

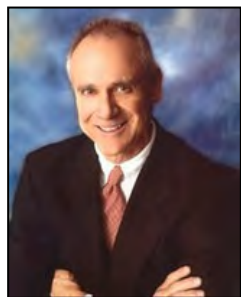
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

2315 San Pedro Drive NE, Suite F-6 ♦ Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158 ♦ 505.884.8441 ♦ www.lwvcnm.org ♦ https://www.facebook.com/LWVCNM

February 2017

The VOTER

Volume 82 Issue 02



Albuquerque City Council President Isaac Benton to address LWVCNM in February

Albuquerque City Council President Isaac Benton will address the LWVCNM February Luncheon

Unit on Thursday, February 9th, 11:45 am, at the MCM Eleganté, 2020 Menaul Blvd NE. Councilor Benton will discuss recent City Council initiatives for affordable housing development, gender pay inequity, and President Benton's more recent service to Albuquerque Bernalillo County Government Commission in their efforts to implement a Behavioral Health Initiative. LWV has official positions in each of these areas which were established following member study and consensus. Additional City Council initiatives currently being considered include the Albuquerque Sports Complex, Comprehensive Plan Update, Bikeways and Trails Facilities Plan, Secondary Dwelling Units, and Paseo de Volcan.

The Albuquerque Council is made up of nine members, elected on staggered terms, with four or five districted Councilors elected every two years. City Councilor Isaac Benton represents District 2, the city-center district encompassing downtown, old town, parts of the University of New Mexico and the entire valley east of the river. He was elected to the City Council in October 2005. Councilor Isaac Benton served as President of the Council in 2009 and is the current President in 2017. His current council term ends November 2019. Councilor Benton has served on both the Finance &

Government Operations Committee and on the Land Use, Planning & Zoning Committee, which he has chaired several times. He has also served on the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority Board and chaired both the Regional Transit District and Metropolitan Transportation boards.

Councilor Benton came to Albuquerque in 1976 as a VISTA volunteer at UNM's Design and Planning Assistance Center and has always resided within the historic center of the city. He is a licensed New Mexico architect and building contractor. Between 1991 and 2009, he operated his own architecture practice with a focus on libraries, senior and community centers, schools, and housing, always using sustainable design and public participation in the design process. He is a LEED (Leaders in Energy and Environmental Design) certified designer and has served as President of American Institute of Architects of New Mexico. He is also a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Councilor Benton volunteers with UNM's Architecture program and was a Big Brother for eight years. He is married and has a daughter who is a planner and a son who is a student. He enjoys listening to live music, bicycling, cross-country skiing, and hiking in the Bosque, foothills and mountains of Albuquerque.

***Please make reservations for the
February 9th Luncheon Unit Meeting by emailing
lunch@lwvcnm.org or by calling the LWVCNM
office (884-8441) by 10:00 am Monday, February 6th.
Please specify if you would like a vegetarian meal.***

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 Published Monthly
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Office Hours
February
Monday - Friday
10 am to Noon
February 20th
Closed for Presidents' Day

<u>February 2017</u>		
Thursday, February 2nd	5:30 pm	Board Meeting
Landmark Apartments, Library 6303 Indian School Rd NE		
Monday, February 6th	10:00 am	<i>Luncheon Reservation Deadline</i>
Wednesday, February 8th	5:30-7:30	Legislative Reception
Garrett's Desert Inn 311 Old Santa Fe Trail		
Thursday, February 9th	10:30 am-12pm	League Day
State Land Office, Morgan Hall 310 Old Santa Fe Trail		
Thursday, February 9th	11:45 am	Luncheon Meeting
MCM Elegante Hotel Albuquerque 2020 Menaul NE		
Saturday, February 18th	10 am-12pm	Program Review
La Vida Llena Nueva Vista Building 10501 Lagrima de Oro NE		
Monday, February 20th	<i>Office closed for Presidents' Day</i>	
Monday, February 27th	10:00 am	NE Heights Unit
La Vida Llena 10501 Lagrima de Oro Road NE		

LWVCNM NE Heights Unit to Consider APD Progress

Paul Haidle, J.D., serves as the Criminal Justice Advocate for the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico, the Lead organization of APD Forward. LWVCNM has been a Coalition Partner in the APD Forward organization since 2014. Mr. Haidle will be addressing the February 2017 LWVCNM NE Heights Unit to discuss APD Progress toward meeting DOJ Consent Decree Measures. Mr. Haidle will highlight the distinction between the initial 3 DOJ Monitor's Quarterly Reports and the more critical 4th Quarterly DOJ Monitor's Report recently issued. He will also discuss the December 2016 APD Forward interview of the incoming District Attorney, Raul Torrez, indicating the approach the new District Attorney recommends for future APD investigations.

