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## Serious Election Concerns 8 *Graves Preocupaciones Electorales*

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**Chris M. Fresquez**  
President / CEO - Publisher

**Toni C. Fresquez**  
Editor

**Juan Carlos Uribe**  
Translator / Web Services

**Raya Tkachenko**  
Layout/Production

**THE WEEKLY ISSUE / El Semanario**

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 460428, Glendale CO 80246

**Colorado:**  
8400 East Crescent Parkway  
Greenwood Village CO 80111

**New Mexico:**  
500 Marquette Ave. NW,  
Albuquerque NM 87102



800-886-4054  
303-672-0800  
720-368-5387 Fax



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## Commentary/Commentario

## In The Next Elections, Let's Avoid Making the Same Mistake Twice

**Maribel Hastings and David Torres**

**O**ne would think, perhaps innocently, that cataclysmic events have the effect of making people change their methods, their priorities—or become more conscious of the fragility that surrounds us on various matters, including politics. But on that front specifically, it seems like the lessons learned have been few.

Right now, we continue to hear, read, and see political messages with the same racist and anti-immigrant tone on the part of Republican candidates—those who not only attack minority communities, but are positioned to be, yet again, among the voters who granted power to one of the most xenophobic presidents in the history of the United States.

Let's review. Almost six years have transpired since the 2016 elections that ushered in Trumpism and its subsequent disasters on various fronts, especially at the constitutional and democratic levels; almost two years have passed since the 2020 general election that Joe Biden won, but Donald Trump claimed was fraudulent, an

argument that resulted in the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol by violent followers of Trump, and his attempted coup d'état to block Biden's certification as president-elect. The chaos resulted in deaths.

“

Not one more stumble can be allowed, or we risk losing everything.

Those who followed the events of that day live could see firsthand how disinformation; the propagation of lies as if they were truth; and racism, xenophobia, ignorance, and ill will combined to make a lethal cocktail affecting life, property, and democracy itself.

It's not an "action and intrigue" television series, but the reality in today's United States, that showed the world the complaints of a segment of society that has never understood the historic privilege of diversity and inclusion. And also hasn't understood the meaning of democracy.

When Biden finally assumed the presidency, he inherited not only

the disasters of Trump's scandalous presidency, but also the pandemic which had repercussions on the economy, on top of a nation that is pitifully divided. He's had to deal with foreign wars, like the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and internal wars, taking place in his own Democratic Party, or rather led by conservative Democrats—Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona—who paralyzed Biden's agenda in Congress through their opposition to central measures like the urgent investment plan. Biden is also yet another president who has to deal with the scourge of easy access to weapons that, added to racial prejudices promoted by white nationalists, have resulted in massacres targeting minorities.

Equally sad examples abound. But the most recent ones inflame the danger and anxiety in which minorities like Latinos live, such as the El Paso massacre in 2019, which left 23 people dead at the hands of a 21 year-old white supremacist who believed in the "Hispanic invasion" conspiracy theory.

Add inflation to that, and the panorama appears catastrophic for anyone who presides over this nation.



Photo/Foto: América's Voice



Photo/Foto: América's Voice

It's no coincidence that Biden's approval ratings are abysmal in this midterm election year, when it is feared that the Democrats will possibly lose control of both chambers of Congress.

But parallel to this panorama, in the three ring circus that is U.S. politics, congressional hearings about the events of January 6 are coming to a head and have revealed scandalous facts about Trump's role, not only in having implored the mob to go to the Capitol, but failing to do anything as Commander in Chief to stop the chaos, even when the mob was looking for Vice President Mike Pence, to hang him.

In fact, the hearings that have taken place to determine what

really happened that day and the degree of influence the former president had on this shameful event have shown us, with a level of crudeness, that basically, a mafia was installed in power in the most democratic country in the world, with bad intentions that could—and still may—forever mar the political and democratic history of the United States.

The hearings have shined a light on Trump's role before, during, and after the January 6, 2021 assault; documented, step by step, how a U.S. president tried to corrupt state and elections officials to alter the results of the election; and how his

**See Hastings & Torres on page 22**

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## Evitemos Tropezar Dos Veces con la Misma Piedra

**Maribel Hastings and David Torres**

**U**n piensa, a veces inocentemente, que los hechos cataclísmicos tienen el efecto de lograr que las personas cambien sus modos, sus prioridades o se hagan más conscientes de la fragilidad que nos rodea en diversos ámbitos, incluyendo el político. Pero precisamente en ese frente, tal parece que han sido pocas las lecciones aprendidas.

Ahora mismo seguimos escuchando, leyendo y viendo mensajes políticos con el mismo tono racista y antiinmigrante por parte de candidatos republicanos, con los que no solamente arremeten contra comunidades de minorías, sino que se posicionan de nuevo entre los votantes que colocaron en el poder a uno de los presidentes más xenófobos de la historia de Estados Unidos.

Pasemos revista. Han transcurrido casi seis años de la elección de 2016 que nos trajo el Trumpismo y su secuela de desastres en diversos frentes, sobre todo a

“

No se puede permitir un trastabilleo más, sino a riesgo de perderlo todo.

nivel constitucional y democrático; han pasado casi dos años de la elección general de 2020 que Joe Biden ganó, pero que Donald Trump tildó de fraudulentas, argumento que llevó al ataque al Capitolio el 6 de enero de 2021 por las violentas huestes de Trump y su intentona de golpe de estado para evitar la certificación de Biden como presidente electo. El caos resultó en muertes.

Quienes siguieron los hechos de ese día en vivo pudieron ver de primera mano cómo la desinformación, la propagación de mentiras cual si fueran verdades, el racismo, la xenofobia, la ignorancia y la maldad resultaron en un cóctel letal para la vida, la propiedad y la misma democracia.

**Vea Hastings & Torres/Esp, página 18**

## The Danger of Normalizing the Former Presidents' Enablers

Sonali Kolhatkar

**T**he historic House Select Committee's hearings on the insurrection of Jan. 6, 2021, are a necessary undertaking for the health of our democracy. The fact that most of the witnesses are Republican—and many are former members of Donald Trump's own inner circle—greatly bolsters the committee's credibility. In our hyper-partisan reality, this fact can also lead to a temptation to hail the witnesses as courageous, honorable figures putting their consciences above ideology. But the truth is, these same people not only witnessed, but actively enabled, the Trump presidency, and all the harm that came with it. Ignoring this critical fact risks leaving the nation vulnerable to future demagogues.

Take Cassidy Hutchinson, the top aide to former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, who testified on June 28. The Select Committee held an unscheduled, special hearing, featuring live and

recorded testimony from Hutchinson.

During her testimony, Hutchinson painted a picture of the former president as a belligerent man-child with a propensity for violence, who didn't care that the insurrectionists on Jan. 6 were dangerously armed, and who wanted so desperately to march into the Capitol with them that he tackled his Secret Service driver.



The truth is, these same people not only witnessed, but actively enabled, the Trump presidency, and all the harm that came with it.

Select Committee Chair Bennie Thompson lauded Hutchinson's willingness to testify, saying, "Thanks to the courage of certain individuals, the truth won't be buried. The American people won't be

left in the dark. Our witness today, Ms. Cassidy Hutchinson, has embodied that courage."

But Hutchinson, who joined Trump's staff in March 2020, let slip one crucial sentence during her testimony that jolted me from the admiration I, too, had started to feel while watching the hearing. When asked how she felt about one of Trump's particularly damning tweets about former Vice President Mike Pence, Hutchinson said, "As a staffer that worked to always represent the administration to the best of my ability, and to showcase the good things that he had done for the country, I remember feeling frustrated and disappointed..."

What good things was she referring to?

Did she mean Trump's deliberate policy of separating thousands of immigrant children from their parents? Or his embrace of White supremacists? Or perhaps installing three Supreme Court justices who are so extreme that Hutchinson, like all Americans capable of pregnancy, no longer had a guar-

anteed constitutional right to an abortion? Or maybe she was referring to his criminal negligence on the COVID-19 pandemic. Or perhaps the tens of thousands of lies he incessantly told, or the thousands of conflicts of interest and ethics violations he engaged in? The list is endless, and whole books have been written about Trump's jaw-dropping violations of morality, ethics, laws, and propriety. Hutchinson was apparently comfortable representing and showcasing this fascistic smorgasbord of evil deeds—until the days before Jan. 6, 2021.

Trump made clear from the moment he ran for president what sort of leader he would be when he railed against Mexicans as drug traffickers, criminals, and rapists coming into the U.S. during his very first campaign speech in 2015.

Trump then spent his career in the White House relentlessly expressing his authoritarian tendencies as overtly as possible—all of which predictably led to his refusal to accept the election results in



Photo: Yes Magazine

2020. Every moment of Trump's presidency was a warning that he was a despot who would not respect the law or the Constitution if either stood in his way. None of Trump's actions leading up to and during the insurrection ought to have been surprising, least of all to those who surrounded him intimately.

It's not just Hutchinson, who might be forgiven her ignorance on account of her political inexperience—she is only 25. Vice President Mike Pence is being hailed

See Kolhatkar on page 17

## State Lawmakers Must Act to Save Democracy From GOP Attacks

Andrew Hong and Aidan Smith

**T**he January 6 commission hearings cement what even the most casual observer has known for years: The state of American democracy is in absolute crisis, and it's only going to get worse without immediate intervention. While our institutions were strong enough to prevent Donald Trump from stealing the 2020 election, America's remaining democratic safeguards continue to crumble, especially at the state level.

With Congress having failed to safeguard American voting rights in the 117th Congress, anti-democratic forces across the country have continued to push forward their radical right-wing agenda.

From draconian voting restrictions to the possibility that opponents of democracy will oversee elections in key swing states in 2024, progressives must push back vigilantly at the state level to revitalize democracy.

The single best way to safeguard Americans' right to vote is through truly automatic voter registration (AVR). After all, one of the main ways that reactionary politicians have been able to get away with anti-democratic voter roll purges is because it's done in the "fog" of an intentionally confusing system of self-registration.

The closest thing to true AVR is what is known as the "back-end" system, where individuals are automatically registered after a DMV visit (known as a "transaction") and have the choice to opt-out later.

This contrasts with the "opt-in" system, where would-be voters are asked on a DMV screen (or equivalent point of transaction) if they'd like to register. Unsurprisingly, the latter often leads to would-be voters reflexively declining to do so.

A comprehensive study of AVR authored by Rachel Funk Fordham and published by Data for Progress in March 2022 found that "Of all the varieties of AVR discussed in this report, a back-end, default, multiple-agency model" is "likely to be most successful in achieving the goals of increased electoral participation, greater turnout equality, and a straightforward, secure registration process." (Disclosure: Co-author Aidan Smith is a Senior Advisor at Data for Progress, but did not have a role in authoring the report).

States must also fight against partisan gerrymandering. In the United States, it is a national disgrace that elected leaders are able to effectively "pick their voters" through favorably gerrymandering schemes. In recent years, instances of gerrymandering in the U.S. have soared nationwide. In the 2020 redistricting cycle, both parties resorted to intensely gerrymandering states where they controlled redistricting in order to stave off gerrymander losses elsewhere.

Partisan gerrymandering often leads to fewer "majority-minority" districts, which occurred in the 2020 redistricting cycle despite the country becoming more diverse. Gerrymandering also creates fewer competitive "swing" districts, creating more elections where the outcome is predetermined by the



Our democracy is at its most vulnerable in decades.

ruling party. All of these symptoms of gerrymandering erode voter choice, voting rights for people of color, and our democracy at-large.

While state courts have historically acted as an accountability check against extreme partisan gerrymandering, the current right-wing majority of the U.S. Supreme Court may likely strip state court's power to stop partisan gerrymandering and undermine Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (which protects voting rights for racial minorities). We cannot rely on an extrem-

See Hong/Smith on page 17

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## Commentary / Comentario

## Lives Hang in the Balance as Time Runs Out for Action on Health Insurance



Photo: Laura Packard

Laura Packard

**F**ive years ago, I was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, Hodgkin's lymphoma. Yet I'm the lucky one. I could afford to get treatment.

Too many people in America don't have the health care they need, even today. The 2021 American Rescue Plan included subsidies to make health insurance more affordable than ever, resulting in a record-breaking health insurance enrollment of 14.5 million Americans for 2022.

The expiration of these crucial, live-saving subsidies is right around the corner. And unless renewed, voters will receive news of

their 2023 premium hikes right before the November midterms.

I'm a small business owner, and my health insurance has been through the Affordable Care Act ever since it was an option. Before the ACA, I used to have junk insurance. There wasn't any better option for small business owners and freelancers. I took my chances, because I had no other choice. And then I got cancer.

It cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to save my life, to pay for the six months of chemotherapy and month of radiation treatments I needed to remove the malignant tumors throughout my body. If I still had that junk insurance policy, today I would be bankrupt or dead.

But instead, I could afford to be in remission. Because I was diagnosed and treated after I had an ACA health insurance policy, the Affordable Care Act covered my ruinous expenses after the deductible kicked in. However, surviving cancer is not cheap. I still have medical bills every year, as my care team includes multiple specialists for cancer and for long term survivorship.

My health insurance is my lifeline. I didn't qualify for subsidies in 2017, but thankfully I could afford

the out-of-pocket cost of a subsidized ACA plan. Many Americans can't.

Without swift action from Con-

“

Without swift action from Congress, tens of millions of Americans will face skyrocketing premium increases, pricing them out of health insurance.

gress, tens of millions of Americans will face skyrocketing premium increases, pricing them out of health insurance. Congressional inaction will rob them of life-saving care — during a global pandemic. Many millions of Americans will face life-long medical conditions based on COVID-19 alone.

Senators are officially back in their offices, following a two-week break. As they set their agenda for the last few days before the Aug. 5 recess, they must prioritize a renewal of the Obamacare subsidies in any upcoming negotiations on a budget reconciliation bill. The

deadline for a budget bill is Sept. 30, but insurance companies are already pricing in their increases now for next year.

Republicans have been consistent in their opposition to life-saving access to health care, and have voted against Americans' health care for years. They will not act to shore up the ACA in a bipartisan manner. So all 50 Senate Democrats and a majority of House Democrats must band together to avoid the impending catastrophe if these health insurance subsidies expire. President Biden is calling for a renewal of the ACA subsidies in the American Rescue Plan now. Congress must deliver.

American lives hang in the balance — there is no time to waste. Too many of us live in fear of our health care being threatened. Going without insurance is not an option when you have a chronic disease or condition, or the possi-

bility of cancer or a heart attack or a stroke returning.

Please contact your senators and representatives today to push them to make health care finally affordable, starting with renewing the ACA subsidies in the budget reconciliation bill now. We will all be health care voters in November, but action on the advanced premium tax credits must happen now.

*Laura Packard is a stage 4 cancer survivor and Denver-based health care advocate, founder of Voices of Health Care Action and executive director of Health Care Voter. She hosts CareTalk, a weekly consumer call-in show on health care and health insurance issues in America on Mondays at 4:30 p.m. Eastern time. This article is republished from Colorado Newsline under a Creative Commons license.*

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## This is a Pivotal Moment to Cover Voting Access

Natalia Contreras

**I** am 33 years old and I have never voted — in Texas, the United States, or anywhere else.

And the reason isn't because I don't want to, or because I don't trust elections. It's simply because I can't vote.

