

## July 2021 Newsletter

# SANDOVAL DEMS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY



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## Message from the Chair

### The next election cycle is here . . . already

By Alex Piland, Chair, DPSC

The Democratic Party of Sandoval County is NOT hosting First Friday for July. First Friday will resume in August.

Vice Chair Chavez is arranging for some exciting speakers, and we have been told that the Range in Bernalillo will be ready for us to resume our monthly in-person meetings!

Second Saturday will be held on July 10 at M'Tucci's Moderno across from Rust Presbyterian Hospital in Rio Rancho. Rio Rancho City Councilor Dr. Karissa Culbreath will be our guest speaker.

It seems that the next election cycle has already started! We have several statewide races that are contested. The Attorney General, State Treasurer,

and State Auditor positions all have candidates who have declared they are running for these important offices.

At the county level, we know that Commissioner Katherine Bruch is the incumbent for the District 1 Commission seat, but we are still looking for candidates for the District 3 seat. Have YOU considered running for office? We can help.

Municipal elections are coming around again, too. The City of Rio Rancho and the Town of Bernalillo will have their elections in March. Town of Bernalillo Mayor Jack Torres will be running again.

At press, we do not yet know about all city council seats, but we do know we have at least one contested race in Rio Rancho. Keep an eye out for more information regarding those important races.

Due to the pandemic, fundraising for the party was on hold for most of last year, so it continues to be a major endeavor for us. If you have not yet become a sustaining donor, we would greatly appreciate your doing so. You can donate to the DPSC on an ongoing basis by clicking on the image at the bottom of this page.

We are having an Art Gallery Sale on August 1 in Rio Rancho. Artists have donated their pieces and will be reimbursed for framing and matting. It is a drop-in event that will run from 10 to 4 in the afternoon. This is a joint event with the Democratic Party of Bernalillo County.

I have personally seen much of the work that is on sale,

and to say it is amazing is an understatement. Prices range from \$25 and up. Watch our [website](#) for a sneak peek.

We are looking for volunteers to help with several projects. Our Art Gallery Sale will need people to help set up/break-down, cashiers, and people to help staff the tables. We need about forty volunteers. Please contact me at [chair@sandovaldemocrats.org](mailto:chair@sandovaldemocrats.org) if you can help. We need you!

As I mentioned last month, our Rules Committee has drafted a set of stellar rules for our party. Committee members will be presenting the rules to all interested Sandoval Democrats.

As you may remember, the County Central Committee



(CCC) members (including precinct chairs) will vote on the approval of new rules. August 28 is the tentative date for the CCC to vote.

We will have one in-person and one on-line meeting to discuss the rules. The online meeting will be recorded and

available for people to view if they are unable to attend either meeting. The voting will be held online for 48 hours.

Finally, keep an eye out for a something amazing happening in September.

In solidarity.

*Alex*





## Making A Difference in Sandoval County

### Public Regulation Commission faces serious challenges in upholding the public interest

By Joseph Maestas, New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner, District 3

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) regulates the utilities, telecommunications, and motor carrier industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public.

NMPRC's primary goal is upholding the public interest—balancing the interests of utility investors and ratepayers. The NMPRC also promotes public safety through the offices of the State Fire Marshal, Firefighter Training Academy, Pipeline Safety Bureau and Transportation Division.

Our agency is in transition as the fire safety functions will

be moved out of the PRC on July 1, 2021. Also, the agency will be transitioning from an elected commission to an appointed one due to voters' approval of a constitutional amendment. Appointed commissioners will be taking office on January 1, 2023.

The NMPRC has been plagued by chronic underfunding and recent unfunded legislative mandates that make upholding the public interest challenging. The Energy



Transition Act, the Grid Modernization Act, a transportation electrification statute, and the Community Solar Act, are examples of landmark legislation placing our State at the forefront of

equitable energy decarbonization.

However, a severe lack of funding for additional technical staff and specialized professional services to fully and properly implement this legislation is our Achilles heel.

The NMPRC is currently addressing a backlog of rulemakings in response to amendments of existing laws and new laws. Our case docket is loaded with large complex cases such as PNM's merger with Avangrid, and we need the appropriate resources to inform these important decisions that impact New Mexicans' livelihood.

There has been much interest in the PNM-Avangrid merger. PNM filed its merger application for this \$8.3 billion dollar transaction on November 23, 2020, thereby opening the docket. The Commission is charged with investigating the merger, holding a public hearing, and acting on it provided it's lawful and consistent with the public interest. There is no deadline for the Commission to take final action.

