

LWVNM Legislative Priorities 2021 Session

Dick Mason, LWVNM Action Chair, held a zoom meeting on January 14, 2021 to present the League's 2021 legislative priorities. The 60-day session began January 19; a large number of bills that the League supports was pre-filed. Current information can be found at: <https://www.lwvnm.org/Action/>. Many of the bills we're following are also priorities for organizations we work with, including the NAACP and the Sierra Club.

The League priorities fall into the following categories:

Highest Priority

Education:

Allow withdrawals from the Permanent Fund for early childhood services and education.

Bills to support and increase funding for general education such as the Grow Your Own Teachers Act, a Multicultural Education Advisory Council and bills such as prohibiting hair discrimination.

Tax reform:

Restore previous income tax rate for high earners. This would repeal tax cuts and eliminate the exemption for capital gains.

Increase working families tax credit and low income tax rebate. This will be good for economic development.

Review tax credits given to companies to create jobs to understand if they are working as designed.

Reproductive rights:

Repeal the law that criminalizes abortion. This bill finally has a good chance of passing this session.

Redistricting:

The League strongly supports a bill that would create a 7-person redistricting commission to develop maps and present them to the legislature for an up or down vote. Four members would be legislators and three would be appointed by the Ethics Commission.

For more information see Fair Districts New Mexico: <http://fairdistrictsnm.org/>

Other priorities

Civil rights and qualified Immunity:

LWVNM supports a bill to get rid of qualified immunity because it shields government officials from legal action for violating citizen's constitutional rights.

National has approved our stance on this

Environmental Protection:

There will be a Senate Joint Resolution on the right to a clean environment and a stable climate. Also called the Green Bill of Rights.

Bills to increase use of solar energy, such as requiring solar on new schools and housing.

Electric vehicle tax credit. This would include a higher registration fee for road maintenance because most of this money currently comes from gasoline and diesel taxes.

Prohibit the use of fresh water for fracking.

Health Care:

Comprehensive bills to protect health care consumers.

There may be a health care security act.

Health care affordability act will make it more affordable for low income people.

Paid family and medical leave.

Nurses in all school districts

Voting Rights:

Restore felon voting rights upon release from prison.

Other priority bills:

Publication of capital outlays

Broadband expansion

The LWVNM Action Committee has begun attending legislative committee meetings, on Zoom, and providing input to bills we support and oppose. Please see the Action Committee link for more information, including the bill tracking sheet, which lists the bills we are currently tracking and updates on the status of these bills. If you are interesting in advocating for any of these bills, you can sign up for the Action Committee List at this link.

<https://www.lwvnm.org/Action/>