



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

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**President's Report
by Starlyn Brown**

LWVCNM Board

I am delighted to welcome three new board members who were elected at the Annual Meeting: Dina Hennessy, Jen Pecasting, and Kit Rosewater. In addition, Liz Shields was elected to a new position that will allow her to focus more fully on her passion for civics education. While the LWVCNM Board has remained strong and dedicated, the addition of three new members, each bringing fresh ideas, experiences, and perspectives, will make our organization even stronger.

Updates on the Semi-Open Primaries

The first week of May marked the culmination of months of hard work by the Voter Guide Committee. Printed Voter Guides were delivered and distributed throughout our counties, VOTE411.org went live, and PDF versions of the guides were published on the LWVCNM website. Our printed Voter Guide continues to be one of the League's most valued and widely used publications.

LWVCNM sponsored a gubernatorial forum in Rio Rancho that proved to be both significant and well attended. What made the event especially noteworthy was the participation of all five candidates running for Governor, the first time all five had appeared together at the same event.

The forum was the result of countless hours of preparation, coordination, and hard work. Many LWVCNM members were involved; however, special thanks go to Jill Crawley and Marlyn Wells, whose dedication and persistence made the event possible. Their efforts helped create an important opportunity for voters to hear directly from every candidate and engage with the issues facing New Mexico.

When I voted, however, I was disappointed by the low voter turnout. Too many voters still view primary elections as less important than general elections, despite the critical role primaries play in determining who ultimately appears on the ballot in November. I see this as an important educational opportunity for the League moving forward. We must continue helping voters understand why primaries matter and why participation is so important, especially now that New Mexico's semi-open primary system allows many more voters to participate. After all, 2028 is only two years away.

Looking Forward

I expect June to be a relatively quiet month for most League activities, except for Voter Services. Numerous tabling events are already scheduled, and additional opportunities are still being discussed. After all, we still have a general election ahead of us, and there is plenty of work to do.

(cont.)

We are always looking for more Voter Registration Agents, but you do not need to be a VRA to volunteer at an event. Volunteers play an important role in helping educate voters, sharing information about the League's work, highlighting the resources we provide, and directing people to reliable election information. Every conversation helps strengthen voter engagement and participation in our communities.

Annual Meeting Report

The 2026 LWVCNM Annual Meeting is now behind us, and what a meaningful and productive gathering it was. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in this important annual event. Each year, our members help shape the direction of LWVCNM through thoughtful discussion, decisions, and approvals that guide the work of the League. Ensuring that LWVCNM reflects the priorities and values of its members remains one of our highest priorities.



During this year's meeting, we honored the memory of two members who passed in the last year, welcomed two new lifetime members, approved a two-year budget, elected board members, and added two volunteers to the Nominating Committee. Members also approved updates to our bylaws, adopted a Data Center Study, and approved a contingency plan for an AI study.

Unfortunately, time did not allow us to fully recognize the many volunteers whose dedication keeps LWVCNM strong and effective. Our volunteers are the heart of this organization, and every contribution—large or small—is deeply appreciated.

Thanks to Karen Douglas for arranging our guest speaker, Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller. Mayor Keller spoke about Albuquerque's Sanctuary City protections related to ICE enforcement. The discussion proved especially timely, as the U.S. Department of Justice had filed a civil complaint against the city just one day earlier, alleging that the city's Safer Community Places ordinance interferes with immigration enforcement. The timing could not have been more relevant to the conversation.



Election Updates

Voter Guide Committee Report

The LWVCNM Voter Guides for the June 2nd Primary Elections were completed at the end of April. A print version for Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties, and another for Torrance and Valencia Counties, were distributed by our great team of enthusiastic volunteers during the first week of May. The guides were also posted on our website. Voters could also access candidate information specific to their ballot using VOTE411.org.

