

The VOTER

AUGUST 2024

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

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President Report by Starlyn Brown

Four members of LWVCNM attended the National LWVUS Convention in Washington DC. Liz Shields and I attended in person, Anne Galer and Karen Douglas attended remotely. Several members from other NM leagues and the NM State League attended in person and remotely. With such a wide attendance 21+ sessions were covered. Reports on sessions attended and other materials are available for all members to access. Send me an email, president@lwvcnm.org or call the office to get the link.

Dedication of the National Collaborative Women's History Sites Marker honoring Julia Brown Asplund, New Mexico Women's Suffrage Leader will be held August 26th on the UNM campus. Further information on the event is on page 3.

In July, members gathered for a happy hour at Craft Republic and a Book Club meeting to discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. It is always a pleasure to gather with fellow League members in a relaxed, casual atmosphere.

We participated in two voter registration events in July, one at the UNM HSC campus for incoming Medical Residents and the other at CNM. Both events were very successful. Another Voter Registration event is scheduled over two weekends in August, both Saturday and Sunday at the Immaculate Conception Church after eight masses. National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 17th, and two other events are in discussion.



Starlyn Brown and Liz Shields representing the LWVCNM in Washington, D.C.

If you are a Voter Registration Agent (VRA), we need you! If you have considered becoming a VRA, talk to us to learn how. There are several voter registration events being planned for September and we need VRA volunteers to help. Because registering voters is what? Fundamental to the League and Democracy!

The *Voter Guide* committee finished their Primary election work and immediately started working on the November General Election guide. The November election has a huge ballot with many federal, state and local candidates, judge retention, bonds, proposed NM constitutional amendments, and proposed city charter amendments. Printing 25,000 *Voter Guides* will cost around \$25,000.

Why do we still print them? Because people ask for, and depend on them, for election information. Not everyone is comfortable looking up information online. Not everyone has a computer or internet access. One day we may be completely digital for election information, but that is not today. The price tag for providing this vital service is high. That is why you are receiving requests to donate to the *Voter Guide* by email and by letter. We are grateful for every donation we receive to help pay for this vital voter educational guide.



From left to right - Felicia Orth President LWVLA, Edwina Jaramillo LWVSNM, Starlyn Brown President LWVCNM, Dick Mason LWVCNM/LWVNM, Hanna Burling LWVSNM/LWVNM Co-President LWVNM, Leslie Wallstrom LWVLA, Liz Shields LWVCNM



The League of Women Voters New Mexico Education Fund, League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, UNM Board of Regents Historic Preservation Committee & UNM College of University Libraries & Learning Services are hosting a Special Celebration. You are invited to attend

**WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY
Monday, AUGUST 26, 2024**

HODGIN HALL on the UNM CAMPUS

~ In Conjunction with the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites & the William G. Pomeroy Foundation ~

**Dedication of the TRAIL MARKER at 3:30 pm
To Honor
JULIA BROWN ASPLUND
New Mexico Women's Suffrage Leader**

**PROGRAM & REFRESHMENTS, 4 to 6 pm
Dr. Cathleen D. Cahill, Pennsylvania State University
Lisa K. Curtis, Esq., Chair, NM Commission on the
Status of Women**

Space is limited. RSVP at 505-884-8441 or lwvcnmoffice@gmail.com

Parking Suggestions

While parking can be a challenge on the UNM Campus, we have several suggestions:

- Pay spaces available on Redondo near Hodgin Hall
 - Pay spaces available at the Cornell Parking structure near Popejoy Hall (\$7). A shuttle is available at the UNM Bookstore stop (#18) to the Logan stop (1w) near Hodgin Hall...or a 10–12-minute walk from parking to Hodgin Hall. A League volunteer will be at the parking structure to help direct you to the shuttle or walking route. **Hint! Try to arrive 30-40 minutes before the event as the shuttle departs every 15 minutes.**
 - We suggest carpooling, when possible, with a "designated driver" who can drop off his/her passengers at Hodgin Hall, then proceed to one of the pay spaces.
 - And there is always Uber for convenient door-to-door service!
- Hodgin Hall 1889 Central Avenue NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Biographical Sketch of Julia Brown Asplund*

