**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022**

**VIA ZOOM**

**Call to Order**

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There was a quorum with 24 members attending. Barbara introduced the LWVLA board members.

**Agenda**

Barbara summarized the agenda as published in the April 2022 *Update*. Kyle Wheeler moved to approve the agenda and this motion was seconded by Karyl Ann Armbruster. All who voted, voted in favor.

**Minutes**

The 2021 Annual Meeting was held on April 15. Lynn Jones and Maire O’Neill were appointed to read the Annual Meeting minutes. The minutes were reviewed by the Board and published in the June Update.

Kyle Wheeler and Lynn Jones have volunteered to be the readers for the minutes of this year’s Annual Meeting. Rebecca Chaiken is our secretary.

**Co-President's Report**

*Barbara Calef*

The past year has not seen the return to normalcy we had envisioned.  Instead, we have become experts at virtual meetings on Zoom.  We have yet to master hybrid meetings, but we may wish to do so this year.

In July, the School Board invited us to hold a special hybrid candidate forum for the applicants for the District 5 seat when School Board member Dawn Jalbert resigned.  There were some technical difficulties, but all the candidates were eventually able to participate.

In August, League members marched in the annual rodeo parade and invited onlookers to come to the library to see our centennial exhibit.

For the local election last November, there were eight candidates running for four seats on the school board and seven candidates running for three seats on the UNM/LA Advisory Board.  Of course, we hosted a candidate forum, but also, for the first time, produced a Voter Guide for those candidates, both online and hard copy.  The hard copy was so popular that most of the 300 extra copies we received had disappeared by Election Day and the poll workers had to ask voters to replace the one they had used after casting their ballots.

In addition to our election work, we wrote to the New Mexico Citizen Redistricting Committee to ask that Los Alamos be considered a “community of interest” and therefore not be split into two districts.  Our request was not heeded; the committee’s maps once again divided the county into two senatorial districts.  Of course, we can look on the bright side, with the high turnout for elections in the County, the two senators are likely to heed our concerns.

Our three legislators attended our traditional legislative preview in January.

At the local level, we petitioned the County Council to support the request of the Environmental Sustainability Board that the use of herbicides, specifically glyphosate, be restricted.

We asked the Council to adopt the Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability (LARES) recommendations and to include the LARES budget requests in the County budget.

We have published two letters calling for civil discourse.

Other activities included:

* The monthly Lunch with a Leader program, organized and hosted by Karyl Ann Armbruster
* Reports on the meetings of the County Council, Board of Public Utilities, and Planning and Zoning Commission.  Until a few months ago board members were responsible for most of the reports, although Elizabeth Auden did report on a County Council meeting.  Since December, June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin have done an amazing job of observing the Council and the P&Z

I would like to thank JoAnn Lysne for providing technical support for all our meetings and for putting together our newsletter; Akkana Peck for taking over the tech job; and Bob Williams for agreeing to be our newsletter editor when JoAnn had to step away. Also, thanks to Julie Williams-Hill, who reported on the Board of Public Utilities meetings and kept our website up to date.  Since Julie was appointed to be the County’s Public Information Officer, Helena Whyte and Madhavi Garimella have overseen the website and social media. And thanks to Lynn Jones for producing the Voter Guides.  The 2022 Primary Voter Guide is currently in production.

**Report on the 100th Anniversary Library Exhibit at Mesa Public Library, August 21-September 21, 2021**

*Co-President Becky Shankland*

A tribute to the exhibit—it will show in Santa Fe in June!

Our work on this exhibit was long and hard, but nothing like what the women fighting for the vote endured. Learning about their struggle made us realize how easy it is now: no jail, just signing up and possibly a short wait in line…. Maybe not so easy in some parts of the country—the League still has work to do.

Becky moved that the complete report be included as an attachment to these minutes. Jody Benson seconded this motion and all who voted, voted in favor.

