

the VOTER

AUGUST 2024
Volume 56, Issue 3



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President's Communiqué

Hi League Members!

I hope your summer has been going well. There have been several things taking place during the summer break. Primarily, our focus has been on November 5. Aside from the remarkable events taking place in the Presidential race, New Mexico politics is also on our minds.

I am hoping that increased voting due to the President's race will translate to more votes in local voting. Plus, in Las Cruces, we'll also have to decide whether to impose an increase to the city gross receipts tax. (Read more on Page 5.)



In the coming months, you'll be provided an electronic version of the SNM's English and Spanish Voter Guides. They'll be published by the time early voting begins in early October.

As a side note, we need to thank the El Paso Electric Charitable Foundation for providing our League with a \$1,500 grant to help publish our guides! And, kudos to our development director Nancy Stanton for her work in garnering this tremendous donation. Let me also thank many of our members who have also donated to the coffers to financially support the guides. These publications are extremely important as we help voters know the issues and get prepared to select their candidates of choice.

Aside from voter issues, we're holding an interesting General Meeting on August 10 when we hear about the latest efforts to obtain a monument status for the Mimbres Desert Park (the region around the Florida Mountains near Deming). Please attend our hybrid general meeting to hear more.

As you'll recall, the League's Position on Libraries has come off the back burner and is now on

—continued page 2

Campaign to Establish Another National Monument

What do the New Mexican Floridas, Good Sight, Cookes Range and Tres Hermanas Mountains share in common? Together they comprise almost one-quarter of a million acres of public Sky Islands and Basins located in the Northern Chihuahuan Desert of our neighboring Luna County.

This important topic will be discussed at our General Membership meeting on Saturday, August 10th at 2:00 PM at the DACC Workforce Training Center located at 2345 Nevada Avenue, in Las Cruces. Snacks will be provided. Please bring a beverage.

Combined they form the heart of a proposed new national monument in Southern New Mexico. Authorized under the 1906 Antiquities Act, U.S. Presidents can proclaim federal public lands, waters, and cultural and historical sites as national monuments. Over 150 national monuments have been established or expanded since the Antiquities Act was signed into law by President Teddy Roosevelt including two in Doña Ana County. President Obama designated the Prehistoric Trackways in 2009 and the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in 2014 as national monuments because of their unique and nationally important cultural, historic, ecological, and/or scientific resources, objects and values.

Come learn more about the campaign (and opposition) to designate the Mimbres Peaks as a new National Monument from experts and residents who support designation: Ariana Saldares, BJ Trejo and New Mexico Wild's Wilderness Wrangler, Nathan Small, who has been on staff with New Mexico Wild since working to secure and then safeguard National Monument protection for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks.

■ Beth Bardwell, Vice President

Communique (cont.)

the drawing board. We're updating the Position beginning this fiscal year. We realize that our county's rural libraries are not addressed in our current Position; perhaps we need to amend that as our research continues. In that regard, I think [an article recently published by the Dean of the Library at New Mexico State University](#) is vital reading. As you read it, ask yourself how the issues may apply to the county libraries in Doña Ana County.

Read more about the city library on the top of page 10.

