

New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics (NM MOP)

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General Meeting and AP Follow-Up Training #1 of 4, April 12, 2017

Following Introductions several people reported on MOP's NM Legislative activities during the 2017 session that ended in March:

- There has been some successful lobbying efforts in the State legislature
- Ethics legislation will be on ballot which didn't have to be signed by governor
- Peter Wirth introduced campaign finance reforms which got some significant bipartisan support
- The open primaries legislation did not make it out of committee in the legislature
- Redistricting legislation made it to at least one floor, but didn't make it ultimately (apparently, Democrats seemed to dislike it more than Republicans)
- The drivers' license automatic voter registration died in Senate committee and didn't pass
- According to Mitch Buzsek, this was a "good" legislative session despite the apparent lack of success
- Creating scorecards for legislators was discussed (Eric expressed some interest in this)
- Too much time is wasted on piddly stuff in the legislature (on this point at least, Gov. Martinez agrees)

American Promise follow-up training with Ben Gubits:

- 35 in attendance at commencement of training
- This is the first part of a four-part follow-up training
- From *Reclaiming Our Democracy* on meeting with congressional representatives: Let go of fear
- We want members to reach out to their representatives
- 11 people present wrote letters to legislators or made phone calls to them
- Almost all of our members have Lujan as their representative; he was a co-sponsor of the Democracy For All bill
- We will identify 5 members for a meeting with Lujan
- Out of all the different Constitutional Amendment proposals, we have only one Republican co-sponsor, but we can make progress with Republicans by showing them their constituents care
- Ben Ray Lujan is the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; Mitch suggests that he could require candidates to support the bill, and Ben thinks this is a good idea
- Lujan is approachable and easy to schedule a meeting with
- Ben's response to problems raised with Steve Pearce: we should enlist an all-of-the-above strategy to approach all candidates. For example, Take Back Our Republic is a conservative group that shares our aims in getting money out of politics.
- On BRL's site, we can fill out a request-for-meeting form; Ben recommends having a narrative developed for filling out the meeting-details section

- 5 key factors for a successful meeting with a member of Congress:
 - 1) Purpose (What pulls you to the work? What is your personal interest?)
 - 2) Research a successful issue that they are currently working on so that you can compliment them and avoid an adversarial attitude
 - 3) Be peaceful and gracious; anger alienates
 - 4) Stay on message (remember talking points from laser talk)
 - 5) Be clear with requests (memorize the goals of the bill)
- Mitch noted that BRL prefers to have 1 meeting with 30 people rather than more meetings with less people, but Ben says this is part of the strategy
- We must remember: this is the long game!

Organizing/Committees

- We spent about 10 minutes at the end breaking into groups with a leader who has met with a member of Congress before, exchanging information and schedules, and planning to meet with BRL eventually