



The Voter

1472 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038

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November 2015

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Message from the President

Dear League Members:

We need new volunteers for several jobs as we gear up for the 2016 election season, which will be a very busy one. First, there will be candidate forums and voter education activities ahead of the March 1 municipal election. Then come the June primary and November general election. Since it is a presidential election year, we are hoping for good voter turnout, but we will work to educate people on the importance of voting as well as the issues involved. If you would like to become involved, please let us know.



The League has continued to press local government bodies to conduct hearings on major community issues at set times. We believe this allows the public to attend and speak at public hearings without having to spend long hours waiting for the item to come up on agendas.

It appears that the County Commission will do just that for its final hearings and votes on the Sustainable Growth Management Code. Those hearings are scheduled for November 24 and December 8, both at 5:00 p.m. The revised Sustainable Land Development Plan was adopted by a vote of 4-0 on October 27. The League has been following and commenting on these for seven years, so we are happy to see them coming to final approval.

October was a big month for League events. At the beginning of October, there was an update on the city's plans for solid waste and recycling, followed by the nonfiction book club, where members discuss recent books about important issues facing us.

On November 17, there will be a consensus meeting on the LWVUS study, Money in Politics. Study materials are available (see related article in



**Join or renew your membership.
See page 11.**

this issue). Please come to this important meeting, and help us reach consensus on the questions.

The League general meeting and luncheon later in the month included a fascinating update on the issue of whether there could be a local public bank. The financial feasibility study is well underway, and we look forward to seeing the results. Then we'll see about the political feasibility!

We have had and are planning parties. Our fundraiser on October 29 was a big success, a lot of fun, and a chance to meet new members as well as recruit others. Be sure to reserve for the Holiday Lunch on December 16, with a special speaker. In addition, we are working to bring a special event to the League and the public, most likely in December. Stay tuned, and we will send e-mail updates.

-Judy Williams

use efficiency to reduce the need to add generating capacity to meet peak demand.

Gerard Ortiz, Vice President of PNM Regulatory Affairs, said customer-owned solar provides both benefits and challenges to PNM. The benefits are that it does not rely on transmission, and provides some capacity during peak demand hours. The major challenge is figuring out a fair way to divide fixed costs, which are 70% of PNM's total costs, between customers who do and those who don't install solar generation. He said that while it is now cost-effective for customers to install rooftop solar, this is largely due to subsidies of various sorts.

Regina Wheeler, Chief Executive Officer of Positive Energy Solar, provided a rousing finish to the evening with her enthusiasm for solar generation.

-Neva Van Peski

Summary: Distributed Generation Forum September 30, 2015



David Van Winkle, of New Energy Economy, pointed out that while customer-owned solar is growing rapidly—there are now 4,602 customer-owned solar installations in PNM's service territory—so far solar installations have been made by fewer than 1% of PNM's 513,000 customers. He said that PNM's figures on subsidization of future customer-owned solar generation showed it to be small.

Jeremy Lewis, of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, provided a map showing state-wide installations of utility-scale solar and wind generation, as well as statistics on customer-owned solar installations by county since 2008. He described New Mexico's programs to encourage more renewable energy and to



We Remember Eileen Souder

Becky Frenkel remembers Eileen Souder as a "great member." She joined the Santa Fe League in the 1980s, right after moving here from Missouri.

Eileen was president of the Independence, Missouri, League of Women Voters, and later president of the Missouri state League.

In Santa Fe in the 1980s-90s, Eileen was responsible for many production runs of "Know Your Town." She had a life-long interest in foreign affairs and kept current on that ever-changing subject.

Eileen missed very few League functions: luncheons, election work, unit meetings, speaker events.

A great member, indeed.