“

When we are able to understand the nuance around elections and the voting process, our communities are empowered to take action on policies and issues that impact them.



Photo: Voteheat

Still, so many people — myself included — no matter how long they've lived in the United States, no matter how hard they work to provide for their families, cannot vote. No matter their "good moral character" or whether or not they made it to the U.S. by "doing it the right way," they are excluded from the process.

The various consequences of systemic racism have kept immigrants and people of color like me from voting. I'm also conscious that racism contributed to efforts that took land from my ancestors in Texas to defend slavery, to America's flawed immigration laws and policies, and to suppressive voting laws that continue to keep so many, especially people

I was born in México. I was 11 years old and did not speak a word of English when my mother and I immigrated to Corpus Christi, Texas.

I have a green card. I have been working, paying taxes, and contributing as a member of my community since I was a teenager.

See Contreras on page 24

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## Boost Now or Wait? Many Wonder How Best to Ride Out Covid's Next Wave

By Sam Whitehead and Arthur Allen

**G**wyneth Paige didn't want to get vaccinated against covid-19 at first. With her health issues — hypertension, fibromyalgia, asthma — she wanted to see how other people fared after the shots. Then her mother got colon cancer.

"At that point, I didn't care if the vaccine killed me," she said. "To be with my mother throughout her journey, I had to have the vaccination."

Paige, who is 56 and lives in Detroit, has received three doses. That leaves her one booster short of federal health recommendations.

Like Paige, who said she doesn't currently plan to get another booster, some Americans seem comfortable with the protection of three shots. But others may wonder what to do: Boost again now with one of the original vaccines, or wait months for promised new formulations tailored to the latest,

highly contagious omicron subvariants, BA.4 and BA.5?

The rapidly mutating virus has created a conundrum for the public and a communications challenge for health officials.

**“**

"There are many people who are at high risk right now, and waiting until October, November for their boost — when in fact their risk is in the moment — is not a good plan."

Dr. Rochelle Walensky,  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

"What we're seeing now is a little bit of an information void that is not helping people make the right decision," said Dr. Carlos del Rio, a professor of infectious diseases at the Emory University School of Medicine.

Del Rio said the public isn't hearing enough about the vaccines' value in preventing severe disease, even if they don't stop all infections. Each new covid variant also forces health officials to tweak their messaging, del Rio said, which can add to public mistrust.

About 70% of Americans age 50 and older who got a first booster shot — and nearly as many of those 65 and older — haven't received their second covid booster dose, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The agency currently recommends two booster shots after a primary vaccine series for adults 50 and older and for younger people with compromised immune systems. Last week, multiple news outlets reported that the Biden administration was working on a plan to allow all adults to get second covid boosters.

Officials are worried about the surge of BA.4 and BA.5, which spread easily and can escape immune protection from vaccination or prior infection. A recent study



The public isn't hearing enough about Covid vaccines' value in preventing severe disease. / El público no escucha lo suficiente sobre el valor de las vacunas de Covid para prevenir enfermedades graves.

Photo/Foto: AdobeStock

published in Nature found BA.5 was four times as resistant to the currently available mRNA vaccines as earlier omicron subvariants.

Consistent messaging has been complicated by the different views of leading vaccine scientists. Although physicians like del Rio and Dr. Peter Hotez of Baylor College of Medicine see the value in getting a second booster, Dr. Paul Offit, a

member of the FDA's vaccine advisory committee, is skeptical it's needed by anyone but seniors and people who are immunocompromised.

"When experts have different views based on the same science, why are we surprised that getting the message right is confusing?"

See Covid on page 16

## Muchos se Preguntan Cómo Navegar la Próxima Ola de Covid

Por Sam Whitehead and Arthur Allen

**A**l principio, Gwyneth Paige no quería vacunarse contra covid-19. Con sus problemas de salud, hipertensión, fibromialgia, asma, quería ver cómo le iba a otras personas. Entonces su madre contrajo cáncer de colon.

"En ese momento, no me importaba si la vacuna me mataba", dijo. "Para estar con mi madre durante toda su odisea, tenía que vacunarme".

Paige, que tiene 56 años y vive en Detroit, ha recibido tres dosis. Eso la deja con un refuerzo por debajo de las recomendaciones federales de salud.

Al igual que Paige, quien dijo que no planea por ahora recibir otro refuerzo, algunos estadounidenses parecen sentirse cómodos con la protección de tres dosis. Pero otros se preguntan qué hacer: ¿ponerse un refuerzo ahora? ¿o esperar a las nuevas formulaciones

que ataquen a BA.4 y BA.5, las subvariantes de ómicron más contagiosas?

El virus que muta rápidamente ha generado un enigma para el público y un desafío de comunicación para los oficiales de salud.

**“**

"Hay muchas personas que están en alto riesgo en este momento, y esperar hasta octubre o noviembre para recibir su refuerzo, cuando en realidad su riesgo es ahora. No es un buen plan",

Dra. Rochelle Walensky,  
Centros para el Control  
y la Prevención de  
Enfermedades

"Lo que estamos viendo ahora es un vacío de información que no está ayudando a las personas a tomar la decisión correcta", dijo el

doctor Carlos del Rio, profesor de enfermedades infecciosas en la Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad Emory.

Del Rio dijo que el público no escucha lo suficiente sobre el valor de las vacunas para prevenir enfermedades graves, incluso si no previenen todas las infecciones. Cada nueva variante de covid también obliga a los funcionarios a modificar sus mensajes, dijo Del Rio, lo que puede aumentar la desconfianza pública.

Aproximadamente el 70% de los estadounidenses de 50 años o más que recibieron una primera vacuna de refuerzo contra covid, y casi la misma cantidad de personas de 65 años o más, no han recibido un segundo, según datos de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC).

Actualmente, la agencia recomienda dos dosis de refuerzo después de una serie de vacunas primarias para adultos de 50 años o más y para personas más

jóvenes con sistemas inmunitarios comprometidos. Hace pocos días, varios medios de comunicación informaron que la administración Biden estaba trabajando en un plan para permitir que todos los adultos recibieran un segundo refuerzo contra covid.

Los funcionarios están preocupados por el aumento de BA.4 y BA.5, que se propagan fácilmente y pueden escapar a la protección inmunológica de la vacunación o de una infección previa. Un estudio reciente publicado en Nature encontró que BA.5 era cuatro veces más resistente a las vacunas de ARNm actualmente disponibles que las subvariantes anteriores de ómicron.

Los mensajes consistentes se han complicado por las diferentes opiniones de los principales científicos. Aunque médicos como del Rio y el doctor Peter Hotez del Baylor College of Medicine ven el valor de recibir un segundo refuerzo, el doctor Paul Offit,

miembro del comité asesor de vacunas de la administración de Alimentos y Medicamentos (FDA), se muestra escéptico a menos que la persona sea mayor o inmunocomprometida.

"Cuando los expertos tienen diferentes puntos de vista basados en la misma ciencia, ¿por qué nos sorprende la confusión?", dijo el doctor Bruce Gellin, jefe de estrategia de salud pública global de la Fundación Rockefeller y colega de Offit en el panel de la FDA.

Janet Perrin, de 70 años, de Houston, no ha recibido su segundo refuerzo por razones por conflictos con sus actividades, y dijo que buscará información sobre una dosis específica enfocada en las nuevas variantes de fuentes de internet en las que confía. "No he encontrado una voz guía consistente de los CDC", dijo, y las declaraciones de la agencia suenan como "una ensalada de palabras políticas".

Vea Covid/Esp, página 20

Provided to you by:



## Cover / Portada

# Election Officials Struggle with Harassment, Insider Threats, Paper Shortages

By Kira Lerner

**E**lections officials from 33 states, gathered for a conference under tight security, warned that the next few election cycles will be affected by paper shortages and the potential for threats from inside elections offices.

The meeting of the National Association of State Elections Directors (NASED) last week was held with stringent security precautions, given the ongoing threats and harassment faced by elec-

tions officials across the country in the years since the 2020 election.

Organizers didn't publicly share the location of the meeting and attendees were instructed to keep name badges visible inside the conference rooms, but not to wear them outside the hotel.

NASED executive director Amy Cohen said the group coordinated with federal, state, and local law enforcement for the event to protect the attendees who are dealing with serious security concerns.

"Not every one of our members is dealing with the same lev-



Photo/Foto: Carl Payne for Colorado Newsline

Election worker Davis Grilley operates the Agilis ballot sorting system at the Arapahoe County Elections Facility in Littleton, on Nov. 3, 2020. / El trabajador electoral Davis Grilley opera el sistema de clasificación de papeletas Agilis en las instalaciones electorales del condado de Arapahoe en Littleton, el 3 de noviembre de 2020.

el of concern, but when you're all together, it doesn't matter," she said. "It's the transitive property of risk."

Cohen said she worked closely with a physical security advisor for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, a federal agency which also sent representatives to the conference to give a presentation for election officials on the resources they have available to help them ensure the security of their election systems.

**Insider threats**

Inside the meeting, however, election officials focused more time on the potential for insider threats within their offices than the risks from the outside.

Judd Choate, the state election director for Colorado, discussed how his state legislature took action to prevent future insider threats after Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters coordinated a scheme to copy election software to prove that the 2020 election was stolen.

"We spent 2017, 2018, and 2019 preparing for the Russians and the Chinese," he said. "We were more focused on the international threat. Turns out, we had some work to do on the insider threats."

Following the incident, Colorado's legislature passed two bills containing four provisions designed to target potential insider threats, including the creation of new criminal penalties for tampering with or gaining unauthorized access to voting equipment and knowingly sharing passwords related to a voting system.

"When someone does it from here on out, it's a very, very serious crime," Choate said.

The two laws also place restrictions on the unauthorized copying of ballot machine hard drives and limit access to election equipment. They also prevent people from serving as designated election officials if they've been convicted of partaking in a conspiracy to commit sedition, insurrection, treason, or to overthrow the government.

Elections officials from other states took note. Nicholas Meyers, the elections program administrator from Louisiana, said he sent Choate's presentation slides to

“ “

We spent 2017, 2018, and 2019 preparing for the Russians and the Chinese. We were more focused on the international threat. Turns out, we had some work to do on the insider threats.

Judd Choate, Colorado Department of State

others in the secretary of state's office.

"As much as there's noise about outside, the insider threat is very real," Meyers said. "The insider threat is way more real than other threats that are perpetrated."

Amanda Grandjean, Ohio's director of elections, lamented that

Ohio's Republican-controlled legislature isn't amenable to similar proposals. Meyers also said he's not sure if his Republican-controlled legislature would be open to similar reform.

"We have a very different make-up of our legislature than Colorado," he said.

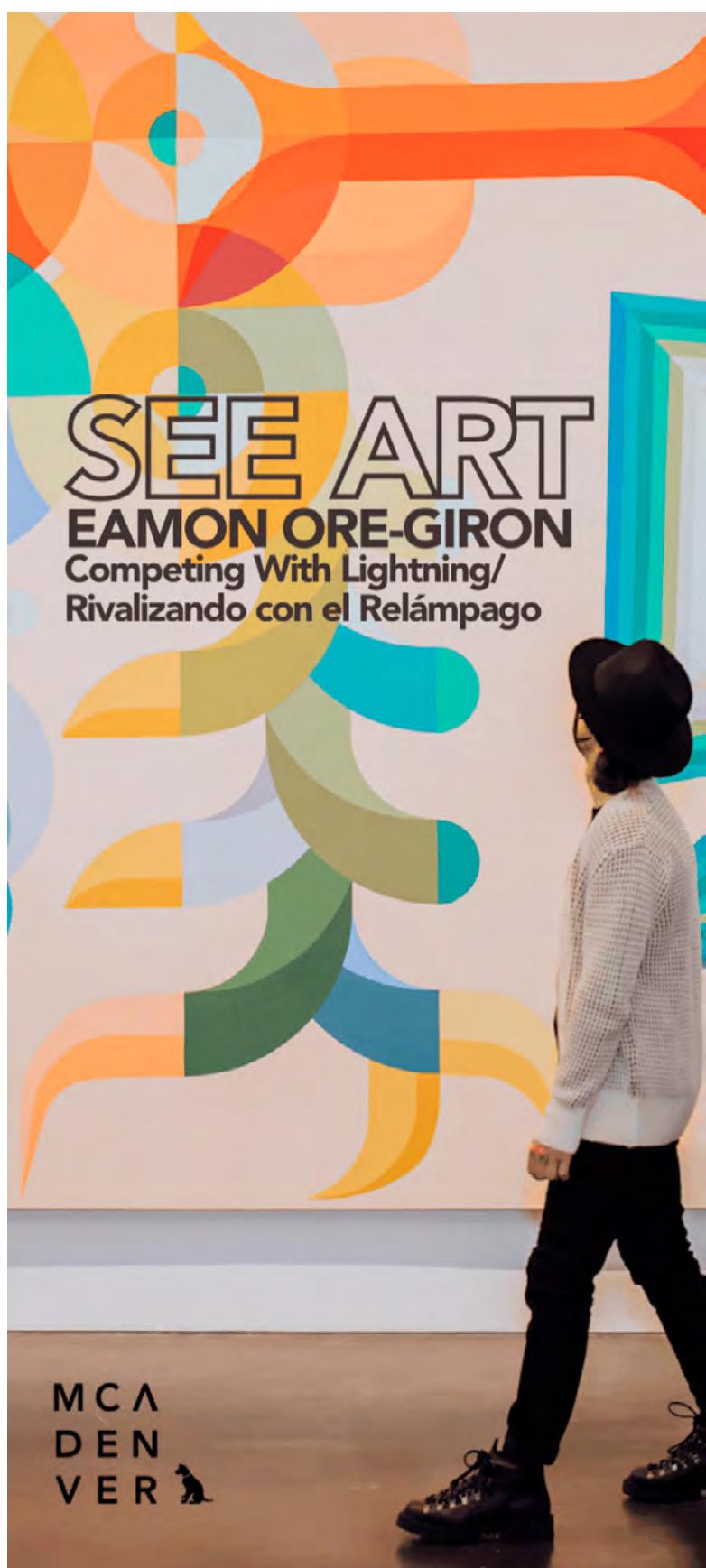
**Paper shortage**

Many election officials said their primary concern heading into the November midterm election and with 2024 looming around the corner, though, is with supply chain issues causing paper shortages.

