donna Sandoval

Secretary:
Ashley Benning

Voter Services Chair:
Gina Mahfouz

Voter Guide Distribution:
Lani Desaulniers

Sustainability/Climate Change:
Jeanne Logsdon

**Office Manager/Webmaster/
Zoom Host:**
Starlyn Brown

**Advocacy Team/Observer
Corps:**
Karen Wentworth

Director at Large:
Gina Mahfouz

LEAGUE CALENDAR

Announcement re: Future Meetings: With the ever-changing COVID environment, we are stepping thoughtfully into the new frontier as we begin the return to in-person meetings. We will continue to keep our eyes on the evolving situation. **There are three possibilities for upcoming meetings—In-person, hybrid (in-person and Zoom combined), and Zoom-only.** Depending on the meeting type, speaker/moderator preference, and potential COVID concerns, we will select one of the three options. **Please watch *The Voter* and *Topics* announcements for each program/event.** We appreciate your patience as we work out the best scenario for each meeting.

July 14 (Thursday), 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., Hybrid meeting (i.e., combination of in-person and Zoomed)—Monthly LWVCNM meeting. Speakers: NM Rep. Deborah Armstrong and Ishmael Torres, Chief Economist for the Legislative Finance Committee. Topic: Early Childhood Permanent Fund Amendment—Significant Constitutional Amendment Scheduled for November Ballot.

July 23 (Saturday), 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Hybrid meeting (i.e., combination of in-person and Zoomed)—Training for LWVCNM volunteers to staff future candidate forums. Location: Large conference room at the League office, concurrent participation via Zoom also allowed. Questions? Contact Mary H. Smith at maryhenrie@msn.com. Also, stay tuned for more details via Topics.

August 11 (Thursday), 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., Zoom only—Monthly LWVCNM meeting. Speaker: Dr. Halea Meese, Resident Physician, UNM Department of Family and Community Medicine. Topic: Health Care Based Voter Registration Efforts.

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.

OFFICE HOURS

Closed until further notice due
to Covid concerns.

The VOTER Editor:
Anne Pierce-Jones
apiercejones@outlook.com

Monthly Co-Presidents' Message, continued from page 1...

volunteers to contribute their time by improving our elections. LWVCNM members are always welcome to attend local or state League Board meetings (The LWVCNM Board meets on the first Thursday of each month from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. The next meeting of the LWVNM Board (i.e., the state LWV Board) will be Saturday, July 16, in the LWV Conference room at the new LWVCNM office, located at 6739 Academy Blvd. NE). Please call the office at (505) 884-8441 or email office@lwvcnm.org for details.

The June 11th Calendar Planning meeting conducted by Jennifer Black, LWVCNM 3rd Vice-President for Program, identified speakers and topics for monthly LWVCNM meetings through the summer of 2023. These monthly programs will be both interesting and informative (see separate article in the August 2022 Voter).

The hybrid LWVUS Convention, held June 23 through June 26, 2022, with in-person events in Denver, offered an opportunity for members to exchange information and to support positions for the betterment of our nation. Delegates from the local and state LWVs presented initiatives underway and decided whether to advance recommendations from other leagues whose studies have resulted in Positions for Advocacy. Both Co-Presidents, Karen Douglas and Donna Sandoval, were delegates.

Donna Sandoval updated the monthly budget to reflect monthly financial activity. The 990N Postcard tax return for non-profits for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2022, was submitted on June 17, 2022. The due date is September 30, 2022.

A PATH FOR ADVOCACY

The issue that just won't leave your mind...You know, the issue that you know needs to be addressed. But what can one person do? The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico has a path for you. Just contact the League's Local Advocacy Committee, and we will provide you with a roadmap for advocating for that important issue. Please contact committee chair Karen Wentworth at kwentworth17@comcast.net for more information.

APD FORWARD UPDATE FOR JULY, 2022

Since 2014, developments in the Consent Decree between the City of Albuquerque and the Department of Justice concerning the excessive Use of Force by the Albuquerque Police Department have progressed toward more equitable policing practices. The LWVNM concurred with the California LWV Criminal Justice Reform position earlier this year, incorporating many measures from the California Policing Practices coverage and approving the revisions to the 2019 LWVNM Administration of Justice Position (2021-22 Member Handbook, p. 8).

The prevalence of violent crime in Albuquerque and the “catch & release” practices of the judicial system for those charged with violent crimes were motivating factors influencing passage of stricter laws during the Winter, 2022, thirty-day session of the NM Legislature. GPS ankle bracelet monitoring of those placed on pre-trial release and charged with firearms use or other violent crimes has been a continuing public safety concern and was addressed by 2022 NM laws. ~1000 guns are stolen from vehicles in Albuquerque annually and firearms are used in most homicide cases. 2022 calls to the Albuquerque Police Department have primarily focused on three issues: homelessness on property, homicides, and speeding.

IMR #15 – Highlights of the Independent Monitor’s 15th Quarterly Report —indicate significant improvement since issuance of the 14th IMR. The 2015 Consent Decree/Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA) between the US Department of Justice and the City of Albuquerque includes 344 paragraphs, of which 276 are measurable, with quarterly progress reported. Measures of compliance for three categories:

Compliance Level	14th IMR	15th IMR	Comments
Primary (approved policy in place)	100%	100%	Policies approved by the IM Team have been in place > 1 year
Secondary (officer training to policy adequate and complete)	82%	99%	EFIT assisted APD in applying lessons from investigations of excessive Use of Force to both new cadets in APD Training Academy and sworn officers
Operational (actual police practice in field)	62%	70%	EFIT accompanied and advised/assisted APD Internal Affairs investigators for evaluation of UOF and translating to police practice

Continued on page 5...