-Miriam Ries

Fundraising Report

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County thanks the following **members and supporters** for their generous donations to the education fund and general operations of the League that have been received as of November 2, 2015:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Natalie Agraz | Elizabeth Allred | Joyce Blalock |
| Barbara Bloomberg | Joan Heiges Blythe | George & Jean Callaghan |
| Barbara Conroy | Melvin Duncan | Rebecca Frenkel |
| Chris Furlanetto | Faith Garfield | Rosemary Neidel Greenlee |
| James Harrington | Pat & Dick Hawkins | Donna Spina Helmholz |
| Marcy Litzenberg | Kathleen Keith | Cathy Kinney |
| Ruth Kovnat | Patricia Kushlis | Berit Leonard |
| Elizabeth Manak-Robert | Steven Melander-Dayton | Julia Nathanson |
| Pat Pedersen | Donna Reynolds | Miriam Ries |
| Martha Romero | Elizabeth Stefanics | Elizabeth Roghair |
| Yvonne Sininger | Lori Stonecipher | |
| Alan Webber & Frances Diemoz | | |
| Judith Williams & Elliot Stern | | |

Thank You

Nonfiction Book Club – “*The Witches: Salem, 1692*” by Stacey Schiff



The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at Collected Works Book Store beginning at 10:30 a.m. At the October Book Club meeting, members chose the April 2016 selection, “The Witches: Salem, 1692” by Stacey Schiff. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Cleopatra*, the #1 national bestseller, unpacks the mystery of the Salem Witch Trials.

From the NY Times, “the essential paradox of Salem — the very thing that makes it worth returning to — is that it took place so late, in the twilight of the long golden age of European witch-hunting, among sophisticated and ambitious people, who were in most ways radical and in some respects downright avant-garde.” Get reading, and we will see you in April!

- Donna Reynolds



Rosemary Greenlee
Valerie Romero
Marsha Harner



Highlights Board Meeting October 14, 2015

- The Board nominated Janet Lincoln as its representative on the League Nominating Committee for 2016. The Board will ask a second person to sit on the committee as well.
- The League website is receiving updates and new information on a regular basis since there are now three people able to input information on the site.
- Working from Marcy's strategic plan for the League, Pat Hawkins will send the Board an updated and revised strategic plan for discussion and approval.
- A group from the Board is working on a Planning Template to organize activities and timelines for League events and programs.
- Our press list is currently being revised.
- The Treasurer and President will meet with a CPA to discuss the budget layout so that it can include the Education Fund and possibly a space for "In-Kind Donations."
- The Treasurer has completed the annual end-of-year reports to the IRS and State.
- The League received a donation from the estate of Mary Honor Riven.
- Donna gave the link to the guidelines for getting money from the Education Fund. The money is available for public education activities carried out by the League, and includes supplies, advertising, and so forth. Documentation is needed for all expenditures.
- The Constitutional Amendment Consensus Report was approved by the Board.
- Judy is organizing a fund-raising team to explore fund-raising issues for the League. Volunteers to this group are welcome.
- Janet reported that we have 60% renewals on membership thus far for 2016. A reminder e-mail will go out soon.

-Nancy Chambers



Suffragette—Now Showing at Santa Fe's Violet Crown Theatre

Suffragette is the story of Britain's early 20th century battle for women's suffrage. These courageous women were the foot soldiers of the early feminist movement, women who were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat and mouse with an increasingly brutal State. Filmed mostly in London, it is the first film in history to be shot in the Houses of Parliament.

Donate Items to the Silent Auction

Donate your treasures to be auctioned off at the League's Holiday Party in December. Leave them at the League office between December 1-10, or bring to the party.



**RENEW
MEMBERSHIP**

If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so now—but no later than December 31. After that date, non-renewals will be moved from "active" to "inactive" status. You are important to the League.

We don't want to lose you!!

League Participates in National Money in Politics Review and Update

Please join the LWV of Santa Fe County as we participate in this important League study and update on an issue that is critical to our democracy. LWVSFC hosted a local “Money in Politics” program over the summer, highlighting proposed campaign finance law changes for the City of Santa Fe. **Our local League will host a “Money in Politics” Consensus meeting on November 17, 2015, at the Santa Fe Association of REALTORS office located at 510 N. Guadalupe across from the National Cemetery from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. NOTE NEW LOCATON AND TIME.** Please plan to attend and bring your lunch! See information below on the study/update and the consensus questions:



MONEY IN POLITICS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

With Links to MIP Committee Papers

This update on Money in Politics builds on the League’s current position on campaign finance. The consensus questions in Part I address the goals of campaign finance regulation in terms of democratic values. The questions in Part II relate to the extent to which First Amendment protections like free speech and freedom of the press should apply to various speakers and activities in the campaign finance context. Part III asks about methods of campaign finance regulation. **You are asked to respond to the questions without regard for the Supreme Court’s current views on the First Amendment.** In responding to each question, please interpret the words in their most general sense. Keep in mind that the LWV intentionally words positions that are derived from member study in the broadest possible way so that our positions have relevance for many years. Future national Boards will determine when and how to apply our positions.

