NM Second Special Session ended Friday and as predicted, it was a mess, vapid, unloved (Steve’s new favorite word), debate that ended where mostly expected. Redistricting is a political process, and even though there was an attempt to utilize an independent redistricting committee to make the hard decisions...it’s still politicians who pick the committee. Some of the concerns about the committee included no rural representation on the committee, and several very political members (including two former state senators and a former executive director for a state political party). In the end, the political process won out, politicians created new boundaries, and depending on which side of the spectrum you might be, the result was normal.

The past two redistricting sessions were with Republican governors and Democratic legislatures, so the courts ended up drawing the new boundaries. There have been lawsuit threats depending on which side of the spectrum you win out, politicians created new boundaries, and the Legislature would include it in their spending plans at the next session. I hate to keep bringing it up, but there will be a lot of money available for one-time spending (capital outlay?), so make sure your legislators know what your priorities are. – Brian Moore, NMC

Also of importance, House Bill 1 was an appropriation bill the Governor asked the Legislature to enact that spends some of the federal money that was received last year. The bill mostly was telling what the courts might do. The maps, along with voter data, are available HERE (zoom in or scroll down to view more links). Senate Bill 1 contains county precinct numbers by congressional district. – Brian Moore, NMC.

You won’t want to miss this! Premier showing of 33 Strong county engagement video launch happening January 10, 2022. See you at Legislative Conference!

Thu Jan 6 - BLM webinar: Orphaned Well Program: $250M to identify and remediate orphaned wells on federal lands; learn about BLM’s overall implementation plan 12:30PM - RSVP at this link: https://blm.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/IN 8f9Rnr3Tn-g626BlY8w

The New Mexico County Family Have a wonderful Christmas and holiday celebrations. NMC looks forward to seeing many of you in Santa Fe next year at the Legislative Conference!