

**Letters to the Editor:  
Guidance, Suggested Topics, and Publication Instructions**

Judy Gordon and Ann Kepley

**Communications Team  
Democratic Party of Sandoval County  
June 3, 2020**

## Contents

<i>Introduction and Guidance</i> .....	1
<i>Employment Insurance</i> .....	3
<i>Immigration</i> .....	4
<i>Infrastructure (Including Climate Change)</i> .....	5
<i>Workers' Rights</i> .....	6
<i>Campaign Finance</i> .....	8
<i>Education</i> .....	9
<i>Health Care</i> .....	11
<i>Voting Rights</i> .....	12
<i>Appendix 1: Publication Instructions for Letters to the Editor</i> .....	13
<i>Appendix 2: Example of Revised Letter to Remove Partisan Content</i> .....	18

---

## INTRODUCTION AND GUIDANCE

---

### *Background*

We encourage Sandoval County Democrats to write Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces for publication in New Mexico newspapers. Before composing your letter, please review "Tips on Writing Letters to the Editor" below and the publishing requirements of the newspaper in [Appendix 1](#). After you have composed your letter, should you require editorial assistance or would like a cold reader review, send your draft to Ann Kepley and Judy Gordon at [SandovalDemLetters@gmail.com](mailto:SandovalDemLetters@gmail.com). We have a track record of getting letters to the editor published and can help you get your letter published, too.

Writing a letter to the editor is easier than you think. In addition to writing to your members of Congress, sending letters to the editor are important advocacy goals because they:

- Reach a large audience
- Are often monitored by elected official
- Can bring up information not addressed in a news article
- Can create an impression of widespread support for or opposition to an issue

### *Tips on Writing Letters to the Editor (from the ACLU)*

**Keep it short and address only one subject.** Many newspapers have strict limits on the length of letters and have limited space to publish them. Keeping your letter brief will help assure that your important points are not cut out by the newspaper.

**Make it legible.** Use a typewriter or computer if your handwriting is difficult to read. Most submissions are online.

**Send letters to weekly and monthly community newspapers.** The smaller the newspaper's circulation, the easier it is to get your letter printed.

**Be sure to include your contact information.** Many newspapers will only print a letter to the editor after calling the author to verify his or her identity and address. Newspapers will not give out that information and will usually only print your name and city should your letter be published.

**Make references to previous articles in the newspaper.** While some papers print general commentary, many will only print letters that refer to a specific article. Here are some examples of easy ways to refer to articles in your opening sentence:

I was disappointed to see that The Post's May 18 editorial "School Vouchers Are Right On" omitted some of the key facts in the debate.

I strongly disagree with (author's name) narrow view on women's reproductive rights. ("Name of Op-Ed," date)

I am deeply saddened to read that Congressman Doe is working to roll back affirmative action. ("Title of Article," date)

### *Caution about Political Content*

The *Albuquerque Journal*, *Rio Rancho Observer*, and possibly other newspapers view letters urging votes for particular candidates to be political advertising, as they consider the function and intent to be the same. As such, letters supporting candidates now must be paid for in order to appear.

Thus, advocating for a political party would be political advertising. However, discussing a particular issue or issues, and advocating voting for candidates in general (without naming names) who take a certain stance on those issues isn't considered political advertising.

Below is a link to the editorial they printed to explain the policy in more detail.

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1401749/our-view-new-year-new-candidates-new-political-ad-policy.html>

### *Organization and Contents of this Document*

The body of this document presents salient topics for letters to the editor and opinion pieces. It includes possible approaches to each topic and links to reference materials. Its purpose is to stimulate thinking but is not intended to prescribe an approach or limit your ideas. Many other issues are worth writing about. Write about any topic that inspires you as long as it is timely, relevant, and consistent with Democratic Party principles.

Appendix 1 provides publication instructions for Sandoval County newspapers. It includes such information as word limit, frequency with which the publication will accept an author's letter, and instructions and links for submitting letters.

Appendix 2 illustrates an approach to avoiding content that would be considered political advertising by the *Albuquerque Journal*, *Rio Rancho Observer*, and possibly other publications. It presents a before and after example of a letter that was rejected by the *Rio Rancho Observer* as political advertising, but then revised to omit the partisan content and accepted for publication.

