



VOTER PROTECTION 101

What is Voter Protection?

Our Goal: Make the voting process easier and more accessible, ensuring that three core pillars are upheld:

01

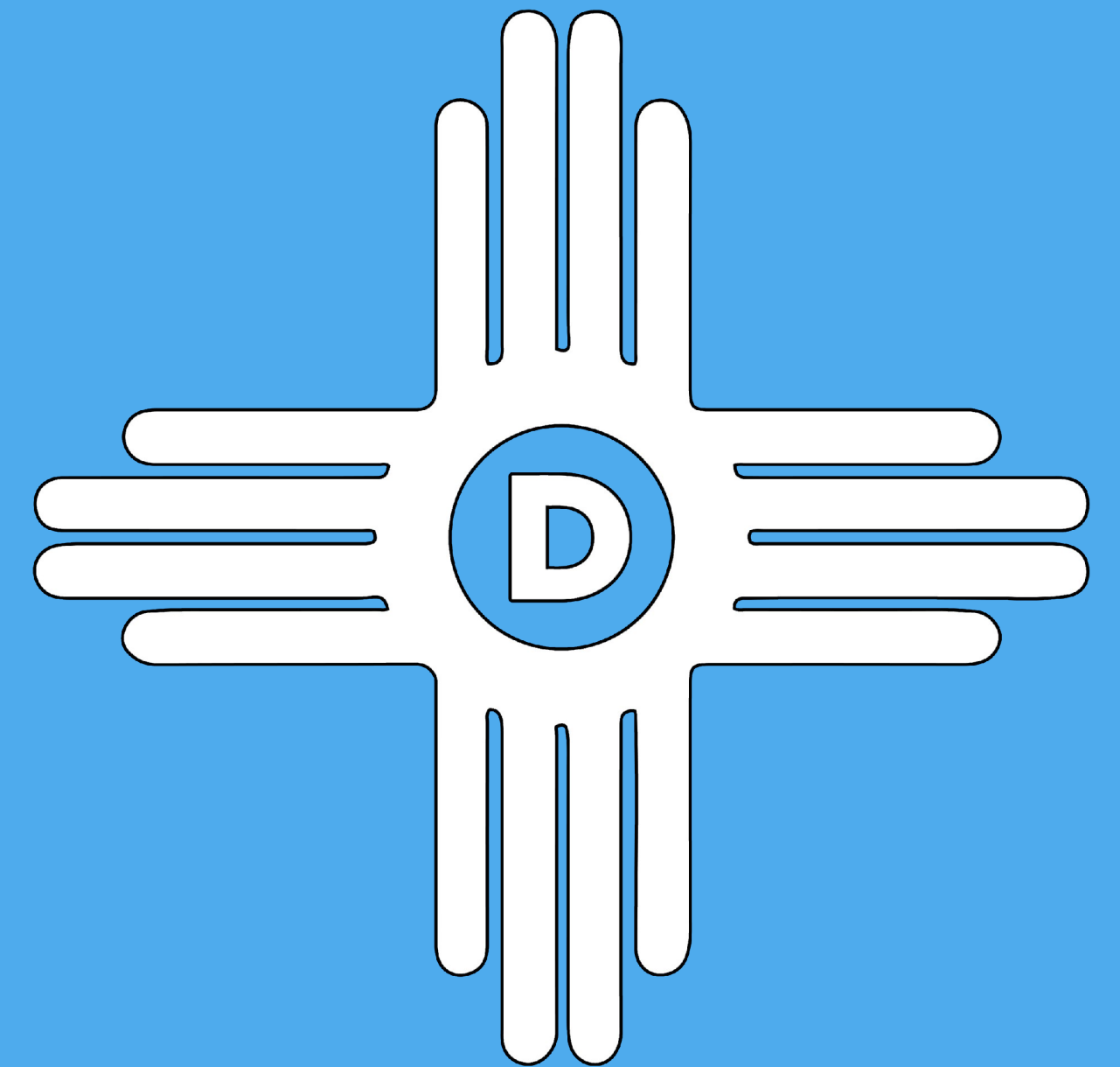
**Every voter
can vote**

02

**Every vote is
certified**

03

**Every vote
counts**



Protection from What?

