

# the VOTER

May 2024  
Volume 56, Issue 1



## INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER

|                       |   |                    |      |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------|------|
| Calendar & Events     | 2 | Development Report | 7    |
| Voter Services Report | 3 | New QR Code        | 7    |
| Annual Meeting Report | 4 | Observer Reports   | 8-10 |
| Dues & Membership     | 5 | Election Training  | 11   |
| Literacy and Vote411  | 6 | Book Club          | 11   |

## President's Communiqué

Hi League Members,

I always get a kick out of writing the first issue of *The Voter* when we begin a new fiscal year. At the top of the newsletter's banner, you'll read that this issue begins "Volume 56"; it amazes me that for 55 years someone has been writing this newsletter for our organization. So many men and women have truly created a legacy in Las Cruces!

Keeping the legacy alive continues as we give kudos to one of our longtime members. Dale Yeo has completed 18 years of service on the LWVSNM Board (see page 4). She recently retired as Voter Services Director but vows that her volunteering will continue. Thank you, Dale, for going the extra mile in many LWV activities.

As we begin this new year, it's also a good time to remind our members that our primary focus for the next several months will be voter services. Kathe Kanim now holds the voter services reins, and she is counting on all of us to volunteer time and to share ideas on how we can reach residents in Doña Ana and Otero counties who are not registered or who need a push to get out and vote.

Meanwhile, be sure to out check out [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org); our League members have been urging candidates in five counties to answer our questions about their candidacies. [Vote411](http://Vote411.org) should be live by the time early voting starts on May 7. Edwina Jaramillo and Tom Krajci have been instrumental in getting hundreds of candidates throughout the entire state to answer questions in all 33 counties.

Welcome to a new year and I hope to see many of you at our June Visioning Lab.



■ *Jo Galván Nash, President*

## The Visioning Lab Set for June 8

Do you have about an hour that you can volunteer on Saturday, June 8 at 2:00 p.m.? That's the day for our yearly Visioning Lab – we'll roll up our sleeves and work on how to put action into our Program and goals. We don't have a May general meeting, so I hope you can attend the June Lab. The meeting will be at the Doña Ana Community College Workforce Training Center at 2345 Nevada Ave. Plus, we'll have the meeting over Zoom.

Members will strategize how to go about registering more residents to vote, particularly in the rural parts of the county. Plus, we need to talk about how and when to send rural residents election information (hopefully in two languages) with the intent of getting them registered and interested in the upcoming elections.

The Lab will also give us time to talk in depth about the future of our Position on libraries. It's been needing an update for years. The latest version of the position (read it on page 2) was last updated 17 years ago and generally focuses on Branigan Memorial Library. We'll discuss whether the Position should also incorporate rural libraries, such as the one in Anthony.

Don't forget that the point of updating our Positions is so we can advocate or lobby for change and/or support. So, between now and June 8, please ask yourself what you believe we should study about area libraries. Do our libraries need more funding? If so, for what? What are the conditions of their present facilities? Beyond lending out books, what type of community services are, or should be, provided through libraries? Do libraries need to expand their existing community outreach and how? Is their technology up to par? Are they meeting the needs of Spanish monolingual families? Etc.

Come to the Lab with your experiences and ideas! We'll be spending many months studying and researching, and your involvement will help.

## LWVSNM's Library Position

**Branigan Memorial Library** (1986; updated in 1996 and 2007)

The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico believes that a public library is a major community resource. Growth in our city and county has outpaced the current library resources. The Branigan Memorial Library continues to lag behind established standards for public libraries. It is essential that the following actions be taken:

1. That the main library facility be expanded in order to enlarge the collection and provide adequate space for staff and program.

2. That branch libraries be established to improve geographic access to library services. Possible collaboration with other community entities such as schools, recreation centers or senior centers should be encouraged.

3. That the County Government be encouraged to provide more financial support to reflect the widespread use of the library throughout the County.



