



Rio Grande Indivisible is dedicated to ensuring:

- The preservation of democracy and truth in the political realm;
- Human rights and the dignity of all people - respect, inclusion, and appreciation of diversity;
- The preservation of the environment and the natural world;  
A living wage for all people and fair wealth distribution;
- A good education for all children as a human right;  
Good healthcare for all people as a human right;
- America acting as a good citizen in the world - that we remain free from unnecessary war and oppression, and promote the same for all peoples
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*Working at the local level to assure these goals, and nationally when we can*

### History

January 23, 2017, Women's March, Albuquerque. Cindy Chapman and Ann Ziegler met and decided they needed to do something. They decided to form an Indivisible, something that was happening all over the country. By February a group of friends and neighbors gathered at Cindy's house for the first RGI meeting. The group did not want a discussion group with arguments, but rather one encouraging and welcoming.

### Meetings and Emails (blasts)

Weekly or bi-weekly emails with information deemed important and events to attend were begun. The emails often contained information about protests, school board meetings, city council meetings, etc. that members could attend dealing with specific issues.

Monthly meetings in members' homes began with a variety of speakers; local legislators, leaders of progressive groups, politicians, community members, and more. During the pandemic there were virtual meetings. The focus was on maintaining the social safety net and other important issues, like climate change, immigration, racism, reproductive rights, health care etc.

Our meetings usually occurred on the third Monday of the month unless there was a holiday.

Many different speakers were invited each year and happily presented. Javier Martinez, the NM House of Representative for many of us, and now NM Speaker of the House, has come each year to either report about the upcoming legislative session or report on how the session went.

### Members

RGI members are mainly drawn from the North Valley, however there are members who live in other parts of the city. By "word of mouth" our membership has grown from about 25 to over 125 members. Since the election, we have more new members joining. Many of our members are important experts in our community and have shared their expertise with RGI and are sources for such information about healthcare, the legislature, reproductive rights, Congressional District 2 in Southern NM, voter registration, local politics,

county commission, city council, library issues, literacy projects, asylum seekers/immigration, water and environment issues, neighborhood association, etc.

### **Connections/Partners**

El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos  
Blue CD2

### **Projects**

Voter registration  
Postcard writing  
Phone banking with El Centro

### **Member of Congress meetings (MoC)**

RGI has been the Indivisible that meets with our Congressional District 1 Representative's staff, first with Michelle Lujan Grisham, then Deb Haaland, and now with Melanie Stansbury. Different RGI members have taken on this role. Oscar Simpson now directs these meetings. He collaborates with other Indivisible representatives who meet with other Members of Congress, planning agendas and issues to discuss. The meetings are usually once a month on Zoom.

### **NMIC**

In the past, RGI connected with other Indivisibles in NM through the New Mexico Indivisible Congress. These meetings were on zoom and happened quarterly. Many ideas and projects were shared by all the Indivisibles in NM. All members were welcome to attend.

This connection led to the first New Mexico Indivisible Conference in April, 2022. Attendees came from all over the state and there was a variety of presentations, such as early childhood, proposal for a public bank, making the Legislature more professional, water issues, etc. US Congressional Representatives, the Governor, NM Secretary of State, and NM Legislators attended and made presentations. The second NMIC took place August 23-24, 2025.

### **National Indivisible**

RGI is connected to National Indivisible and Lauren Oertel, the NM/TX National organizer has been a tremendous support, with funds for meetings, expert advice, and demonstrating strategies from National. Cameron is our new National organizer..

Members can receive monthly newsletters from National and attend Zoms on various topics. With support from the National Indivisible TX/NM Organizer, NM/TX Indivisibles formed an Antiracism Learning Collaborative that meets each month, reads and discusses books and films, and hears from speakers, often an author.

### **Goal setting each year**

Each January, RGI members meet to determine priority issues for the coming year. From the priorities, the group determines goals and actions to support and undertake them.

Welcome to 2026 Rio Grande Indivisible members. Now is the time to decide if you still want to receive RGI newsletters each week, or you're ready to have a less full mailbox. You can unsubscribe from the emails, or let us know you want to be removed from the distribution list. We're happy to help declutter your mailbox.

There will be upcoming elections in New Mexico and other pressing local issues that will need our attention and backing this coming year.

The struggle to keep democracy in our beautiful country may reach its apex in 2026. The national primaries in Spring and the mid-term elections in November must be fought for with as much participation and perseverance as we can muster.

RGI is one of New Mexico's Indivisible chapters that make up an entire progressive movement nationwide. Through hard work and tenacity, each Indivisible chapter throughout the nation, made it known to the world in 2025 that we will not stand by and let our country be overrun with fascists. RGI can make even more of a difference in 2026 with your participation and guidance. It will take all of us.

***So, if you are still with us, we hope you will consider taking one action suggested each week, or once a month, as there are so many issues that we need to act upon. We love that so many members attend our meetings which are incredibly informative. With your participation, Rio Grande Indivisible will continue to be a force in Albuquerque and New Mexico!***

Prior to the November city elections for APS School Board members and City Council members, information al meetings were held to be introduced to the different candidates so they could talk about their reasons for running and what they wanted to do. Zoom sessions were added to reach more RGI memers.

#### **Hands Off Rally, April 5, 2025**

Under the leadership of our new director, Steve Smith, who initiated the planning in partnership with Indivisible Albuquerque, Progressive Democrats of America, and The Third Act, the rally was a huge success with approximately 15,000 in attendance.

#### **No Kings Day Marches, June 14 and October 18, 2025**

Again, with the leadership of Steve Smith and other RGI members and Indivisible Albuquerque, these marches were attended by many RGI members and people all over the state, growing larger with each March.