An optional comment section is included at the end of each of the three parts. Please note that while comments will be read and considered, only responses to questions can be tabulated.

Because issues around Money in Politics and its First Amendment implications are so complex, there is some overlap in the topics covered in the background papers. For each of the three question parts below we have matched papers to provide helpful background information on those topics. All of the readings can be found at <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>.

PART I QUESTIONS: Democratic Values and Interests with Respect to Financing Political Campaigns

Background Readings

Here are readings that provide background on the issues that the Part I questions are asking about:

Money in Politics: Introduction and Overview (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-mip-introduction-and-overview>)

Shifts in Supreme Court Opinion about Money in Politics (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-shifts-supreme-court-opinion-about-money-politics>)

The Role of the Supreme Court in Interpreting the Constitution (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-role-supreme-court-interpreting-constitution>)

Evidence of Spending's Impact on Electoral and Legislative Outcomes

Corruption and Rationales for Regulating Campaign Finance (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-corruption-and-rationales-regulating-campaign-finance>)

1. What should be the goals and purposes of campaign finance regulation?

(Please respond to each item in Question 1.)

- a. Seek political equality for all citizens.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus
- b. Protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus
- c. Enable candidates to compete equitably for public office.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus
- d. Ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus
- e. Ensure that economic and corporate interests are part of election dialogue.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus
- f. Provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus
- g. Ensure the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus
- h. Combat corruption and undue influence in government.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus



2. Evaluate whether the following activities are types of political corruption:

(Please respond to each item in Question 2.)

- a. A candidate or officeholder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor's interests in exchange for campaign contribution.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus
- b. An officeholder or her/his staff gives greater access to donors.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus
- c. An officeholder votes or works to support policies that reflect the preferences of individuals or organizations in order to attract contributions from them.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus
- d. An office holder seeks political contributions implying that there will be retribution unless a donation is given.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus
- e. The results of the political process consistently favor the interests of significant campaign contributors.
 - Agree Disagree No consensus

PART II QUESTIONS: First Amendment Protections for Speakers and Activities in Political Campaigns

This set of questions is designed to determine the extent to which the First Amendment protections of free speech and freedom of the press should apply to different speakers or activities in the regulation of campaign finance. Free speech and free press provide essentially the same protections to speakers, writers, publishers and advertising, whether or not they are part of the institutional press, and largely regardless of the medium. Essentially, these protections extend to any conduct that is expressive. Many of the options below would be found unconstitutional by the current Supreme Court, but we are seeking your League's views, not those of the Court. These are broad, overarching questions about spending to influence an election, including independent spending, contributions to candidates, broadcast news and other communication expenditures.

Background Readings

Here are readings that provide background on the issues that the Part II questions ask about:

The First Amendment (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-first-amendment>)

The Debate: Can Government Regulate Money in Politics? (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-debate-can-government-regulate-money-politics>)

Independent Expenditures (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-independent-expenditures>)

The New Soft Money, pp. 17-27 (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/new-soft-money-daniel-p-tokaji-renata-e-b-strause-e-book>)

1. Many different individuals and organizations use a variety of methods to communicate their views to voters in candidate elections. Should spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited?

(Please respond to each item in Question 1.)

