**For Immediate Release:**

April 26, 2022

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**When:** Today, April 26, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** In front of the Sandoval County Administration Building

1500 Idalia Rd, Bernalillo, NM 87004

**What:** A coalition of elected officials and community leaders in Sandoval County will discuss constitutional litigation involving Sandoval County. Full release below.

**Who:** Sandoval County Commissioner Katherine Bruch

 Bernalillo Mayor Jack Torres

 Former Sandoval County Treasurer and State Treasurer candidate Laura Montoya

 Democratic Party of Sandoval County Chair Alexandria Piland

**PRESS RELEASE**

**SANDOVAL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC LEADERS FILE LAWSUIT AGAINST COUNTY’S UNCONSTITUTIONAL REDISTRICTING PLAN**

*BERNALILLO* - A coalition of elected officials and community leaders in Sandoval County have filed a lawsuit against the Board of County Commissioners of Sandoval County to invalidate the Board’s discriminatory and partisan redistricting plan.

The lawsuit, filed yesterday, alleges that the Board’s redistricting plan, adopted by Republican Commissioners in December 2021 in the face of widespread community objection, illegally discriminates against non-white voters and props up Republican candidates. The Plaintiffs include the Democratic Party of Sandoval County, New Mexico Senator Brenda McKenna, New Mexico Representative Daymon Ely, Sandoval County Commissioner Katherine Bruch, former County Treasurer and candidate for State Treasurer Laura Montoya, Aleta Paisano Suazo, and Alexandria Piland.

“The failings of the new Sandoval County map highlight the critical need for independent, nonpartisan redistricting committees—at all levels of government,” said Senator Brenda G. McKenna. “New Mexicans should not have to go to Court to get fair electoral representation.”

“Sandoval County’s commission districts should be designed to give representation to everyone, not to just one party or to one municipality,” said Commissioner Bruch. “The new map creates three solid Republican districts, putting control of our commission in the hands of dwindling minority of voters.”

“The new Sandoval County map is an attempt to silence the voices of Latino, Native, and rural people in Sandoval County,” said former Treasurer Montoya. “As the former treasurer of the County, I am concerned that this map forces these communities to compete for funding, making it harder for them to access critical resources.”

“Fair and open elections are the hallmark for protection of voters’ rights in Sandoval County,” said Alexandria Piland, chair of the Democratic Party of Sandoval County. “The commission failed to consult with county voters, and ignored the advice of their constituents, including the offering of fairer, more equitable maps of redrawn districts,” she added.

The Plaintiffs are represented by attorneys Kenneth H. Stalter and Theodore W. Barudin. A copy of the complaint is attached.

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