

## October 2021 Newsletter

# SANDOVAL DEMS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY



Share



Tweet



[Link to DPSC](#)

## In This Issue

Click  
here



### To Navigate

- Click on title or scroll down to read article.
- Click on hand to return here.



[Go Back](#)

### Message from the Chair

DPSC Chair **Alex Piland**, A fun time was had by all!

### First Friday

October 1 at **The Range** with **Stephanie Garcia Richard**, Commissioner, NM State Land Office

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SANDOVAL COUNTY

County Treasurer **Jennifer Taylor** improves critical office to better serve community.

### GARY TRIPP: THE ONLY CHOICE FOR RIO RANCHO SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 1

School Board Candidate, **Gary Tripp**, A lifelong educator squares off against right wing extremist.

### BARBARA JORDAN: IT'S TIME FOR A RIO RANCHO MAYOR WHO WELCOMES EVERYONE

Retired Educator and Sandoval County Democrat, **JoPat Wellman**, Air Force veteran and community activist announces run for mayor.

### DEMOCRATIC WOMEN SEEK TO REDUCE IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT

Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women **Deb Dapson**, Don't just recycle—precycle!

### SECOND SATURDAY

October 9 on Zoom, keynote speaker **Teresa Leger Fernandez**, with co-host **Sandoval County Indivisible**.

### RIO RANCHO KIDS RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATION

Feed Rio Rancho Kids Coordinator, **Karen Schafer**, Democratic women spearhead effort to fight hunger in Rio Rancho.

### CLEAN VEHICLES FOR A HEALTHY NEW MEXICO

DPSC Communications Team Member, **June Parsons**, Help protect our environment.

### MISS INFORMATION

DPSC Secretary **Judy Gordon**, State Senator Gregg Schmedes discourages vaccinations and masking

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

DPSC Secretary **Judy Gordon**, Executive Committee prepares for upcoming elections.

### "DEMOCRACY'S NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT"

Volunteer Opportunities and Contacts

## Message from the Chair



### A Fun Time Was Had By All!

By Alex Piland, DPSC Chair

The Keep Sandoval Blue Biennial Event was a great success! We ate wonderful

food. We sipped fine wine. We listened to nice music, but the best part was that we were together, outdoors, masked, and healthy.

Commissioner Katherine Bruch welcomed us to her district, followed by Leah Ahkee-Baczkiwicz, who spoke truth with her Land Acknowledgment.



like Rep. Leger Fernandez, loved her job, too!

Fun facts that she shared about our great state included items like “New Mexico rate payers pay less for solar energy than any other rate payers in the country.” As a homeowner with solar panels, I was very happy to hear that, along

with the fact that New Mexico will soon be a hydrogen hub for the entire country.

Our governor continued to motivate as she explained that New Mexico is “exponentially growing out of poverty” and

described the many, many economic successes we are experiencing during her administration!

U.S. Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez started the slate of speakers by describing her focus and committee work and thanking us for electing her. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham followed. She started off saying that she,

After the governor’s moving speech, other elected officials and candidates spoke, and I can tell you that we have some great

candidates starting with next month's school board elections. Running for Bernalillo school board is John Gurule of Peña Blanca and Michael Archibeque, who is running unopposed because he has been doing such a fine job.

Rio Rancho's own veteran educator, Gary Tripp, is seeking a position on the school board.

Early voting for school board elections begins the first week in October, so make sure to vote and ask your friends and family to do the same.

Municipal elections are fast approaching in March of 2022, and then we will be in full-on election mode as we approach the primaries in June and the general in November 2022. Please be sure to save time in your busy schedule to help candidates in whom you believe!

The Democratic Party of Sandoval County's Executive Committee is working hard toward having a workable ward reapportionment plan. County Central Committee members will be asked to vote to approve the plan near the end of the year.

In the meantime, keep an eye out for a rally in Bernalillo on October 23 and an event to-be-determined in Cuba.

Stay safe and healthy!



Alex





"Oct. 1, 2021, 11 a.m.,  
Democratic Party of  
Sandoval County's  
First Friday Meeting  
at The Range Cafe,  
Bernalillo, and  
streaming on  
Facebook Live

**STEPHANIE GARCIA RICHARD**

Commissioner, New  
Mexico State Land Office



[www.sandovaldemocrats.org](http://www.sandovaldemocrats.org)

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.



