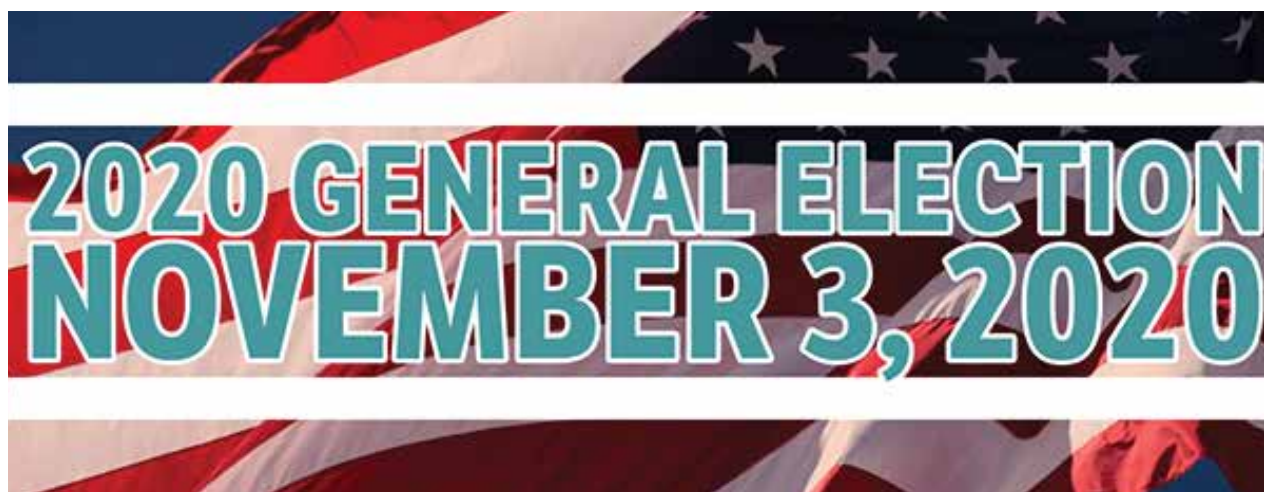


## Ready to vote? Make sure you know this year's changes

From information obtained from the Dona Ana County website.

The 2020 General Election will include a number of races including County Commissioners, County Treasurer, County Clerk, State Representatives, U.S. Representative, U.S. Senator and President of the United States. All registered voters are eligible to vote. Registered voters may update their party during the same day voter registration period.

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County Clerk is strongly encouraging voters to consider voting via absentee ballot during the 2020 General Election.** Any registrant may vote by absentee ballot for all candidates and on all questions appearing on the ballot as if you were casting it in person at a regular poll-



ing place on Election Day. You will need to formally request an absentee ballot. You may request a ballot by:

- Submitting an application online at [www.sos.state.nm.us/voting-and-elections/voter-information-portal/](http://www.sos.state.nm.us/voting-and-elections/voter-information-portal/) *Note: This option will not be available until late August or early September.*

- Printing an application at [www.donaanacounty.org/sites/default/files/pages/Absentee\\_Application\\_New\\_Mexico.pdf](http://www.donaanacounty.org/sites/default/files/pages/Absentee_Application_New_Mexico.pdf) and mailing it to our office at 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88007.
- Returning a completed application that you received in the mail from our office or the Secretary

of State to our office at 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88007.

- Emailing [www.elections@donaanacounty.org](mailto:www.elections@donaanacounty.org) to request an application.

**Note:** Please only mark "General Election" on your application, as we have to have a different, approved absentee application on file for each election in which

you are applying to vote via absentee ballot. For more information about how to fill out an absentee ballot application please read the guide at [www.donaanacounty.org/sites/default/files/pages/2020\\_Absentee\\_Application\\_Instructions.pdf](http://www.donaanacounty.org/sites/default/files/pages/2020_Absentee_Application_Instructions.pdf).

**All absentee ballot applications must be re-**

ceived no later than October 20th. Once we receive, review and approve your request, beginning Oct. 6th, we will mail you a ballot and the required envelopes you will use to return the ballot to us. Tracking for the status of your application and receipt of your ballot by our office is available at [NMVote.org](http://NMVote.org).

Ballots can be returned by the voter, the voter's immediate family member, or by the voter's caregiver by mail or at any voting convenience center during Early Voting and Election Day.

