

2024 IMPACT REPORT



Doña Ana County

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WELCOME

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Doña Ana County Impact Report 2024

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Administration

New County Manager



Scott Andrews, Ed.D.

Scott Andrews, Ed.D. was announced as the new county manager for Doña Ana County during the August 13, 2024 Board of County Commissioners meeting. He officially began his role on October 7, 2024.

Dr. Andrews is dedicated to implementing the County's strategic plan, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring responsive, transparent government.

Prior to joining Doña Ana County, Dr. Andrews served as Assistant City Manager of Bakersfield, CA, City Manager for the City of Covington, GA, Assistant City Manager in Smyrna, GA, Economic Development Director in Sugar Hill, GA and multiple leadership roles in Temple Terrace, FL.

Dr. Andrews has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, a Master of Public Administration, and a doctorate in Organizational Leadership. He also holds leadership certificates from the likes of Harvard, Stanford and Yale, as well as having the prestigious Credentialed Manager designation from International City/County Manager Association (ICMA).

Welcome to Doña Ana County, Manager Andrews!

Letter from the Chair



It is our honor to reflect on a year of progress, growth, and service to our beautiful community. This Impact Report highlights the achievements we have realized together in the past year. We could not achieve it all without the hard work, dedication and collaboration of our staff, residents, and community partners.

One of the most significant milestones this year was the hiring of our new county manager, Scott Andrews, Ed.D. Dr. Andrews brings visionary leadership and a strategic focus on building our economic development efforts and guiding us into the future. We are excited about the expertise and energy he brings to our community.

In 2024, we pursued ambitious goals with determination and purpose, starting with a rebranding campaign, a new logo and a commitment to being The County You Can Count On, partnering with the City of Las Cruces to break ground on a new affordable housing complex and expanding internet access throughout rural areas of the County.

The stories and successes captured in this report reflect the impact of our work. As we look to the future, we are motivated to build on this momentum. We are committed to service and initiatives that will create lasting change. In the coming year, we aim to expand our community engagement efforts across the county and offer accessible services to residents in their own communities.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust. Together, we are shaping a brighter and stronger future for Doña Ana County.

With gratitude,

Christopher Schaljo-Hernandez, Chair
Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners

DOÑA ANA COUNTY is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners. The five commissioners are elected at-large to four-year terms of office. The Board Chair is the presiding officer of the board at meetings. All commissioners reside in the districts they represent.

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- Set policy for the county
- Enact ordinances to meet local conditions and exercise authority vested in the board by the legislature
- Represent the interests of residents in their districts
- Establish county rules, regulations, ordinances, policies and procedures
- Appoint boards, commissioners and task forces

COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

BOARD MEETINGS – The Board of County Commissioners meets regularly at 9 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held in the Commission Chambers on the ground floor of the Doña Ana County Government Center, 845 N. Motel Blvd., in Las Cruces.

The public may view meetings online at www.youtube.com/DonaAnaCountyGovernment. Meetings are advertised in advance at www.donaanacounty.org.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS – Commissioners hold and attend community meetings at convenient locations in their districts throughout the year.

The meetings are open to the public and provide an opportunity for resident to ask questions and discuss items that are important to their community.



Board Chair Christopher Schaljo-Hernandez

(District 1) Commissioner Schaljo-Hernandez has served a variety of community nonprofits around Las Cruces and surrounding areas, including the Red Ribbon Bash, Southern New Mexico Pride Board, and the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico. He is the co-owner of Salud! De Mesilla restaurant.



Gloria Gameros

(District 2) Commissioner Gameros was elected in November 2024. Commissioner Gameros served as a Trustee and Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Anthony, NM, from 2016 to 2021. Her professional background spans small business ownership and finance. This wide-ranging experience gives Commissioner Gameros a unique perspective on community needs, financial stewardship, and local governance.



Shannon Reynolds

(District 3) Commissioner Reynolds has more than 40 years of industry management and training experience that inform his decisions and guidance to the county. Commissioner Reynolds is a US Air Force Vietnam Era Veteran, 1975-1979. Commissioner Reynolds holds the following certifications: NM Edge Certified Public Official, NM Edge Certified County Commissioner, NM EDGE Supervisor Certification, and NM Edge Certification in Advocate for Public Ethics.



Susana Chaparro

(District 4) Commissioner Susana Chaparro works as a certified court interpreter and owns an interpreting and trial consulting firm. She also held office as a Doña Ana County magistrate judge from 1999 to 2006. As a magistrate judge, Commissioner Chaparro became the first judge in the country to put Spanish speakers on jury panels and created the state's first domestic violence court. She has served on the county's drug court and the board of La Casa Inc.



Manuel A. Sanchez

(District 5) Commissioner Sanchez was first appointed commissioner by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham in 2019 and won the election in 2020. He regularly holds community meetings to gather feedback from constituents to learn how the County can better serve them. Commissioner Sanchez is an alum of MIT and currently works for GE Vernova.

Elected to Serve

Amanda López Askin, Ph.D.

Dr. Askin was appointed clerk in 2018 and was reelected for a second, four-year term in November of 2024. The Office of the County Clerk keeps records such as resolutions, ordinances, deeds and marriage licenses. The office also issues several types of permits and licenses, such as permits for parties, licenses for liquor establishments, etc. The Doña Ana County Clerk's Office also receives nominations and petitions related to elections. The office supervises and prepares ballots and voting machines and trains election workers.

