

December 15, 2021



The Conejos County Messenger Special Retail Sales Tax Thank You Edition



CONEJOS COUNTY EMS

Our Family Caring for Yours

To the Communities of Conejos County:

Thank you for your support in voting yes on the 1A ballot measure this past November. The phenomenal success of the 1A ballot measure to support Conejos County EMS and Conejos County Sheriff's Office is a reflection of the ever-increasing dedication and enthusiasm our communities display on a continual basis. We would like to thank you all for your support and continued trust in Conejos County EMS. We would not be successful in maintaining your ambulance service without the dedication and support from each and every one of you. With the funds from the tax, we will now be able to increase our training and replace our outdated training equipment. Not only will we be able to increase our education, but we will also be able to increase our staff to ensure coverage to primary shifts.

The entire staff of Conejos County EMS would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt "Thank You!" and a Happy Holiday Season! We look forward to continuing to serve you in the upcoming New Year, and when you need us the most.

On behalf of Conejos County EMS,
Ernest D. Abeyta, Director



Sheriff Crowther and all of the staff here at the Sheriff's Office would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Conejos County for taking the time to vote in the last election. As a result of the election a much-needed sales tax was passed in the county. Money from the sales tax will make a very significant impact on the Sheriff's Office and our ability to serve the residents of Conejos County. We will be able to outfit the deputies with much needed equipment that will make their jobs easier and safer. We will also be able to fix and maintain

some much-needed repairs in the Sheriff's Office and detention (Jail) facility to better serve the inmates and staff. Our goal is to make the Conejos County Sheriff's Office a professional, respected law enforcement entity, with a priority of serving the citizens of the county, and intend to continue to improve each and every day.

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Season's Greetings

From Sheriff Crowther and everyone here at the Conejos County Sheriff's Office, we would like to wish all of the citizens in Conejos County a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. May God Bless each and every one of you with a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Citizens for a Better Conejos County

This past spring a group of concerned Conejos County citizens came together to discuss the issues with the county budget and saving our emergency services. This group was made up of a cross-section of the citizens of Conejos County including democrats, republicans, and independents. New county residents and those whose families have occupied the valley for multiple generations were part of the conversation. Several business owners and elected officials also volunteered their time and resources.

We started out by conducting a survey of Conejos County citizens to determine areas of concern and what information they needed to make an informed decision. We had close to 500 people participate in our survey and the information we gathered was very informative. Utilizing that information, we worked closely with the Conejos County Commissioners and Administration to determine the area of greatest need for financial support. From the survey it was clear that public safety was a priority for citizens and maintaining/improving our EMS and Sheriff's Department were essential.

The next step in the process was to educate our citizens. We needed them to understand why we were in trouble financially, what budget cuts had already been made and how those reductions were impacting the lives of Conejos County citizens. We held multiple informational meetings, distributed newsletters and flyers at annual community celebrations and implemented many other strategies.

In November, our hard work paid off and a majority of the voters who participated in the 2021 election approved 2% county retail sales that begins on January 1, 2022. The revenue generated from the sales tax can only be budgeted for the Ambulance and Sheriff's Departments.

The Citizens for a Better Conejos County Committee would like to thank the people who took the time to read the information we published, ask questions, participate in our meetings and vote in the 2021 election. We intend to continue working with the county to ensure that the funding we approved goes directly to supporting the work of the emergency services' professionals and protecting the safety of Conejos County citizens. Thank you for your support! We wish you all a happy new year and invite you to become a member of Citizens for a Better Conejos County!

Commissioners

We look forward to many years of approving a balanced General Fund Budget with your help in passing a county retail sales tax. We will work together with the Emergency Medical Services (Ambulance) Dept. and our Sheriff/Sheriff's Dept. in spending the sales tax funds generated wisely and with all citizens' benefits and interests in mind. We thank you for making this possible by providing our General Fund Budget with the necessary, additional funds to help offset inflationary impacts in our Ambulance and Sheriff's Departments' budgets.

We wish you a Safe Holiday season and a Prosperous New Year!

Newsletter Committee: Many of you will be reading this newsletter in mid-January, 2022. We apologize for the timing; however, by inserting this newsletter in tax notices, there is no additional postage costs to Conejos County. We publish quarterly newsletters at www.conejoscounty.org and we kindly ask you to spread the word and read them.

