

# The VOTER

MAY 2024

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

6739 Academy Rd. NE Suite 124, Albuquerque, NM 87109 lwvcm.org (505) 884-8441

Join us for the Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series'

## MAY EDUCATIONAL MEETING

**WHEN:** THURSDAY, MAY 9 from Noon – 1 PM

**WHERE:** In person/Zoom, LWVCNM conference room,  
6739 Academy Rd NE (ample lot parking)

**TOPIC:** ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN BERNALILLO COUNTY


**SPEAKERS:** DR. JOHNNYE LEWIS and MARLA PAINTER



An essential element of Environmental Justice (EJ) is fair treatment, meaning that “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies,” according to the NM Environment Department.

In Fall 2023, local news media reported on a controversy involving the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board (AQCB), the Mountain View community, and polluting industries. The Mountain View Coalition and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center requested a new air quality regulation to deal with Health, Environment and Equity Impacts. The regulation would have required the Environmental Health Department to consider health and quality of life impacts when issuing air pollution permits. Opposition was voiced by local businesses, the Air Force, Sandia National Labs, and UNM. The Albuquerque City Council sided with the opponents of the regulation while the Mayor and Bernalillo County Commission supported the board’s responsibility to evaluate the proposal. The Board passed a much-reduced process in response to cumulative exposures through mandating the use of Best Available Technologies under specific conditions. The final rule included a clause that allowed the Environmental Health Department one year to develop maps that geographically define “overburdened communities” in the region for use by applicants for air quality permits.

The goals of our educational meeting are to educate our members about the EJ concept and the criteria used to determine whether it exists in a particular area. We will hear about the history of efforts to draw attention to pollution in the Mountain View neighborhood. Two speakers, introduced below, will enlighten us about the issues from scientific and community activist perspectives.

- **Dr. Johnnye Lewis** founded the Community Environmental Health Program at the University of New Mexico in 1996 and served as its director until her retirement in 2022. She has worked extensively on EJ issues, e.g., with Native American communities to study multigenerational risks from exposure to waste from abandoned uranium mines on and near tribal lands. She was appointed to several terms on the AQCB to represent Bernalillo County. Dr. Lewis has a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Manitoba in Canada and did postdoctoral work in toxicology at the Department of Energy Inhalation Toxicology Research Institute. She continues as co-director of the CEHP and Professor Emerita at UNM. She has recently been invited by the National Academy of Sciences to serve on a panel reviewing The Science and Future of Cumulative Impacts Assessment.
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- **Marla Painter** is the president of Mountain View Community Action (MVCA), a Bernalillo County neighborhood association and member of the Mountain View Coalition. She is a lifelong educator and community activist, working primarily in low-income, underserved communities of color. She lived in northern Nevada for 24 years, serving as the Environmental Education Director, and later as Executive Director, at the Foresta Institute for Ocean and Mountain Studies. She has resided in Mountain View for over 25 years. She graduated from UC Riverside with a multi-disciplinary degree in Environmental Social Sciences and has two teaching credentials.

THEN, FOR OUR JUNE PROGRAM . . .

**Note: Special Date and Time** – June 2024 LWVCNM Educational Meeting

**Thursday, June 6, 7:00 - 8:30 PM**

June and July will be a two-part series on *Democracy in Danger*.

**Topic/Title:** Democracy in Danger, Part One: LGBTQ+ Community and Rights Under Fire

**Speakers:** Adrien Lawyer, Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico - Director of Education & Co-Founder, and Marshall Martinez, Equality New Mexico - Executive Director

In celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride Month, the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico is thrilled to welcome two of New Mexico's strongest advocates of the LGBTQ + community, Adrien Lawyer, Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico - Director of Education & Co-Founder and Marshall Martinez, Equality New Mexico - Executive Director. Our panel will delve into the intersection of democracy, LGBTQ+ rights, and advocacy. In the face of mounting threats to democracy, it's imperative to understand how these challenges uniquely impact the LGBTQ+ community both locally in New Mexico and across the United States.