Federal Threats: Forces working at the federal level to make sure they never lose power:

SAVE ACT

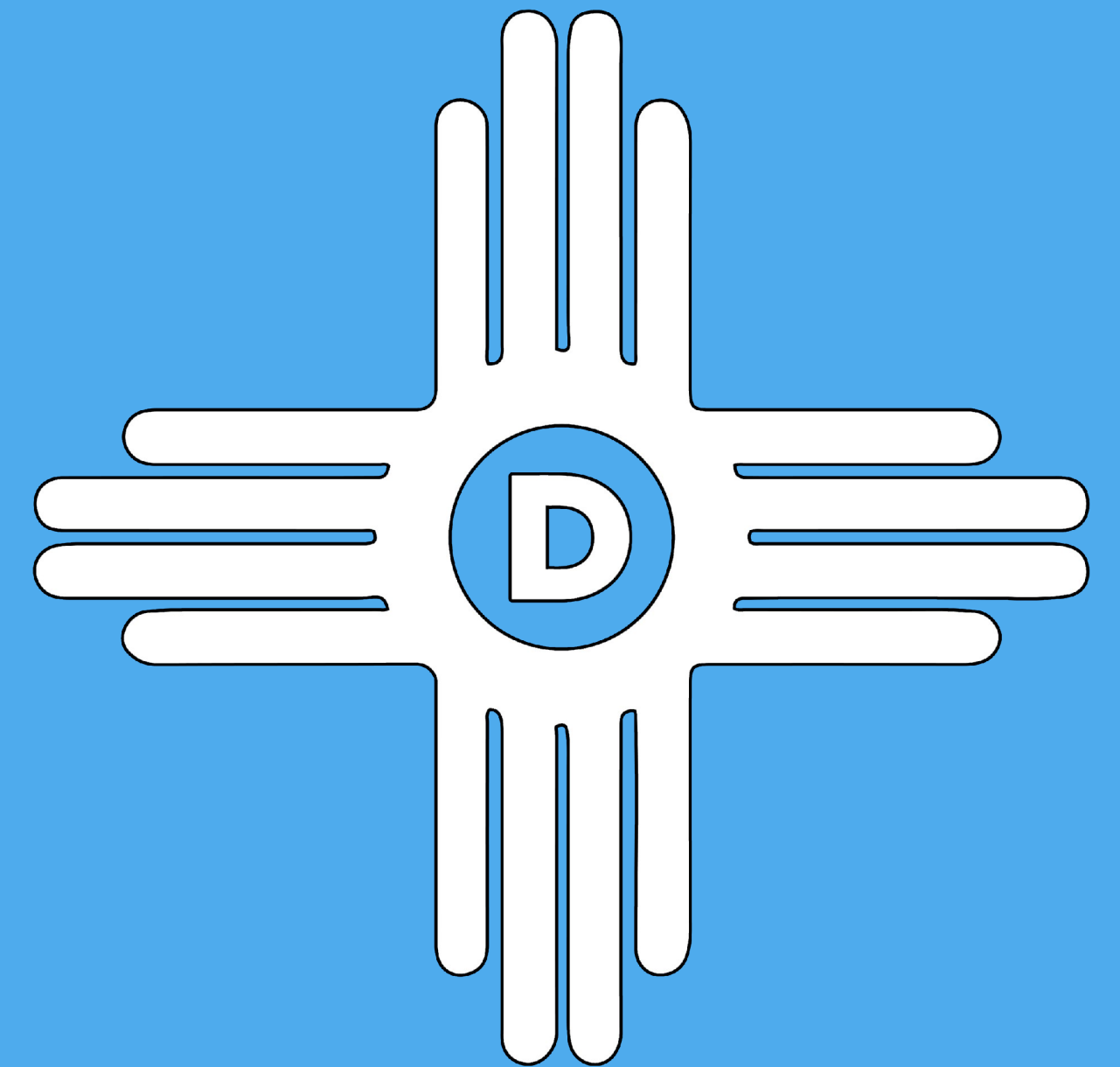
Would place barriers like Voter ID in front of voters so they cannot vote.

Callais Decision

U.S. Supreme Court decision that dismantled a large part of the Voting Rights Act, disproportionately affecting POC.

DOJ Monitors

Recently, the DOJ announced it will send federal “Election Monitors” to a Dem stronghold in Michigan.



Protection from What?

State-Level Threats: Consistent work on the state level to suppress voter turnout:

Voter Purges

Actively purging legitimate voters from the voter rolls to reduce eligibility.

