

League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County



The Voter

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Vol. 70, No. 6

October-November 2021

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“Vote Early—Vote Informed!”

That’s the message LWVSFC has been sending out to our community in so many ways this election season. Especially this year, with COVID still limiting our lives and with delays in the postal service, County Clerk Katharine Clark (interview on [page 5](#)) urges us to make sure our vote counts by voting at one of the many early vote centers in the county or sending in absentee ballots ahead of time.

We fielded voter registration teams over four weekends in September and October. More than 2,500 flyers and pamphlets in Spanish and English were distributed through many partnerships in the community, including the Food Depot, Chain Breakers and others ([page 3](#)). The Voter Guide was published on October 1 in *The Santa Fe New Mexican* and is available on our website lwvsfc.org. [VOTE411](#), the League’s “one stop shop” for voting information, went live at the beginning of October.

Our student interns ([page 11](#)) have been busy getting our youth involved in the election through social media, and we held four candidate forums, three of them live-streamed by *The New Mexican* ([page 9](#)).

Local elections have the most immediate effect on our everyday lives—so encourage your friends, family and neighbors to get out and vote!

In Memoriam

Pat Hawkins

Our friend and colleague, **Pat Hawkins**, died suddenly on October 6. She was a loyal and active League member for the last decade, undertaking various tasks, including Communications and Voter Services. She was a regular at Action and Advocacy meetings, and she brought humor and a solid perspective to board meetings, viewing issues rationally and seeking workable solutions.

Pat was a fearless moderator of candidate forums, remaining poised even when a candidate once stalked out at the beginning of a forum, protesting something or other. In the 2020 election she had to master the new Voter Guide, Vote411.org. She managed it, and the debut of the new online system was a great success.



Pat served the country in the US Foreign Service in France, West Africa and the Caribbean, rising to become Ambassador to Togo. Pat had the wit and charm to manage any situation.

She was a great teller of exciting, humorous and sometimes harrowing stories from her career, and was a talented cook and dinner party host. Pat was usually the best dressed woman in the room. She is also remembered for contributing many exotic items from her various postings to the League's silent auctions.

Pat was fluent in French and spoke Spanish with a charming, if thick, French accent. I never heard anything quite like it! I will miss her greatly as a dear friend, travel companion and colleague.

—*Judy Williams*



*Kelly Davis,
VP Voter Services*

**Ready...
Set...
VOTE!**

**Santa Fe County
Local Election**

Nov. 2 2021

Voter registration and information tables are the ground game of LWVSFC's get-out-the-vote campaign in any election season. To prepare for this year's Regular Local Election on November 2, starting on September 11 and continuing every Saturday until October 7, volunteers set up tables at four locations: The Food King, Santa Fe Farmers Market, DeVargas Mall and San Isidro Plaza.

Tabling gives League members the opportunity to connect with citizens directly, and the experience is always rewarding...and often surprising! Many wave or just stop by to say how much they appreciate us doing what we do. Some have questions about voting. Some want to know where the bathrooms are! In almost every case, the interactions are positive: people support the right to vote and appreciate being informed. One woman said she wanted to join the League right then and there and made a \$100 donation.

A truly heartwarming experience involved a man who called the League's Help Line about how to register to vote. He had just that day become a citizen, and he was excited to vote in the upcoming election. I met him at the County Clerk's office and was able to see him get registered to vote.

Starting last year, we have been creating pamphlets with step-by-step instructions on how to register to vote and where to vote, in both English and Spanish. The pamphlets were originally designed by Rae Domenico and the CIRCLE group, and translated into Spanish by our student interns. County Clerk Katharine Clark proofed the copy for accuracy and was impressed with the pamphlets. We distributed them to 32 entities in Santa Fe, including Chain Breakers, a collective that promotes affordable housing and reliable transportation for families most in need and focuses their voter registration efforts on the south side. Pamphlets and voting information are also being distributed by the Food Depot.

Our student interns Chanelle Delgado and LeAnne Rodriguez (see profiles on page 11) have jumped right into our GOTV efforts, with a focus on our youth. They have created surveys to gather questions from high school

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students for the candidate forums (see page 9) and are planning a number of platforms for youth voices, including a Facebook forum with candidates for the upcoming election. Plans also include advocacy training in preparation for students who want to be active in the upcoming Legislative Session. Chanelle and LeAnne also volunteered as question screeners at the Pojoaque candidate forum and volunteered at our voter registration tables. These young women have already made a significant impact, and their work is only beginning.

