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Searching on Their Own 8
Buscando por su Cuenta

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Commentary/Comentario

Extremism and Division, Factors in the Failure of the So-Called 'Red Wave'

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

In spite of the catastrophic prognostications against Democrats in the midterm elections, all signs seem to indicate that they have not done as poorly as anticipated. The "red wave" Republicans hoped for does not seem to have materialized. Control of the Senate, which is majority-Democrat today, and everything points to Republican control of the House of Representatives, but not by the dozens of seats they had anticipated. So it was a good day for the U.S. democracy, which consolidated in just one night against the doomsayers of disinformation and backwardness, as well as the



Photo/Foto: America's Voice



Photo/Foto: America's Voice

false promoters of a "red wave" that in reality became a "faded puddle." One should not underestimate, however, the damage that Republicans can do, at the legislative level, if they control either or both chambers of Congress. It could be said that a divided country having an election with

divided results gives both parties reason to celebrate. And it also remains clear that Trumpism has its vulnerabilities, as in the case of Pennsylvania, where the candidate supported by Donald J. Trump, Mehmet Oz, lost to Democrat John Fetterman, whose spouse is a Brazilian immigrant who was

undocumented for ten years. There are other, similar examples. Basically, it was a bad night for Trump and his people, who disseminated, through their rhetoric, an atmosphere of electoral violence that also failed to deliver results. Instead, civility and the right to vote made themselves clear, surpassing expectations and showing a path to follow in the next election cycle. Trumpism, in and of itself, no longer has any rationale. It doesn't fit in this democracy. Trump, in fact, is a terrible political investor. In Texas, the anti-immigrant governor, Greg Abbott, re-upped his position. In the Rio Grande Valley in the south of Texas, a former Democratic stronghold, there were mixed results. Of the three Trump-backed candidates, only one—

“

It was a good day for the U.S. democracy, which consolidated in just one night against the doomsayers of disinformation and backwardness.

Mónica de la Cruz—won, in the 15th District, beating Democrat Michelle Vallejo. This is perhaps one of the contests that demonstrated the lack of Democratic investment at the national level, when they determined these races are too

See [Hastings & Torres](#) on page 7

Extremismo y División, Factores del Fracaso de la Llamada 'Ola Roja'

Maribel Hastings y David Torres

Pese a los catastróficos pronósticos contra los demócratas en las elecciones intermedias, todo parece indicar que no les ha ido tan mal como se anticipaba. La "ola roja" que esperaban los republicanos parece no haberse concretado. El control del Senado, hoy de mayoría demócrata, y todo apunta a que los republicanos controlarían la Cámara Baja, pero no por las decenas de escaños que esperaban.

Es decir, fue una buena jornada para la democracia estadounidense, que se consolidó en una sola noche frente a los agoreros

de la desinformación y el retroceso, así como de los falsos promotores de dicha "ola roja" que en realidad se convirtió en "charquito desteñido". No hay que subestimar, sin embargo, el daño que puedan hacer los republicanos a nivel legislativo si controlan una o ambas cámaras del Congreso.

Podría decirse que un país dividido tuvo una elección con resultados divididos con razones para celebrar para ambos partidos. Y también quedó plasmado que el trumpismo tiene sus vulnerabilidades, como en el caso de Pennsylvania, donde el candidato apoyado por Donald J. Trump, Mehmet Oz, perdió ante el demócrata John Fetterman, cuya esposa es una inmigrante brasileña que fue indoc-

umentada durante 10 años. Hay otros ejemplos similares.

Es decir, también fue una mala noche para Trump y los suyos, que diseminaron con su retórica un contexto de violencia electoral que tampoco les dio resultado porque la civilidad y el derecho al voto se hicieron presentes, superando incluso las expectativas y mostrando el camino a seguir en las próximas justas electorales. El trumpismo, en sí mismo, ya no tiene razón de ser, no cabe en esta democracia. Trump, de hecho, es un pésimo inversionista político.

En Texas, el gobernador anti-inmigrante republicano, Greg Abbott, revalidó en su puesto. En el Sur de Texas, en el Valle del Río Grande, otrora bastión demócrata,

hubo resultados mixtos. De las tres candidatas republicanas apoyadas por Trump solamente una, Mónica de la Cruz, ganó su escaño en el distrito 15 derrotando a la demócrata Michelle Vallejo. Esta es quizá una de las contiendas que demuestra la falta de inversión demócrata a nivel nacional cuando determinan que se trata de carreras difíciles de ganar, cediendo así terreno a los republicanos. Al menos en el caso de Mayra Flores (TX-34) y Cassy García (TX-28) la realidad electoral les dio una lección que no olvidarán al perder en sus distritos de manera contundente.

En el Sur de Texas, el Valle del Río Grande, de hecho, los demócratas no invirtieron ni los recursos ni el tiempo, pensando —como siempre— que los votantes latinos no los abandonarían, aunque desde 2020 se reflejó la erosión del apoyo latino a los demócratas. De hecho, Biden ganó en 2020 con márgenes inferiores a los de Hillary Clinton en 2016 en los condados de Hidalgo y Starr.

Y Florida es una historia en sí misma. Ahí sí hubo una "ola roja" con los triunfos republicanos: Ron DeSantis en la gobernación, Marco Rubio al Senado y la congresista María Elvira Salazar en el distrito 10, todos con amplio apoyo del voto latino del estado. De hecho, los medios en español destacaron cómo el condado de Miami-Dade, con una población 70% hispana, eligió a un republicano, DeSantis, como gobernador, por primera vez en 20 años. Jeb Bush ganó ese condado en 2002.

“

Fue una buena jornada para la democracia estadounidense, que se consolidó en una sola noche frente a los agoreros de la desinformación y el retroceso.

Esto prueba cuán oscilante puede ser el voto latino, aunque en el caso de Florida ya se dice que ha dejado de ser un estado púrpura, que puede inclinarse por cualquiera de los dos partidos, para ser uno rojo.

De manera que estas elecciones todavía sin dilucidar ofrecen enseñanzas para los dos partidos, mismos que deben apurar a sus respectivos estrategas a fin de aprender a interpretar mejor a este segmento del electorado estadounidense y evitar la mezcla de los estereotipos culturales con las realidades políticas de un determinado momento electoral.

Por ejemplo, aunque no hubo una "ola roja", los demócratas habrían tenido un mejor papel si hubiesen hecho las inversiones debidas entre los sectores adecuados, cuyo respaldo puede inclinar la balanza electoral. Los latinos, en efecto, no se inclinaron abrumadoramente por los republicanos como se anticipaba. Pero la erosión del voto latino entre los demócratas en otrora seguros bastiones de ese partido, como el caso del Sur

Vea [Hastings & Torres/Esp](#), página 7



Neoliberal Investor-State System is a Threat to Democracy and Planet

Manuel Pérez Rocha

In advance of the global climate negotiations taking place in Egypt, several countries announced important actions to curb the power of the fossil fuel industry.

For decades now, a global web of international investment agreements has given corporations excessive powers to block government policies they don't like. Through "investor-state dispute settlement" mechanisms, these agreements grant corporations the right to sue governments in unaccountable supranational tribunals, demanding huge payouts in retaliation for actions that might reduce



Photo: Institute for Policy Studies

the value of their investments. Corporations are able to file such lawsuits over a wide array of government actions—including actions designed to protect people and the planet.

Poland, Italy, France, the Netherlands, and Spain have now an-

nounced they will withdraw from one of these anti-democratic agreements: the Energy Charter Treaty, a 1991 pact signed by about 50 countries. The ECT offers special protections to oil, gas, and mining corporations and energy companies, undermining governments' abilities to address climate change.

These countries' rejection of the Energy Charter Treaty is welcome, but much more needs to be done. The United States is not a member of the ECT, but the U.S. government has been a major driver of the investor-state system, insisting on including such corporate powers in dozens of trade agreements and

“For decades now, a global web of international investment agreements has given corporations excessive powers to block government policies they don't like.”

bilateral investment treaties and only partially rolling back some of these rules in recent years.

Altogether, the nearly 3,000 free trade and investment treaties across the globe that include ISDS clauses have led corporations to

file lawsuits against governments totaling many billions of dollars. And that's just the cases we know about. Many of these suits remain secret.

With climate negotiators meeting in Egypt, more than 350 organizations in more than 60 countries have issued a joint letter calling on governments to get rid of the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) system altogether.

As the letter explains, the key risks posed by the ISDS system are: 1. Increased costs for governments to act on climate if corporations are able to claim exorbitant amounts

See Pérez Rocha on page 18

LEC and LAC Thanks Colorado Department of Education Board

Milo Marquez

The Latino Education Coalition of Denver (LEC) and the Colorado Latino Action Council (LAC) at CLLARO wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the Colorado Department of Education for their vote last week, November 10, confirming the importance of Multicultural Studies in K-12 for Colorado's schools in Social Studies. Importantly, we note Social Studies includes the content areas of History, Geography, Civics, and Economics.

to a Committee for further review, which in early June announced the results of their review.

The LEC and LAC viewed those results as a malicious gutting of almost any reference to the Multicultural Studies content. For example, while the HB19-1192 Commission indicated at least six areas in the high school curriculum where Social Studies content about Latinos would be added, the CDE Board's Committee eliminated five of them, leaving only one meager reference, to receive a mere passing nod throughout a student's entire high school career, in grades 9-12. The elementary and middle school curricula faced similar evisceration. Fortunately, on Sunday, the seven-member CDE Board, after serious reflection and considering input by many groups and individuals, including LEC and LAC, voted 4-3 to restore the original Commission recommendations, which we approved.

This positive vote by the CDE Board approving these revised Standards is eminently significant to the Latinx community and other racial and ethnic minorities and marginalized groups. The Preamble paragraph to HB19-1192 reads in part, "concerning the inclusion of matters relating to American minorities in the teaching of social contributions in civil government... to include the history, culture, and social contributions of American Indians, Latinos, African Americans, and Asian Americans, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals within these minority groups," and other marginalized groups. Members of LEC have worked on this Bill, and its predecessor, Title 22-1-104, for many

years, including during previous iterations of the LEC. We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to numerous members of LEC and LAC over the years, including in concerted written responses to the CDE Board, which helped make Sunday's CDE Board vote on to approve possible.

We want to acknowledge the early leadership by former State

Representative Joe Salazar. We also want to thank State Senator Julie Gonzales and State Representative Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez for their leadership role in HB19-1192's drafting and approval, and for their working with the CDE Board to reach this favorable conclusion on November 10. We look forward to working in partnership with the Colorado Department of

Education and its Board in moving this important academic area forward.

Milo Marquez serves as the Chair of the Latino Education Coalition and Director of the Latino Action Council.

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This positive vote by the CDE Board approving these revised Standards is eminently significant to the Latinx community.

In 2019, the Colorado State Legislature approved HB19-1192, known as the Inclusion of American Minorities in Teaching Civil Government Bill, signed by Governor Polis in May 2019. HB19-1192 mandated the creation of a Commission, appointed by Governor Polis, to study potential Multicultural Studies content and make recommendations concerning such content areas in K-12, with discreet proposals in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. Upon concluding their task, that Commission forwarded their recommendations to the CDE Board. LEC and LAC viewed them favorably. Surprisingly, and most unfortunately, the CDE Board forwarded these recommendations



Americans Made Their Voices Heard

Chuck Schumer

Editor's Note: Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) on Nov. 14, spoke on the Senate floor about the 2022 midterm elections. The following are Senator Schumer's remarks:

Last Tuesday, Americans made their voices heard in one of the most remarkable midterm elections in modern history.

With our democracy at stake, with our fundamental liberties on the line, and with a clear choice between moving America forward or holding it back, the American people spoke loud and clear: Democrats will retain the majority in the Senate.

And House Democrats, under the leadership of Speaker Pelosi, defied precedent and remain within striking distance of defending their majority as well.

The election was a great win for the Democratic Party. But more importantly, a great win for the American people.

And let me say this. Two things happened in the last two years: first, this Senate and this Congress passed a huge agenda, the most comprehensive agenda affect-



Photo: Office Sen. Schumer

ing and helping American families that has occurred in decades. Second, Democrats won the elections here in the Senate and many in the House.

Those two statements are directly related.

Because Democrats had a strong agenda here—and did things for American people—we won. And despite the negativity and divisiveness, the threats of violence, and even the violence itself that occurred with MAGA Republicanism dominating the country, the American people stepped back from the precipice and chose progress and getting things done, rather than the voices of divisiveness, nastiness, and lack of complete truth and honor.

So those two things are definitely related.

First, let's talk about some of the things we got done. It was an incredible, incredible two years.

The list is a long one: the most significant bipartisan infrastructure bill in decades, making sure that millions of new, good jobs will occur with union labor, employing tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, millions of people in good, new working jobs.

We reformed the Post Office for the first time in a very long time.

We dealt with the issue of chips made overseas and we said to the American people that we're going to make them here, creating thousands and thousands of good paying jobs, and we're not going to let any country – not China or any other – take away that dominance. We've developed the chips here, we're going to make them here.

We dealt with our veterans who were exposed to toxins from burn pits, and when the VA wouldn't help them, we said the VA must.

We dealt with climate in the Inflation Reduction Act for the first time ever, and it will reduce the amount of carbon flowing into our atmosphere by 2030 by 40%.

In the same bill, we took on the prescription drug companies and we got a \$35 price for insulin on Medicare, and lowered the prices of drugs for so many millions of Americans on many other drugs starting as early as next year, with a cap of \$2,000 on what people pay.

We increased health care, we expanded the ACA (Affordable Care Act) making health care less expensive for many and dealing with so many other health care issues to the benefit of the American people.

So it was a huge agenda. And despite what some of the pundits and prognosticators say, that is what the American people wanted.

So how did we win the election? Because we stuck to that agenda.

And on the other side, what we saw from MAGA Republicans was the Big Lie that said that the election was stolen. It was a lie, plain and simple, but MAGA Republicans, so many in this chamber, repeated that lie over and over again.

If one political party—or a large group of people—abandon the view that the elections are on the level, it is the beginning of the end of our democracy.

Not only did we see the Big Lie, but we saw nastiness, divisiveness, threats of violence and even violence itself not only of January 6th but often directed at the people running our elections. These are nice hardworking people. All they want to do is do their job and make sure the votes are counted properly, and they got threatened.

And what bothered Americans even more than this was the fact that too many Republican leaders either condoned the violence or even aided and abetted the threats of violence. It was outrageous, but lots of people saw right through it. And not just Democrats: large numbers of Republicans said, this new MAGA Republican party is not the party of Ronald Reagan, not the party of the Bush's. It's a different party, and I can't count on it.

And that's why so many of them voted for Democratic candidates, who were paying attention to the specific issues – non-divisive, non-incendiary – just helping people. And that's why I believe we won the election.