## 2024/25 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO BOARD:

Jo Galván Nash – President  
Beth Bardwell – Vice-President  
Edwina Jaramillo – Secretary  
Kathy Brook – Treasurer  
Kathy Brook & Eileen VanWie – Past Presidents  
Kathe Kanim – Voter Services Director  
Kate Mangelsdorf – Membership Director  
Eileen VanWie & Josie Miller – Youth Engagement  
Co-Directors

Eileen VanWie — Education Committee Director  
Nancy Stanton — Development Director

and

OPEN – Public Relations Director  
Tom Krajci — Otero Unit Liaison  
Jo Galván Nash – The Voter Editor  
Ruth Jaure — Historian  
Kate Mangelsdorf, Chair, and Rebecca Courtney,  
Member – Nominating Committee  
OPEN — 3<sup>rd</sup> Member for Nominating Committee

## Upcoming Calendar Events

### MAY 2024

*No General Membership Meeting in May*

May 6, Mon.: **Regular Board Meeting**; 5:30 pm, via Zoom

May 6, Mon.: **RSVP deadline** for those attending the May 10<sup>th</sup> Naturalization Ceremony at 10am at the Convention Center; call 575-528-1408 if you can attend.

May 7, Tues.: **Early Voting Begins for Primary**

May 12, Sun.: **Mothers' Day**

May 13, Mon.: **SNM Education Committee**, 5 p.m., via Zoom; [contact Eileen VanWie](#) to attend.

May 14, Tues.: **SNM Voter Services Committee**, 1 pm, via Zoom; [contact Kathe Kanim](#) to attend.

May 20, Mon.: **Short Board Meeting**; 5:30 pm, Zoom

May 27, Mon.: **Memorial Day Holiday**

May 28, Tues.: **SNM Voter Services Committee**, 1 pm, via Zoom; [contact Kathe Kanim](#) to attend.

### JUNE 2024

June 8, Sat.: **Visioning Lab**, 2:00 p.m., Hybrid Mtg.

### JULY 2024

*No Meetings or The Voter in July*

## An Overview of 2024 Voter Services

With fewer than 190 days left until the 2024 General Election, the LWVSNM has established a Voter Services Committee which meets biweekly at 1:00 pm. The focus is voter registration and election education/information. Our efforts are targeted in the activities described below.

There are many opportunities for members to volunteer to help with voter registration and voter education. Please watch your email for invitations to help.

### Voter Registration

We will be helping League members become Voter Registration Agents and then finding venues for Voter Registration events. Rebecca Courtney has investigated voter turnout and registration data and found that registrations increase between the primary and general elections; there was a total of 40,000 new voters registered in Doña Ana County before the last presidential election. Watch for opportunities for training and registration events. This subcommittee is chaired by [Rebecca Courtney](#).

### Candidate Forums

We expect to hold several forums for the General Election and will be asking for volunteers to help make them run smoothly. LWVSNM partnered with DAC NAACP and the SNM Bar Association to host a District Attorney Candidate Forum on April 24<sup>th</sup> at City Hall. Five candidates attended the event with a full audience. Questions generated by the Forum committee and the audience contributed to the success of the event.

Our Otero County Unit is particularly interested in forums for Senate District 33 and House District 51. This subcommittee is chaired by Kathe Kanim.



*Coordinating forum questions were (l to r) Israel Chávez, Bar Assoc., Dr. Bobbie Green, NAACP, and League Members Jennifer Kreie and Kathe Kanim.*

### Voters' Guides

LWV's Vote411.org is well underway. It's designed to allow voters to read about the background, priorities and positions of candidates appearing on their ballot. League members generated questions and the candidates running for office this year have been invited to submit their answers that will be available on [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org) starting May 5. Participation is not complete. Members are encouraged to call candidates who have not submitted a response and encourage them to do so.

In addition to the online Vote411, printed Voters' Guides for Doña Ana County are being organized for the General Election. As we have had in recent years, we plan to have English and Spanish guides inserted in local English and Spanish newspapers. This subcommittee is in need of a dedicated volunteer to coordinate the important voter information work of the voters' guides.

