

The VOTER

FEBRUARY 2023

VOL 88, NO. 2

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

LWVCNM Message from the Co-Presidents

Karen M. Douglas & Donna Sandoval

As LWVCNM again awakens from the holiday season to greet a new year we reminisce over pre-Pandemic years when we socialized freely without undue health concerns. But we have identified new ways to communicate which draw a larger, but not identical, audience. Zoom meetings beginning in 2020 now permit those to participate with distance previously a challenge, including monthly luncheon unit presenters who were then unavailable to LWVCNM. Recording these meetings also allows schedule flexibility and those members with conflicts can view programs at their leisure. This meeting venue option does not appeal to all LWVCNM members, however, and LWVCNM is attempting to pursue methods including more members. The meeting venue survey emailed to members in the January, and found here on page 2 of this edition, will educate Board members regarding options preferred by the majority and will be discussed during the 2/4/23 Board retreat (please feel free to express your preferences with a Board member in advance to better define our future pathway).

LWVCNM Program Planning is scheduled Saturday 2/11/23 (see Voter article on page 3) and offers an opportunity to introduce studies for Position development in areas currently unaddressed by LWV Programs.

The 60-day 2023 NM Legislature convened 1/17/23 and dominates the activity of many Leaguers. Please contact your legislators to support or oppose legislation included by LWVNM for advocacy when LWV Positions apply (included in your 2022-23 Member Handbook, pp. 4-34). Only official LWVNM Advocacy team members (act@lwvnm.org) represent LWV, however, you are encouraged to express your view as a concerned constituent.

The annual LWVNM Day at the legislature is scheduled 2/15 – 2/16/23 with a reception Wednesday evening, address by former US Senator Bingaman, and opportunity to interact with your legislators. Reasonably priced lodging is also available nearby and details are included in the Winter LWVNM [La Palabra](#) distributed 1/5/23.



FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Thursday, February 9, Noon—1 PM, Zoom ONLY

Our guest speaker for the February meeting is Hannah Burling, the League of Women Voters of New Mexico president. She will speak to us about issues the League is following in the New Mexico legislature and future strategic goals to coordinate statewide projects/initiatives and further develop League chapters around the state.

She has also recently put together a 501(c)3 Education Fund non-profit entity for the state. Part of the purpose of that non-profit is to find funding for Voter Education Projects.

We will leave time for questions, but it will also be helpful to know if people have ideas about voter education projects they think the state league should undertake.



Have you completed the Member Venue Survey?

With the arrival of a new year, we would like to touch base with LWVCNM members regarding preference for the **Second Thursday Educational Program Meetings**.

Please click on this link and fill out the Member Venue Survey (if you haven't already completed the survey).

<https://forms.gle/mJVRLGp7UKcYc9CAA>

Your opinion counts!

THE 2023 WHO'S WHO BROCHURES ARE NOW AVAILABLE !



**Who's Who
A Political
Directory**

IN THE LWVCNM OFFICE,

AT ALBUQUERQUE LIBRARIES,

AND ON LWVCNM.ORG

MEMBERSHIP CORNER -- Liz Shields, Membership Chair

Thank you to all our members who have renewed their membership for 2023.

This is the time of year when our National League bills the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico for annual dues based on the number of active members on our roster. If we have not yet received your membership dues for 2023, we may have to remove your name from our active roster.

We hope that you will continue to be a member and support the activities of the League.

If so, please click on the following link and renew your membership using PayPal at <https://www.lwvcnm.org/join-renew/>

Or you may fill out the membership form at [Join / Renew](#) and mail it with your check to:

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico.
6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suite 124
Albuquerque, NM 87109



**Annual Program Planning Meeting
February 11, 2023
10 AM—Noon, Zoom Meeting
Watch for login information on Topics announcements**

We look forward to working with our members in the vital League work of Program Planning, the educational and advocacy paths LWVCNM will pursue in 2023-24. Whether you are a new member or a veteran, your input is greatly valued.

In preparation for the meeting, please scan the local and state positions in your Member Handbook. If you think there are issues missing or need revising, please bring your thoughts (and your Member Handbook!) to the meeting.

We will also have a presentation on the *Draft Nuclear Issue Study Proposal* (considering nuclear energy as a greenhouse gas-free alternative power source) by LWVCNM Co-President Karen Douglas. An open forum at the end of the meeting is a perfect opportunity to present any ideas/priorities you may wish to share for the LWVCNM in the upcoming year!