The overall candidate response rates for these guides showed significant improvement across the board. This was due in great part to the efforts of our volunteer callers and our team who assisted candidates who had trouble utilizing the VOTE411 portal:

Bernalillo/Sandoval 86%

Torrance/Valencia 78%

The front page of the guides provided information about the semi-open primary. Our goal was to inform independent (declined-to-state) voters and encourage their participation. This information was also posted on our Voting and Elections webpage (lwvcnm.org) along a great deal of additional information and links to resources. While we do not have a ready means to assess the effectiveness of our outreach, we plan to review website analytics after the election.

A final report which will include details about expenses and fundraising will be provided next month. We could not do this work without the help of the many members who contributed to this effort. We are truly grateful for their time and commitment to this project. We have a short hiatus now, but plan to gear up again in the late summer.

Anyone who is interested in helping can contact Lani Desaulniers, Linda Miller, or Karen Wentworth.

Please contact us if you have any questions. Lani Desaulniers (LMDesaul@aol.com)

- Lani Desaulniers & Karen Wentworth

Join us for the Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series

JUNE EDUCATIONAL MEETING

Thursday, June 11th at Noon

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

TOPIC: Affordable Housing: Beyond the Unhoused (One Year Later)

SPEAKERS: CABQ's Lisa Huval and Dr. Brittany Karnezis

This will be a hybrid meeting at 12:00 PM with in-person attendance in the
LWVCNM conference room

CABQ Panelists will include:

- Lisa Huval, Housing Initiatives Manager, Office of Housing, Dept of Workforce Solutions, discussing housing options available to lower income residents and eviction prevention programs; (*cont.*)

- Dr. Brittany Karnezis who will address both
 - the Gateway Young Adult Housing and Treatment Navigation Center preventing homelessness for youth aging out of foster care, as well as
 - treatment services and the success rate for the mentally ill and substance abuse victims who may remain unhoused if not receptive to CABQ Shelter options.

Affordable Housing - Beyond the Unhoused (One Year Later)

This educational meeting will offer members a status update on statewide housing and homeless projects slated or under development via last year's 2025-26 State Legislative funding; the impact of the May 2026 Albuquerque City Council Ordinance #O2614, also called the "Enhanced Service and Safety Zone Ordinance," which allows the city to designate certain areas as "enhanced service and safety zones" and adding there more police patrols, sanitation work, and behavioral health resources, which may also unduly impact the unhoused; and a brief overview of Department of Workforce Solutions Office of Housing and the new DWS Housing Development RFP released April 24th.

Lisa Huval is the Housing Initiatives Manager for the Office of Housing in the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions. Lisa has led policy, programmatic and funding initiatives related to affordable housing and homelessness for twenty years. She has held leadership positions both in the nonprofit and government sectors and believes strong collaboration between these two sectors is necessary to ensure everyone has a safe place to call home.

Lisa has helped build and strengthen all parts of the housing spectrum in New Mexico, from creating permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness to funding affordable rental housing developments to building mixed income for-sale residential communities. With a Master's degree in Community and Regional Planning, Lisa is a strong facilitator and consensus-builder, with demonstrated success in bringing people together to effectively address difficult issues.

Dr. Brittany Karnezis is a public-sector and community leader whose work focuses on homelessness response, systems coordination, and community wellbeing initiatives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She currently serves as Homeless Innovations Officer with the City of Albuquerque's Department of Health, Housing, and Homelessness, where she supports strategic initiatives related to encampment response, outreach coordination, service navigation, and the Gateway System of Care. Prior to her work with the City, Dr. Karnezis served in leadership roles across higher education and nonprofit organizations, including as Director of Student Life at Central New Mexico Community College. Her work has centered on cross-sector collaboration, operational strategy, equity-informed programming, and strengthening systems that support vulnerable populations.



Dr. Karnezis holds a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Higher Education from West Texas A&M University. She also serves on the Core Leadership Team for the New Mexico Basic Needs Consortium; a statewide collaborative focused on advancing basic needs initiatives for college students across New Mexico.



