



## **Making Democracy Work Award Criteria**

**Description:** This award recognizes sustained contributions of an individual or a small collective group of individuals to making democracy work by mobilizing civic engagement and promoting justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in Southern New Mexico. Civic engagement includes civics education and participation in government (such as by public officials or citizens involved in public projects/activities). The award is \$250. A small group of nominees would divide the award equally.

**Recognition:** The recipient(s) will be honored at a general meeting of the LWVSNM. In addition, she/he/they will be recognized in an LWVSNM news release, monthly newsletter and website, in social media, and through other LWV events and communications. The winner will be notified within one month after the deadline for submission of applications. The award will be given by February 14, the anniversary of the national League of Women Voters organization.

**Solicitation of applications/nominations:** The availability of the award will be publicized through [www.lwvsnm.org](http://www.lwvsnm.org), social media, and announcements to the area media, public schools in Doña Ana County and beyond (as feasible), and to community-based organizations. To nominate someone, or to win the award, residents must live in one of the following Southern New Mexico counties: Doña Ana, Otero, Sierra, Luna or Grant. Current League members are not eligible to receive the award. Recipients of the award are not eligible to receive the award again for a minimum of three years. The LWVSNM Board shall determine the nomination deadline on an annual basis.

**Selection process:** All applications submitted by the deadline are read and scored by the members of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico. Board members who have submitted nominations do not participate in the selection process. Applications are evaluated on the following criteria:

- the general quality and completeness of the description of the contributions to making democracy work – weight of 40%
- the extent to which the project mobilizes processes to strengthen democracy (who is served by the project, how many are served, what are the expected and actual outcomes) – weight of 30%
- the ways in which the project promotes justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. – weight of 30%

In the event of a tie, the projects with the highest scores will be reviewed again, including a discussion among board members prior to the vote. The Board reserves the right not to select any nomination.