Here’s a quick summary:

At least ten League members worked on the exhibit, starting in 2019, when the real 100th anniversary occurred and when suddenly everything was put on hold. After the COVID restrictions were lifted, we completed our research and editing, and finally hung the exhibit. Our fearless leader was JJ Mortensen, who, along with Hedy Dunn, shaped all our individual pieces into a complete whole.

Specific sections on suffrage history ran from Native American women’s rights through colonial times and Seneca Falls to 1920. Special posters included:

* The Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of Sentiments (1848)
* State flags with the question “When did each state ratify the 19th Amendment?”
* Suffrage in New Mexico
* Los Alamos County history as shaped by the League’s work for a county charter and voting rights in New Mexico.
* Centennial celebrations for the Los Alamos League
* People loved the three-dimensional exhibits, but the favorite was the jail made by Ed Jacobson with a life-size Alice Paul

In conjunction with the Mesa Public Library, we also sponsored three talks:

* Meneese Wall, author of We Demand the Right to Vote
* Sylvia Ramos Cruz, “Ganaron el Vote; Woman Suffrage in New Mexico”
* Deborah Blanche, “La Nina: The Story of Nina Otero-Warren”

Comments in the guest book were overwhelming praise and urging for wider distribution of the exhibit. Two comments stood out: “Next step: RATIFY THE ERA, which was started so long ago! Read about it under Alice Paul panels!” and “I am so proud to be associated with this active, intelligent, capable, and forward-looking chapter of the League. What a wonderful exhibit!”

We also made two ballot boxes:

*Question: “Should the County buy the Reel Deal Theater?”*

Yes - 76 (38 with comments; 38 without comments)

No - 25 (10 with comments; 15 without comments)

Unsure – 2

*Question: “Does the United States grant its citizens equal access to the ballot box?”*

Yes - 18 (8 with comments; 10 without comments)

No 86 (with comments 53; without comments 33)

That’s a quick summary of incredible hours of devoted work.

**Membership Report**

*Jean Dewart*

As of April 21, 2022, the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos has 111 individuals on our membership list. This includes those who are Friends of the League, who make donations and receive League information but, for various reasons, do not want to become members.

New members send in their membership forms to Rosmarie Frederickson or electronically via PayPal, and I enter the data into an Excel spreadsheet. This spreadsheet is then forwarded to Becky for Friendly Reminders and the *Update*; to Karyl Ann for Lunch with a Leader announcements; and to Lynn for recording in the national database. Dotty Reilly then sends welcome letters to our new members. Since last year, 20 new members have joined.

Our new Excel spreadsheet is also used to track our members’ interests. We ask for topics of interest to our members as well as volunteer opportunities in which they may be interested. We want to encourage our members to be active to support the cause of the League, so a recent letter describing both short- and long-term volunteer opportunities was published. The League needs the help of its members. We are looking for help to generate a larger social media presence and we are always looking for people to become advocates. Going forward, we are looking for more participants on the board of directors, specifically we are seeking a new Treasurer and someone to take over the Voter Guide. Please fill out our new membership form and we will find a place for you.

**Treasurer's Report**

*Rosmarie Frederickson*

This report is abbreviated because our Fiscal Year ends at the end of April, and it covers the period from May 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022. We started the fiscal year with $7,011.50 in our checking account and, as of March 31, 2022, we had a balance of $2,692.23. Recent income came from dues and a generous donation from Enterprise Bank. Our annual fundraising letter was mailed in mid-March, but it is too early to report on the success of this drive.

Our expenses totaled $7,243.56. The largest expense is the Per Member Payments (PMP) required by both LWV-NM and LWV-US. Our PMP expenses this year totaled $4,318. Other expenses included events and the *Update*, as well as $1,786 paid to the LA Daily Post for printing of our Voter Guide.

Our savings account has a balance of $33,367.41.

**Adoption of Local Programs**

*Barbara Calef*

Programs consist of 1) action to promote League's positions; 2) local government issues that are chosen for study and action; and 3) education of the public.

During program planning every year, we review our positions to see if any of them need to be updated or if we wish to undertake a new study. There were no recommendations for changes to any of the positions. They were published in the April *Update*.

