

# LWVCNM Observer's Report

Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

April 8, 2026

Mary Templeton, observer (by video recording)

Present: Jordan Juarez (Chair), Jon Herr (Vice Chair), Joshua Jones (video), Katherine Bruch, Michael Meek

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

### Economic Development

Jerry Schalow of the Sandoval County Chamber of Commerce presented project Discover Sandoval, a program to locate workforce surpluses in various parts of the country that align with the needs of Sandoval Counties industries, especially medical and high tech specialties, and attract new residents and businesses to Sandoval County. He identified that (a) population growth is outpacing business growth in Sandoval County, (b) many residents commute to other counties and spend a significant part of their incomes there, and (c) people between the age of 20 and 35 leave the County after college to find jobs. Those who relocate to Sandoval County are mainly 35 years or older.

The project aims to attract high-paying specialty businesses willing to hire college graduates with no professional experience, to attract young people with the skills local businesses are seeking, and to focus on higher-paying businesses that would enable residents to live and work within the County.

*As background*, the LWVNM supports economic development with a focus on:

- economic growth more than population growth;
- good jobs with good wages;
- quality of life;
- consistency with protection of the environment and natural resources, particularly water;
- capitalizing on what is already here, such as existing businesses, technologies, and people

## **Additional Comments**

### **Sandoval County Commission Website**

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