



September 2016

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# Monthly Newsletter

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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### ABQ DESERVES TO VOTE IN NOVEMBER

ALBUQUERQUE, NM– After months of hard work for the Healthy Workforce ABQ initiative, the future of this proposed ordinance is now in the hands of the Bernalillo County Commission, who will decide –on September 8th– if the proposal will be put in the November ballot.

this benefit, putting thousands of families in the difficult decision of having to decide between taking care of their own health or the health of their loved ones, or lose wages for the one or few days used to care for their health. Similar initiatives have already been implemented in other cities where the results have been a healthier workforce with a better performance, consequently stimulating and rejuvenating the local economy.

The true issue at hand is whether the Commission will allow the residents of Albuquerque to vote in favor or against this proposal, or if the commissioners will deny the people of our city the right to vote.

If you think there is not a way for you to get involved with the campaign for Earned Sick Days, you are wrong, there still plenty of work to do and your support is vital to continue promoting the well-being of our workforce. One of the best ways you can help the campaign is by getting involved in the upcoming opportunities to register voters in our city on behalf of El CENTRO, and informing our community about the importance of going out to vote this upcoming November. Currently you can help us to continue pressuring the County Commission so they'll put the initiative on the November ballot. You can help in the following ways:

With an overwhelming presence and excitement that was evident in the Vincent E Griego chambers weeks ago, the Healthy Workforce ABQ coalition was present during the commission meeting to show their support and the need for the policy that takes care of all workers in our city.

Our very own organizer, Marian méndez, was one of the participants during the meeting who shared a testimony of why Earned Sick Days is a vital necessity for our working families. "Growing up in my family, I saw my father having to work two jobs every day in order to sustain our family and be able to cover our daily and living expenses... Our reality was that if my father missed work due to illness or a family emergency, he would not be able to cover our expenses and even face the uncertainty of whether he would lose his job or face retaliation, through reduction of hours," Marian expressed.

**Send an email to the entire Bernalillo County Commission:**  
commission@bernco.gov

**Call your County Commissioner (visit [www.elcentronm.org](http://www.elcentronm.org) to find out who your Commissioner is in your District):**

- Distrito 1: Debbie O'Malley (505) 468-7027
- Distrito 2: Art De La Cruz (505) 468-7448
- Distrito 3: Maggie Stebbins (505) 468-7108
- Distrito 4: Lonnie Talbert (505) 468-7010
- Distrito 5: Wayne Johnson (505) 468-7212

The Healthy Workforce ABQ initiative seeks to put up for vote a proposed ordinance that would set a standard for every worker within the ALbuquerque city limits to have access to Earned Sick Days. Currently over 100 thousand workers in our city do not have

### IF I APPLY FOR MY CITIZENSHIP NOW WILL I BE ABLE TO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION?

The main reason why many people have this question is because of the importance that the current presidential race has taken.

2016 has seen a significant rise in the amount of people that have applied for their naturalization with the ultimate goal of being able to participate in the upcoming election on november 8.

But when it comes to answering the million dollar question, it seems time is not on the side of new citizenship applicants. According to Eva Eitzen, Legal Director for the New Mexico Immigrant Law center (NMILC), the latest statistics from USCIS show an average wait-time to receive a response on a citizenship application of approximately 7 months.

In brief, unfortunately if you apply for your citizenship now, your case will not be reviewed in time to be able to become naturalized and register to vote in time to vote in November. That said, becoming a citizen also comes with its own benefits. The benefits include an increase in family and economic security, permanent protection against deportation, the ability to vote in future elections, and a new sense of security that can be used in the fight for the rights of our community.

This does not mean there isn't a way for you to participate during the november elections. El CENTRO will have opportunities to register voters, inform our community about the issues that directly affect our communities and training to continue protecting our families.

If you want more information on how you can help in our fight to ensure that our families are treated with dignity, you can contact us at (505) 246-1627. You can also follow us through our social networks on facebook: El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos or through Twitter: @elcentro\_nm.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### WAGETHEFT WORKSHOPS

WHEN: September 12, 19, & 26  
5 pm - 6 pm

WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102

DESCRIPTION: Attend these free workshops if you think you've been a victim of wage theft and/or discrimination, and want to learn about your rights and options. Call us at (505) 246-1627 to reserve a place.

### ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOP

WHEN: Saturday, September 10th  
10 am - 2 pm

WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102

DESCRIPTION: This is an introductory workshop on the history and influence that racism has on our society. Develop a critical analysis about hate and oppression ideologies that are part of the foundation of the U.S. \*There's childcare available. Visit our Facebook page to register.

