

March 2022 Newsletter

SANDOVAL DEMS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DPSC Chair **Alex Piland**, Municipal elections are over, and oh, what a night!

DEMOCRATS SUPPORT KIDS

Join us for an in-depth look at the Constitutional Amendment for Early Childhood Education on the ballot November 2.

FIRST FRIDAY AND SECOND SATURDAY

Democratic candidates make their pitches.

Sen. Brenda McKenna reviews the legislative session

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SANDOVAL COUNTY

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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The DPNM 2022 State Pre-Primary Election Nominating Convention will determine who's on the primary ballot.

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Message from the Chair

Municipal elections are over, and oh, what a night!

By Alex Piland, DPSC Chair



What an election night!

The Town of Bernalillo continued to be a stronghold

in Sandoval County. The field was full of races with only Democratic candidates.

Incumbent mayor, Jack Torres, won with 84 percent of the vote. For Town of Bernalillo Councilor Position 1, Vincent Montoya won with 73 percent of the vote. Dale Prairie won with 52 percent for the second councilor position.

Corraleños worked hard during this election cycle, and it showed! Mayor-elect Jim Fahey brought home 60 percent of the vote. Councilor Position 4, John Alsobrook, squeaked by Courtney

Eichorst (both Democrats) with a 51 percent to 49 percent win. Rick Miera came in at 55 percent for a comfortable win in Councilor Position 1.

My absolute favorite win of the Corrales election goes hands down to Mel Knight for trouncing her Trump-loving opposition with an astounding 72 percent of the vote! (Way to send a message, Corrales!)

Ward D Chair, Nandini Kuehn, worked hard organizing her ward with much help from the many active Democrats in Corrales.

Unfortunately, our strong Rio Rancho mayoral candidate, Barbara Jordan, suffered a loss. Barbara ran a good race and worked hard to defeat the entrenched "good ole boy" network in Rio Rancho.

Municipal Judge candidate Jonathan Muñiz made a splash in spite of entering the race at the eleventh hour. Rio

Rancho City Council District 3 candidate, Joshua Jones, came in second, but none of the candidates reached the fifty percent threshold necessary to win; stay tuned for the runoff election in April.

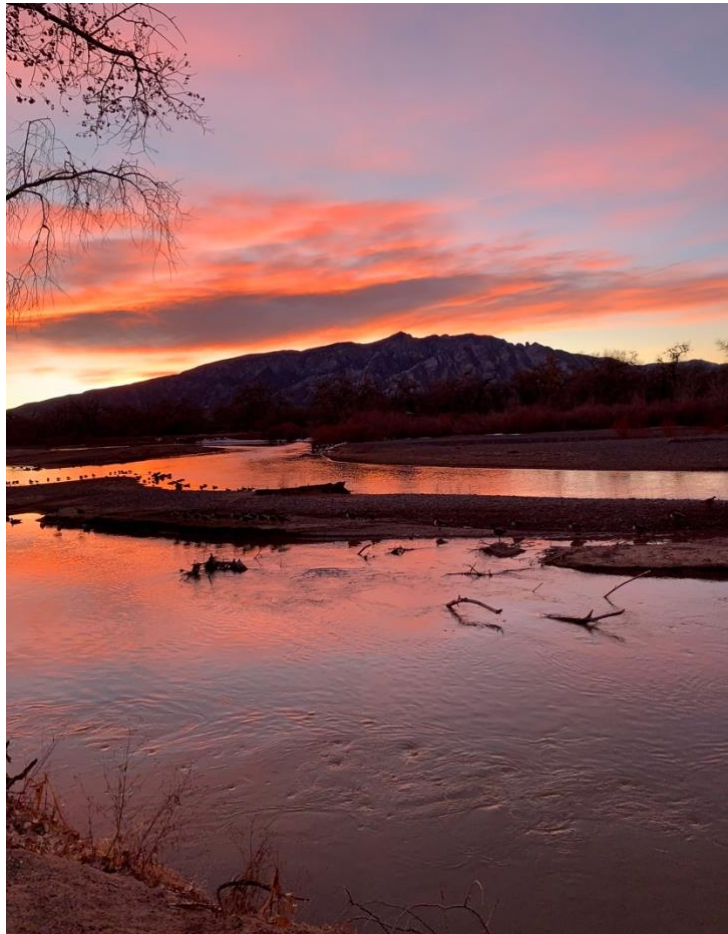
Finally, City Councilor District 5 incumbent, Karissa Culbreath, won her seat with 56 percent of the vote.

