

## Strategic Planning session 1-17-22

NOTE: Slides shown at the meeting are available via this link:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1iqcUsDkb6csTATsX4G-B4tClGgxoegDgwHqax3Eflpo/edit?usp=sharing>

### Introductions

Facilitator and member Peggy Klaus welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda and ground rules for the day. Sandy thanked Monica and Dottie for their help preparing for today's meeting.

This is our sixth year as an organization. A reminder to attendees that we are a chapter of Indivisible and our goals closely dovetail with theirs. We are one of the most active of the 14 chapters in NM.

Sandy reviewed our mission and introduced members of the leadership team. We are one of the only Indivisible groups in the country with a succession plan to ensure our group's future. She highlighted some of our accomplishments last year.

### Committee Reports

Hold House/Senate (Ricann): (6 active members) We have such a slim majority in the House and Senate that it's hard to enact our legislation; even so it's unimaginable that we cannot get voting rights passed. In New Mexico we have three Congressional districts. Since redistricting we have a better chance of flipping CD2 and this would be a big contribution to the US Congress. Last year we participated in several postcard-writing campaigns. In 2022 we are starting with our 3<sup>rd</sup> postcard campaign for CD2 and a second one for Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez during January-February. We will also be texting and calling for CD2 as well as canvassing later this summer.

We are supporting Teresa Leger Fernandez, who may have a more difficult time getting elected in CD3 because of redistricting changes. Teresa will join us on 1/31 at our regular meeting and we will be asking members to make contributions to her campaign. Teresa may still need petition signatures.

We will also be keeping an eye on other states, i.e. Mark Kelly (AZ); Maggie Hassan (NH); Raphael Warnock (GA); Catherine Cortez Masto (NV) and will work for these states if we have energy/resources.

Strengthening Democracy (Roberta): (5 active members) Roberta's group's first focus for 2022 will be to support the passage of Maggie Toulouse Oliver's Voting Rights bill for New Mexico.

The group thanked Pam for her great letter to the editor in the New Mexican.

Criminal Justice/Criminal Justice Reform (Rachel): (8-10 active members) We were the first organized SOS committee and initially focused on worker rights/immigration. From this, our immigration committee was formed. Last year we worked on the civil rights law and after it passed, we developed a "teach in" for our group and other Indivisible groups (available on our website) to define terms and provide background.

We worked hard with the sheriff, who agreed to make his policy decisions in a public process. He has adopted many of our recommendations, including use of force. He instituted an agreement to be part of a DC-based program to change the culture of law enforcement and we got him the community support he needed. He wrote an editorial in the paper and acknowledged our help. This has turned into a very positive set of agreements.

We brokered a meeting between the sheriff and Somos Un Pueblo Unido, which was two years in the making. We introduced the idea of preventive law enforcement and this has resulted in some agreements between the sheriff and immigrant communities.

We also supported the new, transformational social studies standards for the state that would teach historically accurate history for public schools K-12; six of us testified and 60-70 wrote letters.

Immigration (Cynthia): (4 active members) We were doing work on immigration before we had a formal committee, i.e. collecting items for immigrants at the border. Barbara, Rachel and I met in the fall with Marcella Diaz at Somos Un Pueblo Unido and several of our members made calls for worker rights and other issues important to immigrants. We learned a lot about the "people's map," supported by Somos, and we participated in their rally at the Roundhouse. We've been inspired by Marcella's activism. We're at a good place in our partnership with Somos and will work with them during the 30-day session on cash assistance to immigrant workers who were left out of federal and state stimulus money.

Climate/Environment (Elizabeth): (6-7 members) I'm delighted to be part of this group of smart, vocal, active women. I'm new since November but jumped in to lead on this issue, which is so important. We're focused on actionable initiatives in New Mexico. Our first effort was opposing the Avangrid/PNM merger. Next week Tom Solomon will speak to us about the hydrogen issue, which we oppose and the governor supports. We're also advocating for the green amendment.

Sandy took a poll of attendees and the group opted to endorse the green amendment and join with Indivisible Albuquerque and other groups to publicly support this legislation. Elizabeth will find out how we become a sponsor.