**All ballots must be returned in the provided envelopes by 7 p.m. on November 3rd, 2020.**

**Important Dates:**

1. Oct. 6, 2020: Absentee Voting begins, and Voter Registration closes online

SEE VOTE, PAGE 3

## INDEX

WELCOME SONIA A. WHITE..... 2  
FROM THE PRESIDENT..... 3

LCHCC CHALLENGES BANKS ..... 4  
POLITICAL COLUMNS ..... 7-8



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**SONIA A. WHITE**  
Doña Ana Community College

# LCHCC Welcomes Sonia A. White

**S**onia A. White works at the Doña Ana Community College, and has been there for a total of 20 years. She started out as a work-study student in 2000 until obtaining a full-time position with the College in 2007. Sonia is a Multi-media specialist and is responsible for developing Canvas training materials for faculty and staff and oversees the Canvas Platform for the college. Sonia also teaches part-time for the community college in the Computer and Information Technology Department, where she has been teaching for nine years.

Ms. White holds a Bach-

elor's degree in Computer Science, a Master's Degree in Education with a concentration in Education & Design Learning Technology, and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice all obtained from New Mexico State University. She served as Chair for NMSU's Employee Council where she was able to voice matters for all employees to Administration. A highlight of working on the Council was the task force's efforts related to annual leave and insurance recommendations that support all staff.

"I am excited to be a part of the Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

I want to help empower

Hispanic single parents to strive for an education, I want them to see that it is possible to strive for their dreams, no matter how out of reach they may seem. In working with the Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce I would like to help guide and prepare single parents to enter the job market or open a business, through education. I want to share my story with them and let them know, they are not alone and anything is possible. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside this power team and get more involved with our community" stated Ms. White.



Sonia A. White

COURTESY PHOTO

## LCHCC profiles Los Amigos member Renee Segura

**L**os Amigo member Renee Segura is the Director of Sales and Marketing for Solstice Senior Living at Las Cruces, that is located at 151 North Roadrunner Parkway. Renee was born and raised in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and has loved living, working and raising her two children in such a warm-hearted and close-knit community. Renee attended NMSU and graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in hotel, restaurants, and tourism management.

She has worked in the senior living industry for 12 years and joined the Solstice Senior Living family nearly 10 years ago. Renee has found great joy in helping seniors' transition from their home into a community set-



Renee Segura

COURTESY PHOTO

ting that looks and feels like a boutique hotel and works just like a cruise ship! She is passionate about helping seniors discover their options when considering independent living even when assistance is needed or may be needed in the future.

She has a wide variety of interests but especially en-

joys the arts, the outdoors, travel, and spending time with family and friends. Renee looks forward to serving you and your families as you begin your research into finding the perfect place to call home!

Rene and the Solstice team are always trying to find ways to give back to the Las Cruces Community. Solstice Senior Living at Las Cruces hosted a back-to-school supply drive on August 12, featuring a Google Chromebook raffle prize. Laura and Gil Martinez donated \$30 worth of school supplies and gave away their raffle ticket to one of the kitchen associate's son, Jacob. Out of seven students in the drawing, Jacob won the Chromebook and was able to begin first grade at Conlee Elementary on the right foot.



HP Chromebook raffle winner Jacob.

COURTESY PHOTO



Back-to-school supply drive.

COURTESY PHOTO

FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Now more than ever!

**E**lection time is fast approaching in the United States. We are 52 days away from the November 3rd elections. Choices need to be made and votes need to be cast, now more than ever.

I have asked this question before. Will our vote really make a difference? Most people are still wondering if their vote can make a difference, especially with our current uncertainties. Remember in the scheme of things – there are winners and losers. Sometimes the cold hard truth is that the voters are not always the victors and the candidates are not always the best for the job. So, will our vote make a difference? I will tell you, now more than ever.

Who are our voting options for the November general elections? Like many people, you may have some ideas on who might receive your vote. With any luck your candidates align with most of your beliefs and needs. Hopefully your candidates are making ac-



**CURTIS ROSEMOND**  
LAS CRUCES  
HISPANIC CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

curate and honest promises that will impact your life or that of your children. Unfortunately, we all know that some politicians seem to have a short memory, forgetting most of their campaign promises they made to get your vote.

The thought often comes up in many of our minds; “Why should I vote this time?” You might be unhappy with the choice of candidates or current political system and not want to waste your time voting. Most people who don't vote displays a sign of

disinterest and give up their right to voice their opinion. Many people see the political climate in the country today and wonder why even bother in taking the time to cast their vote. Will my vote even make a difference? Again, I will tell you, now more than ever.

