

# LWVCNM Observer's Report

Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

May 27, 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

### Economic Development

The Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance (AREA) reported the following new initiatives:

- a partnership with Albuquerque Journal who would distribute AREA data to business leaders to understand regional economic trends and impacts
- a regional workforce summit (7/23/26) to create a strategy to meet regional manufacturing technician demands in collaboration with Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico, Workforce Solutions, CNM and others.

*As background*, the LWVNM believes that the state's leadership role in planning, implementing, and funding economic development should include:

- supporting/assisting state regions in developing their own unique plans;
- developing an excellent educational system;
- expanding the use within the state of the capabilities of the universities and the labs; and
- providing centralized expertise for specialized areas such as technology commercialization, international trade, intellectual property, and regulatory approvals.

## Additional Comments

### Sandoval County Elected Officials Salary Commission

Approved publication of a draft ordinance that would create an independent Sandoval County Elected Officials Salary Commission. A five-member commission, each appointed by a County Commissioner as a representative at least 90 days before a county general election, would finalize salaries for elected officials before election day.

### Sandoval County Land Bank

Sandoval County has accepted donations of land in the unincorporated Rio Rancho Estates from owners who have never improved the lots. Many live out of state; some are now deceased. The County seeks to sell these parcels to return the land to the tax rolls. Resurrection Land

Company, an AMREP subsidiary, is buying 29 non-contiguous, undeveloped lots in Rio Rancho Estates from the County for economic development or trade.

**Sandoval County Commission Website**

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