Please plan to join LWVCNM members June 11th to learn more about and discuss these topics.

LWVCNM Annual Calendar Planning Meeting

-- Saturday June 13th at 10 AM --

This Zoom ONLY meeting offers LWVCNM members an opportunity to recommend speakers and topics for upcoming monthly educational meetings through July 2027.

Join other LWVCNM members, led by Karen Douglas, VP/Program, in discussing issues impacting our communities and nation to select Topics for 2026-27 Educational Meetings. The opportunity to join other members for the in-person social gatherings following the educational meetings will continue during 2026-27 as long as members participate.

LWVCNM needs your ideas and recommendations for topics and speakers for those monthly educational meetings scheduled August 2026–July 2027. This helps LWVCNM understand the issues you find most pressing or topics requiring greater attention for the upcoming LWVCNM program year. During our 2025-26 program meetings LWVCNM continued with successful hybrid meetings. LWVCNM also addressed several topics where prior knowledge was lacking:

- Federal Funding Cuts to NM Healthcare and Education.
- New LWV Membership system and Dues Payment
- Panel discussion “Engaging the Youth Vote” addressing those registered vs. those participating in elections.
- NM Commission on Mental Health and Competency addressing “Competency and Public Safety.”
- League Priorities for the 2026 30-Day Legislative Session.
- Semi-Open Primaries addressing Decline-to State (DTS) or minor party voters.
- Foundation for Open Government (NMFOG) “New Mexico’s Legislature: Is It or Is It Not Committed to Transparency?”
- Data Centers and Microgrids in New Mexico: Issues to Address in New Mexico

This educational introduction promotes LWV member consideration of issues which may warrant future advocacy and encourages member study introduction during winter 2027 Program Planning to develop a Position (LWV Bylaws prohibit Advocacy without an approved Position – please contact Karen Douglas douglaskm@alumni.stanford.edu for details regarding the LWV Program process).

If you can’t join us Saturday, June 13, 2026, please contact Karen Douglas (505-263-3297) to offer your recommendations.

**LWVCNM needs your involvement to offer monthly educational programs
addressing the needs of our community!**

Save the Date: July 9th LWVCNM Educational Meeting to address Access to Healthcare in New Mexico

New Mexico's shortage of health care providers is a full-blown crisis. If you are lucky enough to find a physician, you can expect a lengthy wait for an appointment and often must travel a long distance to receive care. The situation is especially dire in rural areas where hospitals and clinics are threatened with closure. This presentation describes the crisis, the key factors that are driving it, statewide advocacy efforts that led to the passage of House Bill 99 (Medical Malpractice Changes) in January 2026, and the League's new statewide study, ***The Impact of Medical Malpractice on Access to Care***. Although HB99 limited punitive damages, health care providers indicated that it addresses only a fraction of the challenges facing NM physicians.



Joanne Turnbull, PhD earned a PhD (Social Work & Psychology) from the University of Michigan and an MFA from the University of Southern Maine in creative writing. She has practiced as a psychotherapist and taught marital and family therapy and advanced clinical practice in the department of psychiatry at Duke, the University of North Carolina, Columbia University and the University of Michigan Schools of Social Work. She also held senior administrative positions at Duke, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and the University of Texas Medical Center, and is Executive Director Emerita of the National Patient Safety Foundation. In addition to numerous academic articles, she has published fiction and an award-winning essay. She was awarded a Healthier Communities Fellowship by the American Hospital Association and co-authored *To Do No Harm: Ensuring a Culture of Safety in Health Care*. She chairs the Healthcare Committee for the League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico and serves on the Steering Committee for Patients Primero.

The LWVCNM Book Club

The LWVCNM Book Club meets the 4th Wednesday of each odd-numbered month at 5:30pm.
(Except November, which meets the 3rd Wednesday.)

New members are always welcome! If you are not able to complete a book before the session, come anyway and join the conversation. Enjoy light snacks and the opportunity to get to know other LWVCNM members.

