

## Indivisible SOS Strategic Planning Meeting

**September 18, 2023**

### Introductions

Each attendees told how she became involved in SOS and the issues she is passionate about. Top responses included preserving democracy, environment, women and girls, and health.

### Report from Leadership Team

Marti reported on key outcomes of the leadership team (LT) strategic planning retreat this summer.

- LT wants to see more involvement by members on issues meaningful to them. We need more members taking greater responsibility for tasks. LT is working on a new structures to facilitate this goal.
- Currently, members have various choices of how to be involved, i.e., one person working on an issue, as Jan Cohen does on wildlife; 2-3 people as “issue leads;” a full committee with regular meetings; active participation with partner groups or coalitions such as with the new gun solutions coalition; or any other structure so one person doesn’t have to do it all.
- We are also committed to supporting one another within our SOS community, especially when a member finds herself in extraordinary health situations that require assistance, as we did with Bev Hedin and Rachel Feldman and are about to do with Ginny Barsky.

### Upcoming Speakers

Jayne presented a list of potential and confirmed speakers this fall. She was recognized for her great work on lining up speakers for our group.

### **Upcoming Elections**

The following three election cycles are coming in the next 14 months:

- Local – city council/school board/community college board/housing tax – November 2023
- Primaries – Spring 2024
- General – Fall 2024

### SOS endorsements

The group voted to endorse the following state and national candidates. It is not yet decided what our endorsements will entail, but might include listing on our website, letters to editor, financial contributions to campaigns, contributions from national Indivisible, etc.

- Joe Biden, President
- Martin Heinrich, US Senate
- Teresa Leger Fernandez, US House
- Gabe Vasquez, US House
- Melanie Stansbury, US House
- Peter Wirth, NM Senate
- Nancy Rodriguez, NM Senate
- Liz Stefanics, NM Senate
- Andrea Romero, NM House
- Reena Szczepanski, NM House
- Tara Lujan, NM House
- Matthew McQueen, NM House
- Susan Herrera, NM House

### Focus on Youth Vote

- We are going to focus on GOTV among local young people.
- Research shows that the politics of young people align with ours and that once young people are registered, they will overwhelmingly vote.

- There are several national and local organizations working on this, including local high schools making efforts to register students. We could consider working on legislation to require voter registration in high schools, like a bill passed in NY.
- We might adopt a high school using the tool kit provided by CivicsCenter (“Democracy in a Box”) (CivicsCenter.com)
- Another organization, “I Am A Voter,” also provides resources for encouraging youth to register and vote.
- BlueCD2 is working on outreach to young voters and monitoring responses via the postcards we are helping with.
- SOS’ election strategy committee, led by Monica and Ricann, will propose a specific plan for this effort. The committee used to be Hold the House and Senate, but will now be known as Elections +.

## **2024 Legislative Session**

### Overview/Background

Rachel Feldman presented an overview of how the NM legislature works, especially the budgeting process, and how we can be most effective in advocating for/against bills.

- Nov/Dec are key budget months. The Governor’s office is drafting her budget now.
- The Legislative Finance Council (LFC) produces a three-volume budget around Jan 1. LFC has a new director, who will be speaking to us in the next month or two.
- We need to get ahead of budgets at agencies/programs we’re interested in
- When there is a surplus, as this year, economic justice issues, i.e., housing, food, job opportunities, have a better chance of being funded

Rachel also provided background on SB19, our bill that passed the ’23 legislature, which aimed to change the culture of NM law enforcement from military- to community-focused, from enforcers to protectors. She and her Civil Rights/Criminal Justice Reform committee plan to address some omissions and revisions that the Senate Judiciary Committee made to the bill during the 2023 session, including funding for curriculum development, bringing more women into law enforcement careers and addressing the lack of law enforcement training in emergency mental health care.

### **Issue Breakout Groups**

Attendees broke into small groups to discuss strategies and actions that can be taken on elections, environment, and healthcare.

#### Healthcare

(Liza, Pam, Jana, Roberta, Laurel, Sandy)

- Set up a meeting with Rep. Reena Szczepanski to discuss the Medicaid First effort.
- Share analysis by Julie Weinberg with group (Sandy)
- Read the ’22 bill, critique and distribute (Liza)
- Ask Reena for five suggestions that SOS can do to support the Medicaid First bill
- Learn more about “NM Together for Healthcare Coalition” and consider joining

#### Environment

(Ellen, Barbara, Bev, Mary B, Marti)

- This group will focus on renewable/electric/energy
- Attend meetings of Public Power Working Group and work with them on their priorities
- Let members of SOS’ previous Environment Committee know of this change and focus and invite them to continue working on these issues with the reformulated group

#### Elections Plus

(Ricann, Monica, Dottie, Helen, Peggy)

- Focus first on city elections this fall (school board, city council, community college board, referendum on tax on high-end home sales)

- Research tax referendum (Helen) and recommend to group
- Research how best to support Sarah Boses, District 2 school board member and Board president, who is being challenged by a Moms for Liberty, far right MAGA candidate
- Ricann and Monica will chair a meeting this week with committee (formerly called Hold the House and Senate) to begin drafting strategies for all the '23-'24 elections
- Conduct training in canvassing to encourage more members to participate

We ended the meeting by singing our lyrics to the song "Bella Ciao," developed by Monica and members of the SOS Drum Corps