

June 2021 Newsletter

SANDOVAL DEMS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY



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Message from the Chair

There are lights at the end of the tunnel!

By Alex Piland, Chair, DPSC

The first light was the decisive victory of U.S. Rep. Melanie Stansbury! We know that she will work hard not just for her constituents in CD1, but for all New Mexicans and Americans.

Kudos to her team for all of their hard work. A special shout-out to Vice Chair Isaac Chavez for organizing the volunteers and canvassers who dropped literature, made phone calls, texted, and donated to help elect Rep. Stansbury.

The next light is this Friday, June 4 at 11:30 am, our monthly First Friday event. We will meet in Rotary Park in the Town of Bernalillo, [370 Rotary Park Rd.](#) Our guest speaker will be Public Regulation Commissioner Joseph Maestas. Bring a chair and your lunch. Since we will

be outside, masks are optional, but always welcome.

Second Saturday will shine bright with another in-person gathering at M'Tucci's on June 12 at 11:30 am. Our great State Auditor, Brian Colon, is our featured speaker!

M'Tucci's has created a special menu just for us, so you will not want to miss it.

Vice Chair Chavez and I have been to Cuba to visit strong Democrats to plan an event in August. All are welcome! Details to come. Of course, El Bruno's is always a nice place to stop for some great New Mexican food, and the drive to Cuba is spectacular.

County Central Committee members will have the opportunity to review our new county party rules. Keep an eye out for more information in early July.

Our Communications Team has created some great resources for all of us on our [DPSC website](#). This includes contact information for Ward Chairs and your Executive Committee.

You will also find information on other Democratic organizations and activities like the Placitas Dems and Friends and Sandoval County Indivisible that routinely have great speakers and events throughout the county.



You can find information about those groups on our website's calendar. Be sure to regularly check our [website](#) for more information.



First Friday

FIRST FRIDAY
SPEAKER: JOE
MAESTAS, PUBLIC
REGULATION
COMMISSIONER,
DISTRICT 3.
11:30 A.M. JUNE 4,
ROTARY PARK,
BERNALILLO.
Event Held In Person and
Online
Democratic Party of
Sandoval County

[Pack a picnic lunch and join us at
Rotary Park, Town of Bernalillo, June 4](#)



Making A Difference in Sandoval County

District Attorney serves community with distinction

By Barbara Romo, District Attorney Serving Cibola, Sandoval, and Valencia Counties

After a very strange campaign season and a close race, I was finally declared the winner to become the first female to hold the office of 13th Judicial District Attorney in December of 2020. Upon taking office in January, I immediately began instituting new policies to improve employee morale and reduce turnover.

Employees who wish to exercise are granted an extra 30 minutes for lunch, and those who have well-behaved, vaccinated dogs can bring them to work.

I have also started the application process to obtain a trained facility dog to provide comfort to victims—especially children when they are being interviewed or testify in court.

I am working with community partners to explore alternatives to incarceration

for low-level offenders with substance abuse issues. With the help of Sen. Brenda McKenna, I was able to obtain an additional \$98,000 to fund additional victim advocate services.

I have implemented a policy to encourage community involvement by allowing time off in exchange for volunteer hours.

And of course, I was very involved in the legislative session, where I assisted the NMDAA in tracking, researching, and advocating for and against bills that directly affect our mission of doing justice.



I take my responsibility as the minister of justice for this district very seriously and that means

protecting the rights of the victims as well as the accused. I am personally training each of my prosecutors on ethics, professionalism, and victims' rights.

With the help of my wonderful staff, as well as advice from

community partners, I have accomplished a lot in my first 6 months and still have a long way to go, but I am well on the way to making the 13th the best District Attorney's Office in the State.



