



Biography: James Dominguez, Sandoval County Commissioner, District 1

Working for the communities of northeast Rio Rancho, Bernalillo, Algodones, Placitas, Cochiti, Pena Blanca, Sile & Pueblos of Santa Domingo and Sandia.

District 1 Facts

James Dominguez, a Sandoval County Commissioner since January 2015, represents many diverse communities with different needs in District 1.

His district spans both sides of the Middle Rio Grande Valley. It includes:

- Northeast Rio Rancho and Bernalillo, whose residents have both rural and urban issues;
- Old Spanish agricultural towns of Algodones, Pena Blanca, Placitas, and Sile founded in the 1700s, and
- The Pueblos of Sandia (Na-Fiat) and Santo Domingo (Kewa), where Native Americans live on ancient tribal lands.

A Hands-On Approach

No stranger to hard work, James retired from a 27-year career at PNM where he rose from field supervisor to management before devoting himself full-time to helping his Sandoval County constituents.

His hands-on approach to helping people in rural areas is tied to his expertise as a lifelong rancher near the Rio Puerco in San Luis, where he followed the Dominguez family tradition of being community leaders and businessmen. His grandfather Miguel (a Sandoval County Treasurer) and great-grandfather Juan raised large herds of sheep and horses while operating a Post Office and General Store. During the Depression, Juan donated 50 head of cattle to the state and local residents to feed the hungry. Juan also donated funds to New Mexico when it became a state in 1912 to strengthen the Treasury. His father, Willie, continued ranching and joined his wife Laura in passing on traditional family values to James and their nine other children.

For Generations in New Mexico

James grew up in *Las Cocinitas* (little kitchens), an area in central Bernalillo that is one of the oldest U.S. residential areas dating back to the 1600s. Explorer Francisco Vazquez de Coronado is credited with establishing his headquarters near the present site of Bernalillo in 1541. Bernalillo was a key political, commercial, and agricultural center that numbered among the nine original counties created in 1852 after the U.S. took control of New Mexico. It gave the United States among the first-ever Hispanics (Francisco Perea, Mariano Otero, and Pedro Perea) elected during the 1800s to serve in the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C.

James graduated from Bernalillo High School, the alma mater of former U.S. Senator Joseph Montoya of Pena Blanca. James was an Infrastructure Master Trainer, certified by the National Center of Construction. His career has involved a great knowledge of public utilities. His past accomplishments include helping the city of Bernalillo save over \$35,000 due to his work as a consultant on water infrastructure. Also, James is a former member of the Sandoval County Treasurer's Investment Committee.

Father of two grown children who are college graduates, James takes an active role volunteering to help his extended family in their various ranching and community projects. He also lends a hand to support other Democrats in a variety of political activities. In addition, James is an avid outdoorsman. His hobbies include hunting, restoring antique trucks, and cooking.

Accomplishments as County Commissioner Include:

Because James is bilingual, he is able to bypass language barriers among his constituents.

Among his accomplishments as Sandoval County Commissioner, James takes pride in having:

- Facilitated the restoration of water service to the Placitas Community Library and Fire Station around Christmas time in December 2015.

- Responded to over 60 emergency calls to work with the Sandoval County Public Works Dept. to repair deteriorating paved roads (with potholes and major cracks) and unimproved roads (dirt roads).
- Improved the playground, baseball field and other pedestrian areas with gravel surfaces for Algodones Elementary School, Bernalillo High School and Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Pena Blanca.
- Helping officials from the Bureau of Land Management, Santa Ana Pueblo, and the San Antonio de los Huertas Land Grant to make a safe refuge for wildlife in an area bordering San Felipe Pueblo, Algodones, Santa Ana Pueblo, and Placitas.
- Worked with Vulcan Mining Co. to create an embankment to prevent flooding in Algodones, which occurred twice in the last few years.
- Helped Pena Blanca fulfill a longtime dream of refurbishing the community baseball field.