Chief Deputy Clerk, Caroline Zamora, was appointed in November of 2022.

Judith Ann Baca

Judge Baca was elected in November of 2022. The Doña Ana County Probate Judge decides legal matters related with estates of deceased persons. Her primary responsibilities include: validating wills, appointing executors or administrators to manage the deceased person's estate if no will exists, settling disputes, managing guardianship appointments for minors or incapacitated adults and ensuring debts, taxes and assets are distributed according to the will or state law.

Eugenia "Gina" Montoya Ortega

Assessor Ortega was elected in November of 2022. The Assessor's Office determines the property value of homes, businesses and taxable properties in Doña Ana County. They also prepare tax rolls for the County Treasurer for real property (land and improvements), personal property (business equipment), livestock, and mobile homes.

Chief Deputy Assessor, Ruben Reyes, was appointed in January of 2023.

Eric L. Rodriguez

Treasurer Rodriguez became the Chief Financial Officer of Doña Ana County in 2016 after serving as the Chief Deputy Treasurer. He was reelected in November of 2020. The Treasurer's Office is the property tax collector for Doña Ana County, the City of Las Cruces, Public Schools Districts in Las Cruces, Hatch and Gadsden, the State of New Mexico and other taxing agencies in Doña Ana County. The Treasurer's Office also collects money due to other county departments including fees for services, licenses and revenue from issuing bonds and special assessments.

Chief Deputy Treasurer Marisol Richardson was appointed in January of 2023.

Kim Stewart

Sheriff Kim Stewart leads the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office. Elected in 2018, Sheriff Stewart is the first woman to be sheriff of Doña Ana County. She was reelected in November of 2022. In partnership with the community, DASO endeavors to enhance the quality of life for residents by providing emergency responses and promoting public safety.

Undersheriff Tessa Abeyta was sworn in on December 18, 2023.

A New Chapter

As your new County Manager, it is a privilege to address you in this Impact Report. Since joining Doña Ana County, I have been inspired by the remarkable dedication of our community members, staff, and leaders who work tirelessly to make this county an extraordinary place to live, work, and play.

This report captures the accomplishments our hardworking team has made with your help over the past year. Central to our success is the partnership we have built with you - our residents and community stakeholders. I look forward to building upon that success with you.

As we move forward, my focus as County-Manager from the Board of Commissioners is clear: to build on this foundation of excellence by promoting innovation, strengthening our community partnerships, and advancing economic development opportunities in Doña Ana County.

In the year ahead, we will come to you more in-person. We will ask you what you want and what is most important to you. I hope you will make your voice heard so that we are building a community and culture of service you are proud of as residents.

Thank you for welcoming me into this role and for your continued support of Doña Ana County. Together, we can achieve remarkable things, and I am excited for the journey ahead.

With gratitude,

Scott Andrews,
County Manager



Scott Andrews
County Manager



Jonathan Macias
Assistant County Manager

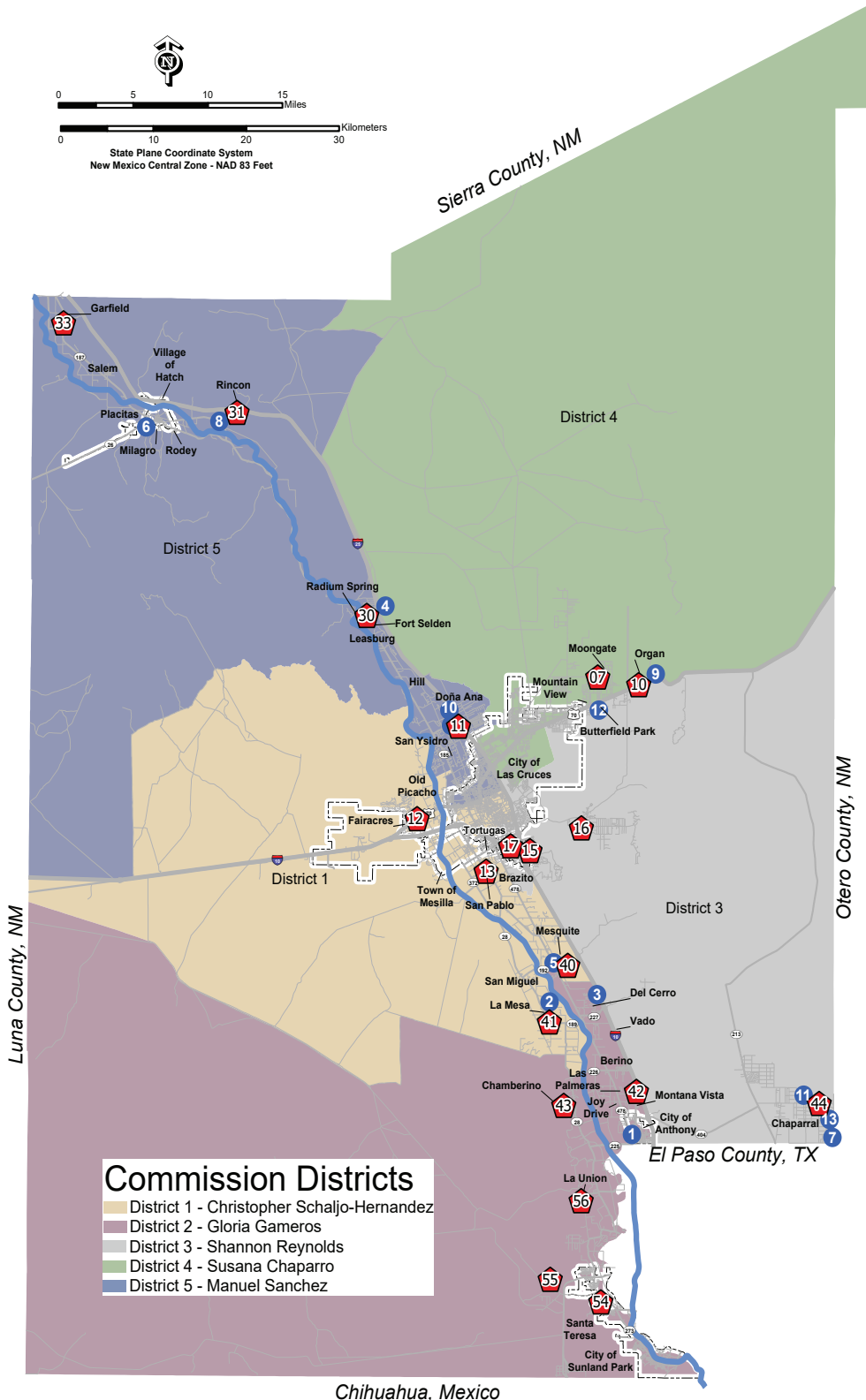
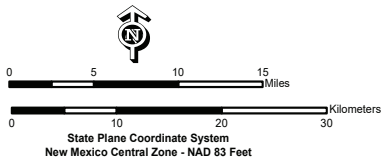


