



# The Voter

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November 2018

### Leadership Team

- VP—Laura Atkins  
(Program)
- VP-Kelly Davis  
(Voter Services)
- VP—Marcy Litzenberg  
(Administration)
- VP-Donna Reynolds  
(PR/Communications)
- Secretary—Susan Haase
- Treasurer—Berit Leonard

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(Action/Advocacy)
- Debra Helper  
(Membership)
- Miriam Ries (Special Projects)
- Vacant (Development)

### Off-Board

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- Vacant (Digital Technology)
- Patricia Victour (Office Manager)
- Suzanne Ronneau  
(Voter Information)
- Sharon Starkey  
(High School Voter Registration)
- Stephanie Schlanger (*The Voter*)

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- Jody Larson
- Lindsay Robinson

### Finance/Budget Committee

- Marcy Litzenberg, Chair
- John Hufnagle
- Laurie Glaze
- Berit Leonard (ex officio)

### Executive Committee

- Marcy Litzenberg
- Berit Leonard
- Miriam Ries
- Susan Haase
- Donna Reynolds

### From the Leadership Team

#### Courage in the face of opposition . . .

I, like many of you, watched the final day of the most recent Supreme Court nomination hearing to learn more about the allegations against Justice Kavanaugh and his accuser, who had only been depicted in a couple of photographs via the media. Even before the hearing, I had already been reliving some of my own youthful coming of age activities, recognizing that I had put myself in some unsafe situations as a teenager. I'm sure I was not alone in these reveries, but sincerely grateful that none led to an unwanted, life-threatening sexual assault.



As I watched the Kavanaugh hearing where Dr. Christine Blasey Ford provided riveting testimony, I had a wave of emotions admiring her personal courage and honesty. I, then, prepared myself for Judge Kavanaugh's response. His emotional approach, displaying anger, indignation, and blatant partisanship, certainly shocked me and many across the nation. As the hearing unraveled along with the loss of Senate decorum, it became obvious that the country was reeling from the events of the day.

I must say it was heartening to receive a message from our national League President, Chris Carson, announcing a decision to take action by making an official statement and encouraging the Senate to delay a floor vote.



### Table of Contents

	Page
Leadership Team—Donna Reynolds	1-2
Book Club	2
National Popular Vote	3
Holiday Luncheon/Silent Auction	4
Roundhouse Fine Art Tour	5
League Libations	5
Action & Advocacy	6
Membership Form	7
Calendar	8
Opinion	9

President Chris Carson offered the following message to members:

*One in five American women have survived rape or attempted rape. So, like many of you, I watched the Senate hearings this week with anticipation, anger, and heartbreak.*

*Dr. Christine Blasey Ford was a portrait of dignity and incredible courage, sharing the most intimate details of her sexual assault in high school. Her testimony, along with additional sexual misconduct allegations, raises serious concerns about a nominee who could make decisions that will shape the future for women for generations to come.*

*As a Board, we made the decision that we could not sit silent. **This is an important moment in our history and the League must demand a process that will uphold the integrity of the U.S. Supreme Court.** We stood with a number of nonpartisan organizations, including the American Bar Association, which asked the Senate to delay a floor vote pending a full investigation into the allegations of sexual misconduct. We made a strong statement and issued an Action Alert encouraging the public to call their senators asking them to delay a vote.*

*It came as a tremendous relief that cooler heads prevailed in the Senate and a final vote was not rushed through. **The reopening of the FBI background investigation announced...was the very least that can be done to ensure the Senate has sufficient information before voting on a lifetime appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court . . .***

I am personally grateful that a “pause” was provided by the Senate to further explore allegations and pleased that LWVUS was one of the organizations encouraging such an investigation. There are moments in our history that are defining, and I believe the actions surrounding the nomination of Judge Kavanaugh will be ones we reflect on and evaluate for many years to come.