Upcoming titles: July 22 - American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America by Colin Woodard

September 23 - Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI by Karen Hao.

Contact Janet at 505-401-2052 for questions.

Jennifer Black - In Remembrance

Jennifer Black retired in 2018 and moved to Albuquerque from the Chicago area. There, Jennifer was the Communications Director of a large suburban library and then the Director of Membership and Annual Giving at the Chicago Botanic Garden, the largest membership-based public garden in the nation.



Jennifer had also served on the LWV Board of Directors of the same suburban Chicago chapter her mother was involved in for many decades. After becoming a member of LWVCNM here, she became the Third Vice-President in charge of Calendar and Program Planning in 2020. Then Covid happened. For two years the Board worked on Zoom and everyone was a box on a screen. In 2023 she was instrumental in returning us to in-person programming after the three-year Covid hiatus. In 2022 she continued her service as Board Director for Special Projects and Archives.



Jennifer had a remarkable gift for planning events and creating meaningful experiences for others. She discovered unique and engaging opportunities and then made them happen. She invited



authors to speak at book club gatherings, arranged and sponsored film showings at the Guild Theater, and organized a League Day at the Vortex Theatre. Yet among all her activities, being a founding member of the Happy Hour Committee may have brought her the greatest joy.

As much as she loved the League her heart was with her partner Ed, her children, her siblings and her grandson. She was an avid gardener and passionate cook who



collected hundreds of cookbooks and eagerly enrolled in cooking classes whenever she could. Ed was the happy beneficiary of her creativity and skill in the kitchen.



Rarely does someone as extraordinary as Jennifer come into our lives. She gave generously of her time, expertise, and wisdom, and she was always willing to help whenever asked. Jennifer was not only deeply dedicated, but also warm, funny, and a joy to be around. She is sorely missed and gone far too soon. The world is diminished by her absence.

Please join us to raise a glass and celebrate the life of our cherished member, Jennifer Black, on Tuesday, June 16 from 4 pm to 6 pm at [High & Dry Brewing](#).

LWVCNM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:
Starlyn Brown

1st Co-Vice Presidents/Voter Guide:
Karen Wentworth & Lani Desaulniers

2nd Vice President/Membership:
Dina Hennessy

3rd Vice President/Program:
Karen Douglas

4th Vice President/Development:
Betsy Carlson

Treasurer: Janet Kirkpatrick

Secretary: Joni Ullery

Director/Voter Services Chair:
Jill Crawley

Director/Sustainability/Climate Change:
Jeanne Logsdon

Director/Office Manager:
Terry Quinn

Director/Civic Education:
Elizabeth Shields

Director/Special Projects:
Jennifer Pecasting

Director/Outreach:
Kit Rosewater

Director/Webmaster/Zoom Host:
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

June 3rd (Wednesday) 5:30 pm

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

June 4th (Thursday) 6 pm

**Table at Transgender Resource Center of
New Mexico**

June 6th (Saturday) 10 am - 2 pm

Table at Rio Rancho Pride Fest

June 11th (Thursday) 12 Noon

**LWVCNM Monthly Educational Meeting
In person and ZOOM**

**Topic: Affordable Housing: Beyond the
Unhoused (One Year Later).**

**Speakers: CABQ's Lisa Huval and Dr.
Brittany Karnezis
(see pg. 3)**

June 13th (Saturday) 10 AM

**Program Planning Meeting
ZOOM only
See article p. 5**

June 16th (Tuesday) 4 pm

**Jennifer Black Remembrance Happy Hour
High and Dry Brewing**

June 27th (Saturday) 10 am – Noon

**Drop in Coffee
League Office Conference Room**

July 9th (Thursday) 12 Noon

**LWVCNM Monthly Educational Meeting
Access to Healthcare in New Mexico
See article p. 6**

OBSERVER REPORTS



Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting

20 Apr / 4 May 2026

Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick

All Councilors attended the 20 Apr and 4 May 2026 meetings:

Stephanie Telles – 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

Public Comment

Members of the public were allowed two minutes at the 20 Apr meeting and one minute at the 4 May meeting for public comment. Seven members of the public spoke against a proposed budget cut to Flamenco Works. The most recent budget year awarded them \$95K, while the proposed budget proposes \$0. Speakers included parents of dance students and the operators of Flamenco Works, which operates in downtown Albuquerque.