Deborah Weir
Assistant County Manager



Stephen Lopez
Assistant County Manager

Doña Ana County Map



- Commission Districts**
- District 1 - Christopher Schaljo-Hernandez
 - District 2 - Gloria Gameros
 - District 3 - Shannon Reynolds
 - District 4 - Susana Chaparro
 - District 5 - Manuel Sanchez

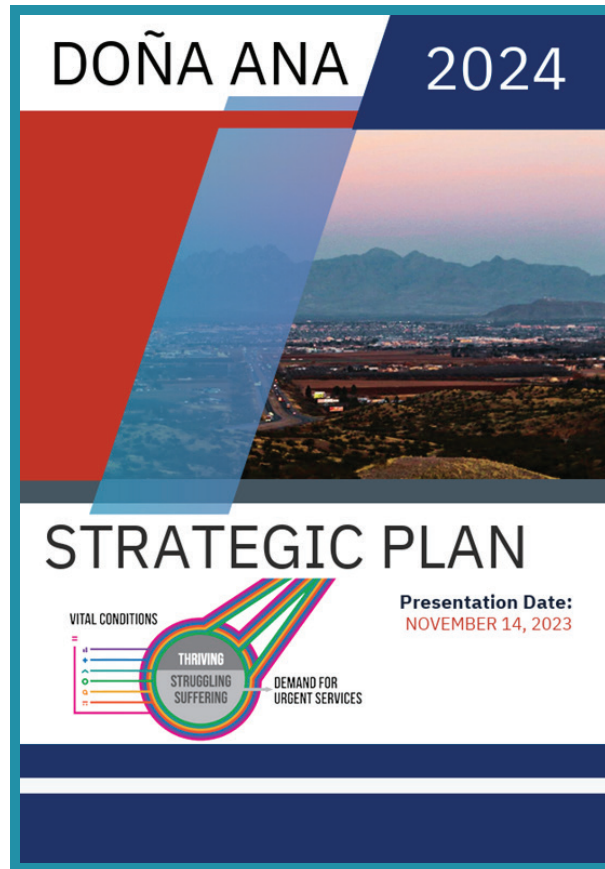
Fire Stations

- 07 Moongate
- 10 Organ
- 11 Doña Ana
- 12 Fairacres
- 13 San Pablo
- 15 Las Alturas
- 16 Talavera
- 17 NMSU
- 30 Radium Springs
- 31 Rincon
- 33 Garfield
- 40 Mesquite
- 41 La Mesa
- 42 Anthony
- 43 Chamberino
- 44 Chaparral
- 54 Santa Teresa
- 55 Jetport
- 56 La Union

Community Centers

- 1 Anthony
- 2 La Mesa
- 3 Vado-Del Cerro
- 4 Radium Springs
- 5 Mesquite
- 6 Placitas
- 7 Betty McKnight
- 8 Rincon
- 9 Organ
- 10 Doña Ana
- 11 Delores Wright
- 12 Butterfield
- 13 Colquitt
- 14 De La O





The Board of County Commissioners adopted the strategic plan in 2024, and it was a highlight of the County Manager search process. A Strategic Plan Review meeting was held with members of the community and County leadership. We discussed the draft of the strategic plan and sought residents' feedback. A Strategic Plan Review meeting was held with members.