- Donna Reynolds  
VP of PR/Communications

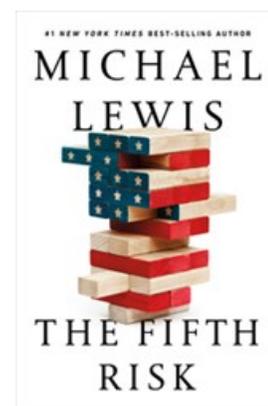


## March Nonfiction Book Club Selection *The Fifth Risk*

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2019, at Collected Works Bookstore & Coffeehouse, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The book selected to read is “*The Fifth Risk*” by Michael Lewis.

From an NPR review, “*Government may be too big and the bureaucracy too complex, but Lewis delves into its critical missions: to protect us from threats, including nuclear weapons proliferation, devastating tornadoes, and foodborne illnesses; and to efficiently distribute services and benefits to those needing a hand — whether from Federal Emergency Management Agency or food stamps.*”



Get reading, and we will see you in March!

# National Popular Vote!

## The National Popular Vote is a LWVUS priority



This summer's League of Women Voters convention in Chicago lasted only a few days, but the determined ladies from the Florida chapter (above) managed to accomplish what they had set out to do: Have the National Popular Vote become an official national priority for Leagues across the United States.

The national League has supported a direct election of the U.S. President for a long time, as expressed, for example, in a 1970 position statement, but it took developments elsewhere to arrive at a specific mechanism and a "National Popular Vote Interstate Compact" terminology ("National Popular Vote" for short) to establish how a direct election would work.

By 2010, the League's "Statement of Position on Selection of the President" declared that "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished."

Yet interestingly it's actually the "winner-take-all" state laws, not the Electoral College, that cause the large-scale voting inequalities and other pronounced disadvantages of the current presidential election system.

The good news is that state laws can be changed, and that is exactly what New Mexico will have a chance to do during its upcoming 2019 legislative session.

To learn more, mark your calendar for the LWVSFC's **National Popular Vote Public Forum with New Mexico Senator Mimi Stewart** on Saturday, November 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 107 W. Barcelona Road, Santa Fe.

To familiarize yourself further with the National Popular Vote before or after the forum, please visit the **National Popular Vote-New Mexico** website ([www.nationalpopularvotennm.org](http://www.nationalpopularvotennm.org)).

– Ute Haker  
Member, LWVSFC

**Annual Holiday Party & Silent Auction  
Wednesday  
December 12, 2018  
11:30—1:00**

**Special Guest Speaker: Julie Ann Grimm  
Editor, Santa Fe Reporter**

Ms. Grimm earned a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri, and has solid reporting chops from her time at the Associated Press and *The New Mexican*, before joining the *Santa Fe Reporter*. We had the pleasure of hosting Ms. Grimm a few years ago, and look forward to another enjoyable lunchtime with her.



Please remember guests or non-members are always welcome! RSVP at [www.lwvsfc.org](http://www.lwvsfc.org) or send your check (\$25.00 per person) by December 7, 2018, to:

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

*silent*  
**AUCTION**

The silent auction will be managed by Berit Leonard. Please plan to arrive at 11:15 to donate items and to lend a hand if necessary. If you purchase *and* donate, it's not the same as bringing home more stuff.



### **New Mexico Roundhouse Art Tour with League Members**

Members of the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County are invited to attend a tour of the state Roundhouse fine art collection on Friday, December 7, 2018, at 10:00

a.m. Please plan to arrive about ten minutes before the tour begins to check in at the Rotunda Desk so we can begin the tour promptly at 10:00 a.m. The tour lasts approximately one hour. The New Mexico State Capitol, or Roundhouse, is located at 490 Old Santa Fe Trail. The tour is free. Please RSVP to Donna Reynolds at [donnamr@me.com](mailto:donnamr@me.com)

### **League Libations**

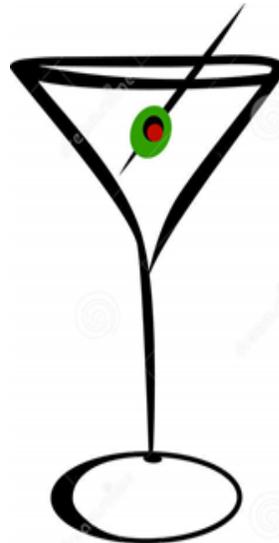
**Thursday  
November 29, 2018  
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

