



Legislative Priority – Racial Justice 2021

LWVNM advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement.

The League advocates for the recognition that all people deserve equal protection under the law and supports government and social institutions in preventing violence.

The League believes that individual rights should not be weakened or abridged.

LWVNM supports standards of conduct in the school system that reflect a concern for the opinions, values, aspirations and well-being of everyone in order to eradicate systemic racism and to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all.

LWVNM supports:

HB 29/SB 80	No School Discrimination for Hair	Rep. Stapleton/Senator Pope
HB 208	Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women	Rep. Andrea Romero
SB 81	Racial Impact Evaluation in Sentencing	Sen. Bill O’Neill
SB 227	Inspection of Police Misconduct Investigation	Sen. Linda Lopez
SB 376	Prohibit Defense of Qualified Immunity	Sen. Joseph Cervantes

What would the legislation do?

HB 29 and SB 80 would ensure that no local school board or charter school shall allow for the imposition of discipline, discrimination or disparate treatment against a student based on the student's race or culture or because of the student's use of protective hairstyles or cultural headdresses.

House Bill 208 extends the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force through FY22 and provides an appropriation of \$50 thousand to the Indian Affairs Department for expenditure in FY21 and FY22 to pay the expenses of the task force.

SB 81 would require the NM Sentencing Commission to include an assessment of racial impact in its statutorily required reports on the fiscal impact of bills that create a new crime, repeal an existing crime, or affect the period of imprisonment for an existing crime.

SB227 would require reporting of officer-involved injuries or deaths, amend the crime of justifiable homicide by a public officer, regulate the use of physical force by officers, and prescribe standards for serving search warrants.

SB 376 would remove qualified immunity as a defense. Qualified immunity protects government officials, including police, from being held liable for actions that violate a person's constitutional rights.

Contact Information: Hannah Burling 505 603-1601 president@lwvnm.org