---

## EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

---

*Possible focus*

- We are facing the highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression. This level of unemployment is extraordinarily costly in both human and economic terms.
- Workers are not only losing their income, but many are losing their health insurance (health insurance tied to employment is the subject of another letter).
- Nearly all European countries are reimbursing workers' incomes directly through their employers at levels from about 60 to 90 percent of wages. (Foreign Policy), thereby reducing economic distress and allowing businesses faster and more seamless startup when it is safe to do so.
- Having the federal government provide employment insurance would have many benefits:
  - Provide families with economic security to cushion the shock of downturns and crises.
  - Avoid the serious delays and denials resulting from many states' antiquated unemployment systems.
  - Protect small businesses during economic downturns and crises
  - Allow faster restart of the economy and more rapid reduction of the unemployment rate; help keep workers permanently attached to the labor force.
  - Help reduce negative social consequences of unemployment such as poor physical and mental health, homelessness, suicide, and domestic violence.
  - Reduce pressure to prematurely start up economy from business owners worried about their businesses and states wanting to avoid paying unemployment insurance.
- Per Joe Biden, establish an employment fund "100% permanently funded by the federal government to catalyze far greater use of short-time compensation that can keep workers working and connected to their benefits and work relationships."

Joe Biden Campaign Vision: Transform unemployment insurance into employment insurance

2016 Democratic Platform-Not addressed

---

## IMMIGRATION

---

### *Possible focus*

- It is a moral failing and a national shame when a father and his baby daughter drown seeking our shores. When children are locked away in overcrowded detention centers and the government seeks to keep them there indefinitely. When the government uses family separation as a weapon against desperate mothers, fathers, and children seeking safety and a better life. When children die while in custody due to lack of adequate care.
  
- We need a fair and humane Immigration System
  - End cruel and senseless policies that separate parents from their children.
  - Prioritize reuniting children separated from their families.
  
  - End prolonged detention and reinvest in a case management program. Close all for-profit detention centers.
  
  - End the National Emergency that siphons dollars from the Department of Defense to build a useless wall.
  
  - Protect and expand opportunities for people who risked their lives in the military service.
  
  - Restore and defend the naturalization process for green card holders.
  
  - Create a roadmap to citizenship for Dreamers and their parents to citizenship.
  
- Moving forward
  - Invest in better technology and improving ageing infrastructure at all our ports of entry.
  
  - Improve cross-agency collaboration.
  
  - Work with Mexico and Canada as partners.

Joe Biden Campaign Vision: <https://joebiden.com/immigration/>

2016 Democratic Platform

---

## INFRASTRUCTURE (INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE)

---

### *Possible Focus*

- We are facing the highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression. Rebuilding the economy will be a slow and painful process. At the same time, virtually all elements of our infrastructure are crumbling or in need of modernization. We can put millions of people back to work, restore their dignity, make long-lasting investments in our country, and move to green infrastructure by having a public works project modeled after the FDR's New Deal to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure.
- With young people graduating from high school and college and an almost nonexistent job market, we need a National Service Corps. A National Service Corps could employ young people to rebuild infrastructure and do other jobs that would provide career training and employment experience, add value to our country and economy, and keep young people connected to the labor force.
- In the short term, we have a significant need for contact tracing. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) estimates that we will need a national workforce of nearly 100,000 professionals to perform contact tracing as we work to emerge from this pandemic. State and local health departments lack the resources for such surge capacity. Federal funding for training and employing contact tracers would provide both a much-needed service as well as employment. ([NACCHO Position Statement](#)).
- Biden has suggested, a “green stimulus,” involving the rapid implementation of a trillion-dollar infrastructure program addressing environmental needs that create good paying jobs.
  - Trump and Mitch McConnell have rejected the idea, but Biden says investments in light rail, clean drinking water, and half a million electric vehicle chargers on the nation's highways could help retool the economy for the future. [Politico](#)
- Per Joe Biden's vision document,

Our nation's infrastructure is literally crumbling. It is unacceptable that one in five miles of our highways are in “poor condition,” that tens of millions of Americans lack access to high-speed broadband, and that our public schools have repeatedly earned a D+ grade from the American Society of Civil Engineers. We are the world's richest nation, but rank just 10th in the overall quality of our infrastructure, according to the World Economic Forum.
- A New Deal type program could
  - Provide good-paying union jobs
  - Build resilient infrastructure and accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy.
  - Help provide to every American access to clean drinking water, well-paved roads, high-speed broadband, safe schools, affordable housing, and much more.
  - Be targeted to help local small businesses get back on their feet
  - Help us transition to a green infrastructure and address climate change.