Limit Voting

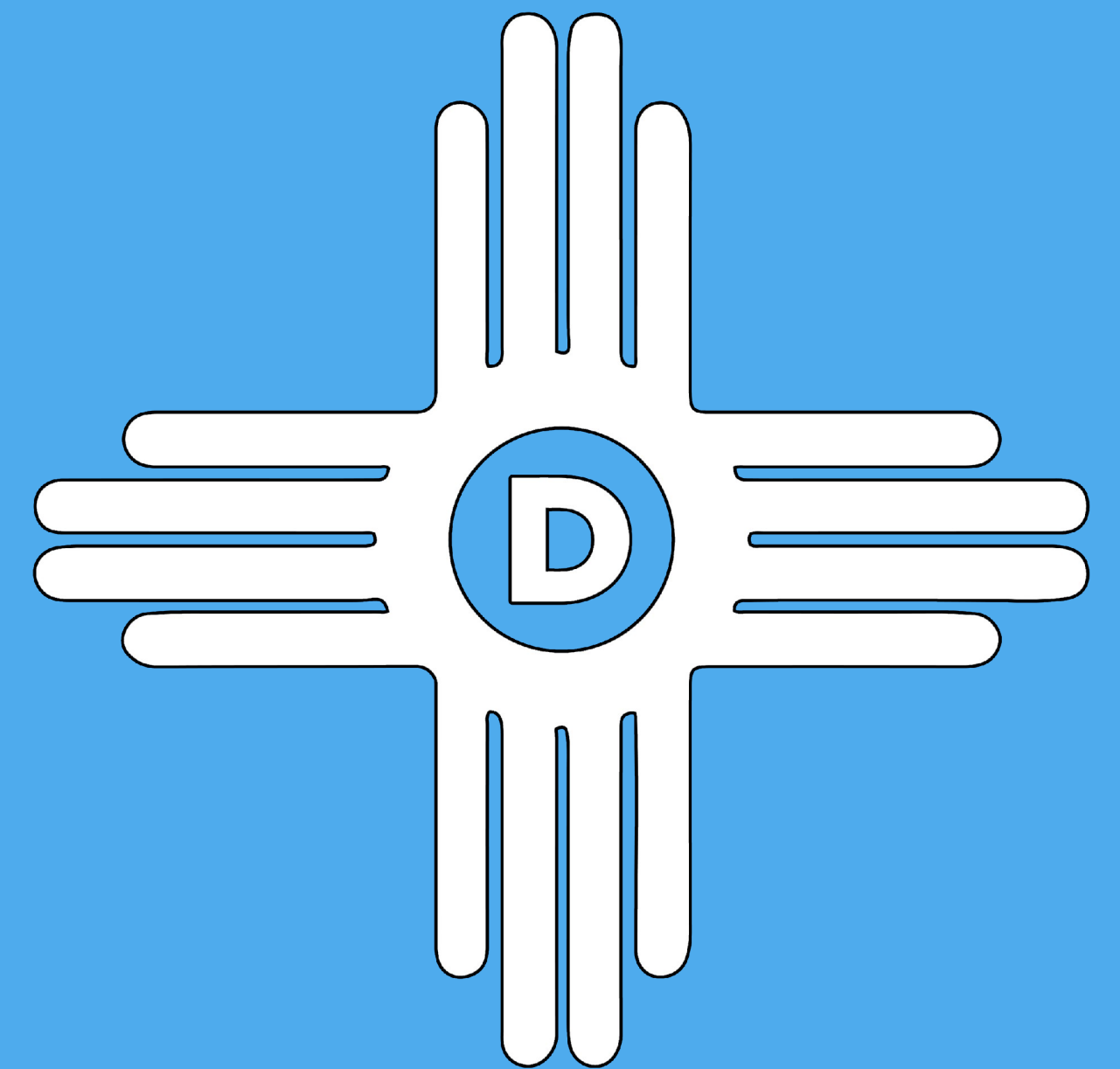
Reducing the number of days, locations, and instances in which people can vote early.

Add Friction

Adding additional administrative hurdles to the process to depress overall participation.

The Opportunity Ahead

2026 could bring a blue wave: increasing rates of voter turnout with great candidates coming out.



Voter Protection Efforts

Election Cycle

VOTER PROTECTION

- **Poll Challenging**

Inside polling locations to assist and advocate for voters.

- **Boiler Room**

Supporting challengers in the field during early voting and on Election Day.

