

February 2022 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**, Election season is here! Time for close encounters of the best kind.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SANDOVAL COUNTY
Secretary of State **Maggie Toulouse Oliver** safeguards New Mexicans' voting rights and our democracy.

UPDATE: WARD MEETINGS AND PRE-PRIMARY CONVENTIONS

FIRST FRIDAY

Meet the Town of Bernalillo Candidates.

HELP OUR DEMOCRATIC JUSTICES AND JUDGES QUALIFY FOR PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING

F Ya Ya VYf]b['Gca Y'cZ'h Y'; fYUhg'8i f]b[BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Rio Rancho City Council candidate **Joshua Jones** seeks to make Black history of his own.

The Rachel Maddow Show: STATE AUDITOR BRIAN COLÓN DISCUSSES INQUIRY INTO OTERO COUNTY CONTRACT to AUDIT 2020 Election

COMING IN MARCH: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION EVENT

Event Coordinator **Karen Shafer**, Sandoval County Democratic coalition promotes must-pass constitutional amendment

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN DELIVER FOR FEED RIO RANCHO KIDS

FRRK Coordinator **Karen Schafer**, In 2021, SCFDW delivered snack packs, winter coats, school supplies, and more.

MISS INFORMATION

DPSC Secretary **Judy Gordon**, The insurrectionist next door.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

DPSC Secretary **Judy Gordon**, Fundraising! New Wards! Elections!

Land Acknowledgment

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND CONTACTS

Message from the Chair

Election season is here! Time for close encounters of the best kind.

By Alex Piland, DPSC Chair



The room was packed. It was stuffed full of people, posters, and dry-erase

markers. There were some chairs pushed up against the walls, and candidates tried to strategically set up tables around the room with palm cards, pens, cookies, and other enticements. I had never been a delegate before, so I just kind of rolled through the crowd, talking with people I knew from volunteering for the DPSC. It was exciting.

Candidates started to arrive. They came in, scanned the

room, and started talking to people who would help them get on the ballot. My sweet son was there to vote for his mom to be a delegate, and he was even less sure of what was happening. Then, SHE walked into the room. People cheered for her literally in every corner. Candidate Michelle Lujan Grisham walked in, scanned the room, and walked straight toward my son.



She thanked him for being at the ward meeting. He told her that he was there to support his mom, and

instead of shaking his hand and walking away, she stood in the crowded, hot room, and spoke with a seventeen-year-old who wasn't even going to be a delegate. My son will never forget that, and neither will I. It felt like my birthday.

It was exciting, fun, busy, fascinating, and inclusive.

There was another candidate who went out of his way to speak with my shy boy, Brian Colon. AJ still has Brian's phone number. Four years later, when our governor or state auditor is on TV or in the news, my son pays special attention because a connection was made.

In the years that have followed, I've reveled in the successes of these two public servants, and shared in the trials and tribulations. My heart broke when I heard our governor say that she cannot go out in public with her grandchildren. Most recently, I cheered for her when she proposed the removal of the Social Security tax and proposed a salary increase for New Mexico's teachers.

I do not only cheer for these people because they are public servants and if they do well, so does our beautiful state; I cheer for them because each and every time I see them, whether it is on Zoom or in-person, I think about the connection they made with my son and it touches my heart.



The election season is starting. Candidates will be reaching out to all of us in order to make those connections and ask for help. Please help them however you are able.

Become involved in the democratic process and your Democratic Party. We need you, all of you, just as much as we did two years ago, if not more. While you're helping, I hope you get to feel like it is your birthday, too.

Alex



Making a Difference in Sandoval County

Secretary of State safeguards New Mexicans' voting rights and our democracy

By Maggie Toulouse Oliver, New Mexico Secretary of State



I entered public service as County Clerk of Bernalillo County in 2007.

Since then, motivated by my passion for democracy, my time as Bernalillo and then New Mexico's top election administrator has been dedicated to safeguarding our democracy and uplifting our people's voices.

As county clerk, I played a pivotal role in over-turning New Mexico's same-sex marriage ban. As clerk and now secretary, I streamlined the democratic process for our citizens. In addition to revamping New Mexico's voter registration system (such as implementing same-day registration and automatic registration), I have gone to work to expand ballot access by opening more convenience centers and

enabling people to vote at their most convenient [polling](#) place.

