



## BETTER TOGETHER NEW MEXICO

Dear John,

This week, we're focusing on two areas that don't always get discussed together, but both point to the same question: are we setting the next generation up for fairness, opportunity, and stability, and are the systems shaping their future actually reinforcing those values?

### **Supreme Court Reaffirms Limits on Race in Redistricting**

The recent decision from the U.S. Supreme Court centers on a longstanding question: how much should race factor into drawing voting districts?



Under the Voting Rights Act, states are required to ensure minority voters have equal access to the political process. In practice, that has often led to drawing districts with specific racial outcomes in mind. The Court signaled a limit to that approach, reaffirming that the Equal Protection Clause does not permit race to be the primary factor in drawing districts.

That does not mean race can never be considered, but it cannot override traditional redistricting principles like geography, community boundaries, and compactness. The ruling places those neutral standards back at the center of the process.

That does not mean race can never be considered, but it cannot override traditional redistricting principles like geography, community boundaries, and compactness. The ruling places those neutral standards back at the center of the process.

At its core, this decision reflects a broader view of fairness. When race becomes the driving factor, voters risk being treated as members of a group rather than as individuals. The Court's reasoning points back to a simpler principle: equal treatment under the law should apply consistently to every citizen.

Supporters see this as a return to a more neutral, consistent standard. Critics argue it could make it harder to address subtle discrimination. Either way, the decision reinforces that there are constitutional limits on how government can use race, even in areas as consequential as elections.

---

### **Workforce Watch: A Generation at Risk**

According to a new report, an estimated 32,000 young people in New Mexico, ages 16–24, are currently neither in school nor working. This is not just an individual concern; it's a signal of what the future could look like for our state if the trend continues.

When young adults are disconnected this early, it becomes much harder for them to build stable careers, support families, or contribute to their communities. Over time, that gap doesn't just affect them; it affects our workforce, our economy, and the long-term strength of the country.

Education and workforce systems are meant to prepare the next generation for real opportunity. When they fall short, the consequences are lasting. Reconnecting these young people to purpose, skills, and work is not optional; it's essential for a strong and stable future.

These issues may seem different on the surface, but they both speak to the kind of future we are building, one shaped by equal treatment under the law and real opportunity for the next generation.

As always, staying informed is the first step. What happens in our courts, our classrooms, and our workforce today will shape New Mexico's strength tomorrow.



**Carla Sonntag**  
**President & CEO**

---

Fuel the Fight for NM

*United for good, we ARE Better Together, New Mexico!*



Questions? [Contact us here!](#)

This email was sent to test@test.com. [Click here to unsubscribe.](#)