By Jeanne M. Logsdon
Regents Professor Emerita, University of New Mexico

Julia Brown Asplund was the first professionally trained librarian at the University of New Mexico, from 1903 to 1905. She was also appointed as the first woman Regent of the University from 1921-23. Julia was a leader in New Mexico's fight for women's suffrage between 1911 and 1920. She served as president of the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs from 1914-16 and helped to organize the automobile parade of more than 150 women to challenge New Mexico's U.S. Senator Thomas Catron on his views about women's right to vote in October 1915. A few months later in February 1916, she was instrumental in forming the New Mexico chapter of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage and served as a vice chairman. This organization was pivotal in lobbying for ratification of the 19th Amendment by the New Mexico legislature in 1920. She was nominated to run for governor by the New Mexico Women's Party (successor of the Congressional Union) in 1920, but declined the nomination. Julia devoted the rest of her professional life to expanding library services throughout the state. She lobbied for state financial support and served in many leadership positions to improve library access and quality, including appointment as the first chair of the State Library Commission from 1941-54. She was particularly committed to providing books to children in both English and Spanish.

Julia Brown was born on October 6, 1875 in Palmyra, Missouri. Her father was an educator and minister, and her mother taught piano. Early evidence of her commitment to women's suffrage is found in a statement she wrote at the age of 15, "I am very strong for woman's rights, you know. I think I shall become a second Susan B. Anthony."

Julia attended Lake Forest College in Illinois from 1891 to 1893 and then Tarkio College in Missouri where she graduated in 1895. She taught school in Iowa and Missouri over the next four years and then attended Drexel Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to become a librarian. She graduated in 1901 and taught cataloging and acquisitions at Drexel until 1903.

Julia moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1903 to work as the first trained librarian at the University of New Mexico. She organized the library in what is now called Hodgin Hall. She also taught history classes. She married Rupert Asplund, a professor of Latin and Greek, in 1905 and resigned from the University as was the custom of the times. The couple had one child in 1906. They moved to Santa Fe in 1909 when Rupert was appointed the chief clerk of the territorial education department. (New Mexico became the 47th state in 1912.) Julia became active in a number of organizations, including the Santa Fe Women's Club and the Santa Fe Board of Trade, two groups very active in community improvement and women's suffrage in the 1910s. The Board of Trade sponsored the Santa Fe Library, and Julia took a special interest in serving on the library committee.

The New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs was formed in 1911. Julia recommended that the federation include a library committee and became its first chair. She also accepted the position as recording secretary in 1911 and was elected to a leadership role as president of the federation for two terms, 1914-15 and 1915-16. This group voted unanimously in favor of women's suffrage at its 1914 state convention and worked vigorously in support for the next six years. Under Julia's leadership, the federation lobbied the state legislature successfully for women's property rights in 1915 and championed other progressive legislation related to the welfare of women and children that later became law.

As president of the NM Federation of Women's Clubs, Julia helped to organize the automobile parade of more than 150 women to US Senator Thomas Catron's home in October 1915. Catron was opposed to women's suffrage, and the parade was a strategy to demonstrate the breadth of support for it. Julia gave a short speech to the Senator about "The Superiority of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment" to grant suffrage to all women in the U.S. Constitution, rather than rely on state-by-state efforts to extend the vote to women. Several months later, in February 1916, Julia was instrumental in organizing the New Mexico chapter of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, the organization formed by Alice Paul to work for the federal amendment. She served as one of the vice chairmen of the group along with other prominent suffragists from around the state.