During the pandemic, I made it easier to vote by mail so New Mexicans didn't have to choose between their right to vote and their health.

Other secretaries of state from across the country ask me about New Mexico's successes in order to model on our example.

My passion for democracy motivates my work and inspires me to continually identify systemic issues and find ways to address them.

I founded the Native American Voting Task Force to help provide equal access to the ballot box for our Indigenous nations, tribes, and pueblos.

In my academic work as a PhD student, my research is tailored to this same topic of identifying obstacles in voter

access within traditionally disenfranchised communities.

I continue to advocate for stronger election transparency laws and a more robust campaign finance reporting system.

I continue to protect the integrity of our elections from foreign and domestic interference.

This month, in partnership with Governor Lujan Grisham, I introduced a legislative initiative meant to enhance voting rights—the New Mexico Voting Rights Act—by making election day a state holiday, making a permanent absentee ballot list, enhancing automatic voter registration, and protecting Native American voter access.

Outside of my public service to New Mexico, I am a member of New Mexico's Martin Luther King Jr. Commission and a fellow at the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

I love spending time with my two boys, Christian and Max, and my partner Tom. I'm also an avid audiobook listener.

I'm running for re-election because at such a critical time in our country's history,

"Other secretaries of state from across the country ask me about New Mexico's successes in order to model on our example."

New Mexicans deserve a secretary of state who will champion democracy—not work to undermine it. They deserve someone with the experience and integrity to protect

our most fundamental freedoms.

New Mexico isn't immune to the anti-democratic forces we see across the country. There are candidates in this race who openly embrace the Big Lie and will do the former president's bidding if elected—we cannot let that happen!

I'm committed to this fight with you all by my side. Together, we'll show the country why New Mexico is a leader when it comes to preserving our democracy.



Update on Ward Meetings and Pre-Primary Conventions

Ward Meetings

At press, 9 of the 13 wards in our county have held virtual ward meetings. The last four, Wards—J, K, L, and M—will be held virtually also.

Follow this link to find your ward.

<https://sandovaldemocrats.org/wards-and-precincts/>

If your ward has not yet met, please register at this link. <https://forms.gle/scrZHYXS7YJQxS186>

County Convention

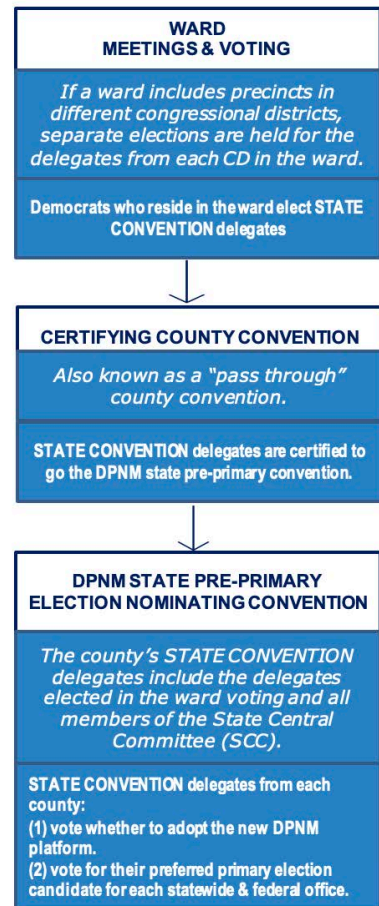
The County Convention is **February 19 at 11:00 a.m.** Follow this link for more information.

<https://forms.gle/scrZHYXS7YJQxS186>

DPNM Pre-Primary Convention Consider becoming a delegate to the Democratic Party of New Mexico's (DPNM)

Pre-Primary Convention on **March 5 at 10:00 a.m.** where you will vote (virtually or in-person) for the candidates of your choice to be on the Democratic primary ballot._

<https://nmdemocrats.org/party-resources/2022-pre-primary-convention/call/>



Go Back

First Friday, 11a.m., February 4

In person and Live Stream at

<https://www.facebook.com/sandovaldemocrats>



Candidates for Bernalillo Mayor and Council Positions will discuss their plans for the town's future

DPSC will host candidates for the Town of Bernalillo municipal elections March 1, which features races for Mayor and Council positions 1 and 2. The candidates will present their visions of the town's future followed by Q&As.

