

The VOTER

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

6739 Academy Rd. NE Suite 124, Albuquerque, NM 87109 lwvcnm.org (505) 884-8441

President's Report by Starlyn Brown

Happy New Year! Hello 2025!

Thank you, Liz Shields, for organizing the Holiday Open House and Betsy Carlson for hosting. I really enjoyed the many conversations I had with members.

January will be another busy month. Our Civics Education Committee will be presenting at the APS teacher meeting on January 6th. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Monday, January 20th. Given the racist rhetoric in the general election, it is important to stay vigilant and support equality and justice for all. Dr. King said ""We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now" and "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." King used the boat metaphor to call for unity among people of all races and backgrounds in the struggle for equality and justice and said we cannot ignore injustice in one place, as it threatens justice everywhere. I encourage you to look for activities around town to commemorate this meaningful day.

League members from across New Mexico are preparing for the sixty-day Legislative Session which begins at noon on January 21st. The decisions made, and the legislation passed, in the NM Legislature affect our lives every day. Do you know what your House and Senate Representatives are going to introduce, what they support, what committees they are on? Do you know where they stand on issues that are important to you? Legislators In New Mexico are quite accessible and, in most cases, listen to their constituents. The New Mexico Legislator website found [here](#) is quite informative and helps to keep track of all the activities, committees, and legislation during the session. Several committee meetings are webcast. You can find the calendar [here](#).

I encourage you to advocate for or against legislation introduced on issues that matter to you. Please remember, there are strict rules on advocacy by the League. If you want to become more involved officially as a League advocate, please get in touch with me. However, as yourself, advocate away.

The process of joining as a new League member or renewing your current League membership is changing in February. This change is being implemented by the National League of Women Voters (LWVUS), and its implementation is required for all member Leagues across the United States. More details will be included in a letter sent by US postal to all members in January.

As always, feel free to reach out by email to president@lwvnm.org or call the office (505) 884-8441 and leave a message for me.

Join us for the **Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series**

JANUARY EDUCATIONAL MEETING **Thursday, January 9th at Noon**



WHERE: In person (members and guests only), Conference room, 6739 Academy Rd. NE, ample parking available; Zoom (members and general public)

TOPIC: **THE 2025 NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

SPEAKER: **Hannah Burling, LWVNM Co-President**

The State Action Committee is beginning to review issues that might arise in the 2025 session of the New Mexico Legislature. That includes everything from environmental issues involving water to health care and housing. The Action Committee focuses only on issues before the NM Legislature. Hannah Burling who has been the state co-president for the past four years will be our speaker. She is one of the League's primary lobbyists.



For new members who might not be familiar with how league priorities and lobbying works, the first step is the Action Committee. Any member can join the Action Committee email list on the state website [here](#). The Action Committee decides which bills to follow and which bills to lobby lawmakers to support. The bills we support must be in some alignment with our local, state, or national positions. The [local](#) and [state positions](#) can be found in your member handbook as well as on our websites. The national positions are on the LWVUS website.

If you are interested in an issue that isn't covered in any of our positions, you can propose a study of the issue at the Program Planning meeting on January 25th. If you can develop some support among other members that agree you can form a study committee and begin learning about the issue. One of the terrific things about the League of Women Voters is the way we study issues before we take a stand on them. That gives us time to look at all sides of a problem before making a decision.

Hannah will be happy to talk about how the League sets priorities and how you can become more involved at the Noon meeting on January 9. Join us at the League office or via zoom.

February LWVCNM Educational Meeting

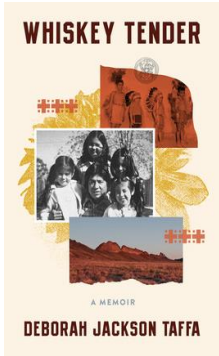
Please join LWVCNM for our monthly educational meeting Thursday 2/13/25 at Noon discussing the LWVUS Moonshot Goal: Abolition of the US Electoral College. Anne Galer will provide more information and update us on this initiative. This hybrid meeting will be in-person at the LWVCNM Conference room, 7639 Academy Blvd. NE. and via Zoom.

