



Chairman's Letter April 2023

Fellow Republicans,

Things are moving fast in the political sphere. Although Republican legislators were able to stop many bad bills from passing, we also have many bad bills to contend with from this recent legislative session. New Mexicans have organized at the grassroots level to have a referendum drive this spring to put 5 of the most egregious bills on the ballot in 2024, and let the voters decide. I will give my hot takes on the 5 bills that we are attempting to repeal at the ballot box, along with some information on the referendum process itself.

House Bill 7. -- Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care

This bill was co-sponsored by Reena Szczepanski, representing Santa Fe County. Why am I not surprised. This is what's called "health care" in the 1984 upside-down world inhabited by progressive Democrats.

House Bill 4. -- Voting Rights Protections

Automatic voter registration. Register everyone to vote. Figure out who doesn't vote, which is easy to do. Vote for them using mail-in ballots with no signature verification. This is a recipe for stealing elections.

Senate Bill 13. -- Reproductive Health Provider Protections

While HB7 is setting up a way for you to be prosecuted if you don't "affirm" someone's gender, this bill is the flipside, protecting the "health" providers from being sued. This is the legal groundwork for the brand new abortion mill.

Senate Bill 397. -- School-Based Health Centers

The Department of Health will create and operate health centers in schools. Hmm... I think there is a trust issue here that needs to be addressed before I want the state opening up a health center in my kid's school.

Senate Bill 180. -- Election Changes

Among many other things, requiring training for poll challengers and watchers by the County Clerk. They already require training. We Republicans can train our own poll challengers and watchers and we do very good training. Let me tell you, as a poll watcher in the primary, the poll challengers and watchers went perfectly by the book. The ones who need more training are the poll workers, who were observed breaking numerous rules. And every time they accused us of something, we were proven right. This bill is almost 200 pages of re-writing election law. I seriously doubt it is in we the people's best interest.

The New Mexico Constitution Article IV, Section 1: *“The people reserve the power to disapprove, suspend and annul any law enacted by the legislature.”* There is a ninety-day period after the adjournment of the legislature in which to obtain the required number of petition signatures to place the question on the next general election ballot. The signatures must be turned in by June 16th.

With the help of [Better Together New Mexico](#), petitions are being filed currently with the Secretary of State. Now we know the Secretary of State is going to delay and obstruct the approval process as much as she can. There will be five separate petitions, and we in Santa Fe County need to gather over 17,000 signatures. Statewide, if we get 80,000 signatures we can place the question on the ballot for November 2024, but the law still goes into effect. If we get 180,000 signatures, we can stop the law from ever taking effect.

Many great organizations across New Mexico will be uniting and rising to this challenge. It sounds like a lot, but did you know that we grassroots New Mexicans generated over 1 Million emails and calls to the legislature this session? We can show the Governor that *“The People reserve the power.”* If you are interested in participating in the upcoming signature gathering effort, shoot me an email at SantafecountyGOP@gmail.com.

All The Best,

Robert Witsenhausen, Chair