Our esteemed speakers will lead an insightful conversation exploring the multifaceted ways in which the ongoing erosion of democratic principles affects LGBTQ+ individuals. From legislative attacks to social discrimination, they will shed light on the current landscape and its repercussions on our rights and well-being. They will share the challenges but also strategize on effective advocacy efforts needed to safeguard LGBTQ+ rights and promote inclusivity within our democratic framework. Your participation and voice are crucial as we collectively navigate these turbulent times.

Whether you're an activist, ally, or simply curious about the intersection of LGBTQ+ rights and democracy, we encourage you to join us for this enlightening discussion. Let's stand together to protect our rights, promote equality, and build a more inclusive society for all.



## LWVCNM Updates & Happenings

### Election Updates

The Voter Guide committee is currently working on the June 4<sup>th</sup> primary voter guide. We are using VOTE411.org, but are not creating a PDF nor a print guide. Race and candidate information will be available to voters on the site beginning in early May. We are working on publicizing the information to the community. Information about the election and a link to VOTE411.org can be found on the LWVCNM website or on our dedicated web page [www.centralnmvoterguide.org](http://www.centralnmvoterguide.org).

We are moving forward with plans for the November 5<sup>th</sup> general election. We plan to use VOTE411.org and create a print voter guide and a PDF which will be posted on our website. We are working with a new graphic designer and have made arrangements for the guide to be printed by the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. We are pursuing various fundraising strategies to support the cost.

We are still seeking volunteers, both new and experienced, to help with the *Voter Guide*. We are especially in need of members who can assist with graphic design, publicity, and fundraising.

Please contact Lani Desaulniers (LMDesaul@aol.com), Karen Wentworth (kwentworth17@comcast.net), or the office at 505-884-8441 if you are interested in helping out.

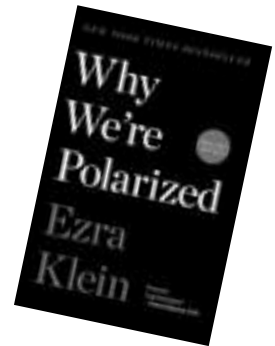
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The LWVCNM Book Club meets the 4th Wednesday of each odd-numbered month. Reservations not required. Just drop in. Mark your calendars for the May meeting:

Date: May 22, 2024  
Time: 5:30-7:30 PM  
Location: Park Plaza 1331 Park Ave SW,  
Albuquerque, 87102  
Title: Why We're Polarized by Ezra Klein

Per Simon & Schuster: "A thoughtful, clear and persuasive analysis" (The New York Times Book Review), *Why We're Polarized* reveals the structural and psychological forces behind America's descent into division and dysfunction.

Bring along a "potluck" snack – something sweet or savory – to share with the group (*not required, just if you have the time*).



Questions? Contact Janet at 505-401-2052

# LEAGUE MEMBERS IN DISCUSSION AT THE MARCH BOOK CLUB

Special Book & Author Event with Laura Paskus



*At the Precipice: New Mexico's Changing Climate*

Meetings of the Book Club are held every other month either in the League's conference room or in a member's home.

Check the Book Club page [Book Club \(lwvcnm.org\)](http://lwvcnm.org) for title and location!

## Annual LWVCNM Calendar Planning Saturday, June 22

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Via Zoom

LWVCNM Members - We have been very pleased by the number of members attending our 2023-24 monthly hybrid program meetings which have expanded into the opportunity to mingle with other members joining the in-person events at our CNM office 6739 Academy Blvd NE. This has been so well received that our 2024-25 meetings will also offer these social gatherings supplementing our educational programs.

LWVCNM monthly educational programs offer the potential to better educate ourselves and consider issues facing our communities which may prompt greater interest in advocating for change. **Please reserve Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> to recommend topics and speakers providing insight to LWVCNM for issues warranting our attention.**

## LWVCNM Annual Meeting Report

**April 20, 2024**

We had another successful Annual Meeting on Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>. Forty-two members attended the business meeting, brunch and enjoyed Regent Paula Tackett's presentation.

