

28 members attended in person or via Zoom

Social studies curriculum hearing

Sandy thanked Rachel, Roberta, Paula and others for the advance work they did on this project. The public hearing on the proposed curriculum took place on Friday. Six women from our group testified. At the time Sandy left, 43 people had spoken in favor and 32 against. SOS was the largest group represented other than the GOP.

Sandy said she found the negative comments “of grave concern” and others agreed these comments seemed scripted by the Republicans, including parents should be the ones to decide curriculum and issues involving personal freedoms (i.e. mask and vaccine mandates). Jana said people’s fear was on clear display.

Groups speaking in favor were impressive and represented a broad range of New Mexicans, including pueblos, LANL, and Think New Mexico. Rachel said there was about 1,500 pages of testimonies and other material submitted.

Critical Race Theory Seminar

On Monday, December 6 our regular 9:30 meeting will take place at Betsy Porter’s home. Peggy Klaus will facilitate a discussion of what CRT is, what messaging we can use to counteract the Republican’s false narrative, and what role we can play in educating the public. Cynthia may offer some suggestions on video we can see to help us understand this issue. She said that we need to learn how to “interrupt” racist rants. In addition to members, we’ll invite people who signed up at the Democracy and Reproductive Rights rallies as well as those who’ve expressed interest in joining.

Donations for Immigrants at the Border

Cynthia is accepting donations of goods for immigrants until this Wednesday afternoon.

Redistricting in New Mexico

Our speaker was Kathleen Burke of Fair Districts for New Mexico, a project of the League of Women Voters funded by the Thornburg Foundation.

This group worked to obtain legislative approval for the establishment of a citizen committee to create proposed maps for Congress, state senate and house and Public Education Commission. This committee held hearings all over the state, gathered feedback and have presented options to the legislature, which will consider them in a special session beginning December 6. Maps are available to review at the Fair Districts website, <https://fairdistrictsnm.org/>. (Also see Redistricting section of SOS website, <https://indivisiblesos-santafe.org/new-mexico-issues/new-mexico-redistricting/>)

The new redistricting process represents a big leap forward to modernizing NM’s system with the goal of nonpartisanship and transparency. The chair of the committee is Edward Chavez, a Justice of the state Supreme Court, who Kathleen says is widely respected. Shelley commented, and Kathleen agreed, that

with so much power invested in this position there is potential for problems down the line. Also there was no Native representation and only one woman on the committee.

Kathleen has no sense of what the legislature may do. Dottie commented that if they scrap the proposed maps and create one of their own it will destroy whatever credibility the process has; she said our group should advocate for the adoption of one of the proposed maps offered by the committee without necessarily endorsing a particular map.

Fair Districts will be working on a constitutional amendment to ensure a fully independent redistricting process in the future using states like California and Arizona as models.

Our group can take the following actions:

- Follow the progress of redistricting by signing up to receive notifications from Fair Districts.
- Join our Redistricting Team, led by Paula Sabloff.
- Write letters to the editor. Fair Districts' website includes suggested content.
- Put pressure on our legislators, especially leadership, to adopt one of the maps proposed by the committee

Upcoming

Joint event with Somos is tonight at 5 pm at Somos' office

IndivisiGather event with other groups in NM Thursday at noon via Zoom

Next meeting, on 11/22, is in the evening. From 5:30-6 we will discuss our actions on redistricting. The speaker, beginning at 6, is Rachel's daughter Celia, who will provide information on immigration law.