*Sustainability*

*Public Transportation*

*Environment*

*Sustainable Water*

*Affordable Housing*

*Fuller Lodge*

*Medically Indigent Fund*

*Land Use and Transportation: Residential Neighborhoods*

*Education*

*Digital Privacy*

League members met virtually on January 24 to discuss ideas for program in the next year. There were no suggestions to amend any current positions or for new studies. Barbara asked for suggestions from the participants. Leslie Wallstrom suggested we study gun control in New Mexico, the Southwest Region, and the nation. Barbara noted that LWVNM already has a position on gun safety, and she asked Leslie to read that position and if any amendments are needed to let her know. Jody asked if we had a position on prison reform. Barbara responded that our League held a forum on this issue, organized and moderated by Felicia Orth. Participants included a public defender, prosecutors, and League members. Based on that forum, Barbara produced a new draft of the LWVCA Position on Criminal Justice, which LWVNM was asked to concur with. The LWVNM board recently voted to concur with the California position as written, but that matter is still under discussion. Barbara expects it to be amended before it is presented to the membership at the next Convention, which will be held in Los Alamos.

Rebecca moved to approve Programs for 2022-2023 and this was seconded by Jody. All who voted, voted in favor.

**Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget**

*Rosmarie Frederickson*

The committee which prepared the proposed 2023-2024 budget was made up of Rosmarie Frederickson, Felicia Orth, and Julie Williams-Hill. This budget was published in the April 2022 *Update*. Our fiscal year runs from May 1 to April 30. Because there are different expenses in odd years (related to elections and the national convention), like years are grouped in columns by color. Rows are broken into expenses, income, revenue, and finally net operating income. Footnotes are included for further explanation as needed.

Much of the proposed budget was unchanged from the previous year’s budget. Under expenses, the President’s Fund was eliminated because the money is never spent. The Treasurer’s expenses were increased slightly to account for the post office box, labels, and the like. The *Update* and website were kept at the same level as before. The expenses for League Meetings increased this year because of the LWVUS Convention, which will be held in Denver, and travel, registration, and hotel expenses will be incurred. The expenses for Program were also increased because of the need for multiple candidate forums and the printing of two Voter Guides. The expenses under “Other” were reduced because we have not had an opportunity to have in-person forums. The proposed budget for 2023-2024 includes total expenses of $16,541.86.

Our income is expected to increase somewhat because of higher membership, donations, and a small increase in the dues charged for household memberships. The proposed budget for 2023-2024 includes total income of $8,445.47.

Becky moved that we approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget as presented and Rebecca seconded this motion. All who voted, voted in favor.

**Election of Officers and Directors**

The Nominations Committee, chaired by Ellen Mills and including Leslie Wallstrom and JoAnn Lysne, presented the following slate of nominees for 2022-2023. Officers include Co-Presidents Barbara Calef and Becky Shankland; 1st Vice President Felicia Orth; 2nd Vice President Ellen Mills; Treasurer Rosmarie Frederickson; and Secretary Rebecca Chaiken.

Directors include Karyl Ann Armbruster - Lunch with a Leader; Jody Benson - Publicity; Addie Jacobson - Director at Large; Lynn Jones - Voter Guide; Robert Williams – Newsletter; and Akkana Peck - Director at Large. The director for Arrangements remains open.

Ellen asked for nominations from the floor and there were none. Jody Benson moved to adopt the nominations of the board and the motion was seconded by Kyle Wheeler. All who voted, voted in favor.

No vote is needed for Off-Board Directors, but they include Nominations – Ellen Mills; Fundraising – Ellen Mills; Membership – Jean Dewart and Dotty Reilly; Website and Facebook – Helena Whyte and Madhavi Garimella; Video Editing – Eduardo Santiago; and Voter Guide – Felicia Orth.

**Announcements**

The LWVNM Council will be held on April 30. This will be a hybrid event. Becky and Felicia will represent Los Alamos, while Barbara, Akkana, and Rebecca will represent LWVNM. All members are invited to participate and need to register online.