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

4th Co-Vice Presidents/Development:
Betsy Carlson & Mary Mulvany

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

The Voter Editor: Michal Mudd

LWVCNM CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 4 (Saturday) 11:00AM – 4:00PM
LWVCNM Board Retreat, in person.

FEBRUARY 9 (Thursday) NOON – 1 PM
LWVCNM Monthly meeting, Zoom ONLY
Hannah Burling, LWVNM president, will discuss
League legislative priorities and voter education.

FEBRUARY 11 (Saturday) 10 AM – 12 PM **Annual
LWVCNM Program Planning Meeting** to discuss
the educational and advocacy paths to pursue in
2023-24. Via ZOOM.

FEBRUARY 15 (Wednesday)
**DEADLINE for Nominations for LWVCNM Board
of Directors candidates.** See page 5.

March 9 (Thursday) NOON – 1 PM
LWVCNM Monthly meeting, Zoom ONLY
This LWVCNM will host a program on Ethics and
Transparency in government. Watch for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6th (Saturday) **LWVCNM Annual Meeting
and 75th Year Anniversary Celebration!** In
person. Details to follow.

If you need help with Zoom, please reach out to
Zoom host, Starlyn Brown, sbrown@unm.edu

Please submit your articles for the monthly Voter
by the 15th of each month to:
VoterEditorMichal@gmail.com.

LWVCNM Email Communications – By Starlyn Brown

Are you wondering about email you receive from LWVCNM? I know it took me a minute to figure it out! We use two different services to send email to you. You are added to both email distribution lists when you become a member. The Lwvcnmtopics@mailman.swcp.com email is used to send notifications of meetings and events. For example, the monthly meeting announcements you receive are from this email address. Announcements for other meetings and other relevant information are also sent from this email address. All email list members can send an email to Lwvcnmtopics@mailman.swcp.com. After review of your email to make sure it is non-partisan and League related your email will be sent. We try to space them out so you aren't inundated with emails. (cont.)

The second email service we use will be from the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. This email is primarily used to inform you that the monthly Voter Newsletter is available. We also sent the December Holiday Gathering announcement from this email address. To add to the confusion, the state League also sends you emails from the League of Women Voters of New Mexico. These state League emails do look similar to our Voter Newsletter emails since we use the same email service.



Please check your spam or junk folders to make sure you are seeing our emails. We recently sent a survey to the Lwvcnmtopics email list and were notified that it ended up in the spam folders for some members. You do have the right to unsubscribe yourself from these email lists. However, I encourage you *not to*. We work diligently to keep our members informed and engaged and these email lists are one of our most important tools. If you have questions, please email lwvcnmoffice@gmail.com or call the office at (505) 844-8441.

A reminder!

LWVCNM

Call for Nominations

The Bylaws specify that the following positions on the Board of Directors will be elected at the May 2023 annual meeting:

- Co-Presidents
- Secretary
- First Vice President (responsible for Advocacy and the Voter Guide)
- Fourth Vice President (responsible for Development)
- Board Members (3)



Each position is for a two-year term. The elected individual can serve up to two sequential terms in the same position. Self-nominations are encouraged!

The Board is also seeking members to contribute in the following ways:

- Publicity and Communications, including on Social Media
- Volunteer Co-Ordinator to help link members with organizational needs
- Committee members for the Fundraising, Voter Services, Voter Guide, and other committees

Deadline for nominations: February 15, 2023

Process: Send your nominations to Jeanne Logsdon, jlogsdon@unm.edu.



APD Forward: Civilian Police Oversight Agency Events

Karen M. Douglas

The Albuquerque City Council will consider abolition/restructuring of the Civilian Police Oversight Agency during the 1/18/23 meeting. This civilian oversight of the APD is required by the Consent Decree (aka CASA, Court Approved Settlement Agreement) between the US DOJ and CABQ regarding APD Excessive Use of Force. The CPOA convened the special meeting 1/9/23 to consider actions appropriate prior to City Council deliberations. Representatives from the US DOJ, Independent Monitor Team, City Attorney, 3 AMICI groups, and CPOA Counsel were all present to remain apprised of this unexpected upset of consent Decree compliance. The proposed City Council Ordinance, COUNCIL BILL NO. O-22-67 sponsored by Councilors Brook Bassan, Isaac Benton, Pat Davis, and Renee Grout met with harsh criticism by CPOA representatives and 1/9 meeting outcome included plans for CPOA Counsel Tina Gooch to transmit correspondence to City Council requesting a delay so that interested residents could participate with resultant CPOA correspondence distribution to interested parties attending the 1/9/23 meeting.