- a. Individual citizens, including wealthy individuals like George Soros and the Koch Brothers.
 - Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus
- b. Political Action Committees, sponsored by an organization, such as the League of Conservation Voters, Chevron, the American Bankers Association, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), whose campaign spending comes from contributions by individuals associated with the sponsoring organization, such as employees, stockholders, members and volunteers.
 - Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus
- c. For-profit organizations, like Exxon, Ben and Jerry's, General Motors, and Starbucks, from their corporate treasury funds.
 - Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus
- d. Trade associations, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Wind Energy Association, and the American Petroleum Institute, from the association's general treasury funds.
 - Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus
- e. Labor unions, like the United Autoworkers and Service Employees International, from the union's general treasury funds.

f. Non-profit organizations, like the Sierra Club, Wisconsin Right to Life, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, American Crossroads, and Priorities USA, from the organization's general treasury funds.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

g. Non-partisan voter registration and GOTV (get out the vote) organizations and activities, like the LWV and Nonprofit Vote.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

h. Political parties, like the Republicans, Libertarians, and Democrats.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

i. Candidates for public office spending money the candidate has raised from contributors.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

j. Candidates for public office spending their own money.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

2. The press plays a major role in candidate elections through editorial endorsements, news coverage, and other communications directly to the public that are often important to the outcome. Should such spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited?



(Please respond to each item in Question 2.)

a. Newspapers, like the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

b. Television and other electronic media, like Fox News, CNN, MSNBC and CBS.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

c. Internet communications, like Huffington Post, Breitbart, Daily Kos, and individual bloggers.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

PART III QUESTIONS: Methods for Regulating Campaign Finance to Protect the Democratic Process

Background Readings

Here are readings that provide background on the issues that the Part III questions are asking about:

- *Options to Reform Money in Politics*

Action in the States (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-action-states>)
Enforcement of Federal Campaign Finance Law

In order to achieve the goals for campaign finance regulation, should the League support?

(Please respond to each item in Question 1 a and b.)

1.a. Abolishing Super PACs and spending coordinated or directed by candidates, other than a candidate's own single campaign committee.

Agree Disagree No consensus

1.b. Restrictions on direct donations and bundling by lobbyists? (Restrictions may include monetary limits as well as other regulations.)

Agree Disagree No consensus

1.c. Public funding for candidates? Should the League support:

(You may respond to more than one item in Question 1 c.)

i. Voluntary public financing of elections where candidates who choose to participate must also abide by reasonable spending limits?

Agree Disagree No consensus

ii. Mandatory public financing of elections where candidates must participate and abide by reasonable spending limits?

Agree Disagree No consensus

iii. Public financing without spending limits on candidates?

Agree Disagree No consensus



How should campaign finance regulations be administered and enforced?

(You may choose more than one response for Question 2.)

- a. By an even-numbered commission with equal representation by the two major political parties to ensure partisan fairness (current Federal Election Commission [FEC] structure)?
- b. By an odd-numbered commission with at least one independent or nonpartisan commissioner to ensure decisions can be made in case of partisan deadlock?
- c. By structural and budget changes to the FEC (e.g., commission appointments, staffing, security, budget, decision making process) that would allow the agency to function effectively and meet its legislative and regulatory mandates.
- d. No consensus. _____



Calendar 2015-2016

2015

November

November 11, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
 November 13, 12-2: Past Presidents meeting
November 14, 11 - 3: LWVNM Board meeting, Socorro
 November 17, 11-1: Unit Meeting - LWVUS Study
 "Money in Politics" - Consensus

December

December 8, 9-11: Unit Meeting - Program Planning
 December 9, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
December 12, LWVNM Lobbying Workshop, Albuquerque
 December 16, 11:30-1:30: Holiday Lunch – SFPS
 Superintendent Joel Boyd (Hilton)

2016

January

January 13, 11:30-1:30: Lunch - Legislative Preview
 (Hilton)
 January 13 1:30 -3:30: LWVSFC Board meeting
January 16, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting Albuquerque

February

February 3, 5:30-7:30: Legislative Reception
February 4, League Day at the Legislature
 February 10, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
 February 9, 11, 16 or 18, 6-8 PM: Municipal Election
 Candidate Forums
 February 17, 3-5: Meeting with Mayor Gonzales
 February 25 or 26: 10-12: County Mural History Tour