Executive Director for Safety EC-26-82

At the 20 Apr meeting, the Council voted unanimously to approve the hiring of Raul Bujanda as Executive Director of Public Safety. This is a newly-created position which oversees the Fire, Police, and Albuquerque Community Safety Departments. Chief Administrative Officer Stengel clarified that although this is a new position, it is not new funding. The funding comes from elimination of the Deputy Administrative Officer position. Several Councilors spoke positively about Mr. Bujanda. Two public commenters questioned the necessity of creating this position. The Deputy Administrative Officer's job description is linked here: [Executive Director of Public Safety](#).

Chief of Police EC-26-83

At the 20 Apr meeting, the Council voted unanimously to approve Cecily Barker as Chief of Police. She had served as interim Chief, following her predecessor's retirement. Chief Barker is the first female Chief of Police in Albuquerque. Several Councilors spoke highly of the new Chief. After the vote, Councilors rose from their seats to applaud her, with the exception of Councilor Champine, who remained seated.

Cooling System Performance Requirements O-26-47

At the 20 Apr meeting, the Council considered amending an existing ordinance which requires landlords to provide cooling systems for tenants. The amendment, sponsored by Councilor Fiebelkorn, added performance standards that the system be capable of maintaining an indoor temperature at least 15 degrees lower than the outdoor temperature. In proposing this standard, she discussed the recent March heatwave and the many complaints of overheated apartments her office received. Two members of the public also mentioned the March heatwave and the difficulty some residents had. Four property owners spoke in opposition, stating this standard is problematic because some heating/cooling systems in Albuquerque, particularly older systems, cannot have both systems on at the same time. Once the switch from heating to cooling is made, heating is no longer available for tenants, and that fluctuating spring temperatures can leave tenants in the cold. The proposed standard was amended, by a 5-4 vote, to change to a date-based standard requiring cooling systems to be operational during a cooling season: May 1 through September 30.

Councilor Fiebelkorn attempted to withdraw the bill. After discussions about procedure and consulting the rulebook, Council President Peña determined withdrawal was not allowed. Instead, Councilor Fiebelkorn removed her name as the original bill sponsor, stating the new date-based standard left residents worse off than before. Councilors Champine, Grout, and Bassan added their names as new sponsors and the Cooling System Performance Requirement amendment passed by a vote of five in favor (Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, and Peña) to four opposed (Baca, Fiebelkorn, Rogers, and Telles).

Mayor Keller vetoed the bill on 1 May. However, at the 4 May Council meeting, the Council failed to override the veto. Link to ordinance history and language: [O-26-47](#)

Enhanced Service and Safety Zone Ordinance O-26-14

At the 4 May Council meeting, the Council passed an ordinance sponsored by Councilor Baca which prohibits sitting, sleeping, laying, or camping on public streets, alleys, or sidewalks within an established Enhanced Service and Safety Zone. The ordinance establishes criteria by which the mayor designates the zone which is then approved by the City Council. The penalty for sitting, sleeping, laying, or camping is a fine up to \$500 or up to 90 days in jail. (Revised Ordinances of Albuquerque Section 1-1-99 General Penalty).

Public comment included four individuals who spoke in favor of this ordinance, stating their downtown properties or businesses are negatively impacted by people who sit, sleep, and even defecate nearby. Nine individuals spoke in opposition of the ordinance, asserting that laws already exist to address these issues, that sweeps of encampments already happen which have not fixed the overall problem, and that this is criminalization of poverty.