The Candidates are:

- *Jack S. Torres, for Mayor**
- *Alonzo H. Lucero, for Mayor**
- *Billy Joe Quinlin, for Town Council Position 1 (elected at large)**
- *Vincent Seferino Montoya, for Town Council Position 1 (elected at large)**
- *James S. Baca, for Town Council Position 2 (elected at large)**
- *Dale Prairie, for Town Council Position 2 (elected at large)**

*The Democratic Party of Sandoval County does not take positions on races that feature multiple Democratic candidates.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Range Cafe has set maximum attendance at 40 Democrats. All attendees must wear masks and be fully vaccinated.

This is a COVID-Safe Event. Please only attend if you are masked and triple-vaxed.

For those unable to attend in person, the event will be streamed live online at the Democratic Party of Sandoval County's Facebook Page. Later the stream will be uploaded to our YouTube channel and a link to the video will be placed on the County Party's website, www.sandovaldemocrats.org.

For more Information, email: vicechair@sandovaldemocrats.org.



Go Back

Help Our Democratic Justices and Judges Qualify for Public Campaign Financing

All of our Democratic statewide justices and judges are now in the "Qualifying Period," trying to collect their required \$5 Public Financing Qualifying Contributions

Our candidates for statewide offices must collect nearly 1,400 contributions of \$5 each to qualify and receive public financing.

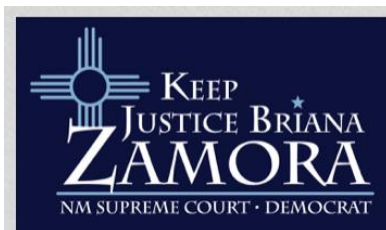
You can easily help them qualify for public financing ONLINE:



NM Supreme Court Justice Julie Vargas
(statewide office)

Direct Link:

https://keepjusticevargas.nationbuilder.com/-public_financing



NM Supreme Court Justice Briana Zamora
(statewide office)

Direct Link:

https://keepjusticezamora.nationbuilder.com/-public_financing



NM Court of Appeals Judge Gerald Baca
(statewide office)

Direct Link:

https://keepjudgebaca.nationbuilder.com/-public_financing



NM Court of Appeals Judge Katherine Wray
(statewide office)

Direct Link:

https://keepjudgewray.nationbuilder.com/-public_financing



Any NM-registered voter (of any party) can donate the \$5!

Remembering Some of the Greats During Black History Month

Rio Rancho City Council candidate seeks to make Black history of his own

By Joshua Jones, Candidate for Rio Rancho City Council District 3 and
Sandoval County Democrat



As we enter the month of February, we are reminded that men and women of

color have a deep history in this country, a history that has elevated the Nation to where it is today.

Although Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans, in the not-so-distant past, Black History Month was known as Negro History Week. Just a single week to celebrate generations of Black excellence!

We stand on the shoulders giants: Marie Van Brittan

Brown, inventor of the first home security system; Garrett Augustus Morgan, Sr., who gave us today's traffic signal design and the precursor to the gas mask; and Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, just to name a few. Without such pioneers, America could not have reached its current level of greatness.



I am inspired by these outstanding men and women as I run for Rio Rancho City Council. With my candidacy, I wish to join the ranks of those who stand tall in the face of adversity, have the

courage to persevere, and possess the intestinal fortitude to represent their communities.

And representation does matter, which is one reason I am running for city council.

Here in New Mexico, we are too often reminded that African Americans are only 13 percent of the Nation's population and less than 3 percent here in New Mexico.

Our small numbers are highlighted when we are overlooked, when our voices are not heard or respected. Under this reality, it is imperative that African

American men and women run for public office.

I was the recent Wounded Warrior Fellow for Congresswoman, now Madam Secretary Deb Haaland, which gave me a front-row seat to observe some hard truths. I would often attend events on Rep. Haaland's behalf, and I would be the only African American in the room.

These rooms where I was the lone African American are where decisions are made on our behalf. I would often think about the many other meetings occurring

throughout our Nation's capital where important decisions were being made every day. Was there any African American representation at those meetings?

"With my candidacy, I wish to join the ranks of those who stand tall in the face of adversity, have the courage to persevere, and possess the intestinal fortitude to represent their communities."

--Joshua A. Jones

As a youth, I would often accompany my great-grandmother to work early in the morning. Although she was elderly herself, she was a cleaning lady for

two elderly White women. I would often sit in their homes as my great-grandmother cleaned. The women would give me sweets and cold drinks while commenting on what a well-behaved young man I was. All the while, I couldn't help noticing my great-grandmother slaving away to clean their homes.

