



La Palabra

The newsletter of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico

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LEAGUE CONTACTS

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You're Invited to League Day at the 2008 Legislative Session

Please join us to support such issues as health care reform, natural resources, water and climate change, public education, campaign finance, election and ethics reform, and drug courts.

Tuesday, January 22, 2008 New Mexico State Land Office, Morgan Hall 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe (just down from the Round House)	SCHEDULE
	8:00 a.m. Coffee
	8:30 -9 a.m. Orientation and review priority legislation
	9-10:30 a.m. Meet with legislators and attend committee meetings
	10:45 - Noon Report back from morning activities Morning speakers
	Noon - 1 p.m. Lunch and informal speaker
	1 p.m. Visit legislators and attend committee meetings
Accommodations	
Garrett Desert Inn 311 Old Santa Fe Trail	
Sage Inn 725 Cerrillos Road	

The 2008 Legislative Session will be dealing with many pieces of legislation that are priorities for the League of Women Voters. The session is only 30 days, but legislation related to health care reform, natural resources, water and climate change, public education, campaign finance, election and ethics reform, and drug courts are on the agenda. Please add your voice to make democracy work by attending League Day.

Transportation: Each local League will be arranging carpools from its area. Please contact your League if you can drive or if you need a ride. Parking near the State House is hard to find during the session, but the state operates shuttles from other parking lots. We will provide you with that information as soon as it is available.

Accommodations: We are using another destination, Garrett's Desert Inn, 311 Old Santa Fe Trail, because it is across the street from the Round House, the New Mexico Land Office and offers parking. A legislative rate of \$79 plus tax is offered. That does not include breakfast, but the Inn has an attached restaurant. Call 1-800-888-2145 to make reservations.

The Sage Inn at 725 Cerrillos Road is offered again this year. This former Budget Inn (150 Rooms) has been remodeled. The rate is \$55 plus tax. Call 1-866-433-0335 and ask the Reservations Manager for the special legislative rate, Sage Inn

(Continued on page 2)

LEAGUE DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE *(Continued from page 1)*

has on-site parking, free wireless internet access, and an expanded continental breakfast. Public transportation is available to the Capitol.

Food: Bring or buy a lunch. For \$10, you may purchase a sack lunch that will include a veggie or meat sandwich, chips, cookie and drink.. Reservations are required and must be made by 3 p.m., Thursday, January 17. To place your order contact the League in Santa Fe, 1-505-982-9766, or email Jane Gaziano at jeg7(at)aol(dot)com.

The LWVNM Action Committee will be sending out email Action Alerts throughout the 2008 Legislative session. If you are not part of the LWVNM Topics List, please see the above instructions for signing up.

Although reservations are not required, please let us know you are coming by emailing Dick Mason, polirich(at)aol(dot)com or by calling the office at 505-884-8441.

Lend your voice to make democracy work during this legislative session!

JOIN lwvNMTopics!

Action alerts during the coming legislative session as well as information on LWVNM committee meetings and other items of general interest to New Mexico League members are available on lwvNMTopics..

Joining is a two step process. You must complete both steps.

1. Send a blank e-mail to lwvNMtopics-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.
2. Confirm your subscription by replying to the first e-mail you receive from yahoogroups.com. Be sure that the subject line is unchanged in your reply. The easiest way to do this is simply to hit the “reply” and then “send” buttons on your e-mail tool.

The second message you receive from yahoogroups will contain information about posting messages to the group, unsubscribing, etc. You might want to save that one.

Send messages for the group to lwvNMtopics@yahoogroups.com. You must be a member of the group to post a message.

STATE BOARD NOTES

September 8-16, 2007: The first electronic meeting.

- Approved a revision to the scope of the current LWVNM study on water supply and demand.
- Approved sending a letter in support of the Holt Bill (HR-811) that deals with election reform to the NM Congressional delegation.
- Reviewed Board procedures: coalition guidelines, study process, fundraising policy.
- Continued strategic planning.

November 17, 2007: The first meeting-in-the-middle at the Skeen Library, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro.

- Reviewed final plans for League Day.
- Endorsed the grassroots lobbying initiative proposed by LWV Los Alamos.
- Discussed procedures for lobbying state legislators on local issues.
- Approved name change for LWV of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County to LWV of Central New Mexico serving Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia Counties.
- Decided not to commit to sharing LWV of Santa Fe County office.
- Reviewed first drafts of Board portfolio descriptions using the Kalamazoo, Michigan, model.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Grassroots Lobbyists Needed!