LWVCNM Book Club

Special Event

Save-the-Date! 2025 Kick-Off Event

Join us for a SPECIAL BOOK & AUTHOR event to launch the 2025 Book Club season! We are honored to host Deborah Jackson Taffa, 2024 National Book Award Finalist for her inspiring memoir, *Whiskey Tender*. With so much national political news emerging daily, we decided to bring our January selection “home” to New Mexico. **The book discussion will be followed by a Potluck Dinner Social Hour. Bring along a favorite dish to share with League members.**



Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Time: 5:00-7:30 p.m. (Note: earlier start time)

Location: 6739 Academy Road NE, Albuquerque, 87109 LWVCNM Office Conference Room, Ample Parking Available

Title: *Whiskey Tender* by Deborah Taffa (Harper Collins Harper) available on Amazon

Along with being a National Book Award Finalist, *Whiskey Tender* has been named to best lists at Oprah Daily, The Washington Post, Elle, and Esquire Magazines. With praise from The New Yorker, The NY Times, Zibby Mag, San Fran Chronicle, Publisher's Weekly, and Electric Lit, *Whiskey Tender* is an Amazon Editor's Best Choice Book.

Taffa is the Director of the MFACW program at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM (IAIA's Mission: To empower creativity and leadership in Indigenous arts and cultures through higher education, lifelong learning, and community engagement).

A citizen of the Quechan (Yuma) Nation and Laguna Pueblo, Deborah earned her MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. For a full bio, visit deborahaffa.com.

Here is one accolade of many by Tommy Orange, fellow award-winning Native American author for Taffa's memoir:

“In a memoir populated by dreams but legislated by family and culture and reality, Deborah Taffa suggests that if we are going to heal, we need to be able to remember our wounds. In a style that is by turns measured, then biting, then humorous, then humble, then soaring, Taffa has a personal and moral conversation with an untold history. This story—which centers around being both Native and American at the same time—is a great lesson for how we can hold, and even embrace, our divisions and our tensions to create a new mosaic for the future.”

New members are always welcome! If you are not able to complete a book before the session, no worries . . . join the session and complete the book at your convenience. Great conversation and a way to better get to know LWVCNM members.

The LWVCNM Book Club meets the 4th Wednesday of each odd-numbered month.

Contact Janet at 505-401-2052 for questions.

Making a Statement – LWV Program Planning for Advocacy

By Karen M. Douglas

Issues of interest to LWV members abound and frequently increase the desire to make a public statement or support/oppose legislation. However, LWV Bylaws restrict our advocacy to specific positions resulting from study and member consensus.

This Program Planning meeting poses an opportunity for LWV members to identify omissions in the current LWV Program and Positions which, if newly developed, revised, or supplemented, would better support LWV's ability to address situations existing in our community, state, or nation needing resolution or improvement.

To this end, the LWVCNM will host our annual

Program Planning Meeting

Saturday January 25, 2025, from 10:00 – Noon via Zoom

Study proposal introductions by members is strongly encouraged and the study, consensus, and position approval process, which is strictly defined, will be discussed.

Members wishing to take part are urged to review information on Local and State Positions (LWVCNM pp.36-39; LWVNM pp. 8-33 of the gray 2024-25 LWVCNM member Handbook) for adequacy and ideas from members introduced during the annual Program Planning for further consideration.

Local study proposals must then be presented during the March 2025 LWVCNM Board meeting, and published in the 2025 Annual Meeting Voter newsletter. LWVNM state study proposals must be presented at the March 2025 LWVNM Board Meeting and published in the spring 2025 LWVNM La Palabra newsletter.

Alternatively, supplementing current Positions by concurrence with other state or local League Positions is an option but also requires member approval by the LWVCNM Annual Meeting attendees (May 10, 2025) or LWVNM Convention Delegates (April 26-27, 2025).

Please reserve Saturday 1/25/25 to participate in this Zoom only LWVCNM Program Planning meeting for issues members would like to address and to discuss the process to develop these proposals into approved LWV Positions. LWVCNM needs your participation and perspective to better address issues in our local community and state.

Please contact Karen M. Douglas (505-263-3297) or douglaskm@alumni.stanford.edu for additional information or questions regarding the objectives of Program Planning.

