

**Bernalillo County Commission Observer Report
For February Voter
Karen Wentworth**

Bernalillo County Begins Discussion to Set Guardrails for Locations of Data Centers

A proposal to set preconditions for large scale data centers interested in locating in Bernalillo County was a major topic of discussion during the Bernalillo County Commission's January 13th meeting. The proposal was introduced by former commission chairman Eric Olivas.

The proposal would only apply to data centers seeking tax breaks or some access to county funds. It requires

- Hiring people who already live in the county, and paying them a fair living wage.
- Paying for the cost of expanding or upgrading the electric grid to accommodate the usage of the business.
- Any microgrid built by the business and connected to the Public Service Company of New Mexico system would have to meet established clean energy goals.
- Any proposed project would have to offset its water usage with a benefit somewhere else in the local ecosystem.

The proposal is expected to come up for a final vote in the near future.

The league does not have a position that directly addresses the impact of large scale electric and water users in either the business or local environmental positions.

In other action, the county clerk has asked the commission to divide some precincts to accommodate growth in advance of the 2026 election cycle.