The LWVUS Convention will be held in Denver June 23-June 26. Delegates from our League include Felicia, Rosmarie, and Barbara.

Jody noted that she is honored to serve on League board.

Becky thanked Barbara for the example she sets and that we try to follow. Becky added that some of the great work done this year included: the energy generated among all of us through the centennial activities; voting rights and redistricting; a banner year for candidate forums and Voter Guides; and the Lunch with a Leader which gives us a chance to explore and makes life interesting. We work to make the world a better place.

Robert Williams reported that the voting machine certification will be held on April 26 at 9:00 a.m.

Early voting begins on May 10 and Election Day is June 7.

The Voter Guide will be published online via Vote411 on May 2, and the print version of the Voter Guide will be included in the LA Daily Post on May 5.

Karyl Ann reminded everyone that an absentee ballot can be requested on NMVote.org and all that is needed is your driver’s license and last four digits of your social security number. There are now permanent absentee ballot boxes at both of our libraries.

Barbara adjourned the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

*Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary*

Report on “Women’s Votes, Voters’ Voices”

Exhibit by League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

August 21 through September 21, 2021

Mesa Public Library

Los Alamos, New Mexico

**Exhibit Planning and Mounting**

This exhibit was planned for the Step Up Gallery (managed by Diane Stoffel) in 2019 by a small committee in the League: Jody Benson, Amy Birnbaum, Barbara Calef, Adelaide Jacobson, Ellen Mills, David North, Akkana Peck, and Rebecca Shankland. Subject matter experts (Benson, Calef, Jacobson, Mills, and Shankland) researched and proposed material for various time periods. After more than a 1 ½-year delay caused by the COVID crisis, when the library and Los Alamos Historical Society Archives were closed, Jeannette (JJ) Mortensen offered to help with writing and editing; fortunately, she persuaded Hedy Dunn to take charge of three-dimensional displays, photo-shopping images, help with finding illustrations, artistic design, mounting the materials, and much more.

JJ and Hedy did an extraordinary job of organizing locations for the various sections, creating a timeline using colorful ribbons (many acquired by Hedy), and using the story of a single historical woman named Charlotte Woodward Pierce for continuity. Pierce attended the First Woman’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls (1848) and was the only signer of the Seneca Falls document to know of the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment.

In addition to the panels on suffrage history, running from Native American women’s rights through colonial times and Seneca Falls to 1920, there are numerous special sections:

* The Constitution and the 19th Amendment
* The Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of Sentiments (1848)
* State flags with the question “When did each state ratify the 19th Amendment?”
* The first board of the League of Women Voters (1920) and important political women who were League members
* Alice Paul’s work (including a cardboard figure of her in a jail made by Ed Jacobson)
* Suffrage in New Mexico
* Los Alamos County history as shaped by the League’s work for a county charter and voting rights in New Mexico.
* Achievements of the New Mexico League
* Centennial celebrations for the Los Alamos League

Three-dimensional exhibits included:

* Political buttons ranging from Eugene Debs to Equality for DC, plus many League positions such as “Require Recountable Ballots”
* A wedding dress from the early 1900s
* A dark navy period dress
* Three men’s hats (derby, silk top hat, and boater) from the early 20th c.
* A Quaker bonnet and doll commemorating the fact that so many leading suffragists were Quakers (Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul)
* Two ballot boxes for voting on “Does the US grant its citizens equal access to the ballot box?” and “Should the county buy the Reel Deal Theater?”
* “Votes for Women,” “19th Amendment/ 1920,” and purple, white, and yellow cloth banners with stars
* A suffragist puzzle for everyone to work on
* Children’s activities: a raffle for young voters for suffragist sashes; pages with voting themes to take home and color; a suffragist board game to play
* A visitor guest book decorated with tiny suffragist photos was placed by the exit door for names, locations, and comments. League and voter information was also available.