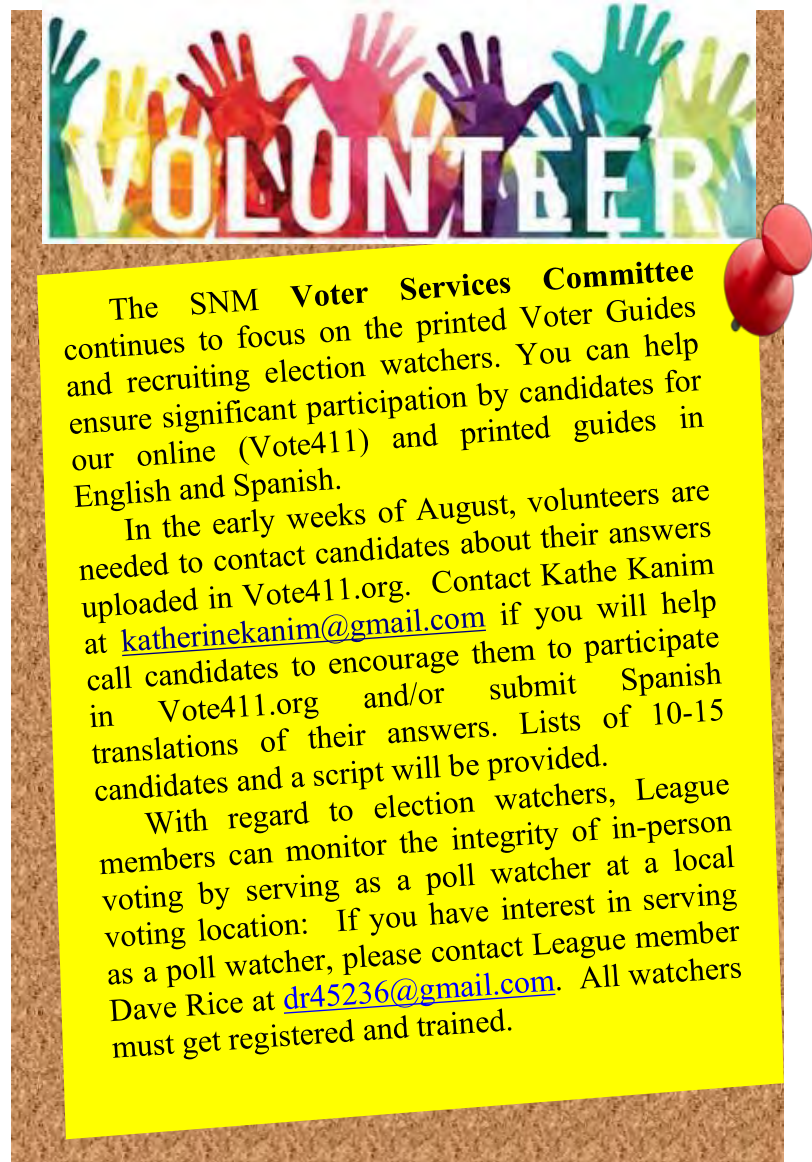
Finally, please don't forget to reach out to any Board member if you have time to join one of our several committees: Education, Voter Services, Library Position, Youth Engagement, Affordable Housing. The time you spend as a volunteer is the strength of our League.

Thank you for maintaining your membership for another year. Don't forget that collectively, we have a strong voice!

▪ *Jo Galván Nash, President*

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



The SNM Voter Services Committee continues to focus on the printed Voter Guides and recruiting election watchers. You can help ensure significant participation by candidates for our online (Vote411) and printed guides in English and Spanish.

In the early weeks of August, volunteers are needed to contact candidates about their answers uploaded in Vote411.org. Contact Kathe Kanim at katherinekanim@gmail.com if you will help call candidates to encourage them to participate in Vote411.org and/or submit Spanish translations of their answers. Lists of 10-15 candidates and a script will be provided.

With regard to election watchers, League members can monitor the integrity of in-person voting by serving as a poll watcher at a local voting location: If you have interest in serving as a poll watcher, please contact League member Dave Rice at dr45236@gmail.com. All watchers must get registered and trained.

Upcoming Calendar Events

AUGUST 2024

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

Aug. 6, Tues.: **SNM Voter Services Committee**, 1pm, Zoom, contact [Kathe Kanim](#)

Aug. 6, Tues.: **Organizing Meeting** with Silver City residents, 5:30 pm, Zoom, contact [Nancy Stanton](#)

Aug. 10, Sat.: **General Membership Meeting**, 2pm, DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada, hybrid

Aug. 12, Mon.: **SNM Education Committee**, 5 p.m., via Zoom; [contact Eileen VanWie](#) to attend

Aug. 19, Mon.: **Short Board Meeting**; 5:30 pm, Zoom

Aug. 20, Tues.: **Voter Services Committee**, 1pm, Zoom, contact [Kathe Kanim](#)

Aug. 26, Mon.: [Women's Equality Day](#)

THE LWV CONVENTION

The LWVSNM was represented at the LWV biennial national convention in Washington, D.C. during July. Secretary (and Director of LWVNM Voter Services) Edwina Jaramillo attended in person while President Jo Galván Nash and Past-President (and Co-President of LWVNM) Kathy Brook attended virtually. The four-day event was filled with topics that relate to Leagues across the nation such as getting-out-the-vote, abolishing the Electoral College, mis/disinformation to voters, corporate partnerships/fundraising, engaging young voters, redistricting, and voting rights. Hundreds of members from coast-to-coast were in attendance.

