"The price of not participating is to be ruled by evil men"

(people)

...Plato
Political Astuteness Inventory

• Are you registered to vote?
• Did you vote in the last election?
• Who is your U.S. Senator/ Congressional Representative?
• Who is your State Senator and House Member?
• Who is your school board member?

Political Astuteness Inventory

• Know any of the positions of these representatives?
• Written a letter or made a phone call to a political representative?
• Contributed money or time to a political campaign?
• Do you think that you have any impact whatsoever on issues important to you?
How IMPORTANT is ONE VOTE?

• In 1645, ONE vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.
• In 1845, ONE vote brought Texas into the union.
• In 1875, ONE vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic.
• In 1919, ONE vote passed the 19th amendment - women's right to vote.
• In 1923, ONE vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.

How IMPORTANT is ONE VOTE?

• In 2000, a member of the House in Rio Rancho won by only 3 votes
• In 2000 in the southern part of the state, two sheriff candidates drew cards to break a voting tie.
• In 2002 in Torrance County, two candidates tied for county commissioner.
• In 2008, a state senator won by only 7 votes.
Who votes?

**National Numbers:**

- 35% of adult Americans are chronic voters
- 20% are intermittent voters
- 23% are rare voters
- 22% are not registered to vote

From Time Magazine October 2006

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**Five Reasons Why People Don’t Register to Vote**

- No Time 19%
- Recently Moved 17%
- Don’t care about Politics 14%
- No Confidence in Government 12%
- Not a U.S. Citizen 7%

From Time Magazine October 2006
FACTOIDs about the New Mexico LEGISLATURE

• All volunteer
• Structure based on 1912 constitution
• Meets 30 days even years - 60 days odd years
• Special session may be necessary

FACTOIDs about the New Mexico LEGISLATURE

• House - 70 members - 2 year terms
• Senate - 42 members - 4 year terms
• Interim committees meet June - Dec
• Process not easily accessible to public
Types of Legislation

- **Bill**
  - Used to propose and change laws

- **Memorial**
  - Used to express legislative desire or direction
    (no force of law)

- **Joint Resolution**
  - Used to propose amendments to the state constitution
    - Does not have to be signed by governor
    - Must be voted on by the citizens

Bill Process

- **HB 205**
  - Introduced
  - House
    - COMMITTEE 1: Do Pass!
    - COMMITTEE 2: Do Pass!
  - Info Senate
Bill Process

Senate

COMMITTEE 1
Do Pass!

COMMITTEE 2
Do Pass!

Bill Process

Governor

HB 205
Introduced
To Governor for signature

During session, Gov. has 3 days to sign or veto

If bill is on his desk within last 3 days of the session, Gov. has 20 days to sign or veto

Pocket veto: Governor fails to sign bill within 20 days

HB 205 becomes Law!
Legislature can override veto 2/3 of each chamber

To State Statutes
"Laws are like sausages. It is better not to see them being made."

. . . Otto von Bismarck
House Bill 2
State Budget Process

House

House either
Concurs to
Senate amendments

or

House asks
Senate to recede
amendments

Senate Amendments

If they
cannot
agree
then

Conference Committee
3 Senate
3 House

Concurrence
is reached

Back to each chamber

Senate removes
amendments
House Bill 2
State Budget Process

Back to each house for concurrence

Governor

If bill is on his desk within last 3 days of the session, Gov. has 20 days to sign or veto

Pocket veto: Governor fails to sign bill within 20 days

Legislature can override veto 2/3 of each chamber

During session, Gov. has 3 days to sign or veto

HB 2a becomes Law!
Testimony at Committee Hearings

• Two types of testimony:
  – Prepared testimony by formal witnesses
  – Comments from the audience

Testimony at Committee Hearings

• Protocols before committee:
  – Always address the chair before speaking
  – Example: Mr./Madam Chair - My name is “…”
  – Always go through the chair when answering questions from another senator or representative
  – Example: Mr./Madam Chair - Senator/Rep Jones
Phone Protocols

• Call 984-4300 for your legislators
  http://legis.state.nm.us

• Tell the secretary your position -- they will record it on a tally sheet with your name, address and phone number

• If you know the legislator personally, you may be able to schedule a meeting

• Call the Governor at 476-2200

Letter Writing Protocols

• Keep your letter short - one page or less
• One topic per letter
• Tell them if you are a constituent
• Identify bill number, bills subject & sponsor
• Tell a personal story
• Indicate your support or opposition
Letter Writing Protocols

• Mail to: Senator or Representative “name”  
  State Capitol – Santa Fe, NM 87501

• Fax letter to: Legislators’ “name” at 986-4610  Governor – 476-2226

• E-mail - look up legislators on web page  
  http://legis.state.nm.us

• E-mail - Governor - gov@gov.state.nm.us

• Call Governor's office 476-2220

The Political Process
is slow moving

Look at a stone-cutter hammering away  
 at his rock, perhaps a hundred times  
 without as much as a crack showing in  
 it. Yet at the hundred-and-first blow, it  
 will split in two, and I know it was not  
 the last blow that did it, but all that had  
 gone before.

-- Jacob A. Riis
Thank You

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