

The VOTER

NOVEMBER 2024

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

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

President Report

By Starlyn Brown

We are almost there! The final day of voting in the 2024 General Election is November 5, 2024. I sincerely hope that you have already voted or have a plan to vote. If someone needs help or has questions, please assist them or ask them to call our office at (505) 884-8441.

I have been on the publicity circuit. Giving interviews is a new experience for me and this is quite the election to dip my toe in the water, or in reality jump in the deep end! Interest in this election is huge. We are not just voting for candidates; we are also voting on items that will affect the everyday lives of most New Mexicans.

We originally printed 28,000 copies of the 64-page **nonpartisan** *Voter Guide*. The amazing committee of volunteers achieved a 79% response rate from candidates. After the initial distribution of the *Voter Guide*, it became immediately apparent that we needed more. Sites were quickly running out of the guides and asking for more. To meet the demand, we printed 4000 more guides, and they have been distributed. If you or someone you know did not obtain a printed guide, you can access the pdf and additional detail on ballot questions on our [website](#).

I am now turning my attention to what is going to happen after November 5th. I expect we will be flooded, regardless of the outcome of the election, with local and national news reports that are true, half true, and false, rumors, conspiracy theories, social media overload, etc. This is a reminder that the OFFICIAL RESULTS come from your state and local election officials. Election Day results are unofficial and it may take days or weeks for official results to become available.

Mis and Dis Information distribution has become an ever-increasing problem. The proliferation of misinformation and disinformation has emerged as a significant threat to our democratic processes and informed decision-making of the electorate.

What is Misinformation? **Inadvertently** sharing false information **without** the intent of harm. Disinformation is **Intentionally** sharing false information **with** the intent of harm.

There are ways to ensure that what you are reading or being told is true. Consider the source, check the date, cross check information, read past the headline, and question emotionally charged content. The News Literacy Project has developed a Misinformation Dashboard for the 2024 Election. It is a tool for tracking the topics and tactics of 2024 election misinformation. The link to their website is [News Literacy Project](#). The New Mexico Secretary of State (SOS) also has Rumor vs. Reality information [here](#). One more site [Rumor Guard](#) is kept up to date with current "News" and rumors.

Is seeing believing? Move over photoshop, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and deepfakes are here. AI can be beneficial in many ways, improving lives and transforming industries. However, AI also plays a major role in the creation of deepfakes, which are highly realistic fake videos, voice recordings, or images that use face swapping and voice synthesis to alter or generate content. This is an article that explains AI [6 things to know about AI — News Literacy Project](#)

Did you miss our October educational meeting *The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the 2024 Election* presented by Professor Huiping Cao, NMSU? A recording of the presentation can be viewed [here](#). The SOS has also addressed AI with information on their [website](#).

I encourage you to use your **critical thinking skills** to sift through the flood of communication and “information” reaching you every day. These tactics aren’t going away anytime soon. In fact, they will probably become much more sophisticated.

And last, but not least, please mark your calendars and plan to attend our Holiday Open House. I look forward to this event every year. Catching up, meeting new members, celebrating our accomplishments and hearing what you have to say.



SAVE THE DATE!!

Celebrate the Season!

Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 8th, 2 - 4 PM

However you celebrate the busy holiday season, take a quiet breather and enjoy an afternoon with League friends and colleagues.

Join us for a holiday celebration at the home of LWVCNM Vice President Betsy Carlson, 1931 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Albuquerque.

There will be light refreshments, conversation, and an opportunity to share our latest accomplishments, news and plans for the future!

Please note: Parking is available at the Sunshine Flower parking lot

1901 Rio Grande NW or on nearby side streets.

RSVP: Liz Shields 559-578-5670 or elizs44@yahoo.com



NOVEMBER EDUCATIONAL MEETING

Thursday, November 14th at Noon

WHERE: In person (members and guests only), Conference room, 6739 Academy Rd. NE, ample parking available; Zoom (members and general public)

TOPIC: **Native American Governance**

SPEAKERS: Josett Monette, JD, NM Cabinet Secretary of the Indian Affairs Department, and Myka Curtis, President of the Native American Law Student Association at UNM

The November LWVCNM Educational Meeting will focus our attention on Native American Governance with insights from leaders in the legal community serving our indigenous people.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush declared November as Native American Heritage Month and LWVCNM would like to improve our knowledge of Native American rights and interactions with the legal system by offering this educational briefing provided by Native American leaders serving NM.