For those of us who attended, we are more than willing to share some of the salient ideas and embed them in our meetings, conversations, and activities.

Unfortunately, there was no session addressing the many questions about how dues will be processed by LWV beginning in 2025. One of the questionable areas is the national league's decision to eliminate the zero-dues level for students. One of the upcoming changes will allow for members who cannot afford the dues to "pay-what-you-can;" however, the minimum amount must be \$20.

In LWVSNM, students 16 years and older don't have to pay anything. Therefore, if the national process doesn't have a zero-amount category, will that mean local Leagues have to pay for students to continue their memberships? Or, will students simply be faced with a \$20 minimum amount? More news on that is to come.

Do you want to know some of the top recommendations and tips from the conference presenters? You can. In this google folder, read a variety of summaries of the sessions written by NM league members:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kmZBmiuFsDvQ6Pw6a5r1IXJ_E-aaFtWs

The national convention serves as LWVUS's

bylaws-prescribed business meeting as well as an opportunity for League members to gather for training and networking. LWVUS's bylaws require delegates to meet every two years and vote on a variety of items, including a biennial budget, the next LWVUS Board of Directors and Nominating Committee, any bylaw amendments that have been put forth, and the organization's program or focus of work for the next biennium.



Edwina (second from right) stood in line to comment on immigration debate during the biennial event.



The new LWV President is Dianna Wynn and CEO is Celina Stewart. The former CEO (Virginia Kase Solomón) now leads Common Cause, and she will be in New Mexico in August. One excellent speaker at the Convention was Kimberly Teehee, the Cherokee Nation representative to Congress.



WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY • AUGUST 26

This day honors when the 19th Amendment was certified. Never forget Nina Otero-Warren, Alice Paul, Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Alice Stone Blackwell, Ida B. Wells, and women in our own community who represent the importance of women's work for democracy.

Grant County Gets Active in League Activities

League of Women Voters of SNM celebrated a red, white, and blue, traditional, small town, 4th of July in Silver City with an information table promoting Vote411, as well as League membership. Voters were attracted to the uniquely decorated table. An added feature was a special “Chile Pepper Poll” allowing those visiting the League’s table to cast their votes for what they thought were the most important issues in November’s General Election. The visitors used chile pepper stickers on topics that ranged from voting rights and climate change to immigration and crime prevention. “Voter Misinformation” and “Women’s Reproductive Health” received the most votes.

Being asked their opinion about the issues most important to them seemed to be welcomed by those participating and generated much discussion and exchange of thoughts.

Our table was also manned by Sue Barsom who is the newest member of our organization. Sue has been an at-large League member and is now enthusiastically working to potentially form a new League Unit in Silver City. An organizing zoom meeting is being scheduled for the dozen-plus people indicating an interest in joining the LWVSNM. The meeting will be at 5:30 p.m., Aug. 6. If you’re interested in attending, [contact Nancy Stanton](#).

—Nancy Stanton, Development Director

Sue Barsom greets visitors at the LWVSNM table during the Silver City 4th of July festivities. Sue is working with others in Grant County to potentially develop another Unit of SNM.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
NANCY STANTON



More Election Resources

You may be interested in a newsletter produced by the NM Secretary of State’s Office. If you have a Facebook account, you can ask to receive the monthly “Elections Outreach Newsletter.” Sign up here: <https://www.sos.nm.gov/about-the-office/newsletter/>



In Memoriam



Marion Asche, the beloved husband of Jane Asche for 65 years, passed away in home hospice on May 26th. A Celebration of Life Service was held on Saturday, June 29 at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Marion was a retired lifelong educator whose passion in life was mentoring students who were working hard against all odds to succeed in achieving educational success. Jane wishes to thank all those members of the League who reached out to support the family in his last weeks of life bringing wonderful meals and cards and notes of sympathy. Your kindness was deeply appreciated.