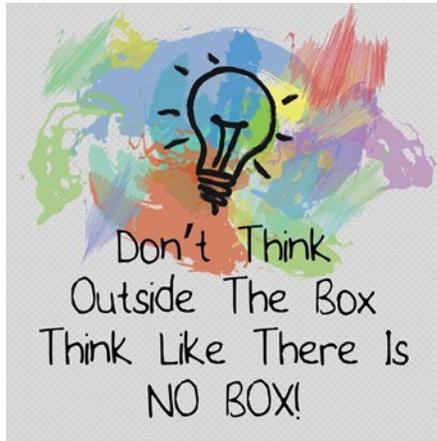
**Santa Fe Hilton  
Ortiz Café & Bar  
100 Sandoval Street**

**No-Host Bar**

**Come, meet and relax with  
League friends and guests.**

**Repeats monthly.**





## **ACTION & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

### **Highlights**

**October 2018**

- The city website project is on hold, as we still do not know who will be heading it.
- Midtown Campus Project: Chris Jonas of Littlelobe, Marcy Litzenberg, and Hannah Burling continue to meet.
- Mary Schruben has asked Mike Harris to see if the Capital Improvement Plan can be posted more frequently than once a quarter because it changes more frequently. The portion of Camino Carlos Rey that goes over Arroyo Chamiso will be rebuilt. This will be a complex undertaking, as some of the land is owned by New Mexico Game & Fish.
- Proposed Changes to the City Public Campaign Financing Code: Carol Romero-Wirth's bill has passed.
- Civility in Public Discourse: Before forums, etc., candidates must sign and return the agreement. Hannah Burling is to form a subcommittee to create guidelines, and she will continue to take part in the LWV discussion.
- Kavanaugh Hearing: The committee decided that, even in light of the Chris Carson letter, there was nothing we could do locally.
- Judicial elections: Our state position "Judges of the higher courts should be appointed by the governor from a screened list submitted from a non-partisan nominating commission ...." would be more effective if the word "higher could be removed or if elections were eliminated. Suzanne Ronneau will investigate this as a state issue, as well as the possibility of adding another state's position.
- Health subcommittee: Olivia Ridgeway and Dawn Abriel have been attending the Health Policy & Planning Committee of the Board of County Commissioners. In 2017, there were 93 hospitalizations of children and youth in the pediatric ward for substance abuse. There were several completed suicides. There is no space at Christus for a psychiatric ward for youth, and Presbyterian right now is entirely physical health. The Action & Advocacy Committee is considering ways to change this.
- SFPS: The question of what the school district will do about missing a whole year of funding because of the consolidation of municipal elections remains.

*- Hannah Burling*



### Membership Form—New/Renewal

Please complete in full, even if renewing.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: *(please print)* \_\_\_\_\_

Address: *(including ZIP)* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT** include my contact information in the annual Handbook/Membership Directory.

Can you attend mid-day meetings, luncheons, and other activities during the week?  Yes  No

#### Membership Categories

- Individual member: \$60.00
- Second member (same address): \$40.00 Second member name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*For separate listing of second member in Handbook/Directory, please list phone and e-mail:*  
 Second member phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Second member e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_
- Student membership: \$20.00 *(for students 18-25 years of age and currently enrolled at an accredited school/college)*

**Membership checks made payable to LWVSFC:** *Please mail form with check to LWVSFC, Attn: Membership, to the address at the bottom of form.*

*Membership is paid annually for the membership year September 1 to August 31. It includes state (LWVNM) and national (LWVUS) dues. If you join between April and August of any year, your membership will extend through the following year to August 31.*

#### Additional Donation

Inasmuch as the majority of membership fees is sent to the state and national Leagues, members are asked to make a contribution in addition to membership fees.

For example, the Santa Fe League keeps only \$12.00 of the \$60.00 paid for an individual membership and \$11.00 of the \$40.00 second membership. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

The LWVSFC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All fees and donations to the League are tax-deductible.

#### Get Involved

LWVSFC has no paid staff. All work is accomplished by volunteers. Consider giving some of your time to support either Voter Services or Organizational Support. Check all that apply.

