

September 2021 Newsletter

SANDOVAL DEMS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY



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Message from the Chair



Help Us *Keep Sandoval Blue*, with featured speaker Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

By Alex Piland, DPSC Chair

And just like that, August is over, but what an August it was!

We started out with First Friday and Second Saturday. Next, we had a rally in Cuba, came out for Sunday is Fun Day in Rio Rancho, and held our County Central Committee (CCC) Meeting in the Town of Bernalillo to approve our new county party rules. Thank you to everyone who supported these DPSC events.

September will be just as busy. We are still holding in-person events for First Friday and Second Saturday, but please watch our website (sandovaldemocrats.org) for

updates as the Covid mandates may change.

September 25 is the **Keep Sandoval Blue** fundraiser, our signature event of the year. Your support of this event will help the DPSC ensure we have the resources to keep working hard to elect Democrats. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham is our featured guest this year. Join us in Algodones to hear the governor

speak and mingle with other Democrats.

Please go to [Keep Sandoval Blue](http://KeepSandovalBlue.org) or click on the image to your left to see how you can support our party.

Other September Democratic Party

events include Sandoval County Commissioner Kathy Bruch's re-election campaign kick-off on September 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the

Keep Sandoval Blue

Fundraiser: 3-5 p.m. Sept. 25



Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham

Information at:
chair@sandovaldemocrats.org



Range Cafe in Bernalillo. Please come out to support her.

Next, there is exciting news in Rio Rancho. We have some great candidates lined up for the municipal elections. Keep your eyes peeled for announcements and campaign kick offs starting with Rio Rancho Mayoral Candidate Barbara Jordan's campaign kick-off on September 12. It will be at 2:00 p.m. at Haynes Park.

The Corrales Harvest Festival is September 26. Stop by the Democratic Party of Sandoval County/Sandoval County

Federation of Democratic Women booth, or better yet, volunteer to staff the booth for an hour or two. Contact [Deb Dapson](#) or [me](#) if you are able to help.

October is not just about Balloon Fiesta! We are planning a rally in Bernalillo that promises to be a lot of fun. Come out to Bernalillo and join us. Watch this space and our website for the date.

Finally, check out our [website](#) for a highly readable slideshow on the Democratic Party of New Mexico platform.



Click on image above to see a slideshow about our New Mexico Democratic Party platform.





**SANDOVAL
DEMS**
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OF SANDOVAL COUNTY

*Katherine Bruch, Sandoval
County Commissioner, Dist. 1,
will headline First Friday
Meeting, 11 a.m. Sept. 3 at the
Range Cafe, Bernalillo*

For those who not attending in person, go to the **Democratic Party of Sandoval County Facebook page** for a Facebook Live stream of the event.



Making A Difference in Sandoval County

Sandoval County Assessor: Have you claimed all your exemptions?

By Linda P. Gallegos, Sandoval County Assessor

The Assessor's office is committed to serving the citizens of Sandoval County by providing fair and uniform assessments. We mail notices of property valuations by April 1 each year. It is important for property owners to review the valuation figures on the Notice of Value and contact us with any questions.



residence in order to qualify for this exemption.

The Assessor's office also assists taxpayers in claiming exemptions, and that is what I believe would be most helpful to review for this newsletter.

First is the Head of Family, an exemption of \$2,000 that is subtracted from the taxable value of your home. The residence must be the property owner's primary

You may be eligible for one or more property tax exemptions if you qualify as

- Head of Family
- Disabled Veteran
- Veteran
- Senior or Disabled Low Income Individual

Next, there are two Veteran Exemptions. First is the 100 percent Disabled Veteran Exemption which is a full 100 percent exemption from property tax on your primary residence. It can only be used on the veteran's primary residence.

Second is an exemption of \$4,000 per veteran, which is subtracted from the taxable value of your home or land or can be used on a tax

reduction of your motor vehicle.

Finally, there is our Senior and Disabled Low Income Freeze. To qualify, you must be 65 years or older OR disabled, and you must make less than \$35,400 Modified Gross Income per year.

