

**Proposal to Add a Director of Community Engagement to the Leadership Team
July 15, 2022**

(Proposal includes the recommendation to consider making Community Engagement an official third focus with a VP for Community Engagement directing that focus)

Currently the LWVSFC has two broad focuses:

Action & Advocacy
Voter Services

In our current turbulent times with serious concerns about the health of our democracy there is an urgent need for a third focus: Community Engagement.

Sustained community engagement is essential to preserving our democracy. Building and expanding on the past year's work with NMListens, LWVSFC would actively reach out into our count in more varied ways and get to know the members of the complex, diverse communities who make up our population – to seek out divergent views, and listen to folks describe their own viewpoints, needs, concerns, and opinions. Community Engagement would naturally connect with the work of both A&A and Voter Services, and raise our profile in the community, potentially bringing in new and diverse members.

Community Engagement Focus could be:

- Going out into various areas of the county, getting to know the different communities in these areas. Letting them know about the LWV and that we want to hear about the issues that interest them.
- Discovering voices in our community seldom, perhaps nearly never heard. Raising those voices and listening carefully. What are the concerns and issues in those communities? And how can the League empower them to participate effectively in our local democracy?
- Creating connections with other non-partisan organizations in our county and discovering how we might work together to energize and support all of our members in making certain Elected officials and government leaders know their views and realize that they must listen if they want community support and votes.
- Integrating the LWV more actively into the entire Santa Fe community. Enlarge its scope beyond legislative advocacy and voter registration/basic voter education. Introduce the League as a trusted resource and an organization that listens to all sides and can make effective civil civic dialogue possible.

Budget

\$500 to cover technical services at hybrid events

For the 2022/2023 year this focus would have a general director in the lead..