The Democratic Party of Sandoval County (DPSC) will be reviewing the data and

conducting postmortems in order to make informed decisions about races in the future. We have much organizing to do, especially outside of the Town of Bernalillo and the Village of Corrales.

It is not easy to run for office, and we thank all candidates for stepping up to serve our communities.

Alex



DEMOCRATS SUPPORT KIDS



SPECIAL ONLINE EVENT – EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

March 19, 2022 10 am to NOON

[Click here for registration information, content, and speakers](#)

An in-depth look at the Constitutional Amendment for Early Childhood Education on the ballot November 2.

Topics that will be covered include:

- History of the Amendment
- Why it is critical for New Mexico's children
- After passage, how will funds be spent
- Accountability
- Personal testimony by a parent
- How to support a YES vote

Speakers Invited to participate:

- ECECD Cabinet Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky
- Sen. Mimi Stewart
- Rep. Antonio Maestas
- Rep. Javier Martinez
- Andrea Serrano, OLE
- James Jimenez, NMVC Action Fund
- Mary Parr Sanchez, NEA
- Whitney Holland, 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.

Click here to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85710171016?pwd=YWpBVnNDOTRGWkk4NS9wUDFOanVpZz09>



First Friday

IN PERSON AND FACEBOOK LIVE

Countywide Democratic Candidates make their pitches

Join us for Information and camaraderie

March 4, 2002, 11 a.m.

The Range Cafe, 925 Camino Del Pueblo, Bernalillo, NM

A photograph of the Sandoval Court House, a two-story building with a central entrance featuring columns. The text "SANDOVAL COURT HOUSE" is visible above the entrance.

Second Saturday

Second Saturday Meeting presented by the Democratic Party of Sandoval County at M'tucci's Moderno Italian, 1908 Wellspring Ave SE, Rio Rancho, NM

Sen. Brenda McKenna, NM Dist. 9, Reporting on 30-day Legislative Session

Plus, James Jimenez on Voices for Children and Early Childhood Education

A portrait photograph of Sen. Brenda McKenna, a woman with dark hair, looking directly at the camera.

March 12 11:00 am

In Person, Facebook Live



Join First Friday and Second Saturday in person or streaming on [Facebook](#).

Making a Difference in Sandoval County

County Commissioner Katherine Bruch uses discretionary funds for generous donation to Feed Rio Rancho Kids

By Argen Marie Duncan,
Editor, [Rio Rancho Observer](#),
Reprinted with permission.

Feed Rio Rancho Kids received a \$5,000 grant from the Sandoval County Commission to support expansion of the program and help meet the needs of area children who are food-deprived.

"This grant makes it possible for us to assist in expanding the program to other parts of the county, to purchase a hand truck and shelving for storage and helps us meet the rising cost for food," said Karen Schafer, of the Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women. "It is validation for our volunteers that the work we do is appreciated and essential."

County Commissioner Katherine Bruch made the



Feed Rio Rancho Kids coordinating team members Christine Spigarelli and Kitty Perez, Sandoval County Commissioner Katherine Bruch and coordinating team members Karen Schafer and Emily Seiler pose during a recent snack-pack assembly day.

allocation, received in January, from her commissioner discretionary funds.

"We do have some significant issues with food security around some of the children in our schools in all our (commission) districts," she said. "... It's just really something that we have not taken as close of a look at as we need to."

Bruch said she's hoping to work with Feed Rio Rancho Kids to identify a nonprofit to

expand that mission into Bernalillo schools.

Feed Rio Rancho Kids coordinating team members Christine Spigarelli and Kitty Perez, Sandoval County Commissioner Katherine Bruch and coordinating team members Karen Schafer and Emily Seiler pose during a recent snack-pack assembly day.

