

May 2022 Newsletter

SANDOVAL DEMS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY



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Message from the Chair

Support our stellar candidates!

By Alex Piland, Chair, DPSC

Have you spoken with any of our stellar candidates yet? If not, please reach out to them or attend one of their events. (See the events tab at sandovaldemocrats.org.)

Sandoval County Commission District 1 has incumbent Katherine Bruch running for her second term. Click [here](#) for her website.

The candidate for the Sandoval County Commission District 3 seat is Greg Bennett. Click [here](#) for Greg's website.

The House District 23 candidate is Ramon "Swoops" Montañó. (P.S. Ramon is my pick for best [website](#) design!)

House District 44 has Kathleen Cates working hard to keep Daymon Ely's district. Click [here](#) for her website.

Michelle Sandoval is running for House District 57; her website is forthcoming.

The Democratic candidate for Sandoval County Sheriff is Jesse James Casuas, and he is the incumbent. His website is in production.

"Listen!" Linda P. Gallegos is the Sandoval County Assessor, and she is the incumbent. Her website is in production.

We have a contested race for Sandoval County Probate Judge. Probate Attorney Edward Lovato is running. His website is [here](#). Charles Aguilar, Jr. is also running. His website is in production.

The Sandoval County Magistrate Judge race is also contested. Current Sandoval County Commissioner F. Kenneth Eichwald has entered the race as has Benito

Aragon. Neither Sandoval County Magistrate Judge candidates has a website posted at this time.

Many people have wondered what would happen to Eichwald's seat on the county commission if he were to win. In this case, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham would appoint someone for the remainder of Commissioner Eichwald's term.

Why am I telling you all this now? Because they ALL need YOUR help. It is impossible for any one candidate to walk their entire district, so assisting one or more (or all) of our stellar candidates by canvassing would be an incredible help. Phone banking and texting will be happening soon, too. If you can't do any of those things, maybe you could drive, or schedule volunteers? Perhaps you know others who might help?

All candidates need financial help. Republican candidates are supported by deep pockets, many times from outside of New Mexico, so donating money can help candidates get lawn signs, walk cards, or pay for postage and other expenses. Literally anything will help.

If you are interested in helping candidates without a website, email me at chair@sandovaldemocrats.org, and I will get you connected with the candidate of your choice!

On a final note, please keep your eyes peeled regarding the lawsuit against the Sandoval County Commission for the illegal gerrymandering. In addition to our party, private citizens and elected officials are party to the suit. We are confident that we will prevail.

Alex



A Look Back

Governor's leadership and a (State) House full of women create progress for New Mexico

By Daymon Ely, NM State House Representative House District 23



I have served in the legislature for the past six years. In that time, I saw two major changes:

into education, health care and crime-prevention. We greatly expanded pre-K while at the same time providing for free college assistance. And we are using 21st century tools to make sure taxpayer money is spent wisely and effectively.

(1) a change from a Republican administration (Gov. Martinez) to a Democratic administration (Gov. Lujan-Grisham), and (2) the House changing from a majority of men to a majority of women.

(1) a change

“And I got to see all of this [progress] happen largely because the House’s culture changed to women-majority status. Collaboration and teamwork became the mantra.”

We are assuring that people are paid a fair wage, that unions can adequately protect workers, that our tax code is more progressive, and that people at

Changing governors led to policies that put New Mexico on a path to prosperity and equity. With Governor Lujan-Grisham’s leadership, we are now putting more resources

lower incomes receive tax credits and are no longer subject to predatory loans.

We created a vibrant ethics commission, made government more transparent

and made sure that government stays out of people's personal decisions by decriminalizing abortion and allowing people to die with dignity.

We expanded voting accessibility and security. We gave a tremendous boost to economic development by providing both grants and loans to businesses that will increase our standard of living and diversify our economy.

We worked to shut down coal fired power plants in this state to reduce our carbon footprint.

And I got to see all of this happen largely because the House's culture changed to women-majority status. Collaboration and teamwork became the mantra.

Hard work became the rule and egos were the exception to the rule. The goal became good policy. It was wonderful and heartening.