I tell this story because those days in the 1990s feel like just yesterday, and progress is still sorely needed. I believe that, if elected, Dr. Karissa Culbreath (District 5 City Councilor incumbent) and I would be the first African

American woman and man ever elected to the Rio Rancho City Council. And if she is elected, Barbara Jordan would be the first African American mayor of Rio Rancho. What an achievement capturing all three of these offices would be!

As we run for office, we stand alongside the titans of the African American community: people like Charles Ashley III, Director of Economic Development for Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller; Dr. Harold Bailey and Rev. Charles Bicknell Sr., who continue as leaders within the

NAACP; Cathryn McGill, founder and director of the New Mexico Black Leadership Council; and Theresa Carson, advocate for Black-owned business across the state of New Mexico.

With your help, we can make history and add another chapter to share not only during Black History Month but in New Mexico history!

My name is Joshua Jones and I humbly ask for your vote to be your next City Councilor, Rio Rancho District 3.

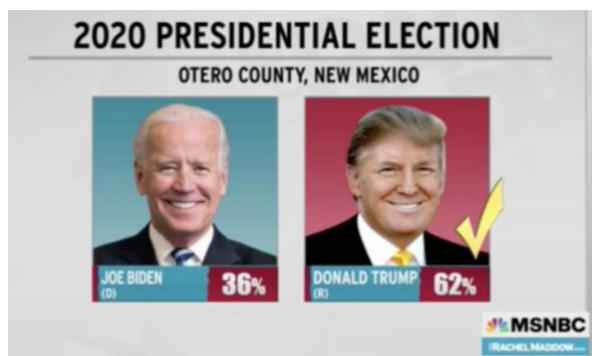
Please visit my [website](#) to read my position on issues, donate to my campaign, or volunteer.



The Rachel Maddow Show: State Auditor Brian Colón Discusses Inquiry into Otero County Contract to Audit 2020 Election



Click [here](#) to watch.

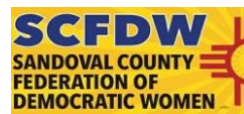
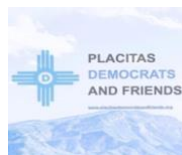


Go Back

Coming in March Early Childhood Education Event

Sandoval County Democratic Coalition Promotes Must-Pass Constitutional Amendment

By Karen Schafer, Event Coordinator and Precinct 99 Chair



The Democratic Party of Sandoval County (DPSC) is pleased to announce plans for a joint event focused on the Constitutional Amendment on Early Childhood Education (ECE).

The online event is set for March 19, 10:00 a.m. to noon on Zoom.

"We are pleased to

welcome [Sandoval County Indivisible](#), [Progressive](#)

[Democrats of America](#), [Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women](#), and [Placitas Dems and Friends](#) as

our partners for this important event," said Alex Piland, Chair of DPSC.

State leaders of the American

Federation of Teachers (AFT)

PERMANENT FUND FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The proposed Constitutional Amendment would approve a 1.25% withdrawal annually from the Land Grant Permanent Fund, valued at around \$20 billion.

Most of the funds would go to early childhood education, with some going toward the public-school permanent fund. If passed, it would mean increased funding for education of approximately \$250 million each year.

and the National Education Association (NEA) have also been invited

Topics will include

- History and importance of the amendment,
- Information on how we can assist in promoting a “yes” vote,
- Who opposes the amendment,
- An update on how the funds will be spent, and
- How accountability will be ensured.

The event will also feature a parent who will share a story about the difference early childhood education has made in the life of their family.

To help with our effort, we will be tapping into the expertise of the many organizations in the Vote Yes for Kids Coalition and its director, Eli Cuna.

Several legislators including Rep. Javier Martinez, Rep. Moe Maestas, and Senator Mimi Stewart were instrumental in getting the legislation passed.

Elizabeth Groginsky, Cabinet Secretary for the Early Childhood Education and Care Department has been asked to be the keynote speaker.

[OLÉ](#) leaders, Andrea Serrano and Erica Gallegos, and James Jimenez, NM Voices for Children Action Fund, are confirmed speakers and are providing valuable guidance in the planning process.

This preview of the event will be updated as we move closer to March 19.

