

## June 2022 Newsletter

# SANDOVAL DEMS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY



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## Message from the Chair

### Republican county commissioners traffic in election conspiracy theories

By Alex Piland, Chair, DPSC

Last Tuesday, the Democratic Party of Sandoval County attended a “work session” by the Sandoval County Commission. The session focused on 2020 election conspiracy theories being peddled to the commission for the past two months in an effort to get the commission to forward another toothless, poorly-considered resolution through to the NM Legislature.

We were given 30 minutes to rebut the nonsense spewed by the Election Integrity Patriot Team (EIPT). The EIPT went long, so the DPSC received extra time, as well.

And just who is the EIPT? They claim to be just an ad hoc group of concerned citizens, but a little digging

shows they are a faction of a Tea Party sponsored group. Most people who speak to the commission are local Sandoval County residents, but the lead presenter is not. His name is Dr. Stephen Whitehouse, a self-proclaimed expert who lives in Bernalillo County and cites debunked and questionable material as support for his argument.

It seems, based on the data this group shared, that the biggest issue was the increase in absentee ballots, especially by Democrats. The group also questioned drop boxes, Dominion voting software, and Internet access, and wants to require a picture identification for voters—i.e., the usual republican talking points.

The District 3 Commissioner seems to agree with them as he says, “It doesn’t seem like

a bad thing to want voters to have an ID to vote.”

That’s right. Your grandmother who doesn’t have an ID because she doesn’t drive? She won’t be able to vote if the District 3 Commissioner gets his way. Your friend who served our country faithfully in the military but has PTSD? Won’t be able to drop his ballot off after hours because the same commissioner said that drop boxes should only be available during business hours.

Clearly, the purpose of having drop boxes, which are all monitored 24/7, is lost on the commission republicans. (Hint: Drop boxes are for people who cannot make it to vote during the regularly scheduled voting hours.) Perhaps the commissioners’ actual intent is voter suppression.

The commission spent taxpayer money to indulge the EIPT conspiracists. It was stated that it wasn’t important because the commissioners are not on an hourly rate.

In truth, it does matter. It matters because the County Attorney, the County Manager, a sheriff’s deputy, and other staff were required to put more than two hours of energy in support of a conspiracy rather than serving the public.

It matters because the commissioners could have used that time to work on the real problems facing our county.

It matters because perpetuating republican conspiracy theories undermines the public’s trust in voting and democracy.

It would seem that true patriots would want to see more people vote, and they would by working to make it easier. But not Dr. White-house or the Tea Party’s Election Integrity Patriot Team, and not the republican leaders of the Sandoval County Commission.

The New Mexico Legislature has outlined, in great detail, what is and is not allowed

regarding voting. The commission would do well to review the voting laws before wasting any more time or money to appease their supposed base.

But don't despair. We can flip the commission blue by

re-electing Democratic [Commissioner Katherine Bruch \(District 1\)](#) and electing [Gregory Bennett \(District 3\)](#).

Sandoval Democrats, let's get to work!

*Alex*



Democracy truly is on the ballot in November, and your donation couldn't be more important. Your contribution will help elect Democrats up and down the ballot. Your contribution will help DPSC fund our lawsuit challenging illegal partisan Republican gerrymandering of the Sandoval County Commission districts.

We also welcome one-time donations, which can be made using this same link. Click [here](#) to donate.

**Thank you!**

**We ❤️ ALL our donors!**

# VOTE DEMOCRATIC: JUNE 7, 2022, PRIMARY ELECTION



- SANDOVAL COUNTY  
CANDIDATES SEEK  
YOUR VOTE

*VOTE, VOLUNTEER, DONATE*

WWW.SANDOVALDEMOCRATS.ORG

**Click Here for Voter and Candidate Information for  
Sandoval County Democrats**



**See our [Events Calendar](#) for Candidate  
Fundraisers and Appearances.**

## Making a Difference in Sandoval County

### **Sheriff works to make our community a safe, caring place to live**

**By Jessie James Casaus, Sandoval County Sheriff**

As Sandoval County grows, it's essential that public safety enforcement agencies and community stakeholders work together to build positive interaction experiences. We continue to follow a positive team approach, which relies on community input.