Membership Corner

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their dues. If you have forgotten, there is still time until we revise our roster in early January before we make our payments to the National League.

Dues are \$65 per member and \$33 for additional household members.

You may use our PayPal account available at <https://www.lwvcnm.org/join-renew/> or send a check made out to LWVCNM at League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico,
6739 Academy Rd. NE Suite 124, Albuquerque NM 87109-3352.



LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study 2024-25

At the June 2024 LWVUS Convention delegates approved an expedited 1-year study of the Federal Judiciary with a condensed timeline intended for LWVUS Advocacy at the earliest opportunity.

LWV leaders were notified that information provided for members would be available in late 2024. LWVUS conducted the initial webinar on 11/20/25, followed by posting of recording link and slides:

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy-litigation/2024-2025-federal-judiciary-study-process-committee-and>

Information and study materials are continuously being updated on the study webpage. The basic timeline and several references may be viewed:

- * LWVUS Town Hall - January 2025 (date TBD)
- * Study materials posted to League Management site - December 2025 – February 2025
- * Consensus Questions distributed - 2/7/25
- * Local League Consensus meetings - 2/8/25 – 3/30/25
- * Deadline to submit Consensus Reports to LWVUS - 4/14/25
- * Federal Judiciary Position finalized during LWVUS Council - 6/26 – 6/28/25

LWVCNM will be communicating with members via Topics posts to encourage broad participation in this vital study improving advocacy for decisions shaping our democracy.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ida Humphrey

August 4, 1928 — December 12, 2024



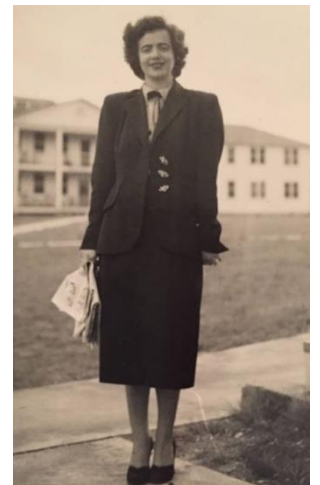
Ida Humphrey, a longtime member of the League, left us peacefully in her sleep on December 12th, 2024. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, and friend.

Born in Richmond, VA. on August 4, 1928, and raised in Hopewell, VA, she went on to attend Duke University to study Pre-Law and Accounting. While working in Oak Ridge TN, Ida met and married Howard Kraig, a Nuclear Engineer. Their growing family moved to Los Alamos, New Mexico and loved the green chile and the high desert of the southwest. Tragically, in 1969, Howard died at 43 leaving Ida a single mom.

She persevered and was hired in the Payroll Dept at Los Alamos Scientific Labs (LASL), working full time while raising 4 children. Ida loved the Native American Storyteller sculpture because it reminded her of raising 4 kids by herself. Her children quickly learned to be independent and self-sufficient and were encouraged to become anything they wanted.

Not wishing to live alone, Ida joined Parents Without Partners and after a bit of dating and a lot of square dancing, she married Dick Humphrey, also a LASL employee with 4 children of his own.

(cont.)



When she was 4 years old, Ida had observed the inaugural parade for Franklin Roosevelt from her uncle's furniture store. This may have sparked her lifelong active involvement in politics. She devoted much time working with the League of Women Voters, Los Alamos Jewish Center, Hadassah, and the Democratic Party, and was elected to serve on the Los Alamos County Council.

In the mid-1980s, Ida and Dick retired to Albuquerque where they remained active, eventually moving to La Vida Llena where they enjoyed socializing, square dance and traveling the world until Richard passed away in January 2023.

Ida's memory will live on in friends and family whom she has touched during her more than 96 years.

Jennice Fishburn

Jennice Fishburn had been active in both the LWVNM and LWVCNM and had served in the capacity of a past State Secretary and on the State Voter Guide committee. A brief remembrance of her was included in the November Voter, but her husband Donn provided a more complete biography and, indicating that the League was very important to her, has pledged a contribution to the LWVCNM to continue her membership into the future.

Jennice was born in Ardmore, OK but grew up in small towns in West Texas. After high school in Tulia, TX she attended Texas Tech where she studied journalism.

