

## **Affordable Housing Initiatives -- Albuquerque & Bernalillo County July 2024 Updates**

Housing is an issue that the League has worked on over the years. In the early 1970's, the League was very active in abolishing red lining in Albuquerque. More recently affordable housing challenges relate to an inadequate number of houses and apartments to accommodate the current population. This lack of affordable housing increases competition for available housing, drives up rents and housing prices overall.

The Observer/Advocacy Committee is closely watching how the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County are handling the issue of affordable housing. Last year the City of Albuquerque and the Mayor's office established a 5 year Housing Forward plan [ <https://www.cabq.gov/housing-forward-abq> ] to address the affordable housing shortage and provided \$20 million for affordable housing development in the plan's first year of implementation. In 2024, City funding priorities shifted and the amount set aside for the development of Affordable Housing in the 2025 budget was \$0. However, \$8.9 million was set aside for housing vouchers to help individuals and families access existing housing and avoid homelessness. Bernalillo County has agreed that housing is also a priority, but the 2024 bond issue passed by the commission allocates only \$700,000 for housing, with most of the money allocated to rehabilitate very low income and affordable housing the County already owns and operates.

The Central New Mexico League of Women Voters has had a position on the issue of Housing since 2009, therefore the League's Observer Group is beginning to reach out to other affordable housing advocacy groups who may be interested in increasing the affordable housing stock in Albuquerque. Observer Committee members working on the Affordable Housing issue are: Janet Kirkpatrick, Janie McGuigan, Mary Mulvaney, Alan Ramos, and Karen Wentworth

### Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative Update

Forward movement by the Collaborative has been slow. No meeting minutes from the last meeting on May 9 have been posted and the Collaborative did not meet in June. The July meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, July 25. The job description for an Executive Director has not been finalized and consequently hiring has been delayed. Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative Commission Members are: Talia Friedman, Sergio Martinez, Dan Majewski Lawrence Rael, and newly appointed Steve Anaya.