Rachel is monitoring upcoming legislation and will share with Elizabeth. Marti mentioned that she has read about a civil rights component to environmental legislation that our group needs to know more about.

Reproductive Rights (Cynthia): We've been working on this since our group started. We were a leader of the Reproductive Rights rally in October and attended other rallies. We created a partnership with Planned Parenthood. After the Supreme Court makes its decision, our job will be two-fold: (1) to monitor pushback and work with Planned Parenthood and the coalition on their objectives/strategies; and (2) to insist on affirmative statements from every candidate we support that they actively support a woman's right to choose with no restrictions. Cynthia's committee members are Barbara and Sandy and she needs more. Rachel mentioned that the governor is supporting greater capacity for abortions for Texas women.

Gun Violence (Barbara): We are partners with New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence, led by Miranda Viscoli, and they are active in the state. They are looking to start a gun violence intervention program, which they don't want advertised because of pushback from the NRA. We hope that funding will be available for this program. Our committee has not been that active because there hasn't been that much happening. Barbara is pessimistic that any significant gun legislation will be passed.

Wildlife (Jan Cohen): Mostly I disseminate information and calls to action to our members. I have 14 people on my committee and I hope they will take some action on behalf of wildlife, which is very stressed because of years of drought.

Last year we passed Roxy's Law, which takes effect in April. Happily, we have not seen pushback to this law. In this legislative session, there will be a focus on water and enactment of the Wildlife Corridors Act, which is open for public comment. The International Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 100 years old, has been upgraded to the status it held pre-Trump.

The Mexican Wolf Recovery program is up for comment; Jan can provide training for letter-writing, etc. Next year, Sen. Steinborn will once again sponsor a bill to reorganize the state's wildlife agency. The federal 30x30 legislation covers land use, wildlife, quality of life and needs support and generally undoing things that Trump initiated.

Jana mentioned to Jan that it's important to add wildlife action items to our website. Pamela Marshall wants to be part of this committee.

Patricia raised an issue of how to get environmental action items on our website, especially in the "Take Action" section. Sandy and the leadership team are responsible for setting the highest priority action items for our group. Marti suggested that we add one action item for each committee on the Take Action page. We need to follow up on Marti's recommendation.

Redistricting (Paula): (4 active members) Redistricting is so important because it's part of voting rights. We followed commission hearings and joined 39 other groups supporting Fair Districts of NM. We decided not to submit a recommendation for action to our members because we knew that the legislature would decide on their own. A final decision needs to be made by our group whether or not to support a constitutional amendment that states that redistricting be

undertaken by an independent commission. A vote will be taken at a February meeting. This committee is now defunct until the next redistricting in 10 years.

### General discussion

1. Rachel: New Mexico has a lot of money right now and one of the issues being discussed for funding is substance abuse/behavioral health. Our group has expertise in this area.. Should we consider creating a committee to focus on this on an ongoing basis? We could make a contribution going forward. Pam: That's a great idea. There's a shortage of providers.
2. Pam: Write to your senators plus Schumer and VP Harris regarding the importance of passing voting rights legislation Sandy: this is very easy to do using the info Pam provided in an email recently sent to all members.
3. Marti: There is a lot of money coming into NM for broadband. If anyone wants to write to anyone encouraging maximum rural penetration, this is important.

### Goals for 2022

#### **Political Goals**

Sandy: Our chapter's great contribution to holding the US Congress for Democrats is to restore the seat in NM CD2. This is our #1 goal this year.

1. Save Democracy, whatever it takes. This is the time to invest in making things happen.
2. Return CD2 to Democratic leadership; get rid of Yvette Harrell.
3. Third CD2 postcard campaign around Jan. 26; we will write 2,500 cards. The purpose of these cards is to register new voters and the message is "Democrats Deliver".
4. This will Immediately be followed by a first round of 2,500 cards from Teresa Leger Fernandez's campaign aimed at what happened with redistricting of CD3 (parts of Lea, Roosevelt and Chaves counties, which are more Republican, have been moved into the district). They will supply postage for these but, as of now, we'll need to write messages.
5. In order to write 5,000 cards, we will need 50 members doing 100 cards each.
6. After Valentine's Day, Paula will chair texting campaign for CD2 and we will also be doing phoning
7. Finally, we will take part in in-person canvassing in late summer/early fall for CD2 and CD3. Lauren Oertel (Indivisible National) will do training.