Changes to the Board were announced. Starlyn Brown was appointed Co-President at the March 2024 Board meeting. Mary Mulvany has retired as the 4<sup>th</sup> Co-Vice President for Development. Betsy Carlson will now be the sole 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President. Board member Terry Quinn has assumed the position of Office Manager. Board member Linda Miller is now the Webmaster and Zoom Host in addition to her volunteer activities on several league projects and initiatives.

The two-year budget for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 was unanimously approved with an adjustment to increase the bulk mail line item to \$1000 both years.

All nominees presented by the Nominating Committee were unanimously elected. Elizabeth Shields was elected to her second term as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President /Membership. Karen Douglas was elected to her first term as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President/Program. Gina Mahfouz was elected to her first term as Treasurer. Jennifer Black was elected to her first term as an elected board member/Archives and Special Projects. There are still two vacant elected board positions as no one present self-nominated.

Are you interested in learning more about the Board and participating? Consider a one-year appointment to the Board as a way to ease into the role. During the Nominating Committee election, one member, Peggy Neff, self-nominated to be a member of the committee. She was unanimously elected. Two more non-board members are needed, Hint!

All proposed by-laws changes were unanimously approved.

Under other business, Jeanne Logsdon spoke about the **May 9th** monthly educational meeting and a Save-the-Date for the Historic Woman Marker ceremony on the UNM campus **August 26th**. Lani Desaulniers gave an update on the Voter Guide and the activities underway for the June Primary election and the general election. Lori Feibelman introduced a new fundraising initiative being pursued by the Development committee – Crowd Funding using Zeffy.com. Gina Mahfouz spoke about a change in both date and time for the June monthly educational meeting. The meeting will now be on **Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup>** from 7pm to 8:30pm.

There was one direction to the Board concerning housing. The exact language will be in the annual meeting minutes.

Our honored speaker, Regent Paula Tackett, educated us on two topics. She spoke about the Legislative Council Service (LSC) which was established in 1951. Regent Tackett's career heading the LSC began in 1988. Her comments on the LSC and the scope of their duties and responsibilities from her start to her retirement were quite eye opening. She also filled in details of some of the changes that have occurred at the LSC since 1988. More responsibilities have been added and the staff has grown. The amount of work that is accomplished during a legislative session by the LSC is truly remarkable.

Next, Regent Tackett spoke about the New Mexico Historic Women Marker Program, *Celebrating New Mexico's Trailblazing Women*. The program began in 2006. At that time only one existing marker briefly mentioned a New Mexico woman. They have changed that! The program is truly inspiring and has been very successful. For more information visit their website at <http://nmhistoricwomen.org>.

## Sandoval County Commission Recognizes LWVCNM



At the Sandoval County Commission meeting of March 13, 2024, the Commission issued a proclamation recognizing Women's History Month. They had invited the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico to send representatives to the meeting to recognize LWVCNM's work.

Mary Templeton and Donna Rigano, both residents of Sandoval County, represented LWVCNM.

Mary is the Observer Corps member who reports on Sandoval County Commission meetings. Our members gave a short speech describing our organization. They enjoyed the experience and were invited to attend again next year.

### Internship Opportunity

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico is seeking a motivated and enthusiastic college intern to join our team as a part-time Voter Engagement and Social Media Coordinator Assistant. This position offers a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in voter engagement activities on college campuses, social media content creation, and assisting with the production of our Voter Guide. If you know of an interested student, please encourage them to apply.

## League members enjoy a special curated tour of the ABQ Museum's "News for the People: Local Journalism the 1970's and Beyond" Exhibit