### **Land Acknowledgement**

**We as the Democratic Party of Sandoval County recognize that Sandoval County is located on the ancestral land of Indigenous People. We 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.**

**Click image for full text of Land Acknowledgement  
by Leah Ahkee-Bacziewicz.**

### **CALLING ALL DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**



**Submit your campaign events for  
posting on our website.**

**Click image to  
submit events.**

## Making A Difference in Sandoval County

### **Sandoval County Treasurer Improves Critical Office to Better Serve Community**

**By Jennifer Taylor, Sandoval County Treasurer**

The first nine months of 2021 have been busy, yet very exciting, as the newly elected Sandoval County Treasurer.

Through my previous experience as the Deputy Treasurer and the experience of our incredible staff, we have created an amazing team to serve our taxpayers and represent our great county.

Moving forward, I will continue to educate and train our staff so that they are cross-trained in every area of our office in the event that we experience another national emergency like COVID-19.

#### **Accomplishments since January 1, 2021**

1. Created a cohesive, welcoming, productive, and relaxed work environment. We are allowing our staff to



work flex schedules during non-tax season months to afford them more time with their families and allow them to attend personal appointments.

2. Worked diligently to build collaborative and healthy working relationships across all offices and departments within the county.
3. Diligently tracked 2021 legislation that may have impacted the Treasurer's Office, county, and constituents.
4. Restructured job descriptions within our office to attract and open the pool of qualified candidates.
5. Successfully facilitated six required meetings with the

Board of Finance and Sandoval County Investment Committee providing detail, collaboration, and imperative information.

6. Began the process to implement ACH (Automated Clearing House) in lieu of checks for our monthly distribution to save money for the County and provide convenience for all receiving authorities. This also reduces the risk of check fraud and increases security pertaining to sensitive county bank information.
7. Changed the monthly Treasurer's Report to be automatically system generated rather than manually inputted. This eliminates the chance of human error and provides 100 percent transparency.
8. Advocated for a 2021 state auction for our top delinquent accounts. We were able to work with the Property Tax Division to schedule a fall auction in late October (details TBD).

9. Successfully completed our first RFP (Request for Proposal) process pertaining to our credit card services (point of sale). The new vendor offers a "shopping cart" to add multiple accounts as a convenient and efficient way to pay property taxes.

10. Organized and participated in a community service project for a Sandoval County family who needed a handicapped accessible ramp for their mobile home.

It is a privilege and honor to serve the Taxpayers and Constituents of Sandoval County with integrity and respect. Thank you for your support!



## Gary Tripp: The Only Choice for Rio Rancho School Board, District 1

### A Dedicated Lifelong Educator Squares Off Against a Right Wing Extremist

Editor's Note: Extremist Republicans are politicizing school boards at the expense of our children. Gary Tripp is running for Rio Rancho School Board, District 1. Gary is an extremely knowledgeable and dedicated lifelong educator. His opponent, Patrick Brenner, is a right wing extremist (click [here](#) to read selected Brenner tweets). Early voting starts October 5. If you are in Gary's district, be sure to vote early. The stakes for Rio Rancho's schools couldn't be higher.



The following letter is Gary Tripp's response to Brenner's baseless accusations that the Rio Rancho Public Schools are teaching critical race theory. It is re-printed from the [Rio Rancho Observer](#) with permission.

#### Editor:

As a former Rio Rancho High School principal and RRPS district administrator, I am always gratified when community members take an interest in our children's education.

But faux concern designed to start culture wars in our community — as demonstrated by Patrick Monroe Brenner's Sept. 5 letter to the editor — is a distraction from our solemn duty to educate our children

and prepare them for success in the real world

His ill-informed letter claims that critical race theory is part of the RRPS curriculum. Not so, says Superintendent Sue Cleveland.

He is upset that our teachers are trained in cultural competence. Adopting extremist talking points, he deliberately confuses cultural competence with critical race theory in order to scare the community.



In great contrast to his misplaced concern about a theory, I see concrete opportunities to better serve our students such as by strengthening career technical education; ensuring universal availability of high-speed, reliable broadband, which is now essential for learning; imparting financial literacy; and more.

When the extreme right wing talks about “critical race theory,” they are distorting an obscure academic concept to attack any acknowledgement of the existence of historic and structural racism in this country, and its echoes in the present.