Post Election

BALLOT CURE

- **Cure Volunteers**

Contacting and assisting voters to cure signature or ballot issues so their votes count.

Year Round

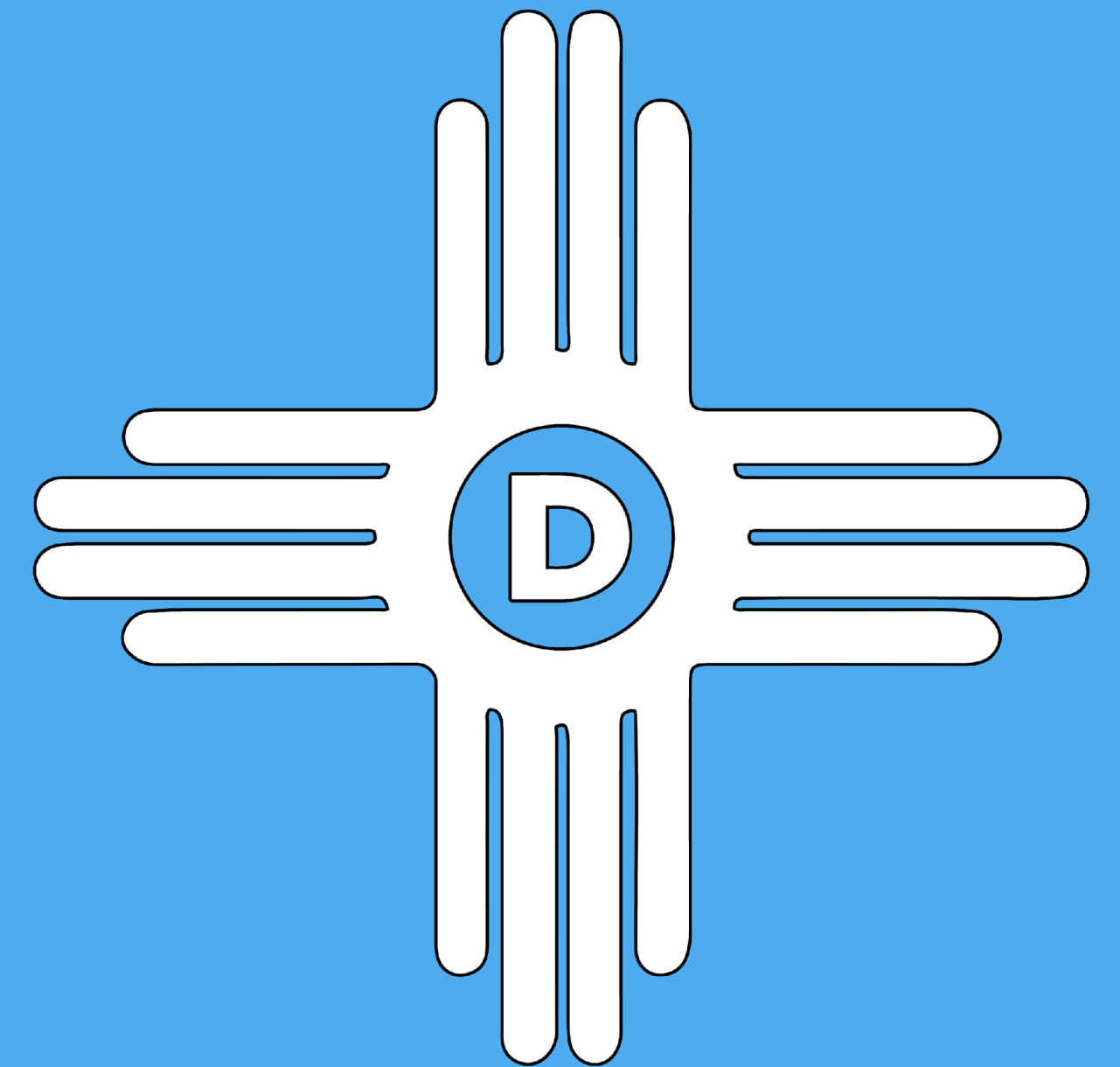
ONGOING ADVOCACY

- **Administrator Liaison**

Advocating to administrators for increased voter access and responding to threats.

- **Recruitment**

Building and maintaining our essential volunteer network.