#### Second goal: Voting Rights

1. Secretary of State Maggie Tolouse Oliver is working on a bill that would make New Mexico a model for the rest of the country.

Third goal: Climate

1. Although the governor is putting all her support behind this, we want to make sure that hydrogen doesn't happen in NM. This will take lots of energy from members.

### **Operational Goals**

1. How to add active members? We are currently at 80 and the goal is to reach 100 active
2. Increase internal and external use of the website. How to do that?
3. Sandy wants to hear a single priority from each committee chair

Brainstorm ideas for adding 22 active members in 22

1. Each member invites one person (or more); we provide a short written introduction to our group that members can give to their friends
2. Better use of social media, i.e. Facebook. Depends on people liking and sharing posts. Should include issues we're grappling with.
3. Can we graph website activity over time?
4. Offer free membership for first year
5. Appeal to other groups you belong to, i.e. book group, clubs
6. Sandy noted that our goal was to add six new members in '21 and we added somewhere between 15-20.

How do we increase internal and external use of our website?

1. Use Facebook page to promote website
2. Send icon to people so they can easily click on it on their desktop
3. On emails we send we could each use a signature and link that takes people to our website and fb page
4. Members need to be more comfortable with website and then they are more likely to recommend to others

### Results of survey of members (Monica)

1. 43 members responded (see slides)
2. Most members are willing to serve on committees
3. Most members want to retain 4<sup>th</sup> Monday evening meeting, 5:30-7

### Committee assignments

Sandy asked members to let Marti know if they want to stay on their current committee and/or move to another committee. Rachel suggested that Marti not only collect committee member lists but also member preferences for what committee emails they want to receive. Chairs can then use these lists to communicate with members.

### Growth Conundrums

Committees were new in 2021, so we are looking at what works and what doesn't, including improving communication and timeliness.

- 1) Leadership role on issues - committees hanging out there - need to connect with leadership - leadership needs to be the decision-making body - committee leaders need to connect with leadership so, beginning once a month meetings together for the next six months, then evaluate
- 2) Role of committees - they have been autonomous - need a process on decisions - so, leadership if final decision maker when needed
- 3) Sandy used redistricting process to illustrate how we handle differences of opinion - where leadership overruled the committee and how we got there
- 4) This is why we are adding a Committee Liaison (Marti Burke) who can improve communication and help give voice to committees
- 5) Discussion of timeliness - when things come up suddenly (opportunities, issues) or may not be in a particular committee's scope - Sandy - when we have time, write a letter for members to sign or survey monkey to gauge support - when there is little time, not so easy, may need two categories of action to handle differently - a) individual choice or b) group action/endorsement - further discussion on how to facilitate this communication and support/endorsement of an issue - need to be timely and effective and avoid public splits - send thoughts to Sandy
- 6) No chat function on website - maybe we need one?
- 7) How can we act fast in upcoming legislative session - reach out to Sandy
- 8) First Monday in Feb, the 7th - keep open for legislative updates
- 9) Reminder of how to follow bills and committee meetings at nmlegis.gov

### **Ideas for Quarterly Socials**

- 1) Feb/Mar - Getting to Know You gathering
- 2) May - Potluck Luncheon/Lauren Ortel, at Sandy's like last year - probably 1st Monday around the annual statewide INDIVISIBLE Conference April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>-SAVE THE DATE!
- 3) Late summer picnic outside (or inside in case of bad weather) the Aldea Community Center
- 4) December - annual Holiday party

### **Final Notes**

Dottie and Jana will create a template for member bios - update for new members and redo for old

Teresa Leger Fernandez fundraiser, Mon, Jan 31st, hybrid, at Quail Run - invite friends - promote on website and Facebook (Zoom only) must be vaccinated and boosted to attend in person - open to men - discussion of details - Gloria Gordon spearheading the arrangements.

**NOTE; THIS EVENT WILL NOW BE ZOOM ONLY**