

Indivisible SOS Santa Fe
General Meeting Notes
May 2, 2022

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Our calendar for May:
May 9: Sheriff Adan Mendoza
May 16: TBA
May 23: Joyce Bogosian Letters to the Editor Workshop
May 30: NO MEETING, HOLIDAY
2. If you haven't donated to our candidate fund, please do so! Send a check made payable to our treasurer, Dottie Indyke, and mail to 4760 Lluvia Encantada, SF 87507.

Our first donations are to the four politicians who we must keep in the House if we are to protect women's reproductive rights: Andrea Romero, Susan Herrera, Kristina Ortez, and Roger Montoya. We have sent them \$500 each for the primary. If they make it through, we feel the November race will not be as close. They all have very ingenious opponents, DINOS (Democrats in Name Only).

3. Sandy introduced Claudette and Julie, attending today's meeting in person. They are from the Federation of Democratic Women in SF County and will be partnering with us on projects and initiatives.
4. Sandy reported that the recent discussion group, our first, went very well thanks to facilitators Trudy and Peggy. The second discussion group will be held on June 1 at 5 pm and will be facilitated by Roberta. The discussion will focus on an article about thinking outside the box on public education.
5. The NM Indivisible conference held this past weekend was very informative and inspirational. Ezra Levin, co-founder of Indivisible, shared reasons for hope: between 2018-2020, there were 40 million new Democratic voters. There is evidence that personal correspondence (i.e. postcards and letters) make a difference in getting out the vote. Also, we are able to canvas now, which we could not do in the leadup to the last election.

Melanie Stansbury's talk was extraordinary. She emphasized not giving in to the politics of despair. In her session on building a strong group, Sandy's main message was not to overwhelm members with too many actions or expectations.

6. Ricann presented her plan for members to get involved in the primary election, including texting, calling and canvassing. (See attached documents.)

Our speaker was **Maggie Toulouse Oliver**, NM Secretary of State. Highlights of her talk:

- It's been a very challenging and "crazy" couple of years in politics, including in the election world. It is clear as never before the importance of paper ballots to ensure transparency and trust.
- Two articles Oliver recommends: "Building the Big Lie," <https://www.propublica.org/article/big-lie-trump-stolen-election-inside-creation> and "Donald Trump's Slow Moving Coup...", <https://www.salon.com/2021/10/27/donald-slow-motion-coup-is-becoming-a-runaway-train/>
- Now the country is living in alternative universes. Oliver herself is facing an opponent who is a supporter of "the big lie."
- One of the silver linings of COVID is people realizing how government affects their everyday lives, which is spurring them to get involved.
- Oliver is concerned about low turnout in the midterms and how it will affect our future. In times of fear, people freeze. She encourages us to get out the vote and to emphasize the positive with voters. Bear in mind that the situation in our country can be much better in two years rather than much worse. If a lot of people vote in the primary there will be higher turnout in the general. Absentee ballots have started to be mailed.
- NM is a role model for the country in election integrity. Oliver's goal in her next term is to pass the voting rights bill and ensure equal access to the ballot box. She wants these rights to solid that they can't be overturned in future.
- Oliver's office is fighting back against "big lie" proponents such as Vote Reference.org, which has been publishing voters' contact info online.

- The US Justice Department has assembled a task force to protect secretaries of state from threats and is paying attention to election integrity issues around the country.
- There is a Native American task force in her office that is working to increase access and turnout in Native communities. More early voting locations are needed. If our group has personal connections with tribes we can try to arrange registering voters and sharing voting information.
- What we can do:
 - Encourage people to get voting info from reliable sources – Secretary of State website (NMVote.org) or county clerks.
 - Volunteer as a poll worker or poll watcher
 - Spread messages from Secy of State office (i.e. on social media)

Lauren Oertel, our regional director at Indivisible national, also spoke:

- She is leading “deep canvassing” training for Indivisible groups in NM. Deep canvassing is an opportunity to learn more about issues that are key to potential voters. It allows people to be heard, to be inspired and empowered, and to connect with those with common concerns.
- This method attempts to change the culture of how voters are approached – rather than instructing them to vote or to vote for particular candidates.
- It involves longer, open-ended conversations that are respectful and non-judgmental. Canvassers must be curious about voter concerns, try to get at root causes and where voters got their information, and follow up by sending info that affirms what voters have said, for example websites of groups doing work that might be of interest.
- Lauren also noted that she is starting an Anti-Racism Study Group in NM that all are welcome to sign up for. The group, which will meet by Zoom, will read and discuss three books (books will be provided). Indigenous leaders from the state will be invited to participate. A sign-up list was circulated. Members who are interest should contact Lauren at lauren.o@indivisible.org

See also attached

Notetaker: Dottie Indyke



Primary Election

May 1-7		Mother's Day
May 8-14	Canvass 14/15	
May 15-21	Canvass 21/22	Early Voting
May 22-28		Memorial Weekend
May-29-June 7	Canvass 4/5	Primary

HOW TO HELP	Team Leader/Contact	CD2 (Gabe Vasquez)	Andrea Romero (46)	Susan Herrera (41)	Kristina Ortez (42)	Roger Montoya (40)	Sheriff Mendoza
Team Leader/Contact Person		Ricann	Cynthia	Gloria	Gloria		Rachel
Vote Forward Letter Writing, mail October 29th	Sandy						
Texting	Paula, Julie			Vote builder			
Post Card Writing		Ginny					
Canvassing							
Swing Left Activites							
Planned Parenthood Activities	Cynthia						