

Indivisible Meeting Notes May 15 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRIDE

June 24th. I'll be on. We're marching in the gay pride parade with Teresa Ledger Fernandez who requested our presence.

POSTCARDS

Ready 5/19 out from it. I did press into service. But discussion about not picking them up until

- **GIRLS INC**

Girls Inc. tribute book is going to be unveiled at the Bishop's Lodge on August the 24th.

- Cynthia has agreed to help coordinate it because she's going to be leaving to go to upstate New York next week.
- For our two nominees, we get a free ticket, two free tickets, one each, to the event, the breakfast. Everyone else has to pay. It's \$50.
- Or if we had enough people that were interested in attending and seeing not just our nominees, but the others, the other 70 people, that, you know, maybe more SOS members want to go.
- It's Dr. Danapah, who is one of the only Native American physicians, women physicians, in our community. She is secured for the event. Maybe one of her partners will go with her.

HOLTEC

- This will be a fight.
- It's theoretically a permit for a temporary site and their entire structure is for a temporary site, but they don't have a permanent site and will possibly never have one so this will be it. In the long run. If we don't stop it.
- Heinrich's quote was, they can say inter-Sandy would like to add something here.
- It's high nuclear waste, nothing like WIPP. And coming from all over the states. It's the worst we could possibly get. End up sending everything here.
- This was stopped in Nevada.
- We need our representatives and senators to step up with a big tag. If you can't put it to you, find a way to put it up for reelection, to really be honest.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENT (JAN)

- Bureau of Land Management which manages 13 million acres in New Mexico IS elevating conservation as a use on par with other uses such as oil and gas development and mining
- Their mission has always been to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and employment of present and future generations.
- Unfortunately, for so long, it's only been productivity instead of health and diversity. But they're changing that. And that's fantastic to hold that land open for animals to migrate on.
- There is one giant bill SB 9 land of enchantment legacy fund that did pass which earmarks Twenty million dollars for the the Mexico Division of Game and Fish and another twenty million dollars for energy energy minerals natural resources department which includes Habitat land Conservation and the one for the game and fish supposed to go to threaten and danger for species and decline and sustainability management of game species.
- Since the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has not been updated for its mission, it can do basically whatever it wants with this money and maybe put \$10 for threatened species.
- Or it will develop species protection program so that species that are threatened can then be hunted. That's kind of where they've been going.
- Biggest problem in New Mexico with wildlife management is that the game commission was not reformed during this session and the Department of Game and Fish was not reformed . Who knows where that \$ will go.
- The money from land of enchantment legacy fund has to be used with matching funds from federal, which is a good thing because we've been missing out on that, not having a permanent fund for wildlife. Hopefully, even though this is in print about what they will do because they're such a mess and they control all of what happens to wildlife here in our state pretty much, even how they interpret the federal mandates, what's federal laws and regulations should override everything.
- But the boots on the ground again is our game and fish department and how they interpret it, which is usually weighing for game species or for cattle industry.
- If you read the website or the new website, you'll see that wolves did better this year than they have in many, many years.
- Of course, looking at the whole program over the 25 years that it has existed, our Mexican wolf reintroduction, it's still not so great.
- But the numbers did go up 22%, 23% this year. So that's hopeful as hopeful, but a very slow moving train.
- There's two definition of wildlife corridors in the environmental community. Wildlife corridor is a huge swath of land where animals normally migrate.
- But this year, that's true. This year we did fund wildlife corridors, which are very narrow definition for her roads.

