

LWVCNM Observer's Report

Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

July 24, 2024

Mary Templeton, observer

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

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

Waste Management

The Commission heard a presentation from PlastikGas, a company that builds plants that convert waste plastic into biofuels and sells the plants to public and private sectors. The Commission is analyzing the pros and cons of this approach for reducing waste in the County landfill.

As background:

LWVUS promotes policies to reduce the generation of solid and hazardous wastes and promote their reuse and recycling.

Affordable Housing

The commission adopted an ordinance to issue bonds to fund construction of Sandoval Flats - a 216-unit low-income housing project to be built and managed by Dominion Group, Inc. (https://www.rroserver.com/business/county-oks-intent-to-issue-revenue-bonds-for-218-unit-housing-complex/article_c968d4e3-1ee6-50ac-9470-38f72dac18b7.html). The 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom units would be rented to applicants making 60% or less of the area median income at rents \$200 below market value. Rent would not be government subsidized.

As background:

The LWVUS supports policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family. In addition, the LWVNM supports current and future efforts to increase the availability of safe, decent, and affordable housing for moderate and low-income households through

- increased options for seniors, the disabled, and first-time homebuyers
- promoting a variety of housing styles and types for rent and for purchase that are integrated within communities
- supporting policies that link transportation, land use, and affordable housing.

LWVCNM recognizes the responsibility of local government for making available, facilitating and coordinating provision of affordable, decent, and safe housing using federal, state, county, or city funds.

General Obligation Bond Questions

The Commission unanimously voted to approve general obligation bond questions for libraries (\$3.1M), EMS water storage and communications (\$11.2M = \$6.2M Y1 + \$5M Y2), animal shelter (\$7.5M), and public works (\$2.6M). The questions have been written, but are not yet posted on the County website.

Additional Comments

Public Comment

Four of 14 speakers commented requested an increase in the County Library Bond to be voted on in November. Three addressed staff, administration, and union issues at Sandoval Regional Medical Center. One speaker appeared to campaign for a presidential candidate and was not interrupted.

Sandoval County Commission Website

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