

the VOTER

OCTOBER 2022
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Co-Presidents' Messages

Dear League Members,

Many thanks go to Karena and Stew Oberman for doing such a great job organizing voter registration activities of many kinds, including those in various locations in recognition of National Voter Registration Day on September 20.

In addition, we can be grateful for the work of Rebecca Courtney and Ginny Castille in expanding our presence on Facebook and Instagram respectively and for all those who have viewed, liked, or commented on their posts.

Eileen and I recently attended a state board meeting in Los Alamos. Though the drive is long, it was a joy to see a greener desert and the fantastic vistas in the Los Alamos area. It was also a great opportunity to get better acquainted with League members from LWVLA and to experience a cool evening and morning.

Watch for news during the first week in October about plans for redistricting reforms. While the process of drawing new districts based on the last census is largely complete, many people are hoping for a constitutional amendment to create an independent commission to conduct redistricting. For an update on local government redistricting, see the report from the City Council work session on September 12.

Thanks especially to Dale Yeo the LWVSNM Voters Guide for our county is coming soon. Watch for it in the Bulletin and online and check out VOTE411.org.



Kathy Brook

—Kathy Brook
Co-President

—continue to next page for Eileen VanWie's report

Bring Your Questions to the October 8 General Meeting

The October general meeting of the League will feature two speakers from the City of Las Cruces. The focus of this meeting is the GO Bond in the upcoming election and the plan to use the funds for affordable housing. Bring all of your questions related to affordable housing in this region. You may want to review the League's position on affordable housing prior to this meeting. You will find the latest version of our position in your League handbook.

The meeting on Oct. 8 will be via Zoom beginning at 2:00 pm. You will get an email from Laura Castille with the link.

Joining us will be Deputy Director of Community Development, David Weir, the Chief Planning Administrator for the City of Las Cruces. Mr. Weir has served in this position since November 2017. He previously served as the city's Community Development Director from 2006. Mr. Weir serves as the lead on the affordable housing project.



Also joining us to discuss affordable housing will be Assistant City Manager, Ikani Taumoepeau. He has served as Assistant City Manager since January 2021 and is one of the leads on the affordable housing project. Mr. Taumoepeau previously served as city manager in Clayton, Assistant City Manager in Santa Paula and Deputy City Manager in Morro Bay — all in California — and as economic development director/assistant to the city administrator in Eagle Mountain, Utah. In that post, he served alongside Las Cruces City Manager Ifo Pili.



—Laura Castille
Vice-President

Co-Presidents' Messages (cont.)

Dear LWVSNM Members,

It's amazing how fast September seemed to pass. We've had some election education opportunities, like the ones mentioned in Kathy's report. On Constitution Day, September 17th, Cecilia Tellez, Kathy, and I provided a table with information at the Sunland Park Farmers' Market. We did not register any voters, but we talked with people about the process. Most of them sounded committed to voting. We'll have a table at Sunland Park again on Saturday, October 1.

Perhaps some of you registered and attended the UN webinar on the Gender and Environment Data Alliance (GEDA) on September 22. There are several organizations working together to increase data collection on how people, especially women, around the world are impacted by climate changes. For example, the increase in weather temperatures has a negative impact on the health of pregnant women and their newborns. I was not able to watch the whole program, but enough to find resources that can be investigated further.



Eileen VanWie

Kathy mentioned our trip to Los Alamos for the LWVNM Board meeting on Saturday, Sept. 24. Action on several items may be of interest to members. You may remember that our League reviewed the California position on Criminal Justice a year or so ago and the New Mexico League approved concurrence with it. An ad hoc committee of State Board members met this fall to amend the State position on *Administration of Justice* to include critical components of the California position. It was approved by the State Board on the 24th [see page 5]. The amended position will be addressed again by delegates to the State Convention in late April 2023 in Los Alamos and virtually.

The State Board also approved a *Land Acknowledgement Statement* (see page 9) and participation in *The Democracy Project* run by *New Mexico First*. Hannah Burling and Judy Williams (Santa Fe County) have been participating in a committee tasked to educate the public how to engage in the election process, including election watching, ballot counting and verifying, canvassing and certifying an election. Another part of the project is to get candidates to agree to principles for trusted elections, such as use an honest process, have a civil campaign, and acknowledge the certified outcomes.