Second Saturday



**BRIAN COLON,
NEW MEXICO
STATE AUDITOR:
AN IN-PERSON
PRESENTATION**

»»—————<<<

**SECOND SATURDAY
RETURNS TO LIVE
MEETING: 11:30 A.M.,
JUNE 12, M'TUCCI'S
MODERNO, RIO RANCHO**

««—————<<<

Democratic Party of
Sandoval County
welcomes your
attendance

M'Tucci's Moderno Italian
1908 Wellspring Ave SE, Rio Rancho





Spotlight On the Democratic Caucuses

Native American Caucus gets out the vote

By Aleta "Tweety" Paisano-Suazo (Acoma/Laguna),
Chair, Native American Democratic Caucus of New Mexico (NADCNM)

Gu Wa Tse How Ba (Hello Everyone).

NADCNM’s mission is to proactively institutionalize inclusion, engagement, and mobilization of Native communities and voters. We envision a political landscape where our communities and constituents living on and off

tribal lands are engaged, represented, and empowered.


NADCNM proudly collaborated with numerous organizations in New Mexico’s get out the vote efforts to secure the Democratic vote in our native New Mexico communities.

NADCNM

- Made calls for the Pam Cordova and Brenda McKenna New Mexico Senate campaigns.
- Worked with the Laguna and Zuni Census efforts to get voting information to the public.
- Sent postcards to 16 tribal communities.
- Worked with Empower the Vote, Democratic Party of

NADCNM Priorities

1. Increase membership.
2. Increase communication to tribal communities.
3. Increase involvement in the political process by identifying individuals to mentor.
4. Increase tribal youth education and involvement in the political process.



Cibola Co. and My Native Sister' Fire to encourage Native women to vote and to receive a mask in the process.

- Made weekly phone calls to voters in swing states.
- Assembled and distributed voting PPE kits to nine Native communities.

For more information contact nacdnm.chair@gmail.com. A longer version of this article can be found [here](#).



Videographers Wanted

Record DPSC Live Events



Create Videos for Social Media

Click to Volunteer



Volunteer for the DPSC Communications Team

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM
Democratic Party of Sandoval County

Click to Volunteer



Early Childhood Education on the Ballot

Organizing brings social change

By Erica Gallegos, Policy Director for the

In the 2020 election cycle, *after a decade of organizing in the community*, early childhood educators and parents helped unseat New Mexico state legislators who had stood in the way of passing a constitutional amendment to provide permanent, sustainable funding for early childhood education, at-risk public school students, and low-income families.

The unprecedented community organizing effort ushered in a new wave of elected officials committed to building an equitable early childhood education system.



Just hours before the New Mexico Legislature adjourned this past March, legislators approved a constitutional amendment that voters can ratify in the November 2022 election.

If voters approve, New Mexico will be the first state to embed early childhood education in its constitution, and it would allocate \$125 million annually from the state’s Land Grant Permanent Education Fund to early care and education.

As the legislators cast their votes, we watched virtually with women across the state. Many of us had tears in our eyes. The passing of this historic bill represented years of organizing by mothers, childcare providers, educators, and advocates.

Many of those were in the trenches day in and day out, lobbying legislators, protesting the state's inequitable childcare system, and working to elect candidates who shared our values. These community leaders were mostly Black, Brown, and Immigrant women, who in addition to raising their own families, were helping to raise New Mexicans' youngest children with their advocacy.

Now New Mexico is leading the Nation on early childhood education because low-income communities made it happen. This legislative victory shows that elections

are crucial to pushing for social change

View a longer version of this article [here](#).





Uncounting the Vote in Arizona

New Mexico fosters progress, Arizona denies reality

By Isaac Chavez, Vice Chair DPSC

Republicans are auditing the 2020 Maricopa County election results as part of their “stop the steal” effort. Turning citizens’ ballots over to a private company with an obvious political bias is a desperate effort to justify the Big Lie that the election was stolen from Donald Trump.



Republicans will find problems that cast doubt on the election, despite numerous previous audits demonstrating there were none.

Contrast Arizona with New Mexico. The Democratic majority in our state legislature has been fantastically productive, addressing climate, education, health, economic growth, environmental protection, transparency, and more.