I leave knowing the House is in exceptional hands. Thank you for the privilege of letting me serve you.





**ANNE BRADY
ROMERO**

Sandoval
County Clerk

Join us for First Friday at The Range Cafe and streaming on Facebook Live.

**Poll Workers Needed:
May 6, 2022, 11 a.m.,
Democratic Party of Sandoval County's
First Friday Meeting at The Range Cafe,
Bernalillo, and streaming on Facebook
Live**

www.sandovaldemocrats.org

**Maggie Toulouse Oliver
New Mexico
Secretary of State**

**11 a.m., May 14, 2022,
M'tucci's Moderno
Italian,
Rio Rancho,
Second Saturday
Meeting**



Don't miss Second
Saturday at
M'tucci's Moderno
and streaming on
Facebook Live.



Gimme Some Truth Part II

More Wisdom for Democrats from Sen. Fred Harris

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



How Can Democrats Best Counter Smears from the Right and Best Tell Their Story?

Currently, the Republican Governors Association is buying frequent television time to tell New Mexicans that Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham is soft on crime. This is no more than a dog whistle, and the Republican-paid TV ads are playing repetitively, every day.

In her first term, Michelle Lujan Grisham, the first Democratic Latina to be elected governor in the United States, has fostered and promoted bipartisan legislation in New Mexico to invest in public education and

clean energy. She met national standards in responding to Covid-19 and has protected New Mexico's precious rural assets. The drug and gang crime problem, in the making internationally for decades, is hugely unlikely to be eliminated in any one governor's first term. But it has been a fruitful talking point for Republicans since the 1960s.

Sen. Harris had the following recommendations to overcome Republican negativity:

- Address the issues where it is important to build and reinforce Democratic ideals, including civil rights, the worsening income and wealth disparity, and LGBTQ rights.
- Make these issues "the" critical issues, rather than focus on the issues raised by Republicans.

- Start national-organization-paid and state-organization-paid advertising now.

Sen. Harris said that to promote their agenda, Democrats must oppose the anger and hate that is encouraged by the right. Citing his staff member Bill Carmack's communications theory, Harris said that political campaigns are about the making and reinforcement of opinion leaders.

We all have opinions. We know the opinions and ideals that we admire, that bring out the best in us. We need to have the nerve to speak up for those opinions and ideals, and to back up others who are speaking up for those opinions and ideals.

Conclusion

We ended our visit discussing Ukraine and President Biden. Sen. Harris said that he could think of no one better than

President Biden to be handling the Ukraine issues. President Biden is tough and a straight talker with no nonsense, and that is what we need.

In the words of Fred Harris:

"President Biden's magnificent State of the Union address reminded Americans why they elected him—a strong and steady international leader and a great advocate and doer for ordinary people. And he gave us Democrats the optimistic inspiration to get to work for the vital 2022 elections."

As a "radical optimist," Harris expects the Democrats to hold the House and pick up two seats in the U.S. Senate in 2022. Let's all help make that happen!

Click [here](#) for background on Sen. Fred Harris and Part I of this interview.



Early Childhood Education Is On the Ballot: Vote "YES"!

DEMOCRATS SUPPORT KIDS

SANDOVAL COUNTY INDIVISIBLE

PDA

SCFDW
SANDOVAL COUNTY
FEDERATION OF
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

SANDOVAL DEMS
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OF SANDOVAL COUNTY

PLACITAS DEMOCRATS AND FRIENDS

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.



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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.



Miss Information

Privatized Medicare is closer than you think

By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary

Medicare Advantage—private insurance with much looser rules than Traditional Medicare—can be enticing. Compared to Traditional Medicare, Medicare Advantage offers lower costs and extra benefits such as vision, hearing, and dental memberships. Medicare Advantage comes with serious pitfalls, however, especially if you become ill.

Under Medicare Advantage, network requirements frequently limit enrollee choice, seniors in poor health are discouraged from enrolling, and many enrollees are burdened with high out-of-pocket costs or denied benefits altogether when they need care the most. A Medicare Advantage customer seeking to switch to Traditional Medicare will likely face barriers to accomplishing this.