### Flyers to Rural Communities

This subcommittee is led by Eileen VanWie and will use primary election data to target the communities and the information most needed to serve our rural communities. Information in Spanish is a top priority.

### Social Media

Rebecca is generously also leading this subcommittee to utilize social media to share our Vote411.org program, to encourage voter education and election participation. Notices are posted on Facebook, X and Instagram. We are reaching out to ASNMSU to increase our contacts with university attending voters.

### Election Watchers

Kathe Kanim will be helping volunteers get training and Secretary of State letters of authorization to be watchers at the primary and general elections. Please let Kathe Kanim [katherinekanim@gmail.com](mailto:katherinekanim@gmail.com) know if you would like to be an election watcher for Early, Absentee, or Election Day Voting. This is an important task for ensuring confidence in the election process and results. The County Clerk's office also needs excellent Election Workers. Contact the clerk's office or go to the following link for information and/or application:

[https://careers-donaanacounty.icims.com/jobs/3809/election-specialist-\\*temporary\\*/job](https://careers-donaanacounty.icims.com/jobs/3809/election-specialist-*temporary*/job)

### Voter Data Review

Tom Krajci is reviewing Secretary of State databanks and offering information to help make corrections to the data and offering analysis of the data to help focus our voter services activities.

**Please consider joining our team and attend our next meeting May 14 at 1:00pm.** Voter Services members are: Kathe Kanim (chair), Beth Bardwell, Kathy Brook, Rebecca Courtney, Sunny DeYoung, Edwina Jaramillo, Tom Krajci, Kate Mangelsdorf, Jo Galván Nash, Suzie Ostrem, Penny Peace, David Rice, Eileen VanWie, Dale Yeo, and Helen Zagana.

■ *Kathe Kanim, Voter Services Director*

# Annual Meeting a Success

The two-hour Annual Business Meeting culminated with the adoption of two revised Positions, a new 2024/25 budget, changes to the SNM bylaws, and a new slate of officers and board members, among other items. Each year, the Board holds its Annual Meeting that brings the fiscal year to a close.

The two revised positions are for Education, and Affordable Housing and Building Electrification. The Education Committee, chaired by Eileen VanWie, spent more than a year doing extensive work on the new position. [Read it here.](#) The revisions to the Affordable Housing Position also went through unit meetings and a lot of study and research, chaired by Beth Bardwell. [Read it here.](#)

Members who were elected and appointed to the Board are shown at the right with their photos. There are still two positions that have not been filled: PR Director and a third member for the Nominating Committee. Please [contact President Jo Nash](#) if you are interested in those positions.

The 24/25 budget was passed unanimously. Total income is estimated at \$22,318 (which is approximately \$3,700 more than the 23/24 fiscal year) and anticipated expenditures are \$21,935. Treasurer Kathy Brook will continuously manage the budget and expenditures will be monitored. Once again, the largest anticipated expenses are for the printed Voter Guides.

“The Annual Meeting went very well and that’s due to the hard work by many members of our organization,” concluded Nash.



*Co-President Kathe Kanim (left) presented Dale Yeo with a certificate of recognition, hiking socks and succulent plants in thanks for her years of service to the SNM Board. Kathe is replacing Dale as Voter Services Director.*

After the Annual Meeting, the Board was grateful to Ruth Jaure for agreeing to oversee the duties of League Historian. Ruth brings four years of related experience, serving as AAUW-LC’s Historian from 2019-2023. During that time, she updated and catalogued the collection’s documents from 1985 to the present. She worked closely with the Special Collections Archivist, who also oversees the League’s collection, to identify documents relevant to researchers versus those considered administrative or recordkeeping. Her background will help access and maintain the League’s collection which also goes back many decades. Thanks, Ruth!