The role of the state League is to be a strong voice for LWV at the state level. But the state League is an army of generals! There is a board (currently four officers and five directors, plus the local League presidents), and there are about a dozen members-at-large. And of course every member of a local League is also a member of the state League. But the work of the League in New Mexico is largely done at the local level.

Nevertheless, there are a number of state-level issues, and we need members to help us pursue them, more than are currently on the board or even on the Action Committee. One continuing state issue is campaign finance reform. Legislation moving New Mexico a little farther towards our goal of clean elections is likely to be introduced in the upcoming legislative session as part of a package of ethics reforms.

The LWVNM board and Action Committee have agreed to co-sponsor a grassroots lobbying effort to move this legislation forward. This effort aims to have 3 to 4 citizen advocates for clean elections in New Mexico at the state capitol every day during the 2008 session. Each day, this small group of people, with the help of one experienced volunteer, will be asked to complete a short list of tasks. Some days the tasks will be to attend a committee meeting and talk with one or two of its members. On other days the group will talk with specific key legislators. The presence of an experienced citizen-advocate will help folks new to lobbying gain confidence, while the groups will be small so that everyone has time to express their own feelings to the legislators.

This will also be a great way to get your feet wet at the legislature! Can you help for a morning? Perhaps for one morning each week during the four-week session? If you can help, please contact me at 662-3913 or any member of the Action Committee, co-chaired by Dick Mason 994-0685 and Barbara Calef 662-3825 (all area code 505).

Finally, consider joining the Action Committee for its monthly phone conferences (usually mid-day Fridays, weekly during the session and monthly the rest of the year.) Be sure to subscribe to lwvNMtopics to keep up-to-date on state issues. And at your local legislative previews and breakfasts with legislators, remember to promote campaign finance reform for all state offices (including the legislators!).

Kathy Campbell

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY: Potential Legislation for 2008

At the November meeting of the Legislative Education Study Committee, 16 and two pending topics were identified for inclusion in recommendations that will be put forth for the 2008 legislative session.

Topics include: codifying data collection requirements for the Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS); amendments related to dual credit programs; early education program evaluation; educator professional development expenditure and effectiveness tracking; funding of the Family and Youth Resource Act; library general obligation bonds; appropriation for the Middle and High School Literacy Initiative; development of a system of student advisement; postsecondary student reporting; clarification of special education terms used in the funding formula; request for reporting on progress of the Response to Intervention process and dual discrepancy models for K-3; and student placement in residential treatment centers.

Yet to be discussed by the committee are the final reports, to be presented in January, by the Funding Formula Task Force and Truancy Work Group. Recommendations are sure to come regarding these topics as well.

Although not in time for this session, a planned review of the LWVNM current education and school finance positions may make for more effective advocacy in the future. Those interested please contact Jane Gaziano, LWVSFC (505) 989-353 or jeg7(at)aol(dot)com.

Jane Gaziano, Chair

LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS BRIEFS

Albuquerque/Bernalillo County

The October 2 Albuquerque Municipal Election involved election of four city councilors, ten bond issues and five amendments to the city charter. ABC published and distributed 20,000 copies of a *Voters Guide*, moderated four forums and spoke before several organizations before the election. We have found that we are able to reduce the number of guides printed since people are increasingly accessing the information from our website.

A salad luncheon for prospective members was held in mid-September, and it is expected to be an annual event. Membership renewal time for ABC was in October. A new member handbook is in progress.

Terry Brunner, State Director for Senator Jeff Bingaman, was our August general meeting speaker. The September units were devoted to some excellent speakers on water issues in New Mexico, and the national consensus on immigration was the topic of our October and November units.

We are looking forward to a very busy calendar year end with program planning, a reception for city councilors and county commissioners, a lobbying workshop and a general meeting at which the new president of the University of New Mexico will speak.

Diane Goldfarb, President

Los Alamos

It has been a busy few months for the Los Alamos League. The League held its annual membership meeting on October 23, 2007. The speaker, Los Alamos County Transportation Director, Mike Davis, outlined county plans for implementation of a county run transit system. Davis discussed the structure of routes, schedules and long-term plans. Los Alamos County is working hard to create a public transit that will address community needs.

In November, we hosted a unit meeting on the Immigration Study presently underway through the League of Women Voters United States. Kathy Campbell, Becky Shankland and Barbara Calef summarized the briefing papers for members participating in the unit meeting and led the group through the consensus questions issued by National.

