

# YOUTH engagement



*League of Women Voters  
of Greater Las Cruces*



The LWVGLC Youth Engagement Committee was founded in May 2016.

**Vision:** To establish permanent and continuing relationships with young people in the community for the purpose of developing a youth engagement program to motivate and engage young people to become active members of the community, active citizens and voters, and to ultimately engage them in the work of the League.

**Accomplishments:** The committee met with several community leaders, including the School Board President and Acting Superintendent, and received their buy-in and support. It established a relationship with the ENGaging LATino Communities for Education (ENLACE) program in Mayfield and Centennial High Schools. With the committee's collaboration, the Mayfield ENLACE class set up their ENLACE research project for last year to be "Voter Participation among 18-29 year-old Millennials". Our committee held several meetings with the Mayfield students to explore this topic and to provide guidance for their research. A final presentation of their research was done at the regional ENLACE conference in mid-March. For this collaboration, the League's Youth Engagement Committee was presented with the ***Education Champion for Collaboration award*** presented by Ngage (a Las Cruces non-profit organization devoted to raising the quality of education in Southern New Mexico). The award citation recognizes the value of our collaboration with ENLACE students, and specifically notes that we promote "how to instill the value of civic and community engagement in young people."

**Current Work:** The committee is currently pursuing two major activities: a *Study of Voter Participation of 18-24 Year-Olds*, and the ongoing planning for the *Development of a Civic Engagement Program*, to be folded into the High School and Middle School curricula.

*Study of Voter Participation of 18-24 Year-Olds:* The committee is developing a survey whose objective is to identify why members of this age-group do not vote, and what would it take to make them be more likely to vote. The survey will be conducted both online and in paper form.

*Development of a Civic Engagement Program:* The committee is also currently doing the groundwork for the development of a well-defined Civic Engagement Program, by researching existing capabilities (for example, the League of Women Voters of Oregon's extensive civics course materials). The committee has buy-in for such a program from the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning of Las Cruces Public Schools. The committee is also instituting two methods of recognition for students who help us our work: (1) a League Internship, and (2) a certificate of recognition called "Champion of Civic Engagement", to be awarded annually at a League function. The committee will continue to pursue relationships with other local organizations and schools to further civic action and community involvement among young people.

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