March – Municipal Election Day – March 1

March 4, 9-11: Unit Meeting – LWVNM Charter
 Schools Study Update
 March 9, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
 March 16, 6-8 PM: One Person/One Vote – Supreme
 Court Forum – Sunshine Week Event
March 12, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe

March 26, 9-11: Women's History Month Breakfast
April

April 1, 9-11: Unit Meeting – LWVSFC Economic
 Development Study Consensus meeting
 April 12, 9-11: Breakfast with a Leader – Food
 Security (Food Depot)
 April 13, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
 April 24, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club,
 Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo Street

May

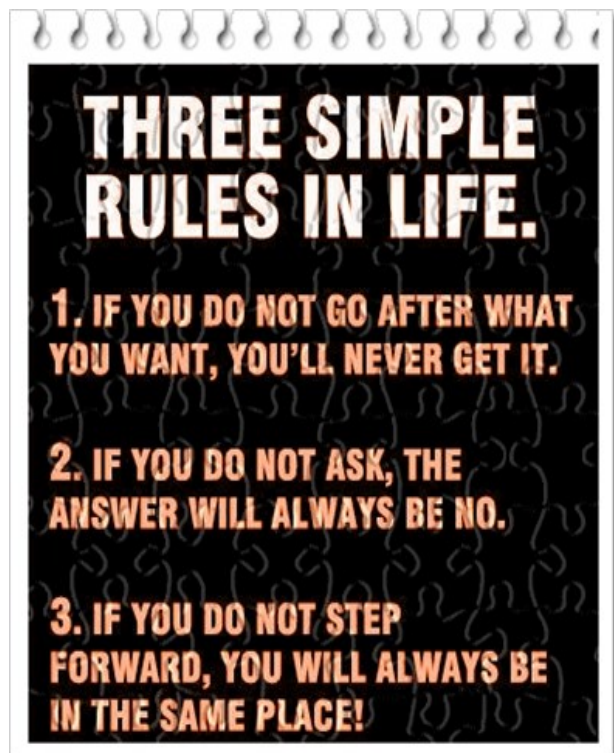
May 4, 11:30-1:30: Annual Meeting (Hilton)
 May 11, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
May 21, LWVNM Council – Los Alamos

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates.

**LWVNM and other organization functions in italics*

Regular meetings:

Action-Advocacy 1st Thursday of each month at Rio
 Chama Restaurant
 LWVSFC Board 2nd Wednesday of each month
 Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore –
 202 Galisteo Street
Unit Meetings are only for League members



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY
NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: _____ Name: *(please print)* _____

Address: *(please include zip)* _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ DO NOT include my contact information in the annual Membership Handbook directory listing.

Membership is paid annually between September 1–August 31 and includes state (LWVNM) and national (LWVUS) dues.

Make membership check payable to LWVSFC for:

_____ Individual and Associate membership: \$54 (Associate members are non-U.S. citizens, who cannot vote on League matters.)

_____ Family membership: \$80 *(Individual plus one family member)*

_____ Student membership: \$30 *(For students 25 years or younger and currently enrolled in accredited institution.)*

_____ Unrestricted general fund contribution *(not tax deductible)*: \$_____

_____ Education Fund *(tax deductible)*: \$_____ *(Make separate check payable to LWVSFC Education Fund.)*

Want THE VOTER newsletter delivery via email? It's faster and saves the League money. _____ Email _____ Snail mail

The Action & Advocacy Committee is open to any member and currently focused on the following issues. Circle those of interest to you, and a League member will contact you for further information and discussion.

Issues *(check as many as apply or fill in blank)*:

Healthcare Local govt. Ethics/Transparency Natural Resources Education Other

LWVSFC success is based on the assistance of member volunteers. We welcome and encourage your help.

Volunteer Interests *(circle as many as apply or fill in blank)*:

Work on Issues:

Monitor public meetings Lobby government officials Study groups Other

Voter Services:

Candidate forums/meetings Voter publications Information tables Voter registration Other

Organizational Support:

Help at events Fundraising Membership Publication content Website Staff League office

Other _____

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE LWVSFC, 1472 ST. FRANCIS DR., SANTA FE NM 8750



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