I'll say one more thing, the Midterms are not over. Obviously, there is an election in Georgia once again we have the contrast. Senator Warnock is a man dedicated to service. He first serviced people in the ministry and he still is the minister, the pastor, of one of the most

“

Let us move forward with the same spirit of cooperation and compromise that made the 117th Congress one of the most successful in recent history.

famous and revered pulpits in the entire country, the Ebenezer Baptist Church, the old pulpit of Martin Luther King Jr. – but he became a Senator and that devotion to service continued. He was one of our leaders in establishing a \$35 cap on insulin, so that tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of Georgians and millions of Americans, elderly – and now the drug companies, even though it is not a patented drug, were charging \$600, \$700, \$800 a month.

He helped with healthcare. He helped get \$4 billion for Black farmers who had been discriminated against for decades, and so I believe this election, this new election in Georgia, will be like the election that we've had last Tuesday. The candidate who is trying to help people, the candidate who is not being divisive and incendiary will win, Raphael Warnock.

Now where should we go in the next two years?

I hope this for the good of the American people will continue our record of getting bipartisan things done.

Of the six major bills we've passed in June and July and early August, five were bipartisan. And our hierarchy as democrats is to work on a bipartisan basis whenever we can, and we showed we were able to.

There are times when we can't get Republicans to join us. None of them wanted to go against Big Pharma and we had to pass prescription drugs by ourselves. None of them wanted to go against big oil, so we had to pass climate change by ourselves. But we got a lot of bipartisan things done. And my hope for America, for the sake of America – this is a swirling world, people are not happy with their circumstances, they want help – is that this Senate in the next two years, under the leadership of this caucus, will rise to that occasion.

And I say to my Democratic colleagues, let us proceed in the next two years by putting people first and getting things done even if we

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Hastings & Torres

tough to win, thereby ceding territory to the Republicans. But in the cases of Mayra Flores (TX-34) and Cassy Garcia (TX-28), the electoral reality was a lesson these candidates will not forget, having lost in these districts by a wide margin. In the south of Texas, the Rio Grande Valley in fact, Democrats invested neither resources nor time, thinking—like always—that Latino voters would not abandon them, although since 2020 we have seen an erosion of Latino support for Democrats. In fact, Biden won the counties of Hidalgo and Starr with tighter margins in 2020 than Hillary Clinton in 2016. And Florida is a story unto itself. There, there was a “red wave” of Republican victories: Ron DeSantis as Governor, Marco Rubio in the Senate, and Maria Elvira Salazar in Congressional District 10, all with ample support from Latino voters in the state. In fact, Spanish media underscored that Miami-Dade County, with a 70% Hispanic population, elected a Republican—DeSantis—to be governor for the first time in twenty years. Jeb Bush won that county in 2002. This shows how movable the Latino vote can be, although in the case of Florida it has already been said that it stopped being a purple state, leaning toward either of the two parties, and became red. These still unclear elections offer lessons for both parties, which their strategists must quickly learn in order to better interpret this segment of the U.S. electorate, and avoid confusing cultural stereotypes with political realities at any given electoral moment. For example, although there wasn’t a “red wave,” the Democrats would have done better if they had made

the investments they should have among appropriate sectors, whose support could determine the electoral balance. Latinos, basically, did not overwhelmingly support Republicans as it was anticipated. But the erosion of the Latino vote among Democrats in once-safe bastions of the party, like the south of Texas and Miami-Dade County, is still very real. Election after election, the Democrats are warned about this, that the Latino vote is not a monolith, it is movable and can bend to the extreme right, center, or extreme left. And they are persuadable. If the party and candidates they support do not tend to their priorities, Latinos will listen to what the other party and candidates have to say, even if they are extremists like Donald Trump. The Democrats should understand, once and for all, that they have to court this vote in a constant way and not days or hours before the elections. Despite it all, Latinos continue to favor Democrats over Republicans. Proof of this is, for example, that the southern border did not turn “red” and electoral deniers failed again. The lesson for Republicans is that their extremist and anti-immigrant discourse has its limitations. Perhaps it helps them with the MAGA base, but for the rest of the country, extremism and division are warning signs.

Maribel Hastings is a Senior Advisor to América's Voice.

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de Texas y el condado Miami Dade, también es algo muy real.

Pero elección tras elección, a los demócratas se les advierte lo mismo, que el voto latino no es monolítico, que es oscilante y que puede ser incluso de extrema derecha, de centro o de extrema izquierda. Y son persuadibles. Si el partido y los candidatos que apoyan no atienden sus prioridades, los latinos escuchan lo que dicen otro partido y otros candidatos, así sean extremistas como Donald Trump. Los demócratas deben entender de una vez por todas que hay que cortejar ese voto de manera constante y no días u horas antes de las elecciones.

Y a pesar de todo, los latinos siguen favoreciendo a los

demócratas sobre los republicanos. Prueba de ello es que, por ejemplo, la frontera sur no se volvió “roja” y que los negacionistas electorales fracasaron nuevamente.

La lección para los republicanos es que su discurso extremista y antiinmigrante tiene sus limitaciones. Quizá los ayuda con la base MAGA, pero para el resto del país, el extremismo y la división son señales de precaución.

Maribel Hastings es Asesora Ejecutiva de América's Voice.

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Search and Rescue Group Looks for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

by Vanessa G. Sánchez

Bernadine Beyale, a commanding woman with sharp eyes, stands with a hiking pole in one hand and a GoPro camera strapped around her chest. She is on a dirt road on the Navajo Nation near the Arizona border, carrying a backpack filled with water bottles for her and her two German shepherds, a notebook, a two-way radio and two phones. A blanket of reddish sand spreads out in all directions, giving way to cliffs, desert washes and broad mesas.

"The last thing he was wearing was a maroon shirt, gray sweatpants and mismatched flip-flops," Beyale tells the 20 people gathered around her by a windmill. "If you come across bones... don't touch it. Don't disturb it."

From Arizona, Utah, and New México, a dozen volunteers and three separate families — uncles, aunts, cousins, neighbors — have come together to search for Ryan Tom, yet another Navajo man missing on tribal land.

This particular morning — the last Sunday in September — marks 104 days since Tom's family started searching for him. They contacted

Navajo Police in June, two days after the 32-year-old man failed to return home in Sweetwater, Arizona, where he lived with his brother and grandparents.

"We were waiting for him to come home, like maybe he was just somewhere, but this is way too long," says his aunt, Rosina Brown, a member of the search party.

"We have watched Bernadine look for missing people, and I never thought we would be looking for our own nephew. I never thought I would be asking Bernadine for help," Brown says.

Beyale, a search and rescue expert, is being asked for help more and more often these days. For the past four years, she has made it her mission to find missing and murdered Indigenous women and their relatives, a movement shorthand as MMIWR. Fueled by frustration at the slow response from law enforcement, Beyale has stepped in where few have ventured.

When she started out, it was "just me, them" — she points to her two dogs — "and the family," she says. Together, they've found the remains of five people, one of whom, Beyale says, had been missing for several months.



Team members Bernadine Beyale (right) along with rescue dog Trigger, Candice Perry (center) and Tarah Weeks (far left), walk by family members on a plateau in West Mesa, New México. / Los miembros del equipo Bernadine Beyale (derecha) junto con el perro de rescate Trigger, Candice Perry (centro) y Tarah Weeks (extrema izquierda), caminan junto a sus familiares en una meseta en West Mesa, Nuevo México.

In 2022, she founded 4Corners K-9 Search and Rescue, a nonprofit that searches for disappeared Native men, women and children on tribal and surrounding lands. Today, the team consists of Beyale and seven other women,

some certified in search and rescue techniques. Some travel from as far away as Phoenix, Arizona, to conduct day-long searches. Some have their own missing loved ones. All volunteer their time while juggling full-time jobs, school or motherhood.

This year alone, the team has received 36 calls for help, 23 of which led to official search parties. Most of the calls were for missing men.

Beyale sees herself as part investigator, part grief counselor and part advocate. "I keep telling [law enforcement], I'm wearing all of these hats — where are the rest of you that should be helping these families?"

'Can you help us?'

The daughter of former Navajo Police officers in Crownpoint, New México, a remote community in McKinley County, Beyale, 42, once thought of becoming a police officer herself. But after witnessing the hardships her parents endured — patrolling hundreds of miles, constrained by a lack of resources and staff — she opted for a college degree in accounting and business.

She lives in Farmington, New México, an oil and gas town just east of the Navajo Nation, which stretches 27,000 square miles across Arizona, Utah and New México. When she's not working as a supervisor in a coal mine, she's looking for missing people on the vast tribal lands.

The mother of a senior high school student and a college athlete, she is constantly missing fami-

ly dinners. "I get a call from a family: 'We need help. Can you help us?'" Beyale says. "Just like officers and firefighters I've missed out on a lot."

Until 2019, she never thought of herself as an advocate for the MMIWR movement. At the time, she was volunteering with a search and rescue group in New México, helping find lost hikers and climbers — aided by Trigger, her well-trained German shepherd.



"I keep telling [law enforcement], I'm wearing all of these hats — where are the rest of you that should be helping these families?"

Bernadine Beyale,
4Corners K-9 Search and
Rescue

Then an elderly Navajo couple from Shiprock, New México, approached her with a different kind of request. They were desperate to find their missing son and they'd heard that Beyale could help track him down with her dog.

"They had been looking for their son for the past four months, and they were not getting help from the Navajo police," she says. "They did not know what to do, and they were going out doing searches on their own."

See **Indigenous** on page 21

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Grupo de Búsqueda y Rescate Busca a los Indígenas Desaparecidos y Asesinados



Foto/Photo: Shayla Blatchford for Searchlight New Mexico

Tarah Weeks (izquierda), Candice Perry (centro) y Bernadine Beyale (derecha) se encuentran en una meseta en el suroeste de Albuquerque, Nuevo México. Son miembros de la organización de mujeres 4Corners K-9 Search and Rescue. / Tarah Weeks (left), Candice Perry (center), and Bernadine Beyale (right) stand on a plateau in southwest Albuquerque, New México. They are members of the all-women organization, 4Corners K-9 Search and Rescue.

Por Vanessa G. Sánchez

Bernadine Beyale, una mujer imponente de ojos afilados, está de pie con un bastón de senderismo en una mano y una cámara GoPro atada a su pecho. Está en un camino de tierra de la Nación Navajo, cerca de la frontera con Arizona, y lleva una mochila llena de botellas de agua para ella y sus dos pastores alemanes, un cuaderno, una radio de dos vías y dos teléfonos. Un manto de arena rojiza se extiende en todas las direcciones, dando paso a acantilados, lavados del desierto y amplias mesetas.

"Lo último que llevaba era una camisa granate, un pantalón de chándal gris y unas chanclas desparejadas", cuenta Beyale a las 20 personas reunidas a su alrededor junto a un molino de viento. "Si os encontráis con huesos... no lo toquéis. No los molestéis".

Desde Arizona, Utah y Nuevo México, una docena de voluntarios y tres familias distintas -tíos, tías, primos, vecinos- se han reunido para buscar a Ryan Tom, otro navajo desaparecido en tierras tribales.

Esta mañana en particular -el último domingo de septiembre- se cumplen 104 días desde que la familia de Tom comenzó a buscarlo. Se pusieron en contacto con la Policía Navajo en junio, dos días después de que el hombre de 32 años no regresara a su casa en Sweetwater, Arizona, donde vivía con su hermano y sus abuelos.

"Estábamos esperando que

volviera a casa, como si estuviera en algún lugar, pero esto es demasiado tiempo", dice su tía, Rosina Brown, miembro del grupo de búsqueda.

"Hemos visto a Bernadine buscar a personas desaparecidas, y nunca pensé que estaríamos buscando a nuestro propio sobrino. Nunca pensé que estaría pidiendo ayuda a Bernadine", dice Brown.

A Beyale, experta en búsqueda y rescate, se le pide ayuda cada vez más a menudo. Desde hace cuatro años, su misión es encontrar a las mujeres indígenas desaparecidas y asesinadas y a sus familiares, un movimiento denominado MMIWR. Impulsada por la frustración ante la lentitud de la respuesta de las fuerzas del orden, Beyale ha llegado donde pocos se han aventurado.

Cuando empezó, éramos "sólo yo, ellos" -señala a sus dos perros- "y la familia", dice. Juntos han encontrado los restos de cinco personas, una de las cuales, dice Beyale, llevaba varios meses desaparecida.

En 2022, fundó 4Corners K-9 Search and Rescue, una organización sin ánimo de lucro que busca a hombres, mujeres y niños nativos desaparecidos en tierras tribales y alrededores. En la actualidad, el equipo está formado por Beyale y otras siete mujeres, algunas certificadas en técnicas de búsqueda y rescate. Algunas viajan desde lugares tan lejanos como Phoenix, Arizona, para realizar búsquedas de un día de duración.

Algunas tienen sus propios seres queridos desaparecidos. Todas ofrecen su tiempo como voluntarias mientras hacen malabarismos con sus trabajos a tiempo completo, sus estudios o su maternidad.

Sólo este año, el equipo ha recibido 36 llamadas de ayuda, 23 de las cuales han dado lugar a grupos de búsqueda oficiales. La mayoría de las llamadas se referían a hombres desaparecidos.

Beyale se considera en parte investigadora, en parte consejera de duelo y en parte defensora. "Sigo diciéndoles la las fuerzas del orden que llevo todos estos sombreros: ¿dónde están los demás que deberían ayudar a estas familias?".

¿Pueden ayudarnos?

Hija de antiguos policías navajos de Crownpoint, Nuevo México, una comunidad remota del condado de McKinley, Beyale, de 42 años, pensó en algún momento en convertirse ella misma en policía. Pero después de presenciar las dificultades que sufrieron sus padres -patrullando cientos de kilómetros, limitados por la falta de recursos y personal-, optó por un título universitario en contabilidad y negocios.

Vive en Farmington (Nuevo México), una ciudad petrolera y gasística situada al este de la Nación Navajo, que se extiende a lo largo de 27.000 millas cuadradas en Arizona, Utah y Nuevo México. Cuando no trabaja como supervisora en una mina de carbón, busca a personas desaparecidas en las

vastas tierras tribales.

Madre de un estudiante de último curso de secundaria y de un atleta universitario, se pierde constantemente las cenas familiares. "Recibo una llamada de una familia: 'Necesitamos ayuda. ¿Puedes ayudarnos?' dice Beyale. "Al igual que los oficiales y los bomberos me he perdido muchas cosas".

Hasta 2019, nunca pensó en sí misma como defensora del movimiento MMIWR. En ese momento, era voluntaria en un grupo de búsqueda y rescate en Nuevo México, ayudando a encontrar a excursionistas y escaladores perdidos, ayudada por Trigger, su bien entrenado pastor alemán.

Entonces, una pareja de ancianos navajos de Shiprock (Nuevo México) se dirigió a ella con una petición diferente. Estaban desesperados por encontrar a su hijo desaparecido y habían oído que Beyale podía ayudar a localizarlo con su perro.