- The year, the session before we had made the law, but we didn't fund it. So this year we did fund it.
- There is a website around the Wildlife Corridor's Act.
- They really did some strong research about how animals prefer to travel. If they'll go through a culvert or over a bridge.
- That is some good news that we should be reducing road interactions with, big road interactions with animals, which are also very dangerous for people.
- If you hit a large animal, you're in trouble also as well.
- Separating the fish and game commission was vetoed by gov.
- That is very interesting and very despairing actually because all of these different organizations, both hunting and pure conservation organizations, were for the restructuring.
- The only person that didn't want this to happen, who spoke against it at the meetings, at the hearings, was the director of the New Mexico Game and Fish Division because he wants the people in there with no experience so he can push whatever legislation he would have a ruling he wants through there.
- Theory about animal management wanted a different structure for the game commission and it was nixed by the governor
- Jan discussed how Fish and Game ignores public comments
- The 20 million will be divided into two parts.
 - One is a permanent fund, which will gain interest and then go back into the expendable fund. That's kind of the rule for all of the agencies.
 - I think it's five different agencies that are receiving funds from the legacy But it was hoped that the New Mexico Department of Gaming Fish was going to split into one that actually truly conserves and another one that deals with game licenses.

CHILD ADVOCACY (ROBERTA COLTON)

- Best bet is to work with the child advocacy organizations that we've gotten in touch with, and they've scheduled a Zoom meeting June 20th.
- We need to work with the criminal defense bar to find out if there is any way that they can accept some change in the way things are done.
- Because Mimi Stewart put me in touch with the public defender, and he's totally opposed to HB 173, and really thinks that the legislature should stay out of the whole criminal system.
- I'll proceed your domain and leave it up to the courts. So if we can't find compromise with the criminal defense bar, I don't think we're going to get anywhere with Senator Cervantes.
- I made me steward had promised me to talk to him. But when I touched base with her having given her a month to do it, she hadn't done it. So I'm very discouraged. Basically, I don't think anything's going to happen unless we can find a way to amend HB 73 or come up with a different approach.

- Because I've also talked to the children, youth and families, legislative person. And although he backed HB 173, they've got an interim head of the department
- He doesn't know whether it's going to be a priority for them. But he also promised to start gathering data from other states that have used the forensic witness approach and see if.
- If that will help persuade the criminal defense bar here, but I think they're pretty dug in so We're working on getting an appointment with Assist. attorney general James Grayson who was interested last time and see if he has any other ideas for different approaches.

ELECTION READINESS

- Yellow shirts presence at the Santa Fe County board meetings
- Monday to the special budget saying to Support County clerk clerk In her request for the budget
- We went the first day but couldn't participate with comments but the good thing was that after the meeting we were standing in the corridor and we ended up having real conversations with three of the commissioners especially this guy architect by profession. It's the juvenile detention center. He thinks it's great but she is opposed to it at this point.
- Anna Hansen seems dug in against giving what Kat Clark what she wants
- There's bad blood between the two.
- Salaries are something too: For people who get \$16 an hour, other departments get \$22 an hour. So what happens is people come in to work for a patron, they're in the system. And once they're in the system, they apply for vacancies for as much as \$6 more an hour, which any difference.

AJ Hedrich HYPE PROJECT

- I'm with indivisible nationals, political team. Last year I had the fortunate privilege of being able to run kind of a little deep canvassing experiment with my colleague Nora who is feeling ill today so wasn't able to make it to this call.
- But basically what we did was with reproductive rights being such a salient issue last year, we used kind of abortion as like an entry point to talk about folks values and how they vote their values. We had a slew of volunteers who would get together a couple times a month.
- They caused the voters in some of our give no ground districts and speak to voters in those places about how abortion connects to their lives and if they've known anyone in their lives who has an abortion or if they could formulate a future where abortion isn't available and what that would mean for them and hopefully through that conversation have that voter recognize that abortion is really important thing.