The High School Civic Engagement Project has trained six student voter registrars and is conducting voter registration at three area high schools.

There is so much going on, we can't include it all here. But we can say that voting is alive and well in Santa Fe County!

—*Kelly Davis*

Thank You, VRA Volunteers!

Valerie Brooker
Kelly Davis
Chanelle Delgado
Irene Epp
Danis Kelly
Jody Larson
Susan Nickelson
Pat Pedersen
Susan Pfeifer

Sharon Potter
Robbie Richards
Charlotte Rivera
LeAnne Rodriguez
Stephanie Schlanger
Mary Schruben
Win Speicher
Dian Thacher

6 Reasons to Vote Early

1. Same day registration

In New Mexico voting early allows you to register to vote at the County Clerk's Office or at any early voting site until October 30.

2. Shorter poll lines

Since early voting is available from October 5-October 30, there are shorter lines so people are not as crowded—an important consideration during the pandemic

3. If there is a glitch, you can go back

When voting early, if the lines are long and polling place is crowded, you have time to vote at another location or on another day.

4. Helps your neighbors who have busy, inflexible schedules

When you vote early, you help others who can't experience shorter lines on election day.

5. Helps protect against misinformation and meddling

By voting early, you have time to fact check information and debunk myths.

6. Creates a more efficient and fair election process

Voting early gives election workers more time to process votes.

It is more important now than ever to make your voice heard. Voting is your best way to do that.

Acting Locally

An Interview with

Katharine Clark

In September, we met with Katharine Clark, Santa Fe's New County Clerk, to find out more about her and her plans for supporting voters and elections in the county.



Katharine Clark, Santa Fe County Clerk

Why did you decide to run for County Clerk?

I always knew I wanted to run for office, and public service is something I've always been interested in. I chose County Clerk specifically because I felt that we were seeing more and more extremes of opinions among voters. I was interested in this idea that we're seeing more and more people self-silo-ing, but the place where we're all the same is when you go to your school or your fire house to vote and you stand next to someone who yesterday at the protest rally was holding a sign saying the opposite of what you believe—that's the place where democracy is really made.

Voting and elections felt like a place where my interests in disinformation, political decision-making and technology could benefit New Mexicans. I'm particularly interested in the modernization of the voting process through technology. I want to

see secure elections. I want to see people have access, and access means more than being able to go the polling place; access is about thinking about how misinformation works, particularly on social media, and especially the messaging about how your vote doesn't count.

What opportunities and challenges do you see for the County Clerk's office?

The clerks are really under the spotlight right now. They're the elections officers in most counties, and they are under extreme pressure to produce results right away, but there are elections procedures that just take time. The biggest problem is that there is so much negativity around elections, so much suspicion. There are a lot of mandates coming out of local and federal legislatures, but they

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are not funded: we are being asked to do a lot more with a lot less. And we see that the funding is very inconsistent. At the federal level we may see an election that is perceived as being badly managed—though in reality it wasn't-- and that gets a lot of attention and money trickles down from the federal level, and then there's a waiting period where we don't get any money at all, and then there's another "bad" election and the cycle repeats.

“County clerks are under extreme pressure. They need support.”

The infrastructure bill now in Congress has nothing in it for elections. In New Mexico, we have more new and updated election laws to provide more access to voting, and I think that's great. It's important to have same-day registration, it's important to have more voting options and make it easier to register to vote, but that means bigger data bases and shorter timelines for us to be able to process applications, and more technology for processing

absentee ballots by mail.

There is an election fund in New Mexico, but right now zero dollars has been put into it. So what happens now is county governments have to pay for elections, and they of course have other demands on their funding, so essentially, we are stuck trying to compete with roads and other needs to run elections.

We need advocacy at the state legislature saying put money in that fund, we need advocacy at the federal level to get consistent funding every year so we can plan ahead and institute new technology to protect the vote. We also need public advocacy at the county commissioner level, saying that you care about elections, that you want to see modernization of elections. Bottom line: we are under a lot of pressure to modernize our elections, but we need to see consistent funding to do that.

