

LWVCNM Observer's Report

Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

June 24, 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

Emergency Declaration

The Commission unanimously passed an emergency declaration prompted by the McCauley fire in the Jemez passed unanimously.

Sandoval County Elected Official Salary Commission

The ordinance to adopt a five-person commission of county residents to determine salaries of elected county officials passed unanimously.

Transfer of Federal Land

The Governor of Sandia Pueblo spoke in favor of a proposed resolution supporting the transfer of land protected by the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act from Forest Service (USDA) management to Bureau of Indian Affairs (Dept. of Interior) management. The federal Act protects (1) the Pueblo of Sandia's rights and interests in such Area; (2) the wilderness and National Forest character of the Area; and (3) the public's longstanding use and enjoyment of the Area. Recent federal cuts to the Forest Service resources have resulted in vandalism of cultural and religious sites, increased trash, and decreased coordination between Sandia Pueblo, the Forest Service, and Sandoval County when emergencies arise. By transferring the land to BIA management, the Pueblo could play a more direct role in management and in coordination with the County. The transfer is not expected to affect public access. Commissioners passed the resolution unanimously.

Sandoval County Commission Website

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