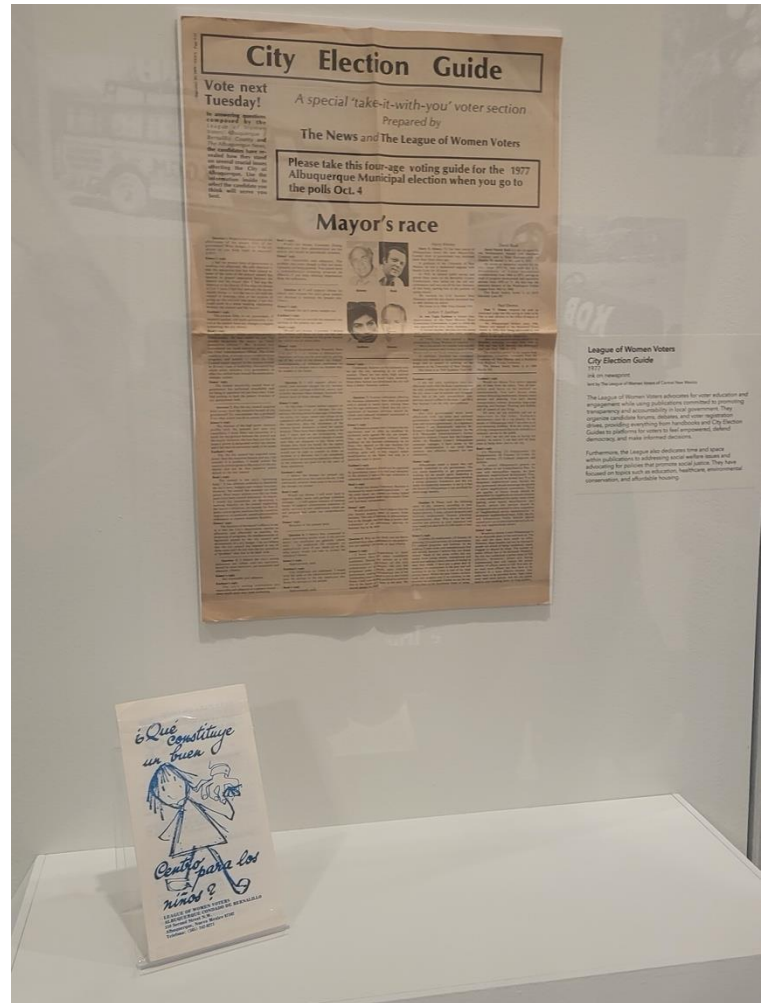
On February 29, 2024, LWVCNM members met at the Albuquerque Museum for exclusive tours of the exhibit, News for the People: Local Journalism in the 1970s.

Jonathan Wright, the exhibit curator, led the tours and pointed out the differing views presented by a variety of media outlets, both mainstream and alternative, during that turbulent period.

The exhibit contained a rich history of local journalism, including pioneering journalists like Conroy Chino, one of the first Indigenous television reporters in the state. Two LWVCNM publications were included: A 1977 City Election Guide and a pamphlet with information about what is involved in quality child care centers. The display also included a very nice description of our League.

Twenty-five to thirty LWVCNM members were in the two back-to-back tours. The exhibit brought back memories for several League members who were in Albuquerque or elsewhere in New Mexico during the 1970s.

To conclude the evening, some of the League members then gathered for an enjoyable happy hour at Sawmill Market.



### League of Women Voters City Election Guide 1977

ink on newsprint

lent by The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

The League of Women Voters advocates for voter education and engagement while using publications committed to promoting transparency and accountability in local government. They organize candidate forums, debates, and voter registration drives, providing everything from handbooks and City Election Guides to platforms for voters to feel empowered, defend democracy, and make informed decisions.

Furthermore, the League also dedicates time and space within publications to addressing social welfare issues and advocating for policies that promote social justice. They have focused on topics such as education, healthcare, environmental conservation, and affordable housing.

## **LWVCNM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Co-Presidents:**

**Donna Sandoval & Starlyn Brown**

### **1st Co-Vice Presidents/Voter Guide**

**Karen Wentworth & Lani Desaulniers**

### **2nd Vice President/Membership:**

**Elizabeth Shields**

### **3rd Vice President/Program:**

**Karen Douglas**

### **4th Co-Vice Presidents/Development:**

**Betsy Carlson**

**Treasurer: Gina Mahfouz**

**Secretary: Vivian Skadron**

**Director Voter Services Chair: Vacant**

**Director Sustainability/Climate Change:**

**Jeanne Logsdon**

**Director Office Manager: Terry Quinn**

**Director Historian/Special Projects:**

**Jennifer Black**

**Director Webmaster/Zoom Host:**

**Linda Miller**

**Advocacy Team/Observer Corps:**

**Karen Wentworth**

**Voter Guide Distribution:**

**Lani Desaulniers**

If you need help with Zoom,  
please reach out to Zoom Host, Linda Miller,  
[lmiller@unm.edu](mailto:lmiller@unm.edu)