"Llevaban cuatro meses buscando a su hijo y no recibían ayuda de la policía navajo", explica. "No sabían qué hacer y salían a buscar por su cuenta".

Aceptó ayudar y, tras dos búsquedas, descubrió los restos

del hijo en un camino de tierra cerca de Shiprock.



"Sigo diciéndoles [a las fuerzas del orden] que llevo todos estos sombreros: ¿dónde están los demás que deberían ayudar a estas familias?".

Bernadine Beyale,
4Corners K-9 Search and
Rescue

El número de teléfono de la "señora con sus perros" empezó a circular rápidamente por la reserva.

El movimiento MMIWR crece

El movimiento de los MMIWR ya estaba ganando la atención nacional, impulsado por décadas de trabajo de los organizadores de la comunidad y de las familias en duelo. La crisis lleva años produciéndose, debido a un sistema de justicia plagado de racismo, falta de datos precisos, escasa dotación de

Vea **Indígenas**, página 22

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Latino Electorate Provides Key Votes for Democrats in Colorado Midterms

COLORADO

By Lindsey Toomer

Colorado's Latino voters showed a strong preference for Democrats in the 2022 midterms, according to a new exit poll that says the Latino electorate was mobilized to vote based on the issues they care about.

The Colorado Latino Exit Poll, released for the first time this year, was organized by the Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR) and Voces Unidas, and it was conducted by BSP Research. The survey spoke with 531 Latino and Latina voters across the state, with a larger sample in the new 8th Congressio-

nal District because of its high number of Latino voters. It overwhelmingly found that Colorado's Latino electorate cared more about voting in support of issues they care about and making positive change than political party loyalty.



"It was more of a need to vote their values that helped propel candidates and issues to victory up and down the ballot."

Dusti Gurule, COLOR

COLOR President and CEO Dusti Gurule noted the exit poll results reflect the priorities outlined in the

Colorado Latino Policy Agenda, an annual report about the political views of Colorado Latinos, where economic issues were ranked as a top policy concern. She added specifically that Latino Coloradans are more likely to vote for candidates who support the expansion and protection of abortion access.

"One of the many fascinating findings of this exit poll... is that those economic concerns did not result in a backlash at the party in power, as many had anticipated," Gurule said in a press conference last Thursday. "But really, it was more of a need to vote their values that helped propel candidates and issues to victory up and down the ballot."

Gabe Sánchez, a vice president of research with BSP, explained



Yadira Caraveo addresses reporters for the first time as the U.S. representative-elect from Colorado's 8th Congressional District, on Nov. 10, 2022, at her parents' home in Adams County. / Yadira Caraveo se dirige a los periodistas por primera vez como representante electa del 8º Distrito del Congreso de Colorado, el 10 de noviembre de 2022, en la casa de sus padres en el condado de Adams.

the results at last Thursday's press conference, similarly highlighting the importance of values for Latino votes. He said the results of the

Colorado exit poll show the importance the Latino electorate had on

See [Midterms](#) on page 17

El Electorado Latino Aporta Votos Clave para los Demócratas en las Elecciones Intermedias

Por Lindsey Toomer

Los votantes latinos de Colorado mostraron una fuerte preferencia por los demócratas en las elecciones intermedias de 2022, según una nueva encuesta a pie de urna que dice que el electorado latino se movi-

lizó para votar en función de los temas que les preocupan.

El Colorado Latino Exit Poll, publicado por primera vez este año, fue organizado por la Organización de Colorado para la Oportunidad y los Derechos Reproductivos de las Latinas (COLOR) y Voces Unidas, y fue realizado por BSP Research. La

encuesta habló con 531 votantes latinos y latinas en todo el estado, con una muestra más grande en el nuevo 8º Distrito del Congreso debido a su alto número de votantes latinos. Se encontró abrumadoramente que el electorado latino de Colorado se preocupaba más por votar en apoyo de los temas que

les preocupan y hacer un cambio positivo que la lealtad al partido político.

Dusti Gurule, presidenta y directora ejecutiva de COLOR, señaló que los resultados de la encuesta a pie de urna reflejan las prioridades esbozadas en la Agenda Política de los Latinos de Colorado, un informe anual sobre los puntos de vista políticos de los latinos de Colorado, en el que las cuestiones económicas fueron clasificadas como la principal preocupación política. Añadió específicamente que los latinos de Colorado son más propensos a votar por los candidatos que apoyan la expansión y la protección del acceso al aborto.

"Uno de los muchos hallazgos fascinantes de esta encuesta a pie de urna (...) es que esas preocupaciones económicas no se tradujeron en una reacción contra el partido en el poder, como muchos habían previsto", dijo Gurule en una conferencia de prensa el jueves pasado. "Pero en realidad, fue más bien la necesidad de votar sus valores lo que ayudó a impulsar a los candidatos y a los temas a la victoria arriba y abajo de la boleta".

Gabe Sánchez, vicepresidente de investigación de BSP, explicó los resultados en la rueda de prensa del jueves, destacando igualmente la importancia de los valores para el voto latino. Dijo que los resultados de la encuesta a pie de urna de Colorado muestran la importancia que el electorado latino tuvo en las elecciones en general, especialmente en el hecho de que la diputada electa Yadira Caraveo ganara el escaño del 8º Distrito de Colorado, haciendo historia como

la primera latina de Colorado en la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos. Caraveo, actual representante estatal, se presentó contra la senadora estatal republicana Barbara Kirkmeyer en un nuevo distrito del Congreso.



"Fue más bien la necesidad de votar sus valores lo que ayudó a impulsar a los candidatos y a los temas a la victoria arriba y abajo de la boleta".

Dusti Gurule, COLOR

El enfoque del electorado en lograr un impacto positivo llevó a los votantes latinos a apoyar ciertos temas de la boleta electoral de Colorado, incluyendo aquellos que apoyan la vivienda asequible y las comidas gratuitas para los niños en edad escolar con un margen de 3 a 1 y a los candidatos demócratas con un margen de 2 a 1, dijo Sánchez. También señaló que el electorado latino votó más azul que cualquier otro electorado en Colorado, lo que significa que el voto de la población fue influyente para empujar a los demócratas por encima de la línea. Por ejemplo, en la carrera por el Senado, el 69% de los votantes latinos dijeron que apoyaban al senador demócrata Michael Bennet, que venció al aspirante republicano Joe O'Dea, y

Vea [Elecciones](#), página 22

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State News / Noticias del Estado

State Working Towards Progress
After Midterm Election

U.S. Representative Diana DeGette speaks at Colorado Democratic Party event on election night on Nov. 8, 2022.

COLORADO

By Benjamin Neufeld

A note of tension pervaded the atmosphere of the Colorado Democrats election night watch party early in the evening of November 8. Guests and speakers projected an image of confidence—a sense of assumed victory—riding the wave of a decades-long leftward political trend in the state. State Senator James Coleman, one of the first political figures to address the crowd and heavy media presence, told voters and organizers, “we’ve put in the work.” Attendees had come to the watch party to see that hard work pay-off.

Still—amid two years of democratic control at the national level, more at the state level, and with the nation shackled by numerous issues related to the economy, public health, climate change related natural disasters, and more—a whisper of caution wavered in the Democrat’s projection of optimism. Colorado was considered a red state until relatively recently. This election cycle, Republicans had been holding onto

hope that the state might still be considered purple. As the evening continued and the votes came in, that hope evaporated as Colorado settled into its blue state identity. Meanwhile, Colorado Democrats celebrated their continued hold on a state government trifecta, highlighted what they have been able to accomplish since taking that trifecta in 2018, and built excitement for continuing that progress.

In the race for governor, Heidi Ganahl had sold herself as one of the only Republicans with a chance of unseating Polis. Ganahl is the last and most recent Republican party member to have won a state-wide election in Colorado after she was elected to one of two At Large seats on the University of Colorado Board of Regents in 2016. Early in her campaign, she spent some time avoiding questions about her opinion on the validity of the 2020 presidential election. However, she ultimately ran a somewhat standard pre-Trump Republican campaign—hoping to appeal to moderates and Trump-wary right-wingers. On election

See **Democrats** on page 26

U.S. Representative Joe Neguse speaks at Colorado Democratic Party event on election night on Nov. 8, 2022.

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Community Campaign Aims to Stop Adams 14 School District Reorganization

COLORADO

School District 14 Classroom Teachers' Association (SD14 CTA) is partnering with multi-faith community organization, Together Colorado, to launch "Arms Around Adams 14," a new community campaign to stop the reorganization of Adams 14 and shift the narratives around the district. These organizations have come together to put their "Arms Around Adams 14" in an attempt to reclaim Adams 14 schools and stop the State Board's forced reorgani-

zation of the district. The campaign unites parents, teachers, youth and community leaders around the shared belief that Commerce City students are more than their test scores, and that legacy-making right now means standing up against this unfair state accountability system—to build schools that work for the whole community, not just a few. No matter our faith, language, or background, everyone in our community deserves the chance to thrive.

On May 10, 2022, the Colorado State Board of Education voted to



"The State Board of Education thinks it can make decisions about our schools without us, but we're going to show them that they are wrong. We're going to come together to put Arms around Adams 14 and take back our schools."

Derene Armelin, SD14 CTA Member and A14 Parent

ademic performance from the district, largely based on standardized testing. The system as-is penalizes 56% of Adams 14 students who face the double challenge of only being tested in English while they are also classified as English Language Learners (ELLs). Standardized tests do not help students get college ready. Research shows us that these tests maintain racial inequity and unfairly harm students whose first language isn't English.

On a national scale, standardized testing has been found to "mirror and maintain racial inequities," per Ember Smith, research analyst for the Center on Children and Families in Economic Studies. "Standardized tests are better proxies for how many opportunities a student has been afforded than they are predictors for students' potential," her colleague Andrew Perry adds.

The reorganization process may result in the closing of schools, shifting of boundaries and the forced management by another district, and consequently, loss of funding. The Arms Around Adams 14 campaign urges decision-makers to prioritize classrooms over corporations. "We need authentic, community-rooted public schools that prioritize all students, as opposed to charter schools that research shows can further marginalize students from communities of color," according to consultants working closely with SD14 CTA. Teachers and parents have worked too hard for too long to let corporate interest supersede the children's needs and education. "In Adams 14, our students are facing inequitable funding and racially biased standardized testing - but we

See Adams 14 on page 26

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remove Adams 14's accreditation and begin the process of reorganizing, the first vote of its kind in the state's accountability system. The decision was made due to low ac-

Campaña Comunitaria para Detener la Reorganización del Distrito Escolar Adams 14

COLORADO

La Asociación de Maestros de Clase del Distrito Escolar 14 (SD14 CTA) se asocia con la organización comunitaria multirreligiosa, Together Colorado, para lanzar "Abrazos Alrededor de Adams 14", una nueva campaña comunitaria para detener la reorganización de Adams 14 y cambiar las narrativas alrededor del distrito. Estas organizaciones se han unido para poner sus "Abrazos Alrededor de Adams 14" en un intento de recuperar las escuelas de Adams 14 y detener la reorganización forzada del distrito por parte de la Junta Estatal. La campaña une a padres, maestros, jóvenes y líderes comunitarios en torno a la creencia compartida de que los estudiantes de Commerce City son más que sus calificaciones en los exámenes, y que crear un legado en este momento significa enfrentarse a este sistema injusto de rendición de cuentas del estado: construir escuelas que funcionen para los toda la comunidad, no sólo unos pocos. No importa nuestra fe, idioma o antecedentes, todos en nuestra comunidad merecen la oportunidad de prosperar.

El 10 de mayo de 2022, la Junta de Educación del Estado de Colorado votó para eliminar la acreditación de Adams 14 y comenzar el proceso de reorganización, el primer voto de este tipo en el siste-

ma de rendición de cuentas del estado. La decisión se tomó debido al bajo rendimiento académico del distrito, en gran parte basado en pruebas estandarizadas. El sistema tal como está penaliza al 56 % de los estudiantes de Adams 14 que enfrentan el doble desafío de ser evaluados solo en inglés, mientras que también están clasificados como aprendices del idioma inglés (ELL, por sus siglas en inglés). Las pruebas estandarizadas no ayudan a los estudiantes a prepararse para la universidad. Las investigaciones nos muestran que estas pruebas mantienen la inequidad racial y dañan injustamente a los estudiantes cuyo primer idioma no es el inglés.

A escala nacional, se ha descubierto que las pruebas estandarizadas "reflejan y mantienen las desigualdades raciales", según Ember Smith, analista de investigación del Centro sobre Niños y Familias en Estudios Económicos. "Las pruebas estandarizadas son mejores indicadores de cuántas oportunidades se le han brindado a un estudiante que predictores del potencial de los estudiantes", agrega su colega Andrew Perry.

El proceso de reorganización puede resultar en el cierre de escuelas, el cambio de límites y la administración forzada por parte de otro distrito y, en consecuencia, la pérdida de fondos. La campaña Abrazos Alrededor de Adams 14



"La Junta de Educación del Estado cree que puede tomar decisiones sobre nuestras escuelas sin nosotros, pero les vamos a demostrar que están equivocados. Vamos a unirnos para poner Arms alrededor de Adams 14 y recuperar nuestras escuelas".

Derene Armelin, miembro de SD14 CTA y madre de A14

insta a los tomadores de decisiones a priorizar las aulas sobre las corporaciones. "Necesitamos escuelas públicas auténticas y arraigadas en la comunidad que den prioridad a todos los estudiantes, a diferencia de las escuelas charter que, según muestran las investigaciones, pueden marginar aún más a los estudiantes de las comunidades de color", según los consultores que trabajan en estrecha colaboración con SD14 CTA. Los maestros y los padres han trabajado muy duro durante demasiado tiempo para permitir que el interés corporativo supere las necesidades y la educación de los niños. "En Adams 14, nuestros estudiantes enfrentan una

Vea Adams 14/Esp, página 24

Air Force Lieutenant Works Toward Her Master's While Stationed Overseas



Photo: Alyson McClaran for MSU RED

After earning a bachelor's degree in Health Care Management, Jessica Flores-Faisal prepares to complete her master's while stationed overseas as an Air Force lieutenant.



Photo: Alyson McClaran for MSU RED

Flores-Faisal is hoping that after completing her MHA degree in December 2023, she'll be selected for the Medical Service Corps Program.

COLORADO

By Monica Parpal Stockbridge

Jessica Flores-Faisal never intended to go to college. "When I was in high school, I didn't really think about pursuing higher education," she said.

The 28-year-old, who was born in Mexico and adopted and raised in Aurora, joined the Air Force Re-

serve at age 17. She has spent over a decade in the military.

Today, she has her bachelor's in Health Care Management from Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver) and is working toward her master's degree with the University while stationed in Germany. She credits MSU Denver for meeting her where she was: passionate about her experience in the military and looking for a career where she would be able to grow her service in new directions.