In the context of education, cultural competence is the ability to understand and constructively teach students from cultures or belief systems different from those of the teacher. The focus is not on theory but on how best to engage the student in the classroom.

The letter takes offense at the very idea that implicit racial bias exists, as if coming to

grips with the fact that we all have biases makes someone a racist. It does not.

You don’t have to be a racist or morally flawed to harbor implicit bias or to have blind spots about the experiences of other cultures. The point is that it’s implicit, not deliberate, and culturally competent educators with the self-awareness of their own bias will be fair to all of their students.

Deliberately attacking cultural sensitivity is intended to muzzle educators who seek to impart a full and accurate understanding of our history and our current reality, disturbing as some of it assuredly is.

Research shows culturally competent teaching positively benefits students behaviorally, emotionally, and academically. Why would any well-intentioned parent, teacher, or community member object?

With some Republican support, the state legislature recognized the need for

cultural competence when it passed the Black Education Act this year. The act provides for training of school personnel on racism, racial awareness, and sensitivity.

It helps educators foster an equitable and culturally responsive learning environment for all students.

As educators, we have not done our job until we prepare our students to be successful in the real world and to properly fulfill their role as citizens. This means nothing less than providing a quality education conveyed in a culturally sensitive manner.

**Gary Tripp**  
**Rio Rancho**



VOTE

# GARY TRIPP

RIO RANCHO SCHOOL BOARD  
District 1

*"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."*  
- NELSON MANDELA

Learn more at [garytripp.com](http://garytripp.com)

**Click image to go to [garytripp.com](http://garytripp.com)**



# Elect Barbara Jordan: It's Time for a Rio Rancho Mayor Who Welcomes Everyone

## Air Force Veteran and Activist Announces Mayoral Run

By JoPat Wellman, Retired Educator  
and Sandoval County Democrat



Barbara Jordan, an African-American of African descent, is running for mayor of Rio Rancho. A true patriot, Barbara rose out of a horribly abusive home to retire from the Air Force after 24 years of distinguished service with the rank of E-7, Master Sergeant.

In the Air Force, she was stationed in Afghanistan, Iraq, Australia, Cypress, South Korea, and Kuwait.

After her last assignment at Kirkland AFB, where she fell in love with our enchanted state, she settled here in Rio Rancho. She specifically chose Rio Rancho because of the excellent schools for her son.

Since living here she has untiringly served her community. She helped the homeless by providing winter clothing; became a CASA (court-appointed special advocate) volunteer, advocating for children in foster care; conducted memorials for victims of shootings; and registered voters.

And yes, Barbara protested with Black Lives Matter, where she was frequently the keynote speaker.

During an informational rally and voter registration drive in Rio Rancho on September 12, 2020, counterprotesters, many armed with guns and

knives—and even one with a machete—broke through the police barricade to surround Barbara and her friends.

The counterprotesters tried to drown out her speech, spit on her, and hit her. They verbally assaulted her, telling her to go back where she came from and calling out racial epithets.

These people with their ugly behavior are her neighbors and my neighbors. She is one of us.

In spite of their treatment toward her, Barbara stayed because she knows most residents of our city are welcoming and filled with goodwill.

We are so fortunate she decided to make Rio Rancho her home. She is a true patriot.

Barbara is one who says, “I will not give up, I will not be

intimidated, and I will stand for my values and morals.”

Barbara is one who says, “I will leave this country a better place than the one I was born into.”

**Click [here](#) for Barbara Jordan’s mayoral announcement in the *Rio Rancho Observer*.**

**Click [here](#) to donate to Barbara Jordan’s campaign.**

**Click [here](#) to read more about what true patriotism means.**

That is what a patriot does. A patriot loves the country enough to confront its failings and find solutions for the problems.

Barbara Jordan is a forward thinker and a problem solver. She honed her leadership skills in

the military and as the founder of PRESS (People Requiring Equality within Systemic Racism), an organization that advocates for a fair and just society.

She opens her arms wide and welcomes anyone who wants to see a better Rio Rancho for our children. No matter how good or how progressive you think a community is, there is always room for growth.

Barbara welcomes diversity; she welcomes people of all



faiths and no faith. She welcomes those who want to usher in important and positive changes. She is energetic, tireless, and joyful. She will bring all of these qualities to the mayor's office at Rio Rancho.

