

Untitled

Commission Meeting

Name

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EmailJay.garcia@santaana-nsn.gov**Comments:**

As a lifelong Sandoval County resident and a member of the Santa Ana Pueblo and Tribal Council member and also a resident of the city of Rio Rancho. In regards to the Sandoval County Commission meeting to be held on November 18, 2021. Agenda item 5-C "NM Demographic Research Redistricting Presentation " I hereby oppose any action by our commissioners to lump all the Native American communities, tribes and nations into one district. This proposal essentially dilutes the Native voting representation and unfortunately it looks like a case of "gerrymandering " to ensure the Native vote is weakened and the tribes lose potentially 2-3 county commissioners representatives while ensuring or even guaranteeing the predominantly Republican districts a majority on the county commission. We the tribes have been working hard in encouraging our residents to take an active role in the democratic process, especially the younger generation. It's been a challenge to change individual views of distrustful government whether it be local, county, state or national. After reviewing the various redistricting proposals I can help but feel the tribes have zero standing or "clout" with our county commission based on this potential action. Within Sandoval County the tribes are the largest employers of all county residents! We buy locally and our payroll contributes greatly to the tax base of the county. We deserve more respect than what the proposals give us. Please record my comments as valid and viable as a Sandoval county citizen in good standing and an active voting resident.