I must confess I'm still a news junkie. I spend about five hours each night watching the three major cable news channels. I try to get a balance viewpoint by scanning back and forth through the networks. Unfortunately, all I have seen is the inability of congress and the senate to work across the aisle. I have seen the corruption of so many politicians on so many levels of government. I have seen so many people being indicted for illegal behavior, lying to Congress, and being sent to prison for corruption. The country has become so divided, sometimes I feel we have gone back 60 years in time. I stop to ask myself, will my vote make a difference? Yes, now more than ever!

Do you know how your vote really makes a difference? If you don't know that, you probably don't know how democracy really works. If you don't vote at every level, you are not utilizing your full voting potential. We all must cast our votes whenever elections occur, from the school superintendents, sheriffs, city councils, county commissioners, mayors, governors, congressmen, senators up to the President. Our elected officials determine the quality and the equality of our law enforcement, public education, and health care systems, and so much more.

Our leaders can hardly be representative of our communities or to our communities needs if we do not exercise our civic duty and vote. We must all use our voices and vote, now more than ever!

However, and wherever, you cast your vote, please stay safe and healthy, because we need you... now more than ever!

**VOTE, FROM PAGE 1**

or by mail. However, a qualified elector may register to vote or update an existing certification of registration in person at the county clerk's office, or designated alternative voting locations, immediately prior to voting through October 31, 2020.

2. Oct. 6, 2020: Early Voting begins at the Doña

Ana County Government Center.

3. Oct. 17, 2020: Early Voting begins at Alternate Voting Locations. See a list of alternate early voting locations at [www.donaanacounty.org/elections/vcc#election](http://www.donaanacounty.org/elections/vcc#election).

4. October 20, 2020: The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot.

5. October 27, 2020: The deadline for a UOCAVA (Federal/Overseas) absentee applications to be returned.

6. Nov. 3, 2020: General Election Day. See a list of Election Day voting locations at [www.donaanacounty.org/elections/vcc#election](http://www.donaanacounty.org/elections/vcc#election).

For additional information visit the Dona Ana County website at [www.donaanacounty.org/elections/elections-info](http://www.donaanacounty.org/elections/elections-info).



**Election Officials needed!**

**TO BE AN ELECTION OFFICIAL YOU MUST:**

- Be registered to vote in Doña Ana County
- Attend training
- Take an oath of office
- Not be a candidate
- Have basic computer skills

(Additional requirements available online.)

ELECTION DAY:  
\$150-\$200/DAY

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NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

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## Right at Home

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We provide snapshots of the news with our eBulletin, an e-mail newsletter. To join our eBulletin mailing list, send a request to [richard@lascrucesbulletin.com](mailto:richard@lascrucesbulletin.com). We're right at home with you.

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# Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Challenges Local Banks

The Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is presenting a challenge to local banks in our community to donate just \$250 to benefit the Stamp Out Hunger Donor Drive, a fundraising effort hosted by the United Way of Southwest New Mexico and Casa de Peregrinos.

All funds raised will help supply emergency food for our most vulnerable neighbors. Local food pantries are working hard to serve our community and help the growing number of families who are food insecure, especially during this time of a pandemic. Food insecure families are so limited in their resources to buy food that they are running out of food, reducing the quality of their food, cutting out meat, feeding their children unbalanced meals, or skipping meals so that their children can eat.

The goal of the Food Bank 'Bank' Challenge is for every bank in our community to provide funds to this fundraising effort to provide resources for our local food pantries in need, while working to eliminate hunger and food insecurity in Doña Ana County.

Here's how you can donate:


1. To donate online, visit [uwswnm.org/stampouthunger](http://uwswnm.org/stampouthunger)
  2. Text to Donate: TEXT the keyword, STAMPOUT to the number 41444
  3. Make a check out to: United Way of Southwest New Mexico, Memo Line: Stamp Out Hunger
- If any further information is needed, such as an invoice, w9, etc., please contact *Amanda Morales* at [impact@uwswnm.org](mailto:impact@uwswnm.org).



## THANK YOU!

FOOD BANK  
'BANK'  
CHALLENGE

**BANK OF AMERICA** BANK OF AMERICA   
691 S Telshor Blvd

**CITIZENS BANK**   
3991 E Lohman Ave  
2841 N Main St  
505 S Main St · In Loretto Town Center  
3065 E University Ave  
3030 W Picacho Ave

**WASHINGTON FEDERAL**  **WaFd Bank**  
1800 S Telshor Blvd  
301 W Amador Ave

**WEST STAR BANK**   
555 S Telshor Blvd, Suite 100A

  
western sky  
community care.