## 2024-25 LWVSNM OFFICERS & BOARD



Jo Galván Nash  
President  
1-year term



Beth Bardwell  
Vice President  
2-year term



Edwina Jaramillo  
Secretary  
2-year term



Kathy Brook  
Treasurer  
1-year term



Kathe Kanim  
Voter Services Dir.  
2-year term



Kate Mangelsdorf  
Nominating  
Comm. Chair  
2-year term



Rebecca Courtney  
Nominating Comm.  
2-year term



Nancy Stanton  
Development Dir.  
1-year appointment



Ruth Jaure  
Historian, 1-year appointment

## Testing the Voting Machines

Otero County vote tabulating machines are getting tested and certified in preparation for the upcoming Primary Election in June.

The testing was opened to the public, so I dropped by to watch, listen, ask some questions, take some pics, and learn a little more about election integrity. The County Clerk's office staff spent at least two days of testing.

Part of the process was to run a set of test ballots through the tabulators. Some of the test ballots had intentional errors. Officials would watch to see if each machine correctly read all 167 test ballots.

I was there for roughly two hours and there were three of us 'general public' folks in total. The clerk's office staff remarked "this is the largest number of general public observers I remember seeing at this event."

One citizen election watcher was keeping track of machines (serial number, which voting center it was allocated for, certification status, etc.), and she planned to be there for the duration of testing.

Everyone should get in touch with their County Clerk's office to go through this experience at least once.

- *Tom Krajci, Otero County Unit Liaison*



*Otero County staffers test the voting machines in a large warehouse. Photos by Tom Krajci, LWVSNM member and Board Liaison.*

## It's Dues Renewal Time

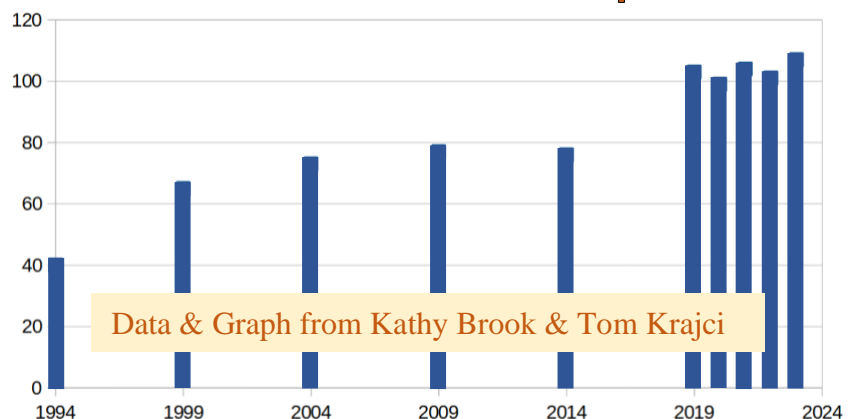
May 1, the first day of the LWVSNM fiscal year, means it's time to renew your membership for 2024-25! Dues remain the same: \$65.00 for an individual, \$32.50 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> same household individual. Enrolled students 16+ are free. This year we have a new campaign—**Round Up Your LWVSNM Dues**--to support our activities in this important election year. When paying your dues, consider adding a donation. For example, when you pay your \$65 dues, you can "round up" with a \$35 donation, for a total of \$100. (Of course, we appreciate the donations from many of you who traditionally "round up.") Dues and donations are tax deductible.

Send your dues to LWVSNM, P.O. Box 15142, Las Cruces NM 88004. Or you can pay online at [www.lwvsnm.org/join/](http://www.lwvsnm.org/join/) through PayPal or a credit card. If you don't renew online, please [fill out the membership form](#) so we have your correct contact information.

- *Kate Mangelsdorf, Membership Director*



## LWVSNM 30-Year Membership Trend



## League Supports Literacy Event

LWVSNM members Laura Castille (on right in top photo) and Eileen VanWie provided a League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico (LWVSNM) table for the Las Cruces Public Schools Literacy Extravaganza on the evening of Thursday, March 28, 2024, at the Plaza de Las Cruces. It was well attended by families who have elementary school-age children. Two adults were registered to vote. Our literacy activity was for students to write thank you postcards to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham for passing into law the *Healthy Universal School Meals Act* that went into effect this year.

