

Indivisible SOS meeting notes

October 17, 2022

Note-taker: Dottie

Announcements:

1. Mail CD2 postcards between 10/22 and 10/26
2. Mail Vote Forward letters on 10/26
3. Jan C talked about an incident in which she was harassed at her voting place and the info she received on protocols from county clerk and Secy of state's office. It was suggested that the group can write an LTE about this. Jan does not want to be identified. Jana said that political parties recruit poll watchers and the Republicans are recruiting people who are encouraged to harass voters. There was a discussion about polls that show how close elections are in NM.
4. Paula has volunteered to coordinate texting for the Dems of Santa Fe. Sandy, Dottie and Ricann have volunteered to text. At this meeting Pam, Stephanie, Barbara B, Joyce D and several others expressed interest. Paula is looking for additional volunteers. Texting is done from your home computer; you can send out 100 at a time and generally only get a handful of responses. Texter is anonymous to recipient. Paula has prepared a cheat sheet and is happy to walk volunteers through it. Sandy said she will circulate the cheat sheet to members.
5. Pam and Ricann gave a brief report on a recent NMIC call (NM Indivisible groups). It was a small meeting with Lauren Oertal attending.
6. There was a discussion of whether we should be giving money to candidates. Sandy encouraged members to give, especially to Gabe, who has need for materials, signage, TV ads, etc.

Speaker: Inez Russell Gomez, Editorial Page Editor, SF New Mexican

1. Robin Martin, publisher/owner of the paper, wants the editorial page to contain thoughtful, intelligent conversation; Inez described it as the public's space.
2. Inez noted that letter writers are angrier and tend to include misinformation, which requires more editing. She no longer has staff help so she is pressed to do a thorough job
3. She recommends that letters to the editor be short. Shorter letters are more user friendly and require less editing on her part.
4. "My View" opinion pieces should aim to be 600 words but this is not a hard rule.
5. In opinion pieces, offer solutions when possible. Inez likes to include positive pieces.
6. Jan C relayed her story of being harassed at her voting place. Inez is interested in this issue.
7. Deb W commented that endorsements are published after early voting starts and this may be too late for voters. Inez said they try to publish around the time that expanded early voting begins (Oct 22 this year), in part to prevent some negative info coming to light that would change paper's endorsement. She suggested that we send an email to Robin Martin asking if endorsements can run earlier.
8. Inez is very open to suggestions for the newspaper's editorial. She made clear that we are welcome to give her these suggestions on issues we care about.
9. We discussed upcoming bond issues and also issues around housing density.
10. Inez will look into what happened to Cynthia's reproductive freedom opinion piece that never got published.
11. To send letters to the editor use the form on the New Mexican's web page or email Inez directly: igomez@sfnewmexican.com