U.S. entry into the First World War in 1917 shifted the activities of all women's clubs from suffrage and domestic issues to helping with the war effort. Representing the NM Federation, Julia made speeches about how local women's clubs could and should contribute. Women's wartime contributions were widely praised so that, when the war ended in 1918, support for woman's suffrage expanded substantially. Both New Mexico political parties became more committed to suffrage in their platforms and rhetoric.

The 19th Amendment was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1919 and sent to the states for ratification. Three-quarters of the 48 states had to pass the amendment before it could be adopted into the Constitution. New Mexico was the 32nd state to ratify in a special legislative session called by the governor in February 1920. Almost immediately, Julia was nominated by the New Mexico Women's Party (successor to the Congressional Union) to run for governor, but she declined in order to serve on the executive committee of the state Republican Party. She was the first woman to speak at a state political party convention in 1920. She was also appointed as the first woman Regent of the University of New Mexico from 1921-23. Notably, she persuaded the Board of Regents to fund a library building rather than an engineering building.

Julia maintained a commitment to library quality and access throughout her life. She was especially committed to providing books to children in English and Spanish. In the 1920s she continued to advocate for state funding of traveling libraries, which were finally established in 1929 as the Library Extension Service with a budget of \$2,000. Julia served as the first administrator and set up processes to procure and distribute 500 books. Later Julia was appointed as the first chair of the newly created State Library Commission in 1941 and served in that position until 1954. In 1949, the American Library Association awarded her a Citation of Merit. Julia died on July 26, 1958 at the age of 82.

*Adapted from the "Biographical Sketch of Julia Brown Asplund," available in *Biographical Database of NAWSA Suffragists, 1890-1920*, prepared by Jeanne M. Logsdon.

Cathleen D. Cahill is the Walter L. Ferree and Helen P. Ferree Professor in Middle-American History at the Pennsylvania State University. She earned her PhD at the University of Chicago. Dr. Cahill's work examines questions of race, gender, and place in women's working and political lives in the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century United States. Her focus is on the everyday experiences of ordinary people, primarily women. She has published multiple articles and two books, *Federal Fathers & Mothers: A Social History of the United States Indian Service, 1869-1933* (2011) and *Recasting the Vote: How Women of Color Transformed the Suffrage Movement* (2020). She is currently collaborating on a graphic history of the life of suffragist Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee.

Lisa K. Curtis is the Chair of the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women. She is the mother of four adult children and grandmother to four. A graduate of the UNM Law School, she has been a practicing trial attorney representing patients for the past 30 years. She is the managing partner for the 20-person law firm Curtis & Co., owns other local businesses, and is the Trustee for the LK Curtis Children's Fund. She is also the past president of the New Mexico Trial Lawyers Association and was a New Mexico State Senator.

NO AUGUST EDUCATIONAL MEETING

But we'll see you again in September for a program on
*The City Charter and
Ranked Choice Voting*

Shannon Kunkel from Common Cause will be one of the panelists to discuss the proposed city charter amendment to lower the number of votes to a plurality for the winner of a municipal election and to discuss Ranked Choice Voting as an alternative to the current expensive runoff elections.

LWVCNM Book Club

The LWVCNM Book Club meets the 4th Wednesday of each odd-numbered month. The group selected the following title for the upcoming September 2024 meeting.

The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGhee

A New York Times best seller and winner of the Porchlight Business Book Award, Heather McGhee's specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis of 2008 to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a root problem: racism in our politics and policymaking.

Date: Wed., September 25, 2024

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Park Plaza 1331 Park Ave SW, Albuquerque, 87102

SAVE-THE-DATE: Wed., November 20, 2024

Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community by Robert Putnam

Date and Time and Location: Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Park Plaza

Note: Third Wednesday due to Thanksgiving holiday

Contact Janet at 505-401-2052 for questions.

ELECTION UPDATES

Plans for the November 5th general election are well underway. We will use VOTE411 but also plan to create a printed *Voter Guide* and a PDF which will be posted on our website. In the coming weeks, we will be reaching out to candidates who did not respond to our questions in the primary to encourage their participation. Interestingly, many of the incumbents in NM House and Senate races failed to provide responses to our questions.