Joe Biden Campaign Vision: [The Biden Plan to Invest in Middle Class Competitiveness](#)

[2016 Democratic Platform](#)

---

## WORKERS' RIGHTS

---

### *Possible Focus*

- Corporate America is rushing to put people back to work despite the dangerous conditions wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, and many employers are unwilling to ensure safe working conditions for their employees even when their workplaces are known Coronavirus hotspots—meat processing plants being the poster child for this. This is the most stark and deadly reminder of their prioritization of corporate profits over the health and safety of their employees, whom they view as expendable and easy to replace.
- Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative Ro Khanna recently released a proposal for what they're calling an "Essential Workers Bill of Rights," which includes a mandate for free adequate personal protective equipment, hazard pay, universal paid sick leave and paid family leave, a crackdown on employers that misclassify full-time employees as independent contractors, and protections for union organizing.
- "I do think there's an F.D.R. moment," said Senator Edward Markey, "Like 1933 — which would be 2021 — we can see that it is now time to discuss universal child care, universal sick leave and a guaranteed income for everyone in our society." New York Times
- Per Joe Biden's Vision (though we can't refer to him by name in our letters,

Strong unions built the great American middle class. Everything that defines what it means to live a good life and know you can take care of your family – the 40-hour work week, paid leave, health care protections, a voice in your workplace – is because of workers who organized unions and fought for worker protections. Because of organizing and collective bargaining, there used to be a basic bargain between workers and their employers in this country that when you work hard, you share in the prosperity your work created.

Today, however, there's a war on organizing, collective bargaining, unions, and workers. It's been raging for decades, and it's getting worse with Donald Trump in the White House. Republican governors and state legislatures across the country have advanced anti-worker legislation to undercut the labor movement and collective bargaining. States have decimated the rights of public sector workers who, unlike private sector workers, do not have federal protections ensuring their freedom to organize and collectively bargain. In the private sector, corporations are using profits to buy back their own shares and increase CEOs' compensation instead of investing in their workers and creating better-quality jobs. The results have been predictable: rising income inequality, stagnant real wages, the loss of pensions, exploitation of workers, and a weakening of workers' voices in our society.

- Per Biden's Vision, we need to
  - Check the abuse of corporate power over labor and hold corporate executives personally accountable for violations of labor laws;
  - Encourage and incentivize unionization and collective bargaining; and
  - Ensure that workers are treated with dignity and receive the pay, benefits, and workplace protections they deserve.



Joe Biden Campaign Vision: The Biden Plan for Strengthening Worker Organizing, Collective Bargaining, and Unions

2016 Democratic Platform

---

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE

---

### *Possible Focus*

We must strengthen our laws to ensure that no future president can ever again use the office of the President for personal gain. The federal government's power must be used for the people and to better our country. Democracy works best when a big bank account or a large donor list are not prerequisites for office. Our system will make sure that the principles of equality, transparency, and public interest drive all government decisions.

Biden will:

- Introduce a constitutional amendment to entirely eliminate private dollars from our federal elections. Biden will fight for a constitutional amendment that will require candidates for federal office to solely fund their campaigns with public dollars.
- While working toward a constitutional amendment, meaningful change can be made by enacting legislation to provide voluntary matching public funds for federal candidates receiving small dollar donations. Biden will propose legislation to provide public matching funds for small dollar donations to all federal candidates.
- Keep foreign money out of our elections. Biden will propose a law to strengthen our prohibitions on foreign nationals trying to influence federal, state, and local elections. He will direct a new independent agency, the Commission on Federal Ethics to assure vigorous unified enforcement of this and other anti-corruption laws. (Ethics could be an additional topic.)
- Increase transparency of election spending. He will propose legislation codifying a simple tenet of campaign finance law. Any group that advocates for or against candidates for federal office in its ads or communications must disclose its contributors.
- End dark money groups. Biden will enact legislation to bar Section 501(c)(4) from spending in elections—the same bar that applies to Section 501(c)(3) charitable groups. He would also lead reform of the Federal Election Campaign Act to ensure that any entity of any kind that spends more than \$10,000 on federal elections must register with the Commission on Federal Ethics and publicly disclose its donors.
- Require real time disclosure by requiring campaigns and outside entities that run ads within 60 days of an election to disclose any new contributions within 48 hours.
- Ban corporate PAC contributions to candidates and prohibit lobbyist contributions to those who they lobby.
- Close the federal contractor loophole. If you make money from the government contracts, you should do so on merit—not because of campaign spending.

