

League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County



The Voter

P.O. Box 31547, Santa Fe, NM 87594-1547
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Leadership Team

Officers

- Judy Williams, *VP Administration*
- Laura Atkins, *VP Program*
- Kelly Davis, *VP Voter Registration/ Education*
- Pat Hawkins, *VP Election Information*
- Stephanie Schlanger, *VP Public Relations/Communications*
- Susan Haase, *Secretary*
- Suzanne Ronneau, *Treasurer*

Directors

- Chris Furlanetto, *Action and Advocacy*
- Debra Helper, *Membership Services*
- Marcy Litzenberg, *Development/ Fundraising*
- Hannah Burling, *Outreach*

Off-Board

- Danis Kelly, *Arrangements*
- Anne Culp, *High School Voter Registration*
- Irene Epp, Jody Larson, Donna Reynolds, *Special Projects*

The Election Is Over...and the Work Goes On!



Marcy Litzenberg, Chair Development and Fundraising

For 100 years, the League of Women Voters has championed voting rights, and today our work couldn't be more important. As we celebrate our hundredth birthday, the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County (LWVSFC) looks back on our successes and what, working together, we've accomplished. In these rapidly changing times, we embrace the challenge of staying relevant without compromising the standards that have made us the most respected source of election information in Santa Fe County.

During this important election year, LWVSFC has delivered our exemplary voter services for both the 2020 Primary and General Elections. Our Voter Guides are probably the best-known service we offer the citizens of Santa Fe County. People start asking when our Voter Guide will be published months ahead of the election, and it's not unusual to see voters reading our Voter Guide while they are waiting in line at the polls.

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Perhaps less well-known, but equally important, are the other traditional services we provide (see below).

Women got the right to vote 100 years ago, but the battle for equality of all kinds is not over. Nor is it safe to assume our democracy will survive without our support and protection. Please join or donate to the LWVSFC. Democracy is not a spectator sport!

—*Marcy Litzenberg*

“Through the LWVSFC, I’ve had the opportunity to become actively involved in issues that are fundamentally important to me. It has also educated me on the importance of political and social activism, and provided me an avenue to engage and encourage others to join me in becoming more active in our community.”

—*Brittany Dutton-Leyda*
JEDI member

What We Do

- Our website: www.lwvsfc.org is packed with information about local government issues and services—from a directory of appointed and elected officials to timely election information.
- LWVSFC serves as a watchdog for the public good—observing meetings of governing bodies and advocating for transparency and best practices in local government.
- LWVSFC’s voter registrars register hundreds of new voters annually, community-wide, with no agenda but to empower them to vote.
- We sponsor nonpartisan educational forums and balanced presentations on critical local Issues.

“Accurate local information is important, and LWVSFC is THE reliable source!”

—*Randi Lowenthal,*
LWVSFC member

New Initiatives

- **Outreach Project:** We have added a position on the Leadership Team dedicated to community outreach and collaboration with other like-minded organizations.
- **Diversity Fund:** We now offer scholarships to potential members who will contribute to the diversity of the membership and help us expand our services to a broader constituency.
- **Social Media Project:** We have invested in an update of our communications methods and established a social media presence for the first time.
- **High School Civic Project:** We train high school students to provide voter registration services and coordinate civic projects in their own schools.
- **Civil Discourse Project:** We work to promote authentic, mutually respectful, and constructive communication for the purpose of improving public policy processes and decisions.
- **Good Governance Project:** We work with members of the city's governing body to review proposals to revise its structures and processes and provide comments, questions and recommendations for improvement.

Help Us Reach Our Fundraising Goal!

Our 2020/21 Goal is \$10,000.
Your donation will help us over the top!

