Published in the Santa Fe New Mexican Tuesday 10/20/2020

## Transparency government is always the best choice

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County always recommends that local governments go beyond statutory open meetings requirements in their efforts toward open, accessible governance. We believe that local governments should provide timely, complete information to constituents and listen to their input. The issues before the new Health and Safety Task Force are of local and regional concern. We affected residents should know what this task force addresses, how it operates and what decisions are made.

We oppose – and urge members of the Governing Body to oppose - any resolution that would give the committee an option to close its meetings to the public. Lack of openness in public safety is part of the problem; it can hardly be part of the solution. Any task force members who are unable to conduct this business in public can opt to withdraw from the work.

Democracy needs sunlight to thrive.

Chris Furlanetto action & advocacy chairwoman League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County Santa Fe