

Untitled

Commission Meeting

Name

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Comments:

Redistricting Sandoval County using the Commissioner Eichwald's Plan is the best fit for all the constituents in our county. It better supports the principles of redistricting, compactness, contiguity, equal population, preservation of existing political communities, partisan and racial fairness than newly revised alternate Plan D and especially the original plan from the Demographic Research present by former Senator Adair at the November Commissioners meeting.

You only need to look at the district mapping in the proposed Alternate Plan D to see it clearly misses the mark of compactness and keeping the district as regular and simple as possible. Having one commissioner represent all the pueblos and chapter houses is ridiculous. It leaves the constituents in that district woefully under served and less able to have their fair share of funding.

Commissioner Eichwald's plan keeps elections competitive in all 5 districts. It preserves the continuity of existing political communities. It proposes moving precincts only to the accommodate tribal preferences or to achieve equal populations and racial fairness. Proposed district boundaries in the Eichwald Plan follow major travel routes that are natural boundaries that constituents use to carry out their daily lives. Major highways, large busy streets and natural barriers that have been understood and used for decades.

Constituents know that there is only one cross point on the Ro Grande that divides our county. The Rio Grande, highways, and major streets are natural boundaries that keep united neighbors in a community with common goals and needs intact. They understand how those boundaries provide contiguity to them and their neighbors they don't want to be arbitrarily divided by a small subdivision street that would pit them against one another for funding or access to their commissioner.

Commissioner Eichwald's plan thoughtfully observes equal populations. It varies very little from the state mandate that Sandoval County needs 27,787 people in each of the 5 districts. It overshoots the population number slightly in a district that has little room for growth and undershoots it slightly in district expecting growth during the next 10 years. Giving Commissioner Eichwald redistricting plan longevity that is likely to last over the next 10 years without having to finance and redraw districts due to lack of foresight.

Commissioner Eichwald's plan was not conceived in a dark hole with no community input. Tribal leaders were able to voice their preference to not be put in one huge district with tribes and council houses that do not share similar values and are hundreds of miles apart. They know that having one commissioner guarantees that they will never be able to garner a majority on action by the commission. They do not want lands they own in two different districts. It makes little sense. The Plan D alternative does not provide partisan and racial fairness and leaves the county, and its citizens open to legal action.

I urge you to vote for Commissioner Eichwald's redistricting plan.

Sincerely, Sandra Johnson

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