## Redistricting legislation bill to become law

Written by By Mike Daly Guest Columnist Friday, 02 April 2021 06:43



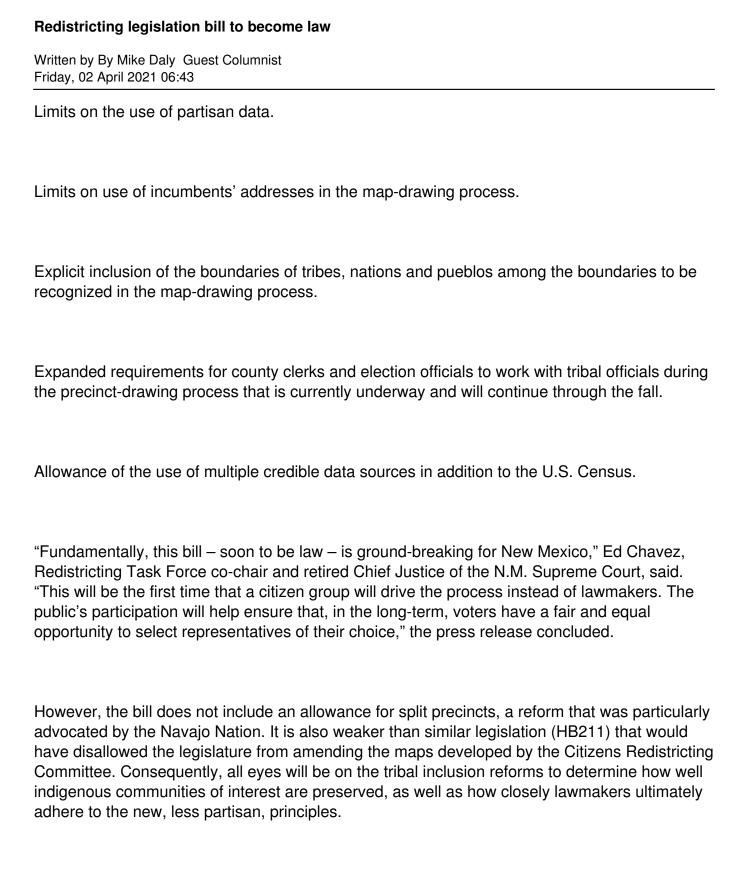
Last week I reported that this legislation was doomed. I was absolutely wrong. After a few deletions from the original proposal by the New Mexico First Workshop, it passed in both houses of the legislature with a large majority. This is probably due to heavy lobbying of our representatives by members of the 50+ organizations that supported the legislation.

New Mexico First and Common Cause New Mexico seemed to take the lead in this effort. Below is the well written press release from New Mexico First. Of course, the governor must sign the legislation before it can become law. If you feel strongly about this issue you can Google her office and email a message

"After a whirlwind round of last-minute amendments, the New Mexico Redistricting Act cleared the state legislature on March 20. With almost all of the elements that were previously in SB 15 amended into SB 304, the broader election bill passed the Senate Floor by unanimous consent, in the final two hours of the 2021 Legislative Session.

The redistricting portions of the bill establish a cross-partisan, seven-member Citizens Redistricting Committee to gather public input and draft new voting boundaries for the legislature's consideration. This change represents the first time in New Mexico's history that the maps will be drafted by a group other than the legislature. This change will also expand the role of voters through multiple public meetings throughout the state.

Further, the bill establishes far more rigorous criteria for the development of those maps than New Mexico has ever had, including:



The reforms were advocated by a large, cross-partisan coalition of organizations and individuals that advanced the simple notion: "Voters should select their lawmakers; lawmakers should not select their constituents."

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