

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Valerie Espinoza was elected to the office of County Clerk in 2004. Since taking office on January 1, 2005, Valerie has succeeded in getting all of Santa Fe's polling locations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, helped pass legislation for an all paper ballot voting system in New Mexico and successfully implemented this system in Santa Fe County prior to the general election of 2006. Updating of the County voter files is also a priority which Valerie focused on since she came into office. Updates made to County voter records are also now being made to the State's records because of the office's use of the State Voter Registration System.

As the Clerk, Valerie is also responsible for keeping the official records of the county. She is presently working to preserve some of the older records the county possesses by obtaining funds from the state so that these records can be digitally duplicated for safekeeping and backup. The oldest probate and real estate records date back to 1848.

### **Valerie is a recipient of:**

- The Pollution Prevention Awareness Award, awarded by the Los Alamos National Laboratory

### **Valerie serves presently as:**

- Member of the Board of Trustees of Santa Fe Children's Museum
- Member of the Santa Fe County Task Force on DWI
- Host of weekly public outreach TV program "Santa Fe Today" on local channel 16 community access
- Host of weekly radio program on elections in the county and state, Que Suave, KSWV Radio AM 810
- New Mexico Director of the International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials and Treasurers
- Member of the National and New Mexico Association of Counties
- Member of the County Clerk's Affiliate of the New Mexico Association of Counties
- Member of the national Association of Latino Elected Officials
- Volunteer lobbyist for many causes benefiting the disabled, underprivileged, animal rights, children, including the Santa Fe Children's Museum, and for groups concerned with water such as the Greater Chimayo Water Association.
- Member of MANA (Mexican-American Women's National Association) del Norte.
- Open Hands Board Member
- Chairwoman of the Governor's Animal Shelter Services Board
- Espanola Animal Shelter Advisory Board

**Valerie has served as a:**

- Member of the Northern New Mexico Humane Society Advisor Board
- Del Norte Red Cross Board member
- Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Member
- Northern New Mexico Crisis Center Board Member
- Member of the State Commission for Film & Media Industries
- Member of the Sustainable Enhancement Team (SET) Task Force on Election Process

**Education:**

- Bachelor of Arts from the College of Santa Fe in Organizational Psychology (1997)
- Associate of Applied Science from Northern New Mexico Community College in Human Services (1993)
- Graduate of Espanola High School
- Received training and acquired skills in mediation, negotiation, conflict management and resolution while working at the Los Alamos National Laboratory

**Employment:**

- Office of the Secretary of State (1979-1984): Started as a temporary clerk and during the next six years advanced to supervisor of the Notary Public Division of the Operations Division and authored procedures for that division use by future Secretaries of State and their employees
- Los Alamos National Laboratory: (1984-2004): Started as Senior Clerk and during the next 20 years advanced up the ranks to Executive Office Administrator in the Office of the Deputy Associate Laboratory Director, with duties including support to Senior Managers and Directors from various laboratory organizations, the U.S. Department of Energy and other federal and state agencies; established and was responsible for providing guidelines for office staff; coordinated large conferences and executive visits to the Laboratory; was the organizer for the Laboratory 1995 University Outreach Special Programs project which included placing, interviewing, hiring, and counseling 170 minority students from around the world; was the designated Meeting Planner for Legislative and Congressional staff visits

Valerie was born in Santa Fe, is the mother of Vanessa Romero and a grandmother of Vannah Romero, both of Santa Fe. Valerie loves serving the citizens of Santa Fe County and proudly gives credit to her staff for helping streamline and improve the services the County Clerks Office provides.