APD Forward Update for July, continued from page 4...

APD Deputy Chief Cori Lowe, Accountability Bureau (responsible for all Consent Decree issues) predicted that by issuance of IMR #19 in 2 years APD will have achieved Operational Compliance with all Consent Decree paragraphs.

AMICI Meeting—June 22, 2022: The three AMICI groups [(1) McClendon Subclass, representing incarcerated; (2) Community Coalition, representing minority populations targeted by APD; and (3) APD Forward, representing community organizations interested in constitutional policing) meet with the Parties (DOJ/APD/CABQ/APOA/EFIT) following release of each quarterly IMR to discuss remaining concerns.

Federal Court Hearing Schedule – July, 2022 (exact date TBD): Federal Court hearing before Judge Browning, who supervises Independent Monitor Dr. James Ginger, offers the IM, Parties, and AMICI groups an opportunity to testify quarterly regarding APD progress in applying constitutional policing practices.

EFIT Progress – External Force Investigation Team (EFIT), required by Stipulated Order against the City of Albuquerque (CABQ), is comprised of former law enforcement professionals participating in all Use of Force investigations and assisting APD training officials in applying lessons to improve officer training. CABQ has extended the EFIT contract through May 2024 to enable additional improvements.

EFIT II is the supplementary EFIT project to review the 667 Use of Force case backlog (not timely to apply Police Officer discipline) required by the Department of Justice (DOJ), with outcome to improve APD practices.

Superintendent of Police Reform position required by the DOJ Stipulated Order oversees both Internal Affairs investigations of UOF cases and APD Training. This position is lateral to APD Chief Medina. It remains vacant since Superintendent Stanley resigned earlier this year. The IM had been critical of concurrent CABQ in-hiring for both the APD Chief and Superintendent positions following a nationwide search. A new candidate for the Superintendent position was recommended in April, 2022, and awaits confirmation.

July 14th (Thursday) Noon Meeting: Significant Constitutional Amendment Scheduled for November Ballot

This November we will be voting on a significant amendment to the New Mexico constitution. The land grant permanent fund is an accumulation of all the royalties the state collects on oil, gas and minerals removed from state lands. It was established when New Mexico became a state and provides over a billion dollars each year to public schools and universities.

This proposed amendment would set aside an additional one and one quarter percent of the majority of the fund for early childhood education and public schools. Part of the money would go to children at risk of failure, to extend the school year and for increased compensation of teachers. About 60 percent of it would go for early childhood education. This is defined as nonsectarian and nondenominational education of children until they are ready for kindergarten.

Rep. Deborah Armstrong, one of many representatives who were involved in passing this legislation, will speak to us on July 14 at our regular lunch meeting about what the legislature intended to do with this amendment. She has a long history of public service, including time at the New Mexico Aging and Long Term Services Department, Executive Director of the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool, and as chair of the New Mexico House of Representatives Health and Human Services Committee. She is retiring from the legislature this year.

She will be joined by Ismael Torres, the chief economist for the Legislative Finance Committee, who will discuss the amount of money this would involve and the kinds of decisions the New Mexico Legislature will have to make if the amendment passes in November. Mr. Torres has been with the LFC since 2019 and is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University with an M.S. degree in Applied Economics.

One of the big decisions looming in the background is at what age will the state of NM formally begin educating children. At two, three, four? Should the amendment pass, it has the potential to be life changing for New Mexico families. But what kind of change might it bring? Don't miss this opportunity to learn about an important issue you will be voting on.

Here's a link to the actual amendment: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/21%20Regular/final/HJR01.pdf>

Because this amendment might affect the long-term financial stability of New Mexico, it will also have to be approved by the U.S. Congress if it is approved by voters in the November election.

Continued on page 7...

July 14th Noon Meeting: Significant Constitutional Amendment Scheduled for November Ballot, continued from page 6...

We have invited other leagues to join us virtually for this important program.

LWVCNM members and guests are invited to join the program remotely via Zoom or in person in the conference room at the LWVCNM office, located at 6739 Academy Road NE.

Zoom login information will be sent through upcoming Topics email announcements. For those of us joining in person, please feel free to bring a brown bag lunch and a beverage, and to stay for a bit after the program to socialize with fellow members.

To assist us with the set-up logistics, please register for the program by contacting the LWVCNM office at 505-884-8441. Just leave a message with your name, phone number, and how many participants you are registering. If you have questions about the program, we will be happy to call you back. You may also register by sending an email to lwvcnmoffice@gmail.com or go to our website at <https://lwvcnm.org> and click on “Register for July Meeting”.

We look forward to being together again to discuss this important issue.

CANDIDATE FORUM TRAINING—SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday, July 23, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, we will conduct a training session for LWVCNM volunteers to interested in staffing future candidate forums. The training will be held at the League office, in the large conference room, and will also allow participation via Zoom.

We will train people to be moderators, timekeepers, and question organizers—all critical positions in candidate forums conducted by the LWVCNM. Particulars will follow in a Topics post next month, but we wanted to alert you to this now.

If you have questions, please contact forum coordinator Mary H. Smith at maryhenrie@msn.com.

Again, stay tuned for more details via Topics.



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.

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 |