To donate online, go to
lwvsfc.org/donate

To donate by mail,
 send your check to
 LWVSFC:
 c/o Suzanne Ronneau,
 1925 Camino Lumbre,
 Santa Fe, NM 87505

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, federal tax-identification number 23-7297241. Donations will be acknowledged by mail and a receipt will be provided for tax purposes

“People used to ask me why I devote time and money to support the work of the League of Women Voters. I no longer get prodded to relax. Instead I get asked, ‘What can I do to help?’ As we ponder the harmful effects of inequity and the erosion of trust in government, people are searching for ways to make a difference. My answer is, ‘Support the work of the League of Women Voters and bring about long-lasting improvements in policy and civil discourse.’

Our country is ‘woke,’ as Gen Z says. Now we need to channel the anger and despair to making long-term changes.”

—Meredith Machen,
 Founder of the Diversity Fund



Meredith Machen at
 League Day at the
 Capitol on February
 6, 2020

We Are Almost There!

The LWVSFC is grateful to all the people who have donated to our “Countdown to the 2020 General Election” Campaign and/or to one of our Special Funds so far in 2020. Please consider making a donation now to take us over the top at lwvsfc.org/donate

Countdown to the 2020 General Election

Donors:

James Applegate
 Ellen Arias
 Roberta Armstrong
 Renny Ashleman and Susan Haase
 Ambassador Mark and Jane Asquino
 Laura Atkins
 Daniel and Martha Barnes
 Candace Blackwood
 Joyce Blalock
 Libby Boyle
 Valerie Brooker
 Hannah Burling
 Caroline Burnett
 Peter Chapin
 Kelly Davis
 Cathryn Delude
 Kathleen Dickerson
 Cecilia Dunne
 James and Maj-Britt Eagle
 Tina Egge
 Melissa Epple
 Susan and Dick Evans
 Margaret Fisher
 Lisa Fisher
 Kristina Flanagan
 Frenkel Family
 Christine Furlanetto
 Faith Garfield
 Carole and James Garland
 Mary Ellen Gonzales
 Stephanie Greene
 Douglas Gruenau and Brad Richardson
 Liz Gutierrez and Richard Schoegler
 Jane Hanna
 Patricia and Dick Hawkins
 Debra Helper
 Thomas Hirons
 Wendy and Sam Hitt
 The Honorable Vicky Huddleston
 Danis Kelly
 Gisela Knight
 Patricia Kushlis
 Bushrod Lake
 Leslie Lakind
 Jody Larson
 Berit Leonard and Bill Swift
 Ilene Leslie
 Marcy Litzenberg
 Randi Lowenthal
 Mary Ellen and William Martin

Virginia McCallum
 Susan McGrew and Bruce Krasnow
 Esther Milnes
 Julia Nathanson
 Margery Odell
 Susan and Roger Peirce
 Mary Polk
 Chad Powell
 Roberta and William Richards
 John and Elizabeth Rodgers
 Sally Sabo
 Sarah Schlanger
 Stephanie Schlanger
 Denise Sessions
 Martha Simonsen
 Zac Stalberg and Deborah Lock
 Nan and Jim Stewart
 Roger Taylor
 Teresa Thomas
 Byron Treaster
 Tim and Jenny Vellinga
 Alan Webber and Frances Diemoz
 Claire Weiner
 Miguel Grunstein and Deborah Weiss-Grunstein
 Elizabeth West
 Judy Williams and Elliot Stern
 Janet Williams
 Bruce Wollens and Liza Coward
 Fleur Wright

Diversity Fund Donors:

Meredith and Steve Machen
 Lynn Larsen
 Paul and Jane Mandel
 Marcy Litzenberg

Bernie Beenhouwer Memorial Donors:

Beenhouwer Family
 Laura Atkins
 Val Brooker
 Marcy Litzenberg

RBG Memorial Donors:

