

SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Santa Fe County Wins Awards from NACo Recognizing Clerk's Office Innovations

The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office, under the leadership of Katharine E. Clark, has earned several awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). These accolades celebrate the office's innovative programs and improvements in accessibility and security. After receiving [one Clearinghouse Award and two honorable mentions](#) from the Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) earlier this year, this marks the third consecutive year that the office has been recognized since Clark's term began.

"This recognition sets a very high bar for our office," said Clark. "The Santa Fe County Clerk's office continued our streak of earning recognition for our new programs and initiatives, earning more awards than any other Clerk's office in New Mexico."

Information on the awards received:

1. **Civic Education and Public Information Award: Candidate Training Webinar**

The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office hosted a groundbreaking Candidate Training Webinar aimed at boosting voter turnout by providing essential information to candidates. The webinar, covering topics like the candidate guide, required documentation, election overviews, and key dates, culminated in a successful candidate filing day with all 27 candidates qualifying for the ballot. This initiative ensured that both candidates and voters remained well-informed, resulting in zero disqualified candidates.

2. **County Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy, and Sustainability Award: Clerk's Office Online Records Portal**

In 2023, the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office launched an online public records portal, allowing residents to remotely access real-estate documents, marriage licenses, and probate cases. This project, initiated by Clark, aimed to digitize previously undigitized documents, thereby enhancing accessibility and efficiency. The portal, operational 24/7, offers a user-friendly interface with streamlined search and preview functions, secure transactions, and immediate email delivery of purchased documents.

3. **Information Technology Award: Tabulator Security Program**

The Clerk's Office introduced a pilot Tabulator Security Program to safeguard elections against physical theft, unauthorized access, tampering, and power disruptions. The program includes GPS trackers, accelerometers, uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), and specialized plugs with notifications to ensure the integrity of tabulators. These measures enhance election security and demonstrate the office's commitment to transparency and accountability.

The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office will continue to expand and improve its existing programs, as well as implement new, innovative initiatives throughout Clark's tenure.

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