The Strategic Plan is the work we commit to for the next five years, leading into our 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Watch the livestreamed
video here:



Download the PDF here:



Download the 2040
Comprehensive plan PDF:



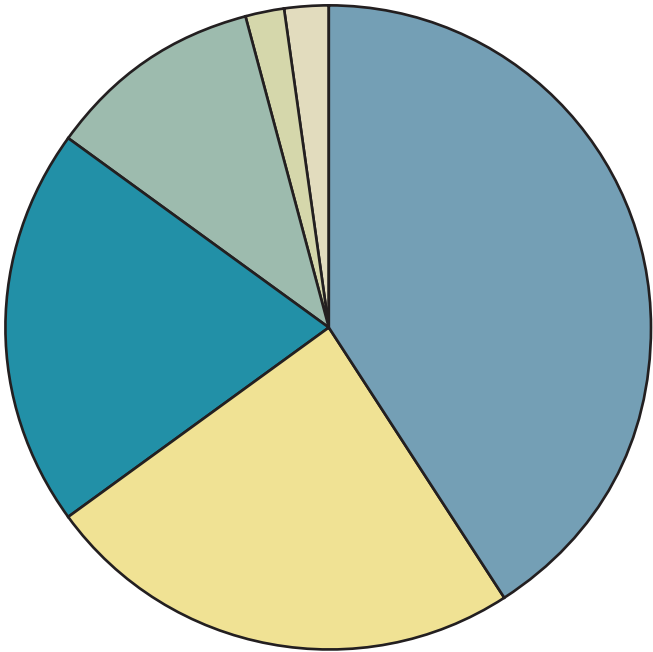
Audit & Accountability Award



At the 2024 New Mexico Legislative Conference in Santa Fe, Doña Ana County received the Accountability Award for Large County Audit Achievement for Fiscal Year 2024. The award recognizes the County's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of financial transparency and accountability. The audit process involved a thorough review of financial statements and internal controls, and the County met or exceeded all the requirements.

Doña Ana County has received ten accounting awards since fiscal year 2011, including six Accountability Awards for Large County Audit in 2011, 2016, 2017, 2021, 2022, and 2023 the Large County Special Mention in 2012 and 2014, and the Continued Excellence Award for 2018 and 2019.

2024 County Budget



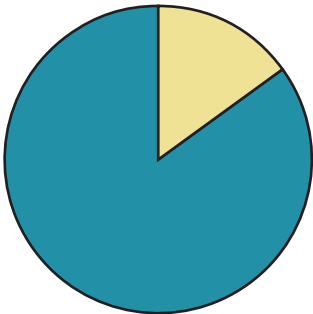
Grants	\$167,123,907
State Distributions	\$3,751,102
Capital Outlay	\$47,948,318
Debt Service	\$2,327,879
Operating Costs	\$99,612,011
Personnel Costs	\$84,868,279

Grand Total - \$405,631,497

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program concluded Dec. 30, 2024. Overall, the County provided \$16,125,351 worth of assistance with rent and utilities to 2,006 households financially impacted by the pandemic. Of the \$17,496,309 funds granted to the County, \$1,081,269 was allocated to Peachtree for low-cost housing. The remaining balance of \$289,689 is being allocated among local low-cost housing service agencies, including Community of Hope.

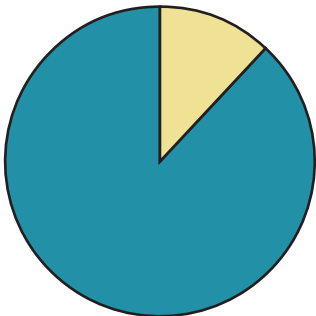
County Received \$20,583,893



- Assistance (85%) - \$17,496,309.42
- Administration (15%) - \$3,087,584.02

*The U.S. Dept. of the Treasury allowed up to 15% for administration which includes payroll, office space, software, advertising and other administrative expenses.

Total Spent \$18,191,858.35



- Total Assistance - \$16,116,776.09
- Total Administration- \$2,075,082.26

Assistance Highlights:

- Amount disbursed: **\$16,125,351** (including housing services)
- Number of households helped:..... **2,006**
- Average funding amount:..... **\$8,074**
- Average months rent:..... **9**
- Average months utilities:..... **8**
- Allocated for Housing Services: **\$290,730 from ERA2**
- Allocated for low-cost housing: **\$1,243,269 from ERA2**

Upgraded Systems



The County implemented Workday to replace many of our existing systems for financial and personnel management. The new system is being used by all employees for many administrative functions, including timekeeping, open enrollment, requisitions, and other tasks.

Workday is a fully integrated cloud-based enterprise resource planning system developed to enable organizations to manage all their day-to-day operations in one place. The adoption of Workday demonstrates the County's commitment to leveraging technology to support its mission and strategic goals.