Contact Karen Schafer at karenjean44@gmail.com for more information.



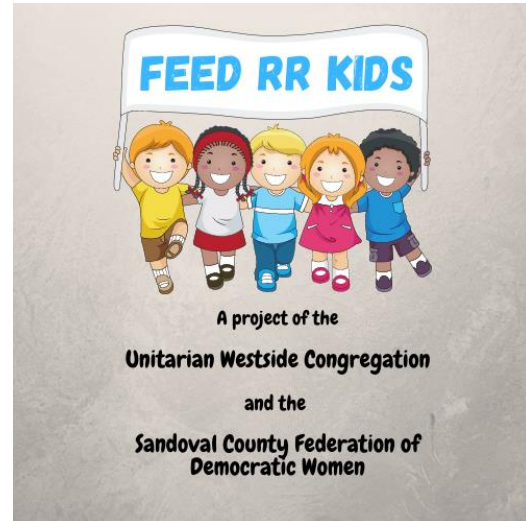
Democratic Women Deliver for Feed Rio Rancho Kids

In 2021, SCFDW delivered weekend snack packs, winter coats, school supplies, and more

By Karen Schafer, Coordinator, Feed Rio Rancho Kids and Precinct 99 Chair

Sponsored by the Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women (SCFDW), Feed Rio Rancho Kids (FRRK) began the school year at our new location, the Unitarian Universalist Westside Congregation, on Abrazo Rd. NE in Rio Rancho. There we store all our food supplies, and they provide the space and tables for our assembly days. The congregation's support has made a big difference.

We served Colinas del Norte Elementary School and the Desert Program of Rio Rancho



Public Schools, which consists of Enchanted Hills Elementary School and Eagle Ridge Middle School.

Our first delivery was August 26. During the semester we delivered 820 weekend snack packs. At a cost of approximately \$9 per pack, that is an investment of \$7,380.

This amount was provided in part by cash donations and in part by food donations from volunteers.

Kids at the Desert Program received 10 new winter coats



and 12 backpacks filled with school supplies. The coats were donated by Virginia Breeding and her friends, and the backpacks came from City Councilwoman Karissa Culbreath. Twenty turkeys were donated to Colinas del Norte, and FRRK supplied all the fixings to go with them.

We are deeply grateful to our donors and volunteers who donate food and funds and their time to achieve our goal—to brighten the lives of Rio Rancho kids each week during school.

Special thanks go to PNM for a \$1,500 grant received in September and to our partners, Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women and UU Westside Congregation.

Contact [Karen Schafer](#) if you would like to volunteer.

We welcome monetary donations at <https://uuwestside.org/php/feed-the-kids-rio-rancho/>.

FRRK Coordinators

Karen Schafer

Kitty Perez

Chris Spigarelli

UU Liaison

Sherry Noffke



Go Back



Miss Information

Miss Information

The insurrectionist next door

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary

far-right-wing extremists were viewed as a fringe element that could be contained. But [Robert A. Pape](#), political science professor at the University of Chicago and director of the Chicago Project on Security and Threats, reports that the January 6 attempted coup participants comprise a much larger and more disturbing demographic.

Earlier studies of far-right-wing extremists

found that, previously, the majority were young—under 35—and many were economically destitute. Twenty-five to 30 percent were unemployed; few were in white collar professions. In striking contrast, the characteristics of those who attacked the Capitol reveal that insurrection and sedition have gone mainstream.

The average age of those initially arrested in the Capitol riots was 40; two-thirds were age 35 or older. Of those arrested by the Fall of 2021, nearly one-quarter were business owners; 28 percent were

In the past,

in white collar professions such as doctor, attorney, or architect; and over 90 percent were not affiliated with militias or other violent groups.

Pape also found that

- Counties that are more rural were *less likely* to send insurrections
- Counties with the most decreases in their non-Hispanic white population were *more likely* to send insurrectionists, and
- Counties with a higher rate of Trump voters were *less likely* to send insurrectionists.



What does this tell us? According to Pape, counties that sent the most insurrectionists are those that are losing White population at the fastest rate. They believe in the Great Replacement conspiracy theory, meaning they think White people are being demographically and culturally replaced by minorities. They also think the Democratic Party is actively promoting this trend.

