

# SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

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### **Santa Fe County Clerk Receives EAC 'Clearie' Award and Two Honorable Mentions for New Programs**

**Santa Fe** – Santa Fe County Clerk Katharine E. Clark announced Wednesday that the office received recognition from the [U.S. Election Assistance Commission for three new initiatives](#). The recognition includes a 'Clearie' Award for Creative and Original 'I Voted' Stickers and two honorable mentions, one for Innovations in Cybersecurity and one for Recruiting, Retaining, and Training Poll Workers.

These awards mark the third year of recognition for the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office. Since Clark took office in 2021, Santa Fe County has received more recognition than any other county of its size in New Mexico.

"We are incredibly honored to receive this continued national recognition for our initiatives," said Katharine E. Clark, Santa Fe County Clerk. "These awards are a testament to our commitment to electoral innovation and security. I am particularly proud of our youth sticker design contest, which is part of our larger turnout strategy, demonstrating our commitment to youth outreach and engagement while showcasing how dedicated and creative many of our young people are here in Santa Fe County."

#### **'First-Time Voter' and 'Future Voter' Stickers**

This award celebrates the office's innovative and creative 'Future Voter' and 'First-Time Voter' stickers, which were designed by two talented students from Santa Fe County. This contest allowed students to demonstrate their creativity in celebrating local culture and is part of Clerk Clark's strategic focus on voter turnout. The Clerk's office is committed to continually expanding its youth outreach and engagement efforts.

In addition to this distinguished award, the office also received two honorable mentions for the following Clerk Clark initiatives:

#### **Project Bruno: Tabulator Security Program**

A first-of-its-kind robust initiative to enhance the security and integrity of the election tabulators at polling sites. Using innovative technologies such as smart plugs, accelerometers, and geo-fencing, we ensure that every vote is protected against any form of tampering. As cybersecurity threats against elections are on the rise, it is vital for election offices to take these proactive security measures.

#### **Election Worker Mentorship and Debrief Program**

A comprehensive program aimed at empowering new Presiding Judges to shadow more experienced judges and providing thorough debriefs post-election, enabling the Clerk's office to continually improve by enacting any necessary changes. Complaints from voters and poll workers alike have diminished drastically since the launch of this program.

The EAC's 'Clearie' Awards recognize best practices in election administration and highlight the innovative efforts of election officials across the United States. Under Clark's leadership, the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office is dedicated to continuous improvement and excellence in serving the voters of the Santa Fe County community.

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