**Final Report, September 23, 2021**

General Evaluation: This exhibit was highly successful, both for the visitors and for those who researched and mounted it. It’s impossible to count the hours of work performed by all the participants, but it was an extraordinary cooperative group effort. Here’s a breakdown of what we did:

* Plan an approach and designate individuals to research each period, brainstorm interactive three-dimensional displays
* Plan means of displaying information
* Write and edit display panels
* Create publicity (posters, flyers distributed by Senior Center, many newspaper and electronic articles, photographs): Felicity Fonseca (Mesa Public Library), Diane Stoffel (manager of Step Up Gallery), JJ Mortensen, Jody Benson, Becky Shankland
* Produce panels (largely 8.5 x 11 pieces, printed by Aspen Copies on coated paper and mounted on colored paper. Larger pieces (11 x 17) were mounted on foam board)
* Mount the exhibit (largely accomplished over four days, assisted by Diane Stoffel)
* Docent exhibit and replenish exhibit items
* Take exhibit down and pack into 5 boxes, labeled carefully, for Karyl Ann Armbruster’s attic; return lots of donated items

We sponsored three talks on Zoom, which were recorded and hosted by the library:

* Meneese Wall, author of We Demand the Right to Vote
* Sylvia Ramos Cruz, “Ganaron el Vote; Woman Suffrage in New Mexico”
* Deborah Blanche, “La Nina: The Story of Nina Otero-Warren”

**Measures of Success**

The library counted 1,301 visitors, but since we know that some of us visited more than once, that number is somewhat inflated. But this was COVID time, with the library closed on Sundays and masks required for visitors.

The guest book was signed by at least 189 people: some of those were couples or families. Unless we had a docent at the desk to ask people to sign, they usually missed it. Some intriguing comments are collected in Appendix 1.

The ballot box responses were equally interesting. See Appendix 2 for a glimpse of the thoughtful, knowledgeable insights of exhibit visitors.

**Future Possibilities**

Photo records: Akkana Peck and Ed Jacobson took photos of all the exhibit items. Diane Stoffel, manager of the library’s Step Up Gallery, recorded a movie. We would like to make a record of the whole exhibit, including photos of people working on it. We would also like a selected record that could appear on our web site. JJ Mortensen gave us a thumb drive of her completed panels. Probably we would need a thumb drive for a complete record. We need someone to create these records.

Paper Records: People have suggested a scrapbook, published pamphlet, or short articles in the newspaper based on one or two panels.

JJ’s summary: There are a lot of new people in our county, and a lot of long-time residents do not know its history. You should rewrite a version of Marjorie Bell Chambers’ book as a pamphlet, and the county should give it to new residents.   Or at least you should do what Hedy has been suggesting: turn the League part of the exhibit into a series for the Reporter and the Daily Post. And the history museum should have more on display about the history of the area after the Manhattan Project.

Travel to Other Locations: Santa Fe and Las Vegas have expressed interest. We will let them know of availability. We would like to see this exhibit shown elsewhere.

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Appendix 1: The Guest Book

Guest book signers from outside Los Alamos: Española, Dallas TX, Lamy (2), Albuquerque (2), Ohio (2), Las Vegas NM, Utah, Indiana, Washington, Pennsylvania (3), Santa Fe (lots), Germany, Alcalde, California (3)

Guest book comments. Most comments thanked us for the good work, research, history. Included here are ones that were more unusual.

