

Did You Know

Things are heating up for the fall 2024 elections! With new candidates at the top of the Democratic Party ticket, there is a new energy and excitement in the party. This September's Did You Know reports on voter registrations and candidate fund raising. Voter registration data come from New Mexico Secretary of State, Voting and Elections, 2024 Voter Registration Data Webpage. Campaign contribution numbers come from New Mexico Secretary of State, Campaign Finance System Webpage. Both data sets were downloaded on Aug 12, 2024. There will be updates on this information in the October and November DPSC Newsletters, also.

As of July 31, 2024

Voter Registration by Party in NM

Dems	43.2%
Reps	31.3%
Lib	1.1%
Ind	23.4%
Other	.9%

Voter Registration by Party in Sandoval County

Dems	41.0%
Reps	33.2%
Lib	1.2%
Ind	23.8%
Other	.7%

Voter registration information for the state and county as reported above should be good news, in general, for Democratic candidates for national, state and county offices. Yet, with almost 1 out of every 4 voters being an Independent/Undeclared, nothing can be taken for granted. While we could not find out information on how independents tend to vote in New Mexico or Sandoval County, conventional wisdom has it that they tend to vote more Republican than Democratic. Turnout is, therefore, the name of the game. Dem candidates must work hard at turning out their voters and convincing independents to vote for them, too.

The lifting is a little heavier in Sandoval County for Dems, since the gap between Dem and Rep voter registration is only 8% compared to 12% for the state. So it is going to be TURNOUT, TURNOUT, and TURNOUT!

\$ Raised by Candidates as of 7/30

Money isn't everything, but it sure helps! Without \$\$\$, it's "better luck next time"! So all you Dems out there need to open up the wallet, pocketbook, checkbook, or credit card and help make our candidates viable. Can't get their messages out "on the grapevine" without some \$\$ to ease the way.

Countywide Offices

County Clerk

Ann Brady Romero (D)	\$10K
Tanya Watkins (R)	\$4.6K

County Treasurer

Jenny Taylor (D)	\$4.5K
Richard Shanks (R)	.5K

Obviously, the amounts above are very early figures. It's going to take a lot more than \$10K to win a countywide race. We need to support our two incumbents for the County Clerk and County Treasurer offices.

County Commission

Beau Sandoval (D)	\$9.1K
Jon Herr (R)	\$12.8K
Madigan Ray (D)	\$11.8K
Jordon Juarez (R)	\$15.9K
Josh Jones (D)	\$13.1K
Justin Garcia (R)	.1K

Dems have a unique and rare opportunity to flip the Sandoval County Commission, finally! Two Reps have been termed-out and the only incumbent running, Josh Jones is a Dem. The Reps on the Commission have been election-denying dinosaurs holding the county back for too long.

The \$\$\$ so far garnered by the Commission candidates is only the beginning. But you can see from the above that the Dem candidates need HELP! The two Dems, Beau Sandoval and Madigan Ray, are at this date behind in fund raising. Each are less than \$5K away from their Rep opponents but given that they are contesting two seats currently held by Reps, they need resources to WIN!

NM Senate Districts

For Senate and House districts we were able to identify voter registration data along with monies raised. This information is for comparison purposes.

#9 (Dems – 45%, Reps – 31%)	
Cindy Nava (D)	\$100K+
Audrey Trujillo	\$51.9K
#12 (Dems – 37%, Reps – 37%)	
Phil Ramirez (D)	\$19K
Jay Block (R)	NR
#40 (Dems – 35%, Reps – 37%)	
Amina Everett (D)	\$9.7K
Craig Brant (R)	\$100K+

As of 7/30, 1 Dem and 1 Rep Senate candidate is well ahead in monies raised. Yet, in district #40, there is very little difference in party affiliation figures. This should be a highly competitive district, based on voter registration, especially if the Dem candidate can close the funding gap. The Rep candidate in district #12 is one of the dinosaurs on the Sandoval County Commission and there is no information on the NM Secretary of State webpage about monies he has raised.

NM House Districts

#23 (Dems – 35%, Reps 39%)	
Frank Smith (D)	\$28.1K
Alan Martinez (R)	\$54.4K
#44 (Dems – 41%, Reps – 34%)	
Cathleen Cates (D)	\$97.1K
Ali Ennega (R)	NR
#50 (Dems -48%, Reps – 28%)	
Matthew McQueen	\$31K
Kenneth Brennan	\$7.8K
#57 (Dems - 36%, Reps – 35%)	
Michelle Sandoval	\$30K
Catherine Cullen	\$20K
#60 (Dems – 34%, Reps – 37%)	
Luke Jungmann (D)	\$20.5K
Joshua Hernandez (R)	\$92.1K

The four House incumbents (Cates, Martinez, McQueen, & Hernandez), 2 Dems, 2 Reps have raised the most \$\$\$ thus far. The voter registration numbers favor them but not by that much in Districts #23 and #60. If the Dems increase their fund raising, their districts can be competitive. The Rep in District 44 has not reported monies raised to the state, as of 7/30.

Observations

Money raised is one thing, money spent is another. Candidates are spending money on a lot of different campaign materials and activities. But you can't spend what you don't have. Dems and sympathetic Independents need to support out candidates and provide them with the resources they need to get their messages out.