Joe Biden Vision: [The Biden Plan to Guarantee Government Works for the People](#)

[2016 Democratic Platform](#)

---

## EDUCATION

---

### *Possible Focus*

- Democrats know that every child should have access to high quality education, from preschool through high school and beyond.
  - Make sure that teachers and students can work and learn in safe and healthy environment.
  - Help teachers and other educators pay off their student loans.
  - Make sure teachers receive a competitive wage and benefits by triple funding for Title 1 program.
  - Invest in teach mentoring, leadership and additional education.
- Invest in resources for our schools so students grow into physically and emotionally healthy adults and educators can focus on teaching.
  - Provide high-quality, universal pre-kindergarten for all three and four year old's.
  - Double the number of psychologists, guidance counselors, nurses, social workers and other health professionals in our schools.
  - Invest in our schools to eliminate the funding gap between white and non-white districts, and rich and poor districts.
  - Build the best, most innovative schools in the country in low-income communities and communities of color.
  - Ensure middle and high schools prepare students for good jobs. By investing in school vocational training and partnerships between high schools, community colleges and employers.
- Invest in community colleges and training to improve student success
  - Create seamless pathways between high school, job training, community college, and four year programs to help students get their degrees and credentials faster.
  - Providing two years of community college or other high-quality training program without debt for any hard-working individual looking to learn and improve their skills to keep up with the changing nature of work
  - Creating a new grant program to assist community colleges in improving their students' success.
  - Tackling the barriers, the prevent students from completing their community college degree or training credential.
- Strengthen College as a reliable Pathway to the Middle Class
  - Make public colleges and universities tuition-free for all families with incomes below \$125,000.
  - Target additional financial support to low-income and middle-class individuals by doubling the maximum value of Pell grants.

- More than halve payments on undergraduate federal student loans by simplifying and increasing the generosity of today's income-based repayment program.
- Make loan forgiveness work for public servants
- Create a "Title 1 for postsecondary education" to help students at under-resourced four-year schools complete their degrees.
- Support Colleges and universities that play a unique and vital role in their communities. Democrats will take steps to rectify the funding disparities faced by Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, TCU, Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSIs), Native American - serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNTIs) that serve a disproportionate number of students of color and low-income students, which are severely under-resourced. Biden will take steps to rectify funding disparities face by these institutions. Students will benefit from doubling Pell grants, slash the income-based repayment for loans 5% of income and provide free tuition for all students at all community colleges.

Joe Biden Vision: Joe's Plan for Educators, Students, and our Future

2016 Democratic Platform

---

## HEALTH CARE

---

### *Possible Focus*

- Give every American access to health care. The coronavirus has shown all the weaknesses inherent in our employer provided healthcare system. Your health should not be dependent on where you work or if you are working.
- Protecting and promoting public health. Democrats will fight for increased investments in public health to better address emerging threats and needs across the country.
- Keeping healthcare costs down by making premiums affordable, reducing out of pocket expenses, capping prescription drug costs, and prohibit excessive premium increases.
- Support community health centers with well supported and qualified workers and up-to-date equipment.
- Develop a strategy to increase the pool of primary health care professionals.
- Treating mental health issues with the same care and seriousness that we treat issues of physical health.

