

## April 2022 Newsletter

# SANDOVAL DEMS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY



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## Message from the Chair

### Delegates select candidates for June primary

By Alex Piland, DPSC Chair



The Democratic Party of New Mexico held its Pre-Primary Convention in Roswell on March 5, 2022, and it

was, well, surreal!

The weekend started Saturday night with a fundraiser at the Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art. Democrats from all over the state mingled with one another before moving on to other kickoff events.

A campaign media vendor hosted cocktails at the Roswell Alien Museum where I met Michelle Sandoval, candidate for House District 57! People also packed in for candidate

events at Peppers Bar & Grill and Stellar Coffee.

The convention began at 10:00 AM Saturday at the Roswell Convention Center. Newly-elected Democratic Roswell Mayor Tim Jennings kicked off the convention.

The show-stealer was certainly our governor! The crowd of Democrats milling around the anteroom in search of munchies and swag quickly

parted as the mariachis started playing and our governor danced in her signature Zia cowboy boots. She then paused and took pictures with veterans, young Democrats, and caucus members. (Click [here](#) to read what one young Democrat has to say.)



When the governor took the stage on the convention floor, everyone stood, waved signs, and hooted and hollered until hoarse!

Our governor was followed by Congressista Teresa Leger Fernandez resplendent in a turquoise jacket and boots and then our CD-1 Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury. It was so moving to hear both of our fierce congresswomen speak about New Mexican values and how they represent those values in D.C.!

Lt. Governor Howie Morales spoke about helping New Mexicans. Land Commissioner

Stephanie Garcia Richard

discussed the preservation of public lands in the Land of Enchantment, and Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver reminded us all of the importance of voter outreach.

Almost 1,100 delegates and State Central Committee members voted for uncontested and contested

candidates. The contested statewide candidates will be on the primary ballot in June. The winners of the DPNM Pre-Primary elections will appear first on the ballot. Those victors are

- Brian Colon for State Auditor,
- Laura Montoya for State Treasurer, and
- Zackery Quintero for State Auditor.

Their opponents, Raul Torrez, Heather Benavidez, and Joseph Maestas, will all appear on the ballot, and the registered Democratic voters in our state will vote in the June primary to

determine who appears on the November ballot.

If you ever have a chance to attend a DPNM convention, go. You will have a great time, meet truly kind people from all over our state who share our values, and meet our inspiring, hard-working candidates!



MICHELLE  
+ FOR GOVERNOR +  
DONATE

<https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/new-mexicans-for-michelle-1>

Alex

# Vote for Josh Jones in April 12 Runoff Election, Rio Rancho City Council District 3!



Josh Jones will face an incumbent city councilor in an April 12 runoff election for Rio Rancho City Council District 3.

Josh is a veteran, a Democrat, and dedicated to bringing new voices to Rio Rancho City Government.

Early and absentee voting are already underway. If you live in District 3, get out and vote today!

Please donate and volunteer to help Josh win this important seat.

- Donate – ActBlue <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/josh-jones-for-nm-1>
- Josh’s website - <https://www.joshjonesform.com/>
- Canvass dates - Saturday, April 2; 10:00am at 4748 Snowy Owl Rd. NE Rio Rancho
- Contact: Matthew Gludemans 505-440-6026



**Attend our regularly  
scheduled Meeting**

**11 a.m., April 1  
The Range Cafe  
Bernalillo.  
First Friday  
Meeting**



**Join the Land Commissioner at our Second  
Saturday Meeting at  
11 a.m., April 9.  
M'tucci's Moderno Italian,  
1908 Wellspring Ave, SE  
Rio Rancho**



# Gimme Some Truth Part I

## Wisdom for Democrats from Sen. Fred Harris

By Sen. Fred Harris as told to June E. Anglin, DPSC

**Fred Roy Harris** was born in 1930 in Walters, Oklahoma. After graduating from University of Oklahoma Law School with distinction, Harris was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1956. At age 25, Harris was the youngest State Senator in Oklahoma history. He remained the youngest senator for the eight years he served.

In 1964, Harris ran for and won a U.S. Senate seat for Oklahoma. While in the U.S. Senate, Harris was, among other things, the driving force for successful federal legislation directly affecting New Mexico: the legislation to return their 48,000-acre sacred "Blue Lake" land to the Taos Pueblo.

Harris served as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1969 and 1970 and caused reform that brought full representation to women and minorities. In 1972, Harris left the U.S. Senate. In 1976, Harris sought the Democratic nomination for the presidency as part of his work for an "economic democracy" for the United States. Harris had a compelling populist appeal in politics.

In 1976, Harris came to the University of New Mexico to teach political science. On a sunny March afternoon, Judy Gordon and I traveled to Corrales to visit with him. We wanted his insights on youth in politics, money in politics, and the stories of politics.