Chris Furlanetto
 Faith Garfield
 Virginia McCallum
 Ilene Leslie

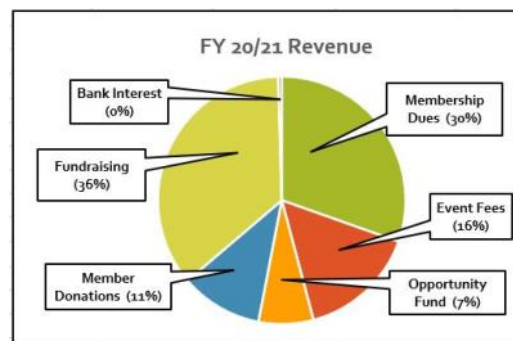
Becky Frenkel Memorial Donors:

Frenkel Family
 Julia Nathanson
 Marcy Litzenberg

Why Fundraising is Critical to Our Survival

The pie charts below give you a snapshot of our budget. As you can see, our projected revenues add up to \$27,945 and our projected expenses add up to \$27,276. We expect to end the year with an excess of revenue over expenses. Having said that, it's important to point out that our balanced budget assumes we will raise \$13,000 this year through member donations and fundraising. That is the highest fundraising goal we've ever set for ourselves. But we believe we can do it...and we will.

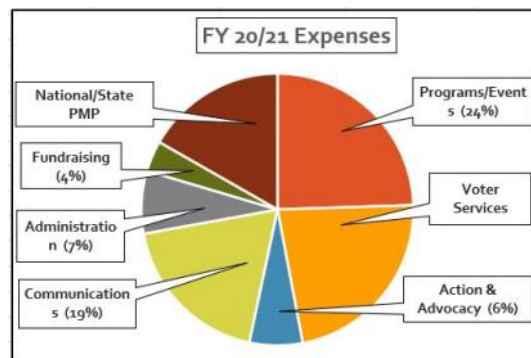
FY 20/21 Revenue	
Membership Dues (30%)	\$8,500
Event Fees (16%)	\$4,320
Opportunity Fund (7%)	\$2,000
Member Donations (11%)	\$3,000
Fundraising (36%)	\$10,000
Bank Interest (0%)	\$125
Total Revenue FY 20/21	\$27,945



Things You Should Know About LWVSFC's Revenue:

- We only keep \$15 of your \$60 membership fee (\$32 goes to National and \$13 goes to State).
- Membership Dues and Event Fees pay for approximately 50% of our expenses.
- We rely on Member Donations and Fundraising to pay the other 50% of our expenses.

FY 20/21 Expenses	
Programs/Events (24%)	\$6,681
Voter Services (23%)	\$6,145
Action & Advocacy (6%)	\$1,723
Communications (19%)	\$5,129
Administration (7%)	\$2,030
Fundraising (4%)	\$1,000
National/State PMP	\$4,568
Total Expenses FY 20/21	\$27,276



Things You Should Know About LWVSFC's Expenses:

- 89% of our budget goes to voter education, action and advocacy: LWVSFC's mission.
- Only 7% of LWVSFC's budget goes to administrative expenses.
- We are an all-volunteer organization, so 0% goes to salaries and benefits.

Introducing LWVSFC's New Planned Giving Program

This year we are launching a Planned Giving initiative to honor the work of our members—past and present—and to ensure that there will be a future for the LWVSFC. Now, in addition to asking for cash donations, we are also offering two simple planned giving options—one you can do to qualify for tax benefits while you are alive and another designed to leave a legacy after your death.

Feel free to contact us if you have questions about the options we've included in this article, or if you want our help in pursuing one or both of them.