- Josett Monette JD, serves as the Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department and previously as Director of the NM Legal Aid Native American Program.
- Myka Curtis serves as President of the Native American Law Student Association at UNM and will discuss Tribal government interactions with local, state, and the federal government in New Mexico.

Josett D. Monette, Cabinet Secretary, NM Indian Affairs Department



Josett Monette is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. She currently serves as the Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD). As Cabinet Secretary, Josett oversees IAD's programs, including tribal environmental, tribal consultation, and MMIP initiatives. Her General Counsel work consists of providing advice and counsel on a variety of state and tribal matters and advising the Department on a variety of internal policies.

Prior to joining IAD, Josett was the New Mexico Legal Aid Native American Program Director. The Native American Program serves indigent clients living on or near the

Pueblos and provides legal services, mostly in tribal courts, in many areas of law including jurisdictional issues, violations of due process, custody, divorce, child support, defending against debt collections, probate matters, tribal criminal defense, ICWA, tribal housing matters, tribal employment matters, and representing parents in Child in Need of Care matters.

Josett is an Adjunct Professor for the University of New Mexico School of Law National Native American Law Student Association (“NALSA”) Moot Court Team. She recently served as a Commissioner for the Pueblo of Tesuque Gaming Commission. Previously, she worked as a Staff Attorney at NMLA Native American Program, an Associate General Counsel for the Pueblo of Isleta, and as an Associate Attorney with Barnhouse, Keegan, Solimon, & West, LLP, an Indian Law Firm in Albuquerque which provides representation to tribes and tribal businesses throughout the country.

Josett served on the Board of Directors for the New Mexico State Bar Indian Law Section for seven years and sits as an Attorney Bar Exam Coach. She has assisted with planning several CLE Conferences, most recently including helping to plan the Federal Bar Indian Law Conference. She holds a JD, with a certificate in Indian Law from UNM School of Law, a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, B.S.Ed. in Secondary Education – Social Sciences, and B.A. in (American) Indian Studies from the University of North Dakota. Prior to her legal career, Josett was an educator and worked in education mostly on her home reservation in the Turtle Mountain Community. She has three amazing children that she raised as a single mother, and she loves to do Zumba.

Myka Autumn Curtis, Diné (Navajo Nation) is the President of the UNM Native American Law Student Association, member of the Tribal Law Journal Editorial Board and Staff, and a JD Candidate in 2025.

December LWVCNM Educational Meeting

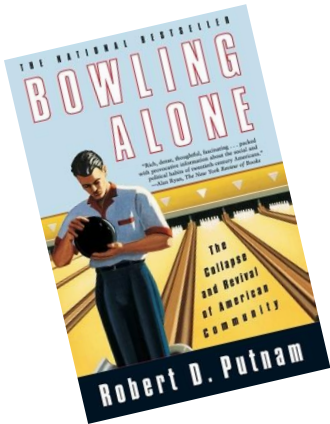
The December 12th Noon LWVCNM Educational Meeting will address immigration.

Topic: Beyond Detention Walls: Understanding Immigrant Detention in New Mexico

Speakers: Sophia Genovese, Managing Attorney for the Asylum and Detention Programs and Alondra Reyes, Policy and Partnerships Manager from the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center. Please join us for this hybrid meeting.

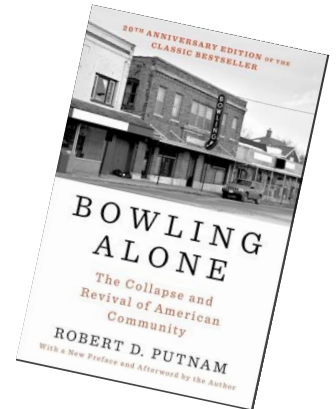
LWVCNM BOOK CLUB

Date: November 20, 2024 (Note- this is the third Wednesday)
Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Location: Park Plaza 1331 Park Ave SW, Albuquerque, 87102



Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community

by Robert D. Putnam



Per the publisher, Simon & Schuster:

Robert D. Putnam is the Malkin Research Professor at Harvard University.

He received the National Humanities Medal from President Obama in 2013 for “deepening our understanding of community in America.” Drawing on vast data that reveal Americans’ changing behavior, Putnam shows how we have become increasingly disconnected from one another and how social structures—whether they be PTA, church, or political parties—have disintegrated.

Read more about the book and author at this link: [Bowling Alone by Robert Putnam-Simon & Schuster](#)

An interesting July 2024 interview from the NY Times also examines his thoughts on the topic in the 20 years since his book’s publication. [NY Times Interview](#)

Contact Janet at 505-401-2052 for questions.