Thanks to all of you who are taking actions to get out the vote! With warm regards,

—Eileen VanWie, Co-President



- 1 The **County Clerk trainings** for Election Officials are open to the public. The League will sponsor Election Watchers. Common Cause also offers training for Watchers. [Let Eileen know](#) if you'd like to attend one or both types of training. Plus, the DAC training dates are available [by clicking here](#).
- 2 Volunteer to help **Get out the Vote!** Contact League member [Beth Bardwell](#).

Upcoming Calendar Events

OCTOBER 2022

October: Breast Cancer Awareness Month; Domestic Violence Awareness Month; Nat'l. Diabetes Month, Clergy Appreciation Month

Oct. 1-15: Conclusion of **Hispanic Heritage Month**

Oct. 3, Mon.: **Short Board Meeting**, Noon, Zoom

Oct. 4-5: **Yom Kippur**

Oct. 5, Wed.: **Coalition for Attainable Housing**, 4pm via Zoom, contact [Beth Bardwell](#) if you'd like to attend

Oct. 7 Fri.: LWVSNM Voters' Guide in the Las Cruces Bulletin

Oct. 8, Sat.: **Regular General Meeting**, 2pm, Zoom

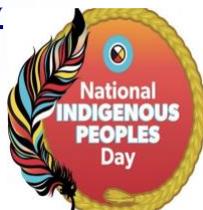
Oct. 10, Mon.: [Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)

Oct. 11, Tues.: **Nat'l Coming Out Day** in DAC

Oct. 15, Sat.: **LWV Education Comm.**, 2:00 pm, Zoom

Oct. 17, Mon.: **Board Meeting**, 5 pm via Zoom

Oct. 31, Mon.: **Halloween**



October PRIDE Month in Las Cruces

Pride on the Plaza, 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1.

The event "Say it Loud, Say it Proud" begins with the **Pride March** with wagon floats downtown. The march ends at the Plaza de Las Cruces. From 5-10 p.m. there will be entertainment, information and activities for all ages.

Amber Wallin Discusses How Amendment #1 Benefits Kids

The Executive Director of New Mexico Voices for Children hopes all voters on Nov. 8 will turn their election ballot over and look on the backside; that's where Constitutional Amendment #1 will be located. If passed, it would have a big impact on public education.

Amber Wallin, the guest speaker at a state League webinar in September, explained that with passage, there would be an additional 1.25% from the state permanent school fund allocated for: enhanced instruction for at-risk students, hiring more teachers with improved salaries, extending the school year options, and more support to early childhood education. [[Read the Amendment here.](#)]

The increase equates to approximately \$250 million annually and would be added to the existing five percent distribution from the land grant permanent fund. (The grant is currently valued at nearly \$26 billion.) Sixty percent of the new funds would be for early childhood programs that are overseen by the state's new Early Childhood Education and Care Department. The remaining 40 percent would be earmarked for K-through-12th grade programs and will be placed into the state funding formula that serves all school districts. Approval would not increase current tax rates, she added.



LWVSNM member Elisa Sánchez (top left) makes a point during a state meeting with Amber Wallin, (bottom left) who discussed the upcoming Amendment that will be on the backside of the General Election ballot. Also attending were (top right) Jo Galván Nash from LWVSNM, state LWV Chairwomen Hannah Burling and Rebecca Courtney (not pictured).

“This could be a game-changer for children” if the Amendment passes, Wallin said. Other benefits could include creation of high school career technical education programs, pre-K programs and home visits, and hiring support staff such as social workers, nurses, counselors, and psychologists.

To boost awareness, NM Voices for Children is one of 20 organizations involved with the “Vote Yes for Kids” campaign that includes OpEds, video announcements, social media, and presentations. More information can be found at www.nmvoices.org/permanentfund and the campaign website is www.voteyesforkidsnm.com.

Wallin encourages citizens to write letters-to-the-editor to indicate they're supporting the Amendment. The state LWV supported the House Joint Resolution that got the item placed on the election ballot. It has been more than a decade since the effort began to get this statewide vote on the ballot.