Joe Biden Vision: Health Care

2016 Democratic Platform

---

## VOTING RIGHTS

---

### *Possible Focus*

- In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act. Since that time, vigorous efforts have been made by some governors, legislatures, and judges to disenfranchise people of color, low-income people, and young people. The right to vote is at the heart of our democracy. Elected officials do not believe they are accountable to people who cannot or do not vote.
- This problem was highlighted in the Wisconsin primary, where both the state and federal supreme courts refused to allow a vote by mail election and drastically reduced voting locations in urban areas in order to suppress the vote. This was done despite, literally, putting voters' and poll workers' lives at stake.
- The safest way to vote in November will be by mail, but many, including the President, who voted by mail himself, have been screaming that it leads to massive voter fraud. This is not true! Vote by mail fraud is miniscule, having occurred at a rate of 0.00006% of total votes cast. This amounts to just one case per state every six or seven years. A person is five times more likely to get struck by lightning than to commit fraud in vote by mail. [The Hill](#)
- Per the 2016 Democratic Platform, we need to
  - Restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act. Expanding early voting and vote-by-mail, implement universal automatic voter registration and same day voter registration, ending partisan and racial gerrymandering, and making Election Day a national holiday.
  - Restore voting rights for those who have served their sentences.
  - Fight against discriminatory voter identification laws, which disproportionately burden young voters, diverse communities, people of color, low-income families, people with disabilities, the elderly, and women.
  - End long lines at polling places
  - Use paper ballots to ensure the integrity of the vote

Note: These are issues around the country, but fortunately for us, not currently a problem in New Mexico.

Joe Biden Campaign Vision: Not addressed

[2016 Democratic Platform](#)

**APPENDIX 1: PUBLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Instructions and Guidelines	How to Submit
<b><u>Alamogordo Daily News</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters may be edited for brevity, clarity, libel and taste.</li> <li>• Letters must be 225 words or less to be considered for publication.</li> <li>• Letters must include the writer's full name, address, ZIP code and phone number for verification purposes.</li> <li>• Please allow 30 days between letters</li> </ul>	Use online submission form <a href="https://static.alamogordonews.com/lettertoeditor/">https://static.alamogordonews.com/lettertoeditor/</a>
<b><u>Albuquerque Journal— Letters and Opinion Columns</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters or columns expressing opinions on news and commentary published in the Albuquerque Journal are welcome.</li> <li>• Submissions accepted for publication may appear in print or in electronic media, including the Journal's Internet Web site, searchable archives and databases.</li> <li>• Preference is given to letters that are fresh, brief, clear and that don't require factual verification.</li> <li>• Letters must include writer's signature, home address and telephone, and a daytime number.</li> <li>• Though addresses and phone numbers are not published, they are needed to confirm authorship prior to publication.</li> <li>• Letters keyed to an upcoming event or date should be submitted well in advance.</li> <li>• All letters and opinion articles are edited, including for length and clarity.</li> <li>• All information is used solely for verification purposes.</li> <li>• The word limit for a letter to the editor is 350. The word limit for an opinion column is 650.</li> <li>• Please allow 90 days between letters.</li> <li>• Letters urging votes for particular candidates or a party are viewed as to political advertising, as the function and intent are considered to be the same. As such, letters supporting candidates now must be paid for in order to appear</li> </ul>	Use online submission form <a href="http://www.abqjournal.com/letters/new">http://www.abqjournal.com/letters/new</a>
<b><u>Albuquerque Journal—Speak Up</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you want to gripe, grouse, whine or bellyache about a generic topic, submit your opinion using the online submission form.</li> <li>• The same goes if you want to dish out praise or thanks.</li> <li>• Either way, you have to do it in 50 words or less.</li> <li>• You can't identify anyone you criticize. Keep it clean. No cursing, please. We don't need your name, just initials. And it's cheaper than therapy.</li> </ul>	Use online submission form <a href="https://www.abqjournal.com/letters/speakup">https://www.abqjournal.com/letters/speakup</a>
<b><u>Alibi Weekly—Albuquerque</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters should be sent with the writer's name, address and daytime phone.</li> </ul>	Email to <a href="mailto:letters@alibi.com">letters@alibi.com</a> or Fax to (505) 346-0660.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters may be edited for length and clarity and may be published in any medium</li> <li>• Word limit is 300 words</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Carlsbad Current Argus</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accepts letters to the editor or guest column</li> <li>• Required information included in online form</li> </ul>	Use online submission form <a href="https://static.currentargus.com/lettertoeditor/">https://static.currentargus.com/lettertoeditor/</a>
<b><u>The Eastern New Mexico News – Covers Clovis, Portales, Quay County Sun</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters to the editor accepted but no instructions provided.</li> </ul>	Email: <a href="mailto:info@thenews.email">info@thenews.email</a>  Mail to The Eastern New Mexico News P.O. Box 1689 Clovis, NM 88102 Online contact form <a href="https://www.easternnewmexiconews.com/contact">https://www.easternnewmexiconews.com/contact</a>
<b><u>Corrales Comment</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readership input is welcome and will be published when the content is deemed appropriate and page space is available.</li> <li>• All feedback intended for publication is proofed and edited as necessary.</li> <li>• Your name, address and telephone number are required for authorship verification, but the address and telephone number will not be published.</li> <li>• Published twice a month—check online for submission and publication dates.</li> </ul>	Email: <a href="mailto:jradford19@comcast.net">jradford19@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:corralescomment@gmail.com">corralescomment@gmail.com</a>  Mail to Corrales Comment P. O. Box 806 Corrales, NM 87048
<b><u>Deming Headlight—Sunday Edition of the Las Cruces News</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters may be edited for brevity, clarity, libel and taste.</li> <li>• Word limit is 225 words</li> <li>• Letters must include the writer's full name, address, ZIP code and phone number for verification purposes.</li> <li>• Please allow 30 days between letters</li> </ul>	Use online submission form <a href="https://static.demingheadlight.com/lettertoeditor/">https://static.demingheadlight.com/lettertoeditor/</a>
<b><u>Edgewood Independent</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Letters to the editor accepted but no instructions provided.</b></li> </ul>	Mail to P.O. Box 1056 Edgewood, NM 87015 Staff Contact Leota Harriman, Editor & Publisher <a href="mailto:news.ind.editor@gmail.com">news.ind.editor@gmail.com</a>
<b><u>Farmington Daily Times—Farmington, Norwest New Mexico, and Navajo Nation</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include your name, address and a telephone number for verification.</li> <li>• Word limit is 400 words.</li> <li>• All letters must be signed by one individual or no more than three individuals.</li> <li>• The Daily Times reserves the right to edit or reject any letters.</li> </ul>	Use online submission form <a href="https://static.daily-times.com/lettertoeditor/">https://static.daily-times.com/lettertoeditor/</a> or  Email to <a href="mailto:letters@daily-times.com">letters@daily-times.com</a> or  Mail to Letter to the Editor The Daily Times 203 W. Main St. Farmington, NM 87401



