



# The Voter

League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
October 2013

League of Women Voters  
of Central New Mexico  
2315 San Pedro NE, Suite F-6  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
(505) 884-8441

Andrea Targhetta  
President  
(505) 792-1148

Chris Burroughs  
Voter Editor  
(505) 306-8163

LWVCNM homepage: <http://www.lwvcnm.org>

## Theme of October Unit Meetings Is Climate Change

The theme for the October unit meetings will be climate change. There is much confusion and misinformation around this subject. To what extent is human activity responsible for the various climate phenomena we are experiencing?

According to the United States National Research Council on Advancing the Science of Climate Change, “there is a strong, credible body of evidence, based on multiple lines of research, documenting that climate is changing and that these changes are in large part caused by human activities.” It goes on to say that while there is much more to learn, and that there will always be uncertainties with earth’s complex climate systems, that

“the core phenomenon, scientific questions, and hypotheses have been examined thoroughly and have stood firm in the face of serious scientific debate and careful evaluation of alternative explanations.”

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its latest research report in September, 2013.

The speakers at the LWVCNM October unit meetings will address these issues from a variety of perspectives.

### Luncheon Unit - Oct. 10 at 11:45 a.m.

Peter Fawcett, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of New Mexico. He received his Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University.

Fawcett is a paleoclimatologist. He studies past climates with an eye to how past changes can

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### Reception Set for Oct. 15

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico is sponsoring a reception Tuesday, Oct. 15 to honor the mayor, city council members and county commissioners. The reception will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Bott’s Hall at the Special Collection Library (Edith and Central).

Hors d’oeuvres and wine will be served.

Members and their guests are welcome to attend. RSVP by calling 884-8441. When replying, tell your name, your city council district and the name of your invited guest(s). This reception is an opportunity to get to know our new members as well as our council and commission.

### October Calendar

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Oct. 3  | Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.                                  |
| Oct. 5  | Voter deadline  |
| Oct. 8  | Mayoral Election Day                                      |
| Oct. 8  | Evening Unit, 6 p.m.                                      |
| Oct. 10 | Luncheon Unit, 11.45 a.m.                                 |
| Oct. 15 | Reception for local government officials, 5:30 p.m.       |
| Oct. 24 | NM Mental Health Care Services Study Committee, 5:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 28 | NE Heights Unit, 10 a.m.                                  |

**League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
Board Meeting**

**1st Thursday of each month  
Offices of Sutin, Thayer & Browne,  
6565 Americas Parkway NE**

Program Committees  
***Mental Health Study***

Jan Bray & Shelly Shepherd

All League members are invited to all unit meetings, committee and board meetings.

The *Voter* is published on partially-recycled paper each month by the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. It is also distributed via email and can be accessed online at our website [www.lwvcnm.org](http://www.lwvcnm.org).

### **LWV Lobbying Workshop**

LWVNM will hold a lobbying workshop Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-noon. Participants will learn about the legislative process -- how to effectively lobby the legislators. Speakers will be Julianna Koob, lobbyist for South West Women's Law Center; Sen. Peter Wirth; and Representative Jimmie Hall. The workshop will be in the Student Commons at Sandia Prep School, 532 Osuna Rd. N.E.

### **Member Change**

Meg Wente, 10501 Lagrima de Oro NE, Apt 324, Albuquerque, NM 87111, 505-291-3324

### **Mayoral Forum**

On Monday, Sept. 30, KNME-TV Channel 5 in collaboration with the League of Women Voters will hold a candidate forum for the three mayoral candidates in the Oct. 8 election and will be televised at 7 p.m.

### **Mental Health Study Committee**

The Mental Health Care Study Committee Meeting will be held Oct. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Jan & Olin Bray.

## **President's Corner**

*By Andrea Targhetta*

There are many people who have gone before us who have paved the way for our right to vote. Our generation has benefited from people who have garnered hard-earned privileges for us that we now consider everyday occurrences. These privileges can be denied in many ways. There are many little-known individuals who have done great deeds.

In August, I attended the ribbon cutting and blessing of the only building left standing of the demolished Albuquerque Indian School. As I stood on the grounds, I remembered all the happy memories I have of growing up on campus with my parents who lived in an upstairs apartment and taught in the school. The building, which was blessed in an Indian ceremony, has been remodeled and will house the Native American Community Academy across from the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. This academy prepares Native children for college while also preserving their language and culture.

One of the speakers reminded those attending the ceremonies of Manuel H. Trujillo, an Isleta man who lived in Laguna Pueblo not far from here and had attended the Albuquerque Indian School when he was a boy. Though a 1924 Act of Congress made all Indians citizens of the United States, New Mexico continued to deny the Indians on reservations the right to vote in state elections. The New Mexico Constitution, written in 1912, prohibited "Indians not taxed" from voting. Indians were considered citizens and subject to state taxes, except for those living on lands in trust status, i.e. reservations.

Even though New Mexico allowed untaxed whites and African Americans to vote, Natives were denied this right. In 1948 Manuel Trujillo allowed his name to be used as a test case to gain the vote. He was a World War II Marine veteran who taught school at Laguna Pueblo and a candidate for a masters degree at UNM. He tried to register to vote and was turned down because he was "not taxed." The case was taken to the Federal District Court for an injunction.

Trujillo's lawyers noted the New Mexico Constitutional provision which stated "Indians not taxed" violated the Fifteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. They also stated that he and all Indians paid plenty of taxes in the form of sales tax, real estate tax, and other excise taxes.