(Excerpt from March 2022 LWVCNM Voter article which discussed the composition, objectives, and recent pitfalls of the CPOA:

Who are the CPOA? The CPOA includes the 9-member Force Review Board volunteer body appointed by the City Council and appointed Executive Director with responsibility for review of Police Use of Force (100% Level 3 (resulting in death or could reasonably result in death) & random sampling Level 2 (causes serious injury or could be expected to cause serious injury) reports prepared by APD Internal Affairs. CPOA also reviews all civilian complaints of APD Excessive UOF and may investigate other APD personnel (e.g., Police service Aides, Dispatch staff). The Executive Director recommends discipline to CABQ Mayor and APD Chief when Excessive UOF charges are sustained. Officer mediation is permitted, however, only Arbitration – not Mediation is legally binding. The CPOA Counsel/JD attends to advise the board. The CPOA submits quarterly reports to the City Council and is funded by 0.5% of APD Budget.)



Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting 4 January 2023

Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick

Safe Outdoor Spaces

During the December 5, 2022 meeting, the Council passed O-22-33: Amending the Integrated Development Ordinance to Remove All References to Safe Outdoor Spaces. The ordinance passed by a 5-4 vote and would have halted creation of any Safe Outdoor Spaces which are not already in place or in process. However, the mayor vetoed this ordinance on December 16.

At the January 4, 2023 meeting the council failed to override the veto. All references to Safe Outdoor Spaces remain in the Integrated Development Ordinance and new applications may be submitted.

(cont.)

Housing

The council unanimously approved the mayor's request to enter into the following development agreements funded by the City's Workforce Housing Trust Fund:

- Route 66 Flats Permanent Supportive Housing Project. This project, located at 7600 Central Ave SW, constructs 47 one-bedroom units restricted to those at 30% of Area Median Income (AMI). The Workforce Housing Trust Fund contribution is \$1,701,335.
- Knotts Landing Court/60th Street Public Housing Project. This project, located at 112-232 60th ST NW and Knotts Landing CT, provides for rehabilitation or new construction of a total of 88 units serving households at or below 60% of AMI. The Workforce Housing Trust Fund contribution is \$3,500,000.

Homeless Services

The council approved by a 6-3 vote a contract (Social Services Agreement) with Heading Home to provide services at Gibson Health Hub. The \$1,094,370 contract includes:

- Operation of the winter emergency overnight beds in Gibson Health Hub,
- Operation of Gateway Phase I overnight beds,
- Support services for the 24/7 receiving area.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Davis expressed concern that some of the agreements with the surrounding neighborhoods, such as lighting and security, have not been fulfilled and that providing services at the Gibson Health Hub prematurely would undermine trust. Department of Family and Community Services (FCS) Director Pierce made the distinction that the area opening January 10 is emergency overnight shelter, not the Gateway Center. The Gateway Center will offer beds, meals and wrap-around services, whereas the emergency overnight shelter provides only an evening meal and a bed. The emergency overnight shelter is not a walk-up shelter, meaning that FCS outreach staff bring people to the emergency overnight shelter by bus late afternoon, provide a meal and a bed, then bus people out the next morning. They are not allowed to stay.

Director Pierce indicated that the emergency overnight beds would not be available if the funding is not approved at this council meeting. The funding passed by a 6-3 vote.

Transit Free Fare Program

O-22-47. At the December 5 meeting Councilors Lewis and Peña proposed a revised version of their previously proposed amendment to the ABQ Transit Free Fares program. Under this amendment riders eligible for free fares are 1) children under 10; 2) anyone with a government issued ID; 3) students with school ID; 4) 62+ with proof of age on photo ID; 5) military and veterans with ID; and 6) Medicare card holders with ID. Others could obtain a free fare pass by providing name, date of birth, and contact information. The council voted to postpone vote on this ordinance to the January 4, 2023 meeting.

During the January 4, 2023 meeting the council discussed the proposed ordinance (O-22-47) at length, including whether the free fare program contributes to increased security concerns, the cost of implementation, and the logistics of implementation. Under the proposals, riders would not be required to show identification or a pass upon entry to the bus, but would require drivers to periodically check riders for passes.