Barbara Jordan is my hero and a hero to countless others.

Click image to RSVP for Barbara Jordan's Fundraiser.



# Democratic Women Seek to Reduce Impact on Environment

## Don't just recycle—precycle!

By Deb Dapson, President, Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women



The Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women (SCFDW) held a general meeting on Sunday, September 19

at the Westside Unitarian Church.

sustainability expert who spoke about recycling and precycling. Many of us were surprised to learn that while there are seven types of recyclable plastic, Rio Rancho only recycles those labeled numbers 1 and 2.

Cardboard and paper waste are more reliably being recycled in Rio Rancho.

Members brought weekend snacks and easy meals for Feed Rio Rancho Kids, which we

packed a few days later as weekend meals for children who face food insecurity or lack access to an affordable, nutritious diet (see article below).

We hosted a very interesting speaker, Elena Kayak, a



Elena pointed out that because recycling is expensive and labor intensive, a better option to help reduce waste is to precycle. This means simply don't buy products

that come in non-recyclable packaging.

Another precycling option is to reuse or give items away to continue their usefulness. Elena demonstrated this by offering us multiple objects

she no longer needed to take home and reuse as we saw fit.

We were also privileged to hear from County Commissioner Katherine Bruch and State Senator McKenna, who brought us up to date on activities in the county and Roundhouse.

One of our members, Barbara Jordan, is running for mayor of Rio Rancho. She told us

why she is running, and we pledged our support to help her win.

Our county chair and member Alex Piland reminded us about the Keep Sandoval Blue fundraiser that was happening the following weekend.







**A Co-hosted Meeting with  
keynote speaker  
Teresa Leger Fernandez,  
NM CD3 U.S. Rep.,  
11:00 a.m. Oct. 9  
REGISTER ON ZOOM  
Zack Quintero, candidate  
for auditor, featured speaker**

The Democratic Party of Sandoval County and Sandoval County Indivisible will Co-host Member of Congress Teresa Leger Fernandez as the keynote speaker in a joint virtual meeting at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 9. Register for the Zoom meeting to hear about Congressional actions that affect all of us.

Candidate for Auditor Zack Quintero will log in as the featured speaker, so attendees will learn more about his qualifications and platform issues.

Join us by registering at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZApcu2hrTluG9L9LI4i8iW6QyoBuld2bYb6>

**Don't forget to register and then join the meeting at 11 a.m. Oct. 9.**





## FEED RIO RANCHO KIDS RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATIONS

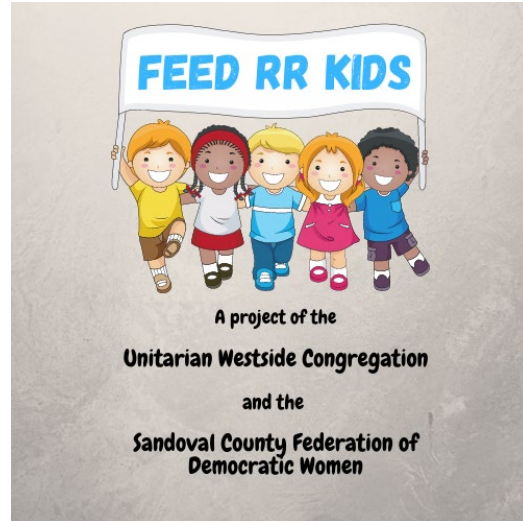
### **Democratic Women Spearhead Effort to Fight Hunger in Rio Rancho**

**By Karen Schafer, Coordinator, Feed Rio Rancho Kids**

Feed Rio Rancho Kids recently received a grant from the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) that allowed us to buy items we still needed for the August 21 assembly of snack packs. We are most grateful to County Commissioner Katherine Bruch for introducing the program to PNM.

That good news was followed by a donation from Rio Rancho City Councilor Dr. Karissa Culbreath, who contributed eight backpacks filled with school supplies.

This welcome gift was happily received by Jarmaine McChriston with the Desert Program of RR Public Schools. Councilor Culbreath, pictured below, delivered the packs on assembly day.



Our amazing cadre of volunteers and friends from the Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women (SCFDW) and Unitarian Universal Westside Congregation (UU) once again came through with much-needed food donations and snack pack assembly skills.