The LWVCNM Book Club meets the 4th Wednesday of each odd-numbered month, except November on which it is the 3rd Wednesday.

MEMBER CORNER - ELIZABETH SHIELDS

You should have received your membership renewal letter. Thank you to those who have already renewed. If you have not yet renewed, you may pay your dues by sending a check to the office or pay by going to LWVCNM web site and clicking on Join/Renew (<https://www.lwvcnm.org/join-renew/>). Please update any information at the end of the letter. Many thanks for your support of LWVCNM **which allows us to continue our voter education, voter registration, and advocacy work. There is always another election!**

Development Committee/Outreach Report for October 2024



VOTER REGISTRATION



We took every opportunity to register voters for the General Election. Many voter registration events were held at new organizations and locations.

Registration events and totals:

1) Women's Resource Center	22 Registered during two events
2) LUSH	16 Registered over 3 days
3) National Voter registration	1 Registered during event
4) Honors College @UNM	20 Registered during one event
5) CNM Open House	10 Registered during open house
6) UNM Law School	20 Registered during one event
7) Transgender Resource CT	4 Registered during 2 events
8) Other Mothers	10 Registered over 3 days
9) Brewing company events	3 Total Registered at 5 Breweries
10) Canteen Brewing Co.	4 Registered at one event
11) Sign Language School	8 Registered at one event
12) Albuquerque High School	27 Registered at one event
13) Overture Senior Community	4 Registered at one event
14) Zine Fest	19 Registered at one event
15) UNM	1 Registered at one event
16) UNM Medical School	<u>20</u> Registered at one event
TOTAL	189

Election Update

- Lani Desaulniers & the Voter Guide Committee

The LWVCNM Voter Guide for the November 5th general election was completed at the end of September and during the following weeks, 28,000 print copies were distributed to more than 200 sites in our four-county area – Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia. The link to the PDF was posted on our website: lwvcnm.org.

VOTE411, the National League of Women Voters website, launched in early October, providing an online portal for voters to view the information from the guide that is on their individual ballot.

Thanks to the many members who contributed their time to create a valuable and valued resource for our communities. The work of the VG committee, writers, fundraising team, candidate callers, proofreaders, social media posters, and drivers who distributed guides and flyers represents an extraordinary team effort.

Adding to that, Karen Wentworth and Starlyn Brown have spent many hours reaching out to media to publicize the Voter Guide resources. I am personally grateful for the privilege of working with all of you.

The December Voter will include a final report on the 2024 Voter Guides.

IN REMEMBRANCE

It has come to the attention of members of LWVCNM that local member, Jennice Fishburn, has passed away.

Jennice resided in Placitas, NM with her husband Donn, and was active in the LWVCNM and LWVNM leagues, serving on the State Voter Guide Committee, and as its editor in 2008. She was also elected LWVNM Secretary in 2010.



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

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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

November 5th (Tuesday) ELECTION DAY

November 6th (Wednesday) 5:30 pm
**LWVCNM Board Meeting, ZOOM until further
notice. All members welcome.**

November 14th (Thursday) 12 Noon
**LWVCNM Monthly Educational Meeting
In person and ZOOM**
Topic: **Native American Governance**
Speakers: Josett Monette, JD, Secretary of the
NM Indian Affairs Department, and
Myka Curtis, President, UNM Native American
Law Student Association

November 20th (Wednesday). 5:30-7:30 p.m.
LWVCNM Book Club
Selection: **Bowling Alone** - see p.5
(Note - this is the third Wednesday)

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

December 8TH (Sunday) 2 – 4 PM
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION
See Announcement on pg. 2

December 12th (Thursday) 12 Noon
**LWVCNM Monthly Educational Meeting
In person and ZOOM**
Beyond Detention Walls: Understanding
Immigrant Detention in New Mexico

OBSERVER REPORTS



Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting

16 September / 7 October 2024

Mary Mulvany /Janet Kirkpatrick

All nine councilors were present at the Aug 19 & Sept 4 meetings: 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.

General Public Comment:

The Public Comment section of the September 16th agenda was pushed to the end of the meeting and did not begin until 10:20 pm. Many speakers who had signed up to speak were no longer online at their time to speak.

At the September 16th meeting, two members of the public spoke about the lack of an Americans with Disability Act accommodation policy at the Albuquerque Fire Department, particularly concerning the issue of PTSD.