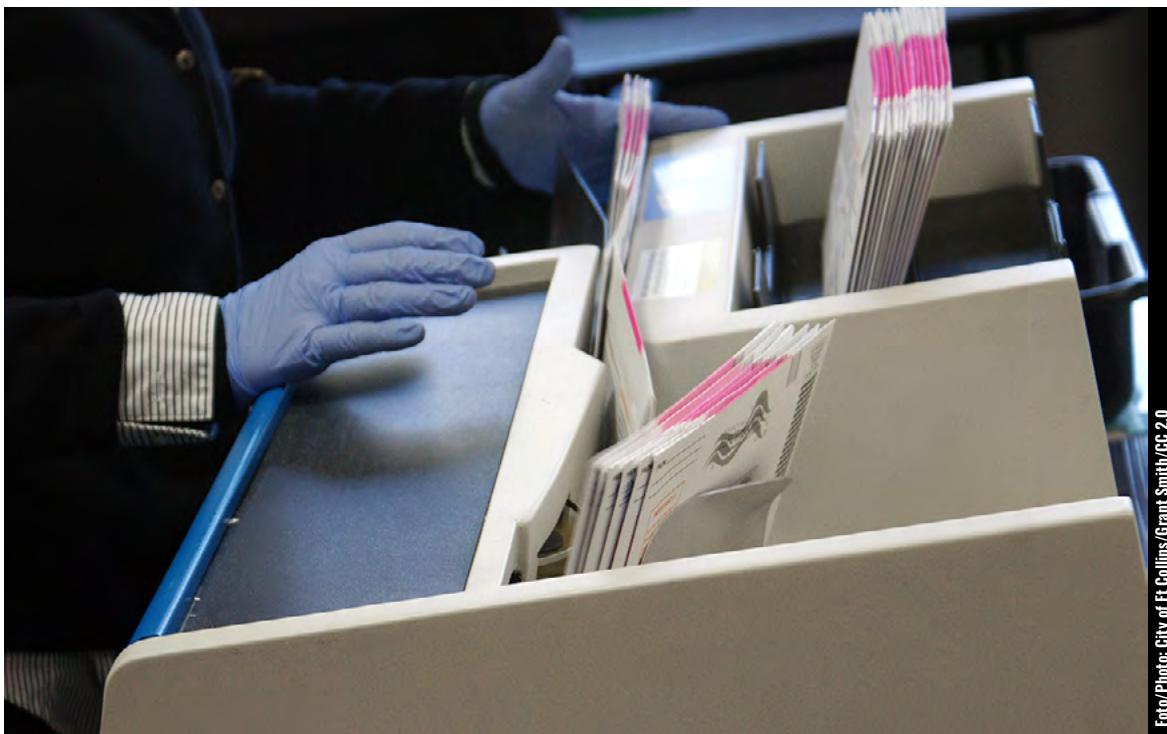
During a panel discussion on supply chain disruptions, Jim Suver, co-chair of the supply chain working group at the federal Sector Coordinating Council, explained how U.S. and Canadian paper mills have been closing over the last decade. An increased demand for packaging cardboard due to increased online sales means that fewer mills are producing the paper necessary for ballots, ballot envelopes, and even "I Voted" stickers.

The pandemic has only exacerbated the problem, as states allowed more voters to cast ballots by mail, requiring more paper.

"We never anticipated this type of crunch to happen when mills were making decisions in 2020," Suver said. He said the current paper supply is the leanest it's ever been, and the problem is unlikely to be solved before the 2024 election.



## Los Funcionarios Electorales Luchan Contra el Acoso y las Amenazas Internas



na es muy real", dijo Meyers. "La amenaza interna es mucho más real que otras amenazas que se perpetran".

Amanda Grandjean, directora de elecciones de Ohio, lamentó que la legislatura de Ohio, controlada por los republicanos, no sea propicia a propuestas similares. Meyers también dijo que no está seguro de si su legislatura, controlada por los republicanos, estaría abierta a una reforma similar.

"Tenemos una composición de nuestra legislatura muy diferente a la de Colorado", dijo.

### Escasez de papel

Sin embargo, muchos funcionarios electorales afirmaron que su principal preocupación de cara a las elecciones de mitad de período de noviembre y con el año 2024 a la vuelta de la esquina, son los problemas de la cadena de suministro que provocan escasez de papel.

Durante una mesa redonda sobre las interrupciones de la cadena de suministro, Jim Suver, copresidente del grupo de trabajo sobre

Vea [Electorales](#), página 22

**Funcionarios electorales advirtieron que los próximos ciclos electorales se verán afectados por la escasez de papel y la posibilidad de amenazas desde el interior de las oficinas electorales.** / *Elections officials warned that the next few election cycles will be affected by paper shortages and the potential for threats from inside elections offices.*

Por Kira Lerner

**F**uncionarios electorales de 33 estados, reunidos en una conferencia bajo fuertes medidas de seguridad, advirtieron que los próximos ciclos electorales se verán afectados por la escasez de papel y la posibilidad de amenazas desde el interior de las oficinas electorales.

La reunión de la Asociación Nacional de Directores Estatales de Elecciones (NASED, por sus siglas en inglés), celebrada la semana pasada, se llevó a cabo con estrictas precauciones de seguridad, dadas las continuas amenazas y el acoso que enfrentan los funcionarios electorales de todo el país en los años posteriores a las elecciones de 2020.

Los organizadores no compartieron públicamente la ubicación de la reunión y se instruyó a los asistentes para que mantuvieran visibles las insignias con sus nombres dentro de las salas de conferencias, pero no las llevaran fuera del hotel.

La directora ejecutiva de NASED, Amy Cohen, dijo que el grupo se coordinó con las fuerzas de seguridad federales, estatales y locales para el evento, con el fin de proteger a los asistentes que se enfrentan a graves problemas de seguridad.

"No todos nuestros miembros tienen el mismo nivel de preocupación, pero cuando están todos juntos, no importa", dijo. "Es la propiedad transitiva del riesgo".

Cohen dijo que trabajó estrechamente con un asesor de se-

guridad física de la Agencia de Ciberseguridad y Seguridad de las Infraestructuras, una agencia federal que también envió representantes a la conferencia para hacer una presentación para los funcionarios electorales sobre los recursos que tienen disponibles para ayudarles a garantizar la seguridad de sus sistemas electorales.

**"Pasamos 2017, 2018 y 2019 preparándonos para los rusos y los chinos. Estábamos más centrados en la amenaza internacional. Resulta que teníamos que trabajar en las amenazas internas".**

Judd Choate,  
Departamento de Estado  
de Colorado

### Amenazas internas

Sin embargo, dentro de la reunión, los funcionarios electorales dedicaron más tiempo a las posibles amenazas internas dentro de sus oficinas que a los riesgos procedentes del exterior.

Judd Choate, el director electoral del estado de Colorado, discutió cómo la legislatura de su estado tomó medidas para prevenir futuras amenazas internas después de que la secretaría del condado de Mesa, Tina Peters, coordinara un esquema para copiar el software

electoral para demostrar que las elecciones de 2020 fueron robadas.

"Pasamos 2017, 2018 y 2019 preparándonos para los rusos y los chinos. Estábamos más centrados en la amenaza internacional. Resulta que teníamos que trabajar en las amenazas internas".

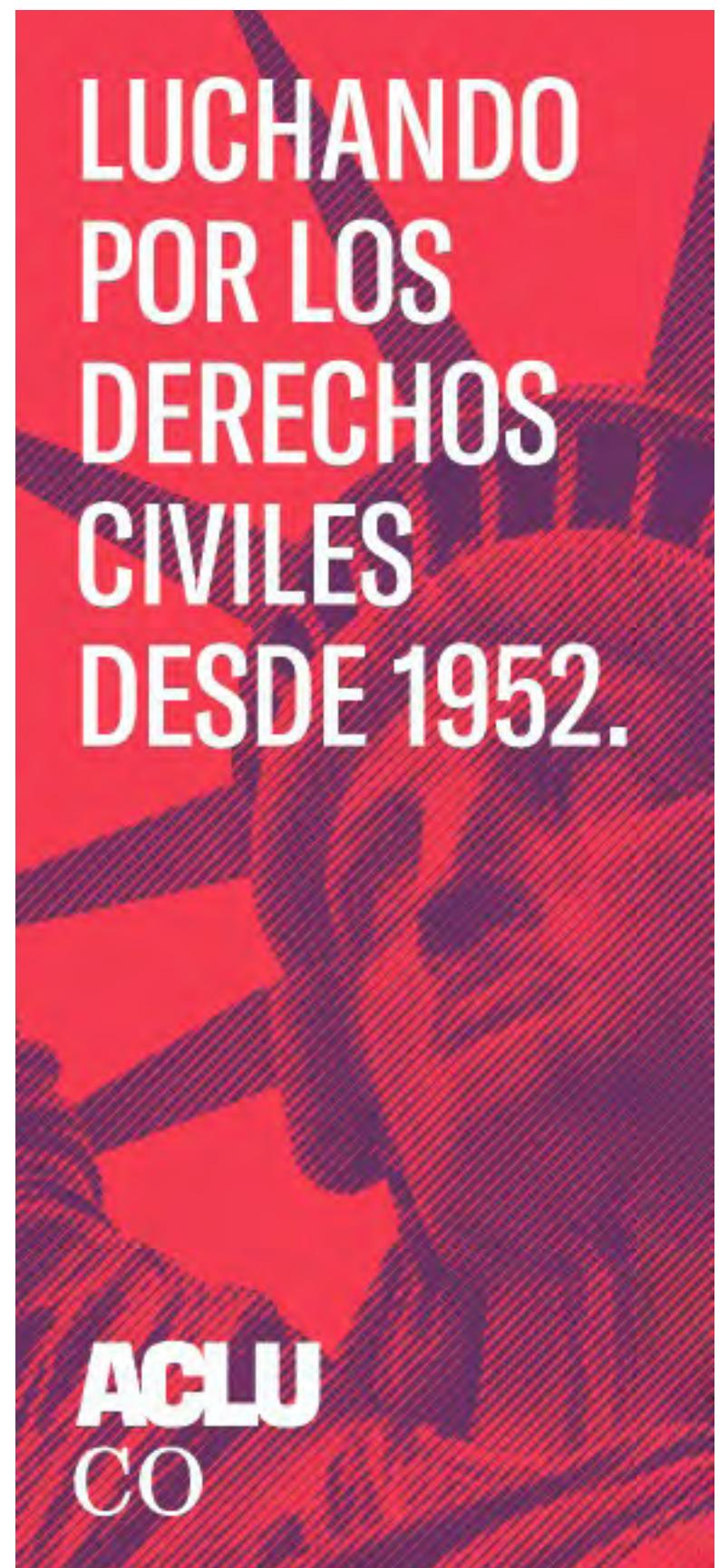
Tras el incidente, la legislatura de Colorado aprobó dos proyectos de ley que contienen cuatro disposiciones diseñadas para atacar las posibles amenazas internas, incluida la creación de nuevas sanciones penales por manipular u obtener acceso no autorizado a los equipos de votación y compartir a sabiendas las contraseñas relacionadas con un sistema de votación.

"Cuando alguien lo hace de aquí en adelante, es un delito muy, muy grave", dijo Choate.

Las dos leyes también imponen restricciones a la copia no autorizada de los discos duros de las máquinas de votación y limitan el acceso a los equipos electorales. También impiden que las personas que hayan sido condenadas por participar en una conspiración para cometer sedición, insurrección, traición o derrocar al gobierno puedan actuar como funcionarios electorales designados.

Los funcionarios electorales de otros estados tomaron nota. Nicholas Meyers, administrador del programa electoral de Luisiana, dijo que envió las diapositivas de la presentación de Choate a otros miembros de la oficina del secretario de Estado.

"Por mucho que se hable del exterior, la amenaza inter-



## University of Denver Students Documenting Colorado's Hidden Voices

### COLORADO

By Janette Ballard

**C**olorado has a rich history and a diverse population, yet there are voices in our community we rarely hear from — farmworkers, day laborers, essential workers — people who have helped shape our state. Assistant professors Carlos Jiménez and Lina Reznicek-Parrado want to add their voices to Colorado's story.

Thanks to funding from the University of Denver's [Center for Innovation in the Liberal and Creative Arts \(CILCA\)](#), Jiménez and Reznicek-Parrado launched Documenting Colorado's Hidden Voices. The project trains University of Denver (DU) students to conduct and collect oral histories from Spanish-speaking Coloradans across the state. Students then participate in a paid internship with a community partner.

"The project was really to come up with oral histories that focused on telling stories from around the Colorado community from folks we just don't hear from...folks who

"

"We came up with this idea of extending student experiences through Spanish with the communities, the same communities that we want to bring forth through the oral histories."

Lina Reznicek-Parrado,  
University of Denver

are just working to make their communities a little bit better," says Jiménez, assistant professor of media and film studies.

Twenty students were selected for the pilot project, which was promoted in classes taught by faculty who support the program. Students who had media production experience or who could speak Spanish in a professional setting were encouraged to apply.

The students attended workshops during fall quarter, including a series on how to collect oral histories presented by History Colorado's oral historian Rachael Storm. Faculty mentors, including



Photo/Foto: University of Denver

Camila Frech is a junior international business major and first-generation student at the University of Denver. /

Jiménez and Reznicek-Parrado, also held workshops in their own areas of expertise.

"We started with the workshops and the idea was that these workshops were going to prepare [students] not just to learn or develop skills in media production and narrative and oral stories, but also to get them thinking about internships in general," says Reznicek-Parrado.

See [Students](#) on page 21

do, teaching assistant professor of Spanish who oversees the internship program.

"We came up with this idea of extending student experiences through Spanish with the communities, the same communities that we want to bring forth through the oral histories," she says.

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### COLORADO

Por Janette Ballard

**C**olorado tiene una rica historia y una población diversa, pero hay voces en nuestra comunidad de las que raramente oímos hablar: trabajadores agrícolas, jornaleros, trabajadores esenciales... personas que han ayudado a dar forma a nuestro estado. Los profesores asistentes Carlos Jiménez y Lina

"

"Se nos ocurrió esta idea de ampliar las experiencias de los estudiantes a través del español con las comunidades, las mismas comunidades que queremos hacer surgir a través de las historias orales".

Lina Reznicek-Parrado,  
Universidad de Denver

Reznicek-Parrado quieren añadir sus voces a la historia de Colorado.

Gracias a la financiación del Centro para la Innovación en las Artes Liberales y Creativas (CILCA) de la Universidad de Denver, Jiménez y Reznicek-Parrado lanzaron *Documenting Colorado's Hidden Voices*. El proyecto capacita a los estudiantes de la Universidad de Denver (DU) para que realicen y recojan las historias orales de los habitantes de color de habla hispana de todo el estado. A continuación, los estudiantes participan en unas prácticas remuneradas con un socio comunitario.

"El proyecto consistía en elaborar historias orales centradas en contar historias de la comunidad de Colorado de gente de la que no tenemos noticias... gente que trabaja para mejorar sus comunidades", dice Jiménez, profesor adjunto de medios de comunicación y estudios cinematográficos.

Se seleccionaron veinte estudiantes para el proyecto piloto, que se promovió en las clases impartidas por los profesores que apoyan el programa. Se animó a los estudiantes que tenían experiencia en la

producción de medios de comunicación o que podían hablar español en un entorno profesional a que presentaran su solicitud.

Los estudiantes asistieron a talleres durante el trimestre de otoño, incluida una serie sobre cómo recopilar historias orales presentada por la historiadora oral de History Colorado, Rachael Storm. Los mentores del profesorado, incluyendo a Jiménez y Reznicek-Parrado, también imparten talleres en sus propias áreas de experiencia.