After working briefly for the Lubbock Avalanche Journal, she moved to Washington D.C. where she worked from 1961 to 1963 as a general assignment reporter for the U.S. Information Agency. A favorite story of hers was about tourists thinking she must be somebody really important when they saw her go into the West Wing of the White House. If they only knew that she was sent there to pick up press releases because she was the newbie at the agency.

From 1963 to 1965 she served in the Peace Corps in East Pakistan – now Bangladesh. She worked on the nutritional survey team and developed educational materials that were used by the government and colleges there. At the end of her Peace Corps service, she and one of her roommates took nearly four months to come home travelling through the Middle East and on to Europe.

Her time in the Peace Corps inspired her to get her Masters in Public Health at UC Berkeley. She then worked for several county health departments in California from 1968 to 1993 as she and her first husband made several moves up the coast from San Diego eventually ending up in Santa Cruz County.

From 1993 to 1998 she worked for ETR Associates where her primary responsibility was managing the tobacco education clearing house for the state.

In 1990 she met Donn, her son's wrestling coach. They were married in 1995. After Donn's retirement from teaching in 2007 they moved to Placitas. They travelled to many countries both before and after retirement.

Jennice passed away on October 2nd, 2024. She will be greatly missed.



LWVCNM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Starlyn Brown

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Voter Guide Distribution: Lani Desaulniers

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Karen Wentworth

Volunteer Coordinator:
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If you need help with Zoom,
please reach out to Zoom host, Linda Miller,
lmiller@unm.edu

Please submit your articles for the monthly Voter by
the 15th of each month to Michal Mudd at:

VoterEditorMichal@gmail.com

LWVCNM CALENDAR

January 8th (Wednesday) 5:30 pm

LWVCNM Board Meeting, ZOOM until further notice. All members welcome.

January 9th (Thursday) 12 Noon

**LWVCNM Monthly Educational Meeting
In person and ZOOM**

**Topic: The 2025 Legislative Session and
League Priorities**

**Speaker: Hannah Burling, LWVNM Co-
President**

See details pg. 2

January 20th (Monday)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21st (Tuesday) Noon

**Start of New Mexico Legislative Session
(ends March 22nd)**

January 22nd (Wednesday) 5:00-7:30 p.m.

LWVCNM Book Club

**LWVCNM Book Club Book and Author
Special Event**

**Selection: *Whiskey Tender* by Deborah Taffa
See article pg. 3**

January 25th (Saturday) 10 am – 12 pm

**Program Planning Meeting,
See details pg. 4
Via Zoom only**

February 5th (Wednesday) 5:30 pm

LWVCNM Board Meeting, ZOOM until further notice. All members welcome.

February 5th (Wednesday)

League Legislative reception

February 6th (Thursday)

League Day at the Legislature.

December 2024 - Status of the Consent Decree between US DOJ and CABQ

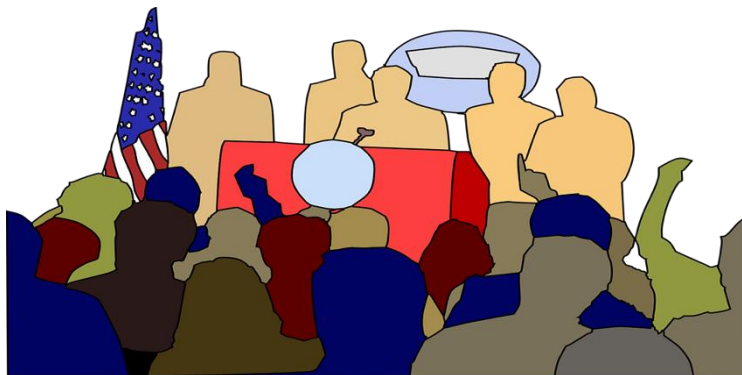
Report by Karen Douglas

This Independent Monitor Report (IMR) 20 covers the period of February 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024, and reports the findings of the Independent Monitor and his team related to the progress made by the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) in achieving compliance with the Court Approved Settlement Agreement (Consent Decree/CASA, originally established between DOJ & CABQ 2014).