Click here to learn more about the EPE Foundation

Voter Guides Get Community Support

League members have enthusiastically launched efforts to reach out to friends and community businesses/partners to solicit funds for our General Election Voter Guides to be published in time for early voting in October.

We must thank the El Paso Electric Company Charitable Foundation which made a generous donation through a \$1,500 grant to help make certain voters have the information they need to make an informed vote. Thanks to everyone who has helped take the lead in securing the funding needed to support our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

We also have several donors from within our membership who have contributed to the Voter Guides. We will publish that list in a future issue of *The Voter*. Plus, our members have been very generous through SNM’s new “round-up” campaign. Some members made donations specifically for the Voter Guides, while others gave to support various expenses that the League incurs each year. Thank you!!

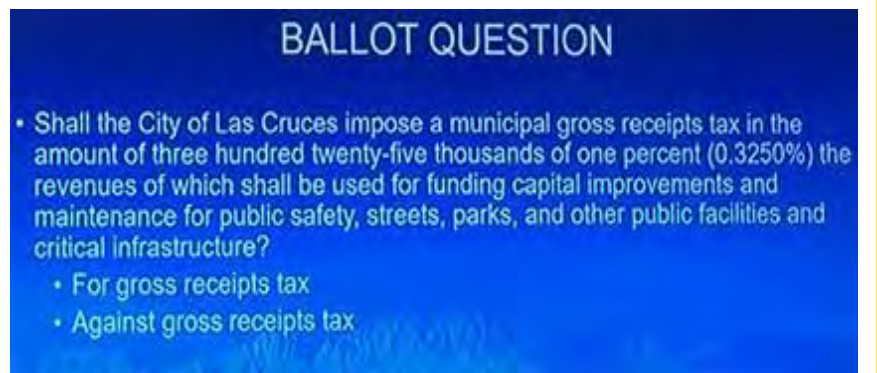
If you would like to donate to the Voters Guide fund, or perhaps make a donation honoring someone or other special occasions, you can drop a check in the mail and send to: LWVSNM, PO Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004 or you can make a donation using your credit card or PayPal at our website LWVSNM.org. click on the red “Donate” button on the home page.

▪ Nancy Stanton, Development Director

Tax Increase Question Added to Nov. 5 Election Ballot

Voters who live within the Las Cruces city limits will decide whether to increase their gross receipts taxes when they vote in the General Election. The City Council approved the ballot question which will increase taxes by 0.3250% each year, generating approximately \$11 million per year.

If the tax question is approved, the City Council will then consider a separate ordinance which would impose another 0.2375%, bringing in \$9 million a year. The second option does not need voter approval. If both items are approved, the total would be a 0.5625% increase to gross receipts taxes, for a total of \$20 million annually.



Slide by Chris Faivre, City Economic Development Deputy Director

With approval, the City estimates that median household incomes would pay an extra \$69 per year. The new tax would not impact groceries and medicine and would be effective on July 1, 2025, if approved. Capital outlay projects being considered with the tax proceeds have been a bone of contention. City officials said the monies would pay for items including enhanced public safety facilities, a west-side recreation center, park improvements and street repairs. However, it’s been suggested that the funds be earmarked specifically for public safety; others feel the tax should have a sunset clause; some believe that the tax is too wide in scope and the public will not know how the money is being spent.

Concerns also were raised at a recent City Council meeting regarding confusion about having two separate ways to increase taxes and whether the election’s passage will mandate that the second step — the city ordinance — be enacted. The ordinance is not a done-deal, and the Council will have to take a public vote by December on whether to impose it. City officials said that all public information about the election will be clear. For the ballot question wording, see above.

