

LWVCNM Observer's Report

Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

July 26, 2023

Mary Templeton, observer (by online video)

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

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

Economic Growth and Housing

In an update from the Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance (AREA), the need for more housing came up as one reason that Sandoval County ranks in the bottom 25% for job growth among 60 cities of similar size nationwide.

Polling Places for the 2024 and 2025 Election Cycles

The Commission passed a resolution designating 34 approved ADA-compliant polling locations for statewide elections in 2024 and 2025 in Sandoval County. Four previous polling places are no longer available within the County, leaving Rio Rancho with nine locations (down from 12). The City would like to have a minimum of 15 locations. As the County finds additional locations, it will amend the resolution. In addition to polling places, the County will place one drop box outside the Sandoval County Government Complex.

Additional Comments

Free-Roaming Horses

On May 24th, the commission passed an ordinance to halt public feeding of free-roaming horses in Placitas and a permitting resolution allowing 501c3s to apply for a permit to feed and water. Public comments at the July 26th meeting included founders of three 501c3s who pointed out that none of the existing organizations have capacity to care for additional horses in excess of those they care for currently. They urged the commission to open the permitting process to the public.

Commissioners Discussion

One commissioner suggested that the military is having trouble meeting their recruitment targets due to transfeminine military personnel taking showers (<https://sandovalcountynm.new.swagit.com/videos/267923> 3:14:25). He went on to denounce transgender youth in sports. Another commissioner responded by pushing back against villainizing LGBTQ people.

Meeting Materials

The full agenda ordinarily includes links to supporting documents. These are absent for this meeting. Materials now include a meeting transcript.

Sandoval County Commission Website

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