The right fit

Flores-Faisal initially pursued a degree in Mechanical Engineering at a different four-year college but ultimately decided the program didn't align with her passions. A friend who is a nurse in the Air Force suggested she look into health care administration because Flores-Faisal is detail-oriented and enjoys helping others.

"I ended up transferring to MSU Denver because it was the only school that offered a bachelor's degree in Health Care Management," she said.

Once enrolled, she found that the smaller class sizes, more diverse student body and one-on-one interaction with professors felt more personal. She appreciated that strong communication in particular since her classes were remote.

Amy Dore, Ph.D., has been a key figure in Flores-Faisal's education journey. Dore, who graduated in 1996 from the HCM program — which is celebrating its 50th anniversary — has been teaching at MSU Denver for more than 20 years. "So when I get the opportunity to work with students like Jessica, it's extremely rewarding," she said.

Flores-Faisal knows she wants to be a health care administrator in the Air Force but said getting chosen for that duty is intensely competitive. "It seemed like a lot of people that were getting selected for it had their master's degrees," she said.

So after finishing her bachelor's degree in May, she immediately began the master's program in Health Administration (MHA).

In January, she'll start a job in financial management in the Air Force. She hopes that after completing her MHA degree in December 2023, she'll be selected for the Medical Service Corps Program — a group of professional health care administrators and executives within the Air Force's large, diverse health care system.

A focus on aging services

While taking classes in Health Care Management, Flores-Faisal learned about aging services and the stigmas older adults face in

health care and in broader society. The field immediately sparked her interest.

"I wanted to continue that knowledge of aging services and bring that awareness to other individuals," she said, "especially because the older population is just continuing to grow."

At the same time, Dore was working to develop an Aging Services Leadership Certificate and Digital Badge, something she had heard about at conferences.

See [Lieutenant](#) on page 19

Colorado Jobs with Justice Finds Gig Workers Make \$5.49 Per Hour

COLORADO

A report released on November 9, by Colorado Jobs with Justice reveals shocking statistics about app-based gig workers in Denver who make, on average, just \$5.49 an hour after expenses: 35% less than Denver's minimum wage. The report also finds app-based workers often face excessive rates of violence and discrimination in the workplace.

Colorado Jobs with Justice conducted this survey of Denver's app-based workers in order to provide additional transparency and data around how the gig economy operates in Colorado. The report focuses on three gig platforms: Uber, Lyft and DoorDash, and consists of a

voluntary survey of more than 360 gig workers across nine geographical zones in the city of Denver from January to February of 2022. Data was also collected on 6,079 trips on several ride-hailing and food delivery apps between November 2021 and January 2022 through the Driver's Seat Collective app, which tracks location data and times drivers are working or waiting for rides or deliveries.

Key findings included:

- Across all three gig platforms studied, drivers reported wages that amount to \$5.49/hr after expenses, well below Denver's minimum wage of \$15.87.
- Almost one-quarter of gig worker income comes from optional tipping.

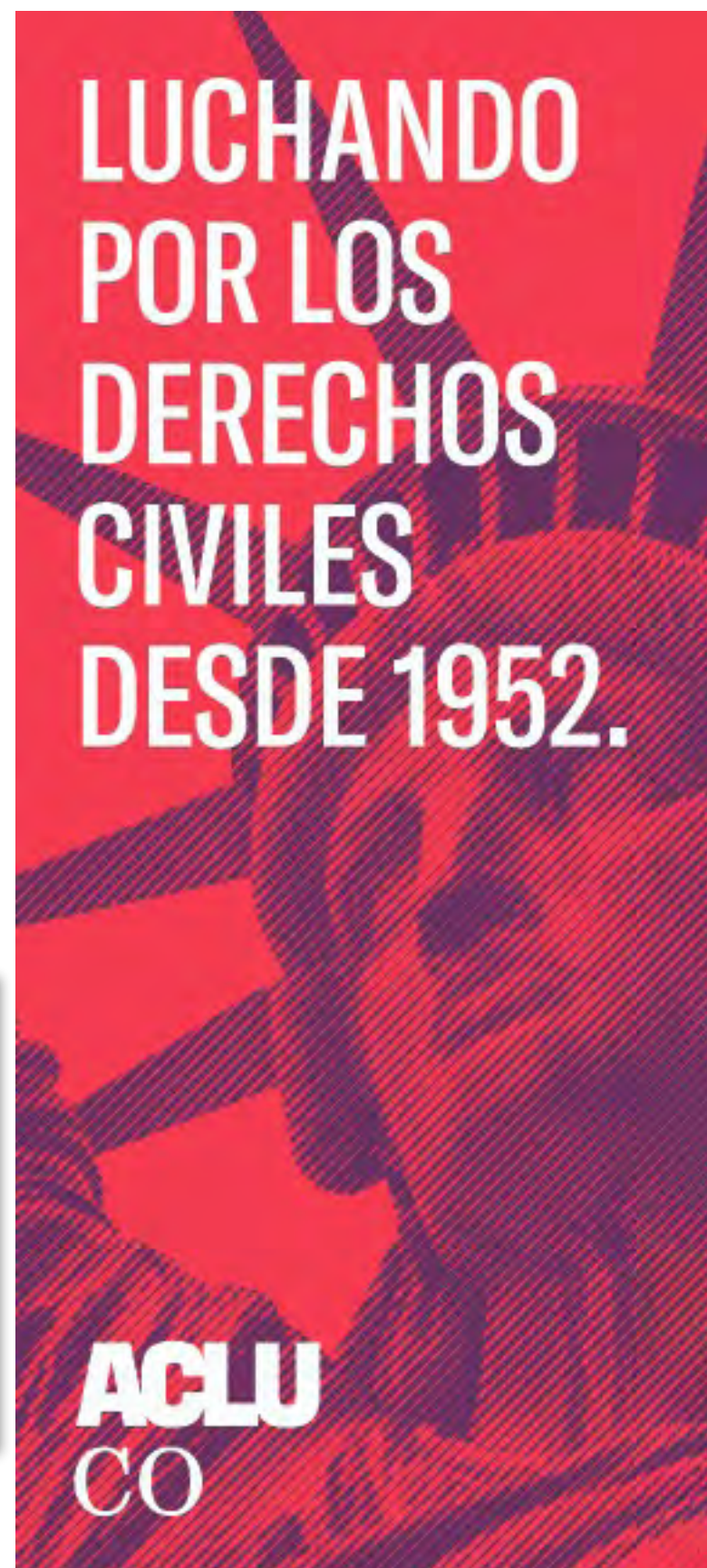


"Drivers are majority workers of color who earn low wages with significant expenses, lack access to important benefits, and face severe safety and workplace concerns that other workers don't."

Sofia Solano Organizing Director at Colorado Jobs With Justice

- The majority of gig drivers are workers of color.

See [Gig](#) on page 27



State News / Noticias del Estado

New Environmental Crimes Task Force Will Help Leverage Resources

NEW MEXICO

By Hannah Grover

The head of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) says a new environmental crimes task force will help the state better leverage resources to go after people who are polluting the environment and placing communities at risk.

With agencies like NMED being underfunded, leveraging resources is important, Secretary James Kenney said.

“Many companies do the right thing, but when companies don’t and they break the law there should be consequences for those actions,”

Stephanie García Richard, NM Land Commissioner

Kenney said he was familiar with environmental crimes task forces from his time in the U.S. En-

vironmental Protection Agency. He said the EPA partners with several other states on such task forces.

After more than a year of working with federal, tribal and state partners, NMED announced the creation of New Mexico’s first environmental crimes task force on Nov. 9.

“This task force is being created to curb environmental crime in the state of New Mexico and neighboring tribal territories,” Kim Bahney, Special Agent in Charge of EPA’s

See [Environmental](#) on page 20



A new environmental crimes task force will help New Mexico better leverage resources to go after people who are polluting the environment and placing communities at risk. / Un nuevo grupo de trabajo sobre delitos medioambientales ayudará a Nuevo México a aprovechar mejor los recursos para perseguir a las personas que contaminan el medio ambiente y ponen en peligro a las comunidades.

Grupo Especial de Delitos Medioambientales Ayudará a Aprovechar los Recursos

NEW MEXICO

Por Hannah Grover

El jefe del Departamento de Medio Ambiente de Nuevo México (NMED) dice que un nuevo grupo de trabajo de delitos ambientales ayudará al estado a aprovechar mejor los recursos para perseguir a las personas que están contaminando el medio ambiente y poniendo a las comunidades en riesgo.

El secretario James Kenney afirmó que, dado que organismos como el NMED carecen de fondos suficientes, es importante aprovechar los recursos.

Kenney dijo que estaba familiarizado con los grupos de trabajo de delitos ambientales por su paso por la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos. Dijo que la EPA colabora con otros estados en estos grupos de trabajo.

Después de más de un año de trabajo con socios federales, trib-

ales y estatales, NMED anunció la creación del primer grupo de trabajo de delitos ambientales de Nuevo México el 9 de noviembre.

“Este grupo de trabajo se crea para frenar los delitos ambientales en el estado de Nuevo México y los territorios tribales vecinos”, dijo Kim Bahney, agente especial a cargo de la División de Investigación Criminal de la EPA para la Subdivisión de la Zona Suroeste, en un comunicado de prensa. “La salud pública y el medio ambiente no

deben sufrir a manos de contaminadores deliberados”.

Este grupo de trabajo ayudará a Nuevo México a presentar cargos penales contra las personas que ponen en riesgo a las comunidades, en lugar de limitarse a emitir sanciones civiles.

Todavía se desconoce, al menos parcialmente, cuán comunes son los delitos ambientales en Nuevo México.

Vea [Medioambientales](#), página 14

“Muchas empresas hacen lo correcto, pero cuando las empresas no lo hacen e infringen la ley debe haber consecuencias para esas acciones”.

Stephanie García Richard, La Comisaria de Tierras

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PAGADO POR EL DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD Y SERVICIOS HUMANOS DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

COVID Grew New México Hunger Relief Network

NEW MEXICO

By Isabel Ruehl

Two years ago, in March 2020, Delfine Gabaldon visited a food pantry for the first time. He'd been laid off from work at the start of the coronavirus lockdown and didn't know how he would make ends meet.

For 32 years, Delfine had worked as a mechanic. "I loved the job so much, I'd almost do it for free," he said. But the 51-year old had recently lost several toes to type 2 diabetes, and nerve damage from the disease made walking difficult. These days, he could only stand for 15 minutes at a time before the pain became unbearable, and when he lay down, he got vertigo.

"I spin the wheel every morning I get up, depending on whether I'm gonna have nausea or my feet are going to affect me all day," he said. But losing his toes had been a wake-up call. Delfine described decades of fast-food that he ate out of pure convenience: It was cheap, convenient, and moreover, a burger was what everyone at the shop grabbed for lunch.

Now unemployed, Delfine was uncertain how he was going to feed himself and his family. His sister is a nurse, and they both help care for their aging parents who live nearby in Albuquerque.

So Delfine searched for a food pantry and, one morning, pulled into the drive-through line at the nearby Rio Grande Food Project. "I was embarrassed the first time. I was scared as hell," he recalled. "Because I knew my whole world and mentality were reduced to a different level."

But he's returned every week since, impressed by the healthy items and the on-site garden. He calls Wednesday mornings "Trader Joe's days," adding that he hadn't been able to afford such food even before he went on disability. "Bologna, ham, cheese, stuff that was easy to slap together," Delfine tallied, describing his long-time grocery list. Never vegetables. But now, for the first time, he is a food pantry "client," eating healthier and managing his disease.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, it created a food emergency of epic proportions.

But it had strong silver linings: People like Delfine learned how to access healthier food in their daily lives. And it forced food, health and agriculture organizations to scramble, causing them to rethink how

to get food to those in need, with new collaboration and innovation that has the potential to transform New Mexico's struggle with food insecurity.

Hunger widespread in New Mexico

New Mexico has long ranked near the bottom of states in numbers of people, particularly children, who don't know where their next meal will come from.

High rates of food insecurity are "proxy data" for poverty and unemployment, said Kendal Chávez, the food and hunger coordinator for the governor's office, drawing a link between hunger and poverty in one of the nation's poorest states.

And when families need to purchase necessities with limited income, they often struggle to access healthier foods that allay chronic nutrition-related disease.

It's cheaper and more efficient to eat fast food or packaged meals than to purchase fresh food and prepare a meal from scratch. To make ends meet, one person might work several jobs, especially if they need to support a family. They may not have time to cook meals with healthier ingredients that are more expensive in the first place.

It's no wonder, then, that nutrition-related diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and hypertension strike some communities more than others. The results can be severe. These health conditions help explain the disproportionate COVID-19 death toll among lower-income, Native American, and other communities of color, where food insecurity is most prevalent.

COVID-19 epidemiology reports from the New Mexico Department of Health show that 72% of people who've died from the disease had at least one underlying condition, and an outsized mortality rate in low-income and communities of color. In New México, Native Americans have a mortality rate nearly five times and Hispanics nearly double that of White people.

Although these are separate data points — deaths with underlying conditions, versus mortality rates by race and ethnicity — they are "absolutely connected," said Emily Wildau, research and policy analyst at New Mexico Voices for Children.

"Communities of color tend to have higher rates of many chronic illnesses, and in much the same way that nutrition-related chronic diseases disproportionately impact these communities, they are

more likely to face a variety of negative social determinants of health overall," she explained.

Lack of access to healthy foods, higher rates of pollution, barriers to quality housing and medical care, and other aspects of poverty can influence a person's long-term health outcomes.

Susan Perry is a counseling psychologist who worked as a diabetes educator in rural New México for 18 years. She teaches people about nutrition and the medical effects of stress, which affects vulnerability to chronic disease.

While medical experts and policymakers often talk about rising rates of nutrition related chronic disease as a "crisis," Perry said that the true health crisis in the U.S. is a lack of preventative care.

"We know that good nutrition habits act as a buffer," she said. "And if we start with kids when they're really young, and they bring it home, and their parents have the knowledge and the ability to make those kinds of choices, it makes a huge difference."

Making emergency food healthier

Emergency food assistance has traditionally prioritized food, period. Nutritional value has been secondary to access.

In New México, a family struggling to afford food can seek support from a network of emergency food providers. Five regional food banks provide food to their own partner network — food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools, senior centers — where a family might stand in line to pick up a box of provisions. Altogether, the five food banks in New México supply 500 partner organizations.

Food banks aggregate items that can be stored and distributed without expiring. Like fast food, canned goods with a long shelf life are typically preserved with large quantities of salt or sugar. Sometimes grocery stores donate their leftover bakery items to food banks; pantries pack the 600-calorie muffins into boxes.

But in the past decade there have been efforts to change, with partners calling for more produce. Some pantries started gardens. Others offered diabetes boxes that steered clear of carbohydrates.