Fundraising efforts have also begun. Our anticipated costs will be higher than in past years, but lower than the amount budgeted at the Annual Meeting.

We continue to seek volunteers, both new and seasoned, to help with the *Voter Guide*. In August, we will be working to identify sites in the community to stock the printed guides. Additionally, we will need help with publicity to continue to provide our resources to a broader audience in the community.

Volunteers are still needed to contact candidates, and to proofread the printed guide in the production phase. We will then need a large team to help deliver them in early October.

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 in any way.

LEAGUE OUTREACH – Betsy Carlson

Hello, League members:

I am Betsy Carlson, Chair of the Development Committee.

Development entails Fundraising and Friend raising. In our efforts to Fundraise, Mary Mulvany, Kathy Jones, and I have been contacting businesses and individuals to help fund the Voter Guide.

As you know it will cost \$25,000 to print the guide prior to the 2024 election! If you know of any businesses that are good prospects for us, please let us know. \$25,000 is a big amount to cover.

One of our members, Lori Feibelman, has put together a fantastic Crowdfunding Campaign that has been going very well. This is NEW for the League. I will keep you posted on our success.

In our Friend Raising efforts we're working hard to provide voter education and voter registration. Recently we held voter registration events at the University of New Mexico Medical School and at the Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) Open House. They were both quite successful.

And we'll be holding many voter registration events prior to the 2024 election. I will be calling on our member registrars with volunteer opportunities to register voters. Our goal is to get every eligible voter registered!



Betsy Carlson and Dorothy Dickman registering new voters at Central NM Community College's recent Open House.

Help Fund the Printed 2024 Voter Guide

We need you...our loyal LWVCNM members

Voter Guide Price Tag: \$25,000

...That's significantly more than our previous printing!

So, we are taking the plunge into Internet Crowdfunding via **Zeffy.com**
What is Zeffy? Zeffy is a crowdfunding site focused on nonprofit fundraising.

All LWVCNM members have received a Topics announcement further explaining our new crowdfunding effort. In the meantime, checkout our Zeffy appeal:

Click on the Zeffy [link](#)

Crowdfunding not your thing? No worries. A traditional Voter Guide fundraising letter was recently sent to LWVCNM members.

LWVCNM Calendar Planning Meeting of 6-26-24 Reported by KMDouglas

Attendees: Lenann McGookey Gardner, Mary Henry Smith, Lani DeSaulniers, Liz Shields, Mary Mulvany, Lori Feibelman, Jeanne Logsdon, Kayla Cotkin, Jennier Laws, Starlyn Brown, Karen Douglas

The initial discussion included 2024-25 months requiring commitments, topics recommended prior to the meeting, and attendee introductions. Members were reminded that no announced candidates should be invited to address LWVCNM to avoid partisan favoritism. Members then suggested topics for group consideration and those selected were then scheduled for meetings September 2024 – July 2025.

Meetings with no regularly scheduled Thursday luncheon meetings included August 2024 (LWVCNM/NM will host a dedication ceremony for Julia Brown Asplund 8/26/24 for Women's Equality Day), and the Annual Meeting month (April or May 2025). Several months are dedicated to relevant topics including NM Legislative preview (January 2025), Sunshine Month (March 2025), Earth Day (April 2025). Monthly Assignments followed attendee consensus regarding those topics selected.