<b><u>Gallup Independent—Daily</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gallup Independent encourages letters to the editor, which are published as available.</li> <li>• Letters represent the opinion of the author(s) only — not the Independent.</li> <li>• Letters must include writer’s name, address and phone number although only the name and community of residence will be published.</li> <li>• Anonymous letters are not read and are discarded.</li> <li>• Word limit is 500 words</li> <li>• Letters may be edited for space and clarity.</li> <li>• The Independent may choose not to print any letter for any reason.</li> <li>• Anyone may submit a letter, and there is no charge for publication.</li> </ul>	<p>Letters may be mailed, delivered in person, faxed or emailed</p> <p>Physical address 95 N.M. 344 Edgewood, NM</p> <p>Mail to Editor, The Independent P.O. Box 1210 Gallup, NM 87305,</p> <p>Fax: 505-722-5750;</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:letters@gallupindependent.com">letters@gallupindependent.com</a></p>
<b><u>Gallup Sun—Weekly for McKinley, Cibola and Apache counties</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters to the editor and guest columns are accepted by email only.</li> <li>• State full name and city/town. No pen names allowed.</li> <li>• Identification required.</li> <li>• All submissions are subject to editor's approval.</li> </ul>	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:letters@gallupindependent.com">letters@gallupindependent.com</a></p>
<b><u>Jemez Post-Jemez Valley communities, Sandoval County, New Mexico and beyond</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Jemez Post, previously the Jemez Daily Post, provides news, opinion, photo essays, and opportunities for submissions.</li> <li>• No additional instructions provided.</li> <li>• Online only.</li> </ul>	<p>Use online submission form <a href="https://www.jemezpost.com/about-us/">https://www.jemezpost.com/about-us/</a></p>
<b><u>The Las Cruces Sun-News</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters may be edited for brevity, clarity, libel and taste.</li> <li>• Word limit is 300 words.</li> <li>• Letters must include the writer's full name, address, ZIP code and phone number for verification purposes.</li> <li>• Please allow 14 days between letters</li> </ul>	<p>Use online submission form <a href="https://static.lcsun-news.com/lettertoeditor/">https://static.lcsun-news.com/lettertoeditor/</a></p>
<b><u>Las Vegas Optic</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Published 3 times a week – Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday</li> <li>• The Las Vegas Optic welcomes letters on topics of general interest.</li> <li>• All must carry the name and town of residence of the writer.</li> <li>• Writers must include their daytime telephone number. The telephone number will be used for verification only and will not be published.</li> <li>• Unsigned letters will not be published.</li> <li>• Letters submitted by organizations must include the signature of the president or another officer.</li> <li>• Word limit is 250 words.</li> <li>• The right is reserved to reject any letter—in whole or in part—including those determined potentially libelous.</li> <li>• No acknowledgment of unused letters will be made.</li> </ul>	<p>Use online submission form <a href="https://www.lasvegasoptic.com/content/letter-editor">https://www.lasvegasoptic.com/content/letter-editor</a></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A writer may not submit more than one letter to the Las Vegas Optic per month.</li> <li>• Letters by the same writer that repeat an issue previously written about will not be published.</li> <li>• All letters should be received by 5 p.m. Monday for consideration in each week's issue.</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Los Alamos Daily Post-Los Alamos County</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Los Alamos Daily Post also publishes online the Jemez Post and Valley Daily Post.</li> <li>• Readers are invited to send in their best stories, columns, letters, press releases, photos, videos and news tips to help fill the Los Alamos Daily Post, Valley Daily Post (see below) and Jemez Post (see above) with a wealth of rich and diverse local news.</li> <li>• Online only.</li> </ul>	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:caclark@dailypost.com">caclark@dailypost.com</a> (Editor Carol A. Clark)</p> <p>Mail to 1247 Central Ave Los Alamos, NM 87544</p>
<b><u>Navajo Times</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No instructions provided</li> </ul>	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:editor@navajotimes.com">editor@navajotimes.com</a> (Duane Beyer, Editor)</p>
<b><u>Rio Rancho Observer</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow instructions above for <i>Albuquerque Journal</i></li> <li>• Published weekly</li> </ul>	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:editor@rrobsver.com">editor@rrobsver.com</a> (Argen Duncan, Editor)</p> <p>Mail to 409 NM528 NE – Suite 101 Rio Rancho New Mexico 87125</p>
<b><u>Roswell Daily Record</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No instructions provided</li> </ul>	<p>Use online submission form <a href="https://www.rdrnews.com/contact/">https://www.rdrnews.com/contact/</a></p>
<b><u>Ruidoso News</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters may be edited for brevity, clarity, libel and taste.</li> <li>• Letters must be 225 words or less to be considered for publication.</li> <li>• Letters must include the writer's full name, address, ZIP code and phone number for verification purposes.</li> <li>• Please allow 30 days between letters.</li> </ul>	<p>Use online submission form <a href="https://static.ruidosonews.com/lettertoeditor/">https://static.ruidosonews.com/lettertoeditor/</a></p>
<b><u>Sandoval Signpost—Placitas, Bernalillo, Corrales, and Sandoval County</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Signpost welcomes letters of opinion to encourage dialog in the community.</li> <li>• Letters are subject to editing for length, clarity, libel, and other considerations.</li> <li>• Published monthly.</li> <li>• Submit letters by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month prior to the month of interest</li> </ul>	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:email@sandovalsignpost.com">email@sandovalsignpost.com</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://www.sandovalsignpost.com">https://www.sandovalsignpost.com</a></p> <p>Mail to Sandoval Signpost P.O. Box 889 Placita, NM 87043</p> <p>Drop Box Inside the Merc at Homestead Village 221 Highway 165, Placitas 2 miles east off I-25 (exit 242)</p>