Note for Voter Protection Efforts

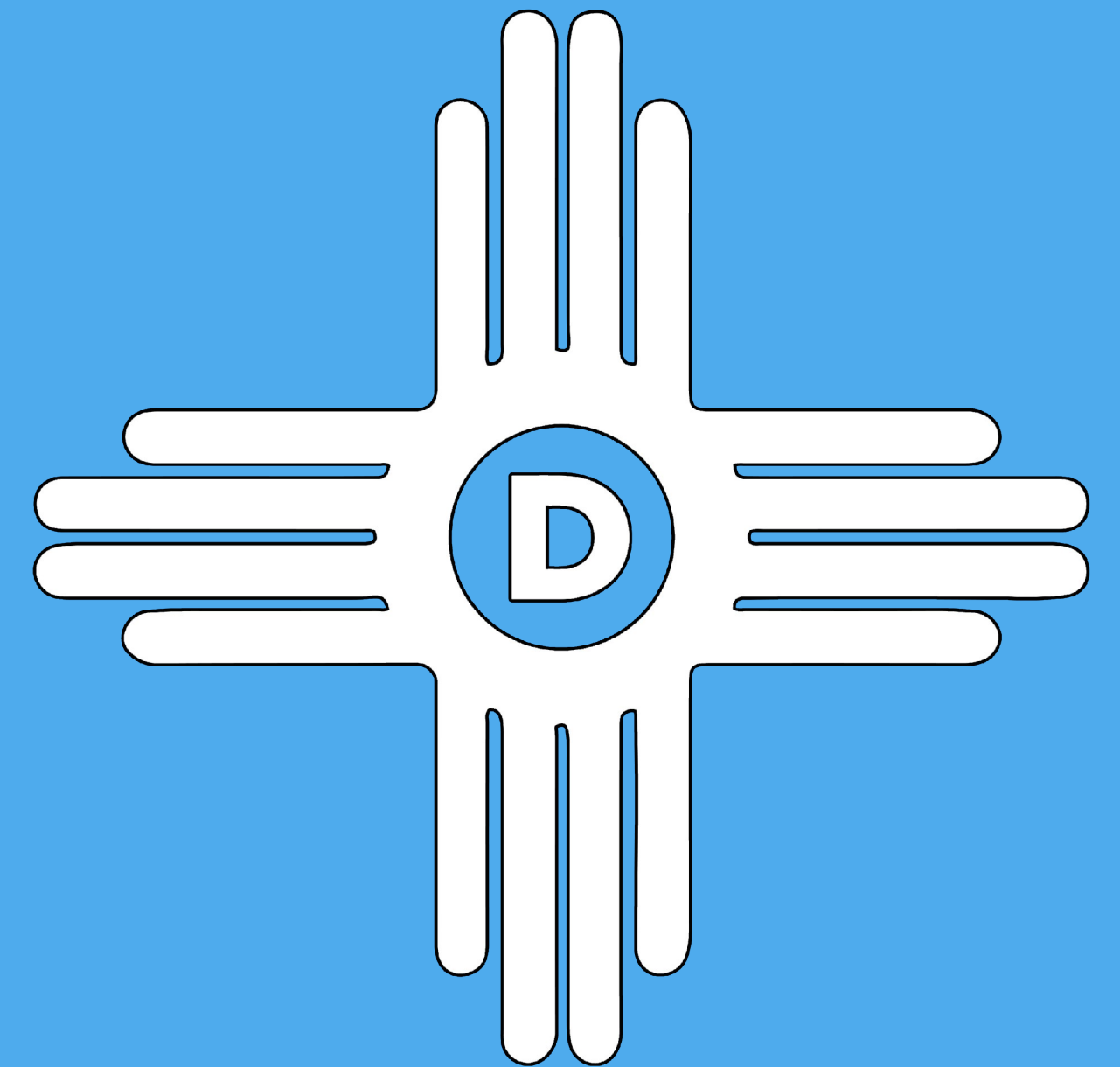
No Legal Background Required

You do not need to be a lawyer to make a difference. While legal backgrounds are helpful for some projects, most roles do not require them.

- **Comprehensive training will be provided to ensure you have everything you need.**

State-Specific Rules

Each state's voting rules and regulations are completely different. If you have previously trained or volunteered in another state (such as Arizona), **you will need a refresher course on New Mexico's specific rules.**



Poll Challengers

ROLE & ADVOCACY

Serve as a dedicated advocate for voters directly at the polls.