Right now, I'm introducing a new texting program that follows your ballot through the whole process—when it's picked up, when I have it in the office, when I qualify that ballot, and when it's been opened to be tallied—and the voter gets a notice every step of the way. We're also going to start GPS tracking of ballots, to make sure we can show it's a closed system with secure chain of

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custody and we're working on a go-to website, [SantaFe.Vote](#)—but all these systems cost money.

What would you like Santa Fe County voters to know about local elections?

Local elections are, unfortunately, not so exciting for most of the people, but the people who are on the ballot are the people who make most of the difference for you. They're the people managing the trash and the water and our schools, everything we depend on day to day. Interesting things are happening on the local level; for example, Edgewood is going to a whole new system of government this year, from a town mayor to a commission-manager model. We want everyone to vote in that election so all voices have a say in how they are governed.

How can the League support you in your mission?

We love working with the League to do voter outreach. We want to make sure that we are getting people out to vote, and we want to do more advocacy for elections work. The clerks really felt under the gun last year; they need to feel supported in

their work and they need funding. We are having a very hard time recruiting people to do poll work, whether it's because of COVID or they are feeling the tension around elections. If you feel that elections are unfair, volunteer to be a poll worker.

“We are at a crossroads right now in terms of voting and elections.”

The best way to learn about elections is to work on one. Youth voting is really important: we know that when someone votes for the first time at 18, they are more likely to keep on voting, so getting students registered and voting is really important.

Final thoughts?

We are at a crossroads right now in terms of voting and elections. Things seem so tense. But I think there's a feeling that we can get through it as long as we can protect and preserve our elections. Fair elections are how we know we have the right answer, they're how we know that everyone is contributing to whatever direction we take.



Support the Freedom to Vote Act

Voting rights are under siege across the country. The Freedom to Vote Act would protect our elections from interference, dark money, partisan gerrymandering and voter suppression. It is the current legislation on voting that is before Congress. The Freedom to Vote Act is supported by the League of Women Voters US. The Act includes many of the provisions of the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. The bill's sponsors include Amy Klobuchar and Joe Manchin, among others.

The following links provide a description of the legislation and its status as it winds its way through the legislative process.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/freedom-vote-act>

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/senate-introduces-freedom-vote-act>

Act to protect our democracy. Call your senator and congress person now!

Renew Your Membership

Annual membership in the League expired August 31, so for those of you who have not renewed, now is the time! Please go on to our website www.lwvsfc.org, click on Membership and go through the steps to renew online. Alternatively, print the membership form, fill out and mail it with a check for your dues to the address at the bottom of the form.

Please recall there is a **Diversity Fund** for the express purpose of sponsoring people who wish to be active members but cannot afford the membership dues. This applies to anyone with a skill set, background or identity that will contribute to the diversity of our membership. For more information regarding this option, please contact me at lwvsfc@gmail.com.

Thank you all for your continued support of the League!

—Debbie Helper,

Welcome new members

Holly Bray, Gail Hull, Andrea Slade

Welcome back Elizabeth Roghair

Lights, Camera, Action!

In the first week of October, LWVSFC moderated three city candidate forums that were live-streamed on the *Santa Fe New Mexican's* website. Hundreds tuned in to hear from the candidates for City Mayor and City Councilor Districts 1, 3 and 4. The questions asked during the forum were submitted by the audience via Gmail and Google Docs. For the first time ever, Capital High School students were polled in advance and submitted questions to the candidates based on the topics of most concern to them. The students listed homelessness, violent crime and drugs as their highest concerns.



The Mayoral Forum —with Mayor Alan Webber, City Councilor JoAnne Vigil Coppler and environmental engineer Alexis Martinez Johnson — was moderated by Hannah Burling, who allowed brief follow-up comments by the candidates to correct or clarify what was said by their opponents – giving the timekeeper,



Kelly Davis, an extra challenge. Question screeners Judy Williams, Jody Larson and Chris Furlanetto reviewed more than 100 questions covering a range of topics including affordable housing, the Midtown Campus, development and land use, and the obelisk.

The District 1 City Council Forum was moderated by Judy Williams, who invited the candidates —businessman Joe Hoback, Planning Commissioner Brian Gutierrez, real estate agent Roger Carson and incumbent Signe Lindell —to answer an array of questions ranging from city finances to water conservation to just how well the current council is doing its job. The questions were selected by screeners Jody Larson, Val Brooker and Chris Furlanetto. The timekeeper was JoAnn Volinski. A question about what the Mayor and City Council can do to promote civil discourse in Santa Fe elicited an endorsement from all four candidates, who pointed to the forum as an example of what civil discourse is all about.