### Involving Young People in Politics

We asked Sen. Harris how he had come to politics at such a young age and what in his experience could be useful to galvanize youth participation in politics today.

First noted was the practical advice of Sen. Harris's wife Margaret Elliston (Chair, Democratic Party of New Mexico, 2018-2020) to "hire them" when there is a campaign or political job available.



Secondly, Sen. Harris noted that youth can be difficult to organize and turn out for meetings. Often, this is because they do not have transportation or the time to take from studies or work.

Youth participation is vital to a forward-looking political party. Jimmy Carter pointed out the strong correlation between a person's age and likelihood of voting. Those in their twenties have only about a 20 percent rate of participating versus 60-year-olds' 60 percent rate.

Sen. Harris's ideas for involving youth include the following:

- Support and inspire a Young Democrats Club at a university, college, or high school by helping them meet officeholders on the federal, state, or local level.
- Invite youth to work in political campaigns.
- Watch for local news on young people's accomplishments and encourage a Democratic officeholder to send them a letter of recognition.
- Work with local civic clubs or high schools to sponsor an essay contest. Sen. Harris recalled chaperoning a trip to Washington, D.C. for the winners of an essay contest on "Why I Am a Democrat." The entire Oklahoma delegation met

for lunch with the young essayists.

- Offer recognition and honors to young people such as a party for newly elected class officers, or provide a luncheon, plaque, or other sign of recognition to honor a student's achievement.
- Work with a university, college, or high school to see if academic credits can be earned by students who work in campaigns or for a political party.

### **Were You Well Known and Well Financed When First Entering Politics?**

Sen. Harris assured us that he had "no money" when he first ran for a state senate seat at age 25. You couldn't buy advertising without money, so Harris won his seat by talking to and organizing people.

Then, running for the U.S. Senate, he went to **every** town in Oklahoma and talked to people. He organized

meetings in each town and had a campaign committee chair in each town. He asked for volunteers in each town.

Sen. Harris believes that volunteers in a campaign are the same as, or even better than, money. The volunteers help build the connections—and they vote.

To prepare to run for office, a candidate needs to build many connections with voters. This can be done by getting involved in civic affairs. For example, Harris became a volunteer lobbyist for the PTA.

After the Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, Harris met with Black parents to reassure them their children would be safe in the state's newly integrated schools.

*Our interview will conclude next month with how to counter Republican smears, the war in Ukraine, and more.*



## Looking to Our Party's Future

### Young leader offers pride and hope to Democrats

By Jaden Chavez, Freshman, Political Science Major, UNM



The world is used to telling people like me that our passions, priorities, and proposals

don't matter—or what's almost worse, that they can simply wait. *After all, you're only 18. What*

*could you know? Let the professionals handle this.*

We, the youth, full of energy and ideas, are cast aside for the more seasoned pros.

But there is a place where we can feel heard. And more than that, where we can be leaders and stewards of change. And that place is the Democratic Party.

*"But there is a place where we [young people] can feel heard. . . . where we can be leaders and stewards of change. And that place is the Democratic Party."*

Youth have led the charge against climate change. Students have taken the fight to the feet of the NRA when politicians in Washington failed repeatedly to act on the violence tearing apart our schools. And we, the young passionate progressives, have stood strong in the face of riot police and tear gas, and endured the threats and

curses of counter protestors as we lead the battle for racial justice. The Democratic party is the party of the people

and the party of progress.

Devastated that I was too young to vote in the 2020 election, I seized at the opportunity to cast my first ever ballot for now Rep.

Melanie Stansbury in the special election. I have since worked for two different campaigns and attended the 2022 New Mexico Democratic Pre-Primary Convention as a delegate.

It was here, at my first ever convention, in Republican-red Roswell, that I had the opportunity to support New Mexico's uncontested candidates and cast my vote for Sandoval County's own Laura Montoya for State Treasurer, Governor Grisham's handpicked State Ombudsman Zack Quintero for State Auditor, and widely endorsed State Auditor Brian Colón for Attorney General.

Many things changed after COVID, but it's clear that New Mexico's Democrats are as passionate as ever. Under Democratic leadership, New Mexico gained national attention for a COVID response that put science and safety first. We added jobs to the economy and have proved once again that Democrats deliver.

At March's convention I witnessed firsthand a group of talented leaders proudly inspire. Watch out, because New Mexican Dems are fired up and together, we'll take back CD-2 and keep New Mexico blue!



# Vote Yes for Kids Campaign

## Early childhood education is on the November ballot

By Karen Schafer, Early Childhood Education Event Coordinator and Precinct 99 Chair

Hard-working, activist Democrats joined the DPSC Zoom session last month to learn more about the constitutional amendment to increase funding for early childhood education.