Month	Topic/Speaker
Sept 2024	Party Designation/Open Primaries/CABQ Charter revision
Oct 2024	Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the 2024 Election/NMSU Dean & Computer Science Chair
Nov 2024	TBD
Dec 2024	Women's Rights – domestic and international
Jan 2025	NM Legislative Preview/Dick Mason
Feb 2025	LWVUS Moonshot Goal – Abolition of the US Electoral College
March 2025	Sunshine Month/Transparency
Apr/May 2025	Earth Day – Recycling or Water
June 2025	Interim Legislative Committees LCS Raul Barciaga or former NM Senator Dede Feldman
July 2025	Affordable Housing (beyond the Unhoused)

Additional topics suggested but not scheduled:

- Public Aid for Private Education (Janie McGuigan)
- Native Governments – Tribes/Pueblos/Reservations
- Recruiting Candidates/Party Chairs (Lori Feibelman)
- LWVUS Convention Delegate Outbrief (this may be a LWVNM evening/Saturday zoom meeting)

The “Moon Shot”

At the National Convention in 2022 the President of LWVUS, Dr. Deborah Turner, announced that the League’s next “moon shot” goal would be the abolition of the Electoral College and the election of the President by popular vote. This is supported by the League’s position adopted in 1970:

“The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished”.

In support of these endeavors, our February 2025 meeting will focus on this “Moon Shot,” providing the historical background for the establishment of the Electoral College, dismantling of the myths opposing the abolition of the Electoral College, and discussing ways by which we can move the process forward.

You can find further information on this project from the League at;

[Why We Must Abolish the Electoral College and Elect the President by Direct Popular Vote, LWVUS slideshow presented by Joyce Williams - Zoom](#)

and

[Turn Up for One Person, One Vote | This spring the League launched One Person, One Vote, our long-term campaign to build the movement to end the Electoral College. Together, we will move... | By League of Women Voters of the US Facebook | Facebook](#)

Anne Galer, who has been involved with this project, would like to invite League members who are interested in joining the CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE to contact her to EXPLORE HOW WE CAN INFORM AND EDUCATE not only League members, but the community at large. Contact Anne at 505.856.5033 or thegalergroup@gmail.com

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

It is well past time to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Now is the time. Equal means Equal. We are so close!

The equal rights amendment reads:

- Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.
- Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.
- Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification

In 2020 the ERA passed the 38 state requirement for ratification. The ERA has met all ratification requirements as per Article V of the Constitution, the ERA is ready to be published. If enshrined in the Constitution, the ERA would: Elevate the judicial standard for deciding cases of sex discrimination. Protect against the rollback of rights. Pave the way for further legislative progress toward sex and gender equality.

The League is asking for your support to put the Equal Rights Amendment into the Constitution in 2024. We need to demonstrate to Congress the overwhelming support for the ERA by securing 1 million signatures for a national ERA people’s petition [here](#). For more information about current activity and what you can do, email president@lwwcnm.org

LWVCNM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:
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 Vice President/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

Voter Guide Distribution: Lani Desaulniers

Advocacy Team/Observer Corps:
Karen Wentworth

Volunteer Coordinator:
Linda Miller

If you need help with Zoom,
please reach out to Zoom host, Linda Miller,
lmiller@unm.edu

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

LWVCNM CALENDAR

August 7th (Wednesday) 5:30 pm
LWVCNM Board Meeting, ZOOM until further notice.
All members welcome.

August
NO LWVCNM Monthly Educational Program
See you in September!

August 26th (Monday) 3:30 – 6pm
Celebration of New Mexico Women's Suffrage Leader
Julia Brown Asplund at UNM Hodgkin Hall
Dedication of trail marker 3:30 pm
Program & Refreshments 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

September 4th (Wednesday) 5:30 pm
LWVCNM Board Meeting, ZOOM until further notice.
All members welcome.

September 12th, (Thursday) Noon – 1 pm
Monthly Educational Meeting
In person and Zoom
The City Charter and Ranked Choice Voting

Shannon Kunkel from Common Cause will be one of the
panelists to discuss the proposed city charter
amendment to lower the number of votes to a plurality
for the winner of a municipal election and to discuss
Ranked Choice Voting as an alternative to the current
expensive runoff elections.