—Jo Galvan Nash, PR Director



Tune in October 6 – Sheriff's Candidates to Discuss Their Viewpoints

On Thursday, October 6, candidates for Doña Ana County Sheriff will be featured on a candidates' forum broadcast by KRWG Public Media. The LWVSNM has partnered with the PBS-affiliate to question local candidates prior to the Nov. 8 General Election. All the broadcasts are recorded and are archived on KRWG.org for those who missed any of the shows. Several members of our League participated in co-hosting. The election forums are shown during the time of TV22's “Newsmakers” program. Newsmakers is on Thursdays at 7pm. It's rebroadcasted at 5pm on Saturdays and on Sundays at 11:00 am.

Congressional races will have a debate on Oct. 13, 20 (District #2), and 27.



CLICK HERE

Affordable Housing Awareness Campaign Continues to Grow

Local League members are continuing their efforts to spread the word about why Las Cruces needs additional affordable and attainable public housing. Several of LWVSNM members are working with the Las Cruces Coalition for Attainable Housing and volunteers are welcome!

As you'll see on the Nov. 8, 2022 election ballot, one of the questions is for \$6 million to build more homes, apartments, condos, and townhouses, and to obtain property for simple and safe housing for low-to-moderate income families. This will benefit seniors, veterans, young parents, the disabled, and thousands of others who can't afford today's local rental prices.

Items listed on the city bond ballot will be:

1. **Affordable Housing, \$6 million**
2. New Fire Station on the East Mesa, \$10 million
3. Parks Improvements, \$2 million
4. Phase II of the East Mesa Recreation Complex, \$5 million.

Beth Bardwell, chair of the LWV Affordable housing Committee said if any, or all, of the items are approved (you'll vote on them individually), there will be no tax rate increase — an important aspect to consider.

The Coalition and the League are working on advertising, sending flyers in utility bills to customers in the southern-most end of Doña Ana County, speaking on radio talk shows, writing

letters-to-the-editors, calling voters, and attending church and civic club meetings to explain the benefits of the housing issue. If you want to volunteer, please contact Beth Bardwell at betbardwell@gmail.com.

—Jo Galvan Nash



Making it Accessible • Keeping it Affordable

2022 LWVSNM GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS' GUIDE Debuts Oct. 7 in the Las Cruces Bulletin

LWVSNM Voter Services has worked hard to get as many candidates as possible to answer the League's questions to a variety of issues. It's all going into the local Voters' Guide and will be on the Vote411 website. Be sure to grab a copy of the Oct. 7th Las Cruces Bulletin to get the guide. Plus, it will be online on the websites for the League and the Bulletin. Members will be notified when the Spanish version is ready; it's being published by El Camino Real.



League members Cecilia Tellez (left), Kathy Brook, and Eileen VanWie (not pictured) spoke to a number of individuals in Sunland Park as they manned a voter registration table at the Farmers' Market. If you want to help with voter registration, contact [Eileen](#).

Election Videos

Following are links to a 5-minute and several 1-minute video clips prepared by LWVNM to help the public understand various aspects of elections:

- ◆ [Your Vote Counts](#) (5 min)
- ◆ Your Voter Information Minute: [How Do I Register to Vote?](#)
- ◆ Your Voter Information Minute: [Risk Limiting Audits](#)
- ◆ Your Voter Information Minute: [Vote Counting](#)
- ◆ Your Voter Information Minute: [Election Security](#)

Did You Miss the Sept. General Meeting?

The meeting on Sept. 10 featured Heather Balas, Vice President of Programs for Election Reformers Network, who spoke about federal and state election reforms that could bring back confidence in election administration. Watch it by clicking on the League YouTube Video:

<https://youtu.be/sKLewzfqucM>

A Safe & Spook-tacular Event for Children

The LWVSNM will have a table and a trunk at the free, family-friendly “Trunk or Treat” event. League volunteers are needed, and you can wear your favorite costume, if you choose! Not only will children have a safe way to have fun, but Covid vaccines will also be given to those who still need one.