Currently, there is a second, proposed stipulation that includes many, but not all, of the parties in this PRC case. A procedural schedule has been set regarding proceedings to address the contested stipulation beginning on June 18 and ending on August 20.

I invite you all to provide feedback during the public comment hearing on the stipulation on August 9. The Commission is not obligated to accept a stipulation. If it chooses not to, then the case would return to a normal litigated process.

It's an honor serving as your commissioner, and I invite you to [contact me](#) at the [Commission](#) to further discuss my priorities and any other issues.



**Click to visit the DPSC website**







## Republican Assaults on Democracy? Highly Dangerous!

### We Must Vote in 2022 to Preserve Democracy

By Fred Harris, Former U.S. Senator from Oklahoma

After the South Carolina primary, as it became increasingly clear that Joe Biden would be the Democratic presidential nominee, he and the country began to realize that his inauguration would produce a "Franklin Roosevelt moment" when we could do really big things, could really deal with our unprecedented and overlapping crises: health, economic, climate, and inequity and inequality.

President Biden gathered the best experts around him. He appointed the best cabinet in modern times. He issued progressively effective executive orders. He put forth great legislative proposals that proved to be highly popular in the country. His own approval ratings went up.

Using the budget reconciliation resolution

process, he got around the Senate filibuster, and with only 50 Democratic senators, plus Vice President Kamala Harris, passed the enormously effective American Rescue Act to control the pandemic and jump start the economy. He proposed the American Jobs Act.

Against the opposition of most Republican House and Senate members and the recalcitrance of some Democrats like Senators Manchin and Sinema, a pair who won't either support this infrastructure bill whole-hog or join with other Senate Democrats to end the filibuster, the President, I think, again using the budget reconciliation resolution process, will eventually get about two-thirds of what he proposed—which would be a lot, indeed.

I think we'll also get some substantial bipartisan police reform.

But for the American Families Act, HR 1, immigration reform, \$15 minimum wage over four years, universal healthcare coverage, legislation to ease union organizing—and other major legislation—prospects look bleak this year.

Everything—and I mean everything—depends on the 2022 congressional elections! Democrats have to hold the House majority and pick up at least two additional Democratic senators (and thereafter end the filibuster). Tall order! History is against us.

But I've always been a radical optimist. Twice in modern times, the president's party has picked up, not lost, House seats in the off year. Trump's popularity is dropping (and he's got legal, maybe criminal, problems).

Republican efforts to suppress the vote could make our people so mad that they'll work harder still. That's happened before—in Georgia.

I think the 2022 outcome will come down to the basic question: "Are you better off today than you were two years ago?" My hope—and prediction—is that enough voters in the right number of states will answer that question in the affirmative.



Marg Elliston and I (and I think most activist Democrats) are going to work like hell to make that prediction come true.







## CD1 Election: Mostly Good News for Democrats

### Volunteers, you made a difference!

By Isaac Chavez, Vice Chair DPSC

First the good news, and there's lots of it! We improved our winning margin by two percentage points compared to President Biden's in the Sandoval County portion of CD1! We flipped five precincts that Trump won, and we improved in every suburban precinct with a growing population or new housing development.

We can clearly see where national trends became local: Suburbs continued moving towards our party, evidenced by all but one River's Edge precincts moving towards Stansbury.

Turnout fell across the board, but unevenly. Democratic turnout dropped off much less than Republican, showing that our party is still energized and engaged.

More encouraging is what the numbers show for our abilities as a party. Every precinct

visited by volunteers saw improvement in both turnout and margin! What's more, precincts in which volunteers chose to knock on doors and speak with voters saw bigger improvements! In the future, recruiting volunteers to contact voters at their doors will be key to our success.

It's not all good news, though. Four precincts trended away from us considerably, most significantly, those with large Latino populations.

Although turnout was good for a special election, it remained lower in Bernalillo than other parts of the district. Neither the Stansbury campaign nor the county party produced Spanish language literature, primarily due to the election's time constraints. In future elections, Spanish language engagement will be critical to the continued health of the party.

Also, not all precincts were covered by volunteer activity, and while this may be attributable to the nature of a special election, more engagement will be imperative in future elections.

Overall, we did a great job, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who volunteered. Making calls and sending texts or walking the streets, your actions are what sustain the party and give hope for the future. We could not have done this without you!

The DPSC will be taking the lessons learned here to future

elections, and we will never stop making improvements.



