

December 2022

# The Voter

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## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

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[lwvcnm.org](http://lwvcnm.org)

### December Has Something for Everyone! By Starlyn Brown

When creating the Office Volunteer calendar each month, I look to see what holidays, observances, and other items of note occur during the month. I discovered that December is quite the month! December is not just a month of religious holidays; it is a month that celebrates diversity. There are international days for People with Disabilities, AIDS, Volunteering, Abolition of Slavery to name a few. Most people are aware that there are numerous religious holidays for several different religions and beliefs that occur in December. In addition, there are days that acknowledge major events such as Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Then, there are days such as National Cookie Day, National Ugly Sweater Day, Chocolate Covered Anything Day, Ninja Day, Answer The Telephone Like Buddy The Elf day, etc...that are just fun! I encourage you to celebrate, reflect, and enjoy all the month of December has to offer. And remember cover anything in chocolate while wearing your ugly sweater on December 16<sup>th</sup>!



# Holiday Season Gathering Have You RSVP'd?



Let's take a breather before we wrap all the gifts, compose the annual Holiday Letter and meet with family and friends.

Let's celebrate the start of the **Holiday Season!**

**Come join us** at the home of Donna Sandoval, 6729 Promenade Ave. NE, Albuquerque from 2 – 4 pm on **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** for light refreshments and to share our latest accomplishments, our news, and our plans for the future.

**RSVP: Liz Shields 559-578-5670 or [elizs44@yahoo.com](mailto:elizs44@yahoo.com)**

## Co-Presidents Report By Karen Douglas and Donna Sandoval

30,000 Voter Guides were delivered to >100 sites in Bernalillo and Sandoval County. Valencia County printed 20,000 Voter Guides, which were prepared by LWVCNM. Torrance County officials did not respond to LWVCNM requests. Although there were repeated attempts to obtain VG responses from all candidates, 12 (3D and 9R) NM HR, candidates did not respond as well as some statewide races and many in uncontested judicial races, thereby providing voters with an incomplete view of choices available.

Following a November LWVUS Local League Media Training/Readiness Alert, the LWVCNM Office ensured any press inquiries would be directed to the Co-Presidents and Gina Mahfouz, Voter Services Chair. There were no confirmed reports of questionable practices during early voting, at polling places, or with

same-day registration. No violence was noted among CNM polling places on 11/8/22 Election Day. However, resources were prepared to respond, if necessary.

Poll workers/Election Officials available for media requests also included LWVCNM member and Presiding Judge Betsy Carlson, who agreed to respond to any press inquiries regarding vote tampering, polling place irregularities, voter fraud, provisional ballots, or voter suppression. Ultimately, no press inquiries were directed to LWVCNM

The November 10, 2022 LWVCNM general meeting featured Mr. Kerry Bass, Executive Director of the Center for Electoral Quality and Integrity, discussing the International Standards Organization and 2019 ISO 54001 Standard “Quality management systems. Governmental bodies in several foreign countries have adopted and applied the standard and basic premise of ISO Certification including the process for qualification and recognition was introduced to members.

LWVCNM looks forward to the December 8th LWVCNM general meeting. Presenters Mr. Peter Madalena, Senior Voting Rights Coordinator for Sandoval County Tribal Liaison Program, and Mr. Martin Aguilar, Native American Election Information Program Liaison for Office of NM Secretary of State, will discuss Native American Voter Education and Outreach in NM.

We warmly invite you to the Holiday Celebration on Sunday, December 4th, 2 – 4 PM at the home of Co-President Donna Sandoval. This will offer members an opportunity to socialize and discuss League topics. As most meetings have been virtual-only since the May 2022 LWVCNM Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel (with 39 members attending), we hope to see you on December 4th.

There are four Observer Corps reports this month. APD Forward, Albuquerque City Council, Bernalillo County Commission, and Albuquerque Board of Education meetings were all attended.

LWVCNM selected Saturday 2/11/22 10 AM–Noon for annual Program Planning. This announcement is intended to encourage member questions and provide guidance for those interested in proposing a local or state Study intended to result in Position adoption/revision during a subsequent annual meeting or state convention.

# December Educational Program

## Native American Voter Outreach & Education in NM

### Zoom-Only

**Speakers: Martin Aguilar and Peter Madalena**

In this session, our speakers will discuss their experiences and ongoing efforts in Voter Outreach and Education in Native Communities in Sandoval County and the State of NM.

