

Did You Know

Turnout in the June 4th primary election in NM and Sandoval County was, as usual, very low. In fact, it was slightly lower than normal. In the county, it was just below the statewide average.

Low Turnout

Statewide 23%, 231,000 out of over 1 million registered voters.

Sandoval County 21%, 17,000 out of over 81,000 registered voters.

Though primary election results do not guarantee similar results in the general election, it appears that the incumbent Dem candidates for the two countywide executive offices (Clerk & Treasurer) are in strong positions for their reelection.

Sandoval County Races

County Clerk

Ann Brady Romero (D)	8,582 Votes
Tanya Watkins (R)	6,458 Votes

County Treasurer

Jennifer Taylor (D)	8,421 Votes
Richard Shanks (R)	6,472 Votes

The candidates for the two open seats on the County Commission have some work to do. The vote differences for Beau Sandoval and especially Madigan Ray with their Republican counterparts are relatively close. The incumbent Dem commissioner, Joshua Jones, appears in a good place, at least for now.

County Commissions

Beau Sandoval (D)	1,155 Votes	(-294 Votes)
Jon Herr (R)	1,449 Votes	
Madigan Ray (D)	873 Votes	(-97 Votes)
Jordan Juarez (R)	970 Votes	
Joshua Jones (D)	1,452 Votes	(+664 Votes)
Justin Garcia (R)	788 Votes	

The Senate District races in Sandoval County should be very interesting and competitive. In the 9th district, Cindy Nava will face off against Audrey Trujillo and in the 12th district, Philip Ramierz will vie for the position with Jay Block. Benny Shendo, Jr. by way of winning the primary has already been elected to the Senate in the #22 district. It looks like Amina Everett should have a close race with her Republican opponent.

Statewide 18 Democrats will already win Senate seats compared to 9 Republicans, since they have no opposition come November.

Senate Districts

#9	Cindy Nava (D)	54%, 2,248 Votes
	Heather Balas (D)	46%, <u>1,918</u> Votes
		4, 166 Total Votes
	Audrey Trujillo(R)	59%, 1,285 Votes
	Frida Vasquez (R)	41%, <u>890</u> Votes
		2,175 Total Votes
#12	Phillip Ramierz (D)	1,357 Votes
	Jay Block (R)	69%, 1,407 Votes
	Candace Gould (R)	31% <u>629</u> Votes
		2, 036 Total Votes
#19	William Scott (D)	64 Votes
	Ant Thornton (R)	98 Votes
#22	Benny Shendo Jr. (D)	1,325 Votes
	No Republican	
#40	Amina Everett (D)	1,905 Votes
	Craig Brant (R)	2,050 Votes

In the NM House of Representatives, there also looks to be a number of competitive races. In the 50th district, Matthew McQueen is facing off with Kenneth Brennan and in the 57th it's Michelle Sandoval v Catherine Cullen. Christine Chandler in the 43rd and Derrick Lente in the 65th have already been elected, since they have no Republican opposition.

Statewide 21 Democrats and 16 Republicans will win House seats since they are unopposed come November.

State Rep Districts

#23	Frank Smith Jr. (D)		1,512 Votes
	Alan Martinez (R)		1,595 Votes
#41	Susan Herrera (D)	66%	85 Votes
	Margaret Campos (D)	34%	43 Votes
	No Republican		
#43	Christine Chandler (D)		211 Votes
	No Republican		
#44	Cathleen Cates (D)		2,122 Votes
	Ali Ennenga (R)		1,438 Votes
#50	Matthew McQueen (D)		1,068 Votes
	Kenneth Brennan (R)	60%	308 Votes
	Wendy Lossing (R)	40%	<u>207</u> Votes
			515 Total Votes
#57	Michelle Sandoval (D)		1,256 Votes
	Catherine Cullen (R)	37%	525 Votes
	John D'Antonio Jr. (R)	33%	466 Votes
	Corrine Rios (R)	29%	<u>414</u> Votes
			1,405 Votes
#60	Luke Jungmann (D)		997 Votes
	Joshua Hernandez (R)		1,231 Votes
#65	Derrick Lente (D)		1,296 Votes
	No Republican		

In multi-county races, two incumbent Dems, Barbara Romo (District Attorney) and Rebekka Burt (Public Education Commissioner) have been elected, since they have no Republican opposition.

District Attorney

Barbara Romo (D)	8,519 Votes in the County
No Republican	

Public Education Commissioner

Rebekka Burt (D)	8,265 Votes in the County
No Republican	

National Races

President Joe Biden did slightly better in Sandoval County (88%) than he did statewide in the Democratic primary. Donald Trump did the same in the county as in the state (84%). Joe Biden outpolled Trump by comfortable margins both in the county and statewide.

Senator Martin Heinrich got more votes than the Republican candidate for Senate both in the county and statewide. Interestingly, both of the Senate candidates outpolled their respective party presidential candidates within Sandoval county and statewide.

For House of Representative candidates, Melody Stansberry got 16% of her total votes from Sandoval County. Each Republican candidate got about 20% of his total votes from the county. Stansberry will face off against Jones in the fall election.

In the other House race, Teresa Ledger Fernandez received many more votes than the Republican nominee, district wide and in the county. Sandoval County accounted for 4% of her vote total. Her future opponent got about 2% of her vote from the county.

President

Joe Biden (D) 88%, 8,100 votes in Sandoval County
84% Statewide, 110,400 votes

Donald Trump (R) 84%, 6,400 in Sandoval County
84% Statewide, 78,800

Senator

Martin Heinrich (D) 8,900 votes in Sandoval County
122,000 Statewide

Nella Domenici (R) 6,700 votes in Sandoval County
80,000 Statewide

Representatives

Melanie Stansberry (D) 7,581 votes in Sandoval County
47,102 District Total

Steve Jones (R) 50%, 3,311 (Sandoval County)

51%, 16,883 (District Wide)

Louis Sanchez (R) 50%, 3,335 (Sandoval County)
49%, 15,970 District Wide)

Teresa Leger Fernandez (D) 1,100 in Sandoval County
45,400 District Total

Sharon Clahchischilliage (R) 400 Votes in Sandoval County
24,900 District Total

Observations

It is difficult, if not foolish, to project general election results from the primary election results. Primary voters are few in number and more dedicated voters to their respective parties. General election voters are much more numerous and less involved with their parties. And since NM has a "closed" primary voting system the large numbers of "undeclared" voters can't vote. That being said, it is more comforting being a Democrat than a Republican within New Mexico in the summer of 2024, heading into the general election in November.