The local water study continues to move forward. The committee has been following the activities of the Jemez y Sangre Water Planning Council and attending State League unit meetings on the water study. Committee members also participated in a New Mexico First forum sponsored by the Office to the State Engineer on the impact of climate change on the New Mexico water supply.

The Election Reform Committee has been focusing on developing a better understanding of Ethics and Campaign Reform. Members of the committee recently attended the second meeting of the Ethics Subcommittee of the Legislative Council. The Ethics Subcommittee heard recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Ethics Reform. Those recommendations included the establishment of an ethics commission, campaign contribution limits, and voluntary public financing of campaigns and compensation for legislators.

The Los Alamos League and the American Association of University Women will be hosting the annual Legislative Preview forum on January 10 in advance of the 2008 legislative session.

Chris Chandler, President

Santa Fe

Santa Fe County League members enjoyed several activities over the late summer, including a July picnic featuring an update on municipal trails; an August Breakfast with a Leader with our police chief; an elegant member recruitment reception at the Governor's Mansion; and a productive courtyard sale.

This fall our action and advocacy efforts have included successful support of the Santa Fe Community College bond election and written and oral comments in support of moving proposed amendments to our Home Rule Charter to the March ballot. We will support at least some of the Charter amendments through editorials and fliers. We are also following highly contentious proposed oil drilling in the county and will submit comments on a proposed county ordinance in December.

Our first units featured DWI from both law enforcement and health services perspectives. Our main focus has been on immigration including

LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS BRIEFS

units on local and national immigration-related issues. Our local study committee members led these as well as our national consensus general meeting in October. Our general meeting provided information and analysis of recent changes to state election laws.

Our Voter Services chair has guided the board in approving candidates' questions for our *Voter's Guide* for the municipal election

next March, and is working on explanations of the myriad issues on the ballot. We are also planning voter registration drives in advance of the election. Our Membership Committee has updated our member booklet and our recently-revised *Who's Who* is available in print and at our website, <http://santafeco.nm.lwvnet.org>.

Jody Larsen, President

STUDY GROUP UPDATES: WATER STUDY REPORT

At its 2007 State Convention, the League of Women Voters of New Mexico approved a two-year study of Water Supply and Demand with the aim of developing a statewide position on the allocation of available water among competing uses that is grounded in a basic understanding of NM water availability and water law. The scope of the study has been refined and a round of LWVABC unit meetings got us off to a great start. In addition, members of the study committee attended a New Mexico First forum on climate change and water and have been observing meetings of the interim legislative committee on Water and Natural Resources. Resources being compiled by the committee can be accessed at <http://www.lwvnm.org/water.html>.

Revised Study: The LWVNM Board approved a revision of the state water study during the September meeting. The Water Study Committee now plans to investigate:

1. Rio Grande drainage, including: gauges, recharge rates, offsets, and the San Juan-Chama Project.
2. Conservation methods: what works, what doesn't.
3. Values to help in decision-making.
4. Linking land use to water supply by studying the jurisdictional, regulatory, and planning disconnects and drafting an interim report describing them; and by making recommendations to eliminate the disconnects.
5. Legislative issues.

Our objective continues to be twofold: (1) to educate the League and the general public about these important issues, and (2) to use our positions to advocate for legislation that will improve the system of water distribution in the state. We will also seek to incorporate recommendations developed under item #4 above into a proposed new position.

Meeting Reports

Albuquerque September Unit Meetings

No one went thirsty during the September unit meetings! The topic was water. While we quenched our thirst for information about this critical issue with four great speakers, participants were treated to bottles of San Juan-Chama drinking water to taste what will soon be coming out of our taps in Albuquerque.

Ned Farquhar, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) Energy and Climate Advocate for nine western states, kicked off the Unit on Thursday, September 13, with a frank, if sometimes irreverent, discussion about the politics of water in New Mexico. He distributed copies of a new NRDC report hot off the presses called *"In Hot Water: Water Management Strategies to Weather the Effects of Global Warming."* You can download and print your own copy if you missed this luncheon meeting. <http://www.nrdc.org/globalwarming/hotwater/contents.asp>.

Farquhar told the audience that water

management strategies need to change. We are decades behind in NM and must finish the Indian settlements. We are the only western state without in-stream control protection. We need legislation to enable us to manage the rivers for natural values and to make development environmentally friendly. Farquhar maintains that the concept of letting the water market determine distribution is the worst option because nature, agriculture, and low-income segments of society cannot compete if costs increase.