- It's something that we all value having access to and there's no reason we should be voting for folks who should take that away.
- That's a quick spiel of how the deep canvassing program from last year went and that kind of created this interesting foundation where we're able to try interesting and novel voter contacts methods and we're trying to do deep canvassing again this year but one of the things that we're discussing.
- Funny thing about the IRA(Inflation Reduction Act) is we really don't know how much people know about it. So we are starting off with a deep listening program and that deep listening program is essentially the hope is that we learn what folks know but more than that we learn how they feel about what they know about the IRA and the other you know sundry infrastructure investments that provide the administration has made over the past couple of years of him being in office.
- What we learn I think it's going to help us first of all get out ahead of right wing messaging. If you remember the the moments after the the Affordable Care Act was passed, Republicans did a lot of negative messaging on it. That's why we call it Obama Care. That's panels you probably like know what I'm talking about with that right wing messaging and kind of toxify transformative legislation. So hoping to get out ahead of that right-wing messaging. And we also hope to build just to prioritize in our community.
- Like this is a great way to get to know your neighbors. This is also a great way to kind of serve the main goal of Powering Progress, which is to uplift the IRA and those other infrastructure investments, celebrate them, make more folks just generally aware.
- So deep listening, it's... This feels reductive to call it. It's market research, but it's market research with a lot of heart and a lot of empathy and a lot of interest in story. There's an opportunity to drop down some quantitative number metrics of how the person you're talking to is feeling.
- But moreover, it's really about hearing what that person has to say, the ways in which they're saying them. I'm happy to drop a script.
- The first thing that we want to do when we have these deep listening conversations is we want to share basic information about the IRA and its benefits. The other thing that we wanted to do in this conversation is we want to float the concerns and oppositional viewpoints that we might come up.
- It really is about listening without judgment and just hearing what they have to say. And the other big thing is that we're not trying to persuade anyone.
- We're not trying to convince or argue or debunk or anything like that. If someone at the doors that you're talking to says something that is, you know, actually false, it's going to be, for me, I know it's a challenge.
- It always resists the urge to correct people. But that's what we're trying to do is we don't want to correct people. We're doing this at this stage right now because we have this kind of running hypothesis that most folks just don't know very much about the inflation reduction act.
- And, you know, if oppositional viewpoints haven't really seeped in, haven't taken root, we can look at a future where our canvassing program is mostly oriented around making folks aware of and excited about these things.

- But if those oppositional viewpoints are starting to take root, then we can start formulating what it would look like to do a deep canvas, where we have conversations that are meant to persuade using a similar model to the deep listening program, where we're doing a lot of listening and a lot of asking follow-up questions and open-ended questions, exercising, you know, compassionate curiosity, all of these major tenets of deep canvassing methodology.
- We just have to allow those folks to really chew on what we're asking of them. And like I said before, if someone says something that we disagree with or believes is untrue, just taking a pause, asking something else, shifting gears, or contextualizing your own experience instead of in fact.
- And it's mostly about connecting and feeling that there's interpersonal, it's interpersonal only that we are able to persuade folks. That's why relational organizing is so helpful. Texting people in your community and people you know, calling your families and being like, are you gonna do this thing that you know about that?
- We all find a balance between scripted language and what feels right and natural for us. Same thing is happening here with deep listening.
- And in the version of the script that I'll show you, there are specific goals for each kind of section that we have four different parts of this conversation guide.
- You're building rapport, you're starting the conversation, you're getting straight to the point you're not asking permission or asking if they have time to talk, just diving right in.
- So this is an opportunity to just offer up some like those oppositional viewpoints and perspectives just to help try and you know convince something, keep it out.
- Listening and exploring is a set of questions in the conversation guide that we pulled together that we think can be really helpful in trying to kind of sort what type of conflict or what type of oppositional viewpoint that that voter might be expressing or believing.
- What do you think and letting them take the time to respond? And the closing is your standard issue posing and saying thank you for your time asking them if it lights them for all the way.

Q: Are you measuring change?

AJ Hedrich That is a great question.

- We are not measuring change with this because we're not doing any persuasion. There could be, but we're not interested in trying to change folks perceptions right now. So measuring it isn't a goal. It's not a it's not high on our priorities list. If it happens to the course of the conversation, that's fantastic.

Q. One is a question of how deep the training is for people doing this. Because I've been involved in a lot of dialogic work over the course of my life, and people get triggered. Are there role plays? really, you know, oppositional personalities and how it would play out so that people learn how to do this because if you do not do this well, you can do so much damage.