**Martin W. Aguilar**

Native American Election Program (NAEIP) Liaison  
Office of NM Secretary of State, Bureau of Elections  
Service: 27 years in NAEIP Program

**Background:**

Tribal member from San Ildefonso Pueblo; NM, Assoc. of Arts, Bachelor of Arts; Journalism, Department of Journalism, College of Arts and Sciences, New Mexico State University; attended Brigham Young University; served as Pueblo Governor in 2008; served eight years San Ildefonso Pueblo Tribal Council; Prior employment, San Ildefonso Pueblo- Tribal Administrator, municipal government- City of Santa Fe; Sate Govt. New Mexico Film Commission

**NAEIP Program:**

To meet federal compliance of Sec. 203, Minority Language Assistance of the Federal Voting Right Act. And to service the 23 New Mexico federal recognized tribes in voter education, voter information, language assistance to NM election documents and statutes. Assist 23 NM Tribes with interpretations of election documents into language dialects of tribes. Assist 23 NM Tribes with dissemination of election documents during presidential, gubernatorial, local elections. Work with NM County Clerks and County Native American liaisons.



**Peter Madalena**

**Tribal Liaison Program Information:**

My name is Peter Madalena, Senior Tribal Liaison from the Pueblo of Jemez. I have worked for the Sandoval County Tribal Liaison Program for over 24 years. This Program promotes shared intergovernmental interests and fosters goodwill to all the Sandoval County Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache Nation and 10 Pueblos. We also have two additional Liaisons in the Program, Keres Tribal Liaison and Navajo Tribal Liaison.

Under the direction of the Sandoval County Attorney's Office, in fiscal year 2021, the Program was expanded by Resolution of the Sandoval County Commission to serve as a fully functioning Tribal Liaison between County and Tribal Governments. As the Senior (Towa) Tribal Liaison, I collaborate and network with the Pueblos of Jemez, Sandia, San Ildefonso, and Santa Clara. I also am the Liaison between Sandoval County and the Pueblos on matters of shared intergovernmental interest.

As a primary focus, the Sandoval County Tribal Liaison Program educates Native American County residents about the voting process; it communicates and collaborates with Tribal Administrations, Tribal Programs, and Schools, and it provides translations and interpretation services as well as other voting services to ensure full enfranchisement of Native Americans within Sandoval County.

As a secondary focus, the Sandoval County Tribal Liaison Program acts as Sandoval County's main resource for knowledge and guidance on culturally competent Tribal outreach and consultation with the Pueblos.

The mission is to share all aspects of the electoral process, language assistance, and education. Elections include the primary, general election, special and school board. The goal is to provide direct services on election information and awareness to and to increase voter participation in the Pueblos.

The objective is to make available and promote program services through voter education, voter awareness, voter registration, voter participation, training, translation, presentation, schools, senior centers, absentee voting, early voting, home visits, workshops, classes, health fairs, events, announcements and material information in collaboration with the Native American Election Information Program, the All Pueblo Council of Governors, 10 Southern Governors Council, Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, Inc., Native American Voter Alliance, National Congress of American Indians, Native American Voter Alliance, League of Women Voters, and Local Collaborative Tribal Governmental Offices and Agencies.

Currently, the Sandoval County Tribal Liaison Program has a Satellite Election Office at the Jemez Civic Center. It also makes available and promotes all phases of the electoral process to our tribal administration, tribal staff, tribal departments, tribal programs, schools, and tribal and community members.

The Sandoval County Tribal Liaison Program is currently teleworking due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have been sharing all phases of the electoral process through telecommunications, election flyers, Voter Guides, announcements through social media, and interfacing with Tribal, County Clerk's Office.

I would like to thank the League of Women Voters for sharing the Voter Guides with our Tribal Leadership and our Native American Communities—the Pueblos and Tribes in Sandoval County. We distributed the guide to our Native people and Native Communities throughout the 2022 General Election. We shared and distributed the 2022 Voter Guides at the tribal offices, community buildings, libraries, schools, senior centers and delivered them in the homes in the communities. Our Tribal Leaders and Tribal members were so appreciative and thankful for this information. I do greatly appreciate the support and for allowing us to provide this very important information to our Native People in our communities and look forward to working with you in this endeavor. Thank you.