Here are the goals he recommends for activists:

- Educate and reach out to legislators to make clear the importance of metering and new technology.
- Find financial incentives for agriculture to change market mechanisms.
- Get off the storage mentality; replenish the aquifers.
- Finalize the tribal water settlement; the Bush administration has defunded the effort.
- Protect agriculture and ecology with a 50-year plan.

The Executive Director of the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA), Mark Sanchez, discussed the history of the ABCWUA's creation and shared some of the challenges we face in switching from pumping our aquifer to purifying the San Juan-Chama River water. <http://www.abcwua.org>.

UNM Earth and Planetary Sciences Professor David Gutzler was a real trooper, agreeing to step in at the last moment to fill an unexpected vacancy in the Unit meetings. He spoke at Cherry Hills Library on September 18 about "Water and Drought in the 21st Century." Regardless of how you slice and dice the future climate prognostications, this region is going to be hard hit as we begin to feel the impacts of climate change on our water supplies. Gutzler used a powerpoint presentation to demonstrate that the American Southwest can expect to transition into nearly perpetual drought by the second half of the 21st Century!

Finally, Bob Wessely, a long-time leader of the Water Assembly in the Middle Rio Grande <http://waterassembly.org/>, wrapped up the Unit with an informative presentation at the Corrales Community Center. Perhaps better than anyone else, Wessely understands the water situation in this region and the very tough decisions local governments will have to make to ensure that we have sustainable communities for our children and

grandchildren. Do they have the political will to make the tough decisions? That's the ten million dollar question.

The Gutzler and Wessely presentations can be downloaded from the study's web page, www.lwvnm.org/water.html.

Climate Change and Water

New Mexico First held a series of forums on climate change and water. The Albuquerque forum began with a talk by climatologist Brad Udall (cousin of Tom) who announced that we face one degree centigrade of "committed" warming, meaning that there is no way to stop it. As a result of global warming, the Southwest will have less precipitation in winter as storms are pushed north. However, scientists do not know what effect the warming will have on the monsoons. They predict that soil moisture here will decrease as will evapo-transpiration and recharge rates. Further warming will occur as the density of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases. Because it will take 40-50 years before atmospheric conditions respond to actions taken now, Udall warned, we must not wait!

Following the talk, the group of 40 was divided in two to discuss their visions for New Mexico in 2030, and to propose actions to help realize those visions. One group envisioned a future with healthy rivers and protection for agriculture and natural areas, and with good transportation systems serving compact communities. The first priority for achieving the vision was to tie development to water availability. The other group's first priority was education, and their second was "no issuance of permits for development without proven water." New Mexico First promised to issue a final report based on the responses from around the state, but has not yet done so.

Interim Legislative Committee on Water and Natural Resources

The committee has convened four times during the interim and will meet for the last time November 26-28. State Engineer John D'Antonio is requesting funding to update the State Water Plan as well as the older regional water plans. Adjudication of water rights is proceeding slowly, but he has attempted to streamline the process by instituting a licensing system in areas where adjudication has not begun.

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WATER STUDY REPORT

(Continued from page 6)

Funding for the Gila will again be an issue. The Gila San Francisco Water Commission (GSFWC), representing four counties in southwestern New Mexico, is requesting funds for ecological and environmental studies of the Gila and San Francisco Rivers to determine the effect of withdrawing up to 140,000 acre feet of water from those rivers over a 10-year period. Their presentation was very interesting because at a prior meeting of the committee a number of legislators had bitterly criticized Gov. Richardson's veto last winter of \$945,000 to build a project on the Gila. However, on Oct. 29, Adrian Oglesby from the Nature Conservancy pointed out that the original request had been changed from "studies" to "water development" during the legislative process. The GSFWC did not request any funds for construction. According to the federal legislation allocating the water rights to NM, the state can only withdraw water when there are significant flows. Oglesby suggested that infiltration galleries might eventually be built, but certainly not main stem dams.

Conclusions

A review of the reports from the meetings of the past few months makes it clear that, despite technological advances, New Mexicans will need to reach consensus on the relative merits of the options concerning water use in the state. In the absence of such a consensus, the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) will determine how New Mexico will look in 30 years. At his talk in September, Ned Farquhar expressed the opinion that the OSE is concerned with providing water and meeting obligations, assigning much lower priorities to cultural or natural rights.

To help broaden the discussion beyond this limited agenda, Professor Gutzler proposed the following questions:

- How should we allocate surface water resources within the state, assuming a projected decline in snow-fed river flows and increased evaporation from reservoirs?
- How will New Mexico negotiate the projected over-allocation of 21st century river flows under existing interstate stream compacts?
- How should availability factor into planning for new housing and economic development?

