

LWVCNM Observer's Report

Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

March 27, 2024

Mary Templeton, observer

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

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

No agenda items were taken up for which the League has a policy position.

Additional Comments

Public Comment

Three of 10 speakers objected to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Election Data and Science Lab's Elections Performance Index (EPI) that ranked New Mexico's 2022 election as the most well-run in the country. Two speakers expressed concerns over people crossing the southern border.

As background, the MIT EPI results can be found here: <https://elections-blog.mit.edu/articles/elections-performance-index-charts-decades-progress-election-administration>

Commissioner Discussion

One commissioner asserted that the shooting death of a New York police officer on March 25, 2024 was carried out by an "illegal immigrant", after which he voiced support for the death penalty for all who kill police officers. The commissioner then asserted that "illegals" are "killing hundreds of thousands of Americans with drugs."

(<https://sandovalcountynm.new.swagit.com/videos/301085> 1:31:15)

As background, I surveyed news reports regarding the slain NY officer. Most mentioned that the shooter had 21 previous arrests, but none mentioned citizenship status. The LWVUS public policy position on immigration aims to "promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for individuals already living in the country without legal permission to earn legal status."

Sandoval County Commission Website

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