

LWVCNM Observer's Report

Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

April 12, 2023

Mary Templeton, observer (by video)

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

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

Education

The Commission voted to submit a letter to Martin Heinrich asking for support to establish the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) Center of Excellence in Sandoval County. The Center would provide training and support to educators and community members in emerging technologies including robotics, cybersecurity, drones, virtual reality, new media arts and high-performance computing in education and workforce development. The project would support all communities, with special emphasis on underserved populations including tribes and pueblos and on retraining of the labor force for higher-wage jobs.

Additional Comments

An Emergency Declaration was passed for the Jemez area for flooding along the Hwy 4 corridor caused by rapid snow melt. Jemez Springs wastewater treatment plant has been impacted. The Sandoval County fire department is deploying resources, including swift-water rescue teams. The declaration will allow Sandoval County to receive Federal help and collaboration.

Commissioners Discussion

This evening one commissioner's rant asserted that the US is violent, with the federal government being "weaponized" to charge political opponents with crimes, and with transgender "activists" shooting children and assaulting female college athletes. Another commissioner described transgender athletes as "biological men who fantasize as females" to capture sports titles. Citing Wikipedia, he proceeded to define a "biological female" according to chromosomes, sexual or reproductive organs, and phenotypical characteristics.

Sandoval County Commission Website

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