

# Santa Fe County Proclamation

## PROCLAIMING SANTA FE COUNTY AS “A COUNTY FOR CITIZENSHIP”

Introduced by: Commissioner Lisa Cacari Stone

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico has a long and proud history of welcoming immigrants, refugees, and newcomers and recognizing the many contributions they make to the strength, vitality, and diversity of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, a healthy democracy depends upon informed, meaningful, and inclusive civic participation; yet communities across the United States continue to face challenges posed by disinformation, voter suppression, and efforts to exclude immigrant and historically marginalized communities from full participation in civic life; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 3,000-3,500 lawful permanent residents in Santa Fe County may be eligible to apply for United States citizenship, representing an important opportunity to strengthen civic participation and community engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, naturalization allows community members to vote and run for certain elected positions and can provide economic and career advantages, educational opportunities, and access to certain benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, the increasing cost of the naturalization process, limited access to legal counsel, and lack of awareness about the citizenship process can create significant barriers for eligible lawful permanent residents, particularly individuals and families with limited financial resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Citizenship Now!, a program of Somos Un Pueblo Unido, in partnership with the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe Literacy Volunteers, Guadalupe Credit Union, Contigo Immigrant Justice, and other community organizations, seeks to address and reduce these barriers by providing information, education, and support to eligible lawful permanent residents, in partnership with other community organizations and Santa Fe County; and

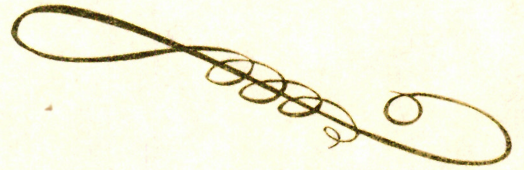
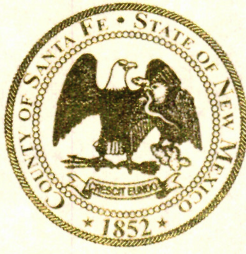
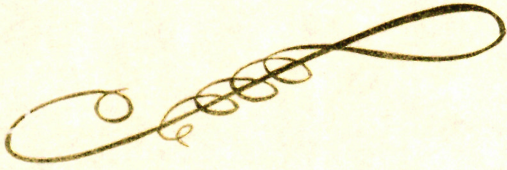
**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the efforts of cities and counties throughout the United States to expand access to citizenship through the Cities & Counties for Citizenship (CC4C) initiative and recognizes the potential of this national network to provide resources, partnerships, and models for future County initiatives supporting naturalization.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM SANTA FE COUNTY AS:**

## “A COUNTY FOR CITIZENSHIP”

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED**, that Santa Fe County will join Cities & Counties for Citizenship (CC4C), a network of more than 117 cities and counties nationwide, and use this partnership to expand awareness of the naturalization process, connect eligible lawful permanent residents with trusted citizenship resources and legal services, and strengthen civic participation throughout Santa Fe County.





**BE IT FINALLY PROCLAIMED**, that the Board celebrates the many contributions of immigrants and naturalized citizens and affirms Santa Fe County's commitment to an inclusive democracy in which all eligible residents have meaningful opportunities to participate in civic life and pursue United States citizenship.

**APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED ON THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.**

Justin S. Greene, Chair  
Commissioner District 1

Adam F. Johnson, Vice Chair  
Commissioner District 4

Lisa Cacari Stone  
Commissioner District 2

Camilla Bustamante  
Commissioner District 3

Hank Hughes  
Commissioner District 5

Gregory S. Shaffer  
Santa Fe County Manager

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

for

Walker Boyd  
Santa Fe County Attorney

**ATTESTATION:**

Katharine E. Clark  
Santa Fe County Clerk