The LWVCNM NE Heights Unit meets Monday 2/27/17 at 10:00 am at La Vida Llena, 10501 Lagrima de Oro NE.

Women's History Month Celebration
March 10, 2017 From 12 to 1 pm - Capitol Rotunda

LWVCNM Schedules annual Program Review in February

LWVCNM has scheduled the annual Program Review meeting for Saturday, February 18, 2017 at La Vida Llena Nueva Vista Building, 10501 Lagrima de Oro NE. Coffee, fruit, and pastries will be served at 9:30 am followed by the Program Review meeting 10:00 – 12:00 pm.

The Objective of Program Review is to identify NM Concerns not adequately covered by CNM, NM, or LWVUS Positions. Adoption of new positions follows the LWV Study Committee and Consensus model. Approved positions serve as the basis for official LWV Public Statements and Advocacy, permitting LWV to play an active role in influencing the policies, services, and programs available to US residents. LWV Positions permit more active participation in our democracy, including preparation of draft legislation, support or opposition of measures presented for vote by legislative bodies, and collaboration with other nonprofit organizations to promote responsible government.

February 2016 LWVCNM Program Review focused on review of current LWVUS Positions and recommended changes. LWVUS Direction provided February 2016 further restricted scope to “Making Democracy Work” - Voter Rights, Voter Protection and Service, and Election Reform (including both Money in Politics and Redistricting). LWVUS Program was revised during June 2016 Convention to incorporate the Money in Politics position developed following 2015 local league and MAL consensus meetings, and concurrence with the LWVCO Behavioral Health position supplementing the Health Care position. State LWVs recommended 51 Program Study topics to LWVUS 2016.

These are a few suggestions for LWV study topics:

Ethics Improprieties are currently only addressed in LWV Positions for Money in Politics/Campaign Finance (US) with additional contributor topics addressed when Transparency issues including Open Meetings, Public Records, Gifts/Contributions to holders of public office (NM). Elected/Appointed official decisions which are not currently addressed by LWV Positions include

Votes/Actions which impact property values, conflicts of interest, corruption, inappropriate political appointments, and consumer protection issues.

Law Enforcement conflicts with some citizen groups reached impasse requiring 2014 US DOJ intervention in Albuquerque with ongoing monitoring (This situation also is being addressed in other cities nationwide). CNM position concurrence by other LWVs or adoption of positions formulated by other Local Leagues could provide a unified approach.

Both **Waste Control Specialists** (Andrews County, TX) and **Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance** (Carlsbad/Hobbs, NM) have applied to host a Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Facility (from Commercial Power Reactors) and are anticipated to apply for High Level Radioactive Defense Waste Repository (Radioactive Waste from Nuclear Weapons processing) consideration. Existing LWVUS **Siting/Storage of High-Level Wastes (HLW)** Position would not adequately address either activity.

Election Process - Study considering the impact of Tuesday elections (vs. weekend elections in other countries experiencing High Voter Turnout) and other factors contributing to low voter turnout.

Trade - Study considering impacts of trade imbalance and equitable solutions (LWVUS).

2017 study/action committees in other NM local leagues include: LWVGLC – Immigration Committee (held caucus at 2016 LWVUS Convention with LWV TX, CA, FL, NY, and IL), Affordable Housing Committee, Education Committee, and Youth Engagement Committee; LWVSFC – Economic Development Committee (expansion of current NM Position to cover Santa Fe issues); and LWVLA – Natural Resources Committee.

Please review current LWV Positions and plan to participate in February 2017 Program Review to develop positions that enhance LWVCNM effectiveness in improving our democracy.

Democracy is not a spectator sport