Medicare Advantage can provide inferior patient care and impose unexpected costs, while insurance companies rake in the cash.

Originally sold as a cost containment measure, it has become the opposite.

Medicare Advantage costs taxpayers more than Traditional Medicare and is a cash cow for insurance companies. Medicare Advantage has captured around 40 percent of the

Medicare market and continues to eat away at Traditional Medicare.

Traditional Medicare is speeding toward privatization in yet another way. The



Trump administration introduced a pilot program called Direct Contracting, which would eventually enroll all Traditional Medicare beneficiaries into third-party Direct Contracting Entities.

Similar to Medicare Advantage, Direct Contracting provides a fixed payment to Direct Contracting Entities, which are for-profit companies that will cover part of each enrollee's medical expenses. Both Medicare Advantage insurers and Direct Contracting Entities get to keep any portion of the payment that isn't used, incentivizing them to skimp on care.

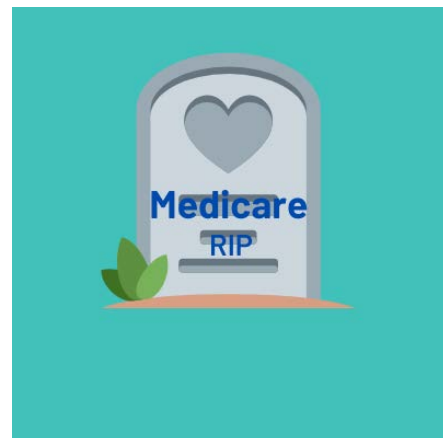
Traditional Medicare beneficiaries—without their knowledge or consent—may be automatically enrolled in Direct Contracting if their primary care physician happens to be affiliated with a Direct Contracting Entity.

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) calls this program the “biggest threat to Medicare you’ve never even heard of.”



In response to criticism by some doctors, healthcare advocates, and members of Congress, the Biden administration has revised the program to address health equity and ease progressives' concerns over the role of private equity firms in Direct Contracting Entities. Rebranded as “REACH,” the revised program has not mollified its critics.

While generating ever-increasing revenues for private entities, Medicare Advantage and Direct Contracting threaten quality healthcare for seniors, fleece taxpayers, and encourage insurance fraud. Our members of Congress need to know that seniors want affordable, quality Medicare, not government-facilitated enrichment of private corporations.



Sandoval County Women's Federation Earns Appreciation

Fewer kids go hungry on weekends thanks to SCFDW



Karen Schafer, Kitty Perez, and Genia Chavez receive a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Sandoval County Federation of Democratic Women for their hard work to Feed Rio Rancho Kids.

Thanks to their efforts, many Rio Rancho children don't go hungry on the weekend.

Click here <https://uuwestside.org/index.php/feed-the-kids-rio-rancho/> to donate.

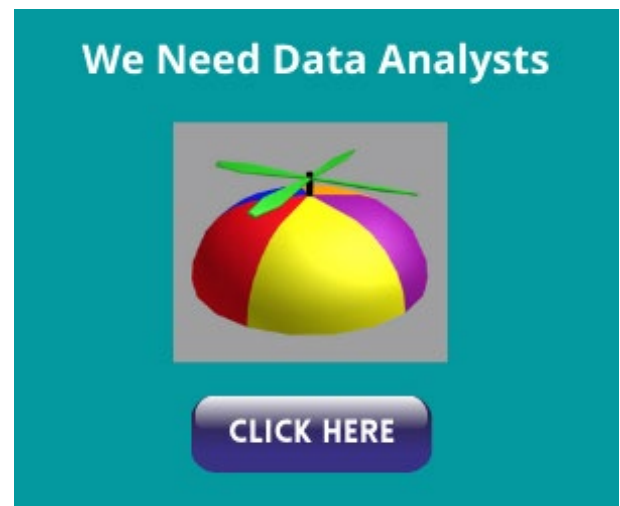
Click [here](#) to volunteer.

Click [here](#) for more information on SCFDW.



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.