▪ Jo Galván Nash

ALSO ON THE BALLOT:

There are three District Court Judges from Doña Ana County who will appear on the November ballot. They were not required to be on the ballot during the Primary Election, but in order to maintain their seats, voters must decide whether to retain them through “judicial retention.” LWVSNM has asked them questions and we hope they will answer them in the Vote411 online guide and in our printed guides. The candidates are: Conrad F. Perea, Div. 3; James T. Martin, Div. 6; and Richard M. Jacquez, Div. 9. They do not run as Democrats or Republicans. Also appearing on the ballot will be a write-in candidate for County Commission in District 5, Marcy Renee Teague (Rep.), who will face Manuel Sanchez (Dem.).

Membership Renewal Time

It's time to renew your dues for the 2024/2025 fiscal year. If you haven't already, please take a moment and renew your membership!

Ways to pay your dues:

- ONLINE with PayPal or Credit Card:
<https://www.lwvsnm.org/join/>
- MAIL: [Fill out the Membership Form](#) and mail to:
PO Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004

Don't forget that dues (and any additional donation) are tax-deductible. Dues remain the same at \$65 for an individual; \$32.50 for a second same-household member; and \$0 for enrolled high school and higher education students, 16 years and older. As a reminder, the "round-up" is a new campaign 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. We're happy to report that many of you already have elected to "round up" your dues.

As a side note, if you joined the League last winter or spring, and if you paid \$32.50 for half the year, you would now want to consider paying \$65 to cover a full year's membership (May 2024 through April 2025).

Just in case you didn't know, the treasurer has a *big* bill to pay before election day — our two Voter Guides. This year, we estimate the two printed guides will cost approximately \$8,000. Your dues help to pay the bulk of that important project.

If you have questions about your dues, contact me, [Kate Mangelsdorf](#), or our [Treasurer Kathy Brook](#).

- *Kate Mangelsdorf, Membership Director*

Community Connection

UPCOMING GOVT. MEETINGS

LC City Council:

Aug. 5; Aug. 12 (work session); Aug. 19; Aug. 26 (work session); all at 1:00 p.m., City Hall

County Commission: Aug. 9 (Special Mtg.) at 8:30 a.m.; and Aug. 13; Aug. 27 (one-time event); held at 9:00 a.m., DAC Govt. Center.

LCPS School Board: Aug. 9, (Board Retreat), 9 a.m., Admin. Bldg. Conference Rooms; Aug. 20, 6 pm, LCPS Admin. Bldg. Board Rm.

NMSU Board of Regents:

[Check here](#) to join webcast. Regents meet in the ESC Building at NMSU.

When's the last time you asked someone, "Do you know about Vote411?"
Spread the word!

YOUR VOTE AND VOICE MATTERS!



LWVSNM BOOK CLUB

The Book Club is taking the month off in August. The club meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. If you would like to participate, contact Erika at grafwebster@icloud.com

League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico

Treasurer's Report • 05/29/2024 -06/30/2024

Prepared on 7/05/2024 by Kathy Brook

DATE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
	Balance , May 2024 bank statement	\$ 11,013.50
	BALANCE FORWARD, May 1, 2024	\$ 11,013.50
NEW INCOME		
5/29/24	PayPal Transfer	\$ 63.22
	Dues \$ 65.00	
	PayPal Fee \$ (1.78)	
5/30/24	Deposit	\$165.00
	Dues \$ 130.00	
	Donations \$ 35.00	
6/4/24	PayPal Transfer	\$355.78
	Dues \$ 260.00	
	Donations \$ 105.00	
	Paypal fee \$ (9.22)	
6/4/24	Deposit	\$65.00
	Dues) \$ 65.00	
5/17/24	PayPal Transfer	\$ 99.97
	Dues \$ 65.00	
	Donation \$ 37.50	
	PayPal Fee \$ (2.53)	
6/12/24	Deposit	\$100.00
	Dues \$ 65.00	
	Donation \$ 35.00	
	TOTAL NEW INCOME (net of PayPal fees)	\$ 848.97
NEW EXPENSES		
6/24/24	Hanover Insurance (D&O) \$	846.00
	TOTAL NEW EXPENSES	\$ 846.00
	BANK BALANCE (6/23/2024)	\$ 11,016.47
Pending	Deposit (White, Armstrong)	\$ 165.00

RESTRICTED FUNDS

These funds are included in the bank balance above.