September 25th (Wednesday) 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Book Club Meeting
Title: The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone
and How We Can Prosper Together
by Heather McGhee.
See more info on p. 6 or check this [Book Club link](#)

Multiple Voter Registration Events
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church 8/4 & 8/11
LUSH 9/14 & 9/15
National Voter Registration Day 9/17
CNM 9/21
And many more TBD
Contact Betsy Carlson for more information
(505) 238-2609

OBSERVER REPORTS



Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting

17 June 2024

Mary Mulvany /Janet Kirkpatrick

All nine councilors were present at the June 17 meeting: 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.

This Albuquerque City Council meeting had a lengthy agenda, including final action on ballot propositions and changes to the Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO). The council limited public comment to one minute for the ballot propositions and to two minutes on the IDO changes. The meeting lasted for over eight hours, with adjourning at 1:40 AM! Some commenters greeted the councilors with “Good morning.”

General Public Comment Items:

- Four speakers pointed out that there is a lack of transparency when issues are discussed late in the night when many citizens are unable to attend.
- Seven speakers spoke in favor of adopting Ranked Choice Voting.

Proposed Changes to City Charter: Election Thresholds and Hiring/Firing of Certain City Officials

During the June 17 meeting the council considered several bills putting propositions to the voters that would change portions of the City of Albuquerque Charter. Proposed changes to the city charter can only be passed by a vote of a majority of the council, plus one. Confusion reigned with multiple amendments (some contradictory), amendments to amendments, votes, reconsideration of votes, and more votes. Councilors frequently relied on staff to keep them on track with procedures, amendment numbers, etc. Twenty-five citizens spoke against the change to voting thresholds in P-24-1, including one woman who pointed out that this had been decided by the voters in 2013.

- [P-24-1](#) As amended, would remove the required minimum number of votes required for election of a mayoral or council candidate. A runoff would be held only in the case of a tie. **The proposal passed** on a vote of six in favor (Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Peña, Sanchez) and three opposed (Baca, Fiebelkorn, Rogers.)
- [P-24-2](#) As amended, would change the hiring and firing of the City Attorney and City Clerk. This proposal was amended and reconsidered so many times, it was unclear to this writer which was the final version. **The proposal failed** on a vote of five in favor (Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Sanchez) and four opposed (Baca, Bassan, Fiebelkorn, Peña.)
- [P-24-3](#) As amended, would change the appointment and firing of the Police Chief and the Fire Chief. The mayor would appoint the police and fire chiefs and the city council would vote to confirm. The mayor would reappoint at the beginning of a new term. The chiefs would have an employment
-

- contract which spells out the terms of termination: the mayor could terminate the chief's employment at any time for cause and the city council could terminate by a vote of two-thirds + one. **The proposal passed** on a vote of six in favor (Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Peña, Sanchez) to three opposed (Baca, Fiebelkorn, Rogers.)
- [P-24-4](#) As amended, would change the procedure for appointing members of the conference committee that resolves disputes between the mayor and the city council. **The proposal passed** on a vote of seven in favor (Baca, Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Peña, Sanchez) to two opposed (Fiebelkorn, Rogers.)

[O-24-13](#) **Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) Annual Update**

The annual IDO update included many changes in one measure. One commenter noted there were 159 footnotes and protested that multiple changes were made in one vote. Another speaker pointed out the lack of transparency when this many changes were made late in the night.

Councilor Fiebelkorn proposed an amendment to the IDO annual update which would allow **duplexes** in certain areas. Citizens spoke in favor of this amendment, citing the need for more housing. Citizens also spoke against the amendment, stating that homes would be bought by out of state investors for conversion to duplexes which would be used as short-term rentals and not help the housing supply. This amendment failed by a vote of three in favor (Baca, Fiebelkorn, Rogers) to six opposed (Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Peña, Sanchez.)

The IDO annual update passed unanimously.