Our office number is (505) 867-7562 and my direct line is 867-7566. I appreciate that many of you stop by to say "Hello" when you come to pay taxes across the hall. Please continue to reach out to me for any reason.

I am proudly working hard in the third year of my term and will be running for re-election next year.



Indigenous Solutions Can Contribute to Equity In Our Communities



Indigenous educators must ensure Indigenous knowledge and ancestral wisdom are perpetuated

By Jon Ghahate, Cultural Educator, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

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Each of the 573 U.S. federally recognized Indigenous sovereign nations are communities that have their own story, their interpretation of what constitutes their “own narrative.” It is certainly their right to take ownership of their narrative. The “federally recognized” communities or tribes that have called the Western Hemisphere home a millennium before 1492 CE, sadly, under-represent the hundreds, if not thousands of

Indigenous communities that were decimated by disease, warfare, slavery and outright genocide, and are no longer here to claim that right.

Taking ownership and having the opportunity to tell their own story is just one of the salient challenges Indigenous communities—specifically Indigenous education systems within their communities—are confronted with.

Complicating this are the supremacist Euro-centric/Anglo-centric faux narratives, such

Contributing our perspective in the telling of history—the part that was left out or ignored—should not be perceived as “revisionist.”

as Critical Race Theory, nationalism, exceptionalism and “American values” rhetoric, promulgated by certain individuals, political agencies and parent/civilian organizations. The challenge confronting education systems across the board is the hatred that these inherently racist narratives seed and inflame. Educating and informing those who have based their lives on this misperception of U.S. history, and taking ownership of our narrative, cannot and should not be perceived as “revisionist,” but rather as adjunct, contributing our perspective, our inclusion in the telling of history—the part that was left out or ignored.

So how do Indigenous educators, legislators and parents, as well as compassionate fellow non-Native educators, work to provide a well-rounded, quality and authentic, knowledge/science-based curriculum that prepares students, teachers and people in general to be responsible, informed members of any community, whatever their career choice?

What tools do we, as altruistic educators, have at our disposal to help create respectful and inclusive information? With whom can we partner, engage and work collaboratively? What agencies and organizations can we work with to build foundations to work toward these ideals?

Most importantly, as Indigenous educators that exist in a two-world paradigm of Native culture, heritage and language, which contrasts with a contemporary academic/digital-based and global environment, we have a responsibility to balance the legacy of our ancestors—who survived the Indian Boarding School horrors, resilient, although detached from their culture—to ensure and perpetuate Indigenous knowledge, ancestral wisdom and the narrative of our being, into the immediate future and beyond. That is our challenge.

“GREEN FIRE TIMES is an inspiring, free monthly publication that uniquely contributes to New Mexico’s media landscape by presenting cutting-edge innovations along with time-honored traditions. Our print edition is widely distributed throughout north-central New Mexico—from Taos to Albuquerque.”

Please go to <https://greenfiretimes.com/> to read and support the Green Fire Times.



SANDOVAL DEMS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY



Land Acknowledgment

By Leah Ahkee-Baczekiewicz, Enrolled Member of the Navajo Tribe and DPSC Ward D Chair

We as the Democratic Party of Sandoval County recognize that Sandoval County is located on the ancestral land of the Jicarilla Apache, Navajo (Dine), and Pueblo People. We honor the Indigenous People who live in present day Sandoval County including the Jemez Pueblo, Cochiti Pueblo, San Felipe Pueblo, Sandia Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, Kewa Pueblo, Zia Pueblo, Navajo people, and the Apache.

We take this time to acknowledge and affirm that we reside on occupied land. We reside on land from which Indigenous communities were forcibly removed through genocide, religious inquisition, and ethnic cleansing. We recognize that, even today, Indigenous People continue to experience inequity, oppression, and ongoing colonialism.

Indigenous People are the original caretakers of the land we occupy. We as the Sandoval County Democratic Party acknowledge and honor our land caretakers and commit to retain and advocate for the traditions and cultural knowledge Indigenous People have practiced since time immemorial.