*We would like to extend a special Thank You to these businesses for accepting the 'Challenge' by donating funds to support local food pantries in our community.*

  
LAS CRUCES  
HISPANIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



# Community rallies around Jardín de los Niños

BY: MICHELLE ADAMES, PHD  
Executive Director,  
Jardín de los Niños

The COVID-19 Public Health Orders have undoubtedly impacted everyone over the last five months. On March 16, Jardín de los Niños was closed to comply with the stay-at-home order, and our children and staff immediately transitioned into remote learning. La Tienda de Jardín also closed on March 18, which posed a financial impact on Jardín de los Niños. Many challenges are present in the lives of the children and families that we serve at Jardín. COVID-19 has heightened those challenges for many of our families. Our approach to serving our families has become very adaptable due



COURTESY PHOTO

our limitations related to the Public Health Orders and limited in-person contact. During the stay-at-home order, Jardín staff still provided emergency assistance and case man-

agement, which included stabilizing the family and providing basic need support—Jardín provided food baskets to ensure that our families received food daily. Jardín's holistic, strengths-

based approach to serving the entire family has continued to encourage ongoing communication and support for our families despite the many challenges that we face daily.

After working from home for three months, La Tienda opened to the public on June 15 and the children and staff returned to Jardín on June 22, both locations returned with limited capacity. Only Jardín staff and children are able to enter the building as a safety measure. La Tienda relies heavily on our volunteers to support the operations of the boutique. Our volunteers at both locations have not been phased into our re-entry plan as a precautionary measure. We hope to welcome our volunteers back in phases and when it is safe. This has had a great impact on our organization. Jardín's re-entry plan has taken into account many factors: sanitization and safety are the number one priority. Our procedures

for drop-off and pick-up, daily wellness checks and receiving donations are at the forefront and have all been greatly impacted. Our cleaning practices have changed immensely at both Jardín de los Niños and La Tienda de Jardín. Jardín has moved to a Monday-Thursday schedule with Friday serving as the deep sanitization day. Ongoing sanitization takes place at La Tienda de Jardín. Through this global pandemic, we have learned that our children, families and staff are extremely resilient! The community has rallied around Jardín when we have needed support for our families, and we continue to implement new procedures when warranted to ensure the safety of everyone that we serve.

## Explore Southern New Mexico

Explore the monthly Desert Exposure, "the biggest little newspaper in the Southwest." This eclectic arts and leisure publication delivers a blend of content to make you laugh, think and sometimes just get up and dance.

Desert Exposure captures the flavor, beauty and uniqueness of Silver City, Las Cruces and the whole Southwest region of New Mexico. You can also peruse our wide array of advertisers to plan your stops on your next Southwest New Mexico road trip, no matter which direction you're going.

### Here are some ways to get your Desert Exposure fix:

- Check area racks and newsstands
- Visit [www.desertexposure.com](http://www.desertexposure.com)
- Sign up for an annual mail subscription for \$54 contact Teresa Tolonen, [teresa@lascrucesbulletin.com](mailto:teresa@lascrucesbulletin.com)
- Sign up for our semi-monthly Desert Exposure email newsletter contact Ian Clarke, [ian@lascrucesbulletin.com](mailto:ian@lascrucesbulletin.com)
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FROM THE LOS AMIGOS CHAIR

# The United Way a Grounded Infrastructure for the Community

Many have heard of the organization, United Way, but when asked, What does the organization do? Many can't seem to find an answer. For many years, United Way has been known as a funder. And while yes, we still continue to provide grants to local nonprofits in our community, our organization has morphed into something more.

With over 1,300 United Way organizations worldwide, we have built the strongest and most locally-grounded infrastructure for community change at scale. Because of our large outreach, we are uniquely positioned to solve problems no organization can solve alone.

Emergency assistance is an integral part of our mission at the United Way of Southwest New Mexico. Our efforts to mobilize the

caring power of our community are only made possible with the collaboration with partners such as the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, Casa de Peregrinos, and the Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, just to name a few. In the recent months, we have worked on two different initiatives with some of the partners listed above.