### CITIZENSHIP CLINIC - NMILC

WHEN: Saturday, September 10th

WHERE: Ace Leadership High School

1240 Bellamah Ave. NW 87104

DESCRIPTION: Are you ready to become an American Citizen but don't know where to start? Call (505) 247-1023 to reserve your space for this Citizenship Clinic. Space is limited; Call now!

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WHEN: Wednesday, September 21st

WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102

DESCRIPTION: Come join us at our membership meeting where we will discuss different issues affecting our community currently. Also take the time to meet other members and to engage in collective actions.

### FREE CLINICS - DACA2012

WHEN: August 10, 17, 24 & 31

1 pm - 5 pm

WHERE: (El CENTRO) 714 4th St. SW 87102

DESCRIPTION: The New Mexico Immigrant Law Center invites you to their Free Workshops to learn more about DACA 2012, to find out if you are eligible, where you will receive help filling out your application and you'll have a chance to speak with a lawyer about your DACA case. (Appointment is not necessary).

### NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

WHEN: Lunes, 26 de Septiembre

DESCRIPTION: El CENTRO will be collaborating with Radio Lobo for the National Voter Registration Day. Stay tuned for more details through Facebook and Twitter.

## MEXICAN CONSULATE'S LABOR RIGHTS WEEK

ALBUQUERQUE, NM- With the end goal of informing and educating the Latin@/Hispanic community of New Mexico on their labor rights, the Mexican Consulate in Albuquerque launched the Labor Rights Week with the cooperation of El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos and other organizations that focus their work on the fight for workers' justice.

Our organizers Claudia Garcia and Oscar Méndez held a series of informational workshops where they presented basic workers' rights to workers in Albuquerque. The main topic being presented was that getting informed was only the first step in the fight for labor rights. Organizing and taking action with workers is necessary to create the changes that are needed in the labor force.

Statistically, the Latin@ population is more likely to experience labor abuses and injustices, and are least likely to report the same, especially within the immigrant community due to the fear of retaliation or threats

with immigration. It is important to highlight that all workers, regardless of their immigration status or country of origin, have rights and protections.

For anyone who didn't have a chance to attend the workshops offered at the Consulate, El CENTRO has developed a Labor Rights Guide and Toolkit that you can download completely free at our website: [www.elcentronm.org](http://www.elcentronm.org). Here you can find basic information about your rights and protections as a worker.

If you want to learn more and get involved in the fight for workers' rights and justice, you can contact us at (505) 246-1627 to receive more information about the different workshops that you can attend or how you can get involved through our Workers' Committee. Stay up to date with our victories in our workers' justice project through our Facebook page: El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos or through Twitter: @elcentro\_nm. Don't wait any longer and join the fight for workers!

## LET'S TALK CLEARLY: TRUMP AND HIS TIES TO RACIST GROUPS

Who could forget or deny the words that came out of the now presidential candidate Donald J. Trump on June of 2015. "...when México send its people, they're not sending their best; they bring drugs, they bring crime, they're rapists... And I imagine some are good people."

June 16, 2015, marked the catalytic moment for the Trump campaign which would become a platform for the dissemination of hate, xenophobia, bigotry, and clearly racism. Even more worrisome is the door that was opened for groups known as "Nativists" and "White Nationalists". These groups seek to reinstitute White Supremacy through the use of racist rhetoric and the use of force to try to impose themselves as the "dominant race".

The first indication that there were ties between the White Nationalist Movement and Trump came to light on Feb. 29, 2016, when the former Ku Klux Klan leader, David Duke, publicly endorsed the candidacy of the then pre-candidate for the Republican party Donald J. Trump. The public endorsement happened during Duke's radio show in which he said, "Voting against Donald Trump at this point would be betraying you own [white] heritage," on Feb. 25, 2016.

From that moment forward, different leaders and groups with racist and xenophobic motivations have put themselves to the task of mobilizing

a movement in favor of the New York realtor. In some instances around the country, these same groups have focused on confronting all those who are against the hate ideology that is being spread through Trump. In some occasions these confrontations have resulted in physical altercations like the one witnessed on June 26, when a Neo-Nazi group physically confronted an Anti-Racism group in Sacramento, California.

In a more recent movement within his campaign, the Republican candidate replaced his campaign chief officer on August 17, with Stephen Bannon, the chief executive of the "Ultra Right Wing" publication, Breitbart. The publication is well known for its use of incendiary language that takes "Extremely Conservative" views and is focused on the mobilizing of hate groups. This move puts the finishing touches on what has been an obvious platform for hate that continues to be built by Trump.

The evidence is clear and irrefutable. Donald Trump's campaign has simply served as a bridge towards a bigger audience for all groups based on hate and racism that have a desire to promote their "White Nationalist" agendas that include the massive deportation of 11 million undocumented immigrants in our country, banning the entrance of any person with Muslim beliefs, and the institution of a "White Supremacy".