Please submit your articles for the monthly Voter by the  
15th of each month to Michal Mudd at:  
[VoterEditorMichal@gmail.com](mailto:VoterEditorMichal@gmail.com)

## **LWVCNM CALENDAR**

*Please note Board meetings have been changed to the  
first Wednesday of each month.*

**May 1st (first Wednesday) 5:30 pm**

**LWVCNM Board Meeting, ZOOM only until further  
notice. All members welcome.**

**May 9th, (Thursday) NOON**

**LWVCNM Monthly educational meeting  
In person and ZOOM**

**“Environmental Justice in Bernalillo County”  
Speakers: Dr. Johnnye Lewis and Marla Painter**

**May 22nd (Wednesday) 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

**LWVCNM Book Club**

**Why We’re Polarized by Ezra Klein  
See more info on p.3 or check this [Book Club link](#)**

**June 5th (first Wednesday) 5:30 pm**

**LWVCNM Board Meeting, ZOOM only until further  
notice. All members welcome.**

**June 6th (Thursday) 7:00 – 8:30 pm NEW DATE AND  
TIME**

**LWVCNM monthly educational meeting  
In person and ZOOM**

**“Democracy in Danger, Part One: LGBTQ+ Community  
and Rights Under Fire”**

**Speakers: Adrien Lawyer, and  
Marshall Martinez**

**June 22nd (Sat.) 10:00 am – 12 noon**

**Annual LWVCNM Calendar Planning Meeting  
Via Zoom only  
See info page 4**



## Albuquerque Affordable Housing and Homeless Initiatives Updates- April, 2024

### Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative (MRGHC) Update:

The first meeting of the Collaborative was held on Thursday, March 28. The meeting was organizational in nature and Co-Chaired by Bernalillo County Commissioner Barbara Baca and City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn. The Staff / Working Group for the Collaborative includes 5 representatives from City Staff and 7 representatives from the County. Members at the meeting were provided an overview of the Joint Powers Agreement and briefed on open meeting rules, notices and procedures by Ken Martinez, Bernalillo County Attorney. The County and the City have each contributed \$500,000 to establish the Collaborative's budget.

The second meeting of the MRGHC took place on April 11 at the Middle Region Council of Governments. Members discussed the elements of a job description for the future Executive Director and received nominations for a 5<sup>th</sup> member of the Commission, but no official action was taken on either matter.

The MRGHC's next meeting is scheduled to be held at Middle Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) **3:00 pm, Thursday, May 9**. The MRGHC will be meeting every other Thursday.

### Albuquerque Mayor's 2024-25 Proposed Budget

#### Re: Health, Housing and Homelessness (HHH) Services Section

[HHH Budget section pgs.120-127]

The housing and homelessness related services offered through the HHH Department (directly or by contract with multiple community providers) include: behavioral health services, which encompass mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention; emergency shelter; homeless support services; rental assistance; and affordable housing and community development initiatives.

Below is Mayor Tim Keller's proposed budget for Affordable Housing, Health and Homelessness services for the Budget Year Effective July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025:

**Overview:** 'The FY/25 HHH budget includes \$13.3 million of FY/24 one-time funding transferred from Family and Community Services, including \$265,000 for strategic support, \$110,000 for health and human services, \$8.5 million for affordable housing, \$1.5 million for mental health services, \$1.2 million for emergency shelter, \$200,000 for substance use services, \$1 million for homeless support services and \$500,000 for Gateway Ph 1 and Engagement Center at Gibson Health Hub. The FY/25 proposed budget increases recurring funding of \$250,000 for Family Housing Navigation Center/Shelter (Wellness-2), and recurring funding of \$250,000 for Gibson Health HUB maintenance.