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The District 3 and 4 City Council Forum was moderated by Stephanie Schlanger and covered an array of topics, ranging from city finances to water conservation, homelessness and gun violence, District 3 candidates are incumbent Roman “Tiger” Abeyta and Lee Garcia. The district covers much of the southern and southwestern parts of the city. District 4 candidates are two



newcomers to politics—Rebecca Romero and Amanda Chavez. District 4 encompasses the south-central portion of the city. The questions were selected by screeners Judy Williams, Val Brooker and Suzanne Ronneau. The timekeeper was Kelly Davis.

All in all, it was a very successful series of City Candidate Forums this year. The candidates respected the time limits and the ground-rules for civil discourse, so the forums were sometimes heated, but well under control. And there were moments of levity to break the tension. According to

Henry Lopez, the *New Mexican’s* Digital Marketing Director, we reached about 1,700 hundred viewers by the end of the Mayoral Forum. Thank you, *Santa Fe New Mexican*, for giving us this opportunity!

A separate forum for the Pojoaque school board candidates was held October 6 at the Pojoaque Middle School Auditorium as a hybrid in-person and remote event. The candidates—Susan Marie Rudolph Quintana (Position 4 uncontested) and Sharon A Dogruel and Jerome P Lujan (Position 5)—were challenged by questions from the online attendees and Pojoaque High School students. KDICE radio broadcasted the event. Moderator Susan Pfeifer, question screeners Chanelle Delgado, LeAnne Rodriquez and Mary Schruben; timekeeper Diane Thacher; and runner Sharon Potter were all participating in a candidate forum for the first time after receiving a League training. The event was highly successful and garnered many compliments, both verbally and in writing. Thanks to PSD Superintendent Sondra Adams for hosting the event.

—*Kelly Davis and Marcy Litzenberg*

NOTE: The three city forums may be viewed on our website at lwvsfc.org

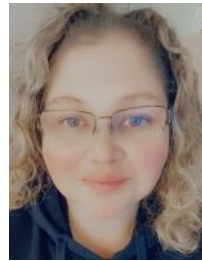
Introducing LWVSFC's 2021-2022 Student Interns



Chanelle Delgado is the Youth Services Director for Santa Fe County, where she oversees the County's DWI and Teen Court

Programs. She was born and raised in Santa Fe and is now raising her family here. She is graduate of the University of New Mexico where she studied Education, Psychology and Sociology. She is currently working on her Masters in Clinical Social Work.

"I consider myself an advocate for youth and family issues in the community. I believe if we desire to see significant change in our communities, we must start with our families. The league offers a unique lens and platform to educate and empower people on their voting rights and voice to inform and transform their communities. Through this internship I hope to gain a better understanding of the barriers that our community faces when it comes to voter registration, voter information and civic involvement. I appreciate the opportunity to expand my skill set and knowledge around the work of the League."



LeAnne Rodriguez was born and raised in Santa Fe. She and her husband of 15 years have three teenage children,

Elias who is 19 and Marisa and Marcos who are 16. She works for the Santa Fe County DWI Compliance Program and is pursuing her Bachelor's in Social Work at NMHU.

"I am excited to have the opportunity through the LWVSFC to work with our community to educate them on their right to vote and how this right gives them a strong voice to make changes they feel are most needed in our community. Our young citizens have a real passion to make a change, but they haven't been given the tools and information on how to do so. It is so important to provide them with education on the rights that they hold as voters. Through my internship I hope to increase my own knowledge of the importance of voting and how I can educate my community on this so they are more knowledgeable as well. I also want to become more aware of the issues that are affecting our community and the policies that can be implemented to address these issues."

Action & Advocacy Committee Update

CHART: The project website is <https://www.chartsantafe.com> Please watch for notifications about opportunities to participate.

Midtown Campus: A&A members participated in the series of workshop sessions held in September including a public event at the Southside Library. A small group met virtually with Daniel Hernandez, the overall project manager, in mid-September to discuss our questions regarding the published project timeline. Public events planned for the fall, include:

- ⇒ Drop-in session at SFAI, 10/28, 11:30am-1:30pm
- ⇒ Voices at Midtown, online 10/21 5:30pm-6:30pm, (registration required)
- ⇒ Block Party, Midtown Campus, 10/23-24, noon-5pm

Please check the websites for updates on events, presentations to the Governing Body, and to sign up for updates.

