

LWVCNM Observer's Report

Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

June 10, 2026

Mary Templeton, observer (by video recording)

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

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

No topics for which the League has an advocacy position were taken up during this meeting.

Additional Comments

Public Comments

Three out of three commentators spoke in favor of passing a subsequent resolution calling for the resignation of the County Assessor, including the County Assessor.

Amending the Sandoval County Ethics Code

The County Attorney proposed an amendment to the Sandoval County Ethics Ordinance to recognize the existence of the State Ethics Commission for reviewing complaints over which the Sandoval County Ethics Board lacks authority. It clarifies that County employees are subject to the Personnel department, rather than a public process in front of the County Commission. It also moves staff support for the County Ethics Board from the County Attorney's office to the County Managers office to avoid conflict of interest in which the County Attorney is asked to represent the employee, the Board, and to oversee action against the employee. The Commission voted to postpone consideration of this amendment and to move to the resolution described below.

Resignation of the County Assessor

The Commission voted 4-1 to pass a resolution calling on County Assessor Linda P. Gallegos to resign. NMSA 1978 § 10-6-3 states that an elected official who accepts additional paid employment and *"shall fail for a period of thirty successive days or more to devote his time to the usual and normal extent during ordinary working hours to the performance of the duties of such public office and employment, shall be deemed to have resigned from and to have permanently abandoned his public office and employment."* The Assessor had been appointed Cash Manager by the State Treasurer and, rather than resigning at the time, continued to work as Assessor through the election while the other 3 assessors were required to be out of the office. Note that resolutions are non-binding, elected County Commissioners do not have

authority over other elected officials, and the County has not defined “usual” work hours for elected officials. Two Commissioners argued that the matter should not be decided based on what is legal, but according to each Commissioner’s sense of what is moral.

Sandoval County Commission Website

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