**Click on image below to follow  
Rep. Stansbury.**

**MELANIE**  **STANSBURY**  
PROUDLY SERVING THE 1st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO



## **Sandoval County Democratic Women Help End Child Hunger**

### **Volunteer to feed Rio Rancho Kids**

**By Christine Spigarelli and Karen Schafer,  
Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women**

The Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women (SCFDW) needs your support. The members of the philanthropic committee are looking for volunteers and donations for a worthwhile project: Snack Packs to Feed Rio Rancho Kids.

Karen Schafer, the founder of this project, has been involved with this program since 2019. With the help of SCFDW and friends in the community, it has been a huge success, operating even through the pandemic with gift cards.

How it works: Needed food items are gathered. Groups of volunteers put these packets together. Finished packets are loaded into totes and taken to the four participating schools, where they are distributed on Fridays to kids who do not



have sufficient food at home on weekends.

Along with Karen, Kitty Perez and Chris Spigarelli are spearheading this project.

This year, we will be working closely with the Unitarian Westside Church in Rio Rancho. The church is giving us a place not only to store our gathered items, but also to put packets together and store them before delivery dates.

Fourteen items are needed including puddings, fruit flavored snacks, trail mix, and applesauce. All items can be consumed without cooking.

So how can YOU help? Volunteer to purchase food or send a donation. For a

complete list of the food items  
and how to donate online or

by check, send your name  
and email to either--

Karen Schaefer at  
[karenjean44@gmail.com](mailto:karenjean44@gmail.com)

Or Kitty Perez at  
[kittyperez639@gmail.com](mailto:kittyperez639@gmail.com)

## **Volunteers assembling food packets**



**Join us for Second Saturday, July 10, 11:00 am  
M'tucci's Moderno  
1908 Wellspring Ave., SE, Rio Rancho**



**SANDOVAL  
DEMS**  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
OF SANDOVAL COUNTY

**Karissa McCall  
Culbreath, Rio  
Rancho Councilor**

11 a.m., July 10  
M'tucci's  
Moderno,  
Rio Rancho  
Second Saturday  
Meeting



Miss Information

## Miss Information

### Water in the Fuel Tank: Trump Cuts Taxes, Economy Sputters

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary

Republicans promised the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act (TCJA) would pay for itself by stimulating economic growth. They argued that federal tax revenues would rise because of higher wages, increased investment, and higher corporate profits. These higher tax revenues would offset the act's tax cuts.

Were the tax cuts "rocket fuel" for the economy as Trump promised? Not even close.

A joint study by the Center for Popular Democracy and the Economic Policy Institute found that two years after enactment of the TCJA, ". . . President Trump's tax bill did not increase wages for working people, failed to spur business investments, decreased corporate tax revenues, and boosted stock buybacks in its wake."

While wage growth accelerated in 2018, it was driven by economic factors other than the tax cuts. Wage growth subsequently leveled off and then decelerated in 2019.

Investment increased in 2018, but, again, for reasons not attributable to the tax cuts. Investment declined the following year.

Rather than the tax cuts paying for themselves, 2019 saw the lowest corporate tax revenues as a percentage of GDP in the past 50 years excluding periods of recession.

The act also encouraged companies to repatriate funds previously held overseas. But rather than putting these funds toward wages and investment, companies indulged in massive stock buybacks, further enriching corporate executives and shareholders at the expense



of increased wages and benefits for workers.

Republicans and, unfortunately, some Democrats now object to raising the corporate tax rate to fund President Biden's proposed infrastructure plan.

Given the failure of the Trump tax cut to improve the economy, this objection underscores the obvious: the tax reductions were nothing more than a massive gift to the rich, not a method for boosting the economy or helping working people.

**Support Democratic-owned businesses in Sandoval County.**



**Click here to see what they are.**







## Communications Team Update

### Industrious Comms Team keeps you informed

By Delbert Schafer, Communications Team Lead

There are no idle hands on the Communications Team, with work underway on live streaming, newsletter creation and distribution, website redesign, and issues research.

With increased vaccination rates, we have returned to in-person meetings. We now provide online streaming of events for those who can't attend.

So far, members of the Communications Team, including Alex Piland, Kitty Perez, June Parsons, and Lorenzo Montoya have provided Facebook Live streaming of the June First Friday and Second Saturday meetings. Take a look on our [Facebook](#) page. We are still working out the kinks in the process.

Manuel Luna has agreed to take over some of the backend work, and we



welcome and will train anyone who wants to join this project.

You may have noticed the enhancements to our monthly newsletter since Judy Gordon took over content design and creation. Thank you, Judy. Meanwhile, Barbara Gallegos continues to work on improving our group email list.