With the assistance of [League member Cecilia Tellez](#), there will be a car trunk next to the League’s table. **Please bring candy for the kiddos!** Everything needs to be in place by approximately 9:00 a.m. on the 29th.

Cecilia said the League will also remind the adults that election day is right around the corner.

Read the Position Online

The NM League’s “Administration of Justice” position is available to review. [Click to our League website to read it](#) under “State & National Positions”.



VOTE411.ORG



Point the camera on your Smart Phone to this QR code. It will automatically bring you to the Vote411 website. It’s an easy way to find all kinds of voter information.



Thanks to everyone who paid their 2022/23 dues! The League will now proceed with updating the Handbook and Membership Directory which includes everyone’s contact information, along with LWV Positions, Policies, Procedures and other League information. You’ll soon be informed about the handbook and how to get a copy.

All from Otero County!

Draft Board Meeting Minutes Summary
Monday, August 15, 2022, Via Zoom

Discussion and Action:

1. September and October General Meetings

September 10, 2022: Kathy Brook indicated Laura reported David Weir and Assistant City Manager Ikani Taumoepeau planned to speak on affordable housing and other City issues.

October 8, 2022: E. VanWie suggested Miranda Viscoli who is with the New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence, Heather Balas who is VP for the Election Reformers Network, or someone to speak about Branigan Library.

2. Affordable Housing Action

B. Bardwell requested that the Affordable Housing Committee continue advocacy to work on the general obligation (GO) \$6M bond for affordable housing in November's ballot. A motion was made by K. Brook to approve the advocacy by our League for passage of the GO item pertaining to affordable housing. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Voter Services Committee Report

Forums: D. Yeo reported that she has started to call candidates to inform about the forum dates and the Vote411 questions candidates are being asked to respond to. J. Galván Nash, D. Yeo, and M. Flynn volunteered to co-moderate the forums along with Anthony Moreno and KC Counts of KRWG.

Voter Guide: D. Yeo spoke to the Bulletin to inform them that the League has received permission from the DAC Clerk to use the Bureau of Election graphic (previously provided to the Board), however, no changes may be made to it. The Bulletin staff will develop our own graphic.

Voter Data: The voter data from the Bureau of Elections was received. J. Galván Nash has requested bids for postcards and mailing. A subcommittee comprised of E. VanWie, M. Flynn, and L Marquez was formed to develop a plan to get out the vote by contacting voters through postcards, flyers, or other means. General members will also be invited to participate on this Ad Hoc Committee.

4. Public Relations Report

League Website: A Voter Page subcommittee was formed comprised of J. Galván Nash, K. Kanim, and C. Cochrane to create a new voter web page. General members will be invited to participate in this Ad Hoc Committee. J. Galván Nash also reported that the League is running out of bandwidth and it needs to be upgraded. D. Yeo will contact the provider for the cost of an upgrade.

Voter Newsletter: J. Galván Nash asked the Board for ideas to condense the Voter newsletter. A recommendation was made for an "actions people can take" section. Additionally, only summary highlights of Board minutes will be included.

5. Other

County Commission Meetings: K. Brook will develop a schedule for Board members to attend.

—For a complete set of the minutes, please contact [Edwina Jaramillo](#).



LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

September 6, 2022

Observer: Kathy Brook

Public participation topics: Guaranteed basic income, Judge Joy Goldbaum seeking revocation of the appointment of Judge K. Ryan.

LEDA funding from the city in the amount of \$235,000 to Electronic Caregiver was approved. The state will also be providing \$1 million with the city serving as the fiscal agent.

Funding priorities and allocations to LC non-profits using American Rescue Plan Act funds received by the City were approved. The vote was on the collection of allocations rather than voting on each individual award. The most controversial of the awards involved \$1.7 million to the Community Action Agency to conduct a pilot project on a guaranteed basic income.

Other topics: acceptance of grants, appeal process for a Planning and Zoning Commission decision on locating a cannabis facility next to a school.

