

Voter Information and Education
League of Women Voters of New Mexico
November 28, 2023

The League of Women Voters has been in New Mexico beginning in 1920. We have four local Leagues and the state League, as well as members at large. We are nonpartisan in that we never endorse or oppose any candidate or political party.

We publish Voter Guides online, Vote411.org, and in print. We continue to print thousands of our voter guides because in a largely rural state, many voters do not have broadband access. Originally, we produced these for the local League areas. In 2022, we first covered all state legislature elections and for this last election we covered all races in the state, which has been an enormous amount of work. We do cover primaries but, generally, only online. In 2018, working with the Thornburg Foundation and the Secretary of State, we first produced the Native American Voter Guide. There were twelve editions each of which covered one county.

We produce a great number of printed materials in addition to the voter guides: election flyers, door hangers, newspaper inserts, yard signs. With the increased cost of printing, this has become a significant challenge.

Our voter guides have all the voting information New Mexicans need to make their voices heard. In addition, we describe the ballot issues and we give candidates the opportunity to let voters know what their qualifications are and where they stand on issues.

We continue to table for voter registration, voter information and getting out the vote and we also canvas to involve New Mexicans in the election process. We have also held Getting Out the Vote workshops online where people can share resources and information about what works and what doesn't.

The League holds candidate forums at the local League level, where candidates answer questions from the public and can let voters know where they stand on issues. Candidates are given time limits to answer the questions and both candidates and the public are held to the League standards of civil discourse, meaning "at a minimum, mutually respectful, courteous, constructive, and orderly communication."

In high schools, we work to engage future voters, assist students to become voter registrars and continue to produce the high school civics materials.

All of our voter education efforts are not only strictly nonpartisan, but we avoid any advocacy for our positions.

In 2022, we joined the Democracy Project convened by New Mexico First and produced video PSAs showing what happens to your ballot and how it is kept secure.

In 2023, we worked on the Election Integrity Project and have helped produce and disseminate both video and audio clips of county clerks assuring voters of the security of the election process and encouraging voting. These were circulated by the county of the clerk or other election official. One was in Navajo, two in Spanish and the remainder in English.