- How much value will we place on water for in-stream flows and agriculture?
- What is our plan for getting through the severe droughts of the 21st century?
- What is our plan for managing the depletion of groundwater resources?
- Are there sustainable new sources of fresh water that we could develop?

These questions correspond closely to those being addressed in this study. We welcome input from League members as we continue to develop a better understanding of the constraints and issues facing us.

Barbara Calef, Chair

....in each part of the state, people expect their populations to grow, driving up residential and business water use... The most commonly cited option is to shift water to cities from agriculture, which is the largest water user in the state... But the [NM regional] water plans taken together, expect agriculture in New Mexico to grow... Communities want agriculture and they want growth, but there is not enough water to do both.

*John Fleck Albuquerque Journal
September 3, 2007*

STUDY GROUP UPDATES: FAIR REPRESENTATION

The Study Group has been meeting every fourth Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. with an accompanying conference call. A schedule of articles for the monthly *Voter* has been established. The first few articles have been posted on the Fair Representation web page, www.lwvabc.org/fair. Check out the web page for information on the next meeting, news, and additional reference materials!

All interested members are encouraged to get involved. The study group has a listserve, LWVNMFair@yahoo.com. If you want to keep up with the latest news, you are invited to join by sending an email to [Cheryl\(at\)haaker\(dot\)org](mailto:Cheryl(at)haaker(dot)org).

The next meeting will be December 18th, because the 4th Tuesday is Christmas Day.

STUDY GROUP UPDATES: FAIR REPRESENTATION REPORT

COUNTING VOTES: WHO WINS?

When Americans vote, determining the winner is usually pretty simple – the candidate who gets the most votes wins. When more than two candidates are on the ballot, as can happen in primary elections and cases where “minor” parties compete, it can get more complicated. Often, no candidate achieves a majority. Under our current system, sometimes the candidate with the most votes is designated the winner and sometimes an expensive, time-consuming runoff election is held between the two candidates with the highest vote counts.

A simple alternative is to let voters rank the candidates in order of their preference. It is simple to do – the complexity comes in when it is time to determine who won the election. There are a large number of possible vote tabulating methods, each with its own strengths and weaknesses.

“Instant Run-off” uses the single transferable vote system, and eliminates candidates getting the fewest votes one by one, after “transferring” their second-choice votes to the other candidates until only one candidate remains as overall winner.

The DeBorda Count assigns weights to each ranking, then tabulates the total number of points per candidate. The one with the most points wins.

The Condorcet Count compares candidates, two at a time, to see which one wins each contest. The candidate winning the most pairwise contests is the winner.

For more details on how each of these counting methods works, their strengths, weaknesses, and where they are currently used, see the Fair Representation web page at www.lwvabc.org/fair.

Cheryl Haaker, Chair

*It's not the voting that's democracy;
it's the counting.*

Tom Stoppard, Jumpers

A HISTORY OF REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING IN NEW MEXICO

*Submitted by the
LWV/ABC Fair Representation Committee*

Redistricting in the United States comes from authority in Article 1, Section 2 of the US Constitution and Section 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Constitution specifies that the decennial Census shall provide the statistical basis for state-drawn congressional district lines. These formulas will allow states to set local redistricting measures and many allocations of state revenues and federal funds.

In April 2010, the US Department of Commerce and its Census Bureau will begin the census which must be completed within nine months and reported to the President by December 31 of the census year. Starting with 435 total Representatives and each state being guaranteed at least one, the remaining 385 seats are reapportioned among the states. This is accomplished through the use of a mathematical formula provided by federal statute known as the “method of equal proportions” which is recalculated every ten years following the federal census. Based on census results and this mathematical formula, New Mexico’s population did not increase sufficiently in proportion to other states between 1990 and 2000 to warrant the addition of a fourth congressional district, but it may by 2010.

By April 1, 2011, the US Census Bureau will release the 2010 census of the population of New Mexico and the New Mexico Legislature will be faced with the task of redistricting its own house and senate seats along with districts for the Public Regulation Commission, the State Board of Education, selected magistrate courts, and the state’s congressional districts.

Shifts in population may see residents moved into new districts: some sections of the state may lose political control and the power of the legislature may move from one party to another or from one political philosophy to another.

Redistricting means redrawing the boundaries of voting districts to reflect population changes.

