

Recommendations to support Civic Engagement

Otero County Healthcare Services Department

Full report available at: <https://www.co.tero.nm.us/374/Community-Health-Assessment>



Civic Engagement

- Civic engagement, civic participation, and civic health are common terms that encompass a variety of community indicators including voting, volunteering, and group activity participation
- Higher levels of civic participation are associated with both higher levels of community well-being and higher levels of individual health¹
- In the November 2018 General Election, **52%** of eligible voters in Otero County voted; voting by county in NM ranged from **41%** in Lea County to **73%** in Los Alamos County²

Proven strategies to increase voter participation

- *Community events* like the NMSU-A panel discussion during Black History Month highlight voting rights and the benefits of strong voter participation
- They also increase awareness of proven strategies to increase voter registration and participation in local, state, and federal elections
- Proven strategies to increase voter participation include³:
 - Automatic voter registration
 - Same-day voter registration
 - Pre-registration
 - "No excuse" absentee voting
 - Early voting
 - Vote-at-home (vote-by-mail) with community vote centers
 - Strengthen civics education in schools
 - Invest in voter education and outreach

African-Americans and the Vote



February 13, 2020 6:00 - 7:00pm

At the Rohovec Theatre on the NMSU-A campus (Doors open at 5:45)
A panel discussion on the history and future of African-American voting rights which affects all Americans

- Ensure that people who were formerly incarcerated are aware of the process in NM to get their voting rights restored

Recommendations based on evidence, community input, and priorities

- Advocate for *proven strategies to increase voter participation* at the state level
- Increase *early voting opportunities* in Chaparral and mountain communities
- Promote *nonpartisan efforts to increase voter registration and participation*
- Encourage *local elected officials to hold frequent "town hall" meetings in their districts* and promote *increased outreach* in Chaparral and mountain communities

Sources:

¹Healthy People 2020, [Civic Participation](#); ²NM Secretary of State, 2018; ³Center for American Progress, 2018