By understanding our wide-spread fast-growing community needs, the sheriff's office continues to look for positive proactive ways for success: we've created a multi-jurisdictional Street Crimes Task Force, initiated a Cops Grant award to hire five new deputies, and established a K-9 unit donated by the Hometown Foundation, Inc.

Other ways of better serving our diverse community include successfully upgrading our standard operating policy with new comprehensive guidelines on the use of force and animal welfare, and many other issues.



Recently the department received a \$379,000 federal congressional directed spending grant to purchase the latest high-end tech equipment, more officer laptops, administrative computers, sophisticated telecommunication systems, and more.

We continue to hire exceptional deputies of good moral character, and we place high value on extensive officer training including anti-bias/ conflict resolution and many other positive approaches to help de-escalate volatile public safety incidents.

The community asked for and now has a safe, clean temporary Sandoval County animal welfare shelter located at the La Plazuela de Sandoval Complex, which follows the no-kill philosophical principle, and actively promotes rescue and adoption of animals taken into custody. The shelter can be reached at (505)867-7642.



Another example of how we've become more involved in community safety needs, the sheriff's office is proud of its comprehensive agreement with the Cuba School District. This agreement provides a school resource officer (SRO), assuring the physical safety of the campus environment. The SRO also provides friendly counseling/mentoring to students.

Chartered as a team with all communities, the sheriff's office has proudly initiated a successful information sharing and multijurisdictional program with the Navajo Nation. Joint operations are ongoing to include assisting with issues affecting the safety of women, children, and their families.

Today the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office continues to rely on the cooperation and respect of community members to provide information about crime in their neighborhoods. It's an ongoing process.

Our goal is to continue meeting community expectations through swift public safety responses, professionalism, and caring. This not only builds community but makes for a safe environment to grow in—a worthwhile community goal.

**Submit a "Dialogue with A Deputy" Question**



I'm running for re-election as your sheriff in November and would appreciate your vote.

Click [here](#) for more information on the sheriff's office.



Sheriff's office delivers aid to first responders and people displaced by the fires



Sheriff Casaus recently injured his back during a bicycle ride in Placitas. DPSC wishes Sheriff Casaus a speedy recovery and good health to come.





## JUNE 3: FIRST FRIDAY MEETING

Featuring Jessica Velasquez,  
Chair, Democratic Party of  
New Mexico

11 a.m. at the Range  
Cafe, 925 Camino Del  
Pueblo, Bernalillo  
Also, on Facebook Live

**SANDOVAL DEMS**  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY

[www.sandovaldemocrats.org](http://www.sandovaldemocrats.org)



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

Join us for **Second  
Saturday** at  
M'Tucci's Moderno or  
streaming on  
Facebook Live.



**INDIVISIBLE**

Sally Davis, Messaging Chair  
Blue CD2 NM, Indivisible  
**Effective Messaging**

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





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**SANDOVAL DEMS**  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SANDOVAL COUNTY



*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.**



## Gimme Some Truth

### Advocate for women, children, veterans, wildlife, and individuals with disabilities runs for state house

By Kathleen M. Cates, Candidate for House District 44, as told to June Anglin, DPSC

Kathleen M. Cates is a first-time candidate running for the NM House of Representatives District 44. A longtime resident of the area, she has been a business owner, homeowner, nonprofit executive, and a volunteer for various community issues.

Kathleen is a member of the Developmental Disability Council and has been the CEO of two nonprofit organizations as well as a frequent officer of the Rio Rancho Sunrise Rotary. She has advocated for the interests of women with mental and substance diagnoses, individuals with disabilities seeking job opportunities, and children in need of special considerations. Her two children attended Rio Rancho Public Schools.