A few, like the Rio Grande Food Project, have long addressed root causes of hunger. For years the organization has offered clients a slew of services on top of weekly food distribution, like helping peo-



Since losing his job as a mechanic in March 2020, Delfine Gabaldon has done woodworking to keep busy and fulfilled — "for therapy," he said. His disability checks are not enough to afford groceries for himself and his family, so he has begun stopping by his nearby food pantry every Wednesday morning.



Over the past several years, the Rio Grande Food Project has developed a 70x90 parcel in the lot behind the Rio Grande Presbyterian Church.

ple enroll in rental assistance programs and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

"If people are going to spend their gas money to visit us, we're going to try to figure out what's making them hungry in the first place," said Kathi Cunningham, the Rio Grande Food Project's development director.

"There's definitely a national movement that you can't just be a food pantry," she added. "You have to offer all these other services, or else you're just putting a Band-Aid on a big issue."

Education is a central component. It's hard for people to change, said Cunningham, who began the Rio Grande Food Project's garden as a way to cultivate awareness of healthy choices, encouraging people to slow down and think more about nutritional value, even if they still sometimes opt for chips.

Until 2020, the Rio Grande Food Project distributed groceries to around 3,500 people per month.

Then the pandemic hit, and everyone went into crisis mode.

Silver Lining

Starting in March 2020, when the governor ordered all non-essential businesses to close, food pantries across the state reported a dramatic surge in need.

At the same time many of them smashed into a demographic reality: Most of their volunteers are older.

The Community Pantry in Gallup normally distributes food through a range of partner agencies, like churches and senior centers. But when the pandemic hit, all but two shut down, and the pantry had to figure out how to provide food directly to the clients of those organizations.

Other food banks reported similar emergencies. The Food Depot in Santa Fe reported that of the 74 hunger relief organizations it partnered with, the average age of volunteer staff was 81. Suddenly, with all those elderly volunteers sheltering in place, partner organizations had no one to work. The Food Depot rushed to take over distributions.

It was during these first few months of frantic adaptation that a modest working group exploded. Formed in 2019, the Food, Hunger, Water, Agriculture Policy Working Group brought together food and related policy organizations who don't normally work together. Before the pandemic, around 80 organizations were invited to the monthly meetings convened by New Mexico First. But as food

National News/Noticias Nacionales

Federal Judge Rules Title 42 is 'Arbitrary and Capricious', Violation of Law

By Uriel J. Garcia

A federal judge on Tuesday blocked the federal government from continuing to use an emergency health order known as Title 42 to immediately expel migrants at the southern border after they have entered the United States.

Judge Emmet Sullivan of the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., ruled that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's use of Title 42 to prevent people from accessing the asylum process is "arbitrary and capricious" and a violation of the law because it was not implemented properly.

"It is unreasonable for the CDC to assume that it can ignore the consequences of any actions it chooses to take in the pursuit of fulfilling its goals, particularly when those actions included the extraordinary decision to suspend the codified procedural and substantive rights of noncitizens seeking safe harbor," Sullivan wrote in his opinion.

Sullivan said he will not stay his order pending an appeal, meaning the Biden administration has to stop using Title 42 immediately,

even if it plans to take the case to a higher court. The administration attempted to halt Title 42 removals this year but was blocked after a lawsuit by Republican-led states.

“This ruling is proof that Title 42 was never about public health — it was a thinly veiled racist smokescreen put in place by the previous administration and continued by the current administration.”

Donna De La Cruz,
Immigrant Legal
Resource Center

The Biden administration asked Sullivan to give immigration officials five weeks to be able to comply with Sullivan's order, according to a motion filed by a lawyer with the U.S. Department of Justice on Tuesday evening.

Sullivan's ruling stems from a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in January 2021 that

argued Title 42 violated the U.S. asylum laws and that the Trump administration used the pandemic as a pretext to invoke Title 42 and use it as an immigration tool.

In March 2020, the CDC under the Trump administration invoked Title 42 for the first time since its creation in 1944 and said it was a necessary step to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in immigrant detention centers, where many migrants are placed after they arrive at the U.S.-México border. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, has said that immigrants are not driving up the number of COVID-19 cases.

Since then, immigration officials have used the health order more than 2 million times to expel migrants, many of whom have been removed multiple times after making repeated attempts to enter the U.S. Under Title 42, the recidivism rate — the percentage of people apprehended more than once by a Border Patrol agent — has increased from 7% to 27% since fiscal year 2019.

Before Title 42, people entering the U.S. through the border would be apprehended by immigration agents, processed and placed in



Migrants arrive in Nuevo Laredo, México, after being sent across the border by U.S. Customs and Border Protection in July 2019.

removal proceedings unless the person requested asylum. Under Title 42, immigration agents immediately expel people to Mexico regardless of whether they are requesting asylum.

Earlier this year, the Biden administration attempted to end the use of Title 42. But in April, a group of Republican-led states filed a lawsuit, which Texas later joined, in Louisiana, arguing that lifting Title 42 would create chaos at the U.S.-Mexico border and force the states to spend taxpayer money providing services like health care to migrants.

In May, U.S. District Judge Robert R. Summerhays blocked the Biden administration from ending Title 42 and the administration appealed; the case is pending in the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sullivan's decision Tuesday was welcomed by immigrant rights advocates who have argued that Title 42 has put vulnerable migrants in dangerous situations in Mexican border cities where they are frequent targets of criminals.

"This ruling is proof that Title 42 was never about public health

— it was a thinly veiled racist smokescreen put in place by the previous administration and continued by the current administration," said Donna De La Cruz, director of communications for the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, a national immigrant rights organization. "President Biden must once and for all eliminate the use of Title 42 for asylum seekers."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who has frequently criticized Biden's immigration policies, said in a tweet that Sullivan's decision is "disastrous," adding that it signals to criminals that the border is open.

Uriel J. García is an Immigration Reporter with The Texas Tribune. The Texas Tribune is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics, government and statewide issues.

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the election overall — especially in U.S. Rep.-elect Yadira Caraveo winning Colorado's 8th District seat, making history as Colorado's first Latina to serve in the U.S. House. Caraveo, a state representative at present, ran against Republican state Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer in a new congressional district.

The electorate's focus on making a positive impact led Latino voters to support certain Colorado ballot issues, including those supporting affordable housing and free meals for school children at a 3-to-1 margin and Democratic candidates at a 2-to-1 margin, Sánchez said. He also noted that the Latino electorate voted bluer than any other electorate in Colorado, meaning the population's vote was influential in pushing Democrats over the line. For example, in the U.S. Senate race, 69% of Latino voters said they supported Democratic incumbent Sen. Michael Bennet, who beat GOP challenger Joe O'Dea, and in the eight U.S. House races across the state, 72% supported the Democratic candidate.

"There was speculation that there would be a red wave election and that would be fueled primarily by Latino movement toward the Republican Party," Sánchez said. "I'll note that there was movement, but it was relatively modest and in line with what we typically see in off-year elections where a lot of voters move away from the incumbent president, in this context, Biden's party the Democrats — so there was movement, but it wasn't earth-shattering."

Looking specifically at the 8th Congressional District, the Colorado Latino Policy Agenda highlighted that Latinos value seeing other Latinos elected to office, which translated to 75% of Latinos in the district supporting Caraveo. Since the 2020 election, the poll found that Latino voters in the district shifted toward more liberal atti-

tudes and ideologies.

"We can definitely say without the Latino electorate going hard for her, she would not be the first Latina ever to enter the U.S. House from the state of Colorado," Sánchez said of Caraveo.

Across the rest of the state, though, the poll found that only 19% of Latinos said their ideology has become more liberal compared to 24% of Latinos saying they are now more conservative, while 52% of Colorado Latino voters said their ideology hasn't changed since 2020. Sánchez said this is a pretty modest shift compared to states like Florida or Texas, especially considering how the president's party tends to fare in midterm elections.

The poll also asked respondents when they made up their minds on who and what they would vote for in the election, and 42% of respondents in the 8th District and across Colorado said it was more than a month before the time they took the poll, which was conducted from Oct. 10 to Nov. 8. Sánchez said this indicates that Latino voters need outreach from parties, candidates and advocates earlier on, with information about ballot initiatives and candidates.

One-fifth of Colorado Latino voters participated in an election for the first time in 2022, the poll also found. But it wasn't just young voters — while 27% of first-time Latino voters fell into the 18-29 age group, an additional 23% of Latino voters aged 30-49 voted for the first time as well as 14% of voters over the age of 50.

Lindsey Toomer is a Reporter with Colorado Newsline.

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of taxpayer money through an opaque lawsuit system of supranational courts, and 2. "regulatory chill," which may cause governments, out of fear of being sued, to delay or refrain from taking necessary climate action, a phenomenon seen in the past.

"Communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis are often at the heart of ISDS claims through struggles against destructive mining and other extractive projects," the statement points out. "The evidence of years of damage to the environment, land, health and self-determination of peoples all around the world is stark, and the renewed urgency of the climate imperative is beyond doubt."

The statement notes that a significant number of governments have already rejected the ISDS system. "Countries such as South Africa, India, New Zealand, Bolivia, Tanzania, Canada, and the US have all taken steps toward getting rid of ISDS." (Canada and the United States eliminated investor-state provisions between each other in the [United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement](#) while that NAFTA replacement deal left key elements of the system intact with Mexico.)

The civil society statement urges governments to stop negotiating, signing, ratifying, or joining agreements that include ISDS clauses, such as the Energy Charter Treaty or the euphemistically titled Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (better known as TPP). México is a party to TPP, which can actually be used by Canada to allow its mining companies to file claims against México.

There are plenty of alternatives to this anti-democratic system. Governments could resolve investment issues between themselves, through state-to-state dispute settlement, rather than allowing private corporations to bring cases against governments to supranational tribunals. An alternative system could also include investment risk insurance, international cooperation to strengthen national legal systems, and regional and international human rights mechanisms.

But will the recent withdrawal of some European countries from the

Energy Charter be a turning point? These actions clearly demonstrate how the European Union's strategy as the main promoter of that treaty has backfired, leading to its own member countries being sued for billions of dollars over CO2 emission control policies.

A [report by Lucia Barcena of the Transnational Institute](#) documents how Spain stands at the top of the list of countries facing the most suits, with 50 claims (as of October 2021). But while Spain and some other European countries decided the ECT did not meet their required environmental standards, the EU is aiming to impose these exact same standards in other agreements, for instance through the "modernization" of its free trade agreements with México and Chile.

And so, we're seeing rich countries move away from investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms while intending to keep imposing this system on developing countries. And many developing country governments seem willing to allow themselves to be dragged along. Indeed, several countries in Asia, Africa, and even Latin América are waiting to join the ECT (and other FTAs). For example, Guatemala, Panama, Colombia, and Chile are queuing up.

We can hope that the progressive governments of Gustavo Petro in Colombia and Gabriel Boric in Chile will both distance themselves from this system, but it is disconcerting to see Boric already supporting the ratification of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in Chile. And the AMLO government in México is also upholding its support for free trade and investment protection treaties.

This neoliberal investor-state system is a threat to the future of democracy and the future of our planet. It must end.

Original in Spanish available in [La Jornada](#).

Manuel Pérez Rocha is an associate fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies.

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Lieutenant

Micro-credentials are short learning programs focused on gaining specific skills or knowledge, while badges are electronic emblems or icons that students can put on digital résumés or social media that link to the sponsoring college and credential criteria.

"I thought a digital badge could be a really great way to serve our population of students who might want to dip their toes into a topic that they don't know much about or maybe they would want to add on to and enhance their portfolio," Dore said.

That turned out to be true for Flores-Faisal, who recognized that her interest in studying aging populations and aging services would be amplified for future employers.

She became the first student at MSU Denver to pursue the Aging Services Digital Badge and complete five milestones, which include the Ageism First Aid Certificate from the Gerontological Society of America. Today, the badge is visible on [Flores-Faisal's LinkedIn profile](#), with live links to the relevant credentials and coursework she completed.

"The badge is innovative in the way that it celebrates specific learning that students can showcase to future employers," said Shaun Schafer, Ph.D., associate vice president of Curriculum, Academic Effectiveness and Policy Development at MSU Denver. "We want as many students as possible to take advantage of digital-badge opportunities to help demonstrate their own achievement."

For someone who never thought she would pursue higher education, Flores-Faisal is proving her mettle with her accelerated studies and lofty career goals.

"I really enjoyed the coursework at MSU Denver," Flores-Faisal said. "I did my internship at Swedish Medical Center, and then I got to shadow different departments."

"And so all that confirmed that this is definitely what I want to do with my future."

Monica Parpal Stockbridge is a contributing writer with MSU RED. This story originally appeared on MSU Denver RED.

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**EXPANSIÓN DE
LA MESA POR
LA JUSTICIA**
ACLU Colorado

Schumer

have to compromise. We may not accomplish everything we want, but if we can get real things done that will measure how good a Congress we can be.

The guns bill that we did under Senator Murphy's leadership last summer is an example: a few months ago, many of us wanted our gun bill to include stronger provisions like an assault weapons ban. Almost everyone on this side of the aisle, is for universal background checks. I'm the author of the Brady Law; I care a lot about it.

We couldn't get that, but we got some significant changes. We fought the NRA and made sure young people, eighteen years old, will not automatically be allowed to go into a gun store and buy an assault rifle as the horrible perpetrator of the crime in Buffalo and Uvalde had done.

And once we got this done, even though we did not get everything we wanted, the American people were elated. They said we finally broke the logjam and got something done.

For our side, that ought to be a model – get it done. Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

The American people want us to make their lives better and help them. Speeches won't do it. Put-

ting down just a bill that has everything we want that fails won't do it. Getting it done will.

I say to my Republican colleagues, including Leader McConnell: work with us. Work with us. We are willing to work with you to get things done, as the past Senate has shown. Let's sit down and talk about how we can come together. That is what we need to do, and I say to my Republican colleagues that embracing the MAGA way of divisiveness, nastiness, negativity--without constructive compromise, which is how Donald Trump wanted it and some of our colleagues followed him—that will be a disaster. That will be wrong.

It will be bad for America, but it will also be bad for the Republican Party because these elections have shown that the MAGA Republican way is not where the American people want to be. The election of 2018 showed it, the election of 2020 showed it, and this election more than ever shows it, because no one ever thought Democrats would succeed in the election because we were climbing uphill.

But the combination of us actually accomplishing things and focusing on those things in our campaigns and the fact of the dis-

taste that a majority of Americans have for the MAGA Republican way of intransigence, divisiveness, nastiness, tossing incendiary language over the wall, is not going to succeed. So we can have a great, great two years if we work together. And I am urging Leader McConnell to work with us. I am urging the hopefully large group of non-MAGA Republicans on the other side to work with us so we can get things done.

Now, finally, I want to thank a few people in the aftermath of this election.

