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A graphic with a grey background. In the top left, there is a black silhouette of a hand holding a microphone, with the text "OUR VOICES MATTER" in white to its right. Below this, several white silhouettes of raised fists are shown against the grey background. At the bottom of the graphic, there is a red horizontal bar with the text "JUNE 8TH, 4PM" in white.

JUNE 8TH, 4PM

TUESDAY JUNE 8TH 4PM
Show Up, Speak Out! Say no to the proposed extension of current Town Council terms. Register with fgarcia@taosgov.com to let your voice be heard.

DEMOCRACY NOW **LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE** **HONOR OUR VOTE** **SAY NO**

DEMOCRACY UNDER ATTACK IN TAOS

In a surprise attempt to extend the current administration's time in office, the Town manager and Mayor announced a public hearing at which they will consider adding a year and 10 months to the Mayor's and Councilmen's current terms.

They can do it. It's legal, using a quirk in a 2018 Local Election Act, intended to consolidate smaller local public elections into a single November election date. Under the new law, NM municipalities were given the option to keep their elections

coalition of Council members, Hahn and Evans, all voted against changing the Town's March election date--until now, weeks before the deadline.

Under the new law, the Town has 3 options for its elections:

1. No change. The election is still held in March 2022
2. Move the Town election ahead by 9 weeks to Nov, 2021
3. Delay Town elections until Nov 2023 and add almost 2 additional years to the current terms of the Mayor and the Council.

Voter convenience, increased voter turnout and lower costs are good reasons to opt for to a consolidated November election date. Delaying these elections until 2023, however, is an un-justifiable, anti-democratic power grab especially when moving them to Nov 2021 entails only a very small reduction in term length, keeping them much closer to the voters' intention when they elected these officials to 4-year terms.

Having just witnessed a President who also thought he should be able to stay in office until he was "ready" to leave, we know how easily democracy is threatened. To protect it, please encourage everyone you know in Taos to show up to the virtual meeting and express your opinions by contacting the Town Clerk Francella Garcia by email (fgarcia@taosgov.com) or phone (575-751-2004) and ask to speak during the Tuesday, June 8 public hearing for Ordinance 21-03. You will be sent a link to participate virtually in the Zoom meeting. Write and/ or call Town officials as well. Those starred * have already voiced their opposition to the term extension.

Mayor Dan Barrone dbarrone@taosgov.com 575-770-7255
 Nathaniel Evans nevans@taosgov.com 575-779-2102
 George "Fritz" Hahn fhahn@taosgov.com 575-613-3978
 Town Manager Rick Bellis rbellis@taosgov.com 575-751-2002 (no cell listed)
 *Darien Fernandez dfernandez@taosgov.com 575-779-6792
 *Pasqual Maestas pmaestas@taosgov.com 575-779-3357

Town Officials Are Ignoring Humanitarian Needs in Taos

A recent report---"Covid-19 in Taos County: Humanitarian Impacts" (available online at <https://issuu.com/taoscovidimpacts>)-- reveals heartbreaking worsening of hunger, homelessness, housing insecurity, mental health, substance abuse, and unpaid utility and rent debt that have thrown families in our community into crisis.

Help could be on the way from the over \$7 million of federal American Rescue Plan Act money coming directly to the Town of Taos and Taos County for recovery efforts. The County Commissioners are using the report to help plan their ARPA spending, but Mayor Barrone and the Town manager have refused to put a discussion of these desperate community needs on the Town Council agenda. Instead, the Town manager has written to constituents that the ARPA money will be taken by the Town itself for "income-replacement" while, simultaneously, the most recent Town budget commits \$2 million of local tax-payer money to the \$50 million dollar airport

If you believe that a significant portion of these ARPA rescue funds should be focused on direct relief efforts toward acute and chronic basic human needs in our community for a healthier, more resilient future, contact the Town Councilors, Mayor and manager at the numbers and addresses above.

Share this information with your family, friends, coworkers, worship communities. Have conversations. Encourage action. Make a difference.

Join us online: taosunited.org and on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TaosUnitedTaosenosUnidos/>

New Mexico COVID Vaccine registration: <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/#>

REGISTER BY PHONE: 855-600-3453



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