

Untitled

Commission Meeting

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[Map It](#)

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The maps presented by Rod Adair badly gerrymander the county, especially Communities of Color and Tribal communities. As a member of both the Diné Nation and Kewa Pueblo neither one of my Tribes have been consulted. They could pit Tribal communities against one another by forcing them to run against each other. We are diverse communities and require the possibility of diverse representation in all 5 districts, not only one. While making sure that Native communities should have an opportunity to elect a candidate of choice, it is irresponsible to sequester the entire Native Vote into one district, especially in a county where there are so many diverse communities, none of which is a monolith. Sandoval County has a majority of registered Democrats, these plans by the county commission would establish a majority of these seats to be heavily Republican, and thus serve as a textbook example of Packing and Cracking. We strive to create Native American majority districts, and when done fairly with respect to the independent authority, and sovereignty of Tribal communities, it gives Tribes the opportunity to elect candidates who will address the needs of their communities. Native American majority districts also provide Native candidates a more equal opportunity to be elected to serve their communities. The maps proposed by NM Demographic Research LLC, do not empower Native American communities. These maps create an imbalance of power, granting the southern and predominantly non-Native county regions an unfair advantage to make decisions that affect the whole of the county. Tribes deserve every opportunity to play an equal part in decision making. Sandoval County Commission has a history of violating § 203 of the Voting Rights Act; in 2011 resulting a federal ruling (No. 88-CV-1457-BRB-DJS) which extended an existing order and required the county attorney (in the county clerk's stead) to supervise the county's Native American Voting Rights Program (NAVRP) and two federal election observers to monitor elections at Native American polling places in the county. I OBJECT to the passage of these maps, they will only led to costly litigation.