The amendment will be on the November ballot. "VOTE YES FOR KIDS" is the official name of the campaign.

Headlined by opening remarks from Lt. Gov. Howie Morales, the program detailed the long and arduous history of getting the amendment on the ballot, its crucial importance to New

Mexico's children, and how the money will be used. He also identified actions we can take to support a YES vote.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 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.

Other speakers included Rep. Antonio (Mo) Maestas; Rep. Javier Martinez; Andrea Serrano, Executive Director, OLÉ NM; James Jimenez, NM Voices for Children Action Fund; Eric Griego, Center for Civic Action; Whitney Holland, State President, AFT, and Bethany

Jarrell, State Vice President NEA.

Each speaker provided key insights into the process for the amendment's passage and

why it is so important to our state.

They also asked for our help and encouraged us to contact them as follows:

- Andrea Serrano—  
[aserrano@olenm.org](mailto:aserrano@olenm.org)
- Eric Griego—  
[ericgriegoabq@gmail.com](mailto:ericgriegoabq@gmail.com)

- James Jimenez—  
[James@nmvcaf.org](mailto:James@nmvcaf.org)
- Rep. Moe Maestas—  
505-304-7497,  
[antonio.maestas@nmlegis.gov](mailto:antonio.maestas@nmlegis.gov)

Watch this space for more information on this critical initiative.



Click [here](#) to stay in touch with the election side of our campaign.

Click [here](#) to go to Vote Yes for Kids Facebook Page.



## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **New Mexico Indivisible United Conference 2022**

**Fri. evening Apr. 29 - Sat., Apr. 30, 2022**



New Mexico Indivisible United is going forward with the conference!! Our organizing committee has re-formed to resurrect this conference that was originally planned for April 2020.

Location:  
Workforce Solutions CNM Training Center  
5600 Eagle Rock Ave NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113

All New Mexico Indivisible groups and members are welcome to attend. There will be great workshops, speakers, meet & greets and fun! Stay tuned for more information and registration instructions.

***Maximizing our power together in 2022!***

The deadline for registration is April 2, 2022.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Click [here](#) to complete your registration.

Please email any questions you have to

[NMIUconference2022@gmail.com](mailto:NMIUconference2022@gmail.com).



### 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.**



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**SANDOVAL DEMS**  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY

**SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITY**

**JOIN THE CAUSE**

The Democratic Party of Sandoval County recognizes the needs of asylum seekers and urges Democrats of Sandoval County to support the human rights work of Sandoval County-based Las Familias Solidarity. The following is from the organization's latest report:

**Into the Mouths of Babes – Las Familias Solidarity Team’s 12th trip to the Border**

Infants are the most vulnerable and needy of all the asylum seekers at our southern border. Their mothers have

endured months of high stress, malnutrition, and dehydration during their journey north, and in the US Customs and Border Protection’s Detention Centers. The new mothers’ bodies are depleted, preventing them being able to nurse their hungry babies. The need for baby formula for infants, NIDO® for toddlers, and pureed baby food is great!

Here are this month’s critically needed supplies. Because of space limitations in our vehicles and in the Annunciation House shelters, these are the only items that we can accept. Please deliver them to us by Sunday, April 3. We appreciate your help.

- Baby Formula – Similac® or generic brand, 0-12 month

- NIDO® – red cap only
- Pureed baby food – fruit, meat or vegetables (check expiration dates to make sure that they are at least a month later)
- Baby wipes
- Women’s briefs – new, xsmall, small, medium & large
- Men’s jeans – new or used, size 34-38 only
- Toothbrushes
- Disposable razors
- Shampoo – large sizes only
- Body Wash – large size only
- Petroleum jelly – large sizes
- Homemade cookies!
- Quick and Easy Ways to Help:  
Venmo a donation with a few clicks to: @LasFamilias-Solidarity
- Send a Check, We Shop – Make it out to Liz Hanna, 2 San Juan Trail, Corrales, NM 87048
- Send a Check Made out to Annunciation House – a 5013c, to Liz Hanna, 2 San Juan Trail, Corrales, NM 87048
- Shop & Send – Deliver or ship to Sharon Palma, 2 Isleta Trail, Corrales, NM 87048. If you drop off, please text Sharon at 505.249.5046.
- Volunteer at Annunciation House for a 2-week or longer period: [Annunciationhouse.org](http://Annunciationhouse.org)

Click [here](#) for more information and human-interest stories.

Liz & Mike Hanna, Sharon Palma, Sue Hoadley ,The Las Familias Solidarity team

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# SCFDW

## SANDOVAL COUNTY FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN



### SCFDW Spring Meeting

Join us on April 23  
10:00 – Noon

Bernalillo Library Meeting Room  
124 Calle Malinche

Candidate Presentations and Q and A  
Followed by Business Meeting

It's a great chance to get to know  
veteran candidates and candidates  
running for the first time.

