

LWVCNM Observer's Report

Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

December 12, 2024

Mary Templeton, observer

Present: David Heil (Chair), Michael Meek (Acting Chair), Jay Block, Joshua Jones, Katherine Bruch

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

Elections - Canvass Report

Sandoval County has 112,285 eligible voters, of whom 79,938 voted in the November 5, 2024 General Election. Comparison of the voter roster count against ballot tabulation showed 3 disagreements that were later resolved.

As background:

LWVUS supports electoral systems that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters. LWVNM supports the protection of the right of every citizen to vote, verifiable and auditable procedures to guarantee the integrity of all statutory methods of voting, a centralized voter registration and election management system, and methods that increase voter participation, including automatic voter registration and same-day voter registration.

Additional Comments

Public Comment

Three of 22 speakers voiced appreciation for the Commission's service, plus four staff from Desert Mountain Healing, an addiction treatment facility, expressed gratitude for client scholarships provided by the Commission. One additional person expressed appreciation for the Clerk's and her staff's work during the election. Three speakers spoke in protest of the County's election certification, while three others advocated for voter ID and in-person, election day, paper ballot voting only. Three people expressed concerns about the adequacy of the new Animal Shelter to be constructed and staffed with bond funds passed during the election. Two people from Placitas expressed concern over sediment from a quarry eroding onto a public road.

Establishing the Salaries for Newly Elected or Re-Elected County Officials

In response to the Constitutional amendment passed by voters during the November 5, 2024 election, the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to give County employees a 15% raise for 2025 that includes part-time Commissioner salaries of roughly \$44,000. The 15% increase is consistent with the raise percentage approved in Bernalillo County.

Sandoval County Commission Website

<https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/commission/>