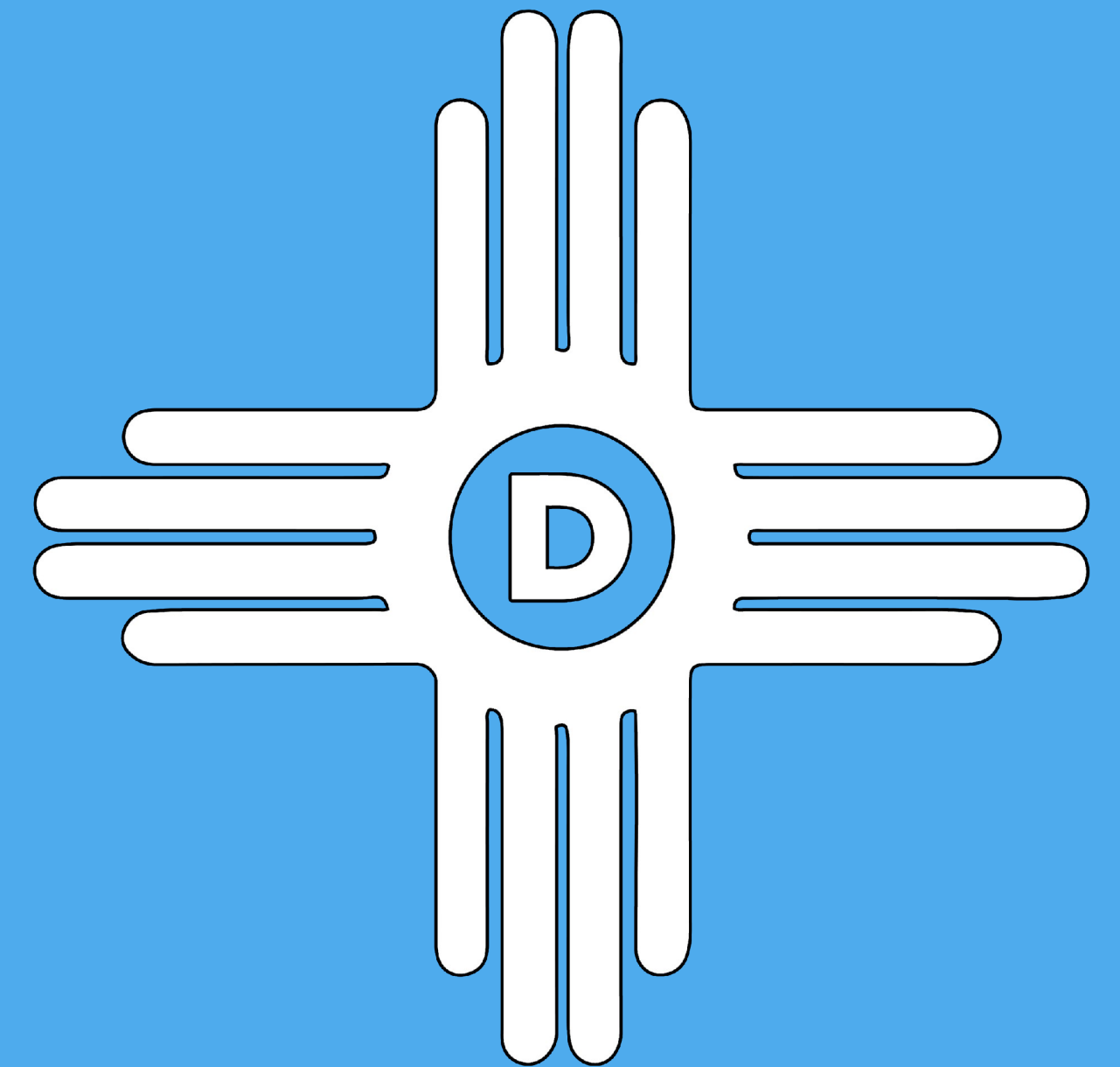
Note: Poll Observers and Watchers are officially referred to as Poll Challengers due to New Mexico state regulations and partisan affiliation.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION & TECH

Report voting obstacles and issues in real-time using specialized software, working to mitigate or resolve problems at assigned polling locations where support is most needed.

TRAINING & TIMELINE

Comprehensive training is provided in advance with continuous real-time support while serving. Volunteers are needed throughout early voting periods and on Election Day.



“Cure” Volunteers

Role & Responsibilities

Contact voters with rejected mail ballots (due to missing/mismatched signatures) and help them "cure" the issue. This work can be done remotely by phone/computer or in person.