**Voter Services:**  Voter Registration  High School Voter Registration  Information Table

*Are you a trained Voter Registrar?*  Yes  No *If No, walk-in training is available at County Clerk's office downtown.*

Monitor public meetings  Candidate forums/meetings  Lobby government officials *(w/LWVNM)*

#### Organizational Support:

Help at events  Development  Membership  Write for newsletter  Website

Staff League office  Board member  Other \_\_\_\_\_



## Calendar 2018-2019

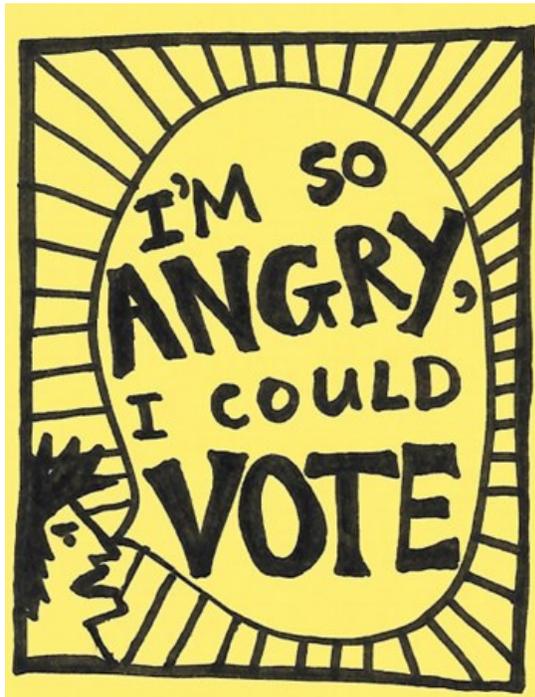
### 2018

#### November

- November 7, 10-12: Unit meeting-Transfer of Public Lands Consensus
- November 10, 2:00-4:00: National Popular Vote Public Forum, Unitarian Universalist Church, 107 W. Barcelona Road, Santa Fe
- November 14, 7-9: Nonprofit news organization public forum
- November 17, 11 - 3: *LWVNM Board meeting, Socorro*
- November 20, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
- November 29: 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

#### December

- December 7, Roundhouse Art Tour
- December 8, 10-12: *LWVNM Effective Citizen Advocacy Workshop, NM State Capitol, Room 322, Santa Fe*
- December 12, 11:30-1:00: [Holiday Luncheon \(Hotel Santa Fe\)](#)
- December 18, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting



### 2019

#### January

- January 9, 11:30-1:00: Legislative Preview (Hotel SF)
- January 12, 2:00-4:00: National Popular Vote Public Forum, Unitarian Universalist Church, 107 W. Barcelona Road, Santa Fe
- January 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
- January 19, 11-3: *LWVNM Board meeting, Albuquerque*
- January 24, 5:30 SFPS school board candidate forum
- January 23, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel
- January 29, 11-1: Unit Meeting - Program

#### February

- February 6, 5:30-7:30: *LWVNM Legislative Reception-TBD*
- February 7, *LWVNM League Day at the Legislature - Census presentation by Robert Rhatigan*
- February 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
- February 27, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

#### March

- March 16, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo Street
- March 17, 11-3: *LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe*
- March 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
- March 20, 11:30-1: Sunshine Week presentation (Hotel SF) Update of city finances
- March 28, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

#### April

- April 4, 7-9: Public forum on Immigration
- April 16, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
- April 25, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

#### May

- May 8, 11:00-1:30: Annual Meeting (Hotel Santa Fe)
- May 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
- May 19, *LWVNM Convention, Las Cruces*
- May 20, 11-3: *LWVNM board meeting*
- May 23, 5-30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