The ordinance passed by a vote of 6-3, a veto-proof majority. Votes in favor: Baca, Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Peña. Votes opposed: Fiebelkorn, Rogers, Telles.

Link to ordinance history and language: [O-26-14](#)



Observer Corps Report – Bernalillo County Commission

May 2026

Karen Wentworth

All commissioners were present for the three meetings covered in this report.

Barbara Baca, District 1; Frank Baca, District 2; Adriann Barboa, District 3; Walt Benson, District 4; Eric Olivas, District 5

Bernalillo County Deals with Wide Variety of Issues

University of New Mexico Hospital, which is funded through property taxes in the county reports quarterly to the commission. Highlights for this quarter include:

- 700,000 visits over the past 8 months
- Total uncompensated (charity) care is \$79,479,814 over the past 8 months
- Average emergency room wait time – more than 7 hours

UNMH is the only Level 1 Trauma Center in the state. It is a publicly-funded hospital, and as such must accept the most complex medical problems from all corners of the state. That also means Bernalillo County taxpayers shoulder a heavy financial burden to fund the hospital. Last fiscal year, UNMH received more than \$224 million dollars from the special mil levy on property.

Our position: LWVCNM believes society has a responsibility to provide comprehensive health care for the indigent and supports mill levies as a means of funding such health care.

County commissioners are also strongly supportive of renewable energy, but the sun doesn't always shine and the wind doesn't always blow. In April, commissioners approved a lease of county-owned property to Oso Negro LLC for a large battery storage facility in the Ladera Business Park on Albuquerque's west side. They agreed to issue an Industrial Revenue Bond to help finance construction and buy equipment for the project of up to \$175 million. IRB's do not come from county funds.

Our position: Neither the state or the Central New Mexico chapter has a position that directly addresses energy policy.

The Commission has approved a tax exemption of \$10,130,000 for the Film Yards LLC. The exemption will allow the company to build a welcome center and community training facility as well as digital production stages to assist with movie production. The purpose is to bring new life to the San Jose neighborhood. It will house local companies who can provide services to the film industry. This is a studio complex on 19 acres near I-25 and the Sunport.

Our position: There is no relevant Central New Mexico League policy. LWVNM's position on economic development supports: economic growth more than population growth, good jobs with good wages, quality of life, consistency with protection of the environment and national resources, particularly water; and capitalizing on what is already here, such as existing businesses, technologies and people.



Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

April 22, 2026

Mary Templeton, observer (by video recording)

Present: Jordan Juarez (Chair), Jon Herr (Vice Chair), Joshua Jones (video), Katherine Bruch

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

Regional Water Planning

The Commission passed a resolution to apply to the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) for financing for 11 to 20 public water systems in the Placitas and Algodones areas who are interested in converting to a community, and potentially a regional, water system.

As background, the LWVNM supports continued funding for regional planning that uses a public process to:

- Gather and publish data on supply and demand and provide regular updates;*
- Create a balanced water budget;*
- Identify critical and emerging issues.*

The public welfare statements of a regional water plan should be considered by the State Engineer when reviewing applications for transfer of water rights. The LWVCNM also supports coordinated regional water planning.

Additional Comments

Sandoval County Commission Website

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



Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

May 13, 2026

Mary Templeton, observer (by video recording)

Present: Jordan Juarez (Chair), Jon Herr (Vice Chair), Michael Meek, Joshua Jones (video), Katherine Bruch (video)

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

Inspection of Public Records

According to IPRA, Sandoval County can charge requestors for copies, but must cover the cost of labor. Records exempt from IPRA include medical records, letters of recommendation, opinions in personnel files, trade secrets, attorney-client privileged information, confidential materials, hospital business plans, tactical response plans, computer security information, grants, lease & scholarship applications while pending, victim & witness information, certain law enforcement records (e.g. graphic video footage) records on abortion doctors and the Office of the Child Advocate, voter rolls, and additional miscellaneous record types. Just because a record is exempt from IPRA doesn't mean it cannot be accessed by the public – there may be other processes for gaining access to those records.