"Empezamos con los talleres y la idea era que estos talleres iban a preparar a los estudiantes no sólo para aprender o desarrollar habilidades en la producción de medios y la narrativa y las historias orales, sino también para hacerles pensar en las prácticas en general", dice Reznicek-Parrado, profesor asistente de español que supervisa el programa de prácticas.

"Se nos ocurrió esta idea de ampliar las experiencias de los estudiantes a través del español con las comunidades, las mismas comunidades que queremos hacer

Vea [Estudiantes](#), página 23

## Denver Sheriff Department Promotes First Latina to Rank of Major

### COLORADO

The Denver Sheriff Department (DSD) is excited to announce the appointment of the first Latina to achieve the rank of major in the history of the department. Janelle Orozco will be sworn into this position on September 9, 2022. She has been with the DSD for almost 20



"Incoming-Major Orozco has proven herself as a true leader of this department."

Sheriff Elias Diggins

years and has worked her way up through the ranks from deputy, to sergeant, then captain, and now major.

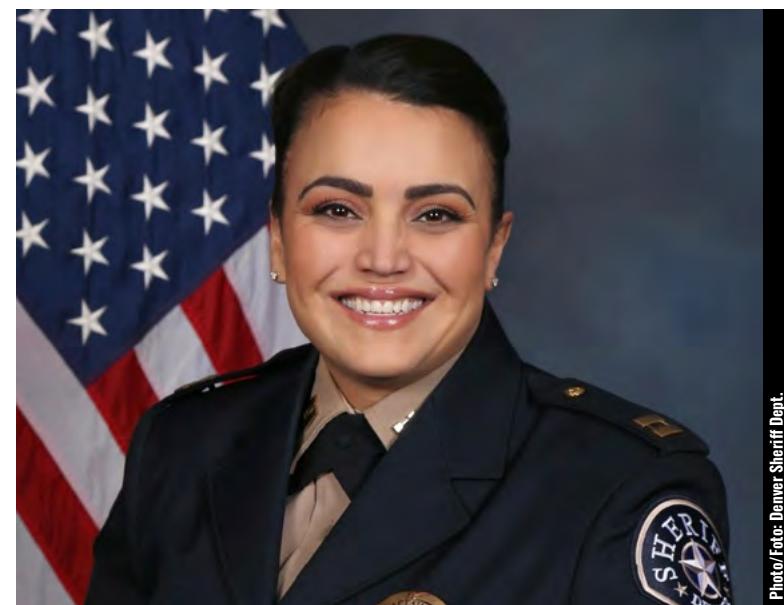
"Incoming-Major Orozco has proven herself as a true leader of this department," said Sheriff Elias Diggins. "With her extensive knowledge of our agency and desire to serve others, she will be a wonderful addition to the executive leadership team."

Incoming-Major Orozco was recently the captain of the Correctional Care Medical Facility at Denver Health. Through the years she has served in multiple locations including Intake, Recruitment, the Downtown Detention Center, the Denver County Jail, and Facility Operations.

"It has been an honor to serve the residents of the City and County of Denver and to work with such amazing people," said incoming-Major Janelle Orozco. "I'm looking forward to continuing my contribution to the DSD as a member of the executive leadership team."

Born and raised in Denver, incoming-Major Orozco has been with the DSD since her early twenties. She currently serves as the secretary of the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 27, and has represented the FOP27 at community events and on legislative committees.

**For More Colorado News:**  
[ELSEMANARIO.US](#)



Photo/Foto: Denver Sheriff Dept.

Denver Sheriff Department Captain Janelle Orozco is the first Latina to achieve the rank of major in the history of the department. / La capitana del Departamento del Sheriff de Denver, Janelle Orozco, es la primera latina que alcanza el rango de mayor en la historia del departamento.

## El Departamento del Sheriff Asciende a la Primera Latina al Rango de Mayor

### COLORADO

El Departamento del Sheriff de Denver (DSD) se complace en anunciar el nombramiento de la primera latina en alcanzar el rango de mayor en la historia del departamento. Janelle Orozco jurará su cargo el 9 de septiembre de 2022. Ella ha estado con el DSD durante casi 20 años y ha trabajado su camino a través de las filas de diputado, a sargento, luego capitán, y ahora mayor.



"La entrante Mayor Orozco ha demostrado ser una verdadera líder de este departamento".

Sheriff Elias Diggins

"La entrante Mayor Orozco ha demostrado ser una verdadera

líder de este departamento", dijo el Sheriff Elias Diggins. "Con su amplio conocimiento de nuestra agencia y el deseo de servir a los demás, será una maravillosa adición al equipo de liderazgo ejecutivo".

La entrante Mayor Orozco fue recientemente la capitana del Centro Médico de Atención Correcional en Denver Health. A través de los años ha servido en múltiples lugares, incluyendo la admisión, el reclutamiento, el cen-

tro de detención del centro, la cárcel del condado de Denver, y las operaciones de la instalación.

"Ha sido un honor servir a los residentes de la ciudad y el condado de Denver y trabajar con personas tan increíbles", dijo la nueva comandante Janelle Orozco. "Estoy deseando continuar mi contribución al DSD como miembro del equipo de liderazgo ejecutivo".

Nacida y criada en Denver, la entrante Mayor Orozco ha estado

en el DSD desde sus veinte años. Actualmente es secretaria de la Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 27, y ha representado a la FOP27 en eventos comunitarios y en comités legislativos.

*Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.*

**Para Noticias de Colorado:**  
[ELSEMANARIO.US](#)

## 'Climate Crisis is the Largest U.S. National Security Threat'



Congressman Jason Crow spoke at the Aspen Security Forum in Aspen, CO discussing emerging national security threats faced by the United States.

### COLORADO

Congressman Jason Crow (CO-06) was the sole Colorado official who spoke at the Aspen Security Forum in Aspen, CO on July 25. On a panel dis-

cussing emerging national security threats faced by the United States, among other issues, Crow pointed to climate crisis as the largest US national security threat.

"Climate change is both a threat magnifier, and a threat multipli-

er. I have often said that I believe that the climate crisis is the largest national security threat we face. That's not meant to discount the traditional threats by state and non-state actors, and technological threats. But if you look across the board as a magnifier and multiplier, the climate crisis is going to do that," said Crow on the panel.

"We need to get our arms around how this is changing our threats and how it will destabilize vast regions of the world - I don't think we yet understand what we're looking at in the next ten or fifteen years and what we need to prepare ourselves for," Crow continued.

Crow, a decorated former Army Ranger who serves on the House Intelligence Committee and House Armed Services Committee, has been a congressional leader on the most pressing global issues since he's been in office. The recent [House-passed defense spending bill](#) included twenty-three Crow

led provisions, including efforts to address climate change and resiliency.

This year's Aspen Security Forum was the largest public gathering of Biden national security officials since the beginning of the Administration.

The Aspen Security Forum, an annual three-and-a-half day conference in Aspen presented by the [Aspen Strategy Group](#), has provided a non-partisan public venue for global leaders to discuss the key national security and foreign policy issues of the day for the past twelve years.



"La entrante Mayor Orozco ha demostrado ser una verdadera líder de este departamento".

Sheriff Elias Diggins

Full video [here](#).

**For More Colorado News:**  
[ELSEMANARIO.US](#)



## Data That Will Shape Jeffco School Closure Decisions

### COLORADO

By Yesenia Robles

**M**ore than half of Jeffco elementary schools are losing students, a change that's leading to higher costs to educate those who remain and forcing schools to combine classrooms and make other compromises.

That's according to school-level data published by Jeffco Public Schools as board members kick off a conversation about one of the hardest decisions they face: which schools to close or consolidate.

Jeffco has been dealing with declining enrollment for years, and like many other metro area districts is closing small schools. Citing an emergency caused by critically low enrollment, the district closed two schools in the past two years, giving little notice to parents. Now Jeffco is trying to think further ahead.

The school board asked administrators to compile statistics about all elementary schools, to look at factors beyond school size. Board members plan to discuss the report Tuesday.

So far, district leaders have said they plan to use enrollment and building utilization, or how much of its space is actively used, as the main factors in deciding which schools to close.

School board members have wondered about considering other factors such as student demographics, whether the school has combined, mixed-grade classrooms, or whether the building is used a lot by the community for other purposes.

Superintendent Tracy Dorland is expected to present recommendations for school closures to the board at the end of August.

Chalkbeat analyzed data the district published online last month on each of the 84 district-run elementary schools.

Here are some key takeaways.

**1. More than a dozen schools use less than 60% of their building capacity and are also expected to serve fewer than 250 students next year.**

Of 84 elementary schools, 30 are projected to have fewer than 250 students this fall. Of those, 16 already use less than 60% of their building's capacity.

The district's public dashboard includes preschool students in calculating how much of a building is used but doesn't include preschool students in the enrollment number. The enrollment number is based just on older students. Districts get different funding for elementary and preschool students.

The 16 low-usage schools are mostly concentrated in the district's communities that are closer to Denver. Six of the schools are in Arvada, where Jeffco already recently closed two schools. Four more are in Lakewood, and three have a Westminster address.

District leaders haven't decided how few students or what utilization level is too low for the district to sustain.

When looking at how many schools are expected to have fewer than 200 students next school year, there are 11 schools, including eight using less than 60% of their campus: Slater, Campbell, Thomson, Colorow, Glennon Heights, Peck, Molholm, and New Classical at Vivian.

It's likely schools with these overlapping factors face a higher risk for closure. But district leaders also have said that to provide

support for families transitioning to new buildings, the district will have to limit how many schools it closes in 2023.

Search to see your school's projected 2022-23 enrollment and 2021-22 utilization.

**2. Schools with low enrollment and utilization are also more likely to have a high concentration of students living in poverty.**

Besides being mostly clustered in three cities bordering Denver, another factor that defines the schools with low enrollment and low utilization is having higher portions of students living in poverty. The 16 low-usage schools have an average of 50% of their students from low-income families, as defined by qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch. At schools with higher enrollment and utilization rates, the average student body includes just 23% qualifying as low income.

**3. More Jeffco elementary schools will lose rather than gain students.**

Overall, Jeffco expects elementary school enrollment to remain steady in the fall, with just a one-student increase. But change

will vary among schools.

Projections show enrollment declining at 43 of 84 schools. Of those, more than two-thirds are expected to lose more than 10 students.

Meanwhile, enrollment is expected to grow at 38 schools, and about two-thirds of them will gain more than 10 students.

The gain or loss of even a few students can greatly affect budgets of small schools. Losing students can make it harder to hire enough staff, manage classroom size, and offer specialized programming, all factors that affect the quality of education.

**4. Thirty-seven elementary schools have higher-than-average per-student costs.**

District spending per elementary student ranges from \$13,870 at Kyffin Elementary which had 441 students last school year, to \$19,197 at Thompson Elementary which had 194 students.

The district gives money to schools based on enrollment and a few other factors including how many students qualify for free or

See Jeffco on page 22

## Datos que Determinarán las Decisiones de Cierre de Escuelas

### COLORADO

Por Yesenia Robles

**M**ás de la mitad de las escuelas primarias de Jeffco están perdiendo estudiantes, un cambio que está aumentando el costo para educar a los que quedan, y obligando a las escuelas a combinar salones de clase y optar por otras estrategias.

Esto es de acuerdo con los datos a nivel de escuela publicados por las Escuelas Públicas de Jeffco mientras los miembros de la junta inician la conversación sobre una de las decisiones más difíciles que enfrentan: cuáles escuelas cerrar o consolidar.

Jeffco ha estado lidiando con una baja en matrícula por años, y como muchos otros distritos de áreas metropolitanas, estará cerrando las escuelas pequeñas. Citando una emergencia causada por una matrícula criticamente baja, el distrito cerró dos escuelas en los últimos dos años sin darle mucho aviso a los padres. Aho-

ra Jeffco está tratando de pensar más a futuro.

La junta escolar les pidió a los administradores que reunieran estadísticas sobre todas las escuelas primarias para poder fijarse en factores aparte del tamaño de la escuela. Los miembros de la junta tienen planeado discutir ese informe el martes.

Hasta ahora, los líderes del distrito han dicho que planean fijarse en la matrícula y en el uso del edificio (cuánto espacio se está usando activamente) como los factores principales para decidir qué escuelas cerrar.

Los miembros de la junta han pensado en considerar otros factores como demográfica de los estudiantes, si la escuela tiene salones de clase combinados o con varios grados, o si el edificio es usado con frecuencia por la comunidad o para otros propósitos.

Se espera que la superintendente Tracy Dorland le presente recomendaciones sobre los cierres a la junta al final de agosto.

Vea Escuelas, página 24

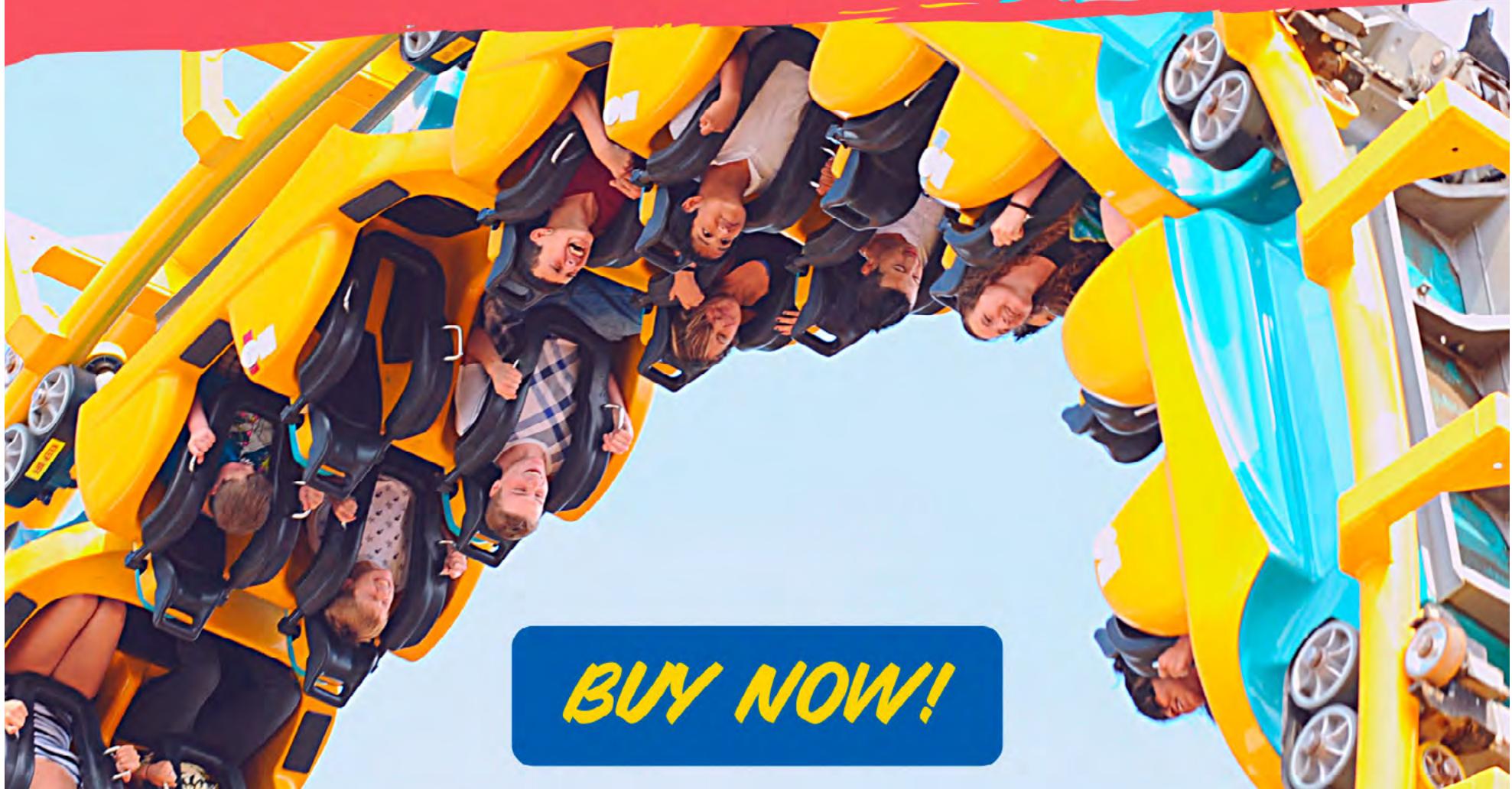


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## State News / Noticias del Estado

## The Legacy of a Taos Pueblo Poet Traced Through What She Touched

## NEW MEXICO

By Shaun Griswold

**C**oral Dawn Bernal wrote on anything. Her handwriting is found on empty cigarette packs, receipts, loose paper and dozens of notebooks filled front and back with her poetry.