Laura or Eileen would say to students, “Do you want to write a postcard?” Without any questions, they usually said, “Sure.” Then we’d explain the law and provide information to get them started. The parents and guardians were very supportive, and we sent 21 postcards (with LWVSNM on the return address side of the card) to Governor Lujan Grisham.

LWVSNM Youth Engagement Co-Chair Josie Miller coordinated the event; she is an instructional specialist for Las Cruces Public Schools.

- Eileen VanWie, Youth Engagement Co-Chair



Photos by Josie Miller

## VOTE411 in SNM

By the time you read this newsletter the state’s [Vote411.org website](https://Vote411.org) will be up-and-running. Hundreds of hours have been spent by members enticing candidates to participate through letters, calls and emails. Unfortunately, many candidates have chosen not to participate, especially if they have no opposition in the Primary. But there is a silver lining – although the state average rate of candidates who have answered LWV’s questions is only 34% (as of April 30), Southern New Mexico’s average rate is approximately 47%. We would like to get that figure at 50% or higher before the election.

Vote411 is the state’s online Voter Guide and SNM has a significant role in helping it be successful. Don’t forget - our *printed* Voter Guides will be done for the General Election.



EMPOWERING VOTERS.  
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

Get more **VOTERS TO THE POLLS**

★ YOU ★

can do it by becoming a  
**VOTER REGISTRATION AGENT!**

You will make a difference in our  
**DEMOCRACY**

**IT'S EASY...**

Call your County Clerk’s Office and  
ask to be trained as a VRA!

Dona Ana 575-647-7428    Otero 575-437-4942  
Sierra 575-894-2840    Grant 575-574-0042  
Luna 575-546-0491

**LWV** League of Women Voters  
of Southern New Mexico

Thanks to Rebecca Courtney for creating postcards enticing others to get trained as a Voter Registration Agent.

## League Auction Benefits SNM Activities

A small campaign to raise funds to cover our 2024-25 annual budget was launched with a Silent Auction at the recent Annual Meeting. Many lovely treasures, collectibles, and jewelry were donated by our generous members which brought in a total of \$810 in bids. This amount far exceeded our goal and so we're putting it in the success column and we're very grateful, indeed, to all those who made purchases.



Photo by Rebecca Courtney

*New member Suzie Ostrem admires the items donated for the Annual Meeting silent auction, including several pieces of Talavera pottery.*

As was explained at the Annual Meeting, there are several ways for members to contribute to our revenue goal starting with “rounding up” the amount members pay to renew this year’s League membership dues. Of course, “rounding up” your membership dues by a greater amount would help provide additional funds for the many activities planned for the Voter Services Committee during this very important election year. Thanks again to those who donated items, and to those who submitted bids.

Meanwhile it’s important that we are watchful for opportunities to recruit new members which would increase the number of volunteers available to continue with our efforts to empower voters and strengthen democracy, as well as add revenue to cover our expenses.

Finally, the League is submitting applications to several foundations and funding sources and a solicitation campaign targeting businesses throughout the five counties that make up our area will get underway by August.

- *Nancy Stanton, Development Director*

## Introducing the LWVSNM QR Code

More than likely, you’ve already heard about or seen QR codes. But have you tried to use one? Recently, with the technical assistance of League member Tom Krajci, the League created its own QR (Quick Response) code. The League plans to use it extensively on future printed materials and social media to direct people to our website. During the coming months, we’ll want more people to visit [lwvsnm.org](http://lwvsnm.org) to get voter information.

So, let’s try to see if you can use our QR code:

1. Get out your smartphone (Apple or Android).
2. On your phone’s home screen (or stored with all your camera’s apps), open your camera app by tapping on the camera icon.
3. Just like you would take a picture, point the camera closely at the QR code below.
4. Immediately, the camera should read the black & white boxes. At the top of your phone screen, you should now have a message to “Open “[lwvsnm.org](http://lwvsnm.org)” in a web browser.
5. Click that message to open the League website. Simple!



QR codes are quick ways to get people to go to specific websites. The array of squares essentially stores data for a machine to read. It’s simply a convenient way to access data – in this case, *our* data. (Codes were originally invented to replace barcodes in order to store a lot more information and are easier to scan.) Thanks for trying this technology.