The 12-10-24 Federal Hearing discussed IMR 20 conclusions and permitted Parties (DOJ; CABQ/APD; & APOA/APD union) testimony and AMICI (APD Forward & Community Coalition) responses. The US DOJ plaintiff specified that the objective was evaluation of constitutional policing practices by APD and would not discuss individual police shootings or recent account of racist slurs by officers. Individual investigations of officer misconduct are ongoing and not subject to comment. In addition to decreased firearm use, incidents of tazer or hands-on force also decreased during this 20th monitoring period as well as violations of required Body Cam usage. An increased number of use of force (UOF) instances proportionately represent the greater number of arrests and don't require additional evaluation (during 2023 UOF increases reflect a 30% felony arrest increase and 2024 UOF increases reflect a 32% increase in felony arrests).

183 of a total 276 Consent Decree paragraphs have been terminated and now are subject to self-monitoring by CABQ auditors for two years with subsequent dismissal of the Consent Decree if they remain in compliance. 42 of the 273 original Consent Decree paragraphs remain and continue to be reported by IM Ginger. Additionally, this 20th monitoring period represented APD efforts without the contributions of the External Force Investigation Team which previously provided APD training and supplemented APD UOF investigations. Four paragraphs remaining out of compliance reflect both the lack of staffing and timeliness of the Civilian Police Oversight Agency appointed by the City Council, which evaluates use of force instances by APD and recommends officer discipline. Although CPOA staff have been supplemented, a training and orientation period is anticipated prior to full effectiveness. Consent Decree Parties (DOJ; CABQ/APD; & APOA/APD union) testified and AMICI (APD Forward & Community Coalition) responded 12-10-24 but no major concerns resulted.

CABQ leadership also discussed a letter of reprimand issued to APD Chief Medina for a recent auto collision resulting in civilian injury, and that excess Police Service Aide staff have now been reassigned to city transit, a separate department, in response to public riders' complaints. Also that, although CABQ ranks #8 nationally for auto theft, both Las Cruces and Santa Fe now rank higher.



OBSERVER REPORTS



Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting

18 November / 2 December 2024

Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick

All nine councilors were present at the 18 Nov meeting. All councilors except Councilor Sanchez (who was excused) attended the 2 Dec meeting. Councilors: Louie Sanchez – District 1, Joaquin Baca – District 2, Klarissa Peña – District 3, Brook Bassan – District 4, Dan Lewis – District 5, Nichole Rogers – District 6, Tammy Fiebelkorn – District 7, Dan Champine – District 8, Renée Grout – District 9.

General Public Comment:

Twelve members of the public spoke at the 2 Dec meeting in protest of the 18 Oct officer-involved shooting of Matthew Solo Garcia at the Tewa Lodge on Central Ave. The speakers called for transparency, particular release of lapel camera video. Speakers called for accountability for Garcia's family, who also spoke at the meeting.

City/County Boundary Area Advisory Committee

At the 18 Nov meeting the Council passed an ordinance to create an advisory committee consisting of representatives from the city, county, ABCWUA (water utility), AMAFCA (Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority), and MRGCD (Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District). The Boundary Area Advisory Committee will be responsible for creating processes to improve infrastructure and service delivery in areas with adjacent city and county jurisdictions. One public commenter suggested that problems with jurisdictional issues are not limited to city/county borders, but to other city/governmental entity borders as well. The measure passed by a vote of eight for (Baca, Champine, Fiebelkorn, Grout, Lewis, Peña, Rogers, Sanchez) and one opposed (Bassan). The mayor signed this bill. [O-24-49](#)

Required Written Responses to Admin Q&A

At the 18 Nov meeting the Council passed a bill requiring the administration to provide written responses to questions posed by council members during the Administration Question and Answer segment of council meetings. Councilors cited occasions on which they never received responses to questions they have asked. This bill requires a written response if the Administration is unable to answer a question during the meeting. The bill further requires responses to be published on a publicly accessible website. The vote passed by a seven (Baca, Bassan, Champine, Fiebelkorn, Grout, Lewis, Sanchez) to two (Peña, Rogers). The bill was not signed by the major, but because he did not veto it, it became effective. [O-24-50](#)