* I think that we forget how many people are becoming disenfranchised yet again.
* Next step: RATIFY THE ERA, which was started so long ago! Read about it under Alice Paul panels!
* I am so proud to be associated with this active, intelligent, capable, and forward-looking chapter of the League. What a wonderful exhibit!
* (from Española) It would be great to compile a book with all this great information.
* I hope we can get some middle and HS kids to see it and let’s continue to fight for voting rights for all!!
* (from Dallas, TX) The jail was interactive and fun!
* So many important dates and people! I hope this exhibit can be used in other locations. Everyone should see and learn about the struggle.
* (Albuquerque) Great exhibit—reproduction of posters—wonderful! Should make a book of them
* (age 7) Love the puzzle.
* (high school student) I am writing a question guide for the exhibit. I love the hats! So much to learn, thank you! [Many history class students filled out her guide to get class extra credit]
* (Las Vegas, NM) Beautiful, thoughtful, inclusive work. Thank you for all your efforts to promote well informed “universal” suffrage. Adelante! [the “La Nina” speaker]
* (Lamy, NM) Fabulous exhibition! Should be part of every school’s history/gov’t curriculum! (Question about the Miss Winslow in Alice Paul’s letter)
* In Texas—now in 2021—it is again about women’s rights.
* I was born in 1920, August 16. I’m 3 days older than the 19th Amendment. My mother and an aunt were suffragists. My father, a German immigrant, was so proud of her! [Helen Benson, age 101, Jody Benson’s mother, also photographed with Jody in jail with Alice Paul, both wearing white with suffragist sashes]
* inspiring…[descendant of Lucretia Mott—Susan Miranda]
* Outstanding. Very gratified to read acknowledgement of the Haudenosaunee Confederation, sad to see no mention of the dismay caused by the ratification of the Constitution. Am leaving here better informed and more aware.
* Now, if only the tribes in Afghanistan could catch up with the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois).
* …I loved the dresses and hats!
* (Alcalde) Superb exhibit. Makes me wish I was there back when. But glad to be a voter today…and to work for WOMEN’S RIGHTS!
* Not so long ago! And the struggle for voting rights continues.
* Wonderful exhibit! Should travel to other locations!
* Please share it far and wide. Have it be a reminder that perseverance will win.
* Great info. I taught all of this in my teaching career…Bravo.
* …impressive exhibit on the monumental struggle for monumental legislation. Please find ways to share this through traveling or permanent exhibition.
* What would the women of the women’s suffrage movement say about the state of the government now?
* Hope it will be preserved on the LWVNM website in part if not whole.
* This is an excellent exhibit in every way—content, design, inspiration.
* Very interesting, especially the local history.
* My favorite parts were the fashions and how they related to women’s suffrage.
* Impressed by the persistence of women for so many centuries—and continuing into the present. Feeling appreciative of my own mother who helped teach us all through this exhibit—and all the other strong and fierce women I have had the pleasure to know and learn from.

Appendix 2: Voting Results

**Question: “Should the County buy the Reel Deal Theater?”**

Yes - 76 (38 with comments; 38 without comments)

No - 5 (10 with comments; 15 without comments)

Unsure - 2

Comments (similar comments are indicated by numbers in parentheses):

***Yes***

* If movies were to be shown it would fall under the county recreation dept.
* It’ll be an eyesore otherwise, and we can afford it. It’s the only way to control its use.
* We would then have control. We should buy CB Fox, too! (2)
* It would be a multi-use resource for the citizens and residents of the County.
* Entertainment is an important part of a society.
* We should have/ we need a theater again. (2)
* Please bring at least 2 movie theater spaces back! We really miss this amazing community asset.
* Let residents help to run it.
* I like/miss movies (4)
* County has the $, was a good family spot.
* Only if using as movie theater (4).
* There are many opportunities that can be had with an empty building. As a smaller city, we do not have as many amenities and businesses as we could, and county funding for a new site could be useful.
* It is time the County purchased the theater. A space for many activities and for all ages.
* Absolutely. We should have bought Fox.
* Many ideas were proposed of it [sic] space which could benefit our quality of life. Public space usage is limited. Let’s get with it!
* I wish they would. We could show important movies and use spaces for meetings.
* Having a theater in Los Alamos is a great opportunity for family and friends to connect and hang out.
* Having a theatre in the community is wonderful! And provides job opportunity for young people.
* YES! YES! YES!! Young people need more things to do in this town and it is safe! PLEASE! (2)
* Nobody wants to drive all the way to Santa Fe or Albuquerque just to watch a movie. (2) P.S. I want it to be a movie theater again.
* It would provide opportunity for jobs, among other activities. However, it could also be a poor investment due to today’s streaming services.
* Turn it into a community center, not another Lab building.
* If they can, they should, one of the only fun things to do in Los Alamos. (2)
* Rent out the spaces after the purchase.
* If we are going to complain about the lack of businesses in downtown then we need to do something about it.

