



Dems bring district convention to Taos

By Patricia Chambers

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The next milestone for New Mexico Democrats in the journey to their party's national convention in Denver is the April 19 Congressional District Convention.

And, for the first time, the district convention will be held in Taos.

Thomas Tafoya Jr., the chairman of the Democratic Party of Taos County, announced the coup for the local party at the Feb. 23 county convention meeting.

Tafoya invited the state party leaders to bring the district convention to Taos, and they accepted.

"It's another example of people reaching out who want to be part of the process," said Brian Colòn, chairman of the Democratic Party of New Mexico.

The event should bring more than 200 Democratic leaders to Taos, he said.

The purpose of the April 19 conventions, which will be held in each of New Mexico's three Congressional districts on the same day, is to formally nominate candidates who will be posted on the June 3 primary and elect delegates to the national convention in Denver, Colo.

Those delegates will cast their votes for the Democratic nominee that will head the party ticket in the November general election.

Taos County should be well represented in the New Mexico delegation at the August national convention. The number of delegates is formulated on the percentage of Democrats who voted in the last presidential election.

Because of the high turnout by registered Democrats in both the 2004 general election and the 2006 gubernatorial election, the third Congressional District, which includes Taos County, will have nearly as many delegates as the first district in Albuquerque.

District 1 will elect 566 pledged delegates to the national convention and District 3 will elect 560 at the district convention.

District 2 will send 386 delegates, according to a spokesman for the state party.

Taos County turned out nearly 65 percent of registered Democrats for John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election. The county's Democratic turnout in 2006 was about 78 percent. District 2 holds its convention in Las Cruces at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum and District 1 holds its convention at the Performing Arts Center in Highland High School in Albuquerque.

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