Option One: Qualified Charitable Distribution (IRA charitable rollover)

If you have invested in an IRA, annual withdrawals are required after age 72. These are referred to as required minimum distributions (RMDs). There is a penalty for not taking your RMD and, when you take it, it is taxed as income. However, you can arrange for your RMD to be transferred directly to a qualified charity and thus avoid paying income tax on it. If you don't need your RMD for living expenses, this strategy is a "win/win" for the donor and recipient. Setting up a Qualified Charitable Deduction from your IRA is easily accomplished by contacting your IRA provider. You will be asked for the following information about the LWVSFC:

Legal name: League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County

Tax ID: 23-7297241

Mailing address: League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County
PO Box 31547
Santa Fe, NM 87594-1547

Option Two: Make a Gift to the LWVSFC in Your Will

If you are interested in securing the LWVSFC's future with a gift from your estate, a bequest in your will leaves a legacy behind after your death. Language can be included in your will gifting a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate or an amount from the balance or residue of your estate. You can also designate it for a specific fund or program if there is one you want your donation to support. Most recently, we received a major donation from long-time member Becky Frenkel's estate. We wish Becky was still with us in person, but this gift ensures that she will remain with us in spirit long into the future. Though this option requires some paperwork, we will be happy to provide sample bequest language and meet with you to work out the details.

Marcy Litzenberg, Development/Fundraising Chair

Debbie Helper, Membership Chair

Contact: lwvsfc@gmail.com

Recommended Reading

The Growing Threat of Gender Violence

This September Dr. Rebecca Álvarez, an active member of the LWVSFC, published her first book, *Vigilante Gender Violence: Social Class, the Gender Bargain, and Mob Attacks on Women*.*

The issue of gender violence is urgent. Álvarez, assistant professor of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice at New Mexico Highlands University, opens Part I with a narrative of the very public rape, beating, and murder of Jyoti Singh on a city bus in New Delhi, India, in December 2012. Álvarez acknowledges that “All human societies known to history have carried a greater or lesser undercurrent of violence against the bodies of women.” However, she then asserts that Singh’s murder is one example of a different kind of violence against women; a public violence, directed by strangers against a random victim, and shocking in its ferocity.

This book is not sensationalism. It is a sober, clear-minded analysis of why this type of attack is increasing globally, not just in the non-Western or

so-called “third world,” but also in wealthy, educated nations throughout the globe.

Álvarez presents her thesis in Chapter 2. Social change leads to gender violence in a lethal blend: the weakening of the “gender bargain” that allows men of all classes to feel superior to women, the increasing social stratification across the world, and the sociocultural evolution of societies from hunter gatherer, to horticultural, agrarian, industrial, and finally, post-industrial.

In Part II, Álvarez leads the reader through four pertinent, specific case studies in Papua New Guinea, Afghanistan, South Africa, and the US. Part III poses the obvious question, “Where do we go from here?” The final two chapters address the challenge of predicting vigilante gender violence and then preventing this global phenomenon. Throughout, she makes her point that vigilante gender violence, or gender “lynching,” is not about random isolated incidents. The causes and pattern are clear. Equally clear to the reader at the book’s conclusion are potential solutions.

—Irene Epp

*Published by Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group, New York and London). For information on obtaining the book, visit www.taylorfrancis.com.

New Opera Honors Civil Rights Pioneer Fannie Lou Hamer

“Black lives matter,” they chant, marching single file up the gangway of the *Mary A. Whalen*, a historic oil tanker anchored in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Masked and garbed in funereal black, the chanting chorus circles on the deck. “They are going to kill us anyway,” two protagonists argue in frustration over the futility of voting.

This is the opening scene of a bold new production by the **Santa Fe Opera** in conjunction with Opera for All Voices, a consortium of North American opera companies, on the life of **Fannie Lou Hamer**, voting rights advocate and civil rights pioneer. The scene was presented in a workshop with the CCA on October 23 entitled *Is This America?* A combination of gospel, operatic song, and verse set the stage for conversation on Hamer’s heroism in speaking truth to power, and her eventual victory in the **Voting Rights Act of 1965**. In her own words, sung searingly by Nicole Joy Mitchell,

“Is this America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, where we have to sleep with our telephones off the hook because our lives be threatened daily, because we want to live as decent human beings, in America?”