## Medicaid and Behavioral Health to be Addressed by Lawmakers

Thanks to Dick Mason of LWVNM for forwarding this information to us. You may want to watch this upcoming Interim Legislative Committee meeting. The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee will meet May 7-8, beginning at 10 a.m. and 9 a.m., respectively, from the Roundhouse. Go online to [nmlegis.gov](http://nmlegis.gov); under the menu tab “Webcast” look for the committee meeting teleconference link.

On the second day, some of the more pertinent items are Medicaid and behavioral health. [Click for agenda.](#)

On a separate note, the Legislative website homepage now has a direct link to “New Mexico Official Laws.” [Click here.](#)



## OBSERVER REPORTS

### **SOUTH CENTRAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY • Regular Meeting**

March 18, 2023

Amador Board Room and ZOOM, 9:00 a.m

Observer: Johnnie R. Aldrich

Director Patrick Peck said the Authority is hiring people to fill non-administrator positions, like equipment operators or dump site control personnel. The Authority received \$400,000 in state funding from the recently ended legislative meeting, so salaries for such positions have been increased from \$12.50 to \$14.00 hourly, a 5% hike. Additional staff was hired last year but more is needed. Doña Ana County still is in growth mode. More people = more trash.

The Authority recognized this quarter's Outstanding Employee. Mark Powell, who was appointed Lead Driver in 2022, was the recipient of verbal kudos and a certificate of commendation.

Also new is a pilot project to begin soon that will see county residences receiving recycle bins for curbside collection. Service will be available to approximately 2,000 homes. At present, curbside bins are available only to Las Cruces city residents.

County growth also means that much of the meeting focused on progress reports about construction of new facilities and financing them with budget adjustments necessary because of rising fuel prices and salary increases. (Administrators received a 2.5% raise this year.)

New facilities included the completion of Cell 5, the newest open dumping site. The Holman Road Recycling Center work is on schedule. Peck reported that 16,000 tons of recyclables was received monthly during the quarter, so that program is "doing well." This additional center should result in even higher numbers since it makes the process easier for people living on the east side.

The Authority also approved funds (\$600,000) to pay for a five-year lease on property and a maintenance facility at 653 N. 17th Street. The facility should result in a huge improvement in the efficiency of that department.

---

### **SOUTH CENTRAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY • Special Meetings**

March 21 and 25, 2024 • Amador Board Room and ZOOM, 9:00 a.m.

Observer: Johnnie R. Aldrich

Since this city/county entity meets only quarterly, special meetings are occasionally necessary because of deadlines for renewing contractual obligations and budget adjustments. On March 21, the Authority met to discuss two resolutions. The first unanimous vote was to authorize the Waste Authority to sign onto the New Mexico Self-Insurer's Fund. The second unanimous vote was to approve a contract with RRT Design and Construction for the Las Cruces Recycle Center Design and Construction. The same company will also Upgrade the Single-Stream Recycling System for the Authority. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

On Monday, March 25, the second Special Meeting of the month was called. The Authority authorized an amendment to Resolution which allows purchases through the term of the NM State Purchasing Division contract for supplies, service, and repairs for heavy equipment and vehicles until January 8, 2027. The Authority must make annual renewals and necessary budget appropriations throughout the term. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Readers wanting specific details about either of these resolutions or have any question about their individual waste/trash pick-ups should call the Authority at 575-538-3800. This group does answer user questions rapidly.





## OBSERVER REPORTS

### **LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Session**

April 1, 2024

Observer: Jen Kreie

First, no changes to the Council agenda right now. Mayor Eric Enriquez said he will not change the sequence of items in the Council agenda for now. This comment is due to his plan to move public input to the end of the agenda. The Mayor said he has asked the New Mexico Municipal League to evaluate the Council meetings and make recommendations. No changes to the agenda sequence are planned until those recommendations are made.