LWVCNM members and guests are invited to join the program remotely via Zoom. Zoom login information will be sent through upcoming Topics email announcements. We look forward to having you join us!

## January 2023 Educational Program Preview League Priorities for the 2023 NM Legislative Session

Mark your calendars! Join LWVCNM on Thursday, January 12th, 12-1 PM for the first 2023 session of our monthly educational program series. League member Dick Mason will discuss the LWVNM priorities for the 60 day session of the New Mexico legislature which begins January 17<sup>th</sup>.

# Save-the-Date!

## Annual Program Planning Meeting

### February 11, 2023

### 10 AM—Noon, Zoom Meeting

### By Jennifer Black

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

#### **Overview**

LWVCNM members will meet to discuss the educational and advocacy paths to pursue in 2023-24. National, state and local LWVCNM positions are listed in your member handbook. **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.**

#### **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, 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 2023 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.

**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, February 11, 2023, from 10 AM to noon via Zoom.**

## Reports from the Observer Corps



### APD Forward

CABQ has named a Superintendent of Police Reform replacing Superintendent Stanley who resigned 2021 following criticism by Independent Monitor Dr. Ginger. The City named retired judge Victor E. Valdez. During his time on the Metropolitan Court Bench, Judge Valdez served as presiding criminal judge and served on numerous committees, including as a member and chair of the Statewide and Metropolitan Court Rules of Criminal Procedure Committees, as treasurer of the District-Metro Court Judges' Association, and as the court's Security Committee Chair. This position is responsible for both the APD Training Academy and Internal Affairs investigations – both areas deemed weak by DOJ analysis. DOJ voiced approval for the new APD Academy management.



The Independent Monitor's quarterly report (IMR #16) was released 11/9/22 and will be followed by both a combined AMICI meeting and hybrid 12/6/22 Federal Hearing (open to the public). Members interested in attending should contact Karen Douglas: [ug90t16@unmalumni.com](mailto:ug90t16@unmalumni.com).

## Albuquerque City Council

### **Homeless Initiatives**

On October 18, the City of Albuquerque announced the Housing Forward ABQ initiative. The initiative includes the following components:

- Increasing housing units by 5,000 above what private market will create by 2025,
- Making housing vouchers more usable (accepted by landlords), and
- Partnering with State government to obtain more funding and increase local authority.

Link to detailed information: [Housing Forward ABQ](#). (ctrl+click to open).

### **Encampment Policy**

The City of Albuquerque's Director of Solid Waste presented information on the City's homeless encampment enforcement policy to the City Council. It describes the prioritization of complaint responses and the interactions of various City departments. This is a PowerPoint presentation you must double click to open.



Encampment Policy  
Presentation 11-7 20

### **Rent Control**

The Council defeated a proposed memorial, which would have asked the State Legislature to repeal the New Mexico rent control prohibition. M-22-5 was proposed by Councilor Fiebelkorn.

### **Safe Outdoor Spaces**

The Council postponed until November 21, 2022, consideration of O-22-43: Safe Outdoor Space Operator's Permit, which establishes a permitting process and fee. This ordinance is put forth by Councilors Sanchez and Jones. The proposed

ordinance text is available at this link: [Safe Outdoor Space Operator's Permit](#). (ctrl+click to open).

### **Transit Free Fare Program**

At the November 7 meeting, Councilors Lewis and Peña proposed an amendment to the ABQ Transit Free Fares program. The Free Fare Pilot Program expires December 31, 2022. The amendment would allow the Free Fare Pilot Program to expire and, in its place, implement fares for those who do not qualify for free fare passes. Free fare passes would be available to children under ten, students, military, veterans, seniors, and Medicare cardholders with picture ID. Eligible riders would have to apply for Free Fare Passes electronically or in person by providing full name, date of birth, and contact information. The text of the ordinance amendment is available at [O-22-47](#). (ctrl+click to open)

### **Low Density Housing Project (The Brown Property)**

The Council adopted by unanimous vote a resolution proposed by Councilor Benton that would direct the City to not approve any site plan for the “Brown Property” that is not consistent with proposals in the request for proposal process. The “Brown Property” project is the Low-Density Residential Development At 3525 4th St NW Albuquerque.