Diversity Fund	\$ 220.00
New Mexico Listens Project	\$ 500.00
Otero/LWVSNM	\$ 802.00
Social Media Fund	\$ 250.00
Voter Guide	\$ 200.00
Youth Engagement	\$ 725.00
	\$ 2,697.00
Zoom donation of \$175 has been spent	
Quickbooks	\$ 350.00

League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico

Treasurer's Report • 07/01/2024 -07/24/2024

Prepared on 7/25/2024 by Kathy Brook

DATE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
	Balance , June 25. 2024 bank statement	\$ 11,016.47
	BALANCE FORWARD, July 1, 2024	\$ 11,016.47
NEW INCOME		
7/2/24	PayPal Transfer	\$ 99.97
	Donation for Voter Guides \$ 102.50	
	Pay Pal Fee \$ (2.53)	
7/3/24	Deposit	\$1,500.00
	El Paso Electric Donation for Voter Guides \$ 1,500.00	
7/9/24	PayPal Transfer	\$293.05
	Dues \$ 65.00	
	Donations \$ 235.00	
	Paypal fee \$ (6.95)	
7/22/24	Deposit	\$130.00
	Donations \$ 130.00	
7/23/24	PayPal Transfer	\$ 277.37
	Dues \$ 227.50	
	Donations \$ 55.00	
	Fees \$ (7.63)	
	TOTAL NEW INCOME (net of PayPal fees)	\$ 2,300.39
NEW EXPENSES		
6/24/24	We Are IT website updates \$ 64.84	\$ 64.84
	TOTAL NEW EXPENSES	\$ 64.84
	BANK BALANCE (7/24/2024)	<u>\$ 13,252.02</u>
Pending	Reimbursement to N. Stanton for Stamps \$ 100.00	100.00

RESTRICTED FUNDS

These funds are included in the bank balance above.

Diversity Fund	\$ 220.00
New Mexico Listens Project	\$ 500.00
Otero/LWVSNM	\$ 802.00
Social Media Fund	\$ 250.00
Voter Guide	\$ 1,802.50
Youth Engagement	\$ 725.00
	\$ 4,299.50
Zoom donation of \$175 has been spent	
Quickbooks	\$ 350.00



OBSERVER REPORTS

Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education • Regular Meeting

June 18, 2024, 6:00 pm

Observer: Eileen VanWie

Members Present: President Teresa Tenorio, VP Pam Cort, Secretary Robert Wofford, Ed Frank, and Patrick Nolan

There were 6 public comments made. Several related to support for bus drivers becoming direct employees of the LCPS. One comment reported that the district had made some positive responses to concerns by parents about library books that are not age appropriate. Jane Asche shared comments from the LWVSNM supporting the changes the Board is making to *Policy AD School District Vision, Mission, and Value Statement*.

Superintendent Ignacio Ruiz described the Climate and Culture Survey which got 4,000 responses (from parents, staff, community members, and students). Data will be used to inform decision making in the district. There is a big disconnect between opinions of teachers and students/parents about the instructional school climate. Teachers are satisfied with how students are updated about their progress and how lessons are connected to life outside of school. Students and parents are much less satisfied. Many recommendations for change came out of the survey.

Meanwhile, a new contract for Superintendent Ruiz of \$220,000/fiscal year, plus other benefits was approved unanimously.

Deputy Superintendent Gabe Jacquez reported on weapons detection and confiscation. The infractions were greatly reduced in 2023-2024 than in 2022-2023. More counselors and social workers are needed in the schools. The District will continue to address the issue. The Superintendent talked about the Round Table meetings being held among city groups, such as the Chambers of Commerce.