A group of generous supporters of **Santa Fe Opera’s Community Education** program underwrote this live recording and streaming so its message could be appreciated before Election Day, 2020. A full presentation of the opera on Hamer’s life, *This Little Light of Mine*, will be workshopped in 2021. Further information about the work, its supporters, and its talented creators and performers can be found here: <https://www.santafeopera.org/media-lounge/news-releases/the-santa-fe-opera-presents-online-screening-of-is-this-america>

—Kristina Flanagan



Click on image above to view trailer.



Click on image to the left to read more about the masks designed for the singers in the opera and about Fannie Lou Hamer and the history of the Civil Rights Movement.

Coming Events

November 18, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Election Debrief: What Worked, What Didn't and What to Do Next.

Presentation by Heather Ferguson, Executive Director, Common Cause NM

Via Zoom

Register in advance: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrceqprDgjH9K0trW3ec_ZQiAz6QwY1xZI

December 5, 10 am to Noon

LWVNM Legislative Advocacy Workshop

Via Zoom

Open to the public. Registration details to come (check website lwvsfc.org)



December 9, 11:30 am to 1 pm

Holiday Luncheon Fundraiser for the Food Depot. Guest speaker, Jill Dixon, Development Director.

Via Zoom.

Registration and donation details to come (check website lwvsfc.org)

For more information, contact Kelly Davis at kdavis466@gmail.com

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Join the Observer Corps!

LWVSFC is looking for volunteers to attend public meetings as League Observers and to provide brief reports. We will provide guidelines to get you started.

Suggested government bodies to observe include the City Council, the Board of County Commissioners, either the City or the County Planning Commission, as well as city committees such as Quality of Life, Public Safety or wherever your interests lie.

You do not need to be a member of the A&A committee to be an observer. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Chris Furlanetto at lwvsfc@gmail.org.

“By joining the LWVSFC, I have been educated about public policy, government, voter education and political advocacy. It is the most effective way I know to work for good government at the local level.”

—Hannah Burling
LWFSVC Outreach Chair

The New LWFSFC Discussion Forum Goes Live November 20!

Membership in the Santa Fe League is at its highest level in years. Local citizens have just voted in record numbers. The presidential race was tight and the vote count fraught with tension. This is only the beginning of tumultuous political times. With more members eager to be involved, the LWVSFC needs an effective, safe, easy to use forum to exchange ideas on building community both among ourselves and in our county.

The new **LWVSFC Discussion Forum** offers just that. Not social media, the Forum is hosted on our website and is open by registration **for LWVSFC members only**. Get to know other members, volunteer to join in League efforts, share your ideas about post-election issues, find out about League organization, League positions, League initiatives and committees. Become a truly active member.

To join the Forum, reply to Stephanie Schlanger at stephanie.schlanger@gmail.com. You will receive simple instructions to log in to the Forum.

Holiday Fundraiser for the Food Depot

**December 9, 11:30 am to 1 pm
Via Zoom**

During the recent election season, the Food Depot partnered with LWVSFC to distribute thousands of flyers—in Spanish and English—informing people about how to register to vote and get voter information through the Voter Guide. Voter registrars also offered assistance on site for many days prior to the election.

Now it's time to give back. Instead of a party, we're inviting our members to a Zoom Holiday Fundraiser for the Food Depot.

A full agenda is planned, including games and contests, and ending with virtual music from local pianist Margi Coxwell, who will lead us in songs of the season! Details to come by Constant Contact.

Did You Know...

A \$1 donation to the Food Depot provides 4 meals for a hungry family.

See the recent article in [*The Santa Fe New Mexican*](#) on the Food Depot and food insecurity in New Mexico.

Committee and Project Reports November 2020

Action & Advocacy

The 2020-21 A&A priority matrix and our communications to public officials are now posted on our updated A&A page on the website. Documents include: Letter to the City (July) regarding concerns about the accuracy of information for online meetings; Letter to the City (October) about the transparency of the Health and Safety Task Force; Letter in the *New Mexican* (October 20) on Task Force transparency. The Midtown Campus Project development team is now performing a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis to help guide the planning process.