We interviewed Kathleen on a sunny spring morning at the Flying Star. Her energy was as invigorating as the coffee.



**How has your professional advocacy for individuals with disabilities affected you?**

I have several loved ones who have different abilities. As a parent I may think I know what is best for my loved ones but as a professional advocate I need to listen first. It is profoundly important to recognize that the people we serve are adults who merit independence and dignity. To best serve them, the ability

to be respectful toward them is foundational.

Secondly, I learned about leadership. In the for-profit sector, in my youth, I learned that leaders may have great vision. For-profit leaders need **their vision** to be executed.

But when you work in the nonprofit sector or government, you must consider **all the different perspectives of the people you serve**. That experience taught me to be flexible and adaptable. In the nonprofit sector, I learned the

importance of team building and teamwork.

I learned that leadership also is patience. Vision is best grounded in an ability to seek shared solutions over time.

**As a member of the New Mexico State Legislature, what do you wish to accomplish?**

I want to harmonize a vision for the future with the reality of New Mexico. We need to avoid a “poor state” mentality that can hold us back. New Mexico has more funds in our permanent fund than Texas or Colorado even though we have a smaller population. We are an exceptional state because of our diversity. But we need to invest more in all our cultures to ensure everyone’s talents can be a resource for New Mexico.

I will support the Early Childhood Amendment that will use a small portion of our Permanent Fund to build a foundation for children. This education can start as early as three years old for urban and rural children, those with English as a Second Language

(ESL), and those from households with diverse incomes. It is essential in building a more stable New Mexico.

New Mexico’s permanent fund is more robust than such funds in many other states. We need to use some of the interest from that fund, and perhaps even some principal, to build a stable foundation so that our assets are not depleted, and our revenue sources are diverse to accommodate the volatility of a market.

Solar and wind farms, lands for the hospitality industry, and revenue for film locations are other ways we can add to our

state’s economy. Our land is our greatest asset. Our economy needs the oil, gas, and timber industry, but we are not stable if we rely only on these non-renewable assets.

All that said, the fact is that I will work hard like a dog in whatever position I serve, on whatever committee I am assigned. I grew up in a tradition of public service, and I look forward to working for the people of New Mexico.



### **How can Democrats best counteract the Republicans' misleading messaging?**

We need to be forceful, but not angry. We need to engage and speak up when we hear misinformation. Politely provide the factual information. Do not be silent.

### **How can Democrats involve the youth in politics?**

Use youth as staff whenever possible. Offer them paying jobs. Listen to them. They have great ideas. We need their ideas.

As your District 44 representative, I will listen to residents' concerns, I will reflect the voices of the community, and I will function as a bridge builder to negotiate suitable results.

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It you live in HD 44, I hope I can count on your vote. Please go to my [website](#) to learn more about me. Also, please donate and volunteer. You don't have to live in HD 44 to support my campaign!

## **Join Kathleen's Commitment to Key Issues:**

- Invest in NM's Infrastructure to Protect our Water
- Grow Our Economy
- Fight for the Human Rights of All New Mexicans

***Your Advocate in the Roundhouse***

[READ MORE](#)





## Miss Information

**Abortion rights are on the ballot. Keep New Mexico Blue.**

**By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary**

Re-printed from the [Rio Rancho Observer](#) with permission.

The leak of the draft Supreme Court decision is a wakeup call that a handful of right-wing Christian theocrats are about to pull the plug on abortion rights.

Denying women abortion rights is unscientific and hazardous to the health of women and children. Sadly, that is not a concern for those who would have the government police our bodies.

Many states have trigger laws or will soon enact laws that will outlaw or severely restrict abortion after the court decision is issued; other states will quickly follow suit.

