

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

PUBLIC LIBRARIES POSITION (adopted 04.11.26)

Public libraries are a major community resource. The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico supports public libraries because they are essential institutions for strong, viable, and sustainable democracies. They support civil rights by providing access to materials, resources, and programming, which should be enjoyed by all and distributed equitably in our communities.

Public libraries play an important role in facilitating free and open access to information. They support citizens' right to know, contribute to civic education and media literacy, and serve as safe spaces for individuals and gathering places for groups to come together to learn, debate, organize, and enjoy a wide range of intellectual, cultural, civic, and recreational activities.

Public libraries can and should enrich our communities. This requires they keep pace with growing and evolving multicultural, multilingual community needs, receive appropriate financial support from governments, and engage in synergistic partnerships with other organizations.