**Affordable Housing Goal: 5,000 additional housing units over what the private market would normally produce by 2025**

### Proposed Health, Housing and Homelessness (HHH) Totals by Funding Expenditure Category

Affordable Housing	\$15,014,701 (22% of Total)
Intergovernmental	752,245
Public Facilities	14,820,906
Professional Technical	1,015,666
Public Service	599,060
Social Service	35,928,181
<b>HHH Department Total</b>	<b>\$68,130,759</b>

Updates will be provided as City budget negotiations progress this spring.

# **OBSERVER REPORTS**



## **Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting**

**21 February/3 March/18 March/3 April 2024**

**Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick**

All nine councilors were present at the February 21, March 4, March 18, and April 3: Louie Sanchez – District 1, Joaquin Baca – District 2, Klarissa Peña – District 3, Brook Bassan – District 4, Dan Lewis – District 5, Nichole Rogers – District 6, Tammy Fiebelkorn – District 7, Dan Champine – District 8, Renée Grout, District 9.

### **Human Waste Disposal [R-24-3](#)**

At the February 21 meeting the City Council voted unanimously to approve a proposal by Councilors Fiebelkorn and Rogers directing the administration to create a program for the disposal of human feces. The resolution provides for set-up of a reporting system through 311 for citizens to call and report areas for cleanup; contracting with a private company to perform the cleanup; creation of a system for tracking the locations of requests; and appropriating \$100K for the remainder of FY24. The resolution passed unanimously. The mayor did not approve or veto the bill within the required 10 days and as a result came into full force and effect, in accordance with Article XI, Section 3 of the Charter of the City of Albuquerque. [Article XI Section 3](#)

### **Downtown Priority Corridor Projects [R-24-10](#)**

At the February 21 meeting the City Council voted unanimously to approve a proposal by Councilor Baca to establish two priorities for downtown traffic:

- 1.) improvements to the Central Ave right of way between 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets, and
- 2.) improvements to Tijeras and Marquette Avenues between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets and the conversion of the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> St and Silver to a four-way stop.

The second priority would result in conversion of Tijeras and Marquette Avenues between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets from one-way to two-way roads. The resolution was signed by the mayor.

The funding is managed by expanding the scope of work appropriated through the 2013 GO Bond and the 2021 GO Bond.

### **Albuquerque Police Department/Chief Medina Crash Incident**

[R-24-24](#) At the March 4 meeting, the City Council voted on a resolution to direct the Administration to request a multi-agency investigation into the February 17 incident involving Chief Medina. The resolution failed by a vote of four in favor (Champine, Grout, Lewis, Sanchez) and five against (Baca, Bassan, Fiebelkorn, Pena, and Rogers).

During the March 4 meeting Eric Garcia, Albuquerque Police Department Superintendent of Police Reform, presented a brief overview about the process for investigating misconduct. He stressed that Police Reform Bureau does not report to the Chief. During questioning by Council President Lewis, it was clarified that there are 23 investigators in APD's Police Reform Bureau, but only 16 detectives in the homicide unit.

Councilor Rogers inquired about the investigation into Chief Medina's crash. Per Superintendent Garcia it is being investigated as two components:

- 1.) the crash goes before the Crash Review Board;
- 2.) the possible On Body Recording Device violation is investigated by Internal Affairs Professional Standards part of the Police Reform Bureau.

When asked by Councilor Sanchez if he thought he could be objective in reviewing the Chief's case, Superintendent Garcia said he could and pointed out that although he is the first reviewer of the case, the Chief Administrative Officer would be making any final decisions.

At the April 3 City Council meeting the Administration presented the findings of the Crash Review Board's investigation in the February 17 incident involving Chief Medina. Superintendent Garcia stated the FCRB ruled the accident as unpreventable. He also provided an update to the separate Internal Affairs investigation. The investigation is ongoing and has been expanded to include two additional complaints.

Councilor Sanchez questioned how the accident could have been considered non-preventable. He further stated that since the incident is not being investigated by an outside entity it is not getting the scrutiny it should get. Chief Administrative Officer Sengel stated that the Administration is inviting the State Police to review the investigation file and that the file has been provided to the District Attorney.