New Logo and Slogan Rollout



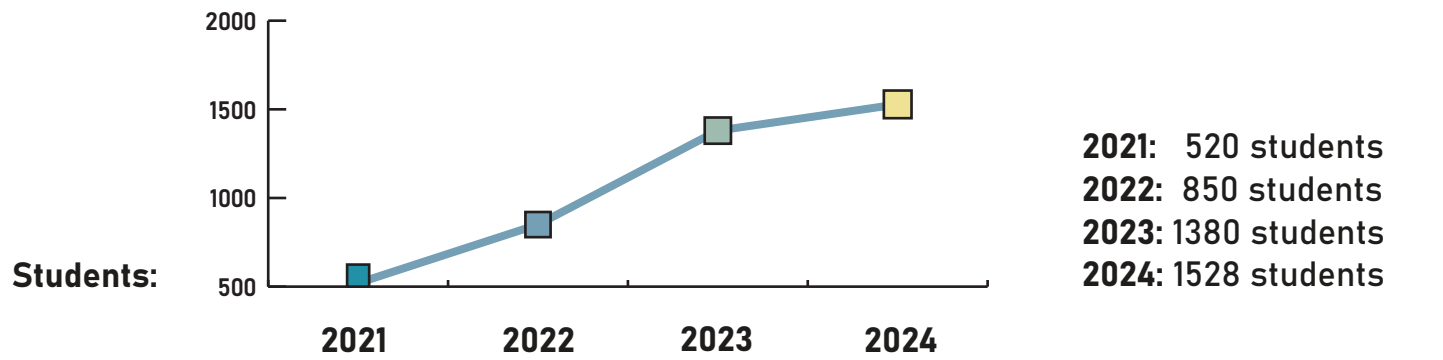
In March 2024, we implemented a rebranding strategy which included a modernized logo. The refreshed logo and accompanying branding standards represent the County's growth, showcasing the County's dedication to serving our diverse residents and highlighting the rich heritage of our region. As part of the rollout, we launched a comprehensive marketing campaign that included billboards, radio spots, digital outreach, and community-focused initiatives to connect everyone to the County's mission.

Student Internship Program

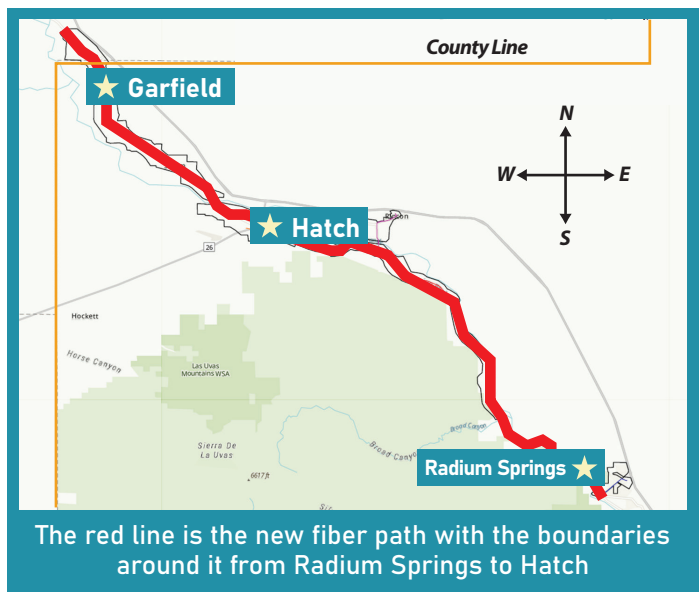


In the summer of 2024, Doña Ana County proudly completed its fourth annual Summer Enrichment Internship Program, an initiative funded by the New Mexico Public Education Department. This program demonstrates our commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders, helping them develop essential professional skills and build confidence for their future careers.

We thank local business, government agencies, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations for participating by hosting students. We also thank our hardworking staff for helping make the program successful.



Northern Doña Ana County "Middle Mile" Broadband Project



The Middle Mile Broadband project aims to improve internet access in rural areas. A \$16 million broadband partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and SWC Telesolutions Ethos Broadband, the Northern County Middle Mile Broadband project is now in the engineering phase and securing necessary permits.

It will provide better internet access to over 1,600 homes, 20 institutions, and 100 small businesses between Salem and Radium Springs. The project is expected to be completed by June 2025.

EV Charging Stations



Ribbon cutting for new fast-charging electric vehicle stations.

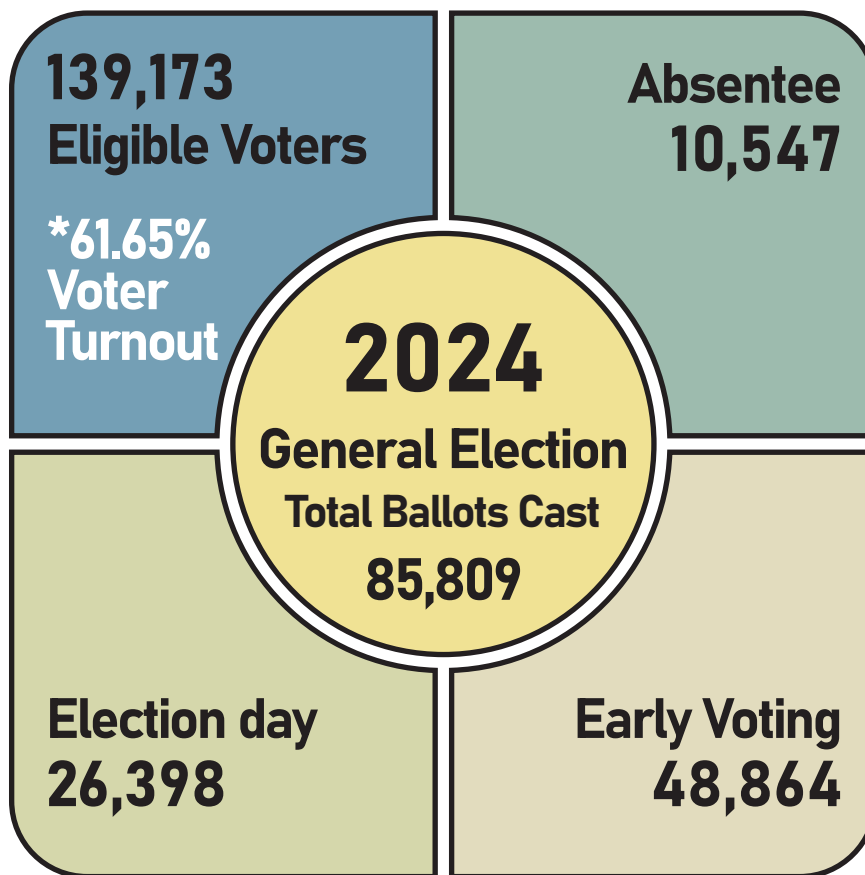
Doña Ana County is proud to announce the installation of new public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. These installations, in partnership with El Paso Electric and the New Mexico Department of Transportation NMDOT, are part of a broader initiative to make EV charging more accessible to residents and visitors.