We understand that with this land acknowledgment, we not only honor the Indigenous People of Sandoval County, we firmly stand by Indigenous communities who work daily to combat systems of oppression, inequity, and racism.



Maggie Toulouse Oliver, New Mexico Secretary of State

11 a.m., Sept. 11
M'tucci's Moderno,
Rio Rancho,
Second Saturday
Meeting



For those who not attending in person, go to the **Democratic Party of Sandoval County Facebook page** for a Facebook Live stream of the event.



Exhausted Educators Deserve Support and Respect

Insults and complaints demoralize dedicated, hard-working teachers

Billie Helean, 1st Grade Teacher, Rio Rancho School Employees Union President, Labor Employees Union President, and Labor Liaison to the DPSC Executive Committee

When we finished the last school year, I really felt confident that we were headed in the right direction. Teachers throughout Rio Rancho Public Schools were ready for the summer and for a much-needed break. Yet here we are. It almost seems as if we are back to square one with the coronavirus.

Recently, I read a post on a Facebook Community page. A parent was complaining that her daughter had been sent home from school because she exhibited symptoms of covid. This parent also complained about the teacher, berating her for following the rules in the school building.

The most frustrating aspect of reading something like that is knowing that the rules are completely beyond the teacher's control. The teacher



is trying to keep her children and herself healthy.

Educators in classrooms across our school district are working their tails off to make sure that students have every resource they need to learn and to ensure the physical

and mental health of every child this school year.

Educators have a very long list of things they must do to meet these needs. And really, not much has changed since last school year: We are once again challenged with expectations of teaching both in-person and virtual students who are learning from home.

Educators aren't asking for much. What we are asking is that people throughout the community consider the impact of their actions on the children and staff in our schools. Every single person in this community should be doing everything they can to keep every child safe.

The fact that some people don't see this need gives me pause because the solution is so simple: Wear a mask when you're in public and stay at least 3 feet away from those surrounding you.

Educators tell me they are frustrated that the community expects them to go well above and beyond the call of duty, while some people in the community are not willing to

take even small steps to ensure that our schools can stay open safely.

Educators are exhausted from continuously feeling like they must push to be respected.

How have educators not earned every ounce of respect in this community? After the last year-and-a-half, every educator in this community should have already earned the kindness and respect of every single person. How much more do educators have to do to feel like they have done enough?



Doing the Work: Why I'm an Activist

And why you should join me



By Isaac Chavez, DPSC Vice Chair

Now is a critical time. Life is rushing by as people make changes to

their lives in the wake of the pandemic. We all seem to be in a hurry to make up for lost time. Politics is also moving in high gear. Events are happening so quickly it can be exhausting to just keep up.

In the middle of all of this is the work. As events flare up around us, it's our job to hold the line. We, as Democrats who care, must hold together. We must continue to ensure that the values we want our community to reflect remain preeminent. This means engaging in meetings, discussions, data analysis, and, importantly, action.

There are many actions we can take now. The work of holding the line is being done

by dedicated individuals who care deeply. If not for them, this work would remain undone, and communities would be worse off for it.



Sometimes the task seems overwhelming, and I find myself getting lost in all there is to do. But every time I jump back into the work, I find myself reenergized.

What keeps me motivated? Seeing others working alongside me, seeing their passion, seeing them stand up for their beliefs. I'm inspired by finding new people who care about the things I care about. And we need more people who care enough to

roll up their sleeves and do the work.

What can **you** do? DPSC is looking for people to fill precinct seats, and volunteers to help coordinate and run events. We need people willing to put themselves out there and run for office. When you join our team, you'll find people who care, who support you, and who share your values.

Join us in working to improve our community.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please email [me](#) or [Alex Piland](#).

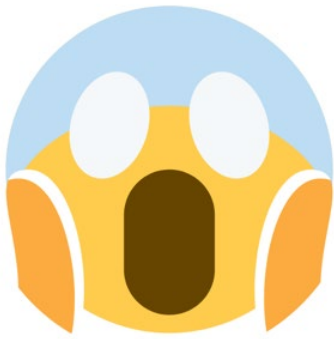
.
Don't be shy; we're eager to hear from you!

