

INDIVISIBLE MEETING NOTES OCT 23, 2023, SEN. NANCY RODRIQUEZ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lina Germann - candidate for College Board

- STEM educator, 7 ½ years. Started STEM Santa Fe. Mostly for girls and non=binary students.
- And then kids from Hispanic heritage. She is ready for next step? Why? Bridging the gap.
- Lina has been taking classes there and taught there.
- Her opponent has only been in NM for 2 ½ years.

Constance - Blue CD2 NM

- Fundraiser Wednesday, 7pm for Gabe Vasquez
- Re redistricting in the State - has been Red/Blue over the last few years.
- 2022 Dem won in District 2 Gabe Vasquez won by just 1400 votes.
- How do you convince R's that they don't do the economy as good as Dem?
- Target: Hispanic voters between 16 and 35. They didn't participate in 2022.
- Sweet spot going after reluctant voters.
- Campaign: "We will win". In three weeks they got 9K views.
- Event: Reed Galen, Simone Rosenberg, Dale Robinson of Field Team 6 over last two years registered over 2M dems.
- Register at bluecd2nm.com/events
- 13 months until the next election

Chris Waddill

- Nov 18 Fundraiser for Elizabeth Slotkin. Will be here in Santa Fe.

Rachel Summary

On Tuesday, 10/17, Rachel facilitated with Ben Baker (now policy adviser to the governor), a statewide law enforcement leadership meeting at the Law Enforcement Academy.

- About 120 people attended in person or on zoom, including quite a few new participants.
- Participants discussed the stresses of high vacancy rates and difficulty hiring despite increased salaries and retention bonuses created by recent legislation.
- We started a conversation about how policing needs to change to attract younger people and different people, as well as how to get better mental health resources to law enforcement agencies.
- We had a robust discussion in the afternoon with the public safety telecommunicators (dispatchers) and left that meeting with a dozen volunteers for a work group.
- In a quick debrief with Ben Baker, he thinks the governor will go for three of the things we want to ask for:
 - A 2 year media campaign featuring personal stories, including a focus on women in law enforcement; a recruitment and retention fund for telecommunicators, similar to the ones for police and public attorneys legislated 2 years ago
 - And an appropriation to build a modernized training program for dispatchers that integrates public safety, fire, and emergency medical.
- Next steps include 1) meeting with the Gov, to be arranged by Ben
- 2) convening the volunteer work group of dispatchers
- 3) surveys of vacancy rates for police and dispatchers (drafted to be sent out this week)
- 4) meeting with Behavioral Health Division

5) meeting with Economic Development about overseeing the media campaign, and lots of interviews to schedule.

–Several police leaders volunteered to help during the breaks.

–Moe Maestas was present through the entire meeting as was Reena's chief of staff.

Thanks to Jayne, Marti, Stephanie, and Mitzi for bringing treats, greeting folks, and taking notes.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Nancy Rodriguez, Sen. Chair Co Chair of at least 9 committees. Including Legislative Finance and Public Safety. Looking for presentations from both in November. Public Safety soon. Will speak about the budget process. She is on the budget finance committee. This legislative session is the budget session.

1. NM revenues come in from Oil and Gas. Have to find a way to diversify rather than rely on roller coaster.
2. 3.5 B NEW money. Getting a new forecast in December. This influx won't continue. Average % is about 3.5%. We can't keep funding state agencies. Chair says it will go down already but she doesn't agree. We can't sit on this \$ when we have such great needs. If don't invest now, these costs are going to increase.
3. Looking at this money for non-recurring or allocations. They don't carry over unless the ending fund balances do not revert to the general fund.
4. Depts are coming in with increase requests.
5. Vacancy rates are huge in every dept. Especially the dept of corrections. And wages - not nearly where they should be but we have increased them. Adding to and targeting to those debts who need the increases for salaries that are hard to fill.
6. Public doesn't understand that when you have one problem there's usually several others.
7. Why agencies fail: Staff in place is having to fulfill two or 3 jobs. Individual legislatures have to be contacted about our priorities.
8. Rachel - agencies pay no attention to other agencies. One way to reach people who want to be reached is with media campaign. There needs to be someone looking at coordination between agencies. Permanent position.
9. Again, about Oil and gas - maybe Film Industry. The more we rely on O&G, the more we rely on it.
10. Cannabis brings in about \$40M.
11. Is it true that renewables don't bring in money? Yes and no. But we have to do it.
12. Where does the money go? Budget process, our system is not user friendly. She can't navigate through HB2. Sen R. has recommended that the this process be upgraded for more visibility. Who should we lobby about this? Get a hold of committees. Always the finance committees.
13. There a cycle of - too expensive to live here, education is not good nor is the health care. Hard to keep talent. Are we investing in states where it works well. It's a much bigger pictures. Can we look at other models?
14. Every Leg Finance Committee we have report cards, where other states are succeeding. The staff does this. We are three branches of govt. Many times legislation doesn't pass but we put it in HB2 with language and amount.
15. How to get recurring money? She sponsored leg take a % away from all legs for tax stuff. Earmark \$. In the end that is now allocating 21/5% for affordable housing trust fund. And this is recurring.
16. 2024 \$700m for the affordable housing trust fund. Hoping it goes into Capital Outlay or HB2 17. Oil and Gas and renewables. So the people working in the industry need training. Job Training Center Program for economic development. Instead of adding people, change job specifications.

18. Are the meetings with LF Committee open? Every month 3 or four days. Diff parts of the state. In Oc Nov Dec they are back in the Capitol. Apparently public comments may be available
19. She passed a bill last year SB397 - school based health centers She codified into statute. They were at the whim of new admin. Backlash was that these were offering abortions. Which is bullshit.