The new EV charging stations are located at:

- 855 Anthony Dr., Anthony, NM 88021 – Sheriff's Office - NMDOT DC Fast Charging (DCFC) station.
- 115 Franklin St., Hatch, NM 87937 – Village of Hatch Admin Office - NMDOT DCFC station.
- 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88007 – Government Center - NMDOT DCFC station.

Clerk's Office

2024 Voting Numbers



Elections Warehouse Groundbreaking



Aerial view of the construction process.

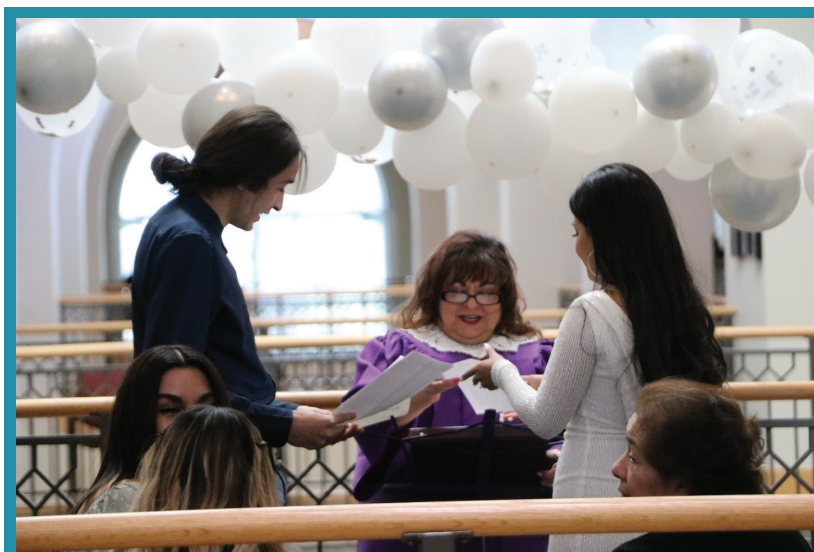
The Doña Ana County Clerk's Office is enhancing its operations with a new 13,000-square-foot election operations warehouse. Designed to meet modern election demands, the facility will help staff ensure the integrity and safety of election personnel, equipment, and processes. Equipped with state-of-the-art security features, it will make election preparation more efficient, enhance service delivery for residents, and bolster public confidence.

Additionally, the warehouse will expand storage and filing capacity for the Recording and Filing Department, addressing the need for additional space to manage vital records efficiently. County Clerk Amanda López Askin secured funding for the nearly \$4 million project by collaborating with legislators. The County pitched in \$900,000 to supplement a \$2.75 million Capital Appropriation Project Fund obtained in 2023.

Probate Services

Probate is the legal process followed to transfer or inherit property after the person who owned the property died. Property is transferred according with the decedent's will or, if the person died without a will, according to state law.

- 362 Administration of deceased persons' estate
- 107 Weddings officiated
- 4 Legal distributions of estate



Public Safety Fire Station #2 Opening



In March 2024, Doña Ana County opened Fire Station #2, to provide quicker emergency services to residents in need in the southern region which is experiencing population growth. The 12,000-square-foot station is home to full-time firefighters who respond to fires, provide medical services, and support regional emergency efforts.

Fire Rescue Mutual Aid Agreement



In August 2024, Doña Ana County Fire Rescue signed a mutual aid agreement with other local fire departments which allows the closest responding agency to be dispatched automatically, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

As part of the agreement, a new station numbering system was implemented to help firefighters locate emergencies more easily.

Agencies involved in this historic agreement are:

- Doña Ana County Fire Rescue
- Las Cruces Fire Department
- Mesilla Fire Department
- Sunland Park Fire Department
- White Sands/NASA Test Facility

Emergency Collaborations

In June 2024, Doña Ana County supported our neighbors in Lincoln and Otero counties during the Salt and South Fork wildfires in the Village of Ruidoso and Mescalero Apache Reservation. Crews from the Animal Control Department, Sheriff's Office, and the Office of Emergency Management were mobilized to help those in need.

