

i SOS Meeting April 29 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONVERSATIONS

Upcoming speakers - Mary Carmack Atlweis who is running against Marco Serna and then Linda Serrato, Senator, no primary

- We met our Indivisible match of \$500 during a 2-month period and we are already there. Thanks to several new members and old ones.
- Regarding county commissions, every county commission includes a piece of the city.
- Re the upcoming primaries, many redux candidates were defeated and now are running again.
- Marti had a fundraiser for Cindy Nava on Sunday. Her big thing is for housing. Many of them are newbies and have good campaign managers. Help if you can.
- Things to read if you are discouraged -
 1. Data to make you feel good.
 2. Listen to the bulwark- former R's like Lincoln Project.
 3. Also Jess Piper of Blue Missouri

Representative Susan Herrera, District 41: most of Rio Arriba, most of Sandoval, a little Santa Fe and little bit of Taos.

- She decided to run for office at 70 when Trump was elected.
- She comes from a working force family, grew up in house of 10 kids, her parents were activists. Worked in the legislature for a while in CA. Politics were in her blood. Worked for 30 years, non profits, etc. Started the CC Foundation at Northern, LANL Foundation.
- Took out a 25 year incumbent who was bad news. And for the district. She was on the leadership in Rio Arriba. She won the same year as Andrea Romero.
- First year: she learned a lot. She thought she would work on early childhood and education. Except that her constituents all talked to her about water, not education, etc.
- Unlike Santa Fe, in the north, there are no water systems. Mostly she represents small cities and villages. All the cities are in Espanola.
- All these water systems, very little waste water. She started learning about water.
- Their systems are mutual domestic water associations and can't be shut down for more than 24 hours. All volunteers.
- After WW2 they came back from the war and build these systems. Communities decide and pay for it, build it, and run it. The water comes from - aquifers. 1938 people in the south build three dams. All that water is for the south. Not for the North. There's a gauge in Ottowi .
- She created Jr. money to improve the systems.
- District 41 got grants that is 18% of all grants.
- She serves as chair for education. She will be working on more water funding. Lots of workers in education working at poverty level. Wants at least \$15/hr and cost of living increase. Concerned about number of grandparents raising grandparents. She usually does 5 or 6 bills. Any more than 5 or 6, the quality of the bills deteriorate.
- Claudia - how does it work when you don't get paid, etc.
 - Susan is one of the backers of modernization. It's the Senate that fights modernization. We are the last state to have an unpaid staff. Has to go to the voters.
 - Not fair to legislators. In this state, the gov and the lobbyists have way too much staff. 10.8B budget in 30 days. Do we do a good job? Not really.

- Marti - friends who substitute teach. One of the questions that emerges. Kids can't do basic skills. How about concentrating up to third grade for the the basics of math and English? Is there hope?
- Susan: yes. There is hope.
 - To Mimi Stewart's credit, we have a good reading program. We pay for teachers to do this program. Phonics. We put the \$ where it's needed. We don't control school boards. They can be idiotic.
 - Susan passed legislation where school boards have to report on where they spend \$
 - Can't fire or hire a superintendent for 60 days after they hire them. Susan introduced this with the gov. Education follows income levels. A
 - They need bus drivers.
 - There's a cash economy in the North. It's getting larger. Trade basis happens more often at the lower income. Answer to why it's hard to find people.
 - Hospital situation. We need rural doctors. Here's what we know: hire a doctor in rural America and keep them for 3 years they will stay. Most of them need to pay off debts
 - Right now we are one of the highest payers for teachers. Still, colleges are built on adjutant college teachers.