During the public comment period eleven citizens spoke on this issue. All eleven opposed the proposed ordinance and voiced support for retaining free fares without requiring ID. Vote on this amendment was postponed to the January 18, 2023 Council meeting. The text of the revised ordinance amendment proposal is available at [O-22-47 Proposed Transit Amendment: Free Fares](#)
(cont.)

O-22.62. Councilors Fiebelkorn and Davis proposed an ordinance to increase transit security. The council voted unanimously to postpone vote on both transit-related bills to the January 18th meeting.

Economic Development

O-22-58. The council unanimously approved providing funds to Universal Hydrogen Company to support the acquisition, renovations, and construction of a manufacturing facility to manufacture modular fuel capsules and assemble hydrogen fuel cell-based powertrains for airlines. The \$10,000,000 comes from the State Economic Development Department, \$2,000,000 comes from City funds. The company states it intends to create 500 new jobs and that salaries will average \$71,000 per year. Universal Hydrogen plans to build a facility at 2700 Girard Boulevard SE on a 50-acre site. The text of the ordinance is available at [O-22-58 Universal Hydrogen Co.](#)

Pending Issue Summary

The council delayed action on the following items to the January 18, 2023 meeting:

- R-22-70 Requiring a Transit System Security Incident Response Tactical Plan ... for the Operations and Facilities of the Albuquerque Transit Department.
- O-22-47 Creating A Full Access for All Transit Fare Structure and Transit Security Process, Amending Sections 7-2-1-1 And 7-2-1-2 Of the Transit Fares Ordinance to Improve Transit Access to All Persons While Providing Accountability...
- O-22-62 Appropriating funds to Expand Transit Security



Observer Corps Report – Bernalillo County Commission January 2023

Karen Wentworth

City/County decide to work together to build more affordable housing

Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque are now working together on the issue of constructing affordable housing. They plan to request \$50 million dollars from the New Mexico Legislature for the project.

The County has a non-profit housing authority set up to handle affordable public housing. Currently there are 75 housing units under the jurisdiction of this entity. The total assets of the non-profit are about \$2 million dollars.

The City of Albuquerque also has a housing authority. The city and county are currently working to combine the two political entities into one that they can use to handle affordable housing needs county wide.

The Bernalillo County Commissions had already agreed to invest \$34.5 million in rehabilitating the San Roque Apartments, a 136 unit multi-family housing complex near Coors and Bluewater on Albuquerque's West Side. It will also invest \$3.5 million in the Veteran Integration Center of New Mexico Transitional Living Services. That center is to serve as emergency and transitional housing for veterans for up to 9 months.

About 63% of the homes and apartments in Bernalillo County are privately owned. The rest are owned and operated by companies, but investment in rental properties has not kept up with need. The New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority has released a report saying Bernalillo County needs more than 23,000 new housing units by 2035 to meet the demand.

(cont.)

The City of Albuquerque is currently trying to find a way to create around 5,000 housing units as quickly as possible, but it is not clear whether the new housing units will be under the auspices of the new combined housing authority. The Bernalillo County Commission has not yet weighed in on how this new entity will operate.



**Observer Corps Report
Sandoval County Commission regular meeting
December 13, 2022. (this was not previously reported in Jan. VOTER)**

Mary Templeton, observer (via video)

Present: Katherine Bruch, Michael Meek, David Heil, Ken Eichwald

Absent: Jay Block

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

Climate Change: Renewable Energy

The Commission heard a progress report and update by the Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance (AREA). In 2022, Sandoval County entered into a contract with AREA, a 501c3 economic development organization, to develop strategic action plans as part of a regional economic development program for the Valencia-Bernalillo-Sandoval-Torrance County region. The plan promotes the following industries: **renewable energy**, corporate and professional services, aerospace and defense, semiconductor manufacturing, biosciences, digital film and media, research and development, and other market-driven demands. The AREA update for 2022 can be found at the Commission website at the end of this report.

Election Procedures:

Commissioners heard public comments by several people who voiced concerns about the 2022 general election and the Board of Canvass (BoC) meeting on November 18, 2022, during which the Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 to certify the general election. One speaker requested discussion and publication of problems acknowledged at the BoC meeting. Other concerns had to do with lack of a write-in tabulation prior to certification, a poll worker allowing one voter to vote under an old address instead of going through same-day registration to correct it, and a voting machine jam at the Cornerstone Community Church voting site.

