

2021 Program Planning Survey

1.

1. Please use the dropdown menus to 1) select your State/Location and 2) League Name (ID).

State : New Mexico

League Name (ID) : LWV Of Santa Fe County (NM503)

2. Your Name (first and last)

Debra Helper

3. Your Email

lwvsfc@gmail.com

4. Your Telephone Number

3174321101

5. Does another individual need to receive a copy of your survey responses?

No

6. Do you support the proposed program focus, continuing the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® (which includes Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Redistricting, and Money in Politics)?

Yes

7. Would you like to recommend another program item, in addition to or instead of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®?

No

8. Which areas of the 2020-2022 national program priorities within the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® has your League worked on during the current biennium? Select all that apply.

Voting Rights

Improving Elections

Redistricting

9. Please share details of your work in the comment section (300 words or less).

IMPROVING ELECTIONS:

High School Voter Services :

- Trained and certified student Voter Registration Agents (VRAs).
- Conducted a survey of students attending Santa Fe public schools, and private schools, asking for questions they want to ask candidates in local elections about issues that concern them. Questions were grouped and presented to candidates at League's Candidate Forums.
- Students provided questions for a student driven online candidate forum. Eighty percent (80%) of the candidates participated. These events empowered students to know their voice is heard and the importance of voting for the candidates that will represent their interests. Santa Fe is a diverse community and care is taken to assure that its diversity is represented in all high school programs.

Voter Services-Adult Voter Registration and Education:

- Collaborated with two food distribution sites, assisted living and senior care organizations to distribute flyers on election information i.e. notice of election dates, where to register, League's help line, early voting sites, etc.
- Provided tabling events for two months prior to election at Farmers Market, grocery store that targets low-income individuals, and two shopping malls.
- Local hospital agreed to put voting information on all TV monitors and in the employee's newsletter.
- Collaborated with advocacy organizations focused on homelessness, transportation and housing providing them with pamphlets in Spanish for their voter registration drives.
- Collaborated with the local newspaper to publish an extensive Voters Guide and hold candidate forums that were widely accessible on streaming services.
- Printed materials (flyers, pamphlets, posters) are in English and Spanish and edited by Santa Fe County Clerk for accuracy.

Redistricting

- Encouraged members to participate in the state's efforts in the redistricting/map making process.
- Notified members of the opportunity and encouraged members to participate in the process of city and county redistricting.

10. Which League Positions does your League use to act at the state and local level? Please check all that apply.

(For more detail on LWVUS positions, see [Resources section](#)).

Citizen's Right to Vote

Redistricting

Voter Representation/Electoral Systems

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation

Public Participation

Education

Urban Policy

11. Please share more details (300 words or less) about your League's work at the state and local level.

- Sponsored history/civics teachers to learn case study method of teaching history as presented by Professor David Moss of Harvard. This method has been incorporated into the history/civics curriculum in some local high schools.
- A student advocacy program is being developed and piloted with two college student interns. We hope to expand the reach once the program has been fully developed.
- Our Civil Discourse Project held monthly conversations on Zoom around different pre-planned questions. This project is on hold for a few months while we partner with the New Mexico Humanities Council on hosting a storytelling series around the region from various communities to better understand shared and/or disparate lived experiences, histories and concerns.
- The Action and Advocacy Committee was instrumental in helping the City Council develop and approve improved governing body procedural rules focusing on transparency. The committee members also regularly attend local governing body meetings, write LTEs and are engaging with the mayor and city planners regarding the potential sale, use and development of two particular parcels of land in the city. Efforts are aimed at maintaining transparency and communication with the community.

12. Please provide anything else you would like to share on Program Planning. Keep your response to 300 words or less.

While we feel the most important priorities remain those in the Campaign to Make Democracy Work, we also feel strongly that we must keep an eye on immigration and remain vigilant regarding policies in this area. We want LWVUS to be prepared to move quickly to work to bolster our positions on immigration as the need arises. We feel this most acutely as a border state with much at stake locally and regionally as immigration policies are legislated.