Because of individual and company donations it has become possible that the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico in partnership with the United Way of Southwest New Mexico have been able to create the Non-profit Emergency Fund to provide micro-grants to nonprofit organizations in Southwest New Mexico, spanning seven counties; Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, and Sierra counties. During this



AMANDA MORALES

pandemic, nonprofit services have become essential, with a high demand from individuals and families because of the increase of unemployment. However, with the increase in need of services, on the other end, there has been an economic downfall with the decrease in monetary donations. The fund, which operates on an as-needed basis, assists nonprofits in time of great need due to a community need, natural disaster, and/or response to overwhelm-

ing loss of operational revenues during this COVID-19 health pandemic.

The other initiative we have is the Stamp Out Hunger Donor Drive which is a fundraising effort in partnership with Casa de Peregrinos. The current pandemic-related economic shutdown has worsened food insecurity that affects many individuals in our community, including children, elderly and military veterans. Local food pantries are continuing to work hard to serve our community and help the growing number of families who are food insecure. These families are so limited in their resources to buy food that they are running out of food, reducing the quality of their food, cutting out meat, feeding their children unbalanced meals, or skipping meals so that their children can eat.



## United Way of Southwest New Mexico

To address this program, starting Tuesday, Sept. 1, community members who would normally leave food by their mailbox on the second Saturday in May for letter carriers to collect as part of the Stamp Out Hunger community-wide food drive, can accomplish the same thing via this online fundraising effort. All funds raised will help supply emergency food for our most vulnerable neighbors. Potential donors can visit, [uwswnm.org/stampouthun-](http://uwswnm.org/stampouthun-)

ger for more information on how to donate.

As a worldwide organization, we have a large network and outreach to make a huge impact, however, we know that we can't accomplish work locally without our local nonprofit partners. It is our hope that with both of these initiatives we assist sustaining those organizations doing important work in the region, so they can keep serving our community even in times of crisis.

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FROM OUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

# Working to rebuild New Mexico together

BY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE XOCHITL TORRES SMALL

Growing up in New Mexico, I know firsthand how special our community is and how lucky we are to call it home. Because of this, I've made it a priority in my first term in Congress to help create good, reliable jobs so that future generations can stay in New Mexico and continue to make it home.

However since March, COVID-19 has devastated our economy, with thousands of workers across our state losing their jobs through no fault of their own. As we've continued to work to address challenges, I've heard from employers struggling to rehire and safely reopen, as well as from families who are fighting to make ends meet.

That's why I introduced the Back on Your Feet Act with Rep. Horsford from Nevada to support our Main Street businesses with rehiring efforts and extend unemployment assistance. Specifically, our bill would reinstate the federal weekly \$600 unemployment compensation until January 31, 2021 and provide a single federal "Back on Your Feet Pay" in the amount of \$3,600 to workers who are able to return to work safely, to help cover costs of housing, childcare, transportation, food, PPE, and other necessary expenses.



TORRES SMALL

While New Mexicans are hurting, it's critical Congress provides the federal relief needed and come to the table with bipartisan solutions. Initiatives like Back on Your Feet Pay would help New Mexicans return to work and support businesses with rehiring efforts, while extended unemployment insurance would provide vital support for New Mexican eager to get back

to work but who cannot get jobs during this unprecedented time. If passed, this legislation will support our economy and help thousands of New Mexicans get back on their feet as we continue on the path to recovery.

The bill also provides \$2 billion in funding to help states process unemployment applications and pay benefits. It also requires states and the Department of Labor to report on the number of people still waiting for benefits while developing "corrective action" plans for backlogs.

As we continue our battle against COVID-19 together, I am grateful to continue this work with you. I am committed to fighting for your priorities, from supporting our Main Street businesses and workers to providing immediate relief to families, and helping our community manage long-term challenges.

FROM OUR U.S. SENATOR

# Make your voices heard New Mexico: complete the census and vote!

BY U.S. SEN. TOM UDALL

Two deadlines critical to our state's future are fast approaching -- the 2020 Census and the November 3rd general election. It's imperative that New Mexicans fully participate in both.

First, the Census. The September 31st deadline for completing the Census is just around the corner, and New Mexico's participation rate is not good. We were nearly last in the nation, at 55%, but that has now risen to 80%.

The Census determines federal funding over the next 10 years for vital programs -- Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, Head Start, school lunches, food stamps, and many more.

Every single person counts. Missing only one person can translate into losing \$3,000 per year over 10 years. A 1% state-wide undercount can lose \$600 million over the next decade. And we will lose billions if our participation doesn't turn around dramatically.