In many states, safe and legal abortion will be all but impossible. Louisiana is on track to criminalize abortion,



Miss Information

leaving women with the choice of forced childbirth or serving a prison sentence for murder.



Thanks to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and our Democratic state legislature, New Mexico's law criminalizing abortion was repealed. But the fact that

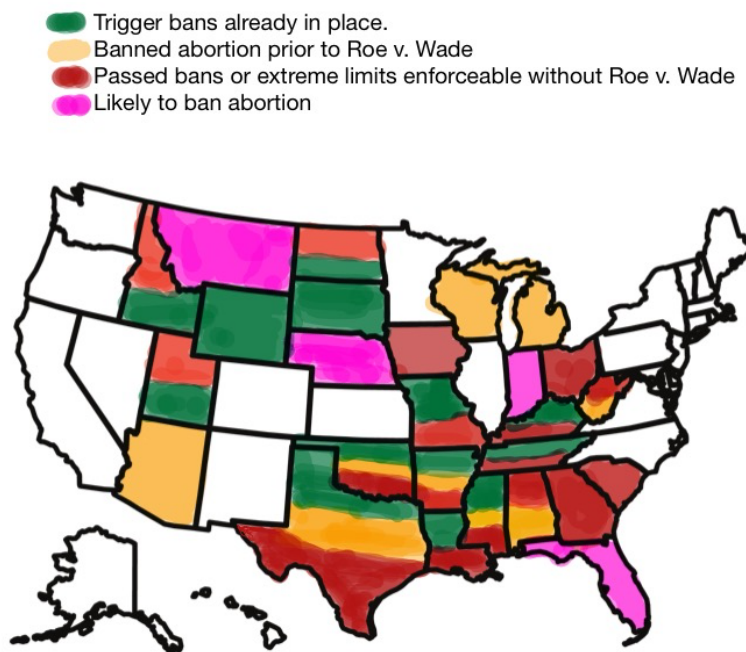
every Republican in the state legislature voted against repeal tells us what's in store if we don't keep New Mexico blue.

The vile, extremist and unscientific anti-abortion rhetoric spewed by the Republican contenders for governor tells us all we need to know about the perils to women, children and families if any one of them were to win in November.

The likely Supreme Court decision threatens not only an end to abortion rights but to other privacy rights as well: same-sex marriage, interracial marriage, the right to contraceptives and much more.

Women's rights are on the chopping block. Women don't want to be forced to give birth, to have others' religious beliefs control our health-care decisions or have the government in our bedrooms.

Saying that democracy is on the ballot is a terrifying truth, not a scare tactic. We must do everything in our power to keep Sandoval County and our beautiful state blue.



Source: Guttmacher Institute



# Did You Know **Early Childhood Education** is On The Ballot This November?

## WHERE WE ARE NOW

For years, child care centers and public schools have been chronically underfunded. But the numbers tell us how critical it is that we act on early childhood education NOW.

- 28% of NM children younger than five live in poverty
- 42% of all working families with children are low income
- 49,000 children younger than six live in families with at least one parent who earns a low income despite working full-time
- NM is ranked 49th in the nation in child well-being by KIDS COUNT
- The average annual cost of child care is higher than a year's tuition at a public university
- The poverty rate for early educators in NM is 27%

## WHAT WE'RE VOTING FOR IN NOVEMBER

**The Early Childhood Education ballot measure is on the ballot in November. The ballot measure would allocate \$150 million from the state's School Permanent Fund every year to the Early Childhood Education and Care Department and about \$100 million to the Public Education Department.**

## IF PASSED, THE MEASURE WILL:

Fund affordable education and care for every family of young children that wants it, from the provider they prefer.

Increase quality by supporting early educators with the just compensation and career ladders needed to raise this profession to higher levels.

Ensure that children are ready for kindergarten, reading by 4th grade, and graduating high school ready to contribute to their community.

Fund thousands of additional child care jobs, so we no longer have child care deserts in urban or rural communities.