***No***

* I hope it is acquired privately, to become an arts space.
* But somebody should buy it and put another movie theater in.
* Are you KIDDING??!!
* There are enough theaters already!
* Possibly? Especially if someone plans to purchase it and convert to office space for LANL. If this were the situation then I would support. (I don’t know.)
* The county needs to be more open to public/private projects. And, it is not suitable for, say, performance. There are no stages in those theaters.
* Keep it a private business.
* Not unless they have a plan to generate money or community interest.
* I think because they might do the same thing they did to the old Smiths. (nothing)

***Unsure***

* I thought that was decided in the negative already?? If not why not an update?
* Would like to know what LAC will do with the property and how much it will cost taxpayer.

**Question: “Does the United States grant its citizens equal access to the ballot box?”**

Yes - 18 (8 with comments; 10 without comments)

No - 86 (53 with comments; 33 without comments)

***Yes***

* But many citizens don’t exercise this right.
* But we are having issues—we must fight. (3)
* Confusion over absentee ballots vs. mail-in ballots, though.
* in theory, but there are problems in practice
* Of course…liberty and justice for all??
* Yes, but community barriers, not enough volunteers, and other circumstances limit some minority, impoverished, and smaller communities.

***No***

* USA should have let women vote sooner.
* The US often times makes it difficult for minorities and other underrepresented people to gain access to the ballot box. Through subtle and overt means, minorities are blocked from voting. No one should have to wait in line for over an hour to vote (Not everyone can spend that kind of time…jobs, child care, mobility issues, etc.) Long lines are present disproportionally in communities of color. (8)
* Some states do not. Congress should pass a voting rights act. Courts can’t be depended on to help! Right now the bill to protect voting rights will probably fail in the Senate. (4)
* Many do not have transportation or cannot prove address therefore cannot vote.
* …and in this perilous time, possibly less access in future.
* especially in Texas. (2) See State of Georgia.
* In the last election there were few ballot boxes in many larger cities, leading the poorer people to have to take time away from making money they needed to vote far away from their homes.
* Voting age should be lowered from 18. (4)
* Voter suppression laws and tactics are common and getting more prolific, affecting communities of color especially. (2) gerrymandering (2)
* By law, yes, However, politicians have made steps to decrease certain citizens access to vote. Not anymore. We give lip service to that ideal. Not in practice (4)
* Although federal law doesn’t restrict voting access, several states still do. (3)
* Counties and states limit access to voters by limiting early voting, weekend voting, poll hours as well as not having enough polling locations… (2)
* Way too many laws now hinder getting out the VOTE! Recent state voter suppression laws, TX, GA, AZ, etc. I vote “yes” in support of Lewis Voting Act now before Congress.
* Voter suppression laws and tactics are common and getting more prolific, affecting communities of color especially. (2) gerrymandering (2)
* By law, yes, However, politicians have made steps to decrease certain citizens access to vote.
* Although federal law doesn’t restrict voting access, several states still do. (3)
* Counties and states limit access to voters by limiting early voting, weekend voting, poll hours as well as not having enough polling locations… (2)
* Way too many laws now hinder getting out the VOTE! Recent state voter suppression laws, TX, GA, AZ, etc. I vote “yes” in support of Lewis Voting Act now before Congress.
* Most states/counties require in-person voting, which is only accessible to those who have flexible work schedules. Federal holiday/day off with increased access (mail-in, early voting, etc.) (2)
* Restrictive requirements for IDs disproportionately affect different groups.
* Not everyone should vote. But those who want to vote, should do so without roadblocks.
* The 2020 election came the closest to equal access. That has now been stripped away in many states.
* particularly in Republican states, sad to say.
* You suck USA for not being nice and cool! How could you! Let everyone vote.
* Very much state dependent and time to eliminate the Elector [sic] College.
* exhibit explains “citizenship” does not equal “suffrage”
* need popular voting (National Popular Vote?)