Commissioner Heil commented at the end of the meeting that the Board of Commissioners and Bureau of Elections of Sandoval County have begun meetings to examine election problems and to discuss how to improve the process. One topic they discussed was how to better retain seasoned early poll workers who tend to be presiding judges. He invited input from judges and poll challengers on this.

Land Use: Acquisition of Open Space

The Commission unanimously approved a request for a Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 12-14-22.10 approving and authorizing the county attorney to represent donors of land with probate and waiving the conflict of interest that exists in that representation.

The County has been approached by citizens who wish to donate land. Sometimes this land is titled in the name of a deceased person and no probate estate has been opened. This resolution would authorize the County Attorney to assist the donors in probating an estate so that clear title could be conveyed to Sandoval County. This resolution also acknowledges that such dual representation would be a conflict under the attorney ethics rules and gives the Board's consent to waive that conflict.

(cont.)

Most requests to donate land come from the heirs of those who bought land in Rio Rancho Estates decades ago. Sandoval County hopes to acquire these lots for **open space**, since the 2014 Planning and Zoning Plan found that there is too little water to develop the Estates.

Sandoval County Commission Website <https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/commission/>



Observer Corps Report – Sandoval County Commission regular meeting January 11, 2023

Mary Templeton, observer (via video)

Present: Katherine Bruch, Jay Block, Michael Meek (Vice Chair), David Heil (Chair), Joshua Jones

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

Health Care:

Jemez Valley Community Wellness (JVCW), a 501c3, offers integrative medicine to Jemez Valley residents and subsidizes services for those who cannot afford them. Following the presentation, the presenter asked for continued conversation, funding and/or other support from the Commission. The County established a grant writing department to help communities obtain grant funding for further development. It also has a grant management office that can help communities manage awards if needed. The County Manager extended this support to JVCW.

Election Procedures:

Commissioners heard public comments by several people who advocated for voter ID laws, elimination of early and absentee voting, or who protested certification of the 2022 general election by the Commission.

At the close of the meeting, Commissioner Heil commented that he had received a proposal from a constituent for conducting supplementary hand counting of ballots and offered his thoughts on what else the proposal might need to become implementable.

Additional Comments

The first speaker on the agenda was Clarence Washington, a retired Sandia mathematician and current pastor of the Abundant Life Church who grew up in south Chicago during the Jim Crow era. Commissioner Block invited him to speak on “Importance of the ‘Dream’ from Dr. Martin Luther King” – the subject of 4 books written by Pastor Washington. His perspective is that Dr. King would be appalled at critical race theory, and that the only systemic racism that exists after Jim Crow is legalized abortion, social justice and the public school system. A good family background and access to a good education is sufficient for success, so systemic racism must be a lie. Commissioner Block asked Pastor Washington to comment on “the demise of the Black family” in the US. Pastor Washington responded that rather than incentivizing fathers to leave the home, fathers should be subsidized to remain in the home, however he cited the Church as the main cause of absentee fathers because they do not present a “correct” biblical (i.e. hierarchical) model of a family. While presentations do not necessitate advocacy, I mention it because it does touch on topics of interest to the League, such as **equality of opportunity in education, federal support for public education and reproductive health.**

(cont.)

Commissioner Block contributed closing comments about his views regarding mis/disinformation at the national level and listed a number of “entities” that he urged the public not to trust. The message included doom for the country, lies, stripped rights, and alluded to vaccine peril.

Sandoval County Commission Website <https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/commission/>



We need you to clean your garage!

Jeanne Logsdon, Karen Wentworth and Linda Miller are putting together our archives to deposit them in the Center for Southwest Research at the University of New Mexico’s Zimmerman Library. We are sifting through boxes of material and organizing it for researchers who want to know what the oldest good government group in Albuquerque has done over the last 75 years.

Here's what we lack:

Copies of our newsletter, “The Voter”

1959 Volume 12 #1
1961 Volume 14 #3, 5, 6
1962 Volume 15 #1, 2, 3, 4, 5
1964 Volume 17, All copies
after #5
1979 November

Who’s Who

2000
2008
2009
2010
2013

Member Handbooks

All before 1966
1968 – 1973
1979 – 1980
1987
1988

If you have any of these items, please contact [Linda Miller](#) or [Karen Wentworth](#) and we will arrange to get them from you.

If you have photos of League events, please email them or contact Karen or Linda. We want to donate a complete archive to the university.

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.