We filled 200 packets that day!

The next assembly day at UU is October 12 at 9:00 a.m. A list of needed supplies is available by contacting Kitty Perez.

Feed RR Kids is stacking everything on the floor and needs shelving for storage of food at the church. If anyone out there has metal or wooden shelving they could donate, please let us know.

Join the Feed RR Kids program. It's a great group and with lots of camaraderie.



*Dr. Karissa Culbreath donates school supplies*



*Volunteers Assemble 200 Snack Packs*



*Snack Packs Ready for Delivery*

# Clean Vehicles for a Healthy New Mexico

## Help Protect Our Environment

By June Parsons, DPSC Communications Team

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, as of 2019, greenhouse gas emissions from transportation accounted for about 29 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, making it the largest contributor of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenhouse gases trap heat and make the planet warmer, while polluting the air we breathe. Our human activities over just the last 150 years are responsible for almost all of the increase in greenhouse gases in our atmosphere today.

What can we New Mexicans do to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we love?

On July 23, 2021, the state's Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) held its monthly meeting focused on EIB 21-30, Proposed Regulation 20.2.88 NMAC - *Emission Standards for New Motor Vehicles*.



New Mexico's adoption of these emission standards is both urgent and vital for several reasons.

Importantly, they would

- **Reduce vehicular toxic greenhouse gases' pollution** of the air we breathe. Fossil fuel combustion engines are emitting every minute.

This exhaust is

- Toxic to human health, causing increasing healthcare costs from inhaling greenhouse gases and smoke, and
- A substantial cause of our climate crisis.

- **Reduce tax dollars spent** cleaning up pollution and toxic waste left behind by the fossil fuel industry.
- **Reduce further contamination** of New underground freshwater aquifers from fracking and other fossil fuel industry chemicals and processes. This will help keep these waters clean and pristine for drinking.
- **Increase competitively priced new clean-energy vehicles**, which provide substantial savings opportunities for New Mexicans along with significant reduction in maintenance and fuel costs.
- **Increase in affordable used clean-energy vehicles**, which also

provide substantial savings opportunities for New Mexicans with significant reduction in maintenance and fuel operating costs.

**How much can you save in gasoline each year by owning a clean energy vehicle?**

Let's take the example of a 30 mpg hybrid engine versus a 15 mpg conventional engine.

Assuming you drive your vehicle 15,000 miles per year,

- The hybrid engine will consume 500 gallons of gas (15,000 miles divided by 30 mpg).
- At \$3 per gallon multiplied by 500 gallons, you will spend \$1,500 for gasoline for your hybrid vehicle.
- A conventional engine will consume 1,000 gallons (15,000 miles divided by 15 mpg)
- At \$3 per gallon multiplied by 1,000 gallons, you will spend \$3,000 for gasoline for your conventional vehicle.

The hybrid engine in this example **saves you \$1,500 per year.**





## Miss Information

### State Senator Gregg Schmedes Discourages Vaccinations and Masking

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary



concerns about getting the COVID-19 vaccination.

But what if your doctor is a politician who promotes misleading information about vaccines and masking?

What if your doctor advocates not vaccinations but herd immunity as the preferred method for dealing with the pandemic?

What if your doctor is NM District 19 Senator Gregg Schmedes?

We are advised to consult our doctor if we have

If you live in Sandoval County, this ear, nose, and throat surgeon may be (mis)representing you in the state senate.

Schmedes is practiced at prescribing half-truths for his constituents. He objected to a state mask mandate for unvaccinated students and

staff. As he told the

*Santa Fe New Mexican* in August, he believes in

“‘focused protection’—a combination of targeted vaccinations and allowing those who are at minimal risk of death building immunity through infection—to reach

herd immunity.”

With COVID-19 rates rising for children, this is a particularly irresponsible position. As of September 20, there were nearly 50,000



reported cases of COVID-19 for New Mexicans under the age of 19, including 16,000 cases among children under 10.