<b><u>Santa Fe New Mexican</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Santa Fe New Mexican welcomes submissions to the popular Letters to the Editor and My View features of the Opinion section.</li> <li>• Letters to the Editor are limited to 150 words.</li> <li>• My View features provide a space of up to 600 words.</li> <li>• All submissions are subject to editing, including for clarity, length, civility and style.</li> <li>• Some My View submissions may be edited to run as letters to the editor.</li> <li>• Questions about the opinion section can be sent to <a href="mailto:letters@sfnewmexican.com">letters@sfnewmexican.com</a>.</li> <li>• Contact information is required for opinion submissions and will be verified by an editor.</li> </ul>	<p>Use online submission form  <a href="#"><u>Santa Fe New Mexican Letters to the Editor</u></a></p>
<b><u>Taos News</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be concise, preferably under 250 words.</li> <li>• We reserve the right to edit all letters for style, brevity, space and clarity.</li> <li>• No anonymous letters or thank you letters will be printed.</li> </ul>	<p>Use online submission form  <a href="https://www.taosnews.com/forms/letters/"><u>https://www.taosnews.com/forms/letters/</u></a></p>
<b><u>Valencia County News-Bulletin</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Published weekly on Thursdays</li> <li>• 250 word limit</li> <li>• No other instructions provided</li> </ul>	<p>Use online submission form  <a href="https://www.news-bulletin.com/site/forms/online_services/letter_editor/"><u>https://www.news-bulletin.com/site/forms/online_services/letter_editor/</u></a></p>
<b><u>Valley Daily Post-Los Alamos</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Valley Daily Post welcomes op-eds from members of the public and candidates for political office but does not support or endorse any candidate for political office.</li> <li>• No additional instructions provided.</li> <li>• Online only.</li> </ul>	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:Reporter@ValleyDailyPost.com">Reporter@ValleyDailyPost.com</a></p>