[O-24-11](#) **Amending IDO Allowing Drive-Through's in Volcano Heights Urban Center**

The Volcano Heights Urban Center is a development near the Petroglyphs National Monument. This development is designated as a walkable pedestrian area. The city council voted to remove the prohibition to drive-through restaurants in this mixed-use zone, despite the Environmental Planning Commission's recommendation to keep the prohibition. Five speakers spoke against this change, citing concerns that measures put in place to protect the petroglyph area are being removed. Commission President Lewis stated that there was a petition with 160 signatures supporting drive-throughs. The amendment passed on a vote of six in favor (Baca, Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Peña) to three opposed (Fiebelkorn, Rogers, Sanchez.)

[O-24-12](#) **Amending IDO Requiring Referrals of Applications to Tribal Representatives**

This amendment designates Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos as commenting agencies for development in the Northwest Escarpment. The city's Environmental Planning Commission recommended this measure not pass, stating that there was no value to it when the public comment process was available. Commission President Lewis stated he did not support the amendment, finding it "duplicative" because tribes have input on what happens at Petroglyphs National Monument. (However, he voted for the measure). Eight members of the public spoke in favor of the amendment. None spoke against. The measure passed unanimously.

[R-24-58](#) **City Charter Task Force**

Councilors Rogers, Baca, and Fiebelkorn proposed a resolution creating a task force to review the city's charter and propose revisions. One speaker spoke in favor of this stating a thorough review would be better than the piecemeal changes discussed in "the dead of night." The resolution failed on a vote of three in favor (Baca, Fiebelkorn, Rogers) to six opposed (Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Peña, Sanchez.)



Observer Report - Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

June 26, 2024

Mary Templeton, observer

Present: David Heil (Chair), Michael Meek (Vice 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

Six of ten speakers commented on elections, advocating for Voter ID and asserting that undocumented immigrants are voting in US elections.

Commissioner Discussion

The Chair explained that Sandoval County cannot require voters to present IDs as this is covered by state law.

Sandoval County Commission Website

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



Observer Report - Albuquerque & Bernalillo County

Affordable Housing Initiatives

July 2024 Updates

Janie McGuigan

Housing is an issue that the League has worked on over the years. In the early 1970's, the League was very active in abolishing red lining in Albuquerque. More recently affordable housing challenges relate to an inadequate number of houses and apartments to accommodate the current population. This lack of affordable housing increases competition for available housing, drives up rents, and housing prices, overall.

The Observer/Advocacy Committee is closely watching how the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County are handling the issue of affordable housing. Last year the City of Albuquerque and the Mayor's office established a 5-year Housing Forward Plan [<https://www.cabq.gov/housing-forward-abq>] to address the affordable housing shortage and provided \$20 million in funding for affordable housing development in the plan's first year of implementation. In 2024, City funding priorities shifted and the amount set aside for the development of Affordable Housing in the 2025 budget was \$0. However, \$8.9 million was set aside for housing vouchers to help individuals and families access existing housing and avoid homelessness. Bernalillo County has agreed that housing is also a priority, but the 2024

bond issue passed by the commission allocates only \$700,000 for housing, with most of the money allocated to rehabilitate very low income and affordable housing the County already owns and operates. The Central New Mexico League of Women Voters has had a position on the issue of Housing since 2009, therefore the League's Observer Group is beginning to reach out to other affordable housing advocacy groups who may be interested in increasing the affordable housing stock in Albuquerque. Observer Committee members working on the Affordable Housing issue are: Janet Kirkpatrick, Janie McGuigan, Mary Mulvaney, Alan Ramos, and Karen Wentworth.



Observer Report - Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative (MRGHC) Update

July 2024

Janie McGuigan

Forward movement by the Collaborative has been slow. No meeting minutes from the last meeting on May 9th have been posted and the Collaborative did not meet in June. The July meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, July 25th.

The job description for an Executive Director has not been finalized and consequently hiring has been delayed.

Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative Commission Members are: Talia Friedman, Sergio Martinez, Dan Majewski, Lawrence Rael, and newly appointed Steve Anaya.

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 lwvcnmoffice@gmail.com Leave a message with your name/phone number and expressing your interest in finding out more about volunteering. We'll 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.

**League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico
6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suite 124
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