Sandoval County has experienced a 275% increase in IPRA requests in the last 6 years. Part of this is due to bad actors, such as individuals who file frivolous lawsuits and IPRA requests for information they don't need in order to choke the legal system, for-profit corporations such as Lexis-Nexis (London) who resell information gained at no cost from IPRA's, and AI trainers.

Another increase in burden results from increased use of bodycams – one crash request for video required viewing and redaction of 55 hours of video. (One commissioner added that viewing hours of horrific footage exposes analysts to trauma.)

Sandoval County supports two full-time IPRA positions and software, bringing the cost of responding to \$191/IPRA. The county maintains a backlog of zero requests, turning most requests around quickly. The County requests help in dealing with request loads from bad actors such as those described above.

As background, the LWVNM recommends that all state and local governments adopt the following policies and practices regarding public records, over and above what is legally required by the OMA and the IPRA, within reasonable budget constraints:

- *Create an inspection of public records policy and procedure whose goal is to help the public obtain the maximum amount of information they may want to discover about their government and do so in a timely and cost-effective manner.*
- *Publish a price list for copying different types of public records.*
- *Develop a policy regarding the production and cost of spreadsheets, lists, and other reports which may not already exist as public documents but whose data exist within government files and in which there is a public interest.*
- *Make use of the government website as a repository and ensure that information posted there is up-to-date and easy to find.*

Public Comment

R4Creating STEM students and staff thanked the Commission for their support and shared how it had benefited them.

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



Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative (MRGHC) - Affordable Housing Report March/April 2026 Janie McGuigan

The MRGHC is still in the process of seeking its next Executive Director. That said, the MRGHC held a Special closed session meeting at 11:00 am, Thursday, April 23 to review Executive Director applications and determine the next process steps for finalists.

After the special closed session, the regular MRGHC meeting was convened at 1:00 pm. All five current MRGHC Commissioners were in attendance: Lawrence Rael, Chair, Ian Robertson, Steve Anaya, Dan Majewski and Connie Chavez. Other attendees were: Tommy Cummins, County staff; and Monica Montoya and Rick Giron of the City of Albuquerque.

The Commissioners approved the April 2nd meeting minutes. Lawrence Rael provided an update from the Special closed session held at 11 am regarding the MRGHC Executive Director candidate review and selection process. He reported that there were 15 applicants for the Executive Director position and the goal was to select the top five candidates. The Collaborative anticipates conducting the remaining interviews in the next couple of weeks.

Chair Rael requested housing fund expenditures and development updates, per the Agenda item, CABQ and Bernalillo County. County staff, Tommy Cummins, reported that the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions will be releasing a Statewide Request for Proposals the first week of May that will be offering the \$130M 2026-27 Legislative allocation to all eligible entities across the State for Affordable Housing production and Homeless services. It should be noted that there is no set aside of funding for MRGHC in this RFP. Rael cited a recent housing forum regarding homeownership and requested Mr. Cummins ask Mike Loflin, Executive Director of Homewise to make a presentation on the status of homeownership initiatives to the MRGHC at a future meeting.

Monica Montoya, City of Albuquerque, provided an update on last year's legislative allocation to the City for the Gateway continuum of homeless services and programs as well as a status of housing projects funded by Federal funds such as HOME, HOME ARP, etc. The City is in the process of releasing an RFP for HOME funds and for the City Bond-funded Workforce Housing program for housing development and homeownership.

Going forward Chair Rael requested regular updates from the City and County regarding their 2026 Legislative allocation expenditures and housing development projects.

LWVNM Housing Position: The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports current and future efforts to increase the availability of safe, decent affordable housing for moderate and low income households.

The next regular meeting of the MRGHC will be May 28, 2026 at 1:00 pm at the MRCHG Board Room and virtually via Zoom.



**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 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.