The first two resolutions were passed by the Council: 1) approval of the employment agreement with Ikani Taumoepeau as the new city manager and 2) approval of the fees schedule presented of the Quality of Life Department. The consideration of a zoning change was tabled until the April 15th Council meeting.

---

### **LAS CRUCES CITY COUNCIL • Regular Session**

April 15, 2024

Observer: Kathy Brook

Public participation involved a variety of topics. In areas of concern to the League, there was input supportive of single-family housing and funding economic development rather than building more low-income housing, concern about demolition of housing on University at Chapparral Street, and support for increasing housing density.

The main item of business was the zoning change that had been tabled at the previous meeting. The proposal involved removal of a height restriction in an area near Boutz and between I-10 and Mesilla. Residents of the area expressed concerns about the impact of greater housing density on traffic. Several councilors used the council comment period to explain their vote in support of the zoning change as helpful in addressing the housing shortage. One of the councilors noted that there is work being done on traffic calming and that this can be done simultaneously with expanding housing.

---

### **LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION • Regular Meeting**

April 23, 2024 • 6:00 pm

Observer: Eileen VanWie

There were six public comments made. One person said that schools should not censor books and materials available to students. Three of the comments were related to removing books they deem inappropriate from high school libraries, with a “threat” if there wasn’t an inventory made and books pulled, they would be making official complaints in the fall. One person objected to Policy GBEBB - Staff Conduct with Students - that refers to “implicit bias,” which the man said was used to discriminate against white citizens. This policy is up for first reading at the Board meeting. The final public comment came from our own LWVSNM member Elisa Sánchez, who gave feedback from our Education Committee on two LCPS policies up for final review at the Board meeting.

The Board used our suggestions in the updated JICFA policy on *Bullying, Cyberbullying, Racialized Aggression, and Harassment*.

The student advisor (a student at Arrowhead Early College High School) shared concerns about the weapons detections system in schools and suggested “hazing” was important and yet is part of bullying; it could be removed from the policy JICFA allowing students to interpret right from wrong.

— continued



Superintendent Ignacio Ruiz described the LCPS Stronger Connections Grant being used for firearm protection systems; the next steps are to have principals provide informational meetings. The Climate and Culture Survey got 4,000 responses (from parents, staff, community members, and select students), a much greater response than last year. Data will be used to inform decision-making in the district. With the Strategic Planning process, LCPS Board goals are being fine-tuned and the Committee wants more time (June 21<sup>st</sup>) to get information. The County Student Internship program is back for this summer and selected students can earn up to \$15 an hour.

*Policy JCAA School Attendance Zone and Redistricting* was described by Deputy Superintendent Gabe Jacquez, which was approved on a 5-0 vote. Deputy Superintendent Wendy Miller-Tomlinson brought forward *Policy JICFA Bullying, Cyberbullying, Racialized Aggression, and Harassment* for further discussion. After much discussion and some changes, the Board unanimously passed the policy. Human Resources Director Cynthia Donnelly presented the first reading of *Policy GBEBB Staff Conduct with Students* and recommended some changes to it. The Board recommended other changes that will be addressed for the second reading.

Attorney Roxie De Santiago explained that LCPS is subject to the Inspection of Public Records Act, which could involve requests for union communications. She recommended that the Board seek legal advice from the NM Attorney General for such requests. There will be no charge to the District.

---

### **DONA ANA COUNTY COMMISSION • Special Meeting**

April 15, 2024

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

In one of the last meetings with County Manager Fernando Macias, the Board of County Commissioners heard from a majority of the department heads with their 2025 budget requests. The approved budget must be to the state by June 1. On May 14, there will be a final work session on the budget and it's possible the Board will give approval on that date. Otherwise, the final day for budget approval by the Board would be July 23.

Among the requests was increased funding for more staff. An overall increase would include 14 additional deputies, 12 firefighters, an economist, and a compliance officer to handle ethics complaints. There are a total of 40 new positions requested totaling \$2.27 Million.

Some of the department highlights included:

Treasurer: Eric Rodriguez seeks an increase of \$16K for staff development and to pay for postage rate increases. Commissioner Manuel Sanchez hopes more citizens will request e-statements so that fewer paper notices and bills have to be mailed.