## APPENDIX 2: EXAMPLE OF REVISED LETTER TO REMOVE PARTISAN CONTENT

Letter considered to be political advertising by *Rio Rancho Observer*.

Published version with partisan content removed.

Editor:

With democracy on November's ballot, progressives must put aside our disappointment and ensure Joe Biden and the entire Democratic ticket are elected.

We have already won the war of ideas. Majorities of Democrats and independents favor Medicare for All. A majority of all Americans believe that climate change should be a top priority for the president and Congress.

Our only chance to meaningfully address the many critical issues facing our country—public and personal health, the environment, resuscitation of our economy, wealth inequality, student debt, immigration, mass incarceration, public education, and more—is with a Democrat in the White House and Democrats in both houses of Congress.

Another Trump Supreme Court justice would be fatal to our civil liberties and civil rights.

The self-anointed "pro-life" Republicans Party has been exposed as anything but for life. Trump and his acolytes have allowed COVID-19 to become a catastrophe and caused countless unnecessary deaths by first denying the pandemic and then delaying and bumbling its response. They told us the elderly should become human sacrifices on the altar of the stock market so business as usual can quickly resume. They suggested we pack the churches on Easter despite a life-threatening contagion ravaging our country. They withheld life-saving equipment and supplies to punish states that did not vote for Trump or had governors who failed to show sufficient appreciation. What could be less life affirming?

Our votes will write the next chapter of American history. Let's write a chapter that cherishes our democracy and works to make it better.

Sincerely,

Editor:

With democracy on November's ballot, progressives must act to ensure that that we preserve the system of government envisioned by the Founding Fathers.

We have already won the war of ideas. Especially with the onslaught of COVID-19, Americans increasingly favor universal health coverage. A majority of all Americans believe that climate change should be a top priority for the president and Congress.

Our only chance to meaningfully address the many critical issues facing our country—public and personal health, the environment, resuscitation of our economy, wealth inequality, student debt, immigration, mass incarceration, public education, and more—is through our vote in the November election.

Another Supreme Court justice in the mold of the two most recent appointees would be fatal to our civil liberties and civil rights.

The self-anointed "pro-life" conservatives have been exposed as not even remotely valuing life. They have allowed COVID-19 to become a catastrophe and caused countless unnecessary deaths by first denying the pandemic and then delaying and bumbling its response. They told us the elderly should become human sacrifices on the altar of the stock market so business as usual can quickly resume. They suggested we pack the churches on Easter despite a life-threatening contagion ravaging our country. They withheld life-saving equipment and supplies to punish blue states or had governors who failed to show sufficient appreciation. What could be less life affirming?

Our votes will write the next chapter of American history. Let's write a chapter that cherishes our democracy and works to make it better.

Sincerely,

(Published in the *Rio Rancho Observer*, April 19, 2020)