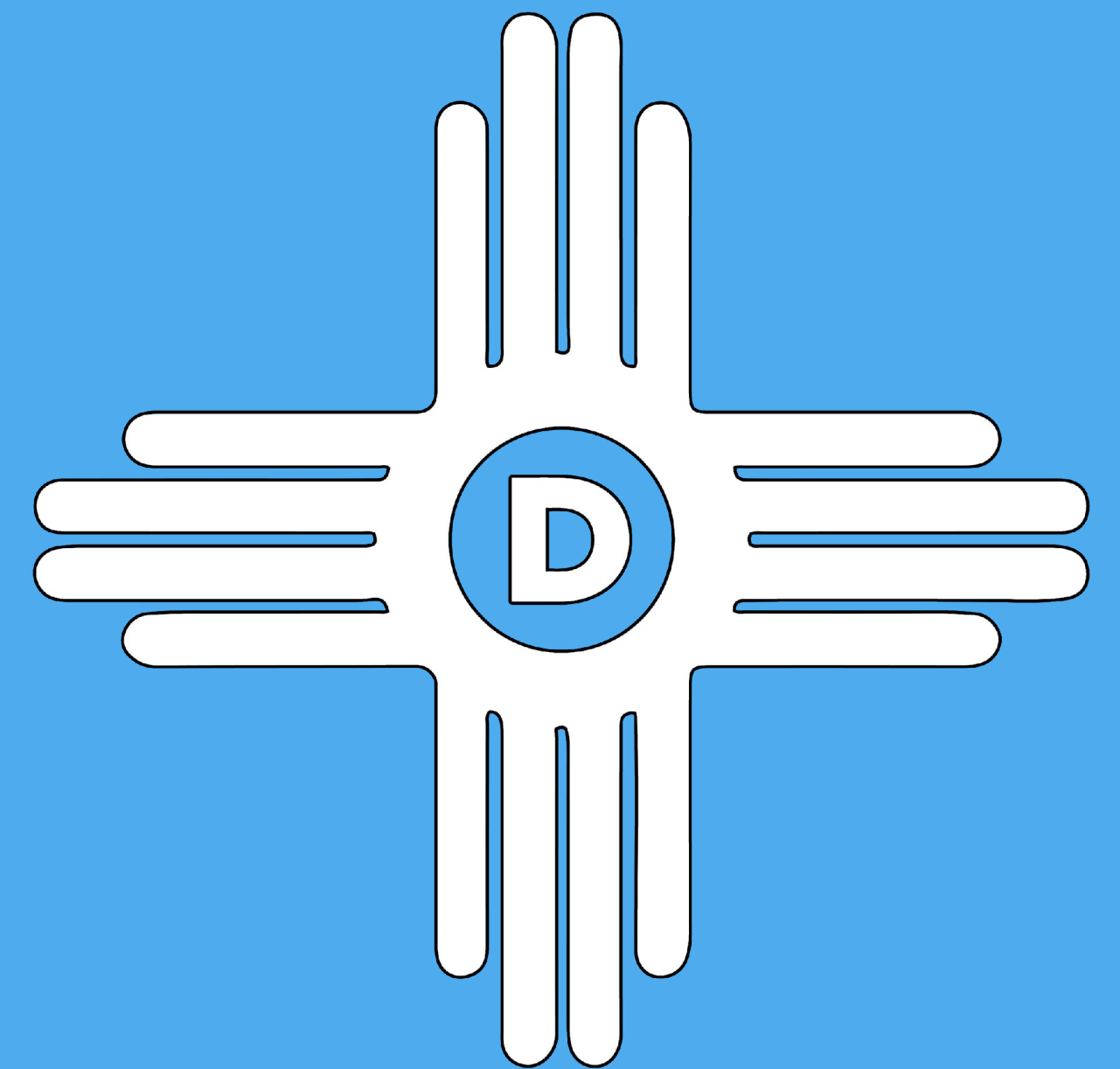
Ideal Volunteer Profile

Best for patient individuals willing to spend dedicated 1-on-1 time supporting voters over the phone.

Disclaimer: DPNM will not directly handle cure this cycle.

Training & Timeline

Full training and real-time support are provided in advance and while serving. Volunteers are generally needed in the week or two surrounding the election (both before and after).