First, I want to thank President Biden for his leadership. From working with us on climate change, to lowering costs for families on drugs, to delivering action on student debt—and by the way, I forgot to add: we focused on our younger generation as well. And two issues they cared about most were climate and student debt. We delivered on both.

President Biden took great leadership on so many of these issues and delivered on so many. So I want to thank him for his leadership. He helped set this bold agenda that we in the Senate were proud to hone and act.

I want to welcome our two new colleagues to the Senate on our

side of the aisle. Peter Welch of Vermont and John Fetterman of Pennsylvania. I've had a chance to talk to them over the phone before and after their victories and they will be excellent Senators.

And I want to thank all of those who knocked on doors, who volunteered, who said this democracy should not be left to others, I must be involved. Thank you. All of that hard work has produced a very good result, at least in my opinion, on last Tuesday.

So, the election of 2022 is approaching the end, but our obligation to serve the American people continues. Let us move forward with the same spirit of cooperation and compromise that made the 117th Congress one of the most successful in recent history. If we do it, it will be good for Democratic senators, it will be good for Republican senators, but most of all, it will be good for this grand experiment in democracy, the United States of America and its people.

**Chuck Schumer is the Senate
Majority Leader (D-NY).**

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THE WEEKLY ISSUE
El Semanario



Criminal Investigation Division for the Southwest Area Branch, said in a press release. "Public health and the environment should not suffer at the hands of deliberate polluters."

This task force will help New México bring criminal charges against people who put communities at risk rather than just issuing civil penalties.

How common environmental crimes are in New México is still, at least partially, unknown.

"You won't find what you're not looking for," Kenney said.

He said there are environmental crimes happening nationwide and being prosecuted, however New México has not been organized or looking for them.

Environmental crimes include knowingly falsifying drinking water or wastewater test reports, dumping of septic waste in arroyos, fabricating oil or gas records to indicate the operator looked for leaks, dismantling stolen vehicles and dumping used motor oil or illegally trafficking wildlife.

The taskforce includes the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General, the state Department of Public Safety, the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Depart-

ment, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, the State Land Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Albuquerque Field Office, the EPA, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

These agencies can work together to protect the communities.

Kenney gave the example of produced water disposal. Produced water is a byproduct of oil and gas extraction. At times it is placed in evaporation or retention ponds that could appear attractive to water birds.

Kenney said if inspectors from agencies like NMED or EMNRD noticed dead birds near a produced water facility they could alert agencies like the state's Department of Game and Fish or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The task force will have regular meetings where it will review cases. These cases can also come from complaints made by the public.

"Low-income communities and communities of color have disproportionately borne the burden of environmental crime," Alexander M.M. Uballez, United States Attor-

ney for the District of New Mexico, said in a press release. "Through the Environmental Crimes Task Force, we will bring fair treatment and meaningful involvement of underserved communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by systemic environmental violations, pollution, climate change and abuse of natural resources."

Kenney said the impacts of environmental crimes can be localized—such as illegal and improper removal of asbestos from a school—or they can impact large communities like Flint, Michigan, where inadequate testing and treatment of water resulted in health problems including elevated levels of lead in children's blood.

"The consequences of environmental crimes can be small or large, but they often affect public health and the environment," Kenney said.

Kenney said the task force will also look at why the crimes occurred.

In 2016, NMED discovered operators at a water utility in northwest New Mexico were falsifying water quality test results. This resulted in a boil water advisory that

lasted for more than a year in one community east of Bloomfield.

Kenney said in a case like that the investigation would look at whether the operator was told to falsify the reports by the company owners.

In many cases, Kenney said the agency investigators are the ones who discover environmental crimes.

"They're the eyes and ears of what's happening in the community," he said.

However, public complaints and tips can also lead to prosecutions.

Kenney said the lack of funding from the state has made it challenging for NMED to hold people accountable and to make sure companies come into compliance with regulations and pay penalties that have been assessed.

The task force doesn't solve all the problems associated with the underfunding, but it does give additional leverage and resources to hold people accountable for environmental crimes, he said.

By bringing together the prosecutory and investigatory sides,

Kenney said there will be stronger cases with more successful resolutions.

People can submit tips about environmental crimes online at echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations or at env.nm.gov/general/report-an-environmental-issue-or-incident.

Land Commissioner Stephanie García Richard said in a press release that she has prioritized protection of natural resources. She said that her agency's accountability and enforcement program has led to companies coming into compliance with environmental regulations.

"Many companies do the right thing, but when companies don't and they break the law there should be consequences for those actions," she said.

Hannah Grover is a Reporter with New Mexico Political Report. This story was originally published by New Mexico Political Report.

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Andrea Beyal, a member of 4Corners K-9 Search and Rescue, adjusts Gunny's harness before going out to search for Pepita Redhair and Collins W. Largo, each missing from Albuquerque, New Mexico. / Andrea Beyal, miembro de 4Corners K-9 Search and Rescue, ajusta el arnés de Gunny antes de salir a buscar a Pepita Redhair y Collins W. Largo, desaparecidos en Albuquerque, Nuevo México.

She agreed to help — and after two searches discovered the son's remains by a dirt road near Shiprock.

The phone number of the "lady with her dog" quickly started circulating around the reservation.

The MMIWR movement grows

The MMIWR issue was by then gaining national attention, driven by decades of work by community organizers and grieving families. The crisis has been ongoing for years, owing to a justice system plagued by racism, lack of accurate data, limited police staffing, and poor communication between local, state, tribal and federal authorities.

Law enforcement agencies have yet to consolidate a comprehensive tracking system, which means they only have rough and outdated estimates of the number of people missing. But even without reliable numbers, the reports that exist are distressing.

Murder is the third-leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women — almost three times higher than the rate for non-Hispanic white women, studies show. More than 5,700 Indigenous women and girls were reported missing as of 2016, according to the National Crime Information Center. But only 116 of those cases were lodged with the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs). The discrepancy occurred even though both entities are divisions within the U.S. Department of Justice.

Here in New México and across the Navajo Nation, at least 192 Indigenous men, women or children

are confirmed missing, according to an [FBI report](#) in October. Yet that report lacks such key information as the person's tribal affiliation and the location where they were last seen.

Looking for Ryan Tom

The family of Ryan Tom describes him as sweet, friendly and funny.

"He is too nice of a guy for anyone to want to harm him," says Steven Tom, who refuses to talk about his older brother in the past tense. He and the rest of the family still hope to find him alive.

But the area where Ryan Tom's brother saw him last — the windmill near the Arizona-Utah border — has become increasingly dangerous. Remote and unpatrolled, it is a perfect spot for drug use and bootlegging. Beyale says. Residents have told her they don't drive in this area at night, fearing for their safety.

After the Tom family filed a missing-persons report, Navajo Nation Police officers from Shiprock went to the area and met with them. Two months later, the police reported that the case had been reassigned to someone new.

"The only time we saw an officer out here was the first day," says Rosina Brown, Tom's aunt. "I know we are not the only family. There are lots of families that have relatives missing, and I don't know why they don't update the families."

Daryl Noon, the Navajo Nation's Chief of Police says the agency is required to update families about their cases every three months to let them know they haven't been forgotten. He acknowledges that this doesn't always happen.

"That is one of the most important things that we haven't been good at, keeping in touch with the families," Noon says. "For most of the officers, they don't know what it feels like. I'm trying to get them to put themselves in the shoes of the family and stop treating calls just like calls."

“

"I know we are not the only family. There are lots of families that have relatives missing, and I don't know why they don't update the families."

Rosina Brown

Noon says he was assured a canine police officer would be present during the search party on behalf of Ryan Tom's family, and he was surprised to find out that an officer never showed up. He says he intends to investigate what happened.

Turning to Beyale

This latest search represents one of the countless times the Tom family has gone looking for Ryan. They've scouted around the Red Mesa Chapter House on ATVs, searched a nearby solar energy plant and looked along County Road 443, which divides Utah and Arizona. Finally, empty-handed, they turned to Bernadine Beyale.

Though her team is all-volunteer, these search parties don't come cheap. A single search can

cost up to \$1,000 for food, fuel, medical supplies, printouts and electrolyte drinks. Beyale relies on community donations to cover expenses; searches are always conducted free, she says, for families with missing loved ones.

Recently, she and her team assisted the Blackfeet Nation in Montana in a search for 3-year-old [Arden Pepion](#). They also helped search for Ella Mae Begay, who disappeared in Sweetwater, Arizona, last April. Begay's disappearance prompted a 2,400-mile prayer walk by her niece, [Seraphine Warren](#), from Sweetwater to Washington D.C., to raise awareness for missing Indigenous women. Warren reached the nation's capital this month.

On Oct. 15, the team helped Anita King look for her daughter, Pepita Redhair, who disappeared in Albuquerque in March 2020.

New México ranks number one in the country for having the highest number of confirmed missing and murdered cases in urban areas involving Indigenous people, according to a [2018 report](#) by the Seattle-based Urban Indian Health Institute. Albuquerque has the second-highest number of MMIWR cases after Seattle.

Staying safe in the desert

Back at the windmill, Beyale heads toward a canyon, looking for footprints, clothing, human bones — anything that might hint at Ryan's presence here three months earlier.

"You see these dips out here?" says Beyale, pointing to a hollow area between sagebrush and sandy terrain. "You need to really check them because you'll miss something."

Previous searches have sharpened Beyale's attention to detail. Though she doesn't mention it to the group, she is thinking of the time this August when her dogs found human remains lying in a dip similar to this.

"Trigger, keep checking," Beyale says as the dog quickens its pace. Search and rescue dogs can pick

up a scent from as far away as a mile.

By 11 a.m., the scorching sun lingers over the dunes. It can be deadly here for a person without water. That's why so much of Beyale's work consists of educating families — coaching them about how much water they need to drink, the kind of clothing they need to wear and how to stay safe in the desert.

"I do not want them to get hurt. I want them to be able to conduct a safe and successful search on their own if I cannot be there for them," she says.

In less than an hour, a voice comes over her radio: Bones have been found.

A member of the team snaps a photo and reads the coordinates aloud. All the details will later be uploaded into a digital map for the families, who can share this information with police if they wish. The only exception is when human remains are found: In those cases, Beyale contacts law enforcement directly.

Judging by their size, however, these bones belong to an animal. Beyale knows this is always a possibility, but even when searches turn up false positives, the search work is helpful.

"If I don't find anything out here at least I'm canceling out an area."

Still, she says she feels a weight on her shoulders whenever a search fails to turn up anything. While she continues looking for answers, she's learned that there's no such thing as "closure" for the families.

"They don't like that word," she says. "Because most of the time you won't find closure."

Vanessa G. Sánchez is a Roy W. Howard Fellow with Searchlight New Mexico, a non-partisan, nonprofit news organization dedicated to investigative reporting in New México.

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personal policial y escasa comunicación entre las autoridades locales, estatales, tribales y federales.

Los organismos policiales aún no han consolidado un sistema de seguimiento exhaustivo, lo que significa que sólo disponen de estimaciones aproximadas y desfasadas del número de personas desaparecidas. Pero incluso sin cifras fiables, los informes que existen son angustiosos.

El asesinato es la tercera causa de muerte entre las mujeres indígenas americanas y nativas de Alaska, casi tres veces más que la tasa de las mujeres blancas no hispanas, según muestran los estudios. Más de 5.700 mujeres y niñas indígenas fueron denunciadas como desaparecidas en 2016, según el Centro Nacional de Información sobre el Crimen. Pero solo 116 de esos casos se presentaron en el Sistema Nacional de Personas Desaparecidas y No Identificadas (NamUs). La discrepancia se produjo a pesar de que ambas entidades son divisiones del Departamento de Justicia de Estados Unidos.

Aquí en Nuevo México y en toda la Nación Navajo, se ha confirmado la desaparición de al menos 192 hombres, mujeres o niños indígenas, según un informe del FBI de octubre. Sin embargo, ese informe carece de información clave como la afiliación tribal de la persona y el lugar donde fue vista por última vez.

Buscando a Ryan Tom

La familia de Ryan Tom lo describe como dulce, amable y divertido.

"Es un tipo demasiado bueno para que alguien quiera hacerle daño", dice Steven Tom, que se niega a hablar de su hermano mayor en pasado. Él y el resto de la familia aún tienen la esperanza de encontrarlo con vida.

Pero la zona donde el hermano de Ryan Tom lo vio por última vez -el molino de viento cerca de la frontera entre Arizona y Utah- se ha vuelto cada vez más peligrosa. Remota y sin vigilancia, es un lugar perfecto para el consumo de drogas y el contrabando, dice Beyale. Los residentes le han dicho que no conducen por esta zona de noche, temiendo por su seguridad.

Después de que la familia Tom denunciara la desaparición de una persona, los agentes de la Policía de la Nación Navajo de Shiprock fueron a la zona y se reunieron con ellos. Dos meses después, la policía informó de que el caso había sido reasignado a alguien nuevo.

"La única vez que vimos a un agente aquí fue el primer día", dice Rosina Brown, tía de Tom. "Sé que no somos la única familia. Hay muchas familias que tienen parientes desaparecidos, y no sé por qué no ponen al día a las familias."

Daryl Noon, Jefe de Policía de la Nación Navajo, dice que la agencia está obligada a actualizar a las familias sobre sus casos cada tres meses para hacerles saber que no han sido olvidados. Reconoce que esto no siempre ocurre.



"Sé que no somos la única familia. Hay muchas familias que tienen parientes desaparecidos, y no sé por qué no ponen al día a las familias".

Rosina Brown

"Esa es una de las cosas más importantes en las que no hemos sido buenos, mantener el contacto con las familias", dice Noon. "Para la mayoría de los oficiales, no saben lo que se siente. Intento que se pongan en el lugar de la familia y que dejen de tratar las llamadas como si fueran simples llamadas".

Noon dice que le aseguraron que un agente de policía canino estaría presente durante la búsqueda de la familia de Ryan Tom, y se sorprendió al descubrir que nunca apareció un agente. Dice que tiene intención de investigar lo ocurrido.

Volviendo a Beyale

Esta última búsqueda representa una de las innumerables veces que la familia Tom ha ido a buscar a Ryan. Han rastreado los alrededores de la sala capitular de Red Mesa en vehículos todoterreno, han buscado en una planta de energía solar cercana y han buscado a lo largo de la carretera del condado 443, que divide Utah y Arizona. Finalmente, con las manos vacías, recurrieron a Bernadine Beyale.

Aunque su equipo es totalmente voluntario, estos grupos de búsqueda no son baratos. Una sola búsqueda puede costar hasta 1.000 dólares en comida, combustible, material médico, impresiones y bebidas electrolíticas. Beyale depende de las donaciones de la comunidad para cubrir los gastos; las búsquedas se realizan siempre de forma gratuita, dice, para las familias con seres queridos desaparecidos.

