

# LWVCNM Observer's Report

Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

April 26, 2023

Mary Templeton, observer (by video)

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

## **Description of Issues Relevant to the League**

### Health Care

The UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center (SRMC) quarterly update described new benefits and opportunities that include an enhanced payment strategy for Medicaid patients and a new resident program for medical school graduates. The medical center plans a transition to becoming a multi-campus hospital with UNM Hospital (UNMH) under a single license as UNMH. The SRMC and UNMH would keep separate financial books in order to protect existing Mill Levies in Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties. Mill Levy programs include a level III trauma unit and five programs under behavioral health, including Sandoval County Jail behavioral health services. Most common causes of trauma, in order, are falls in patients  $\geq 65$ , vehicle ejections and assault. Focus points for preventative health are fall prevention for people age 65 and over, and bicycle safety. They also provide outpatient services for mental health and substance use of children, youth, and families. SRMC is currently operating at 120% occupancy.

### Local Government

Minutes for the 4-hr Special Budget Meeting held on April 14, 2023 were approved as part of the Consent Agenda. The document labeled "minutes," however, included only that meeting's agenda items with no minutes added.

### Voter Legislation

The Sandoval County lobbyist reported on outcomes of the past State legislative session. HB4 and SB180 (election integrity) passed without the 5 changes requested by Sandoval County. In addition, a voter ID resolution introduced by Jay Block died in its first committee. It was noted that this is the first year the Board has not been "united" in their lobbying priorities.

## **Additional Comments**

### Public Comment

A group called New Mexico Transparency Network invited attendees to sign petitions to suspend HB4 (Voting Rights Protection), SB180 (Election Changes).

Another group called the Referendum Project has submitted referendums for HB7 (Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care Freedom), SB13 (Reproductive Health Provider Protections), SB397 (Lotteries) and HB207 (Expand Human Rights Act Scope), in addition to HB4 and SB180.

#### Commissioners Discussion

One commissioner requested that Commissioners' Discussion points be limited to County matters rather than extraneous issues.

#### **Sandoval County Commission Website**

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