A project of Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women and the Unitarian Universalist Westside Congregation, Feed Rio Rancho Kids began in 2019. Volunteers deliver snack packs through the schools on Fridays to provide food for students in need over the weekend.

Schafer said the group keeps the schools served

confidential and works with social workers for privacy, so even volunteers don't know the identity of the students.

The first semester of this school year, the group provided 820 snack packs. Volunteers also provided new winter coats and 10 new backpacks filled with school supplies.

Volunteer Virginia Breeding and Rio Rancho City Councilor Karissa Culbreath made the coats and backpacks possible.

Anyone interested in contributing food or money to Feed Rio Rancho Kids can visit uuwestside.org/index.php/feed-the-kids-rio-rancho/ and click on "Support" near the top right corner of the page.



Miss Information

Take the Quiz: Whatever It Is I'm Against It

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary

Test your knowledge of New Mexico politicians. Match the quote with the speaker and be reminded once again why it's critical to vote Democratic up and down the ballot.



1. "God bless President Donald J. Trump. He will be our President FOREVER and no one can take that away from us."
 2. "The [Public Education] department shall not allow a course in critical race theory to be taught in public schools."
 3. "...COVID has proven to be an effective means by which the political elites can justify their power grabs and limit public access and participation."
 4. I have "no regrets, whatsoever." The group acted "at the insistence of the chairman of the Republican Party, who is Congressman Steve Pearce."
 5. Behind him were hundreds of noisy flag-waving protesters. "It's a great day for America. . ."
 6. "Defund government. Privatize everything. Defund government schools." "Time to defund unions. All of them."
 7. "By refusing to acknowledge the harms of lockdowns, mask mandates, and vaccination, the CDC has brought everlasting shame to itself."
 8. "No one can out-Indian me."
 9. "Therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives . . . that February 4, 2022, be declared "Bow Tie Day" in the house of representatives..."
- a. Sen. Gregg Schmedes, R- District 19
 - b. Couy Griffin, Cowboys for Trump founder and Otero County commissioner
 - c. Patrick Monroe Brenner, Candidate for Rio Rancho School Board
 - d. Rep. Joshua Hernandez, R-District 60
 - e. Groucho Marx
 - f. Sen. Craig Brandt R-District 40
 - g. Rep. Rebecca Dow R-District 38
 - h. Jewll Powdrell, businessman
 - i. Steve Pearce, Chair, NM Republican Party
 - j. Rod Adair, former member of NM senate and owner and author of Sandoval County Commission partisan gerrymandered maps

10. Whatever It Is, I'm Against It

Answers on next page

Quote	Answer
1. <u>Trump “will be our President FOREVER and no one can take that away from us.”</u>	i. Steve Pearce, Chair, NM Republican Party, Twitter, January 9, 2021, responding to Trump election loss and January 6 insurrection (tweet since removed).
2. <u>“The [Public Education] department shall not allow a course in critical race theory to be taught in public schools.”</u>	g. Rep. Rebecca Dow R-District 38 and others, sponsors of HB 91, Prohibit Critical Race Theory Teaching, in the 2022 legislative session, even though CRT is not taught in public schools.
3. <u>“. . .COVID has proven to be an effective means by which the political elites can justify their power grabs and limit public access and participation.”</u>	f. Sen. Craig Brandt R-District 40 objecting to the requirement for proof of full vaccination for any member of the public to enter the Capitol building in Santa Fe during the 2021 special session and regular session.
4. <u>I have “no regrets, whatsoever.” The group acted “at the insistence of the chairman of the Republican Party, who is Congressman Steve Pearce.”</u>	h. Jewll Powdrell, businessman and fake New Mexico elector, expressing no remorse for submitting bogus Electoral College certificates.
5. <u>Behind him were hundreds of noisy flag-waving protesters. “It’s a great day for America. . .”</u>	b. Couy Griffin, Cowboys for Trump founder and Otero County commissioner, rabble rousing through a bullhorn at the January 6 insurrection.
6. <u>“Tomorrow is September 11th. Yesterday, a new domestic terrorist presently inhabiting the White House declared war on all Americans.”</u>	c. Patrick Monroe Brenner, campaigning for a seat on the Rio Rancho School Board, Twitter. Brenner lost the election to Democrat Gary Tripp.
7. <u>“By refusing to acknowledge the harms of lockdowns, mask mandates, and vaccination, the CDC has brought everlasting shame to itself.”</u>	a. Sen. Gregg Schmedes, R- District 19, “The Centers For Disease Control’s Lies Have Destroyed Its Legitimacy,” The Federalist, February 22, 2022.
8. <u>“No one can out-Indian me.”</u>	j. Rod Adair, former Republican member of NM senate and author of Sandoval County Commission partisan gerrymandered maps, as reported by a <u>Native American leader</u> during the comment period of December 9 Sandoval County Commission meeting session on redistricting.
9. <u>“Therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives . . . that February 4, 2022 be declared “Bow Tie Day” in the house of representatives...”</u>	d. Rep. Joshua Hernandez, R-District 60 sponsor of HM 7, <i>Bow Tie Day</i> , wasting precious time in the 30-day legislative session.
10. <u>Whatever It Is, I’m Against It</u>	e. Groucho Marx, song from the 1932 film <i>Horsefeathers</i> .