In August 1948, an appointed three-judge court handed down the decision that the section of the New

## October Units

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inform us about possible future climate changes. In his presentation, Fawcett will discuss these issues and will also address the findings of the IPCC.

The meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE. Reservations for the lunch must be made by 10 a.m. on Oct. 7. The cost of the lunch is \$15. To make a reservation, please call the LWVCNM office at 884-8441 or email [lunch@lwvcnm.org](mailto:lunch@lwvcnm.org). If you want a vegetarian meal, please specify that at this time.

### Evening Unit --Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.

Lora Lucero, LWVCNM member and former Natural Resources director for LWVCNM, will discuss climate change. Lora recently returned from a year in the Middle East where she was teaching university students in Gaza about climate change. Lora is a land use attorney (JD from Santa Clara University School of Law) and former California city planner. She is currently developing a new career as a community journalist.

The meeting will be at 6 p.m. at the Erna Fergusson Library Community Room, 3700 San Mateo N.E.

### NE Heights Unit - Oct 28 at 10 a.m.

Kimberly Samuels-Crow is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of New Mexico. Her research focuses on characterizing atmospheric water-vapor distribution and moisture transport to hyperacid subtropical deserts and tropical glaciers in the Andes and Tibet. She has an MS in geochemistry from New Mexico Tech and a BS in geology from the University of New Mexico.

Kim's topic will be "Climate Change: the data behind the conclusions." Her talk will provide an overview of the data used to conclude that 1) earth's climate is changing, 2) climate change is largely due to increased concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, 3) the increased concentrations of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> are due to human activities.

The meeting will be at La Vida Llena Retirement Community, 10501 Lagrima de Oro N.E.

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## Book Report: *The New Geography of Jobs*

*Editor's Note: Book Review -- This review of an important public policy book is a regular feature in the Voter.*

By Olin Bray, Author of ebook, *Political Incompetence: What's Wrong With Our System and How To Fix It*

*The New Geography of Jobs* by Enrico Moretti, 2012, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 294 pages.

This is another study of how the U.S. economy is diverging. For example an average U.S. unemployment of 8 to 9 percent meant 20 percent for Detroit but only 4 percent for Iowa City. Moretti focuses on why this divergence occurs and how it is increasing rather than diminishing. While he recognizes the divergence between the 1 percent and the rest of the country, his emphasis is on the growing divergence among the rest of the country. He contends that this divergence is caused by the increased clustering of innovation and a highly educated workforce as measured by the percent of college graduates in an area's workforce. Cities with a high percent of college graduates not only have higher average wages (for both college graduate and non-college graduates), but they also have faster job growth, lower unemployment, better health, and longer life expectancy. They are magnets attracting even more college graduates and further increasing the divergence. For example, in 1979

when Microsoft moved from Albuquerque to Seattle the two cities were much more similar than they are today with Seattle having about 5 percent more college graduates in its workforce. Today the difference is almost 40 percent. For comparison, at the national level that is similar to the difference between the U.S. and Greece. All of this difference is not because of Microsoft, but Microsoft helped tip Seattle into becoming a major soft-

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## President's Corner

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Mexico Constitution which denied reservation Indians the right to vote was unconstitutional and void. Their judgment confirmed the provision was a violation of the Fifteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. All Indians had the right to be registered and to vote.

This is not the whole story. There are many details and nuances which cannot be conveyed in this short article. Please take the time to look up this landmark decision and see why the vote is precious and must be equal for all citizens.

## *The New Geography of Jobs*

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ware hub with a highly educated and innovative workforce. As more of these companies located there, they attracted more software developers, which in turn attracted more companies. With such a deep labor market, people can easily change jobs without leaving the areas and companies are more likely to find people with exactly the skills they need. Also as these people and companies talk to each other and work with each other, the information exchange leverages the innovation. These are the classic benefits of developing clusters in any industry. However, these innovative clusters are different from the traditional manufacturing clusters in that they provide higher wages and generate more spinoff support jobs in other sectors. Although many of these support jobs are low skilled, they pay much more than comparable jobs in other low innovation areas.

The growing divergence is not just in the economic area. In health care the U.S. is ranked in the 30s in life expectancy, but if you look at the top 20 and the bottom 20 counties the picture is very different. There is a 16-year difference in life expectancy. The top 20 counties rank near the top with Japan and Australia, while the bottom 20 are in the 60s with developing countries.

Moretti has several policy recommendations, in

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addition to the obvious one to improve our education system. First, he suggests that the U.S. is grossly underfunding R&D, especially the basic R&D, which generates these new innovative industries. Such basic R&D is mostly funded by the government because it has a long term focus and uncertain returns. While our competitors are increasing their rate of such funding, we are reducing ours. Second, these highly innovative, high-education hubs attract similar people from within the U.S. and internationally. Since highly-educated immigrants have a higher rate for patents and startups than U.S. citizens, Moretti contends that this type of immigration should be encouraged because it actually increases rather than reduces the numbers of jobs (both high and low skilled) for U.S. citizens. Finally, while we have the most mobile labor force in the world, there are policies that hinder it. The state-based unemployment system tends to lock people into staying in a high unemployment area rather encouraging moving to a low unemployment area, often with higher wages.

This important book provides a different perspective on both economic growth and the growing imbalance in our economy. In many cases our policies may be addressing symptoms rather than causes of our problems.



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