DPSC Wants You



To Run for Office





Miss Information

Miss Information

Republican Cancel Culture is Coming for Your Vote

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary

Democrats have proven we can overcome voter suppression through the strength of our ideas and organizing energy. But Republicans are not deterred in their efforts to undermine democracy. They are now positioning themselves to nullify Democratic votes—especially from voters of color—thereby allowing them to steal future elections.

To accomplish this, red state legislatures are enacting laws that allow them to overturn the popular vote—no evidence of fraud required—and select their own presidential electors if they don't like an election outcome.

One of the country's foremost election-law scholars, Richard Hasen, UC Irvine, told *The New Yorker*, "I'm scared shitless." It's not just voter suppression on steroids that evokes his panic, but the prospect of "election *subversion*."



On top of these new laws, state election officials are being installed who, Hasen says, will "mess with the count." Hasen's fears are described in Jane Mayer's *New Yorker* article, "The Big Money Behind the Big Lie."

It may seem unthinkable that laws and procedures targeted at nullifying the popular vote could pass constitutional muster, but to Hasen, this is a hair-on-fire moment.

In *Bush v. Gore*, the Supreme Court decision that

egregiously handed the 2000 election to George W. Bush, the majority of justices argued that state legislatures have the absolute power to run elections and can give themselves the right to appoint presidential electors. This is called the Independent Legislature Doctrine.

Referring to this doctrine, another election law scholar, Nathaniel Persily of Stanford University stated, "It's giving intellectual respectability to an otherwise insane, anti-democratic argument."

In a Slate article titled, "Trump Is Planning a Much More Respectable Coup Next Time," Hasen describes a cadre of conservative activists who are hard at work promoting the Independent Legislature Doctrine. He writes,

This is a wacky theory of legislative power, but it

is one that four Supreme Court justices (Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Clarence Thomas) expressed support for in various opinions during the 2020 elections. . .

Hasen believes that the next time, it would not be surprising to see most, if not all, the conservative justices accept vote nullification.

This is a precarious moment for democracy. If there is a Republican majority in Congress after the 2024 election, do you doubt that they will readily disregard the will of the people and, instead, count the electoral votes of Republican state legislatures? We will thus face another election stolen from the Democrats and a country careening down the road to fascism.



Communications Team Unveils New Web Design

Our new website sports a new look and added features

By Delbert Schafer, DPSC Communications Team Head

Your Communications Team proudly announces that the Democratic Party of Sandoval County's website sports a new look and added features, including Spanish language translation, to better promote the county party's mission.

A special thanks to Deb Dapson, whose Copper Moon Media created the redesign and to Scott Lake, our website's content manager, for assuring that the content transferred properly.

We urge you to take a look at the website and let us know what added features or information you might desire. Of course, we welcome your participation in creating content for the website.

The video task force also has been busy making our monthly meetings available



via Facebook Live, on YouTube, and on our website. Special thanks to Kitty Perez, Deb Dapson, and Lorenzo Montoya who have acted as videographers for our recent First Friday and Second Saturday meetings, and to Manuel Luna, who has handled the technical backend for the sessions.

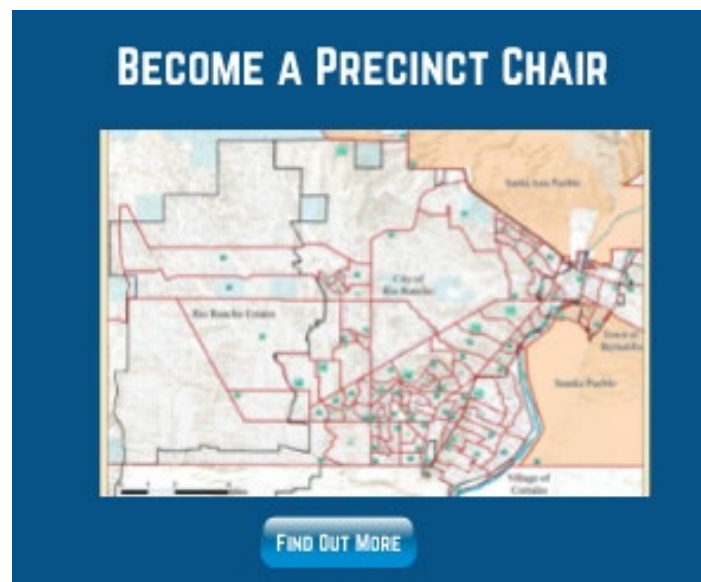
Barbara Gallegos, June Anglin, and June Parsons have taken photos during the meetings, which are used in our social media postings. Joel Wadsworth has provided technical assistance for the sessions.