Social Media Policy

At the 18 Nov meeting the Council passed a resolution requiring the Administration to develop and implement a social media policy that ensures appropriate use of the city's social media accounts. This is in response to reports that the police department's public information officer has repeatedly engaged in unprofessional and inflammatory communication through social media. This issue has been discussed at council meetings several times over the past year. The measure passed by a vote of eight in favor (Baca, Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Peña, Rogers, Sanchez) to one opposed (Fiebelkorn). [R-24-89](#)

Legislative Agenda Priorities

At the 18 Nov meeting the Council passed an ordinance which gives direction to coordinate the Council and Administration interactions in compiling the city's funding and other priorities for the state legislative session. The ordinance was signed by the mayor. [O-24-53](#)

It is evident that such a process improvement is needed because the legislative priorities list that was passed at the 2 Dec meeting was a laundry list of each councilor's priorities and a separate list from the mayor. There was no comprehensive list to narrow the wish lists into priorities. [OC-24-26](#) (Council's priorities). [EC-24-263](#) (Mayor's priorities).



Observer Corps Report – Bernalillo County Commission

December 2024

Karen Wentworth

Bernalillo County Commission Raises Salaries, Supports Housing Activities

All five commissioners attended the meeting: Steve Quezada, Barbara Baca, Eric Olivas, Adrian Barboa, Walt Benson

Bernalillo County Commissioners gave themselves a 15% raise at their meeting on Dec. 10. That means commissioners will now make \$44,969 per year. The commission also passed salary increases for the County Clerk, Treasurer and Assessor, who will now each make \$99,626 per year and the Probate Judge \$43,869. This is the first time commissioners have been free to set salaries at any level they choose. Formerly, the state legislature had guidelines for how much commissioners and other county officials could earn. However, voters passed Constitutional Amendment #4 in November which removed all guardrails that constrained salary increases.

The League has no state or local position on salaries for public officials.

Bernalillo County continues to work toward housing solutions for special groups. The county owns a building at 2045 Wyoming Blvd. NE. which will be leased to a non-profit organization, Wings for Life, to be used for inmates released from the Metropolitan Detention Center and their families. It's not completely clear whether the families will be housed at the building or whether it will be a center for support services.

The commission also approved an administrative resolution declaring an intent to issue \$16 million in project revenue bonds to finance the acquisition/rehabilitation of an existing 42-unit public housing property and the construction of an additional 46 units.

In a separate action the commission approved an administrative resolution to issue Project Revenue Bonds/Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds for \$28,900,000 in connection with a new multifamily development project.

The League has a strong housing position that supports public effort to find affordable housing solutions for county residents.

The commission voted down an ordinance change sponsored by Commissioner Quezada to allow commissioners to be appointed to positions in the county immediately after leaving office.

(cont.)

The Bernalillo County Commission passed an ordinance to allow fire fighters and first responders to consume medical marijuana when off the job.

In another action, the Commission also agreed to co-operate with the City of Albuquerque to form an advisory committee to resolve problems with businesses and private property owners in determining the boundaries of the City and County on infrastructure issues.

The League has formally held the position that the City of Albuquerque and the County of Bernalillo should consolidate for more than 70 years.

Mountain View Neighborhood Update

Earlier this year, The League heard about air quality problems in the Mountain View Neighborhood in the Southwest Section of the City of Albuquerque. Those problems still exist and the court case to determine whether the City Council could arbitrarily withdraw from a joint City County Air Quality Control Board remains to be heard.

However, Bernalillo County has decided to take proactive action to begin a sector planning process to try to bring non-polluting business development to that area of the city.

Here's a short video explaining what the county is doing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeUNeF-Dvpo>

This video is also available on the Bernalillo County YouTube channel.



Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

December 12, 2024

Mary Templeton, observer

Present: David Heil (Chair), Michael Meek (Acting Chair), Jay Block, Joshua Jones, Katherine Bruch

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

Elections - Canvass Report

Sandoval County has 112,285 eligible voters, of whom 79,938 voted in the November 5, 2024 General Election. Comparison of the voter roster count against ballot tabulation showed 3 disagreements that were later resolved.