"She's bringing something to this community that our community does not have. And that's love and sharing."

Carpio Bernal

Bernal's family said they've discovered more than 800 poems she wrote in her brief life, cut short in part by debilitating medical issues.

Her words are now painted on the front of a home that will soon host artists and anyone from Taos Pueblo who want a place to stay while they visit or work at the new

Coral Dawn and Paul J. Bernal Center for Arts & Literature.

Her father, Caprio Bernal, described her name.

"She's from the Pacific Northwest and Taos Pueblo," he said. "When I met my wife, we had a beautiful little girl named Coral, and we named her Coral Dawn because of coming from the Pacific Northwest and being born in the dawn."

**Her vision**

The property where the center will go is one of the first things you'll notice driving from the main road in town, past the tribal checkpoint into Taos Pueblo.

A bright mural with three red coral flowers, each representing the Bernal kids, stands underneath her prose. Coral's friend Lynnette Haozous painted the mural.

"The last time I saw her, she was getting ready to curate an exhibition of Taos Pueblo artists," said Haozous (Chiricahua Apache / Diné / Taos). "She reached out to me, and she said she had this vision of creating an art exhibition that would lead to something bigger, like an art center."

The public unveiling of the mural came on the two-year anniversary of her death.

And with it, her vision for the art center is now real. An event last week brought Coral's aunts, uncles, the mayor of Taos, the Pueblo's chief of police, and artists and advocates. Family on her mother's side from the Skwah First Nation, in British Columbia Canada, tuned into a livestream to see the unveiling of the space, which will have an open-door policy and is expected to be complete next year.

It will be run by her parents and brothers, a tribute they say continues the legacy Coral strived to achieve: building art spaces for Native people, her relatives, and a place that can also help those who are struggling in ways she did.

"We have to continue her journey, her legacy, because she was one powerful young lady," her father said.

**A line from past to future**

In naming the center, Coral Dawn's name is followed by her grandfather's. Paul Bernal famously continued a fight against the U.S. federal government to return a sa-



Foto/Foto: Tere Garcia for Source NM

cred site back to the Pueblo. He stood next to President Richard Nixon when he signed legislation returning Blue Lake to the stewardship of Taos Pueblo, a rare instance where the U.S. accepted defeat and returned land back to a tribal nation.

His legacy of resistance and upholding the values of traditional Pueblo lifestyle can be heard in the tone of his granddaughter's poetry. It's now a line that extends to a present day demand for reform in health and law enforcement.

Both, her family says, failed their daughter and contributed to her death.

"She had so much going for her," Caprio Bernal said. "And it was taken away."

Coral was a victim of sexual assault, domestic violence and suffered with a substance use disorder, according to her relatives. In July, she was ill and went to a medical appointment at the Taos-Picuris Indian Health Service center.

**See Poet on page 23**

## El Legado de Una Poetisa Trazado a Través de lo Que Tocó



Un memorial creado para Coral Dawn Bernal, una mujer de Taos Pueblo que murió repentinamente en julio de 2020. / A memorial set up for Coral Dawn Bernal, a Taos Pueblo woman who suddenly died in July 2020.

cualquier persona de Taos Pueblo que quiera alojarse mientras visita o trabaja en el nuevo Centro de Arte y Literatura Coral Dawn y Paul J. Bernal.

Su padre, Caprio Bernal, describió su nombre.

"Es del noroeste del Pacífico y de Taos Pueblo", dijo. "Cuando conocí a mi mujer, tuvimos una preciosa niña llamada Coral, y la llamamos Coral Dawn por venir del noroeste del Pacífico y haber nacido en el amanecer".

**Su visión**

La propiedad donde irá el centro es una de las primeras cosas que se notan al conducir desde la carretera principal del pueblo, pasando el puesto de control tribal hacia Taos Pueblo.

Un brillante mural con tres flores rojas de Coral, cada una de las cuales representa a los niños de Bernal, se encuentra debajo de su prosa. La amiga de Coral, Lynnette Haozous, pintó el mural.

"La última vez que la vi, se estaba preparando para comisar una exposición de artistas de Taos Pueblo", dijo Haozous (Chiricahua Apache / Diné / Taos). "Se puso en contacto conmigo y me dijo

que tenía la visión de crear una exposición de arte que condujera a algo más grande, como un centro de arte".

La inauguración pública del mural tuvo lugar en el segundo aniversario de su muerte.

Y con ello, su visión del centro de arte es ahora real. La semana pasada se celebró un acto en el que participaron tíos y tías de Coral, el alcalde de Taos, el jefe de policía del pueblo, artistas y defensores. La familia de su madre, procedente de la Primera Nación Skwah, en la Columbia Británica de Canadá, sintonizó una transmisión en directo para ver la inauguración del espacio, que tendrá una política de puertas abiertas y se espera que esté terminado el próximo año.

Estará dirigido por sus padres y hermanos, un homenaje que, según ellos, continúa el legado que Coral se esforzó por conseguir: construir espacios de arte para los nativos, sus familiares, y un lugar que también pueda ayudar a aquellos que están luchando de la misma manera que ella lo hizo.

"Tenemos que continuar su camino, su legado, porque era una joven poderosa", dijo su padre.

**Una línea del pasado al futuro**

Al nombrar el centro, el nombre de Coral Dawn va seguido del de su abuelo. Paul Bernal es famoso por haber continuado la lucha contra el gobierno federal de Estados Unidos para devolver un lugar sagrado al Pueblo. Estuvo al lado del presidente Richard Nixon cuando éste firmó la legislación que devolvía el Lago Azul a la administración de Taos Pueblo, un raro caso en el que Estados Unidos aceptó la derrota y devolvió la tierra a una nación tribal.

Su legado de resistencia y defensa de los valores del estilo de vida tradicional de los Pueblo se puede escuchar en el tono de la poesía de su nieta. Ahora es una línea que se extiende a una demanda actual de reforma de la sanidad y de la aplicación de la ley.

Ambas, dice su familia, fallaron a su hija y contribuyeron a su muerte.

"Tenía tantas cosas a su favor", dijo Caprio Bernal. "Y se lo querían".

Coral fue víctima de agresiones sexuales, violencia doméstica y sufrió un trastorno por consumo de

## NEW MEXICO

Por Shaun Griswold

**C**oral Dawn Bernal escribía en cualquier cosa.

Su letra se encuentra en paquetes de cigarrillos vacíos, recibos, papeles sueltos y docenas

de cuadernos llenos por delante y por detrás de su poesía.

La familia de Bernal ha descubierto más de 800 poemas que escribió en su breve vida, acortada en parte por problemas médicos.

Sus palabras están ahora pintadas en la fachada de una casa que pronto acogerá a artistas y a

Vea Poetisa, página 23



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said Dr. Bruce Gellin, chief of global public health strategy at the Rockefeller Foundation and Offit's colleague on the FDA panel.

Janet Perrin, 70, of Houston hasn't gotten her second booster for scheduling and convenience reasons and said she'll look for information about a variant-targeted dose from sources she trusts on social media. "I haven't found a consistent guiding voice from the CDC," she said, and the agency's statements sound like "a political word salad."

On July 12, the Biden administration released its plan to manage the BA.5 subvariant, which it warned would have the greatest impact in the parts of the country with lower vaccine coverage. The strategy includes making it easier for people to access testing, vaccines and boosters, and covid antiviral treatments.

During the first White House covid briefing in nearly three weeks, the message from top federal health officials was clear: Don't wait for an omicron-tailored shot. "There are many people who are at high risk right now, and waiting until October, November for their boost — when in fact their risk is in the moment — is not a good plan," said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, head of the CDC.

With worries about the BA.5 subvariant growing, the FDA on June 30 recommended that drugmakers Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna get to work producing a new, bivalent vaccine that combines the current version with a formulation that targets the new strains.

The companies both say they can make available for the U.S. millions of doses of the reformulated shots in October. Experts think that deadline could slip by a few months given the unexpected hitches that plague vaccine manufacturing.

"I think that we have all been asking that same question," said Dr. Kathryn Edwards, scientific director of the Vanderbilt Vaccine Research Program. "What's the benefit of getting another booster now when what will be coming out in the fall is a bivalent vaccine and you will be getting BA.4/5, which is currently circulating? Although whether it will be circulating in the fall is another question."

The FDA on July 13 authorized a fourth covid vaccine, made by Novavax, but only for people who haven't been vaccinated yet. Many scientists thought the Novavax shot could be an effective booster for people previously vaccinated with mRNA shots from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna because its

unique design could broaden the immune response to coronaviruses. Unfortunately, few studies have assessed mix-and-match vaccination approaches, said Gellin, of the Rockefeller Foundation.



**"What we're seeing now is a little bit of an information void that is not helping people make the right decision."**

Dr. Carlos del Rio, Emory University School of Medicine

The omicron vaccines will contain components that target the original strain of the virus because the first vaccine formulations are known to prevent serious illness and death even in people infected with omicron.

Those components will also help keep the earlier strains of the virus in check, said Dr. David Brett-Major, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. That's important, he said, because too much tailoring of vaccines to fight emerging variants could allow older strains of the coronavirus to resurface.

Brett-Major said messages about the value of the tailored shots will need to come from trusted, local sources — not just top federal health officials.

"Access happens locally," he said. "If your local systems are not messaging and promoting and enabling access, it's really problematic."

Although some Americans are pondering when, or whether, to get their second boosters, many people tuned out the pandemic long ago, putting them at risk during the current wave, experts said.

Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public

Health Association, said he doesn't expect to see the public's level of interest in the vaccine change much even as new boosters are released and eligibility expands. Parts of the country with high vaccine coverage will remain relatively insulated from new variants that emerge, he said, while regions with low vaccine acceptance could be set for a "rude awakening."

Even scientists are at a bit of a loss for how to effectively adapt to an ever-changing virus.

"Nothing is simple with covid, is it? It's just whack-a-mole," said Edwards. "This morning I read about a new variant in India. Maybe it'll be a nothingburger, but — who knows? — maybe something big, and then we'll wonder, 'Why did we change the vaccine strain to BA.4/5?'"

**Sam Whitehead is a Correspondent and Arthur Allen is a Senior Correspondent with Kaiser Health News, a nonprofit news service covering health issues. It is an editorially independent program of the Kaiser Family Foundation, which is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.**

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by media pundits and even Democrats for boldly standing up for the rule of law when he refused Trump's orders to undermine the electoral college votes. That's where Pence drew the line—after four years of enabling an authoritarian who cared nothing about the rule of law.

Before and after his time in the White House, Pence has never tried to hide who he is. In the wake of the Supreme Court ruling revoking a constitutional right, Pence promptly called for a national abortion ban, and he continues to boast about his pride in being part of a movement that undermines the bodily autonomy of millions of Americans. "We must not rest and must not relent until the sanctity of life is restored to the center of American law in every state in the land," Pence wrote on Twitter moments after the Supreme Court ruled. That ruling—which not only revokes a fundamental right of millions, but runs directly counter to overwhelming public opinion in support of legal abortion—would not have been possible without Trump's appointees to the Court.

Rep. Liz Cheney, a Republican from Wyoming, has also emerged as a "hero" for standing up to Trump and most members of her own party for co-chairing the House Select Committee. But Cheney was one of the most loyal House Republicans backing Trump's agenda, voting with him nearly 93% of the time. Like Pence, she hailed the Supreme Court's overturning of abortion rights, saying on Twitter, "I have always been strongly pro-life."

Or, consider former Attorney General William Barr, whose testimony, like Hutchinson's, has been a significant part of the Select

Committee's evidence. Barr said in a taped interview that he clearly thought Trump lost the election, and that he said as much to the president. Barr told committee members that Trump's claims about a stolen election were "completely bullshit," "absolute rubbish," "idiotic," "bogus," "stupid," "crazy stuff," "complete nonsense," and "a great, great disservice to the country." He added that he thought Trump had become "detached from reality."

And yet, Barr says he would vote again for Trump were he to run.

Think about that. Barr was so solidly attached to Trump before Jan. 6 that Salon's Heather Digby Parton called him "Trump's biggest enabler and top servant." He then completely turned against Trump in his committee testimony. And then he said he would support him again.

The Jan. 6 committee is indeed an important undertaking. The alternative to investigating the near-coup in 2021 is doing nothing, which is unacceptable. In basing the evidence largely on Republican testimony from people who paved the way for Trump, the committee is perhaps hoping to convince Trump's current supporters just how close we came to losing our democracy. But in elevating these servants of fascism as courageous people with integrity, the committee risks casting them as ordinary Americans whose views merely lie on the opposite end of the political spectrum as Democrats.

That is not who they are.

They are the enablers of a fascist leader, who realized far too much of their sordid agenda via Trump. From the Supreme Court

to the White House to federal agencies, they succeeded in undermining our freedoms and rights—ensuring that firearms were deregulated while uterus were overregulated, immigrants were traumatized while billionaires became wealthier, health regulations were undermined while more than a million died from a deadly coronavirus.

As we watch the Jan. 6 hearings—and we really ought to watch them and understand just how close we came to a violent coup—we need to do it with the understanding that the insurrection was the predictable outcome of allowing people with fascist tendencies into the halls of power. Many of the witnesses now condemning Trump were on his team for most of his White House tenure. It seems as though the former president's sycophants are horrified not at what Trump did, but rather that he did it so clumsily and in full view of the public. And perhaps that he ultimately failed.

If the committee, media, and public observers normalize Pence, Barr, and even the seemingly innocent Hutchinson, they are paving the way for future authoritarian fascists—who will undoubtedly be far more disciplined, cunning, and effective than Trump was.