Support parents of young children with information about pregnancy, breastfeeding, the milestones of growth and development, positive discipline, and techniques to manage stress and anger.

## HOW TO HELP

**Organize a Community Town Hall**

**Endorse ballot measure and become an outspoken supporter**

**Make ECE ballot measure part of your candidate/party platform**

**Ask Democratic candidates if they support the ballot measure**

## CONTACT US

[www olenm org](http://www olenm org)  
[www centerforcivicaction com](http://www centerforcivicaction com)  
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James Jimenez  
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## Executive Committee Update

### Redistricting lawsuit, July 4 events, fire relief



**By Judy Gordon, DPSC Secretary**

Alex kicked off the May Executive Committee meeting by welcoming Joshua Jones as our new Ward M chair. She also announced that Barbara Jordan will be vice chair for Ward J, which is chaired by Naomi Hatch. Both Josh and Barbara stepped up and ran in the recent Rio Rancho municipal election, and we are excited to benefit from their wisdom and experience. Welcome Josh and Barbara!

As you may know, the Democratic Party of Sandoval County recently filed a lawsuit against the county commission's redistricting plan. The lawsuit alleges that the 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 in a

majority Democratic county. Additional plaintiffs include the Pueblo of San Felipe, Sen. Brenda McKenna, Rep. Daymon Ely, County Commissioner Katherine Bruch, Mayor Jack Torres, candidate for state treasurer Laura Montoya, DPSC Chair Alex Piland, and DPSC Second Vice Chair Aleta (Tweety) Suazo.

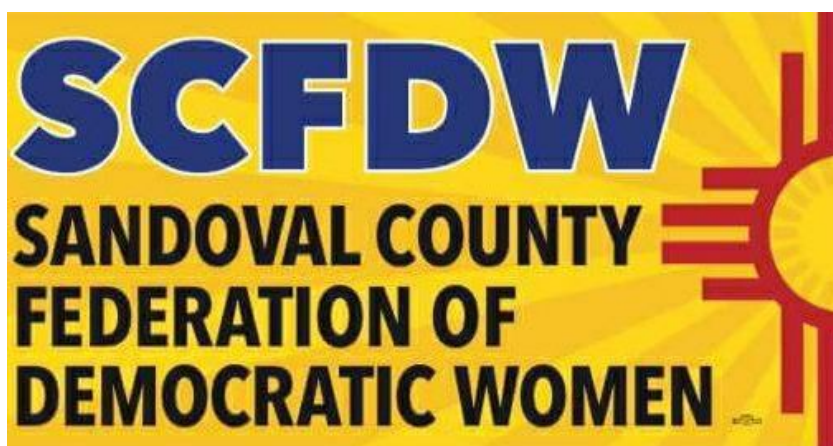
The attorneys for this case are representing us pro bono, but there will be expenses for such things as filing fees, depositions, and court reporters. DPSC is planning a fundraiser to cover these costs, and we appreciate your support for this important effort. We'll keep you updated on developments in the case and plans for the fundraiser.

We are looking for office space to prepare for the midterm election in November. Our ability to have an office will depend on affordability and availability of space. An office would give us

a visible presence in Sandoval County and help us organize and campaign for this critical election.

Sandoval Democrats will be turning out for the various Sandoval County July 4 events. The Mayor's Benefit and Independence Day celebration will take place in Bernalillo on July 2 in Rotary Park, and we'll be marching with our banners in Corrales, Placitas, and Rio Rancho on July 4. Please join us and show our county that we are enthusiastic, committed, and ready to elect more Democrats to make our communities better for everyone.

In response to the wildfires engulfing parts of New Mexico, Assessor Linda Gallegos, Clerk Anne Brady-Romero, and Treasurer Jennifer Taylor have organized an effort to help first responders and community members displaced by the disaster. Click [here](#) to see how to contribute and what items are most needed.



# 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).