

New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics (NM MOP)

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28th Amendment Committee Meeting Minutes, November 9, 2017

6:00 PM Santa Fe Public Library Southside Branch

Present: Co-chairs Eric Wolf and John House, Ishwari Sollohub, Charlotte Schaaf, Linda Drapela, and Beth and Bob Detwiler

Minutes taken by John House and Ishwari, after the fact (original notes by Eric Wolf were lost)

The meeting was called to order by John House at approximately 6:05 p.m. Discussion centered around the 28th Amendment Committee's initiative to seek to have NM candidates and office holders at all levels—federal, state and local—to sign the American Promise 28th Amendment Candidate Pledge.

Charlotte Schaaf introduced the comprehensive database of contact information for candidates and elected officials in NM and note cards. Attendees identified what districts of the city or county in which they resided and agreed to approach certain target signors on the local level within their district.

After a brief introduction by John House, Ishwari and Eric, about the AP 28th Amendment Candidate Pledge, the committee looked closely at the language of the Pledge and supporting materials from the AP website that we were considering using as we approach potential signatories to the Pledge, along with a letter. The committee's review revealed several problems and inconsistencies with the language of the Pledge and the committee's goal to broaden the scope beyond candidates to elected officials as well and not just U.S. Senators and House Representatives, but also those running for or in other levels and roles of government. The problems identified with the Pledge were: 1) The title. The committee noted that the title was too restrictive for NMMOP's purposes since it refers only to candidates. 2) Language referring to "the 28th Amendment" and "this 28th Amendment." It was pointed out that since there is not yet a single, definitive 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution addressing campaign finance reform, the language might cause confusion and resistance. It was decided that the Candidate Pledge should be edited to eliminate the confusing language. 3) Language stating that the signor pledged to use "any and all legal ways" followed by a long list of specific acts to support the amendment. The committee felt that such language might cause some persons to be reluctant to sign the pledge for fear that, even though they supported the amendment substantially, they might be vulnerable to criticism for not having done one or more actions on the list or everything they possibly could have done.

The committee also determined there were several issues with some language in the text and a chart in the supporting AP materials. It was decided that we should approach AP to discuss our concerns with the Candidate Pledge and suggest editing it to remove them. The committee decided that it would be unnecessary to use the chart and that we could edit the rest of the supporting material as appropriate or provide our own.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

POSTSCRIPT: After the meeting, Ishwari and John have had several contacts with American Promise regarding the concerns identified at the meeting as well as others raised by candidate for Mayor Alan Webber. Some progress has been made in discussion but, due to the interruption of the holidays, no definitive redraft of the Candidate Pledge has been agreed upon yet between the committee and AP.