Detention Center: An increase of 2% (\$396K) is primarily for building maintenance, and there was an actual decrease requested for feeding of prisoners.

Health & Human Services: The department would like to increase youth programming at six community resources centers and pilot a mobile community center initiative to expand HHS to communities without centers. These and other items would require an increase of \$481K.

Flood Commission: Their major goal is to develop better public outreach and that includes \$50K for website development to enhance the public interface with the flood warning system.

IT: An increase of \$134K was requested for data systems maintenance. They also want office equipment (300 new desktops and peripherals) and furniture with an additional \$202K; and a 1,067% increase (\$160K) was requested for contract services.

The County Manager's operating budget would remain flat.

## Election Workers Training for General Election

The Doña Ana County Clerk is holding training sessions for the upcoming General Election at the County Government Center, at 845 N. Motel Blvd. Here are the training dates and a link to more information. Each year, members of the League are among those assisting in elections.

### Election Day Training:

- Friday, May 3, 2024, at 5:30 pm
- Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 5:30 pm
- Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 10:30 am
- Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 5:30 pm
- Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 1:30 pm
- Monday, May 20, 2024, at 5:30 pm
- Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 5:30 pm
- Saturday, May 25, 2024, at 10:30 am
- Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 5:30 pm

These trainings are open to the public. Those wishing to apply to become an election official can sign up by visiting: <https://www.donaanacountyelections.com/election-officials/>



*Election workers at the Camino Real Mid School voting location in the Nov. 2023 election.*

## UPCOMING GOVT. MEETINGS

### LC City Council:

May 6; May 13 (work session); May 20; all at 1:00 p.m., City Hall

County Commission: May 14 and May 28; both at 9:00 am, DAC Govt. Center.

LCPS School Board: May 7, (Board Retreat), time TBD, Admin. Bldg. Conference Rooms; May 8 (budget town hall mtg.) 5:30 pm, LCPS Admin. Bldg. Board Rm.; May 21, 6 pm, Regular Meeting; LCPS Admin. Board Room.

### NMSU Board of Regents:

May 9, 9am, ESC Building at NMSU, [Check here](#) to join webcast.

## Books for LWVSNM Book Club – May 2024

*We read so we know things*

**BOOK CLUB MEETINGS ARE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 3:00 PM**

*If you would like to participate, contact Erika at [grafwebster@icloud.com](mailto:grafwebster@icloud.com)*

| Meeting Date  | Book  |
|---------------|---|
| <b>May 2</b>  | <b>Prequel</b> by Rachel Maddow<br>Rachel Maddow traces the fight to preserve American democracy back to World War II, when a handful of committed public servants and brave private citizens thwarted far-right plotters trying to steer our nation toward an alliance with the Nazis. She charts the rise of a wild American strain of authoritarianism that has been alive on the far-right edge of our politics for the better part of a century. It was a sophisticated and shockingly well-funded campaign to undermine democratic institutions, promote antisemitism, and destroy citizens' confidence in their elected leaders, with the ultimate goal of overthrowing the U.S. government and installing authoritarian rule.   |
| <b>June 6</b> | <b>The Exvangelicals: Loving, Living, and Leaving the White Evangelical Church</b> by <a href="#">Sarah McCammon</a><br>Growing up in a deeply evangelical family in the Midwest in the '80s and '90s, Sarah McCammon was strictly taught to fear God, obey him, and not question the faith. McCammon was a rule-follower and—most of the time—a true believer. But through it all, she was increasingly plagued by fears and deep questions as the belief system she'd been carefully taught clashed with her expanding understanding of the outside world. After spending her early adult life striving to make sense of an unraveling worldview, by her 30s, she found herself face-to-face with it once again as she covered the Trump campaign for NPR, where she witnessed first-hand the power and influence that evangelical Christian beliefs held on the political right. Sarah is among a rising generation of the children of evangelicalism who are growing up and fleeing the fold, who are thinking for themselves and deconstructing what feel like the “alternative facts” of their childhood. |