Inside Ward A

By Isaac Chavez, First Vice Chair, DPSC



Ward A: Bernalillo and Sandia Pueblo

Ward A contains Precinct 1, so we'll start here. Ward A comprises the entire Town of Bernalillo, River's Edge 1, and Sandia Pueblo. This ward contains parts of House Districts 23 and 65, Senate District 9, and County Commission Districts 1, 3, and 5. Ward A is entirely within CD1.

Ward A has much untapped Democratic potential. Therefore, it is a critically

Spotlight on Wards and Precincts

Wards and precincts are the basic building blocks of every election. DPSC has recently reapportioned our wards to reflect population growth and more effectively organize, increasing the number from 5 wards to 13.

We will highlight several of our new wards each month to inform you of their characteristics, component precincts, and need for volunteers. We are seeking volunteers for both ward and precinct chair positions, as well as volunteers within each precinct.

Please use the contact information provided here to volunteer for a vacant position or to work for your precinct.



important area in which to organize.

Bernalillo is Sandoval County's oldest incorporated town and is primarily Hispanic. Bernalillo has a large population that can trace its roots back to when New Mexico was a part of Mexico and Spain. It also has areas with rapidly growing population and new development. As such, it is a very dynamic ward.

Ward A is also very blue! President Biden won all but two precincts in this ward. Sandia Pueblo voted blue by more than 50 points.

Despite this, Bernalillo has low political engagement. Many of its precincts and County Central Committee seats remain unfilled. No serious organized Democratic groups exist within the town similar to those in Placitas and Corrales. Many residents are

not registered to vote, and those who are registered turn out in low numbers. There is clearly much opportunity to generate significant additional Democratic votes.

With greater engagement, Bernalillo could become pivotal to outcomes within the county and even the state.

Today, six Bernalillo precincts have chairs, and engagement is growing. More people from Ward A are becoming aware of DPSC activities, and the party remains hopeful that this ward can achieve the same level of organization

we see in some of Sandoval County's other smaller communities.

Ward A needs a chair! If you live in Ward A and are interested in joining the party, please email me at vicechair@sandovaldemocrats.org. Also contact me if you live in a precinct without a chair and are interested in becoming one or for contact information for your precinct chair.

Ward A Chair	Vacant Contact Isaac Chavez
Precinct	Chair
1	Frances Garcia
2	Vacant
3	Monce Marquez
4	Vacant
29	Vacant
64	Catherine Plummer
74	Vacant
87	Isaac Chavez
88	Margarita Amiot
130	Vacant
131	Vacant
132	Ann Kepley



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 Click to visit DPSC website



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 *Can you help with Instagram?*

Click image or email
Delbert Schafer
schafer42@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.



What Do State Pre-Primary Convention Delegates Do?