At the April 3rd City Council meeting members of the Crash Review Board appeared before the Council to explain the Crash Review Board process. They explained the definition of a preventable and non-preventable crash from the APD standard operating procedures. They further stated the vote of the CRB was unanimous in its determination that the crash was not preventable. Councilors Sanchez and Lewis pointed out that members of the Crash Review Board report to Chief Medina which could jeopardize the independence of the review.

[OC-24-7](#) At the April 3rd City Council meeting Councilor Sanchez proposed OC-24-7, a declaration of no-confidence in Chief Medina. Councilor Champine seconded the motion. He then moved for a deferral of a vote in order to get more questions answered. The motion for deferral failed with four councilors voting for (Champine, Grout, Lewis, Sanchez) and five councilors voting against (Baca, Bassan, Fiebelkorn, Pena, Rogers). Councilor Sanchez then moved to withdraw the declaration. The withdrawal was unanimously approved.

### **Funding Request for Immigrant Services [EC-35-24](#)**

At the March 18 meeting the City Council voted to approve the mayor's request for additional \$50K funding for immigrant services as a stop-gap pending FEMA funding. The vote was eight in favor (Baca, Bassan, Fiebelkorn, Grout, Lewis, Pena, Rogers, and Sanchez) and one against (Champine).

### **Homelessness**

During the April 3 Administration Question and Answer Period Councilor Rogers inquired about the process for dealing with encampments. She cited an incident in which there were multiple police officers, two solid waste vehicles dealing with two tents on Zuni, in her district. She noted that ACS (Albuquerque Community Services) was not present. She talked with the individuals at the encampment to find out if proper processes had been followed and determined that they had not. (The individuals had not been offered a bed, had not been offered storage, and had not been provided the proper notification.)

## Presentations and Proclamations

During the February 21 meeting Timothy Green IV, CABQ Cultural Change Leader and PhD candidate presented “Albuquerque Black History”, highlighting contributions of Black citizens. See the presentation beginning at minute 8:45 of the February 21, 2024 City Council meeting:

[YouTube Feb 21 Council Meeting](#)



## Observer Corps Report – Bernalillo County Commission

May 2024

Karen Wentworth

## Bernalillo County Commission Participating in major highway logistics hub

Bernalillo County will act as the fiscal agent for a coalition of public and private entities planning trucking and supply chain logistics infrastructure from the Port of Los Angeles to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The county is preparing to contract with GLD Partners from Scottsdale, Arizona to study the issue and prepare a business plan for the I-40 Tradeport Corridor. The proposed contract will be a sole source, no-bid contract.

The plan will suggest warehousing, electric truck recharging stations and other things to support supply hubs for trucks along the 806-mile I-40 corridor. It is expected to include warehouse and support facilities for truck traffic on the west side of Albuquerque.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is supplying \$974,000 for the planning phase,

which is expected to last approximately a year. This is expected to be the first phase of a Tradeport Corridor which will eventually stretch along I-40 to the east coast of the U.S. The idea is to move trade goods out of the Port of Los Angeles and into shipping warehouses along I-40 as quickly as possible.

*The U.S. League of Women Voters generally supports increased trade among nations, but does not have a position specifically addressing the physical impact of increased trade on communities or transportation routes.*

*The LWVCNM position is “Support for coordinated regional land use and transportation planning. The planning shall include consideration of the impact of traffic congestion.”*

The Bernalillo County Commission has decided to appoint a committee of public figures to conduct the search for a new county manager. The committee will be led by Juan Vigil, former Bernalillo County Manager. The appointment of the committee caused a public break in the commission when two of the five commissioners said they were not informed about the creation of a search committee and had no



input into the process. The current county manager has announced that she will retire on June 30. There was no mention of a public process in the hiring of a new county manager other than the final commission vote on hiring a candidate.

*“LWVNM recommends that state and local government go beyond open meetings and inspection of public records in their efforts toward open, accessible governance. We especially recommend these practices.....State and local governments should provide timely and complete information to their constituents on current topics.”*



## **Observer Report - Sandoval County Commission regular meeting**

**March 27, 2024**

**Mary Templeton, observer**

Present: David Heil (Chair), Joshua Jones, Jay Block, Katherine Bruch (video)

### **Description of Issues Relevant to the League**

No agenda items were taken up for which the League has a policy position.