Unlike reapportionment—a mathematical process—redistricting is a political process in which there is discretion as to where new boundaries are placed.

Since 1962, the US Supreme Court has ruled that legislative and congressional redistricting cases are subject to court. Over time, this review has focused on two major areas: the population of districts and the dilution of voter strength in minority districts. These actions are meant to protect the concept of one person-one vote, meaning that, as nearly as is practical, one voter's choice is equal to any other's.

While the population of congressional districts must be as nearly equal as possible, more lenient standards exist for state legislative redistricting with the Supreme Court ruling that state legislative districts need not be precisely equal in population. In the New Mexico Legislature, each of the 70 representatives and 42 senators should represent as nearly as possible the same number of citizens, ideally with no more than a 5% difference between the largest district and the smallest.

To protect the one person-one vote concept, it is critical that state redistricting officials develop a nonpartisan plan for reporting census tabulations. This requirement may seem non-controversial, but significant controversy has often emerged. Issues in the 1960's over ethnic and racial discrimination led Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965, yet as late as in the 1990 and 2000 censuses, complaints were filed, involving undercounted minority populations and the use of statistical sampling techniques.

New Mexico entered the Union in 1912 with a well-apportioned Legislature but did not reapportion itself following the 1920, 1930 and 1940 censuses, resulting in an unbalanced state legislature. A 1949 constitutional amendment deleted the authority of the Legislature to apportion itself and gave authority to the counties. In 1955, another constitutional amendment increased the size of the House to 66 members apportioned by population except that each county, no matter how small, was to receive at least one representative. The result was that 14% of the state's population could elect a Senate majority and 27% a House majority; 11 of the 32 counties had populations under 10,000 but each had its own senator and representative. In 1960, the New Mexico Senate was the fourth most mal-apportioned in the country and the

New Mexico House, the eighth most mal-apportioned. In 1976, the people of New Mexico adopted constitutional amendments that included the language "The Legislature may by statute reapportion its membership (Art. IV, Sec. 3, D).

New Mexico has caught the eye of Congress with our constitutional provisions being declared unconstitutional and in violation of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. To address Native American and Hispanic issues, congressional amendments were passed in 1975 which expanded the scope of the law beyond race and color to include members of language minority groups in jurisdictions in which more than 5 percent of the voting age citizens belonged to a single language minority and in which printed election materials were available only in the English language.

In the 1980s, a "votes cast" formula, based on estimated population derived from the vote for governor at the previous general election, showed significant differences with census figures, violating the one person-one vote principle, and great effort was required to remedy this concept. In the 1990s, due to extensive preparation, public hearings, participation in the Census Bureau's census redistricting data program, and setting and carefully following redistricting guidelines, New Mexico conducted its decennial redistricting without any involvement in litigation for the first time in over 30 years. Preparation for the 2000 census began in 1995 to allow census data supplied to the state to match actual precincts being used for redistricting.

We highly recommend two interesting articles that discuss redistricting in New Mexico in more detail. "A Guide to State and Congressional Redistricting in New Mexico 2001," prepared by the New Mexico Legislative Council Service available at <http://legis.state.nm.us/LCS/lcsdocs/reddocs/134250.pdf> and also linked on the League's Fair Representation web page, <http://www.lwvabc.org/fair/>. "New Mexico Reapportionment, 1982" by Hain, Garcia and Anderson is on the League's Fair Representation page. These sources were used in preparing this article.

The League's two-year study is just underway. Look for a growing body of information that will help us understand "the Big Picture" and to advocate for approaches which will continue to help eliminate costly and time consuming litigation while representing all New Mexicans fairly.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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CALENDAR

December	HAPPY HOLIDAYS
January 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR
January 9	Carrie Chapman Catt Birthday (1895-1947)
January 11	Alice Paul Birthday (1885-1977)
January 12	Board Meeting - Albuquerque
January 15	Legislative Session Begins
January 22	Anniversary of Roe v. Wade
January 31	Membership Count to LWVUS closes
February 14	LWVUS 88TH ANNIVERSARY
February 15	Susan B. Anthony Birthday (1820-1906)
March	WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
March 8	Board Meeting - Socorro La Palabra Deadline International Women's Day
May 17	LWNM Council—Los Alamos Board Meeting following end of Council
June 13-17	LWVUS Convention - Portland, Oregon

2008 LEAGUE DAY at the Legislature

*New Mexico State Land
Office Morgan Hall
310 Old Santa Fe Trail,
Santa Fe*

January 22, 2008

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.