Click [here](#) if you have not already subscribed to our email list to receive this newsletter in your inbox and

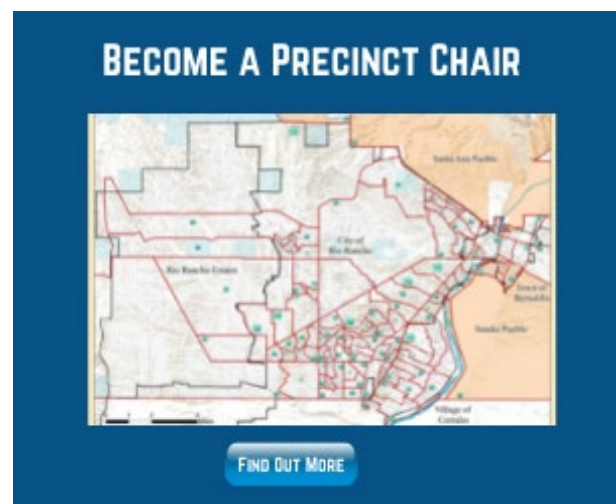
find out about other news and events.

Deb Dapson continues her work on a redesign and refocusing of our website. Look for a rollout in coming months. While the redesign work is proceeding, Scott Lake keeps our existing site up to date.

Also, thanks to June Anglin who now helps with content creation for the [website](#).

With inspiration taken from a recent Democratic National Committee training seminar, an issues-oriented research task force has been created to examine how early childhood education, public safety, environment, and health care concerns impact Sandoval County residents. Ann Kepley heads the group with participation from June Parsons, Gail Pinkepank, and Delbert Schafer. Join in if you love to research.

Until next time.





## Executive Committee Update

### Budget, Fundraising, and Much More

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary

The June Executive

Committee meeting focused on budget, fundraising, CD1 election results, revisions to our draft rules, and our First Friday and Second Saturday events.

Thanks to our sustaining donor program, our finances have improved, but we have an extensive to-do list to ensure Sandoval County elects Democrats in upcoming elections and encourage additional support. Rio Rancho municipal elections take place in March 2022 with midterm elections not far behind.

As Chair Alex Piland noted, an exciting fundraiser is planned for August 1-2. Jointly sponsored by Sandoval and Bernalillo County Democrats, it will feature an Art Gallery Sale spotlighting local artists.

Don't miss Vice Chair Isaac Chavez's analysis of CD1 election results. We had great

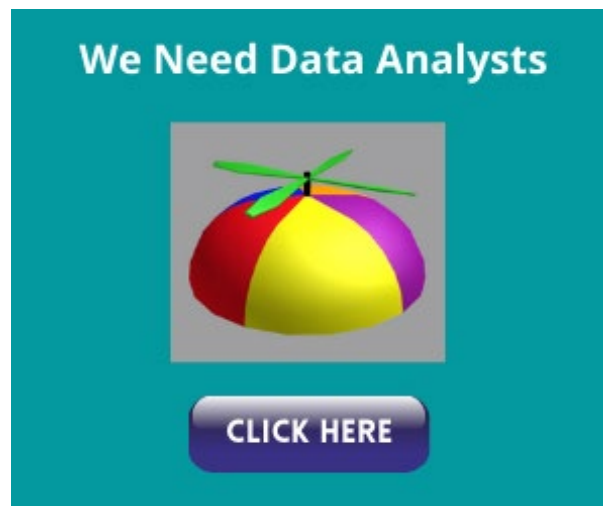
success under his organizing leadership, achieving improvements in every precinct in which volunteers canvassed or dropped literature. Volunteer in future elections. As Isaac's analysis demonstrates, you can make a real difference!

A draft of our new county rules will soon be ready for review by the County Central Committee (CCC). CCC members will have an opportunity to offer amendments and ultimately must vote on whether to approve them.

June saw our first in-person First Friday and Second Saturday gatherings. We had excellent attendance by an enthusiastic group of Democrats. As Communications Team Leader Delbert Schafer reports in this issue, you need not fear missing out if you can't or prefer not to attend in person. You can

view our livestream of these events on [Facebook](#).

We hope you'll join us at [Second Saturday](#) on July 10, either in person or on [Facebook](#).



### Volunteer Opportunities and Contacts

- **Precinct Chair**—contact **Isaac Chavez** at [icvez9@gmail.com](mailto:icvez9@gmail.com).
- **Communications Team, Videography/Event Streaming, Data Analysis, Research Team**—contact **Delbert Schafer** at [schafer42@gmail.com](mailto:schafer42@gmail.com).
- **Fundraising and Event Planning**—contact **Karen Schafer** at [karenjean44@gmail.com](mailto:karenjean44@gmail.com).