*Sonali Kolhatkar is currently the racial justice editor at YES! Media and a writing fellow with Independent Media Institute. This commentary is republished from YES! Magazine under a Creative Commons license.*

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ist Supreme Court to protect voting rights, states must act now to protect voting rights in redistricting.

First, states should enact non-partisan, citizen-led redistricting commissions in place of state legislatures. This takes redistricting out of the hands of politicians, and back to the people. Independent redistricting commissions have shown to create fairer districts that trigger less lawsuits that overturn maps. Last year they worked in several states, namely in Michigan where its commission undid last cycle's egregious Republican gerrymander.

Second, states should join California, Washington, and New York in enacting their own state Voting Rights Acts. This creates a legal safety net from likely Supreme Court rulings against federal protections for "majority-minority" districts. Majority-minority districts establish communities' of color ability to elect candidates of their choice. Without protections for them, people of color will have even less opportunity for representation in Congress, especially in Southern states already fighting majority-Black districts in Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana.

As social scientists advance in redistricting research, there will be more technology tools to identify racist gerrymandering. Researchers at MGGG have developed models to create "ensembles" of

VRA-compliant redistricting plans that can be referenced to highlight when a gerrymandered map dilutes minority representation—as MGGG did against Texas' congressional maps.

These tools can be leveraged with the Voting Rights Act to strike down gerrymanders and create more opportunities for representation for communities of color—but only if we have a strong Voting Rights Act. States must enact their own, improved Voting Rights Acts so these new advances in data science can be used to improve representation for people of color indefinitely.

Our democracy is at its most vulnerable in decades. Accordingly, our state legislatures must act now to pass common-sense voting rights protections to protect our democracy from an extremist federal judiciary and Donald Trump.

*Andrew Hong is a Stanford undergraduate and the Statewide Coordinator of Redistricting Justice for Washington. Aidan Smith is a Senior Advisor at Data for Progress, a progressive think tank. This article/oped is republished from Common Dreams under a Creative Commons license.*

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No se trataba de una serie de televisión de acción y de intriga, sino la realidad estadounidense actual en tiempo real que dejó ver al mundo las miserias de un segmento de la sociedad que jamás ha entendido el privilegio histórico de la diversidad y de la inclusión. Y tampoco ha entendido el significado de la democracia.

Cuando finalmente Biden asume la presidencia, hereda no solo el desastre de la escandalosa presidencia de Trump, sino la pandemia que ha tenido repercusiones en la economía, aparte de una nación lastimosamente dividida. Le han tocado guerras extranjeras, como la invasión rusa en Ucrania, y guerras internas, las que se dan en su propio Partido Demócrata, o más bien las que han encabezado dos senadores demócratas conservadores —Joe Manchin, de West Virginia, y Kyrsten Sinema, de Arizona—, que paralizaron la agenda de Biden en el Congreso por su oposición a medidas centrales, como el urgente plan sobre infraestructura. Biden es otro presidente que se topa con el flagelo del fácil acceso a las armas que, sumado a prejuicios raciales promovidos por nacionalistas blancos, ha resultado en masacres donde el objetivo han sido las minorías.

Los ejemplos, tan dolorosos, abundan. Pero los más recientes reclueden el peligro y la ansiedad en que viven minorías como la latina, como la masacre en El Paso de 2019, que dejó 23 muertos a manos de un supremacista blanco de 21 años que creía en la teoría conspirativa de la "invasión hispana".

Si a todo esto le sumamos la inflación, el panorama luce catastrófico para cualquiera que presida esta nación.

No es por casualidad que los índices de aprobación de Biden sean abismales en un año de elecciones intermedias, en el que se teme que los demócratas pierdan el control posiblemente de ambas cámaras del Congreso.

Pero paralelo a ese panorama, en el circo de tres pistas que es la política estadounidense, se llevan a cabo en el Congreso audiencias sobre los eventos del 6 de enero que han revelado datos escalofriantes sobre el papel de Trump, no solamente en haber instigado a la turba a ir al Capitolio, sino en no hacer nada como Comandante en Jefe para frenar el caos, incluso cuando la marabunta buscaba al vicepresidente Mike Pence para colgarlo.

De hecho, las audiencias que se han llevado a cabo para determi-

nar qué fue lo que pasó realmente ese día y el grado de influencia que tuvo el exmandatario en ese hecho vergonzoso nos han mostrado con toda crudeza que, en efecto, una mafia se instaló en el poder del país más democrático el mundo con intenciones aviesas que pudieron —y aún pueden— echar a perder para siempre la historia política y democrática de Estados Unidos.

Así, las audiencias han arrojado luz sobre el rol de Trump antes, durante y después del asalto del 6 de enero de 2021; han documentado paso a paso cómo un presidente de Estados Unidos intentó corromper a funcionarios estatales y electorales para alterar los resultados de la elección; y cómo sus asesores y su círculo más cercano sabían que no hubo fraude y permitieron que Trump siguiera con la farsa para recaudar millones de dólares de sus fanáticos para una presunta batalha legal de un "fraude" que nunca ocurrió.

Es inaudito ver cómo siguen proliferando "justificaciones" sobre esos hechos, tanto en medios informativos inclinados hacia la extrema derecha, el Trumpismo y el Partido Republicano, como en actuales campañas incluso de candidatos latinos, que siguen ganando adeptos.

No obstante, la reacción del público estadounidense a las audiencias ha sido por demás tibio. Como si no hubiese nada en peligro, nada en juego, sobre todo cuando el Trumpismo domina al Partido Republicano; cuando esos mismos republicanos siguen echando mano de desinformación, falsedades, xenofobia y racismo para complacer a su base y mantenerse o recuperar el poder, según sea el caso.

En cualquier otra parte del mundo, el pueblo más consciente estaría en las calles para exigir que paguen los culpables, pero también para que las autoridades en turno hagan su trabajo en función de un grupo ideológico o político, sino de la sociedad misma, tal como la estadounidense, que podrá pertenecer al mundo desarrollado, pero que con estos hechos ha demostrado su falta de madurez democrática.

Por otro lado, por más que existan razones para sentirse defraudados o desilusionados porque la agenda demócrata prometida en 2020 se ha quedado en el tintero, hay que ser conscientes de que enfrentamos un momento histórico en el que se ha demostrado la fragilidad de la democracia estadounidense y en el que

hay que cuestionarse si es hora de enfascarnos en disputas internas y señalar culpables por la inacción, o si hay un asunto de fuerza mayor —la democracia estadounidense— que requiere que decidamos si en las próximas elecciones apoyamos a quienes puedan promover nuestros intereses y necesidades, o le abrimos la puerta otra vez al Trumpismo que es el Partido Republicano, porque nuestra desilusión nos llevó a no votar.

Esa es precisamente la urgencia con la que debe actuar la sociedad de esta nación para no perder el sentido histórico de su democracia, y a fin de no entregarla en las manos de quienes solo han demostrado con creces que las ramificaciones de la mafia política y económica pueden acabar de tajo con una promesa histórica como lo es hasta el momento Estados Unidos. No se puede permitir un trastabilleo más, sino a riesgo de perderlo todo.

La elección de 2016 no es historia antigua. Pasó apenas hace cinco años y medio. La pelea interna entre los seguidores de Bernie Sanders y los de Hillary Clinton llevó a muchos sanderistas a quedarse en casa, seguros de que Hillary aplastaría a Trump. El resto de esa historia la conocemos. Evitemos tropezar dos veces con la misma piedra.

**Maribel Hastings** es Asesora Ejecutiva de *América's Voice*.  
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sustancias, según sus familiares. En julio, estuvo enferma y acudió a una cita médica en el centro del Servicio de Salud Indígena Taos-Picuris. La enviaron a casa y le dieron una cita de seguimiento



"Ella aporta a esta comunidad algo que nuestra comunidad no tiene. Y eso es amor y compartir".

Carpio Bernal

para una semana después. El 17 de julio de 2020 volvió. La enviaron a casa de nuevo. Al día siguiente la encontraron muerta dentro de la casa del condado de Taos donde vivía. Tenía 33 años.

Una revisión independiente de su estado en ese momento llevó a preguntarse por qué nadie en la clínica del IHS, gestionada por el gobierno federal, intervino más.

La familia publicó el martes un llamamiento a la acción de 15 puntos en el que se exige la reforma

del IHS, el aumento de los recursos de salud mental a través de la agencia sanitaria federal y se pide a todos los niveles de las fuerzas de seguridad -estatal, del condado, tribal y federal- que coordinen los recursos a pesar de las cuestiones jurisdiccionales.

Y el centro de arte en honor de Coral Dawn es un componente necesario para el cambio, también, dijeron, porque la gente en las comunidades tribales necesitan lugares donde puedan encontrar apoyo cuando la vida da un giro trágico. Los Bernal dicen que esperan que su recurso, el primero de este tipo en Taos Pueblo, pueda ayudar a alguien más antes de que sus circunstancias tomen un camino mortal.

El plan de acción y el centro siguen las recomendaciones hechas por los líderes nativos americanos que trabajan con el estado para hacer frente a la crisis actual de las mujeres indígenas desaparecidas y asesinadas y sus familiares.

Beata Tsosie es copresidenta del Grupo de Trabajo de MMIWR de Nuevo México. Dijo que las comunidades tribales necesitan re-

cursos como el que los Bernal están construyendo en Taos porque históricamente hay una falta de acceso a este tipo de recursos curativos. "Hay un sesgo implícito y explícito contra los pueblos nativos en los sistemas de salud y de justicia", dijo Tsosie (Santa Clara). "Y lo vemos todo el tiempo".

Una de las principales recomendaciones de un informe que el grupo de trabajo del MMIWR publicó en mayo es que los gobiernos estatales, locales y tribales construyan centros de recursos que ofrezcan refugio a las víctimas de la violencia doméstica y una mayor inversión en opciones de tratamiento por consumo de sustancias.

Tsosie dijo que hay problemas con personas de fuera de las comunidades tribales que prestan una atención deficiente o negligente a los nativos, por lo que la apertura de este recurso por parte de los Bernals para su hogar debería ser un modelo a seguir.

"Muchos de los sistemas existentes, al no ser de nuestras comunidades, no se dedican a cuidar a nuestra gente como nuestra gente cuida y ama a su familia y parientes", dijo Tsosie. "Es un ejemplo de

por qué necesitamos que nuestra propia gente nos cuide y se cuide entre sí".

#### La mano de Coral en todas las cosas

Los Bernal están elevando su cultura para hacer lo que el gobierno de Estados Unidos no hace.

Toda la familia es una experta artista. Aportarán su experiencia en pintura, escultura, orfebrería, carpintería, música y escritura al centro para dar clases de arte.

Rose, la madre de Coral, aporta su experiencia como gestora de subvenciones en el grupo local Comunidad contra la Violencia.

Su hermano C.J. tiene la visión de cómo la propiedad se transformará de un *Earthship* a medio construir en aulas y una biblioteca que destaque la obra de autores indígenas.

Su padre habla del trabajo físico, de mover la piedra, de palear la tierra, pero aportará su experiencia en arte al centro. Ya se han puesto en marcha algunas estructuras para la estancia del futuro artista residente. Se construirá un archivo digital en la propiedad para conservar los documentos relaciona-

dos con la historia indígena.

El resto de la familia ampliada desempeñará otras funciones cuando y donde pueda.

Mientras limpian y preparan la propiedad, el padre de Coral sigue descubriendo más obras de ella, escritas en cualquier hoja en blanco que pueda encontrar.

"Hoy encuentro servilletas con su poesía. Libros de enciclopedias. Ella siempre escribía en todo", dijo Carpio Bernal. "Ella aporta a esta comunidad algo que nuestra comunidad no tiene. Y eso es amor y compartir".

**Shaun Griswold** es periodista en Albuquerque. Es ciudadano del Pueblo de Laguna, y su ascendencia también incluye Jemez y Zuni en el lado materno de su familia. Este artículo ha sido publicado por [Source New Mexico](#) bajo una licencia Creative Commons.

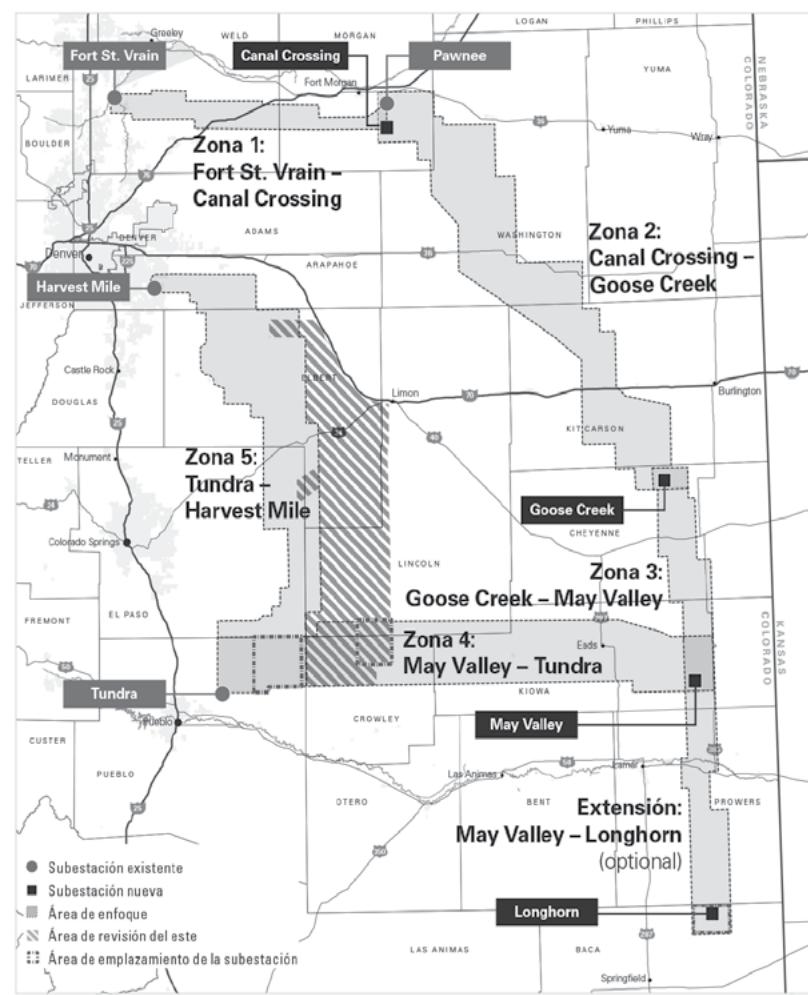
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Para Más Noticias de New México: [ELSEMANARIO.US](#)

## JORNADAS DE PUERTAS ABIERTAS DEL ÁREA DE REVISIÓN DEL ESTE DE COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY



Acompáñenos y proporcione sus comentarios sobre la ruta de la línea de transmisión del Área de Revisión del Este del segmento 5 y las opciones del sitio de la subestación



Xcel Energy sigue avanzando en la identificación de la ruta de la línea de transmisión de preferencia para el segmento 5 (Tundra a Harvest Mile) de Colorado's Power Pathway. Hemos recibido una gran cantidad de comentarios de los propietarios y otras partes interesadas sobre las opciones de ruta del segmento 5 que seguimos evaluando. En función de estos comentarios, ahora estamos analizando posibles opciones de rutas adicionales en el este del condado de Elbert y el oeste del condado de Lincoln. **No se decidió una ruta de preferencia ni dejamos de considerar las opciones de ruta existentes del segmento 5 en los condados de Pueblo, El Paso, Elbert y Arapahoe. Necesitamos su opinión sobre las últimas opciones de ruta identificadas.**

Propietarios de terrenos y miembros del público ubicados en el Área de Revisión del Este del Segmento 5, acompañenos en una de nuestras próximas jornadas presenciales de puertas abiertas públicas para obtener información sobre nuestro proceso de enrutamiento y ubicación, y proporcionar comentarios sobre las opciones propuestas del sitio de subestación y la ruta de línea de transmisión. El personal del proyecto estará disponible para proporcionar información sobre las actividades de enrutamiento de la línea de transmisión y responder preguntas sobre el nuevo proyecto de la línea de transmisión, incluido el cronograma general, las opciones de ruta, los procesos de construcción y los temas relacionados con los usos y el derecho de paso. Queremos conocer su opinión sobre este importante proyecto y cualquier asunto que debamos tener en cuenta en su área o su propiedad.