Has insurrection gone mainstream because of Fox News and other right-wing media? Pape says not entirely. Over 20 million people believe the election was stolen and the use of force to restore Trump to the presidency is justified. Of this group, 42 percent get their news from mainstream conservative media such as Fox News, Newsmax, and One America. But liberal and centrist media like CNN, NPR, and CBS come in second at 32 percent. Right wing social media like Gab and Telegram provide only 10 percent of this group's news consumption.

How is that possible? Pape offers that exposure to ideas they

disagree with makes people angry. We have seen what a powerful motivator right wing victimhood and grievance culture can be.

Pape notes that the standard methods of countering violent extremism such as promoting economic security or targeting far-right organizations are unlikely to be effective.

So how do we stop these middle-class, violent insurrectionists? It is difficult to see the exact path forward, but ensuring maximum consequences for anyone engaging in violence and promoting voting rights to prevent election chicanery would be good first steps.

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.**



Executive Committee Update

Fundraising! New wards! Elections!

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary



The Executive Committee had a full

agenda in January, with topics including fundraising, ward reapportionment, and, of course, elections.

recurring expenses and to better support Democratic campaigns.

We are encouraging sustaining donors to contribute \$20 a month (we'll accept more!), but *any* amount is greatly appreciated.

With election season upon us and DPSC positioning itself to provide financial, technical, and operational support to candidates, our fund-

raising program is more important than ever. Led by Karen Schafer, we are making a push on our sustaining donor program to reach the goal of 100 donors. Sustaining donors allow us to have a predictable income stream for



We have developed a list of specific ways we can assist candidates, which is available to their campaigns upon request by contacting Chair [Alex Piland](#) or First Vice Chair [Isaac Chavez](#).

With our recent ward reapportionment, the number of wards has increased from 5 to 13. The new ward structure showing maps and descriptions may be found on our [website](#). A video that

explains the new ward structure may also be found at this location.

Party officers, including ward chairs, are elected every two years. Appointments to fill vacancies in the interim or to fill new positions are for the unexpired term. Prior to a new term, which will begin in March 2023, we will hold elections for all county elected positions including ward chair.

Now that our new ward structure has been nailed down, Isaac is busy creating a DPSC file system comprising tools and information to help ward chairs organize. He will provide detailed information on each precinct, which the ward and precinct chairs will be able to modify and annotate to support their organizing activities. Isaac will be giving presentations on these tools in the near future.

In January, Alex collaborated with the Democratic Parties of

Bernalillo and Valencia Counties on a forum for contested Democratic primary candidates. Titled, "Know Your Candidates for Statewide Office," it featured highly informative sessions with the candidates for state auditor, state treasurer, and attorney general.

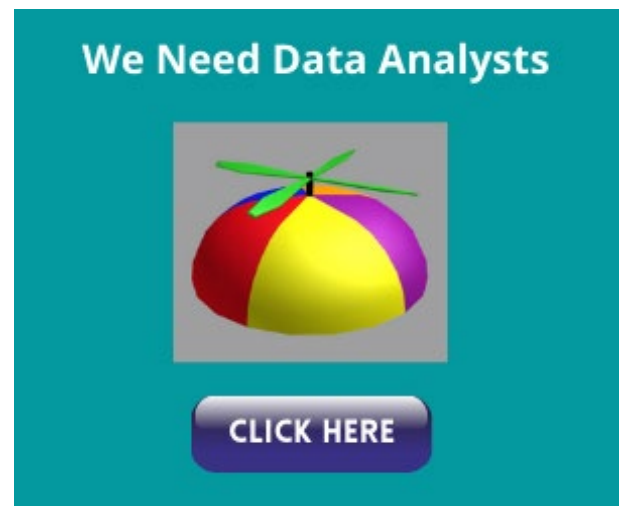
Alex also spearheaded an effort by Executive Committee members to collect signatures of registered New Mexico Democrats on nominating petitions for the uncontested Democratic statewide races of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and commissioner of public lands. This included a Covid-safe petition signing event, which was held at the New Mexico Rail Runner Express Station in the Town of Bernalillo.

Stay tuned for more election news and events and check our [website](#) for updates.



Democracy: Not A Spectator Sport

Volunteer Opportunities and Contacts



Volunteer Opportunities and Contacts

- **Run for Office, Ward Chair, or Precinct Chair**—contact **Isaac Chavez** at vicechair@sandovaldemocrats.org.
- **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.