A mighty team of six animal control officers cared for more than 50 animals at a temporary emergency animal shelter staged in Roswell where they provided housing, reunification and enrichment services to the displaced animals. Staff also entered into the active disaster areas to help with evacuation efforts, conduct welfare checks, and provide care to those who were unable to flee. The County also provided animal food, bedding, and care products to families and assisting agencies during the relief efforts.



DASO Crime Scene Vehicle



In August 2024, Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office unveiled a new state of the art crime scene vehicle. Equipped with advanced technology and tools, this vehicle enhances our ability to process crime scenes efficiently and accurately, ensuring justice for our community. Designed with innovation and precision in mind, it empowers our dedicated investigators to work effectively in the field, bringing cutting-edge forensic capabilities directly to the scene.



Community Services

Creative Industries



We established Creative Industries this year and hit the ground running with an inaugural project that highlighted an overview of the industries, fostered networking and showcased how creatives are an integral part of economic development.

A comprehensive public art digital documentary, virtual tour and brochure will soon feature on a dedicated new website.

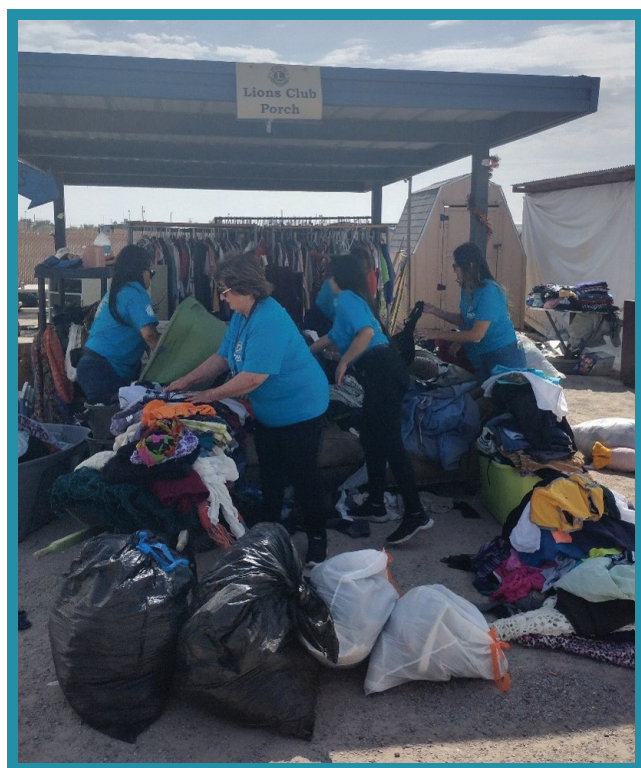
One of 18 municipalities to receive a \$100,000 state grant, our success was highlighted in the state's Creative Industries Division January newsletter. Doña Ana County's Creative Industries project in 2024 employed 57 creatives, engaged 8 organizations and trained 20 staff participants.



DAC Gives Back Community Service Project



In October 2024, DAC Gives Back continued its mission of fostering community engagement and service among County staff. This year's project was in partnership with the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, assisting with the resource fair for its clients. Prior to the event, County employees organized a clothing drive and collected 10 bags of men's winter clothing and shoes. At the resource fair, county employees served food and drinks, sorted and distributed clothing, microchipped and vaccinated pets, and assisted other vendors offering job placement, addiction treatment services and free haircuts.





Animal Control

New Vet



Dr. Zoann McKenzie,
Doña Ana County Veterinarian

In August 2024, Doña Ana County hired Dr. Zoann McKenzie as the county veterinarian. Dr. McKenzie brings a wealth of experience in animal healthcare, a passion for animal welfare education, injury prevention and emergency management.

In her primary role as the County veterinarian, Dr. McKenzie will provide spay and neuter services to rural areas. She will also assist with the care and treatment of the County's live evidence animals and other services as needed. Additionally her role will include community education to improve animal health and promote responsible pet ownership.

Prior to joining Doña Ana County, Dr. McKenzie worked with the Indian Health Service as an Area Injury Prevention Specialist and Acting Navajo Area Emergency Manager. She also worked with Navajo Technical University as an Associate Veterinarian, and Veterinary Technician Instructor, where she provided healthcare to herds in remote, underserved areas and hosted preventative medical care clinics for dogs, cats and horses.

ACO Spay/Neuter

Rabies vaccines and microchips are required by County ordinances before spaying or neutering procedures can be performed.

Vaccines are provided to constituents' pets at the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope campus, Butterfield Park, Santa Teresa, Doña Ana, Radium Springs, and Chaparral.

A grant from Petco may help increase the number of vaccines provided to our community's pet, in the coming year.

Services provided

June 30 to Dec. 2024

- Vouchers issues..... 1,199
- Spay, neuters performed 770
 - Dogs 486
 - Cats 284
- Rabies vaccinations..... 484
- Microchips 242



Illegal Dumping Cleanup



Throughout 2024, an estimated 183,320 pounds of illegal dumping was removed from neighborhoods, in open areas, along roadsides and other areas, across the county. Illegally dumped items include construction material, household trash, tires, furniture and appliances.

Illegal Dumping Cleanup

- Trash.... 103,510 lbs.
- Tires 40,780 lbs.