#### HORARIO DE LA JORNADA DE PUERTAS ABIERTAS

##### Miércoles, 3 de agosto

3 a 7 p. m.  
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##### Jueves, 4 de agosto

3 a 7 p. m.  
Karval Community Building  
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Karval, CO 80823

#### SOBRE EL PROYECTO

Colorado's Power Pathway es una inversión de \$1.7 a \$2 mil millones para mejorar la red eléctrica del estado y permitir el desarrollo de energía renovable en todo el estado en el futuro. El proyecto abarcará más de una docena de condados, principalmente en el este de Colorado, e incluirá lo siguiente:

- Hasta 650 millas de línea nueva de transmisión de doble circuito de 345 kilovoltios
- Cuatro subestaciones nuevas y cuatro subestaciones expandidas
- Primeros segmentos en servicio para 2025, con otros segmentos completos en 2026 y 2027

Colorado's Power Pathway ofrecerá importantes beneficios económicos a las comunidades rurales del este y sur de Colorado a corto y largo plazo. La construcción de proyectos requerirá, de manera más inmediata, cantidades importantes de contrataciones de mano de obra y, al mismo tiempo, proporcionará a las jurisdicciones locales y comunidades anfitrionas ingresos fiscales adicionales y posibles oportunidades de inversión y creación de nuevos empleos.

#### PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN

Visite [ColoradosPowerPathway.com](#) o escanee el código QR para obtener más información. Comuníquese con nosotros al 855-858-9037 o [ColoradosPowerPathway@xcelenergy.com](mailto:ColoradosPowerPathway@xcelenergy.com) si tiene preguntas o necesita ayuda.

El 12 de julio, la administración Biden dio a conocer su plan para gestionar la subvariante BA.5, que advirtió que tendría el mayor impacto en las partes del país con menor cobertura de vacunación. La estrategia incluye facilitar que las personas accedan a pruebas, vacunas y refuerzos, y tratamientos antivirales contra covid.

Durante la primera sesión informativa sobre covid de la Casa Blanca en casi tres semanas, el mensaje de los principales funcionarios federales de salud fue claro: no hay una vacuna adaptada a las variantes de ómicron. "Hay muchas personas que están en alto riesgo en este momento, y esperar hasta octubre o noviembre para recibir su refuerzo, cuando en realidad su riesgo es ahora. No es un buen plan", dijo la doctora Rochelle Walensky, directora de los CDC.

Debido a las preocupaciones sobre el aumento de la subvariante BA.5, la FDA recomendó el 30 de junio que Pfizer-BioNTech y Moderna se pongan a trabajar en la producción de una nueva vacuna bivalente que combine la versión actual con una formulación dirigida a las nuevas cepas.

Ambas empresas dicen que pueden poner a disposición millones de dosis de las vacunas re-

formuladas en octubre. Los expertos creen que la fecha límite podría retrasarse unos meses debido a problemas inesperados que pueden afectar la fabricación de vacunas.

"Creo que todos nos hemos estado haciendo la misma pregunta", dijo la doctora Kathryn Edwards, directora científica del Programa de Investigación de Vacunas de Vanderbilt. "¿Cuál es el beneficio de recibir otro refuerzo ahora cuando lo que saldrá en el otoño es una vacuna bivalente contra BA.4/5, que están circulando actualmente? Aunque si estará circulando en el otoño es otra cuestión".

El 13 de julio, la FDA autorizó una cuarta vacuna para covid, fabricada por Novavax, pero solo para personas que aún no han sido vacunadas. Muchos científicos pensaron que la dosis de Novavax podría ser un refuerzo eficaz para las personas vacunadas previamente con la de ARNm de Pfizer-BioNTech y Moderna porque su diseño único podría ampliar la respuesta inmunitaria a los coronavirus. Pero, desafortunadamente, pocos estudios han evaluado los enfoques de vacunación combinados, dijo Gellin, de la Fundación Rockefeller.

Edwards y su esposo contrajeron covid en enero. Ella recibió un

segundo refuerzo en junio, pero solo porque pensó que podría ser necesario para un viaje de negocios a Canadá. Sintió que una cuarta dosis era un desperdicio, aunque no particularmente riesgoso. Le dijo a su esposo, un septuagenerario saludable, que esperara la versión contra BA.4/5.

“

“Lo que estamos viendo ahora es un vacío de información que no está ayudando a las personas a tomar la decisión correcta”.

Carlos del Rio, Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad Emory

Las personas con un riesgo muy alto de complicaciones por covid podrían querer seguir adelante y recibir una cuarta dosis, dijo Edwards, con la esperanza de que prevenga temporalmente una enfermedad grave "mientras esperan por BA.4/5".

Las vacunas contra ómicron contendrán componentes que apuntan a la cepa original del virus porque se sabe que las primeras formulaciones de vacunas previ-

enen enfermedades graves y la muerte incluso en personas infectadas con ómicron.

Eos componentes también ayudarán a mantener bajo control las cepas anteriores del virus, dijo el doctor David Brett-Major, especialista en enfermedades infecciosas del Centro Médico de la Universidad de Nebraska. Eso es importante, dijo, porque demasiada adaptación de las vacunas para combatir las variantes emergentes podría permitir que resurjan las cepas más antiguas del coronavirus.

Brett-Major dijo que los mensajes sobre el valor de las vacunas deberán provenir de fuentes locales confiables, no solo de los principales funcionarios federales de salud.

"El acceso ocurre localmente", dijo. "Si los sistemas locales no están enviando mensajes, promoviendo y habilitando el acceso, es realmente problemático".

Aunque algunos estadounidenses se preguntan cuándo, o si, recibir sus segundos refuerzos, muchas personas se desconectaron de la pandemia hace mucho tiempo, lo que los pone en riesgo durante la ola actual, dijeron expertos.

El doctor Georges Benjamin, director ejecutivo de la Asociación

Estadounidense de Salud Pública, dijo que no espera que cambie mucho el nivel de interés del público en la vacuna, incluso si hay nuevos refuerzos y si se amplía la elegibilidad. Las zonas del país con una alta cobertura de vacunas permanecerán relativamente aisladas de las nuevas variantes que surjan, mientras que las regiones con baja aceptación de la vacuna podrían enfrentar una dura ola, dijo.

Incluso los científicos no saben cómo adaptarse de manera efectiva a un virus en constante cambio.

"Nada es simple con covid. ¿Verdad?", dijo Edwards. "Leí sobre una nueva variante en India. Tal vez sea nada, pero, ¿quién sabe? tal vez es algo grande, y luego nos preguntaremos, '¿Por qué cambiamos la cepa target de la vacuna a BA.4/5?'".

*Sam Whitehead es corresponsal y Arthur Allen es corresponsal de Kaiser Health News. Esta historia fue producida por Kaiser Health News, un programa editorialmente independiente de la Kaiser Family Foundation que no está relacionado con Kaiser Permanente.*

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## Notice of Intent to Apply for Public Transit Funds

The Rio Metro Regional Transit District (RMRTD) hereby gives notice of intent to apply to the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), Transit and Rail Bureau, for the following Federal Transit Administration (FTA) transit program funds to continue transit service within the RMRTD service area for Federal Fiscal Year 2024.

Section 5310 Elderly and Disabled Public Transit Funds

Section 5311 Rural Public Transit Funds

Individuals, organizations, and entities are welcome to provide comments on the proposal and to participate in further developments. Additionally individuals, organizations, and entities have the right to request a public hearing concerning this proposal. If you wish to submit a comment or request a public hearing, contact the Rio Metro Program Manager at 809 Copper NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102 no later than August 19, 2022.

This proposed Program of Projects for these funds for the Rio Metro Regional Transit District will be the final program unless amended. This public notice satisfies NMDOT Program of Projects requirements.

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**Election officials are concerned with supply chain issues causing paper shortages that may affect upcoming elections.** / Los funcionarios electorales están preocupados por los problemas de la cadena de suministro que provocan una escasez de papel que puede afectar a las próximas elecciones.

**Hastings & Torres**

aides and closest circle knew that there was no fraud, but allowed Trump to continue with the farce to raise millions of dollars from his fans for a presumed legal battle about a "fraud" that never occurred.

It's unbelievable to see how "justifications" for these facts continue to proliferate, both in news media slanted to the extreme right, Trumpism, and the Republican Party, and in today's campaigns, even by Latino candidates, who continue to gain support.

However, the U.S. public's reaction to the hearings has been rather tepid. As if nothing was in danger, nothing in play—especially when Trumpism dominates the Republican Party, and when those same Republicans continue spreading disinformation, falsehoods, xenophobia, and racism to appease their base and maintain or regain power, as the case may be.

In any other part of the world, the most conscious people would be in the streets demanding that the guilty parties pay, and also that authorities work not on behalf of an ideological or political group, but for society itself, one like the U.S.—which may belong to the developed world, but has demonstrated its lack of democratic maturity with these events.

On the other hand, as much as reasons exist to feel defrauded or disillusioned because the Democratic agenda promised in 2020 has failed to materialize, we have to be aware that we are confronting an historical moment which has demonstrated the fragility of

U.S. democracy. We have to question whether now is the time to get involved in internal disputes and blame them for inaction, or if there's a bigger matter at hand—the U.S. democracy—that requires us to decide whether, in the coming elections, we will support those who promote our interests and needs, or open the door yet again to the Trumpism that is the Republican Party, because our disillusion led us to not vote.

That is precisely the urgency with which the society of this nation must act in order to not lose the historical meaning of its democracy, and ultimately not turn itself over to those who have more than amply demonstrated that the ramifications of this political and economic mafia could put an end to the historic promise that the United States has been to this day. Not one more stumble can be allowed, or we risk losing everything.

The 2016 election is not ancient history. It happened just five and a half years ago. The internal fight among supporters of Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton led many "Sanderistas" to stay home, certain that Hillary would crush Trump. We know the rest of the story. We should avoid making the same mistake twice.

**Maribel Hastings is a Senior Advisor to América's Voice.**  
**David Torres is a Spanish-language Advisor at América's Voice.**

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**Jeffco**

reduced-price lunches. Schools with too few students can't cover their costs and must get additional money from the district.

Jeffco leaders have said school closures aren't just about saving money, but also about providing an equitable and robust education at every school.

Schools that cost more to run and still lack the programs that other schools offer are less sustainable. The district this year has hired a consultant to audit how the district allocates dollars to schools to re-examine student-based budgeting.

**5. Sixteen schools are projected to have more combined classrooms next year.**

In discussing how they believed education has suffered at schools they closed because of too few students in the past two years, Jeffco leaders pointed to classes combining two grades.

That burdens the teacher and diminishes student learning, they said, in part because teachers didn't have grade-level colleagues to plan, train, or discuss with.

Last school year, the district had 53 classrooms combining multiple grade levels. Next year, the district expects to have 72 combination classes. Just four of the schools using combined classrooms in 2021-22 expect to be able to eliminate them in the fall.

There are 16 elementary schools that expect to have an increase in the use of these classrooms, including six schools where they haven't been used in the previous year.

Election officials said they're worried that it will be difficult to reprint ballots or any of the paper goods that accompany a ballot at the last minute, but state election law often changes in the months or weeks leading up to an election, necessitating reprints.

Supply chain issues are also causing shortages of election hardware, said Ed Smith of the Sector Coordinating Council, who recommended states and localities order their supplies early and anticipate delays.

**Kira Lerner is the democracy reporter for States Newsroom in Washington, D.C. This article is republished from States Newsroom under a Creative Commons license.**

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la cadena de suministro del Consejo de Coordinación del Sector Federal, explicó cómo las fábricas de papel estadounidenses y canadienses han ido cerrando en la última década. El aumento de la demanda de cartón para envases, debido al incremento de las ventas en línea, hace que cada vez haya menos fábricas que produzcan el papel necesario para las papeletas, los sobres de votación e incluso las pegatinas "I Voted".

La pandemia no ha hecho más que agravar el problema, ya que los estados han permitido que más votantes emitan su voto por correo, lo que requiere más papel.

"Nunca previmos que se produjera este tipo de escasez cuando las fábricas estaban tomando decisiones en 2020", dijo Suver. Dijo que el suministro actual de papel es el más escaso que ha habido nunca, y es poco probable que el problema se resuelva antes de las elecciones de 2024.

Los funcionarios electorales dijeron que les preocupa que sea difícil reimprimir las papeletas o cualquiera de los artículos de papel que acompañan a una papeleta en el último minuto, pero la ley electoral estatal a menudo cambia en los meses o semanas que preceden a una elección, lo que hace necesaria la reimpresión.

Los problemas de la cadena de suministro también están causando escasez de material electoral, dijo Ed Smith, del Consejo de Coordinación del Sector, quien recomendó a los estados y localidades que pidan sus suministros con antelación y prevean retrasos.

**Kira Lerner es la reportera de democracia de States Newsroom en Washington, D.C. Este artículo ha sido publicado por States Newsroom bajo una licencia Creative Commons.**

**Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe - The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.**

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## Estudiantes

surgir a través de las historias orales", dice. Reznicek-Parrado estableció relaciones con organizadores comunitarios, organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro y organizaciones privadas que apoyan a las comunidades de habla hispana de diversas maneras.

"Rápidamente nos dimos cuenta de que queríamos enviar a nuestros estudiantes a formar parte de ese trabajo, especialmente a nuestros estudiantes que son bilingües", dice.

Camila Frech, estudiante de tercer año de negocios internacionales y estudiante de primera generación de Baton Rouge, Luisiana, formó parte de esta cohorte.

"Aprendí mucho sobre cómo la historia es una colección de historias de la gente y cómo percibían estos eventos en sus vidas", dice Frech, que también aprendió cómo honrar la historia original de la persona mientras se profundiza para reunir más información.

"Este proyecto ha sido una gran oportunidad de aprendizaje para mí para conocer mejor la comunidad de Denver. He llegado a apreciar el hecho de sentarme y escuchar a otras personas. Todo el mundo tiene tantas historias interesantes que compartir sobre sus vidas que ni siquiera se dan cuenta hasta que alguien empieza a preguntarles sobre ellas", añadió.

