



OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Counties and Navajo Nation working together to increase voters.

St. Michaels, Navajo Nation (ARIZ) - Navajo people are citizens of the Navajo Nation, the states in which they live and the United States. As citizens, Navajo people have the right to vote in Navajo, county, state and federal elections. For a long time, Navajo voting boundaries have not been respected by counties until recently in New Mexico.

During the 2021 legislative session, the New Mexico legislature adopted Senate Bill 304 which recognized indigenous boundaries such as Navajo chapter boundaries and directed the counties in New Mexico to incorporate indigenous boundaries into their precinct boundaries as practicable as possible. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (“Commission”) advocated for the recognition of Navajo chapter boundaries by the counties that extend onto the Navajo Nation.

In the spring of 2021, the Commission initiated work with the New Mexico counties to be addressing the adjustment of precinct boundaries to incorporate Navajo chapter boundaries. McKinley County invited the Commission to work with Research and Polling out of Albuquerque to devise new county precinct boundaries. Both the Commission and Research and Polling worked together to devise new precinct boundaries for McKinley County that coincided with the Navajo chapter boundaries.

In June 2021, McKinley County Board of Commission adopted the new county precinct boundaries that aligned with the Navajo chapter boundaries. This alignment with the chapter boundaries is intended to allow Navajo voters to go to one polling location on Election Day to cast their ballots for the Navajo, county, state and federal election. McKinley County made history in the spring of 2021 by recognizing Navajo chapter boundaries. Therefore, it is very important for Navajo chapters engage the counties so that the polling places for all elections are housed in one building

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