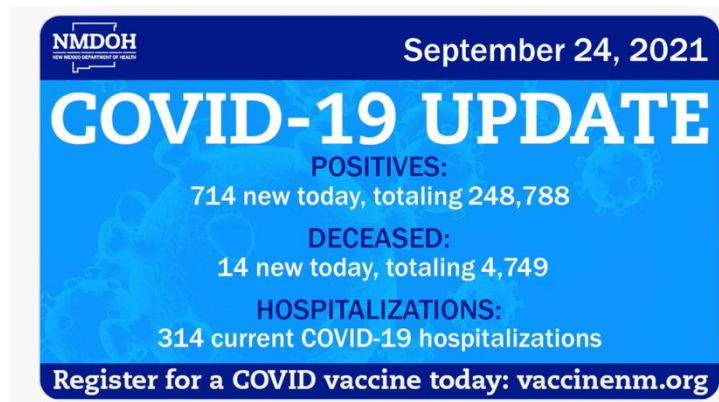
COVID-19 is perplexing and unpredictable. While certain conditions increase a person's risk of dying from the virus, those apparently in good health, both young and old, also die of this disease.

Schmedes' approach means finding it acceptable to have more unvaccinated people transmitting COVID-19 to high-risk adults and children who are not vaccinated.

Schmedes' approach means accepting an even more unconscionable number of deaths than we have now.

Schmedes' approach means increasing the likelihood of spawning new variants that may not respond to today's vaccines.

Schmedes won't explicitly advise you not to get vaccinated. Instead, his social media posts are littered with his own pronouncements and references to studies intended to cast doubt on the most effective precautions—vaccinations and masking.



A closer look at several of Schmedes' sources reveals that what he is claiming about them is often

incomplete and misleading.

Misinformation provided under the guise of medical authority is particularly malignant. We all will benefit if Schmedes and his Republican colleagues put pseudoscience aside and work in the best interest of Sandoval County and all of New Mexico.



## Executive Committee Highlights

### Executive Committee Gets Ready for Elections

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary



At our September meeting, Chair Alex Piland reported that the County

Central Committee (CCC) overwhelmingly approved our new county party rules. They will be filed with the Sandoval County Clerk's office and the Democratic Party of New Mexico. We will also post them on the [DPSC website](#).

Election season is already here, and the Executive Committee is discussing how best to support Democratic candidates. First on the calendar are school board elections with early voting beginning on October 5 and election day November 2.

There are two contested school board races. In Rio Rancho, Democrat [Gary Tripp](#) is running for school board in School District 1. Not only is

Gary exceptionally qualified as a lifelong educator, but his opponent is a right wing extremist who could do untold damage to Rio Rancho public schools (see [article](#) in this newsletter).

In the Bernalillo Municipal School District, John Gurule is running for school board to represent Peña Blanca. John is running against three other candidates, including the Republican incumbent. As president of the Peña Blanca Water and Sanitation District and a flight paramedic/EMT, John is also a highly qualified candidate who merits our support.

Winning school board elections depends on voter turnout. Please vote for these candidates if you live in their districts and encourage your family and friends to do the same.

Rio Rancho mayoral and city council elections are coming

Democrat Barbara Jordan, a retired U.S. Air Force combat veteran, activist, organizer, and single mother is running for mayor (see article in this newsletter).

Also, Democratic incumbent Mayor Jack Torres will be running, so far unopposed, to retain his seat in Bernalillo and Mayor Jo Anne Roake, an Independent, will be running again in Corrales.

Looking further ahead to 2022, Ed Lovato, attorney and Ward E Chair is running for Sandoval County probate judge. The Democratic primary will be held on June 7, 2022, and the election is Nov. 8, 2022.



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

**FIND OUT MORE**



# "Democracy's Not A Spectator Sport"

## Volunteer Opportunities and Contacts

### VOLUNTEER FOR FUNDRAISING OR EVENT PLANNING



CLICK HERE

### Videographers Wanted

Record DPSC  
Live  
Events



Create  
Videos for  
Social Media

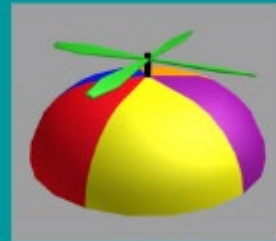
Click to Volunteer

### 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](mailto:icvez9@gmail.com).
- **Communications Team and Data Analysis 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).
- **Research Team**—contact **Ann Kepley** at [ann.kepley@gmail.com](mailto:ann.kepley@gmail.com).
- **Videography/Event Streaming**—contact **June Anglin** at [juneanglin@gmail.com](mailto:juneanglin@gmail.com).