Public comments at the October 7th meeting included keeping climate change at the forefront of all council actions, reinstating the plastic bag ban, the need for continued Covid awareness, an Israel arms embargo, and the limitation of general public comment to 30 individuals.

Downtown Vacant Buildings and Properties Ordinance

A majority of time at both the September 16th and October 7th meetings was devoted to discussion, public comment, and multiple amendments of a proposal by Councilor Baca which addressed chronically vacant buildings and people obstructing sidewalks. The ordinance penalized sleeping, sitting, kneeling, crouching, or lying down on the sidewalk. It also prohibited forming a cordon or line of persons along the sidewalk and carrying banners or signs that create an obstruction. It also penalized owners for allowing property to become or remain dilapidated.

Despite multiple amendments clarifying and softening the various provisions, the proposed ordinance failed on a vote of one in favor (Baca) and eight opposed (Bassan, Champine, Fiebelkorn, Grout, Lewis, Peña, Rogers, Sanchez).

[O-24-42](#)

Local Economic Development Act Funding (16 September Meeting)

The council unanimously authorized issuance of Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) funds to two entities listed below. Both items were moved from later in the agenda and were actually heard prior to General Public Comments, which is a deviation from the usual procedure. The mayor signed both bills on September 26.

Ebon Solar LLC received \$11 million in LEDA funds (\$1M from the city and \$10M from the state) for their project to build a solar panel manufacturing plant at Mesa Del Sol. They plan to hire 911 employees at this plant for an annual payroll of \$73M, once the project is complete. There were no public comments on this bill. [O-24-43](#)

Mesa Film Studios LLC received \$7 million in LEDA funds (\$1M from the city and \$6M from the state) for their project to build sound studios near Double Eagle Airport. Representatives of the company said the project would create 230 construction jobs and the operation of the facility would create 500 “indirect” or “induced” jobs. One member of the public spoke in favor of the bill. Three members of the public spoke in opposition, citing a need for better consultation with tribes since this project borders the Petroglyphs National Monument. Councilor Fiebelkorn gave the city administration involved with this project an opportunity to explain their efforts to consult with the Native American community. They stated they have provided notification to tribal governments as part of a government-to-government requirement. They also detailed efforts to work with Native American organizations outside a tribal government structure.

[O-24-44](#)

Industrial Revenue Bond (16 September meeting)

The council voted to authorize issuance of an Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB) on behalf of Kairos Power LLC to expand its operations at Mesa Del Sol. The IRB, to be repaid by Kairos, is for \$300M to construct a fluoride salt production facility. The fluoride salt is for use as part of the nuclear reactor coolant process. There will be no reactor at Mesa Del Sol; speakers indicated the reactor research portion will be conducted at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The bond issuance passed with eight councilors in favor (Baca, Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Peña, Rogers, Sanchez) and one opposed (Fiebelkorn).

[O-24-45](#)

City Charter Review Task Force

Councilor Champine proposed an amendment to the City Charter which would create a task force to periodically review the City Charter to identify necessary changes. (It should be noted that Councilor Rogers made a similar proposal during the summer which was not passed). The resolution passed by a vote of seven in favor (Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Peña, Rogers, Sanchez) and two opposed (Baca, Fiebelkorn). [R-24-85](#)



Observer Corps Report – Bernalillo County Commission

8 October 2024

Karen Wentworth

Bernalillo County Focuses on Housing

October 8 – All five commissioners, Barbara Baca, Adriann Barboa, Eric Olivas, Walt Benson, and Steven Michael Quezada were present.

Bernalillo County Commissioners approved a resolution requesting the New Mexico legislature to support a request from Housing New Mexico for \$500 Million to build affordable housing throughout the state. Of that amount, the New Mexico Affordable Housing Collaborative would like to use about \$100 Million to support developers willing to build affordable housing in Bernalillo County, and to use on projects approved by the collaborative. The County has developed a list of potential projects to be funded so they can speak to legislators in specific terms. The complete list is included in the [commission’s agenda packet and available to be searched](#).

(cont.)

The commission also accepted a \$350,000 grant from the Institute for Responsible Government for the County to buy new election related software, and for cyber and physical security measures for the November election.

The commission voted to accept a \$15 million RAISE grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation as part of its ongoing activities to develop a Tradeport Corridor for electric trucking along I-40. The county will use the money to plan infrastructure such as roads, sewers, water and power for the trucks for the Albuquerque area as well as two hubs in Kingman, Arizona and Winslow Arizona.