As background:

LWVUS supports electoral systems that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters. LWVNM supports the protection of the right of every citizen to vote, verifiable and auditable procedures to guarantee the integrity of all statutory methods of voting, a centralized voter registration and election management system, and methods that increase voter participation, including automatic voter registration and same-day voter registration.

Additional Comments

Public Comment

Three of 22 speakers voiced appreciation for the Commission's service, plus four staff from Desert Mountain Healing, an addiction treatment facility, expressed gratitude for client scholarships provided

by the Commission. One additional person expressed appreciation for the Clerk's and her staff's work during the election. Three speakers spoke in protest of the County's election certification, while three others advocated for voter ID and in-person, election day, paper ballot voting only. Three people expressed concerns about the adequacy of the new Animal Shelter to be constructed and staffed with bond funds passed during the election. Two people from Placitas expressed concern over sediment from a quarry eroding onto a public road.

Establishing the Salaries for Newly Elected or Re-Elected County Officials

In response to the Constitutional amendment passed by voters during the November 5, 2024 election, the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to give County employees a 15% raise for 2025 that includes part-time Commissioner salaries of roughly \$44,000. The 15% increase is consistent with the raise percentage approved in Bernalillo County.

Sandoval County Commission Website

<https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/commission/>



Middle Rio Grande Housing Commission (MRGHC)

Affordable Housing Report

November 25, 2024

The MRGHC met at 3:00 pm, Thursday, November 25, 2024 at the MRCOG Board Room. All MRGHC commissioners were present at the meeting: Talia Friedman, Dan Majewski, Lawrence Rael, Ian Robertson and Steve Anaya.

Also in attendance were County Commissioner Barbara Baca, representing Bernalillo County and City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn, representing the City of Albuquerque.

Agenda Item Updates: The minutes for September 26 and October 24 were reviewed and approved. MRGHC Chair Friedman reported that two applications were received for the MRGHC Executive Director position. She anticipated an official announcement of the Commission's decision soon. Bernalillo County General Counsel, Larry Hogan, announced that a Letter of Collateralization had been signed between MRCOG and MRGHC and that a separate bank account for the MRGHC will be set up soon.

The MRGHC members received updates on the proposed affordable housing project lists discussed at the November meeting from the staff of the City of Albuquerque, the Bernalillo County Housing Department and the Bernalillo County Economic Development Department. There were no new properties added to the lists however some housing projects have changed in price as construction costs have increased considerably. One of the avenues to offset the cost increases is for public lands owned by the City or County to be potentially donated to a housing project or community land trust – but research needs to be conducted as to the legal regulations for land donations. Each governmental entity stated that they will review and finalize their proposed affordable housing lists in order to consolidate into one MRGHC 2025 funding request list to the 2025 NM Legislature.

(cont.)

MRGHC members discussed the proposed process for communicating the MRGHC's \$100M 2025 Legislative funding request to the NM Governor's Office and the 2025 NM Legislative leadership. A transmittal letter will be developed which provides an overview of the MRGHC organization and the affordable housing funding needs and an attachment of the consolidated Exhibit of proposed housing projects. It is anticipated that meetings will be set up prior to the 2025 session start date with Governor's Office staff and NM Legislative leadership. More details and next steps in this regard will be provided at the next MRGHC December meeting.

The next MRGHC meeting date will be Thursday, December 19, 2024 @ 3pm at MRCOG Board room.

Volunteer Opportunities

Because Democracy is not a Spectator Sport....

We need your skills, your enthusiasm, and your commitment to the myriad of projects always underway. From simple clerical tasks to grass roots advocacy, ongoing or project-by project, we can fit your interests to a volunteer job. Expanding our volunteer base is a top priority of LWVCNM.



How to Find Out More About Volunteering? It's easy! Contact us at :

(505) 884-8441 or lwvcnmoffice@gmail.com Leave a message with your name/phone number and expressing your interest in finding out more about volunteering. We'll contact you to match your interests/skills with a volunteer position, explain tasks involved, review time commitment for various positions, and offer training where needed.



6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suite 124
Albuquerque, NM 87109

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization is a nonpartisan political organization, that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy by education and advocacy.