

# SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2023

### **Santa Fe County Clerk Katharine E. Clark Urges Voters to Drop, Not Mail, Their Absentee Ballots**

**Santa Fe** – With Election Day fast approaching, Santa Fe County Clerk Katharine E. Clark is urging voters to drop, not mail, their absentee ballots at designated locations. This important advisory comes as part of an effort to ensure that all absentee ballots are counted and to educate voters on recent changes in legislation affecting the absentee voting process.

“Casting an absentee ballot is an essential democratic right, and we want to ensure that every vote counts,” explains Clerk Clark. “We’ve noticed common questions among our voters about the absentee ballot process, and this press release aims to address those.”

#### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number and Signature Required**

Due to a law that took effect this summer, it's now mandatory to include the last four digits of your Social Security Number on your absentee ballot. Additionally, don't forget to sign the back of your ballot before submitting it. These measures are designed to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process.

#### **Drop, Not Mail, Your Absentee Ballot**

The United States Postal Service advises allowing 7-10 days for mail delivery. Given that all ballots must be back at the Clerk's Office by 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted, we strongly recommend dropping off your ballot at any open polling location or one of our permanent drop boxes across the county. Drop-off locations can be found at [SantaFe.vote](https://www.santafe.vote).

#### **Ballot 'Curing' Process for Missing or Mismatched Information**

The Clerk's Office is proactively reaching out to a limited number of voters who need to 'cure' their ballots due to missing or mismatched Social Security numbers or signatures. If you're contacted, please immediately respond to be assisted with the curing process.

#### **Additional Information**

- **Current Absentee Ballot Statistics:** Of the nearly 6,000 absentee ballot requests, approximately 30% are already back at the Clerk's Office, ready to be counted.
- **Checking Ballot Status:** Voters can visit [NMVote.org](https://nmvote.org) to check if their absentee ballot has been received. Alternatively, you can sign up for email or SMS updates at [SantaFe.vote](https://www.santafe.vote).
- **Detailed FAQs and Instructions:** For more in-depth information, visit [SantaFe.vote](https://www.santafe.vote).
- **Closed Absentee Ballot Requests:** Requests for absentee ballots closed on October 24th. However, if you missed the deadline, you can contact the Clerk's Office for emergency ballot procedures or find the form online at [SantaFe.vote](https://www.santafe.vote).

“We're committed to maximizing voter participation while maintaining the highest standards of election integrity,” adds Clark. “If you have any more questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact our office at 505-986-6280.”

For further information, please visit [SantaFe.vote](https://www.santafe.vote) or call 505-986-6280