



September 6th, 2019

SWAT out the 'Good Ole Boys' Tantrums

We won't be dragged back. Stand up for your rights and
**VOTE "NO" on changing
San Juan County, Utah's government structure**



The 'Good Ole' Boys Club' from Monticello and Blanding are forcing a ballot measure vote to help them regain power.

The Special Election will be held Oct 4th - November 4th
Go to www.sanjuancounty.org for more information
Help get the word out! Share this Memo.

Download at www.utahdine.org

Vote by mail, at early voting locations, or on election day, Tuesday
November 5th.

VOTE No!

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Details: Civil Rights finally arrived in San Juan County, Utah on January 7th, 2019 through federal enforcement of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 preventing racial minorities from being gerrymandered into irrelevance. White Republicans, who are a minority in San Juan County, lost control of the San Juan County Commission last year as a result of correcting long-standing Voting Rights Act violations by past Commissioners.

These "Good Ole Boys" are not shy about letting everyone know they're furious about current Native leadership and are doing everything they can to drag the county back to the old power structures.

Since January, Republicans have been crying racial discrimination and disenfranchisement and have staged at least five attempts to remove the recently elected Democrats, both Native American individuals, from power.

Their current attempt comes in the form of a ballot referendum to "study" other forms of government. Their claims of improved community representation can't be trusted. Just like the Republicans who forced this effort in Grand County, Utah, their goal is to regain power from Democrats and/or Native leadership.

Background: Today, Native Americans comprise a slight majority (53%) of the population in the county, and for the first time in county history Native people hold two of the three Commission seats. The reality is the previous white, Republican-dominated Commissions left a legacy where roughly today 40% of Native residents have no access to running water and electricity -- a lack of basic infrastructure that holds everyone in the community back.

While some aspects of economic development, employment, education, and human health are beyond the capacity of the county government to correct, Native people need everyone to get behind the effort to ask the state and federal government, private philanthropy, and business to show up and fix these entrenched challenges.



We can no longer accept a reality where the white half of the county in Blanding and Monticello enjoys all of the nice schools, libraries, community pools, and successful businesses and refuses to address human rights issues and inequity problems among their Native neighbors. This “Good Ole Boys” network overlooks its own role in creating the conditions that exist on reservations in San Juan County today, including the many white-owned businesses that extract cultural value while at the same time dumping toxins onto their Native neighbors. The current Commissioners must be given a chance to show what fair and balanced government looks like, and they cannot do this while facing weekly attacks on their legitimacy, integrity, and vision for the future.

Town hall meetings are being organized by advocates of this initiative and if we don’t show up this measure may pass.

Voting Rights Act Background

- **Utah was the last U.S. state to grant Native Americans the right to vote in 1957.**
- The U.S. Department of Justice sued San Juan County in the mid 1980’s for violating the Voting Rights Act and won. This resulted in changing the county commission from three “at-large” seats, to three Commission districts and increased translation services for non-English speakers.
- However, following this lawsuit, Republican commissioners once again violated the Voting Rights Act by illegally gerrymandering the county along racial lines. The Navajo Nation sued in 2016 and won the case in 2018.
- During the legal process, the presiding judge gave San Juan County two chances to draw its own boundaries - instructing them not to use the factor of race (because doing so violates the law) -- but it refused to comply. The judge then appointed an independent special master to do the job for them. County election districts were drawn using non-racial factors such as “community compactness” and geography. After the election last November, and for the first time in its 100-year history Native Americans now hold the majority of the County Commission in SJC.

Help get the word out! Share this Memo. Download at www.utahdine.org

Register to Vote here:

<https://secure.utah.gov/voterreg/login.html?selection=REGISTER>

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