**Members and guests are welcome!**

Together we will **KEEP SANDOVAL BLUE!**



# Miss Information



## U.S. Cable Subscribers Fund Russian Propaganda

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary

Russia has silenced independent media, and journalists are fleeing the country. The Russian people have virtually no access to fact-based, objective reporting.

But lest you fear that Russians aren't hearing Western voices, rest assured this is not the case. Russian media outlets are being directed to broadcast clips of Fox News host Tucker Carlson. So says a 12-page Russian-language memo obtained by [Mother Jones](#). Produced by a Russian security agency, the memo advises Russian broadcasters to highlight the vile rantings of Carlson, saying it is "essential" to do so.

That the Russian government is smitten with Carlson's rantings is not surprising.

What could be more persuasive than an American "journalist" falsely pointing fingers at the United States and NATO for provoking Russia's invasion of Ukraine and promoting the conspiracy theory that the U.S. funds Ukrainian bioweapons labs? It is particularly galling that cable subscribers are forced to subsidize this agitprop.

The neo-Nazi Daily Stormer has called Carlson "literally our greatest ally." Carlson has famously lost many of his sponsors because of his odious views on White nationalism, the Big Lie, January 6, vaccinations, Russia, Putin, and more. Yet, he stays on the air spewing lies and hate without restraint.

Carlson can do this because cable subscribers—you and I—pay a large chunk of his bloated \$6 million annual

salary even if we never turn on Fox News. This is because news outlets receive a fee to be carried by cable companies. The fee is passed on to cable subscribers, who shovel over an estimated \$1.8 billion annually to Fox. Individual subscribers pay an average of about \$1.72 per month. Although Fox News viewers comprise less than 5 percent of households with cable, Fox's fees are higher than most because the network attracts the largest cable news audience.

Can we purchase a cable package without Fox News? To date, we must subsidize this dangerous network even if we only subscribe to a basic package.

Cable companies are on the defensive, however. Between 2018 and 2021, they lost nearly 20 million subscribers. With increasing numbers of subscribers cutting the cord, cable operators may be forced to respond by offering more flexibility.

Cord cutting and demanding a cable package without Fox News are our weapons of choice against Fox's onslaught of authoritarian messages and disinformation.

We must take these actions in sufficient numbers to convince cable providers that a network whose mission is to undermine democracy is not what the American people want and is no longer good for business.



## Executive Committee Update

### New Democratic candidates throw their hats in the ring, new ward chairs step up

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary



Our Executive Committee meeting took place on Tuesday,

March 1.

Alex welcomed two new ward chairs, Naomi Hatch (Ward J) and Christine Suina (Ward C). Wards A, E, H, and M still need chairs. If you live in any of these wards, consider becoming a chair. For more information, please contact [Alex](#), [Isaac](#), or [Tweety](#).

We also discussed the aftermath of county commission redistricting and the status of our sustaining donor campaign. We have much work ahead to elect Democrats up and down the ballot, so please consider becoming a sustaining donor. (Click [here](#) to donate.)

At the time of our meeting, we still needed candidates for House District 57, House District 60, and County Commission District 3. We are pleased to report that Democratic candidates subsequently filed for two of these races.

- **House District 57-** Democrat Michelle Eleanor Sandoval will run against Rep. Jason Harper.
- **County Commission District 3-** Democrat Gregory Deforest Bennett will run against Commissioner Michael Meek.

More information about these candidates will be published in future newsletters.

Unfortunately, Rep. Joshua Hernandez will run unopposed in HD 60.

Alex discussed the approaching Pre-Primary Convention, which was held on March 5 in Roswell and by Zoom. See the Message from the Chair for her report on the convention.

Finally, we covered the formation of a new team. This team would help us be more strategic and data driven in upcoming races. Discussions

are underway to define the team's scope and responsibilities. We will provide more information as the team becomes better defined.

Alex adjourned the meeting early so that we could all go home and watch President Biden's State of Union address and the municipal election returns.



# Democracy: 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**

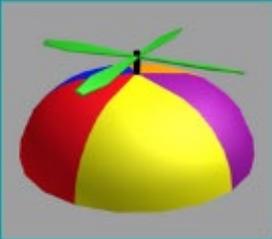
**Click to Volunteer**

**Join the Research  
Task Force**



**CLICK HERE**

**We Need Data Analysts**



**CLICK HERE**

- Volunteer Opportunities and Contacts**
- **Run for Office, Ward Chair, or Precinct Chair**—contact **Isaac Chavez** at [vicechair@sandovaldemocrats.org](mailto:vicechair@sandovaldemocrats.org).
  - **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).