**LWVNM Action Basics**

**Our process is based on those laid out and required by the League of Women Voters of the US.**

**How LWVNM decides to support or oppose legislation or other government action:**

* The LWVNM can take action on state legislation or government activities based on a position of LWVUS or LWVNM. You can access both here: https://www.lwvnm.org/positions.html
* These positions are developed by intensive study by LWVUS or LWVNM members. They are then approved at the LWV convention.
* LWVNM can also concur with positions that have been studied and approved by other Leagues. The LWVNM board can approve that concurrence, but it must be confirmed at the next LWVNM convention.

**How the Action Committee decides on legislative priorities:**

* The major themeof the League is “Making Democracy Work”. That is why voting rights, election integrity, transparency and ethics are usually a priority for the LWVNM.
* Our committees, such as Natural Resources and Education, also make recommendations.
* We also have the LWVNM Board Directors whose portfolios are in a specific area like Voting & Elections and Women’s Issues. Recommendations in those areas come from them.
* This does not preclude a LWVNM member from recommending action as long as they cite a League position to support that recommendation.
* In the past, legislators have criticized LWVNM for having too many priorities. So we have decided to choose 3 and at the most 4 areas for priorities. Those usually address systemic changes or coincide with identified LWV priorities.

  **What happens to a bill with an appropriation not in the budget:
 -** If it starts in the House it goes to on committee and then to House Appropriations &
 Finance (HAFC). It either is put in the budget or not (usually not) many times without a
 hearing in HAFC. Need to find a champion on HAFC to make it a priority. It is an inside
 game. You need to stay on top of the process.

 - If it starts in the Senate it is an even longer shot to get in the budget since the budget has
 already passed the House, but it can happen. The bill usually goes to one committee and
 then to Senate Finance. It is either put in the budget or not, many times without a hearing.
 You need to find a Senator on Senate Finance to submit an amendment to add the money
 to the budget. Again this is an inside game and you need to stay on top of the process.