### **Additional Comments**

#### Public Comment

Three of 10 speakers objected to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Election Data and Science Lab’s Elections Performance Index (EPI) that ranked New Mexico’s 2022 election as the most well-run in the country. Two speakers expressed concerns over people crossing the southern border.

**As background**, the MIT EPI results can be found here: <https://elections-blog.mit.edu/articles/elections-performance-index-charts-decades-progress-election-administration>

#### Commissioner Discussion

One commissioner asserted that the shooting death of a New York police officer on March 25, 2024 was carried out by an “illegal immigrant”, after which he voiced support for the death penalty for all who kill police officers. The commissioner then asserted that “illegals” are “killing hundreds of thousands of Americans with drugs.” (<https://sandovalcountynm.new.swagit.com/videos/301085> 1:31:15)

**As background**, I surveyed news reports regarding the slain NY officer. Most mentioned that the shooter had 21 previous arrests, but none mentioned citizenship status. The LWVUS public policy position on immigration aims to “promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for individuals already living in the country without legal permission to earn legal status.”

### **Sandoval County Commission Website**

<https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/commission>



## Observer Report - Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

April 10, 2024

Mary Templeton, observer

Present: David Heil (Chair), Joshua Jones, Jay Block, Katherine Bruch (video)

### Description of Issues Relevant to the League

No agenda items were taken up for which the League has a policy position.

### Additional Comments

None

### Sandoval County Commission Website

<https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/commission/>



## Observer Corps Report - APS Board of Education meetings

20 March and 3 April 2024

Laura J. Downing ([downinglauraj@gmail.com](mailto:downinglauraj@gmail.com))

I “attend” the YouTube live stream of the meetings, and I report on topics most relevant to LWVCNM policy positions.

**Public Forum.** The public forum continues to be lightly attended. Recent issues of relevance for LWVCNM members include: a concern about “right-sizing” decisions and their impact on the community; concern about alleged “hate crimes” towards indigenous students in APS schools. Board meeting rules do not allow for dialog between commenters and the Board, but the President affirms regularly that the Board does follow up afterwards.

**The Board meetings proper** have been mainly concerned with presenting and evaluating the progress monitoring reports required under the new Student Outcomes Focused Governance (SOFG) goals and guardrails adopted by APS last fall. Indeed, the SOFG approach requires the Board to spend the majority of their time discussing SOFG related issues. The details of the process are probably a bit tedious for casual observers. What is important for League members is that the evaluation and reporting process leads to a much higher degree of transparency and accountability on the part of the Board of Education and its interactions with the Superintendent’s office. More time is also spent in arranging community outreach and engagement activities. As part of their community engagement activities, board members participate in a number of community organizations: <https://www.aps.edu/about-us/board/board-work/community-engagement-and-outreach/participation-in-organizations>

At the 20 March meeting, the Superintendent’s Office presented a progress monitoring report that was discussed in detail by the Board. In the end, the Board tabled the report without approving it, and the Superintendent’s Office is expected to report back in after addressing the issues raised. At the

3 April meeting, a budget update was presented by the Superintendent's Office. A concern was how to make sure SOFG goals and guardrails can be addressed even though the budget is falling slightly due to a 5% decrease in APS enrollment. Drops in enrollment in recent years are attributed to the aftereffects of COVID and to a drop in the birthrate.

## Volunteer Opportunities

*Because Democracy is not a Spectator Sport...*

We need your skills, your enthusiasm, and your commitment to the myriad of projects always underway. From simple clerical tasks to grass roots advocacy, ongoing or project-by project, we can fit your interests to a volunteer job. Expanding our volunteer base is a top priority of LWVCNM.



### How to Find Out More About Volunteering?

**It's easy: Contact us at 505-884-8441 or [lwcnmoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lwcnmoffice@gmail.com)** Leave a message with your name/phone number and expressing your interest in finding out more about volunteering. We will contact you to match your interests/skills with a volunteer position, explain tasks involved, review time commitment for various positions, and offer training where needed.

**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.**