Recientemente, ella y su equipo ayudaron a la Nación de los

Pies Negros de Montana en la búsqueda de Arden Pepion, de 3 años. También ayudaron a buscar a Ella Mae Begay, que desapareció en Sweetwater, Arizona, el pasado mes de abril. La desaparición de Begay dio lugar a una caminata de oración de 2.400 millas realizada por su sobrina, Seraphine Warren, desde Sweetwater hasta Washington D.C., para concienciar sobre las mujeres indígenas desaparecidas. Warren llegó a la capital del país este mes.

El 15 de octubre, el equipo ayudó a Anita King a buscar a su hija, Pepita Redhair, desaparecida en Albuquerque en marzo de 2020.

Nuevo México ocupa el primer lugar en el país por tener el mayor número de casos confirmados de desaparecidos y asesinados en áreas urbanas que involucran a personas indígenas, según un informe de 2018 del Instituto de Salud Indígena Urbana con sede en Seattle. Albuquerque tiene el segundo mayor número de casos de MMIWR después de Seattle.

Mantenerse a salvo en el desierto

De vuelta al molino, Beyale se dirige a un cañón en busca de huellas, ropa, huesos humanos... cualquier cosa que pueda indicar la presencia de Ryan aquí tres meses antes.

"¿Ves estas hondonadas de aquí?", dice Beyale, señalando una zona hueca entre la artemisa y el terreno arenoso. "Tienes que comprobarlas de verdad porque se te escapará algo".

Las búsquedas anteriores han agudizado la atención de Beyale a los detalles. Aunque no lo menciona al grupo, está pensando en la vez que este agosto sus perros encontraron restos humanos tirados en una hondonada similar a esta.

"Trigger, sigue comprobando", dice Beyale mientras el perro aceleraba el paso. Los perros de búsqueda y rescate pueden captar un olor a una distancia de hasta una milla.

A las 11 de la mañana, el sol abrasador persiste sobre las dunas. Aquí puede ser mortal para una persona sin agua. Por eso gran parte del trabajo de Beyale consiste en educar a las familias: enseñarles cuánta agua deben beber, el tipo de ropa que deben llevar y cómo mantenerse a salvo en el desierto.

"No quiero que se hagan daño. Quiero que sean capaces de llevar a cabo una búsqueda segura y satisfactoria por sí mismos si yo no puedo estar a su lado", dice.

En menos de una hora, una voz llega a su radio: Se han encontrado los huesos.

Un miembro del equipo hace una foto y lee las coordenadas en voz alta. Más tarde, todos los detalles se cargan en un mapa digital para las familias, que pueden compartir esta información con la policía si lo desean. La única excepción es cuando se encuentran restos humanos: En esos casos, Beyale se pone en contacto directamente con las fuerzas del orden.

Sin embargo, a juzgar por su tamaño, estos huesos pertenecen a un animal. Beyale sabe que siempre es una posibilidad, pero incluso cuando las búsquedas dan falsos positivos, el trabajo de búsqueda es útil.

"Si no encuentro nada aquí, al menos estoy anulando una zona".

Aun así, dice que siente un peso sobre sus hombros cada vez que

una búsqueda no da lugar a nada. Mientras sigue buscando respuestas, ha aprendido que no existe el "cierre" para las familias.

"No les gusta esa palabra", dice. "Porque la mayoría de las veces no se encuentra un cierre".

Vanessa G. Sánchez es becaria de Roy W. Howard en de Searchlight New Mexico, una organización de noticias no partidista y sin fines de lucro dedicada al reportaje de investigación en Nuevo México.

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Elecciones

en las ocho carreras por la Cámara de Representantes en todo el estado, el 72% apoyó al candidato demócrata.

"Se especuló que habría una elección de ola roja y que sería alimentada principalmente por el movimiento latino hacia el Partido Republicano", dijo Sánchez. "Observaré que hubo movimiento, pero fue relativamente modesto y en consonancia con lo que solemos ver en las elecciones de fuera de año, en las que muchos votantes se alejan del presidente en funciones, en este contexto, el partido de Biden, los demócratas; así que hubo movimiento, pero no fue demoledor".

Mirando específicamente al 8º Distrito del Congreso, la Agenda Política Latina de Colorado destacó que los latinos valoran ver a otros latinos elegidos para el cargo, lo que se tradujo en que el 75% de los latinos del distrito apoyaron a Caraveo. Desde las elecciones de 2020, la encuesta encontró que los votantes latinos en el distrito cambiaron hacia actitudes e ideologías más liberales.

"Definitivamente podemos decir que sin que el electorado latino se volcara con ella, no sería la primera latina que entra en la Cámara de los Estados Unidos por el estado de Colorado", dijo Sánchez sobre Caraveo.

En el resto del estado, sin embargo, la encuesta encontró que sólo el 19% de los latinos dijo que su ideología se ha vuelto más liberal en comparación con el 24% de los latinos que dicen que ahora son más conservadores, mientras que el 52% de los votantes latinos de Colorado dijo que su ideología no ha cambiado desde 2020. Sánchez

dijo que se trata de un cambio bastante modesto en comparación con estados como Florida o Texas, sobre todo teniendo en cuenta cómo le suele ir al partido del presidente en las elecciones de medio término.

La encuesta también preguntó a los encuestados cuándo se decidieron por quién y qué votarían en las elecciones, y el 42% de los encuestados en el octavo distrito y en todo Colorado dijeron que fue más de un mes antes del momento en que hicieron la encuesta, que se realizó del 10 de octubre al 8 de noviembre. Sánchez dijo que esto indica que los votantes latinos necesitan que los partidos, los candidatos y los defensores se acerquen antes, con información sobre las iniciativas de votación y los candidatos.

Una quinta parte de los votantes latinos de Colorado participaron en unas elecciones por primera vez en 2022, según la encuesta. Pero no fueron sólo los votantes jóvenes - mientras que el 27% de los votantes latinos por primera vez cayeron en el grupo de edad de 18 a 29 años, un 23% adicional de los votantes latinos de 30 a 49 años votaron por primera vez, así como el 14% de los votantes mayores de 50 años.

Lindsey Toomer es reportera de Colorado Newsline. Esta historia fue publicada originalmente por Colorado Newsline.

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"No encontrarás lo que no estás buscando", dijo Kenney.

Dijo que hay delitos ambientales que ocurren en todo el país y que se persiguen, sin embargo, en Nuevo México no se han organizado ni buscado.

Los delitos ambientales incluyen la falsificación a sabiendas de los informes de pruebas de agua potable o aguas residuales, el vertido de residuos sépticos en arroyos, la fabricación de registros de petróleo o gas para indicar que el operador buscó fugas, el desmantelamiento de vehículos robados y el vertido de aceite de motor usado o el tráfico ilegal de vida silvestre.

El grupo de trabajo incluye a la Oficina del Fiscal General de Nuevo México, el Departamento de Seguridad Pública del Estado, el Departamento de Energía, Minerales y Recursos Naturales, el Departamento de Caza y Pesca de Nuevo México, la Oficina Estatal de Tierras, la Oficina de Campo de Albuquerque de la Oficina Federal de Investigación, la EPA, la Oficina del Fiscal de los Estados Unidos, el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos y el Departamento de Justicia de la Nación Navajo.

Estos organismos pueden trabajar juntos para proteger a las comunidades.

Kenney puso el ejemplo de la eliminación del agua producida. El agua producida es un subproducto de la extracción de petróleo y gas. A veces se coloca en estanques de evaporación o de retención que podrían resultar atractivos para las aves acuáticas.

Kenney dijo que si los inspectores de organismos como el NMED o el EMNRD observaran la presencia de aves muertas cerca de una instalación de agua producida, podrían alertar a organismos como el Departamento de Caza y Pesca del estado o el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos.

El grupo de trabajo celebrará reuniones periódicas en las que revisará los casos. Estos casos también pueden provenir de denuncias presentadas por el público.

"Las comunidades de bajos ingresos y las comunidades de color han soportado de forma desproporcionada la carga de los delitos ambientales", dijo Alexander M.M. Ubaldez, Fiscal de los Estados Unidos para el Distrito de Nuevo México, en un comunicado de prensa. "A través del Grupo de

Trabajo de Delitos Ambientales, traeremos un tratamiento justo y una participación significativa de las comunidades desatendidas que han sido históricamente marginadas y sobrecargadas por las violaciones ambientales sistémicas, la contaminación, el cambio climático y el abuso de los recursos naturales".

Kenney dijo que las consecuencias de los delitos medioambientales pueden ser localizadas -como la retirada ilegal e inadecuada de amianto de una escuela- o pueden afectar a grandes comunidades como Flint (Michigan), donde las pruebas y el tratamiento inadecuados del agua provocaron problemas de salud, como niveles elevados de plomo en la sangre de los niños.

"Las consecuencias de los delitos medioambientales pueden ser pequeñas o grandes, pero suelen afectar a la salud pública y al medio ambiente", dijo Kenney.

Kenney dijo que el grupo de trabajo también analizará por qué ocurrieron los delitos.

En 2016, NMED descubrió que los operadores de una empresa de agua en el noroeste de Nuevo México estaban falsificando los resultados de las pruebas de cal-

idad del agua. Esto resultó en una advertencia de hervir el agua que duró más de un año en una comunidad al este de Bloomfield.

Kenney dijo que, en un caso como ese, la investigación examinaría si los propietarios de la empresa le dijeron al operador que falsificara los informes.

En muchos casos, Kenney dijo que los investigadores de la agencia son los que descubren los delitos medioambientales.

"Son los ojos y los oídos de lo que ocurre en la comunidad", dijo.

Sin embargo, las denuncias y los avisos del público también pueden dar lugar a procesamientos.

Kenney dijo que la falta de financiación del Estado ha dificultado que la NMED exija responsabilidades y se asegure de que las empresas cumplan la normativa y paguen las sanciones impuestas.

El grupo de trabajo no resuelve todos los problemas relacionados con la falta de financiación, pero proporciona una ventaja y recursos adicionales para exigir responsabilidades por los delitos medioambientales, dijo.

Al reunir a la fiscalía y a la investigación, Kenney dijo que habrá casos más fuertes con resoluciones más exitosas.

Los ciudadanos pueden presentar sus denuncias sobre delitos medioambientales en línea en echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations o en env.nm.gov/general/report-an-environmental-issue-or-incident.

La Comisaria de Tierras, Stephanie Garcia Richard, dijo en un comunicado de prensa que ha dado prioridad a la protección de los recursos naturales. Dijo que el programa de responsabilidad y aplicación de su agencia ha llevado a las empresas a cumplir con las regulaciones ambientales.

"Muchas empresas hacen lo correcto, pero cuando las empresas no lo hacen e infringen la ley debe haber consecuencias para esas acciones", dijo.

Hannah Grover es Reportera de New Mexico Political Report. Esta historia fue publicada originalmente por New Mexico Political Report.

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Adams 14/Esp

financiación desigual y pruebas estandarizadas con prejuicios raciales, pero no los dejaremos atrás", dijo Jason Malmberg, maestro de orquesta en la Escuela Intermedia Kearney. "Nos convertimos en educadores para nutrir y alentar a la próxima generación, y daremos un paso al frente para proteger a nuestros estudiantes".

Los distritos escolares vecinos aprobaron resoluciones que se oponen a la reorganización. "Se ha informado a la Junta de Educación del Estado de Colorado que sus esfuerzos para reorganizar Adams 14 fracasarán", declaró el distrito en un comunicado de prensa. "Todos los distritos escolares vecinos están de acuerdo en que la reorganización de Adams 14 no es lo mejor para nuestros estudiantes, padres, comunidad y distritos vecinos".

La reorganización debe contar con la participación de la junta escolar local y la comunidad, según la ley estatal. Este será un cambio de ritmo para la mayoría de los padres de Commerce City, ya que

la Junta de Educación del Estado de Colorado los ha excluido de los procesos de toma de decisiones al inicialmente no ofrecer traducción al español consistente en las reuniones de la junta (a pesar de que más de la mitad de los estudiantes del distrito están en inglés). aprendices).

Es por eso que SD14 Classroom Teachers Association y Together Colorado se han unido para poner sus "Abrazos Alrededor de Adams 14" y detener la reorganización. Están haciendo todo lo posible para garantizar que los niños de Commerce City tengan acceso a una educación equitativa sin tener que viajar fuera del área en la que viven para que puedan visualizar un futuro para ellos mismos en casa.

"Commerce City es más fuerte cuando está unida", dijo Derene Armelin, miembro de SD14 CTA y madre de A14. "Cuando nos unimos, nada puede detenernos. La Junta de Educación del Estado cree que puede tomar decisiones sobre nuestras escuelas sin no-

sotros, pero les vamos a demostrar que están equivocados. Vamos a unirnos para poner Arms alrededor de Adams 14 y recuperar nuestras escuelas".

Los miembros de la comunidad están invitados a mostrar su apoyo asistiendo a la próxima manifestación comunitaria **Abrazos Alrededor de Adams 14 el viernes 18 de noviembre de 3:30 p.m. a 5:30 p.m.** Los líderes del distrito, los maestros y los padres se unirán a los estudiantes en la intersección de Quebec Parkway y 72nd Avenue (fuera de Adams City High School) para luchar por su derecho a mantener sus escuelas abiertas y públicas.

Para obtener más información sobre SD14 Classroom Teachers Association, visite <https://www.facebook.com/sd14cta>. Para obtener más información sobre Together Colorado, visite <https://www.togethercolorado.org/>.

Para Noticias de Colorado: [ELSEMANARIO.US](https://www.elsemanario.us)

American Education Week



Join our strong community of educators, parents, family members, students, business leaders, elected officials, and community members and help us fight for, win back, and build up public education in Adams 14!

Community Rally

Friday, November 18th

72nd and Quebec

sidewalk in front of ACHS

3:30-5:30 PM

Bring your own sign or use one of ours

American Education Week is celebrated every year to raise public awareness of the importance of public education in transforming lives, uplifting communities and strengthening our society. "This week is observed in all communities annually for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs." NEA Resolution



bit.ly/AAA14rally

organizations searched for support, the roster expanded dramatically to over 300 groups and individuals – from food banks and pantries, public health clinics, agricultural businesses, mobile food distribution, policy organizations, and state government – meeting weekly rather than monthly.

"It was miraculous how people came together to step in and fill gaps before government response could even start," said Sharon Ber- man, a Civic Engagement and Policy Manager at New Mexico First. Innovation followed.

For example, for nearly 10 years, MoGro, a mobile grocery nonprofit, had been aggregating produce in a boxed-subscription model: Local farmers sold their produce to Mo- Gro, which then bundled and delivered it to paying customers.

But when the lockdown made reaching their clients difficult, relief organizations contacted MoGro, seeing them as the authority on mobile produce distribution.

In one case, Vegan Outreach, a national organization, contacted MoGro to help with large-scale distribution in tribal communities.

"We started aggregating and packing the food, and traveling, because we had the capacity," said Shelby Danilowicz, MoGro's Project Co-Director.

