



Sean P. Ward
Executive Director
Democratic Party of New Mexico
4013 Silver Ave SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Amy Rothstein
Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
Office of General Counsel
1050 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Mrs. Rothstein,

I am writing on behalf of the Democratic Party of New Mexico to request amendments to Title 11 of the Code of Federal Regulations, pursuant to 11 CFR 200.2(a)(1) and 5 USC 553(e). We believe it is essential to amend this section to better facilitate the voter outreach and engagement efforts of state parties.

Our party's mission is to elect all candidates who receive the Democratic nomination in New Mexico. While much attention is given to federal races, our work supporting local and state candidates is equally critical. However, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) imposes significant challenges in executing the full scope of our efforts. For instance, a mail piece aimed solely at supporting state House candidates—without mentioning federal candidates—may still qualify as Federal Election Activity (FEA). If the party so much mentions the time polling locations are open or a person's polling location, we must pay for the mailing with federal funds or follow the difficult rules to allocate the mailing with Levin funds. It does not make sense to our non-federal candidates that they are not permitted to include such information in mailings that support their candidacy. On balance, the damage done to the non-federal candidates far outweigh any conceivable benefit that providing such information would provide to any federal candidate.

County parties conducting non-federal persuasion mail frequently have to dance around how to provide election information. As a result, our county parties and state affiliates face unnecessary restrictions in educating voters about important issues, down-ballot candidates, and election information. Local party members are eager to support Democratic candidates in their communities, but the current rules create substantial confusion and legal hurdles.

Another challenge we face under the BCRA pertains to the allocation of resources for staff. The FEA compliance requirements are overly burdensome, forcing the Democratic Party of New



Mexico to spend significant amounts on compliance firms and staff. This is especially difficult for a state party operating with limited staff and resources.

We respectfully urge consideration of amendments that will ease these restrictions, enabling us to fulfill our mission more effectively.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Ward', is positioned below the text 'Thanks,'.

Sean Ward, Executive Director of the Democratic Party of New Mexico