Please complete your Census form. And urge your family, friends, and co-workers to do the same. It takes only 10 minutes, and can be completed by mail, telephone and, for the first time, online at <https://my2020census.gov/>.

Next -- everyone should make a plan to vote in the upcoming election. Nothing is more fundamental to keeping our democracy secure and alive than casting your vote.

In New Mexico, every seat in the state legislature and the U.S. House of Repre-



UDALL

sentatives is on the ballot, along with a U.S. Senate seat, the presidency, and local races. There are close races all across the state -- and your vote counts.

Because of COVID-19 -- it's especially important to figure out how to safely vote. In addition to voting in person on Election Day, you can vote absentee by mail or vote early in person. All the information

you need to plan is on the New Mexico Secretary of State's website at <https://www.sos.state.nm.us/voting-and-elections/> or the Dona Ana County Clerk's website at <https://www.bernco.gov/clerk/bureau-of-elections-overview.aspx>.

We've heard from the President that voting by mail is fraught with fraud, but this is categorically false, as the FBI recently confirmed -- finding no evidence of fraudulent vote-by-mail schemes this year.

We've seen the U.S. Postal Service administration recently institute measures in New Mexico and across the nation that are delaying mail and could undermine timely delivery of ballots. While some of those measures have been reversed, we still see delays.

I'm fighting hard in the Senate to safeguard the integrity of the upcoming election and ensure that USPS has the resources to do its job.

Now is the time for New Mexico to be heard. Please complete your Census form and vote in the upcoming election -- and help determine the future of our state and nation.

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FROM OUR U.S. SENATOR

# We must support NM workers and families

BY U.S. SENATOR  
MARTIN HEINRICH

As we head into the fall of perhaps the most difficult year any of us will ever experience, there remains so much uncertainty about whether or not schools, child care centers, and small businesses will have the resources and equipment to reopen safely. And while New Mexico continues to do better than our neighboring states in containing the spread of the coronavirus, our families are still experiencing great loss and, particularly in southern New Mexico, we must remain vigilant.

I want you to know that I am continuing to do everything in my power to fight for the support New Mexicans need in the near term, the science-based public health response necessary

to save lives, and economic investments to rebuild our communities and regrow our economy in the long-term.

I remain deeply frustrated that both President Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refuse to act in good faith to negotiate our next urgently needed package of economic relief. We need to act with real urgency when so many workers remain out of work and when too many of our families are worried about where they will get their next meal or fear eviction because they weren't able to pay their rent.

Despite this stand-still on the next major legislation,



HEINRICH

I am continuing to fight for New Mexico priorities. That includes securing resources for smaller metropolitan areas like Las Cruces and rural communities across the nation

that are facing enormous economic burdens and costs during this crisis. It is crucial that we provide the same direct emergency assurances to smaller towns, counties, and cities and grant them the same stability that we are providing our larger metropolitan areas.

Earlier this year, I introduced the Coronavirus Community Relief Act to provide \$250 billion in stabilization funds geared towards localities with pop-

ulations under 500,000 that are struggling in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The House passed this support for local governments in their relief bill, the Heroes Act, and the Sen-

ate needs to do the same. I am also steadfast in my support for New Mexico small business owners. Since this crisis began, my office has assisted hundreds of small business owners in securing the help and resources they need to stay afloat. That includes helping them receive funds from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that has served as a critical lifeline for so many business owners.

When Congress first established this program in the CARES Act earlier this year, I heard from many local business owners about problems in its implementation.

While I shared their disappointment with those initial delays, I also went right to work to fix problems and be sure assistance is reaching the New Mexicans who need it most.

Thanks to key reforms that I supported and passed, PPP funds are now much easier for small businesses—including smaller microbusinesses that are so common in New Mexico—to access. With a much more simplified loan forgiveness application, business owners can focus on their work instead of lengthy applications. There is also much more flexibility built into the program to allow businesses to address their specific needs and still get their loans forgiven.

I am also working to make sure our small businesses and schools can

access the resources and equipment they need to reopen safely. That includes access to testing, PPE, and cleaning supplies. As scientists learn more about the way the virus spreads, I am also encouraging a greater focus on improving indoor air ventilation through solutions like upgrading air filters and using portable HEPA filter units, or by investing in new HVAC systems. That's why I am preparing legislation to help schools upgrade and improve their air filtration systems.

I will never stop fighting for New Mexicans during this time of great need. If there is any way that I can assist you or your family during this time, please contact my Las Cruces office at 575-523-6561 or visit my website at Heinrich.Senate.Gov.

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