

# SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2025

### **Santa Fe County Clerk’s Office Brings Democracy 101 to Amy Biehl Community School Students**

**Santa Fe County, NM** — The Santa Fe County Clerk’s Office visited Amy Biehl Community School this week to help prepare 3rd–6th graders for their upcoming student council elections. Clerk’s Office staff members Margaret Gouws and Vanessa Apodaca gave an age-friendly version of Clerk Katharine E. Clark’s *Democracy 101* presentation, which is usually presented to high school audiences.

The presentation introduced students to the basics of voting, why it matters, and how the election process works. Students learned about registering to vote, casting a ballot, and even how Santa Fe uses ranked choice voting. To make the lesson fun and interactive, the Clerk’s Office brought giveaways including stickers, buttons, and coloring pages.

“We want young people to see voting as something familiar and approachable,” said Clerk Katharine E. Clark. “By the time they’re old enough to register, they’ll already understand that their voice matters.”

### **KidsVote: Practice Makes Future Voters**

Alongside the classroom visit, the Clerk’s Office also reminded families about KidsVote, a program designed to let children practice voting during early voting. Kids who accompany their parent or guardian to the polls can cast a practice ballot on fun topics—such as favorite ice cream flavors—using real-looking ballots and tabulators. Participants receive a sticker and get to experience what it’s like to vote, while parents don’t have to worry about finding extra childcare.

KidsVote will be offered at the following locations during early voting:

- **Clerk’s Office** (240 Grant Ave., Santa Fe, NM)
  - October 7 – November 1
  - Mon–Fri, 8am–5pm
  - *Open one Saturday only, Nov. 1, 10am–6pm*
  - *Closed Monday, Oct. 13 for Indigenous People’s Day*
- **Nancy Rodriguez Community Center** (1 Prairie Dog Loop, Santa Fe, NM)
  - October 18 – November 1

- Saturdays, 10am–6pm
- Tues–Fri, 11am–7pm

### **I Voted Sticker Contest**

The Clerk’s Office also shared details about the 2025 “I Voted” Sticker Design Contest, which closed to public voting earlier today.

This year’s contest received 57 entries from students across Santa Fe County, ranging in age from 6 to 17. After a review panel selected the top 10 finalists, community members cast nearly 400 ballots using a Ranked Choice Voting system—the same method Santa Fe voters will use in the upcoming Regular Local Election for the mayoral race.

This hands-on experience gave residents a chance to help choose the winning designs while also practicing Ranked Choice Voting. The top three designs will be announced tomorrow and printed as official “I Voted” stickers for upcoming elections, with all finalists celebrated on the Clerk’s Office website and social media channels.

“Engaging students in elections through art and creativity is an exciting way to build civic awareness,” said Clerk Katharine E. Clark. “By inviting the public to use Ranked Choice Voting to select our sticker winners, we’re also giving voters hands-on practice with the same system they’ll use in November.”

### **For Media Inquiries:**

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