

# SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

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### **Santa Fe County Clerk's Office Brings KidsVote: Democracy Delivered to César Chávez Elementary School**

**Santa Fe County, NM** – The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office recently brought its KidsVote: Democracy Delivered program to César Chávez Elementary School, engaging more than 50 third-grade students in a hands-on civic education experience designed to introduce young learners to the voting process in a fun, age-appropriate way.

During the visit, students learned the basics of how elections work, including what voting is, why it matters, how to mark a ballot correctly, and how election workers help keep elections fair and secure. Students also participated in a mock election using official voting equipment, giving them the opportunity to experience what it's like to cast a ballot and see how votes are counted.

KidsVote: Democracy Delivered brings the Clerk's Office directly into classrooms, removing transportation and cost barriers that can make field trips difficult for schools. By meeting students where they are, the program helps build early familiarity with civic participation and encourages curiosity about how local elections work.

Research shows that voting is a habit-forming behavior, and that early positive experiences with civic participation can make individuals more likely to stay engaged as they grow older. By introducing students to the voting process in an accessible, hands-on way, KidsVote helps begin building those habits long before students are eligible to cast a real ballot.

The program also introduces students to basic concepts of election security and integrity, helping them understand how elections are protected and administered. By sharing accurate, age-appropriate information now, the Clerk's Office aims to support young people in developing critical thinking skills and resilience to election misinformation later in life.

“Early civic education helps students understand that their voices matter and that elections are an important way communities make decisions together,” said Santa Fe County Clerk Katharine E. Clark. “By bringing KidsVote directly into classrooms, we’re helping young learners build confidence in the democratic process long before they are eligible to vote.”

The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office launched KidsVote in 2024 and continues to expand the program through KidsVote: Democracy Delivered, which brings interactive election demonstrations into schools across the county. The program is part of the Clerk's Office's

broader voter education and outreach efforts to promote trust, transparency, and long-term civic engagement.

**How to Participate**

Teachers and school administrators interested in scheduling a KidsVote: Democracy Delivered visit can contact the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office to request a classroom visit.

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