<https://www.midtowndistrictsantafe.com>
<https://www.cultureconnects.site>

The committee continues to monitor project team progress and activities. New members are welcome to join us. We meet the 1st Thursday of each month. Please contact Chris Furlanetto at crfrwf@yahoo.com if you'd like more information and/or to be added to our distribution list.

If you're interested in monitoring (either online or in-person) a local government board or committee, please also contact Chris. We are especially searching for observers of the Santa Fe Public Schools and Community College Boards.

You can access the 2021-22 LWVSFC priority matrix and find our recent communications and monthly reports to the board at <https://www.lwvsfc.org/action--advocacy.html>.

—Chris Furlanetto

What's on *YOUR* Ballot?

Find out at vote411.org, your one-stop-shop for voting and election information.





2021-2022 Calendar of Events

2021

October

October 5-7, Local Election Candidate Forums
(go to lwvsfc.org for details)
October 7, 12-1:30: Action and Advocacy Committee
October 17, 10-12: Archeology Walk in the Galisteo Preserve (Dr. Sarah Schlanger)
October 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

November

November 2, Local Elections Day
November 4, 12-1:30: Action and Advocacy Committee
November 10, 12-1:30: Restorative Justice (1st District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwhies)
November 16, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

December

December 1, Estimated Start Special Session on Redistricting
December 2, 12-1:30: Action and Advocacy Committee
December 6, 7-8: Civil Discourse Conversation
December 7, 7-8: "The Importance of Story" (Dr. Estevan Rael Galvez), Universalist Unitarian Church of SF
December 11, 10-12: Legislative Advocacy Workshop
December 18, 11:30-1: LWVSFC Holiday Luncheon
December 21, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

2022

January

January 3, 7-8: Civil Discourse Conversation
January 6, 12-1:30: Action and Advocacy Committee
January 12: Legislative Preview Lunch
January 13, 5:30: LWVNM Virtual Legislative Session Prep
January 18, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
January 18, Opening Day NM Legislative Session

February

February 2, 5:30-7:30: LWVNM Legislative Reception
February 3, 9:45-Noon: LWVNM League Day at the Legislature, NM Land Office
February 3, 12-1:30: Action and Advocacy Committee
February 7, 7-8: Civil Discourse Conversation
February 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
February 17, Last Day of the Legislative Session
***TBD: Lunch with a Leader: Reunity Resources**

March

March 3, 12-1:30: Action and Advocacy Committee
March 7, 7-8: Civil Discourse Conversation
March 14-18, LWVNM Sunshine Week
March 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

April

April 2, Tour Folk Art Museum (Docent Chris Furlanetto)
April 4, 7-8: Civil Discourse Conversation
April 7, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
April 9, Walking Tour of Santa Fe (Docent Chris Furlanetto)
April 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
April 30, LWVNM Council Convention
***TBD: Lunch with a Leader: New Mexicans Against Gun Violence (Mary Viscoli)**

May

May 2, 7-8: Civil Discourse Conversation
May 5, 12-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
May 11, 11:30-1: LWVSFC Annual Meeting
May 17, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
May 26: 5:30-7: League Libations

Note: State League Events in italics

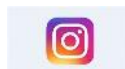
League Libations Social Hour

4th Thursday of the month
5:30 7 pm.

Check calendar on website for locations lwvsfc.org

For more details on these calendar items, go to our website lwvsfc.org

Like and follow us! Share with friends!





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Member Renewal

Please check box of the membership you wish to start or renew:

- Individual membership: \$60
- Household membership (*two family members at the same address*): \$100
- Student membership: \$30 (*for students 16-25 years old currently enrolled; scholarships are available to students wishing to be active members; email lwvsfc@gmail.com for more info.*)

Member Information:

Name (first and last): _____

Address: (*include zip code*)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please include information about the second household member here, if appropriate:

Name (first and last): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Donation - I would also like to donate (circle one):

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 \$200 \$250 \$500 other \$ _____

Make check for dues and donation payable to "LWVSFC" and mail the check with this form to the address below.

Thank you for joining! As soon as we receive your membership registration form and payment, we will send you a confirmation and welcome letter by email.

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All dues and donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County

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