That's the first point. And then the second is to say that this is a very high risk endeavor in another way, which is an interesting and important one. And I'm not, you know, for or against it per se, but there is data that psychologically when people repeat and speak to their positions, they reinforce them in their own brain, making them much harder to unseat and unsettle. And this is not designed as a conversation, even a conversation. conversation where the person asking the open-ended questions is skilled in saying not only their own story but we doing facts into their own story and we get data into their own story and those are skill sets because you're risking firm enough a whole group of people in their current positions for 2024 and whatever messaging you can do later maybe too late.

AJ Hedrich

- Yep, those are my two points. No those are great questions and points. Those are Nora and I have spent a lot of time ruminating over the best way to describe it.
- Yeah, this is a bit of a risk. We are definitely, we're clear-eyed about that. I think this is that helps us, we might call it rationalization.
- The thing that helps us be okay with what we're doing is we aren't setting out to talk to a statistically significant population of people that we think will have impacts or decisive impact at the very least on winning margins in any election.
- We really do think that if there are oppositional viewpoints to have and when I say oppositional viewpoints I don't mean disparate smatterings of like a lot of different oppositional viewpoints if there's one that's really started to show a trend amongst a specific geography of people amongst all of the people that we're talking to all across the country within a specific demographic, then we're going to pursue trying to do this program to persuade folks to not hold that oppositional view, to come to our side at least a little bit to the point where they're willing to, in some eventual future, cast a vote and we wait in a way that we like it.
- It's one of those... We have to talk to people who might not hold the same views as us. We have to understand what those oppositional view points might sound like out loud, coming from, you know, one of our neighbors for us to know how to counter-act it.
- And also, one of the other things that we might learn is... how we can inoculate against those kinds of viewpoints taking root to begin with.
- This deep listening phase of our canvassing program is really like, what should we do next? We haven't set any firm plan for what exactly the next phase of this is going to look like, whether it's a deep canvas, whether it's an educational one.
- Deep canvas is a persuasion one, educational one is, we're inoculating hopefully against those oppositional viewpoints. We just don't know yet.

Q. Why are you doing it? Why are you spending so much energy and you are asking us to spend energy on this. The exercises which by themselves are wonderful, I'm not against them. But I think we are dealing with an urgent really emergency situation where we have to do really practical things.

AJ Yeah, that's a good question. I think I might have misspoke. So let me clarify what I mean by this won't have an impact.

- When I said that, I meant more that by floating, kind of to speak to the notion that by having folks say out loud their views, it reinforces them. I was saying that the act of asking folks in your your community share their possibly oppositional viewpoints and those viewpoints being reinforced through the course of that conversation.
- We're not talking to a large enough population of people with this deep listening program right now, where I think it's a concern that we might be reinforcing oppositional viewpoints and a very small proportion of people.
- I do think this will have an impact in the long run when we get to the second phase of this canvassing program, whatever it may be, where we'll be able to give folks a really, really, what's the best word?
- The idea is we're giving folks a receipt that Democrats deliver on things that this country needs. We are making massive investments in green energy technology to try and address the climate catastrophe that we're staring down.
- And I know that that's really concerning for a lot of folks in our movement. We're all very, very mobilized by the environmental crisis that we're facing. And using investments, there's this kind of running assumption that not enough people know about this and not enough people know that it was because Democrats did it.
- Or not enough people know that it was the Democrats that did it. And we're trying to address the not enough people know about it right now through this campaign.
- This canvassing program right now. all through the deep listening phase of it, I'm the only sort of serves the purpose of making people aware.
- Right now, we are wanting to know if people are aware. We're trying to do some foundational research into it.
- It's a long game. That's the short answer. We're trying to play the long game by getting folks excited about what's available to them without necessarily tacking on any kind of partisan messaging to it or like, thank you Democrats because it's a C3 campaign and we can't. But again, please don't talk about this like it's for election. Because it's not it's it is and it isn't.

A Note About Our Committee Structure.

- Our committee structure is born of people like Jan who are passionate about it. about an issue and become a nucleus for a committee to form around. That's really the strength of

our committee system is to have somebody who has that passion and the energy to lead a few other people to take some action about that or even just to keep track.

- Along with wildlife, which Jan heads, environment is another really, it's a really tough committee because there's not a lot of good news.