

New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics (NM MOP)

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28th Amendment Committee Meeting Minutes, January 16, 2018

6:30 PM Santa Fe Public Main Library

Attending: John House Debbie Helper, Linda Drapela, Charlotte Schaaf, Ishwari Sollohub, Gabe Hanson, David Burling, Gregory Corning (affiliated with Retake Our Democracy)

Minutes by David Burling

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm.

Overview and discussion of the new American Promise Pledge, with revisions instigated and negotiated by John and Ishwari with the American Promise team. One change more clearly identifies the goal of the 28th Amendment we are pursuing, as there are others out there. Another reduces the emphasis on every possible means expected to be exerted by the signers, which may have been too forceful before. Discussion of one more specific area of language in the AP Pledge that some people found unclear, and recognition that we will not be asking AP to further revise.

John House spoke about the central tenets of Campaign Finance Reform and a 28th Amendment. Charlotte Schaaf spoke about the educational elements of the 28th Amendment pledge project, preparing society for the eventual time of ratification by the States.

Discussion of approaches and ways to speak with potential signers, including the statement, “I’m not sure about that, let me get back to you” as a way to not only be open to learning and respecting any concerns that potential signers may have, but also as a way to further the relationship-building element of the project.

Three handouts were distributed: the revised Pledge; a handout with supporting information about the rationale for the pledge, useful for the official/candidate and the NMMOP member seeking the pledge signature; and the NM MOP cover letter/email.

Discussion of how it might be helpful to learn more about any competing pledges (e.g., Move to Amend, etc.) and how ours differs (if that topic arises in discussion). There is a website where we can check to see if the approached official/candidate has signed the Move to Amend pledge. At this time, the only NM person who has signed the MTA pledge is Michelle Lujan-Grisham, and that was in 2016.

The goal is to get each contact to sign this pledge, whether or not s/he has signed a similar one. Decision that is best to not bring up the topic of similar pledges unless s/he does. We need to inform him/her that we will publish on our website, and AP will publish on theirs, the names of each person signing and supporting our efforts.

We must also be clear that NMMOP does not support or oppose any specific candidates, though individual members may (but be clear about that distinction).

We should not focus on contacting state senators or representatives during the legislative session, as it is far too busy. After the session we may call to try to arrange a meeting or email a cover letter with the pledge and other supporting documents, following up later by phone or in person to answer questions and try to close on the signing. Members can pursue the mayoral and city council candidates as soon as possible, and county commissioners and their candidates soon, too.

Charlotte Schaaf has done intensive research to identify the existing officials and the candidates (to the extent known, where filing deadlines have passed) and was prepared at the meeting to accept volunteers for each office; two more members signed up; we have a total of ten “matches” at this time. More volunteers are needed and welcomed.

NMMOP is holding a general meeting, followed by a mayoral forum on Monday February 12th in the Jemez Room at the Santa Fe Community College. The general meeting will start at 6 pm and the forum from 6:30-8:00.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.