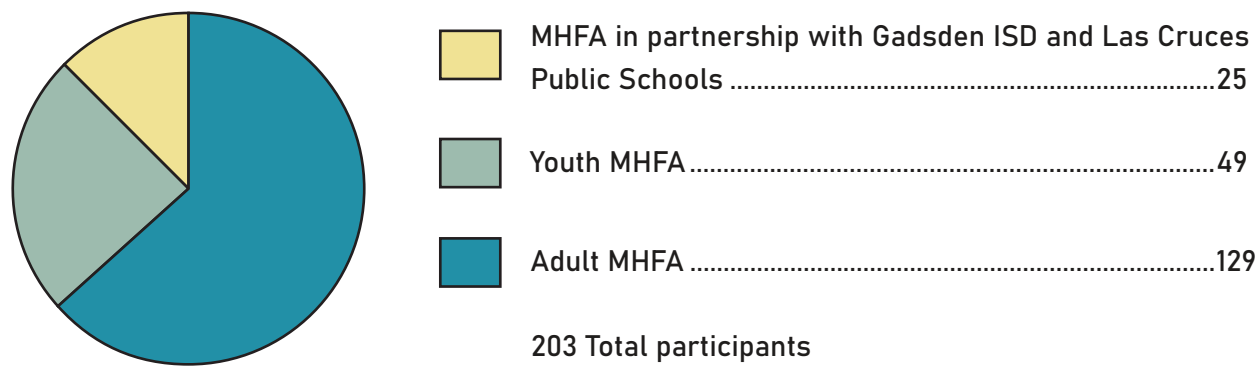
Health and Human Services

Narcan Training

We trained 1,102 people on the use of Narcan®, a medication used to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. 1,874 kits were distributed to the public.

Mental Health First Aid

203 residents participated in the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) classes provided by the Health and Human Services Department.



Crisis Triage Center New Operator



In April 2024, the Doña Ana Board of County Commissioners took a crucial step to provide essential crisis services for our community by reopening the Crisis Triage Center, CTC and awarding an operating contract to Summit BHC.

Summit BHC is experienced in acute inpatient psychiatric care and is initially focused on obtaining state licensing, hiring and training staff and securing Medicaid credentialing.

The contract includes \$1.4 million for start-up costs and \$1.5 million for annual operations, ensuring a structured and sustainable reopening process.

Funding for the project included \$467,281 allocated from the crisis triage operating and health funds for FY24; \$2,369,052 from the health fund and \$100,000 from healthcare assistance in FY25.



Public Works

Jetport Upgrades



As part of our runway project, we conducted the inaugural landing on the new runway. This new runway is 150 feet wide by 9,550 feet long with 25-foot-wide paved shoulders, and can support aircraft weighing up to 240,000 pounds. Completed in January, the project included work on taxiways, seal coating and striping.

Comprehensive Roadway Safety Action Plan



A comprehensive Roadway Safety Action Plan began with a resident survey to identify dangerous roads. Now completed, the plan includes strategies aimed at reducing fatalities and serious injuries on county roads. It makes the county eligible to apply for U.S. Department of Transportation's Implementation Grant under the Safe Streets and Roads for All, SS4A Grant Program and others.

Scan the QR Code below to view the
Safety Action Plan:



Casa de Peregrinos: New location in Chaparral



In October 2024, in partnership with Casa De Peregrinos, we broke ground on a new food distribution site at the Betty McKnight Community Center in Chaparral location. The new site will address food insecurity in the rural community, providing residents with improved access to healthy food options and essential resources.

Fitness Court Opening

In August 2024, we unveiled a Fitness Court® at the Vado/Del Cerro Community Center as part of a national wellness initiative launched by National Fitness Campaign. The court is free and open to all residents. Designed for individuals aged 14 and older, the outdoor gym is accessible to people of all abilities and fitness levels.



Overpass for Santa Teresa



In June 2023, an overpass roadway over Union Pacific's rail line at Santa Teresa's Border Crossing received a \$31.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to help eliminate train-vehicle collisions.

Doña Ana County will invest a 20% match to build the \$41 million infrastructure improvement project. It is another example of the County's efforts to garner funding and invest in road safety, while fostering economic development.

Once completed, this overpass will encourage about 1,000 freight vehicles and more than 2,100 passengers to use the Santa Teresa Port of Entry more often because it's safer and more efficient. The crossing also sees about 40 trains per day.

Roads Initiative Phase III

While many have already been repaired, Roads Initiative Phase III is on schedule to complete maintenance to 37 roads, by FY26.

The Engineering-Road Department utilized Pavement Condition Index, PCI which characterizes road failures, traffic data, mobility and safety. Along with an approved budget of \$11.5 million, PCI guides the development of a list of roads throughout the County to prioritize for maintenance. We call the current list Roads Initiative III.

This initiative comprised of a broad range of maintenance projects, including roadway rehabilitation, reconstruction and even new construction of a number of paved and unpaved roads throughout all five districts of the County.



JOIN OUR TEAM

LOOKING FOR A REWARDING CAREER WITH GREAT BENEFITS AND THE CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



JOIN DOÑA ANA COUNTY AND BE PART OF A TEAM THAT SERVES THE COMMUNITY WHILE BUILDING A FUTURE YOU CAN BE PROUD OF!



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLY TODAY!

CONNECT TO DOÑA ANA COUNTY GOVERNMENT



DonaAnaCounty.org



DOÑA ANA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
845 North Motel Boulevard
Las Cruces, NM 88007
575- 647- 7200



Doña Ana County