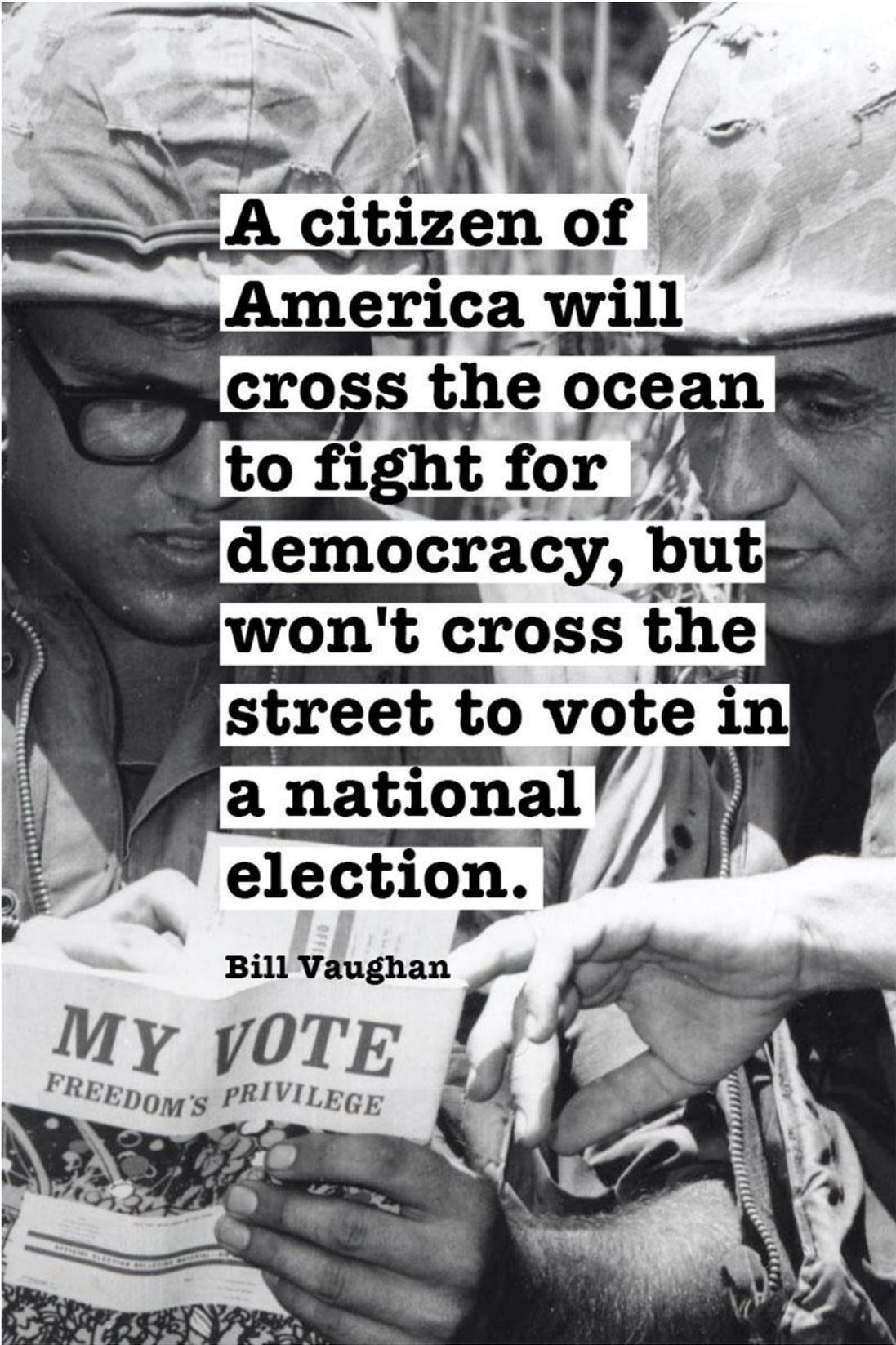


Check [www.lwvsfc.org](http://www.lwvsfc.org) for locations and updates.

*\*LWVNM and other organization functions in italics*

#### Regular meetings:

- Action-Advocacy 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month
- LWVSFC Board meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month 10-12 at NM Bank & Trust, 1592 St. Michael's Dr.
- Unit Meetings are only for League members
- League Libations: Last Thursday of each month @ the Hilton Hotel Ortiz Café & Bar



**A citizen of  
America will  
cross the ocean  
to fight for  
democracy, but  
won't cross the  
street to vote in  
a national  
election.**

**Bill Vaughan**

**MY VOTE**  
FREEDOM'S PRIVILEGE



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