



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

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 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 we had 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 occur on the third Monday of the month unless there is a holiday.

Many different speakers have been invited and each year and happily present. Javier Martinez, the NM House of Representative to 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/immigrants, 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 and on Zoom.

NMIC

RGI connects with other Indivisibles in NM through the New Mexico Indivisible Congress. These meetings are on zoom and are quarterly. Many ideas and projects are shared by all the Indivisibles in NM. All members are 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.

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. There will be a new organizer soon. Members can receive monthly newsletters from National and attend Zooms 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.

Hands Off Rally, April 5, 2025

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