Civil Discourse Project

The CDP has received Board feedback and approval for a set of principles and guidelines for the new Discussion Forum, slated to launch in November, which will be located on our website. The Forum will be open to all members (details on page 10).

Membership

The LWVSFC now has 181 members, including four Life Members and eight members sponsored by the Diversity Fund. Our membership is 66% up to date with 34% still needing to renew. We will soon be offering monthly Zoom Happy Hours for all members, and new member “teas” to orient new members to the opportunities for participation and to meet the leadership team.

Outreach Project

From August 5 to September 22, our volunteers, organized by the Santa Fe

Complete Count Committee, participated in a phone banking campaign in Santa Fe County: 16,778 phone numbers were called and 1,390 individuals were talked to about the 2020 census.

Program

In October, the LWVSFC was honored to hear a presentation from Early Childhood Education and Childcare Services outlining the department’s recent progress. The report and detailed statistics—critical for advocacy during the next legislative session—will be posted on the website as they become available.

Voter Information

We passed out over 750 copies of our Voter Guide at early voting sites all around the county. Additionally, the Guide appeared in the *Santa Fe New Mexican* on October 4. Sponsored by the LWV Education Fund, VOTE411.org was a big success. We are waiting for usage numbers from National.

Voter Registration

Pre-election activities included distributing 7,065 get-out-the-vote flyers to food pantry clients; providing face-to-face voter registration and information at six locations to 439 individuals; and answering 130 Help Line calls. A special thanks to the volunteers who provided voter registration and information services for residents of Santa Fe: **Irene Epp, Susan Pfeifer, Betsy Siwula-Brandt, Mary Schruben, Iswhari Sollahub, Sharon Porter, Lucy Foma** and two bilingual volunteers, **Win Speicher** and **Charlotte Rivera**.



Calendar of Events 2020-2021

2020

November

November 3, Election Day
 November 5, 1-2:20: Action & Advocacy Committee meeting
 November 17, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
 November 18, 11-12: General Meeting, Heather Ferguson, Executive Director, Common Cause NM, Debriefing on the 2020 Election
November 21, 11:00 – 3:00 LWVNM board meeting, Zoom

December

December 3, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
December 5, 10-12: LWVNM workshop on Effective Citizen Advocacy at the Legislature on Zoom
 December 9, 11:30-1:00: [Holiday Event with the Santa Fe Food Depot on Zoom, donations to the Food Depot will be requested since there will be no luncheon.](#)
 December 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

2021

January

January 6, 11:00-12:00: Legislative Preview
 January 7, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
 January 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
 January 19, Legislative Session – Opening Day
 January 27, 10-12: Unit Meeting Program Planning

February

February 4, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
 February 16, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
 February 17, 11:30-1: Lunch with a Leader: Midtown Campus project

March

March 4, 12-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
 March 17, 11:30-1: General Meeting, Sunshine Week, Our Common Purpose
 March 16, 10-11:30: LWVSFC Board Meeting
 March 20: Legislative session last day

April

April 1, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
 April 14, 11:30-1: Lunch with a Leader: Early Childhood Education, Jennifer Sallee,
 April 20, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

May

May 6, 12-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
 May 12, 11:30-1: Annual Meeting
 May 18, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

Monthly Meetings/Events:

- **Action & Advocacy Committee:** 1st Thursday of each month on Zoom until further notice
- **LWVSFC Board Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday, 10-12
- **League Libations:** Last Thursday; now on hold but may resume on Zoom

“Managing the League’s social media platforms throughout the election was incredibly rewarding. Because we are non-partisan, I was able to stay away from the divide and instead focus on encouraging people to vote regardless of who they supported.”

—Ivanna Hernandez,
LWVSFC Intern

Like and follow us! Share with friends!





MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member Renew- al

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](#)
[P.O. Box 31547](#)
[Santa Fe, NM 87594-1547](#)**



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