Jacquez also reported on the transportation situation. Bus drivers are receiving a raise in salary. There are 103 routes planned for 2024-2025 school year. All buses are now heated and air conditioned. In the past there were problems with late buses and timing reports were not always accurate. Routes will continue to be analyzed. The Board needs analysis of costs associated with bus drivers becoming full employees of the district. Allocations for transportation have decreased for this coming year. The motion to accept the transportation allocation for 2024-2024 passed unanimously.

Jacquez also discussed the School Resource Officers (SRO) plan for the 2024-2025 year, which includes the Las Cruces Police Department, City of Las Cruces, and the Town of Mesilla. SROs are assigned to schools with communication among principals. Monthly activity reports are given to the principals. SRO contract agreements were approved by the Board.

Policy AD School District Vision, Mission, and Value Statement, passed unanimously, while the updates for *Policy GBGBA Employee Assault and/or Battery* had its first reading.

Las Cruces City Council • Regular Session

June 3, 2024

Observer: Jennifer Kreie

Resolutions acted on:

- Approved: Permit the City to accept grant awards and make budget adjustments for some department.
- Approved: A memorandum of agreement between the City and the New Mexico Transportation Department for the Lohman Interchange.
- Approved: Accept a grant agreement from the New Mexico Department of Transportation.
- Approved: Declaration of extreme drought conditions within Las Cruces and restriction on use of fireworks for 30 days (effective through July 6).
- Not approved: A resolution to reverse the Planning and Zoning Commission's approval of a replat in the area of Madrid and Triviz (formerly a flood zone).



Las Cruces City Council Work Session

June 10, 2024

Observer: Kathy Brook

The proposed master plan for the Las Cruces Public Libraries includes over the first five years: Increased funding of staff, establishment of a library foundation, additional children's and Spanish books, design of a prototype branch library, loan of laptops for in-library use to expand computer services, increased library programs and outreach, and opening a Friends' bookstore in the library. The session was attended by numerous members of the Friends of the Branigan Memorial Library and other supporters.

John Harris, CEO of Memorial Medical Center for about 10 years, began his presentation expressing concern about a recent story on NBC News which he described as containing inaccuracies including allegations that MMC denies care. He said that the hospital has been very progressive in providing payment options and that he has been working with Jamie Michael of the NM Health Department concerning cancer care. He indicated that MMC provides \$54 million in charity care, uninsured discounts, and uncompensated care. Several councilors expressed disappointment that there was not more substance to the presentation, asked about the availability of quality measures, and asked that more data be presented at a public meeting. Mr. Harris stated emphatically that he, not Apollo (the private equity firm that owns MMC), runs the hospital.

Las Cruces City Council • Regular Session

July 1, 2024

Observer: Jennifer Kreie

El Paso Electric gave a short report on damages, outages, and repairs because of five storms cells that occurred over the weekend of June 29-June 30. Most outages had been restored but several power poles were snapped and will be replaced soon.

Resolutions, council bills and outcomes:

- #25-001 and #25-002: These resolutions to accept grant awards passed.
 - #25-003: This was a resolution to reverse a previous denial for development at 725 McClure Road. The resolution passed.
 - #24-028: An amendment to ordinance 2698 regarding gross receipts tax passed.
 - #24-029: This ordinance for a zone change at 2605 Bataan Memorial West was postponed until July 15.
-

Las Cruces City Council • Work Session

July 8, 2024

Observer: Kathy Brook

Three topics were covered. Under Economic Development Updates there were presentations from Film Las Cruces and the Farmers and Crafts Market. This was followed by discussion of a proposed policy relating to industrial revenue bonds, a tool which the city has not been using in the Las Cruces Innovation and Industrial Park but which the county has used for the Pedrena housing project. It doesn't involve bonds but provides a tax exemption to finance land, buildings, equipment, and infrastructure. The final topic was revisions to the accountability in government ordinance. The proposal adds definitions of terms such as waste, fraud, and abuse (consistent with state and federal definitions) and provides improved independence for the Office of Inspector General. It also would remove some criminal penalties in an effort to promote truthfulness and cooperation by employees. There was an interesting discussion by councilors of chain of command and the role of the Inspector General with respect to volunteers on city boards and commissions.