

Untitled

Commission Meeting

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Comments:

Gu Wa Tse How Ba (Hello Everyone) & the Sandoval Co. Commissioners. My name is Aleta Paisano-Suazo. Wa she nu meh Acumeh, eh Kiwikame. (I am from the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna), however, I have lived here in Rio Rancho for the past 35 yrs. Sandoval Co. Commissioner Katherine Bruch is my representative.

There were so many problems with the previous maps submitted by Mr. Adair, I don't know even where to start. It shouldn't take a December 3, 2021 letter from the NM Attorney General to you commissioners urging your consultation with native communities, before you commissioners decided to take a second look and make changes to your previous proposed maps. As the NM Attorney General stated in his letter, "Statewide, legislators have faced lawsuits based on discrimination against Native American communities in the last two redistricting efforts....in 2002 and 2012". I don't think your Sandoval Co. constituents would be happy to pay for litigation related to your lack of consultation, not only with the native communities, but all communities in your county.

My major concern with your previous maps, as I previously stated, was your lack of consultation with the native communities and all the small rural communities within your county. To think that the Sandoval Co. Commission could construct and then vote on Redistricting Maps without consulting their constituents is totally crazy. I really thought you Sandoval Co. Commissioners would have learned from your previous lack of consultation when you tried to propose Fracking in our county. Look how far that lack of consultation got you. I also don't understand why you would support maps developed by someone who did NO community consultation with the communities in your jurisdiction. Aren't your community voices important for you all to hear. The previous maps proposed by Mr. Adair had districts split along neighborhood streets and small communities, while packing all the native communities into one district. How is that fair?

I have looked at many proposed Sandoval district maps and have concluded that the Fair Sandoval Plan (Eichwald Plan) has earned the endorsement of representatives from all the Sandoval Co. pueblos. This plan is built around the six traditional, nonpartisan principles of redistricting, which I will state.

1. Compactness. All five districts are compact.
2. Contiguity. This plan contains districts that are contiguous. All areas of each district are connected to one another through major roads and infrastructure.
3. Preservation of Community of Interest. This plan is the only plan that does not split any of the smaller towns in the county. No major subdivisions within Rio Rancho are divided and are kept intact.
4. Preservation of the Core of Previous Districts. This plan makes only minor changes to the previous districts to compensate for the population growth in our county. No other plan takes the previous districts into account. The previous proposed plans were all different than the previous districts.
5. Avoid Pairing Incumbents. All current incumbents remain within their respective districts and no incumbents have been paired.
6. Accommodating Protected Groups and Minority Interest. This plan is the only plan that respects the makeup of the county.

This plan places the native communities into two districts, allowing them to have a greater voice on the Sandoval Co. Commission. This plan also places the Hispanics into three commission districts where they make up a larger share of the population than the White population. The other proposed plans have 4 districts which Whites outnumber Hispanics.

I hope you Commissioners will seriously consider the Fair Sandoval/Eichwald Plan, which has adhered to all the Redistricting principles previously stated. All our Sandoval Co. residents deserve districts with clean borders that make sense and respect their community needs and interests.

Da Wa Eh (Thank-You).