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Work Session

September 12, 2022

Observer: Kathy Brook

Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee. The seven-member committee was appointed by the councilors to draft new maps for the six city council districts. The consultant from Research and Polling reviewed the standard criteria for drawing districts. The allowable population deviation for these districts is +/- 5% of the ideal population. For all four plans reviewed, each district has a majority minority adult population, but some plans have one less majority adult Hispanic districts compared with the current 5 districts. After review of four concept maps, councilors narrowed the choices to two, to be discussed at a future meeting.

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Reporting. The City has a [website](#) containing details on the amount of funds received and how those funds are being spent. Information on community investment projects will be available soon.

Other topics were the sister cities program and the Las Cruces Economic Outlook.

LAS CRUCES SCHOOL BOARD • Regular Meeting

September 13, 2022 • 6pm

Observer: Eileen VanWie

Members Present: President Ray Jaramillo, VP Teresa Tenorio, Secretary Pam Cort, and members Carol Cooper and Robert Wofford; Superintendent Ralph Ramos

Public comment came from LCPS employees advocating to decrease their health insurance payments for all employees to 20%.

The Superintendent reported that there have changes in how the budget is being managed, which includes an increase in teacher support. Makayla, Centennial High School senior, is the student representative to the School Board.

LCPS discussed several priority resolutions to promote with the NM School Board Association, who will advocate resolutions to the 2023 Legislature:



(SCHOOL BOARD CONT.)

1. Resolution to request funding from legislature to decrease health insurance payments by all employees to 20%.
2. Resolution to provide funding for bus contractors to pay for additional transportation services for all after school activities.
3. Resolution to provide funding for appropriate training for all educators and to provide school-based health care addressing mental health issues of students.
4. Resolution to provide financial resources for a renewable energy component of every capital project funded in whole or part by the Public-School Capital Outlay Council.
5. Resolution to promote funding for promoting safe and responsible storage of fire arms.

There will be Legislative Forum November 16th or 17th at Centennial High School with a dinner. Associate Superintendent Dr. Roberto Lozano also reported on a Youth Mental Health Roundtable Discussion August 17, 2022 hosted by US Senator Ben Ray Lujan. Amy Himelright, director of mental health, reported further about additional funding that has been received for mental health services.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson introduced Esther Peterson who gave a teaching and learning update. LCPS has received a New Mexico Outdoor Learning start-up grant of \$3,000. LCPS has 15 teacher residents through NMSU, working with mentor teachers throughout the year. The District is looking for more meaningful ways to change grading practices and will be conducting a survey in October to learn from stakeholders. Some teachers have concerns about the possible changes.

Each month schools have an enrichment learning day. The August theme was “Community Building.” The September theme was “Civic Engagement.” Students seem to be enjoying these special days and appreciate learning and trying new things.

DAC NAACP • Regular Meeting

September 17, 2022

Observer: Jennifer Kreie

Thanks, Jennifer, for becoming an Observer of a great community organization!

The Doña Ana County chapter of the NAACP met on September 17. A nominating committee was formed to build a list of officer candidates for the chapter's election in November. There was also discussion about the push to have a Las Cruces Police citizens review board. There is some support for this on the Las Cruces City Council, but the mayor and the police chief don't appear to support it. Work to get this board created continues.

Related to the citizens' review board, Bobbie Green talked about the recent police response to a gas station on Valley Drive that resulted in a death. Bobbie said she's been unable to get information released to the public about this incident but will continue to work on this.

There was discussion of the upcoming state conference for the NAACP which will be held in Hobbs. The conference is at the end of October. Bobbie Green, Howard Green and Terry Tolbert will attend.

LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Meeting

September 19, 2022

Observer: Kathy Brook

Public participation topics: the dispute between Mayor Miyagishima and Municipal Judge Joy Goldbaum concerning appointment of a second municipal judge; request for metrics concerning Desert Hope Apartments; addiction problems along Picacho; and concern about bicycle riders not obeying the traffic rules. Resolutions were approved concerning quarterly budget adjustments (no new programs or policy initiatives).



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION • Regular Meeting

September 13, 2022

Observer: Mary Flynn

After recognizing several long-term employees and approving the August 23, 2022 minutes, the Commission passed a resolution proclaiming October as Walk to School Month in Doña Ana County.