Lastly, a big thank you to June Anglin who volunteered to organize future video projects. Let June know if you would like to participate with this group.

Ann Kepley, June Parsons, Gail Pinkepank, and Delbert Schafer are researching health care, environmental matters, public safety, and early childhood education, issues important to our Democratic values. Volunteers who want to research these or other issues are urged to join the group by contacting Ann.



Click image above to see our redesigned website.



Contact Isaac Chavez
ichavez@gmail.com



Executive Committee Update



Executive Committee prepares for upcoming events

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary

The focus of August's

Executive Committee was planning for upcoming events including our Keep Sandoval Blue fundraiser featuring guest speaker Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. It will be held on Saturday, September 25 from 3 to 5 p.m. in Algodones.

This is the event of the year for Sandoval County Democrats, so please join us. And, of course, we welcome your donations, which will be used to support electing Democratic candidates up and down the ballot. Information about this event can be found on our [website](#).

Vice Chair Isaac Chavez, along with Alex and Joel Wadsworth, are continuing to develop precinct chair

training. This training will be presented in four modules covering the following topics:

- General precinct organization,
- VoteBuilder, our key tool for organizing campaigns,
- Google organizing tools, including maps that will be updated with the latest 2020 Census data, and
- Interfacing with campaigns.

The Committee also discussed recruiting candidates for various Sandoval County elections. We need candidates, and DPSC is prepared to help! Please see Isaac's article in this issue for more on this topic.

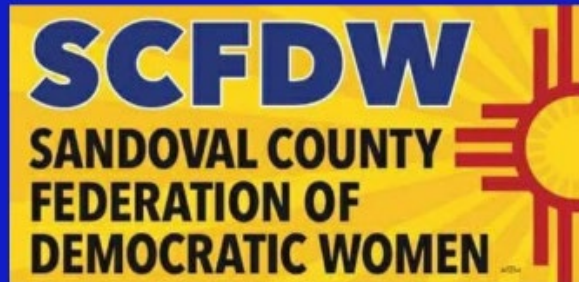
Finally, our draft county party rules were circulated to the County Central Committee

(CCC) for feedback. A revised draft of the rules was presented at the CCC meeting on August 28 in Rotary Park, Bernalillo, after which members voted to adopt them.

Support Democratic-owned businesses in Sandoval County.



Click here to see what they are.



Click to Join



Volunteer Opportunities and Contacts

VOLUNTEER FOR FUNDRAISING OR EVENT PLANNING



CLICK HERE

Videographers Wanted

Record DPSC
Live
Events



Create
Videos for
Social Media

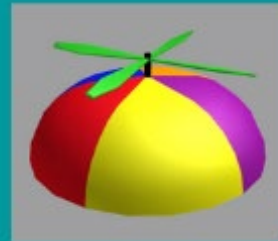
Click to Volunteer

Join the Research Task Force



CLICK HERE

We Need Data Analysts



CLICK HERE

Volunteer Opportunities and Contacts

- **Run for Office or Precinct Chair**—contact **Isaac Chavez** at icvez9@gmail.com.
- **Communications Team and Data Analysis Team**—contact **Delbert Schafer** at schafer42@gmail.com.
- **Fundraising and Event Planning**—contact **Karen Schafer** at karenjean44@gmail.com.
- **Research Team**—contact Ann Kepley at ann.kepley@gmail.com.
- **Videography/Event Streaming**—contact June Anglin at juneanglin@gmail.com.