The [2022 Democratic Pre-Primary Election Nominating Convention](#) will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2022. DPNM is required to hold the Pre-Primary Convention per state law and DPNM Rules.

Delegates from all New Mexico counties will vote for their preferred Democratic candidate for each statewide and federal office up for election in 2022. Each candidate who receives

20 percent or more of the votes will be placed on the primary ballot. In each contested race, the candidate who receives the most convention delegate votes will be listed first on the primary ballot, with other candidates listed in descending order.

Convention delegates will also consider adoption of a new Democratic Party platform.

Order of Business

1. Call to order by the State Chair.
2. Reading of the Call.
3. Credentials report from the Judicial Council.
4. Introduction of temporary convention officers selected by the State Chair.
(Voice vote) Election of permanent officers of the convention.
5. Presentation of the 2022 DPNM Platform by Members of SPARC.
6. Candidates for statewide and federal offices address convention delegates.
 - Governor ■ Lieutenant Governor ■ CD-1 ■ CD-2 ■ CD-3
 - Attorney General ■ Secretary of State ■ State Auditor ■ State Treasurer
 - State Commissioner of Public Lands ■ Supreme Court, Position 1
 - Supreme Court, Position 2 ■ NM Court of Appeals, Position 1
 - NM Court of Appeals, Position 2
7. Explanation/Q&A regarding absentee voting procedure for convention delegates to select primary election nominees and to vote on the proposed platform. (Absentee Voting by Non-Secret Ballot)
8. Other business.
9. Absentee Voting by Non-Secret Ballot opens at 6:00pm on March 05, 2022.

Executive Committee Update

New ward chairs, Democratic candidates, and become a sustaining donor

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary



New Mexico Democratic Party rules make ward

chairs automatic members of the Executive Committee. Since, with ward reapportionment, we have increased from 5 to 13 wards, we have had the pleasure of welcoming newly-appointed ward chairs to the Executive Committee meeting over the past two months. In January, we welcomed Nandini Kuehn, Ward D and in February, Judy De Atley, Ward K and Mitchell Freedman, Ward G.

Chair Alex Piland, Vice Chair Isaac Chavez, and Second Vice Chair Tweety Suazo reported on their recruitment efforts to fill additional ward chair positions. We have 9 of the 13 wards covered but still have vacancies in Wards A, E,

H, and M. If you live in any of these wards, consider becoming chair. For more information, please contact [Alex](#), [Isaac](#), or [Tweety](#).

Ward chair is an elected position. As county party chair, Alex appoints ward chairs to vacant positions between elections as she is now doing. The next election for all ward chair positions will be held in 2023.

Isaac reported on the two scheduled municipal candidate forums sponsored by DPSC. For First Friday at The Range on February 12, the Town of Bernalillo mayoral candidates and three of the four candidates running for two town council positions—all Democrats—spoke and answered questions.

For Second Saturday at M'tucci's Moderno, we heard from the Democrats running for office in Rio Rancho—one

for mayor, one for municipal judge, and two for city council positions.

Vaccinations and masks were required at both events, which were very well attended. The sessions were also livestreamed and posted on [Facebook](#) and our website.

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico sponsored a candidate forum in Corrales with both Democratic and Republican candidates.

While municipal elections in New Mexico are nonpartisan, voting Democratic is particularly critical as the Republican Party grows increasingly radicalized and undemocratic.

Karen Schafer, Chair, Development and Fundraising Committee reported on the Sustaining Donor Program, encouraging Executive Committee members to recruit additional sustaining donors.

Please click [here](#) or on the image below to become a sustaining donor. Not only will your ongoing donation help us elect Democrats in Sandoval County, but you will also receive personal updates on

county and state party matters from Chair Piland.

Karen also reported on the event that she is spearheading to promote the constitutional amendment for early childhood

education. It will be held on March 19 at 10:00 am. Please click here for more information



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

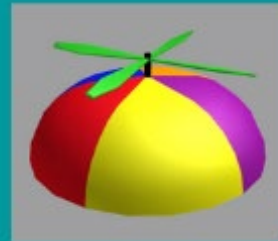
Click to Volunteer

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.
- **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.