The first phase of the Tradeport Corridor from the Port of Los Angeles is designed to move goods out of the port area to distribution points along I-40. The Albuquerque hub, which may be located in the general area of the Double Eagle Airport on the city's west side is meant to become a hub of warehouses, and other support structures. Bernalillo County is serving as fiscal agent for the first phase of development.



Observer Report - Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

25 September 2024

Mary Templeton, Observer

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

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 eight speakers spoke about voter fraud, voter id and distrust of voting machines.

Commissioner Discussion

One commissioner expressed concern about the integrity of voting machines used in New Mexico. Another commissioner highlighted individuals working for the County who are working to ensure election integrity and invited others to contribute to a more peaceful, positive life.

Sandoval County Commission Website

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



Observer Report - Sandoval County Commission regular meeting
09 October, 2024
Mary Templeton, Observer

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

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

Election Evaluation

Dr. Lonna Atkeson, a political scientist at Florida State University and past Director of UNM’s Center for the Study of Voting, Elections and Democracy presented her “Evaluating Elections: Sandoval County, NM” project. She has been studying elections in New Mexico since 1998 and conducting election studies since 2006. These studies collect metric data related to voter experience, turnout, and confidence, polling locations, and equipment.

Sandoval County is of interest because it is a little more Republican and Independent than the state as a whole, making it competitive in presidential elections. It is also demographically diverse and composed of urban and rural areas. Due to growth, voter registration has doubled since 2000.

Sandoval County has ranked in the middle of New Mexico counties in voter confidence. Dr. Atkeson will report back with the results of the study after the election. The full presentation can be viewed here: <https://sandovalcountynm.new.swagit.com/videos/317290> 24:20 to 47:20

As background:

LWVUS supports electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters. LWVNM also supports verifiable and auditable procedures to guarantee the integrity of all statutory methods of voting in New Mexico, as well as methods that increase voter participation.

Additional Comments

Public Comment

Three of thirteen speakers advocated for voter ID, paper ballots, hand counting of ballots and expressed distrust of voting machines. Others addressing county topics expressed gratitude for commission support of a local substance abuse rehabilitation center, and requested commission help regarding property assessment practices in Corrales and road resurfacing in Regina.

Commissioner Discussion

One commissioner expressed appreciation to the Clerk’s office for their work amid a record turnout on the first day of early voting.

Sandoval County Commission Website

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



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

October 15, 2024
Janie McGuigan

The MRGHC met at 3:00 pm, Thursday, September 26, 2024 at the MRCOG Board Room. The following MRGHC members were present at the meeting: Talia Friedman, Dan Majewski, Lawrence Rael, Ian Robertson and Steve Anaya.

Updates and Action Items:

The MRGHC approved the final Fiscal Agency Agreement between the MRGHC and Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRCOG) and authorized the MRGHC Chair, Talia Friedman, to execute the Agreement and any subsequent amendments associated with the Agreement.

Recruitment for the MRGHC Executive Director position is still in process via MRCOG with the support of both the City and County Human Resources Departments collaboratively advertising the position. The position application window will close on October 25, 2024. Members discussed hiring the Executive Director initially as a contractor and later making the position permanent.

As requested by the Collaborative members at the August meeting, the MRGHC members were presented with a list of: a) possible Affordable Housing Projects that need gap financing/funding; b) vacant, available land for housing development and 3) a draft Resolution that would be presented to both County Commissioners and City Council.

The lists were created by both City staff (Joseph Montoya) and County Economic Development staff (Carolyn Tobias). The lists included 25 possible affordable housing projects and 11 separate parcels of vacant land. After review and discussion, the members agreed to delete one proposed housing project (The Downtowner, 101 Silver Ave SW) because it was deemed market rate vs. specifically affordable housing, reducing the total dollar amount of housing projects to \$261,733,675.00. The members agreed to only focus their efforts on supporting the creation of affordable housing projects and mixed income (including affordable) housing projects.

The Resolution and lists of proposed affordable housing projects and vacant land parcels was presented by County Commissioner Barbara Baca at the October 8th Commissioners meeting as one of the Bernalillo County's 2025 Legislative Priorities. After discussion and a language amendment to the Resolution encouraging collaboration with both the NM Governor's Housing Office as well as the New Mexico Legislature, the Resolution and lists were approved.

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.



6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suite 124
Albuquerque, NM 87109

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization is a nonpartisan political organization, that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy by education and advocacy.