Since the pandemic, MoGro's mission has shifted. "We're at this point where it feels like we're really growing, and we have an idea of where we want to be putting our energy, mostly into these partnership programs and helping to shift this larger idea of food as medicine," Danilowicz said.

Some of the most powerful partnerships emerged between organizations that have traditionally remained siloed: hunger relief charities, health care clinics, and agriculture business.

In May 2021, Presbyterian Healthcare Services moved to universal social needs screening, with the goal of creating stronger connections between healthcare and social services in the community. When a patient comes to an appointment, they answer questions about food, housing, financial instability, and transportation.

The patient may then become eligible for a "produce prescription," which means they'll receive a weekly supply of fruits and vegetables, free of charge, for several months. Presbyterian received a grant during the pandemic to develop the program, and partnered with MoGro, which delivers fruits and vegetables from local farmers to eligible patients at its locations in Santa Fe and Española.

Carrie Thielen, a dietician and manager of Regional Community Health for Presbyterian, explained that one of the health system's priorities is addressing childhood hunger.

"When kids are engaged in healthy eating, they often bring that back to their parents," she said.

And they are not the only health provider partnering with local growers.

In 2021, the New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association approached First Choice Community Health Care about a new program called Fresh Rx that would provide bags of fresh produce to First Choice clinics for patients to collect.

The primary goal of FreshRx is to support local agriculture, explained Kirsten Hansen, FreshRx's program coordinator.

"... I do see the silver lining [of COVID]," Hansen said. During the pandemic, more money was made available to the USDA; at the same time, with outdoor settings offering the only safe space for gathering and shopping, farmers markets saw a boom in business. As the program flourished, they

were able to reach out to more partners like First Choice.

"We started thinking, we need to do more as a community health-care center than just seeing patients and writing prescriptions for chronic diseases," said Tiffany Stevens, the outreach coordinator for First Choice.

First Choice also receives produce bags from Agri-Cultura Network, a nonprofit that supports local farmers.

"Our long-term vision here is for New México to become a sustainable food state," said Helga Garza, the executive director of Agri-Cultura Network. In this vision, the market for local farmers expands while providing food to populations that otherwise might not have access to organic produce.

This year, building on the gains made during the pandemic, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham launched the Food, Farm, and Hunger Initiative — recently renamed the Food Initiative — and secured \$24.7 million from the Legislature to create and fund policy that tackles hunger across the state.

"The Food Initiative is Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's commitment to build a robust food system

that measurably reduces hunger and improves equitable access to nutritious, culturally meaningful foods," said Chavez, "while simultaneously supporting farmers, ranchers, and food businesses to produce more fresh food for food-insecure New Mexicans."

On August 25, the Rio Grande Food Project held a small party in their garden to launch a capital campaign. Ari Herring, the director, explained that the food hub was on the edge of a possible expansion. The team had expanded their board during COVID, and now they wanted to create a "client-choice model food pantry" — which resembles a grocery store, with food placed in aisles, labeled with nutritional facts and navigable by shopping cart — in place of the current model of distributing pre-assembled bags.

"When they're shopping, it raises the dignity of the whole experience," said Cunningham.

State-wide, this is a next step that food and agriculture programs are envisioning. For example, FreshRx asks clients to choose whether they want to redeem a pre-packaged box of produce, or pick out their own produce at a

farmers market. The goal is that more opportunities to make nutrition-related decisions will help patients develop sustainable healthy eating habits that align with their personal taste.

Hansen, the FreshRx program coordinator, said that this is a choice she wants everyone to have.

When Delfine receives a bag from the Rio Grande Food Project, he tries his best not to waste the carb-heavy foods that he can't eat; he donates the dried spaghetti and canned mashed potatoes to his neighbors, keeping diabetic-friendly foods for himself. But if he could pick what was in his bag, he said, he would select grapes, bananas, eggs, meat — things that are fresh and "real."

"I don't do the cooking part. When I get the stuff, I eat it whole," he said, describing what has become his ideal snack: a tomato, split in half, with a sprinkle of salt.

Isabel Ruehl is a Reporter with New Mexico in Depth. This story was originally published by New Mexico In Depth.

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*Fuente: OECD, CLU-Center for Economic Research & Forecasting

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U.S. Senator Michael Bennet speaks at Colorado Democratic Party event on election night on Nov. 8, 2022.



Colorado Governor Jared Polis speaks at Colorado Democratic Party event on election night on Nov. 8, 2022.



State Senator James Coleman speaks at Colorado Democratic Party event on election night on Nov. 8, 2022.

night Ganahl won only 39.6% of the vote.

In the Colorado Senate seat race, Joe O'Dea ran an even more moderate campaign in an effort to unseat Democratic Senate incumbent Michael Bennet. Up until just 2020, Colorado had split representation in the Senate between Bennett and Republican Cory Gardner. Gardner supported President Trump during impeachment proceedings; Trump even hosted fundraising events with Gardner in Colorado during the 2020 election season. O'Dea and his Republican allies seemed to premise their campaign on the idea that anti-Trump Republicans were still viable candidates in Colorado. Ac-

cording to coloradopolitics.com Mitch McConnell was reportedly "all-in" on O'Dea. The [National Review](https://www.nationalreview.com) called him the GOP's "best shot in Colorado." Regardless, Colorado voters were unenthused by O'Dea's centrist policies, with him winning just 41.7% of the vote.

Colorado's newly created and solidly purple 8th congressional district went to Democrat Yadira Caraveo after Republican opponent Barbara Kirkmeyer conceded the race on November 9.

With the results of election night indicating Colorado's clear graduation from swing-state status, the question is no longer, "Is Colorado a blue state?" but, "just how blue?"

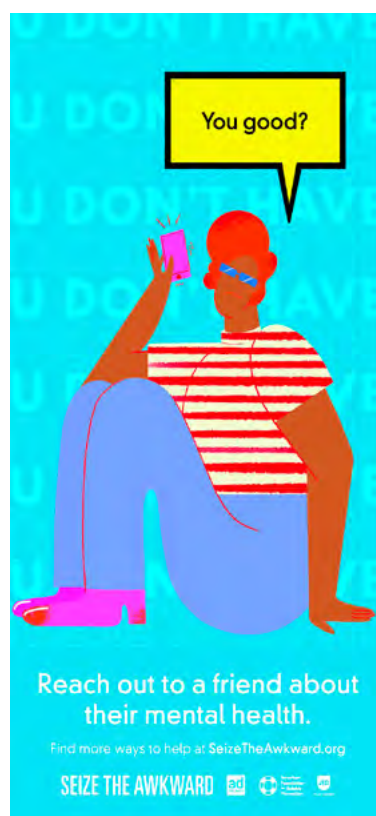
Democrats in Colorado's upper levels of government maintain many moderate positions. Governor Polis has a reputation for supporting libertarian policies. He supports "putting the state on a path to reach 100% renewable energy." However, not until 2040—a much later deadline than what climate change experts recommend. He has proposed eliminating state income tax. Earlier this year, he threatened to veto a bill which would allow rent control for mobile homes.

Despite the moderate policies of Polis and other figures like Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper; Colorado Democrats have a significant progressive faction. Bernie Sanders won the Colorado primary elections in both 2016 and 2020. U.S. Representative Joe Neguse has worked closely with prominent progressive figures like Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Neguse was also one of the original sponsors of the Green New Deal. Progressive activist Elisabeth Epps recently won her election for state representative in HD6. She joins other progressives such as Leslie Herod and Emily Sirota in the state legislature.

As Colorado continues to trend toward the left, Republicans may all-but disappear from the conversation as the divide between moderate and progressive Democrats takes the political spotlight.

Benjamin Neufeld is an Independent Reporter for The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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Adams 14

won't leave them behind," said Jason Malmberg, an orchestra teacher at Kearney Middle School. "We became educators to nourish and encourage the next generation - and we'll step up to protect our students."

Neighboring school districts passed resolutions opposing reorganization. "The Colorado State Board of Education has been advised that its efforts to reorganize Adams 14 will fail," the district stated in a press release, "... All neighboring school districts agree that the reorganization of Adams 14 is not in the best interest of our students, parents, community, and neighboring districts."

Reorganization must have local school board and community input, per state law. This will be a change of pace for most Commerce City parents, as the Colorado State Board of Education has excluded them from decision making processes by initially failing to offer consistent Spanish translation at board meetings (despite more than half of the district's students being English Language Learners).

This is why SD14 Classroom Teachers Association and Together Colorado have joined together to put their "Arms Around Adams 14" and stop the reorganization. They are making every effort to ensure that Commerce City children have access to equitable education without having to travel away

from the area they live in so they can envision a future for themselves right at home.

"Commerce City is strongest when it is united," said Derene Armelin, SD14 CTA member and A14 parent. "When we come together, nothing can stop us. The State Board of Education thinks it can make decisions about our schools without us, but we're going to show them that they are wrong. We're going to come together to put Arms around Adams 14 and take back our schools."

Community members are invited to show their support by attending the upcoming **Arms Around Adams 14 Community Rally on Friday, November 18th from 3:30pm to 5:30pm**. District leaders, teachers, and parents will join students at the intersection of Quebec Parkway and 72nd Avenue (outside of Adams City High School) in fighting for their right to keep their schools open and public.

To learn more about SD14 Classroom Teachers Association, visit <https://www.facebook.com/sd14cta>. To find out more about Together Colorado, please visit <https://www.togethercolorado.org/>.

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Semana de la Educación Americana



Únase a nuestra comunidad de educadores, padres, familiares, estudiantes, líderes empresariales, funcionarios electos y miembros de la comunidad y ayúdenos a luchar, recuperar y construir la educación pública en Adams 14!

Reunión comunitaria

Viernes, 18 de noviembre
72 y Quebec
Banqueta enfrente de ACHS
3:30pm-5:30pm
Traiga su propio letrero o use uno de los nuestros

La Semana de la Educación Estadounidense se celebra todos los años para crear conciencia pública sobre la importancia de la educación pública en la transformación de vidas, la elevación de las comunidades y el fortalecimiento de nuestra sociedad. "Esta semana se observa en todas las comunidades anualmente con el propósito de informar al público sobre los logros y necesidades de las escuelas públicas y asegurar la cooperación y el apoyo del público para satisfacer esas necesidades". Resolución NEA



bit.ly/AAA14rally

- Over one-fifth of drivers (22%) reported facing violence or have been threatened with violence while on the job; a similar number (20%) reported being discriminated against on the basis of their identity.

- Most app-workers in Denver are working full-time, and gig work is their primary source of income.

- 31% of drivers reported having no health insurance.

- Most drivers support another person with their gig income.

"What our survey and study ultimately found is that the reality for Denver gig workers is similar to others around the country, and gig companies are not living up to their promises," said Sofia Solano Organizing Director at Colorado Jobs With Justice. "Drivers are majority workers of color who earn low wages with significant expenses, lack access to important benefits, and face severe safety and workplace concerns that other workers don't. We must work as a community to ensure all workers can support their families, have flexibility, and feel safe at work without giving up rights and benefits. Left unchecked and unregulated, gig companies will continue to shift the cost of doing business onto their workers and consumers – taking money out of our communities and putting it into corporate pockets."

As app-based companies continue to disrupt traditional business models across different industries, all of these companies have one thing in common; they classify their workers' as independent contractors. This means that workers are not covered by employment standards and protections, including minimum wage, overtime, health and safety, or protections from workplace harassment and discrimination. This also means app-based gig workers are responsible for paying for the cost of business expenses—from gas to car maintenance—and are not provided with standard benefits like workers compensation or health care.

Read the full report [here](#).

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TRIO Site Coordinator for Colorado Springs

The TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) is a federally-funded program at CSU Pueblo with the primary purpose of assisting individuals who are low-income and/or potential first-generation college students in gaining access to higher education.

Description of Job

Provide in-person services to program participants including providing information about college, and careers; assistance in applying for college admissions, student financial aid and scholarships; referrals to college readiness and GED programs and community agencies; other assistance as necessary to facilitate college enrollment and funding.

Manage day-to-day operations of satellite office. This includes coordination with host institution, responding to inquiries, scheduling appointments and supervising any student employees.

Perform client intakes, determine eligibility, select participants, assess services needed to achieve educational goals, and develop participant service plan.

Enter information about participants and services provided into database and maintain hard-copy files for all participants, ensuring participant records are complete and in order. Completes monthly error checks and file audits. Facilitate completion of the Annual Performance Report (APR).

Plans and implements community outreach in assigned service area. This includes individual and group meetings, representing the program at events, and conducting workshops for potential participants, parents and staff members of community organizations, secondary and postsecondary institutions.

Tracking participant progress in completing critical tasks identified in the participant service plan, including enrollment of participants in postsecondary education.

Salary Range

\$40,000 to \$42,000.

*Bilingual candidates are welcome!
For a full listing for more details/to apply,
please visit: governmentjobs.com/careers/colorado/jobs/3743046.*



Coordinador de TRIO para Colorado Springs

El Centro de Oportunidades Educativas TRIO (EOC) es un programa financiado por el gobierno federal en CSU Pcon el propósito principal de ayudar a las personas de bajos ingresos y / o potenciales estudiantes universitarios de primera generación en acceso a la educación superior.

Descripción del trabajo

Proporcionar servicios en persona a los participantes del programa, incluyendo proporcionar información sobre la universidad y las carreras; Asistencia en la solicitud de admisión a la universidad, ayuda financiera para estudiantes y becas; Referencias a programas de preparación para la universidad y GED y a programas comunitarios. Apoyar según sea necesario para facilitar la inscripción en la universidad y la obtención de financiación.

Gestionar las operaciones diarias de la oficina satélite. Esto incluye la coordinación con la institución anfitriona, responder a las consultas, programar las citas y supervisar a los estudiantes empleados.

Realizar la captación de clientes, determinar la elegibilidad, seleccionar a los participantes, evaluar los servicios necesarios para alcanzar los objetivos educativos y desarrollar el plan de servicios del participante.

Introducir la información sobre los participantes y los servicios prestados en la base de datos y mantener archivos impresos de todos los participantes, asegurándose de que los registros de los participantes estén completos y en orden. Completar las comprobaciones mensuales de errores y las auditorías de archivos. Facilitar la finalización del Informe Anual de Resultados (APR).

Planifica y ejecuta las actividades de extensión comunitaria en el área de servicio asignada. Esto incluye reuniones individuales y de grupo, representando el programa en eventos y realizando talleres para posibles participantes, padres y miembros del personal de las organizaciones comunitarias, instituciones secundarias y postsecundarias.

Seguimiento del progreso de los participantes en la realización de tareas críticas identificadas en el plan de servicio al participante, incluida la inscripción de los participantes en la educación postsecundaria.

Rango salarial

\$40,000 to \$42,000.

¡Los candidatos bilingües son bienvenidos!

Para solicitar más detalles y para aplicar a la oferta visite: governmentjobs.com/careers/colorado/jobs/3743046.



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