



# NEWS RELEASE

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## OTERO COUNTY CLERK SELECTED FOR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AWARD

LAS CRUCES--Otero County Clerk Robyn Holmes of Alamogordo, NM, has been selected as the 2023 recipient of the Making Democracy Work Award from the League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico (LWVSNM). The League represents the counties of Doña Ana, Otero, Sierra, Grant, Luna, Hidalgo, Lea and Eddy.

“Throughout the 2022 election cycle, Ms. Holmes exemplified what it means to contribute through action to strengthening our democracy,” said LWVNM Co-President Eileen VanWie. “The League gives her this award to honor her professionalism, honesty, and commitment to election processes that strengthen our country’s voting system.”

“I am humbled to receive this honor and feel privileged to have served the voters of Otero County for all these years,” Holmes said. “Fair elections are the bedrock of our democracy.”

Holmes is currently serving her last term in office and will retire in December 2024, after 39 years of service. Holmes was first elected Otero County Clerk in 2004 and was re-elected four more times. She also served as the deputy clerk for many years.

“This award honors someone who is civically engaged, and someone who also promotes what the League supports — justice, equity, diversity and inclusion,” said LWVSNM co-president Kathy Brook. “It’s particularly significant this year since our organization has branched out with the creation of an Otero County unit that has more than a dozen new members from Alamogordo and the surrounding region.”

Following the 2022 General Election, former Alamogordo Mayor Pro-Tem Nadia Sikes nominated the longtime clerk for the regional award as “she faced numerous challenges, special meetings, public meetings and close scrutiny with regard to how she and the office of the County Clerk conducted the elections.” The nomination went on to state that Holmes faced “harsh criticism, disparaging remarks, but she bravely stepped up at meetings to defend procedures giving clear, concise explanations about state election processes and rules in the face of serious accusations.”

“Robyn Holmes defended our civil rights, justified the voting procedures, stood up for her staff, poll workers and poll judges, eloquently spoke about the inclusion of voters who need to vote absentee, and made us very proud,” Sikes wrote. “When the Secretary of State and the Attorney General absolved her office of any wrongdoing and concluded that she performed the elections correctly, many members of our community agreed that she is a hero.”

In addition to nominating the County Clerk, Sikes said an enthusiastic group of women and men have organized a League of Women Voters unit for Otero County to support voting rights, voter education and candidate forums. Unit members recently launched monthly meetings and they will be available to discuss their goals with the public at the Alamogordo Earth Day event on April 29 at the Alameda Park Zoo. New members can also contact Claudia Powell at [claudia@tularosa.net](mailto:claudia@tularosa.net) for more information about the new unit.

Holmes was honored during the LWVSNM general meeting in Las Cruces on Saturday, February 11, three days prior to the 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the creation of the League of Women Voters on Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14, 1920. The League also plans to recognize Holmes in Alamogordo at the Board of Otero County Commissioners meeting on March 9. She will also receive a \$250 cash award from the League of Southern New Mexico.

This is the third year for the Making Democracy Work Award. In 2022, it was bestowed to Mary Carter, Executive Director of the Women’s Intercultural Center in Anthony, NM, and in 2021 to Jamie Patterson and Josie Miller of Las Cruces Public Schools, and Jamey Rickman, formerly with the City of Las Cruces.

For more information about the League or the Otero County unit, email [lwvsnm@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsnm@gmail.com) or go online at [www.lwvsnm.org](http://www.lwvsnm.org).

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