### **Pending Issue Summary**

The council delayed action on the following issue to the November 21, 2022 meeting:

- Safe Outdoor Space Operator's Permit

The council delayed action on the following issues to the December 5, 2022 meeting:

- A Memorial proposed by Councilor Sanchez that would ask the State Legislature to reinstate qualified immunity. Link at [M-22-6](#) (ctrl+click to open)
- ABQ Transit Free Bus Fare.

## **Bernalillo County Commission**

### **Bernalillo County Commission Appoints Mo Maestas to NM Senate.**

The Bernalillo County Commission appointed Representative Mo Maestas to fill the seat of Sen. Jacob Candelaria, who resigned last month. The appointment

caused some controversy among commissioners. Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty was accused of a conflict of interest in her support of Maestas since his wife, who is a lobbyist at the New Mexico Legislature, made a substantial contribution to Pyskoty's unsuccessful campaign for re-election. A hearing on the conflict of interest question is scheduled for December. The commission also passed a measure that said legislative vacancies in the future will be filled within three weeks.

The commission endorsed legislative priorities approved by the New Mexico Association of Counties for the 2023 NM Legislative session. They are

- Detention Reimbursement Fund, prisoner transport and extradition and Emergency Medical Services.
- Public Safety package, including return to work, recruitment and retention, staffing crisis in fire and EMS
- Construction funding – create a renovation fund for state district courthouses
- IPRA – election- related records and data, clearly define how IPRA relates to election records and data.

Election related records legislation will be of particular interest to the League in the coming legislative session.

## Board Of Education

This report covers two Board of Education meetings, on 19 October and on 2 November. The meetings all follow a similar structure: presentation of the agenda, a public forum and then the Board Members discuss Board internal business. The part of the agenda that seems to be of most interest to LWVCNM members is the public forum. During this part of the meeting – which lasted about an hour at each meeting – members of the public who have registered in advance are allotted 1-2 minutes to present a concern of relevance to the APS Board of Education. A moderator controls the timing and order of presentations. Neither Board members nor other speakers can respond to the points presented by individuals during the public forum.

Two main issues were raised at the two Board meetings attended: bus drivers (and other staff) raised concerns about safety; and a number of parents, staff, students, alumni and other members of the public weighed in on the [KB1 Student and](#)

[Parent/Guardian Rights and Responsibilities policy](#) (ctrl+click to open) that was proposed back in July and [has proven to be controversial](#) (ctrl+click to open). The proposal was tabled in July to allow for more public comment. According to the [agenda](#) (ctrl+click to open) for the Board meeting to be held on 16 November, the proposal will be voted on following that meeting's public forum.

The discussion for and against KB1 at the 19 October and 2 November meetings centered on how the document relates to LGBTQ+ students (and staff). Those in favor of KB1 object to the potential for school counselors to engage in “gay conversion” therapy, for teachers to expose students to “porn” by discussing LGBTQ+ issues in class, and for parents/guardians not to be informed of details of discussions between school counselors and the students in their care if the student is over the age of 14. Those presenting views against KB1 have highlighted that student privacy is a right and that schools have an obligation to protect LGBTQ+ students against discrimination and/or bullying. They also point out that the current policy recognizes parental rights in what they feel to be an adequate way. A recent [New Yorker article](#) (ctrl+click to open) (along with many other recent investigative journalism reports) highlights how school boards are becoming a locus of political battles aimed at imposing a political point of view which violates many of the education policy positions listed in the LWVCNM handbook (e.g., on p. 23, points 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.11). The public forum presentations around the KB1 document show that Albuquerque has not avoided this trend.

As links in the KB1 policy document make clear, it is a matter of NM State Law that young people over the age of 14 have the right to request that medical and counseling information not be disclosed to their parents or guardians. And it is a matter of State and local laws that LGBTQ+ people should not be discriminated against. APS is simply following existing laws in deciding how to enforce policies. It is disturbing that some of those presenting at the public forum lack this basic knowledge of civics, affirming the importance of LWVCNM education policy position 3.12.

Interested in joining the LWVCNM Observer Corps? No better way to assist the League's mission to advocate on local public issues as a nonpartisan and impartial organization, as well as helping to insure transparency in local government bodies. Observers are needed for numerous municipal, county meetings, and, at times, state meetings. Call our office at 505-884-8441 and we will put you in touch with the LWVCNM Advocacy Committee.



## LWVCNM Board of Directors

***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

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