Our lawmakers even came back for a special session to end qualified immunity and legalize recreational marijuana to promote social justice and economic diversification.

Why are Democrats getting things done while Republicans cling to the Big Lie? I would argue that it’s because of morals, which are the foundation of all our actions. Republicans have chosen a rotten moral foundation, seeking power not to better society, but simply for its own sake and their own self-interest.

Republicans believe power justifies tearing down democracy and treading on the less powerful. Since they expect Democrats to behave as they do, they become desperate when confronted with the loss of power.

Democrats must continue to promote an opposing moral framework of mutual respect, honesty, and constructive problem solving. We must volunteer, vote, and lobby. We must proclaim that what is happening is wrong.

We must understand that the power to change doesn't

reside with Congress, Trump, or any national leader. It lies with us and the morals for which we stand.



Executive Committee Update

CD1 election, new rules, precinct training

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary

April's

Executive Committee meeting focused on three topics: the CD1 election, our draft rules, and precinct chair training.

Thanks to your dedicated efforts, we have elected Melanie Stansbury to Congress. Congratulations, Rep. Stansbury and CD1 Democrats!

Ed Lovato, Chris Daul, and Karen Schafer have put together a first draft of county rules, which they presented to the Executive Committee in May.

Why Rules?

State and county rules define the organization and conduct of our party and are essential to its smooth and proper functioning.

County rules supplement the rules of the state Democratic party, which allow county parties some discretion in such areas as officer positions, membership on certain committees, and creation of additional standing committees.

The Executive Committee's goal is to reach consensus at the June meeting after which the County Central Committee

(CCC) will be convened to approve the rules.

The CCC is the governing body of each county's Democratic party and is responsible for the general supervision and control of the party's political affairs. Our CCC has delegated the conduct of business to the Executive Committee, as permitted by state party rules.

After the county rules are approved, we will file them with the Sandoval County Clerk and post them on the SCDP website.

Vice Chair Isaac Chavez is continuing to design precinct

chair training and presented a draft outline of topics. With a new high-quality training program and 2022 elections on the horizon, this is the perfect time to become a precinct chair.



Miss Information



Unemployed people want to work, but not for poverty wages

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary

Republicans and the media are quick to point the finger at expanded unemployment

benefits for employers' current hiring woes.

The Albuquerque Journal asserted, "We're competing with unem-

ployment,” claiming that the \$300 weekly supplemental unemployment benefit in the Covid-19 relief package is causing our current labor shortages.

But the picture is much more complex than this narrative would have you believe.

With many of the nation’s schools not fully reopened, workers—mainly women—are forced to stay home to perform childcare and homeschooling. On the poverty incomes they would earn, the burden of childcare would leave them unable to pay their rent and feed their families. The fact that labor force participation for men grew in April but dipped for women reinforces this point.

While the extra unemployment does induce some low-wage workers to stay home, millions report they are not returning to the labor market because they fear getting Covid. If the extra \$300 is keeping some low-wage workers home, employers have an option: pay a living wage, offer decent benefits, and

provide safe working conditions.

Nearly two-thirds of unemployed people are not receiving unemployment compensation, much less the extra \$300, making the claim that unemployment has caused the labor shortage implausible.

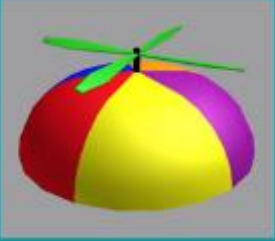
We are not facing a labor shortage due to an epidemic of freeloaders. Most people value the self-respect and dignity that come with a job and are eager to return to the workplace. In reality, we’re facing a wage, childcare, and safe workplace shortage.



Click to visit the DPSC website



We Need Data Analysts



CLICK HERE

SCFDW
SANDOVAL COUNTY
FEDERATION OF
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

Click to Join

THE DPSC WANTS YOU



VOLUNTEER!

To volunteer or get more information

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