Next, a group of middle school students and their teacher, Vince Gutschick, from Las Cruces Academy, presented their findings from a months-long study to determine if Doña Ana County temperatures are rising continually over time. The students’ conclusion was that more data over a longer period of time was needed to better inform their study.

There were six speakers during public input each summarizing concerns about the safety and security of Dominion Voting machines. In particular it was suggested that the machines had not been examined or serviced since 2017 and were susceptible to control by remote devices. The entire agenda was carried by consent with only one item being pulled for further explanation. It was noted that when DAC animal control staff is dealing with dangerous animals, they now have the authority to hold the animal for assessment. In addition, the pet owner may be subject to penalties and fines.

LWVNM Land Acknowledgement Statement:

“The League of Women Voters of New Mexico acknowledges that we are on unceded ancestral lands. We recognize these First Peoples were displaced. With humility, we recognize and respect all Indigenous Peoples, their histories, and their ties to this land. Our continual work attempts to repair inequities caused by historic appropriation of land. We commit to have meaningful and respectful relationships with sovereign Indigenous nations and tribal communities. Let us keep this knowledge present as we proceed.”

Books for LWVSNM Book Club – October 2022

If you would like to participate, contact Erika at grafwebster@icloud.com

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS ARE ON 1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Status/Added	Book
Books Selected for Upcoming Meetings	
October 6 Moderator: Vicki	Davos Man: How the Billionaires Devoured the World by Peter S. Goodman The <i>NY Times</i> ’s Global Economics Correspondent masterfully reveals how billionaires’ systematic plunder of the world—brazenly accelerated during the pandemic—has transformed 21st-century life and dangerously destabilized democracy. Drawing on decades of experience covering the global economy, award-winning journalist Peter S. Goodman profiles five representative “Davos Men”—members of the billionaire class—chronicling how their shocking exploitation of the global pandemic has hastened a fifty-year trend of wealth centralization.
November 6 Moderator: Rorie	Fox and I: An Uncommon Friendship by Catherine Raven When Catherine Raven finished her PhD in biology, she built herself a tiny cottage on an isolated plot of land in Montana. She was as emotionally isolated as she was physically, but she viewed the house as a way station, a temporary rest stop where she could gather her nerves and fill out applications for what she hoped would be a real job that would help her fit into society. In the meantime, she taught remotely and led field classes in nearby Yellowstone National Park. Then one day she realized that a mangy-looking fox was showing up on her property every afternoon. From the fox, Catherine learned the most important thing about loneliness: we are never alone when we connect to the natural world.

Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Mary Flynn, Treasurer

SEPTEMBER 2022

DATE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
September 24, 2022		\$8,073.42
MEMBER INCOME		
August 29, 2033	Paypal Deposit	\$65.67
August 29, 2022	Bank Deposit	\$412.50
September 12, 2022	Paypal Deposit	\$65.67
September 19, 2022	Paypal Deposit	\$469.48
September 20,2022	Bank Deposit	\$195.00
September 20,2022	Bank Deposit	\$502.50
September 20,2022	Bank Deposit	\$965.00
September 23,2022	Bank Deposit	\$195.00
September 23,2022	Bank Deposit	\$865.00
	MEMBER INCOME	\$3,735.82
NON-MEMBER INCOME		
August 29, 2022	Bank Deposit (El Paso Electric)	\$1,500.00
	TOTAL NEW INCOME	\$5,235.82
	TOTAL FUNDS	\$13,309.24
NEW EXPENSES		
September 7,2022	Consumer Cellular	\$20.51
	TOTAL NEW EXPENSES	\$20.51
	TOTAL FUNDS ON HAND	\$13,288.73
COMMITTED FUNDS		
September 22, 2022	Diversity Fund	\$415.00
September 22, 2022	Youth Engagement Fund	\$625.00
September 22, 2022	Social Media Fund	\$500.00
September 22, 2022	New Mexico Listens Project	\$250.00
September 1, 2022	Voter Service	\$750.00
	TOTAL COMMITTED FUNDS	\$2,540.00
AVAILABLE BALANCE		
September 22, 2022		\$10,748.73
CURRENT CHECKBOOK BALANCE		
September 22, 2022		\$13,288.73