## Students

Reznicek-Parrado estableció relaciones con community organizers, nonprofit organizations and private organizations that support Spanish speaking communities in various ways.

"It was pretty quickly that we realized that we wanted to send our students to be part of that work, especially our students who are bilingual," she says.

Camila Frech, a junior international business major and first-generation student from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was in this cohort.

"I learned so much about how history is a collection of people's stories and how they were perceiving these events in their lives," says Frech, who also learned how to honor the person's original story while digging deeper to gather more information.

"This project has been a great learning opportunity for me to learn more about the community in Denver. I have come to appreciate just sitting back and listening to other people. Everyone has so many interesting stories to share about their lives that they do not even realize until someone else starts asking them about it," she added.

Jiménez concibió la idea del proyecto cuando vio una oportunidad de subvención a través del CILCA. Quería hacer un trabajo de audio que conectara a sus estudiantes con la comunidad, y dice que el CILCA ha sido un apoyo inmenso.

"Nos dieron mucho apoyo para conceptualizar un proyecto y llegar a lo que es factible", dice Jiménez. "La financiación en sí misma ha sido un apoyo extraordinario porque pudimos contratar a dos estudiantes trabajadores que son coordinadores clave para todo el proyecto".

El CILCA también concedió a cada uno de los profesores implicados en el programa una liberación de curso, lo que significa que cada uno tiene un curso menos que impartir, lo que les da tiempo para dedicarse al proyecto.

"La liberación de cursos es absolutamente decisiva para poder hacer todo este trabajo", dice Reznicek-Parrado. "Nos permite dedicar tiempo y energía a la creación de redes, al mantenimiento de las asociaciones comunitarias y a la captación de estudiantes. Sin ese apoyo, no podríamos hacer esto".

Los estudiantes han recopilado sus historias orales y la producción de medios ha comenzado. Las historias orales se guardarán en History Colorado para siempre, dice

Jiménez. El equipo también recibió una subvención del Centro de Investigación sobre Inmigración y Políticas de la Universidad de Colorado para procesar el audio y crear podcasts cortos para una serie que se centra en los inmigrantes de Colorado.

"Mucha gente no se limita a ir a un sitio web de historia oral y escuchar historias orales", dice Jiménez. "Esta es una buena manera de tener una distribución de cara al público".

El CILCA aportó el dinero inicial, pero el equipo ve un largo futuro para el proyecto. Han solicitado una subvención a través de la Fundación Nacional para las Humanidades y esperan que una mayor financiación permita la participación de más estudiantes y socios de la comunidad.

"Tenemos muchas historias hermosas que, creo que si no hicieramos este trabajo, nadie va a escuchar nunca estas historias", dice Jiménez.

**Janette Ballard, Universidad de Denver.**

**Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.**

**Para Noticias de Colorado:**  
[ELSEMANARIO.US](http://ELSEMANARIO.US)

## Poet

She was sent home and given a follow-up date for a week later. On July 17, 2020, she went back. She was sent home again. The next day she was found dead inside the Taos County home where she lived. She was 33.

An independent review of her condition at the time led to questions about why no one at the federally run IHS clinic intervened further.

The family released a 15-point call to action on Tuesday demanding reform of IHS, boosting mental health resources through the federal health agency, and calling on all levels of law enforcement — state, county, tribal and federal — to coordinate resources despite jurisdictional issues.

And the arts center in Coral Dawn's honor is a necessary component of change, too, they said, because people in tribal communities need places where they can find support when life takes a tragic turn. The Bernals say they hope their resource, the first of its kind in Taos Pueblo, can help someone else before their circumstances take a deadly path.

The action plan and the center follows recommendations made by Native American leaders working with the state to address the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives.

Beata Tsosie is a co-chair of the New Mexico MMIWR Task Force. She said tribal communities need resources like the one the Bernals are building in Taos because historically there is a lack of access to these types of healing resources. "There is implicit and explicit bias against Native peoples in health care and justice systems," said Tsosie (Santa Clara). "And we see it all the time."

A key recommendation from a report the MMIWR task force released in May is for state, local and tribal governments to build resource centers that offer shelter for victims of domestic violence and greater investment into substance use treatment options.

Tsosie said there are issues with people from outside tribal communities giving substandard or negligent care for Native people, so the Bernals opening this resource for their home should be a model going forward.

"A lot of the systems in place, because they're not from our communities, they're not invested in loving care of our own people the way our own people care and love for their family and relatives," Tsosie said. "It's an example of why we need to have our own people caring for us and caring for each other."

## Coral's hand in all things

The Bernal's are elevating their healing to do what the U.S. government is not.

The entire family are skilled artists. They will bring their experience in painting, sculpture, silversmith work, carpentry, music and writing to the center for art lessons.

Coral's mother Rose is bringing her experience as a grant manager with the local group Community Against Violence. Her brother C.J. has the vision of how the property will transform from a half-built Earthship into classrooms and a library highlighting work by Indigenous authors.

Her father talks about the physical work, moving stone, shoveling dirt, but he'll bring his expertise in art to the center. A few structures are already in place for the future artist-in-residence to stay. A digital archive will be built on the property to preserve documents related to Indigenous history.

The rest of the extended family will fill other roles when and where they can.

As they clean up and prepare the property, Coral's father continues to discover more of her work, penned across whatever blank sheet she could find.

"So today, I find napkins with her poetry on it. Encyclopedias books. She always wrote in everything," Carpio Bernal said. "She's bringing something to this community that our community does not have. And that's love and sharing."

**Shaun Griswold is a journalist in Albuquerque. He is a citizen of the Pueblo of Laguna, and his ancestry also includes Jemez and Zuni on the maternal side of his family. This article is republished from Source New Mexico under a Creative Commons license.**

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Chalkbeat analizó los datos que el distrito publicó en línea el mes pasado para cada una de las 84 escuelas primarias operadas por el distrito.

Estos son algunos datos clave.

### **1. Más de una docena de las escuelas usan menos de un 60% del edificio, y también anticipan tener menos de 250 estudiantes el próximo año.**

De 84 escuelas primarias, se proyecta que 30 tendrán menos de 250 estudiantes este próximo otoño. De esas, 16 ya usan menos de un 60% de la capacidad del edificio.

El distrito incluye a los estudiantes de preescolar al calcular cuánto se está usando de un edificio, pero no los incluye en las cifras de matrícula. El número de estudiantes matriculados se basa solamente en los estudiantes mayores. Los distritos reciben una cantidad diferente de fondos para los estudiantes de primaria y de preescolar.

Las 16 escuelas que tienen poco uso están mayormente concentradas en las comunidades del distrito más cercanas a Denver. Seis de las escuelas están en Arvada, donde Jeffco ya cerró dos escuelas recientemente. Otras cuatro están en Lakewood, y tres tienen una dirección en Westminster.

Los líderes del distrito no han decidido qué cantidad de estudiantes o cuál nivel de uso se considerará como demasiado bajo para que el distrito lo pueda sostener.

Al analizar cuántas escuelas esperan tener menos de 200 estudi-

antes el próximo año, encontramos que son 11, lo cual incluye ocho que están usando menos de un 60% de su campus: Slater, Campbell, Thomson, Colorow, Glennon Heights, Peck, Molholm y New Classical en Vivian.

Es probable que las escuelas que están exhibiendo estos factores enfrenten un mayor riesgo de cierre. No obstante, los líderes del distrito también han dicho que, para apoyar a las familias que cambiarán a escuelas nuevas, el distrito tendrá que limitar la cantidad de escuelas cerradas en 2023.

Busca la matrícula proyectada de tu escuela para el año 2022-23 y el uso del edificio durante 2021-22.

### **2. Las escuelas con poca matrícula y poco uso también tienen más probabilidad de tener una alta concentración de estudiantes en pobreza.**

A parte de estar mayormente aglomeradas en tres ciudades cerca de Denver, otro factor que define a estas escuelas con poca matrícula y poco uso es que una mayor porción de sus estudiantes es de hogares en pobreza. En las 16 escuelas con poco uso del edificio, un promedio de 50% de sus estudiantes provienen de familias de pocos ingresos, lo cual se define porque califican para comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido. En las escuelas con más matrícula y uso, el promedio del estudiantado que califica como de bajos ingresos es solo un 23%.

### **3. Más escuelas primarias de Jeffco perderán estudiantes que las que los ganarán.**

En términos generales, Jeffco espera que la matrícula en las escuelas primarias se mantenga estable en el otoño, ya que solamente se ha matriculado un estudiante adicional. Sin embargo, el cambio varía entre las escuelas.

De hecho, se proyecta que la matrícula está bajando en 43 de las 84 escuelas. De esas escuelas, se espera que más de dos terceras partes pierdan más de 10 estudiantes.

Mientras tanto, se espera que la matrícula aumente en 38 escuelas, y aproximadamente dos terceras partes de ellas recibirán más de 10 estudiantes nuevos.

Ganar o perder estudiantes, aunque sean pocos, puede afectar grandemente los presupuestos de las escuelas pequeñas. Perder estudiantes puede hacer más difícil contratar suficiente personal, manejar el tamaño de los salones, y ofrecer programas especializados, todos factores que afectan la calidad de la educación.

### **4. 37 escuelas primarias tienen un costo por estudiante más alto que el promedio.**

Los costos del distrito por cada estudiante de primaria varían entre \$13,870 en la Primaria Kyffin, que tuvo 441 menos estudiantes el último año, hasta \$19,197 en la Primaria Thompson, que tuvo 194 estudiantes.

El distrito les otorga dinero a las escuelas según la matrícula y otros factores, entre ellos cuántos estudiantes califican para obtener comida gratis o a precio reducido. Las escuelas que tienen muy pocos estudiantes no pueden cubrir

sus gastos y requieren dinero adicional del distrito.

Los líderes de Jeffco han dicho que los cierres de escuelas no se tratan solamente de ahorrar dinero, sino también de ofrecer una educación equitativa y robusta en cada escuela.

Es menos sustentable tener escuelas que cuestan más y de todos modos carecen de los programas disponibles en las demás escuelas. El distrito contrató este año a un consultor para auditar cómo el distrito asigna el dinero a las escuelas para reevaluar los presupuestos que se basan en la cantidad de estudiantes.

### **5. Se proyecta que 16 escuelas tendrán más salones combinados el próximo año.**

Al hablar sobre cómo entienden que la educación ha sufrido en las escuelas que cerraron en los últimos dos años por tener demasiado pocos estudiantes, los líderes de Jeffco señalaron que había salones que combinaban dos grados.

Eso representaba una carga adicional para los maestros y redujo el aprendizaje, dijeron, en parte porque los maestros no tenían colegas del mismo grado para planificar la enseñanza, recibir la capacitación, o discutir asuntos.

El año pasado el distrito tuvo 53 salones de clase que combinaban múltiples grados. El próximo año el distrito anticipa tener 72 salones combinados. Solamente cuatro de las escuelas que tuvieron salones combinados en 2021-22 esperan poder eliminarlos en el otoño.

Hay 16 escuelas primarias que anticipan un aumento en los sa-

lones de este tipo, lo cual incluye seis escuelas en las que no se usaron el año anterior.

### **¿Tienes estudiante en una de las escuelas pequeñas de Jeffco?**

El Distrito de Escuelas Públicas de Jeffco tiene menos estudiantes y está considerando cerrar algunas de sus escuelas pequeñas. Chalkbeat Colorado queremos escuchar las experiencias de padres, maestros y estudiantes en una escuela pequeña (tanto las buenas como las malas), entender tus inquietudes y saber qué preguntas tienes sobre el proceso. Tus respuestas a nuestra encuesta nos ayudarán al hacer reportajes. Contesta libremente las preguntas que te resulten más relevantes en este

formulario. Este formulario es confidencial. Si no tienes inconveniente con que nosotros publiquemos tus respuestas junto con tu nombre y ubicación, indícalo en la casilla a continuación. Nunca publicaremos tu información de contacto. Solamente la pedimos en caso que necesitemos comunicarnos contigo. Gracias por compartirlo. ¿Preguntas? Escríbenos a [community@chalkbeat.org](mailto:community@chalkbeat.org).

**Yesenia Robles** es reportera para Chalkbeat Colorado y cubre asuntos relacionados con los distritos escolares K-12 y la educación multilingüe.

Traducido por Milly Suazo-Martínez

**Para Noticias de Colorado:**  
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## Contreras

of color, excluded and far away from the polls.

However, I am privileged. My immigration status puts me on a path to citizenship and hopefully, soon, I'll get a chance to vote. But I am still so unfamiliar with the voting process that, to be completely honest, it intimidates me. And I know I am not alone.

The process of voting can be hard even for those who have the right but who may not speak the language that appears on ballots; for people living in poverty who may lack access to the internet or who may not have access to transportation or lack a form of identification; for people with disabilities and other historically disenfranchised groups. It shouldn't be.

That's why I am here. As a reporter with Votebeat, I want my reporting to help underrepresented

communities in Texas understand the nuts and bolts of how elections work. When we are able to understand the nuance around elections and the voting process, our communities are empowered to take action on policies and issues that impact them. I will be asking election officials and administrators a lot of questions because there are so many things I personally still don't know about voting and elections.

I want to know how polling locations are chosen and who makes those decisions. How do you vote if you don't have an ID? How do vote-counting machines work and how accurate are they?

And I'll be asking those questions on your behalf, too. I joined Votebeat because I want to amplify your voice and the voices of disenfranchised communities.

So, I want to hear from you. You can reach me via [email](mailto:email), Facebook, Twitter, or you can call or text me at 469-551-3107. I also want to know the type of Texas election coverage you've found useful, what you think is missing, and what you think our newsroom can do to make election and voting information more accessible to you.

Everyone should have the information they need — relevant to their local community and in their language — to cast a ballot.

In my career as a community journalist, I've had the opportunity to tell the stories of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, including some who fled war and oppressive governments. I told the story of Arwa Ghalawan and her husband, Wasim Almakki, who are from Syria. While visiting family in Indiana, the escalating civil war

prevented them from returning home. The couple was approved for asylum in the U.S., became naturalized citizens, and voted for the first time in 2020. Arwa told me how meaningful that moment was because she knew that in Syria today, people are still fighting for basic freedoms.

For some asylum seekers and refugees like Arwa and her husband, getting the chance to vote for the first time in the U.S. — without fear of persecution and retaliation — is almost like a revolutionary act.

With my reporting at Votebeat, I want to help those New Americans — whether they've been here a few years or the majority of their lives — feel confident as they get ready to cast their first ballot, just as I hope to be when I do it.

This is a pivotal moment to cover voting access in Texas — a place

I love and call home. Distrust and misinformation in elections in the aftermath of 2020 has already led to a law that disenfranchised voters and to partisan threats to elections. That's why I am proud to be part of a newsroom that is making history as the first in the country to focus solely on this issue. I firmly believe Votebeat's local coverage of elections and voting access will make an impact, help strengthen our communities, and our democracy.

**Natalia Contreras** is a Reporter with Votebeat Texas. This article was originally published by [Votebeat](http://Votebeat.org), a nonprofit news organization covering local election administration and voting access.

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