Boiler Room Volunteers

CRITICAL ELECTION DAY SUPPORT

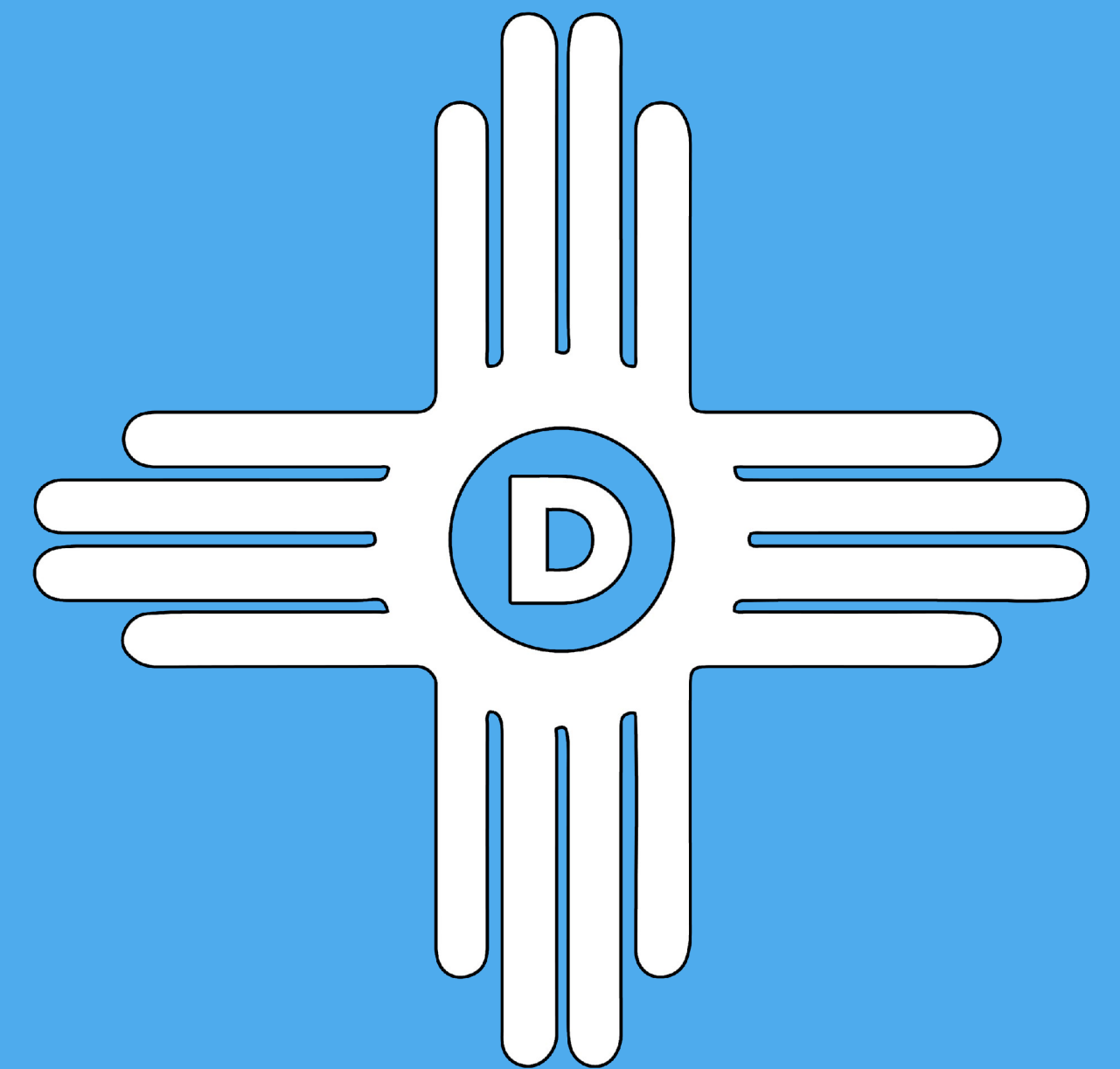
Serving as the nerve center, the **Boiler Room** supports Poll Challengers active in the field during critical early voting periods and on Election Day.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION & TECH

Volunteers track and report voting obstacles in specialized software, working in real-time to mitigate, resolve, or escalate issues encountered at polling locations.

NO LEGAL BACKGROUND REQUIRED

You do not need to be a lawyer to help. Complete training is provided to equip you with New Mexico's specific election regulations and tools.



Recruitment Volunteers

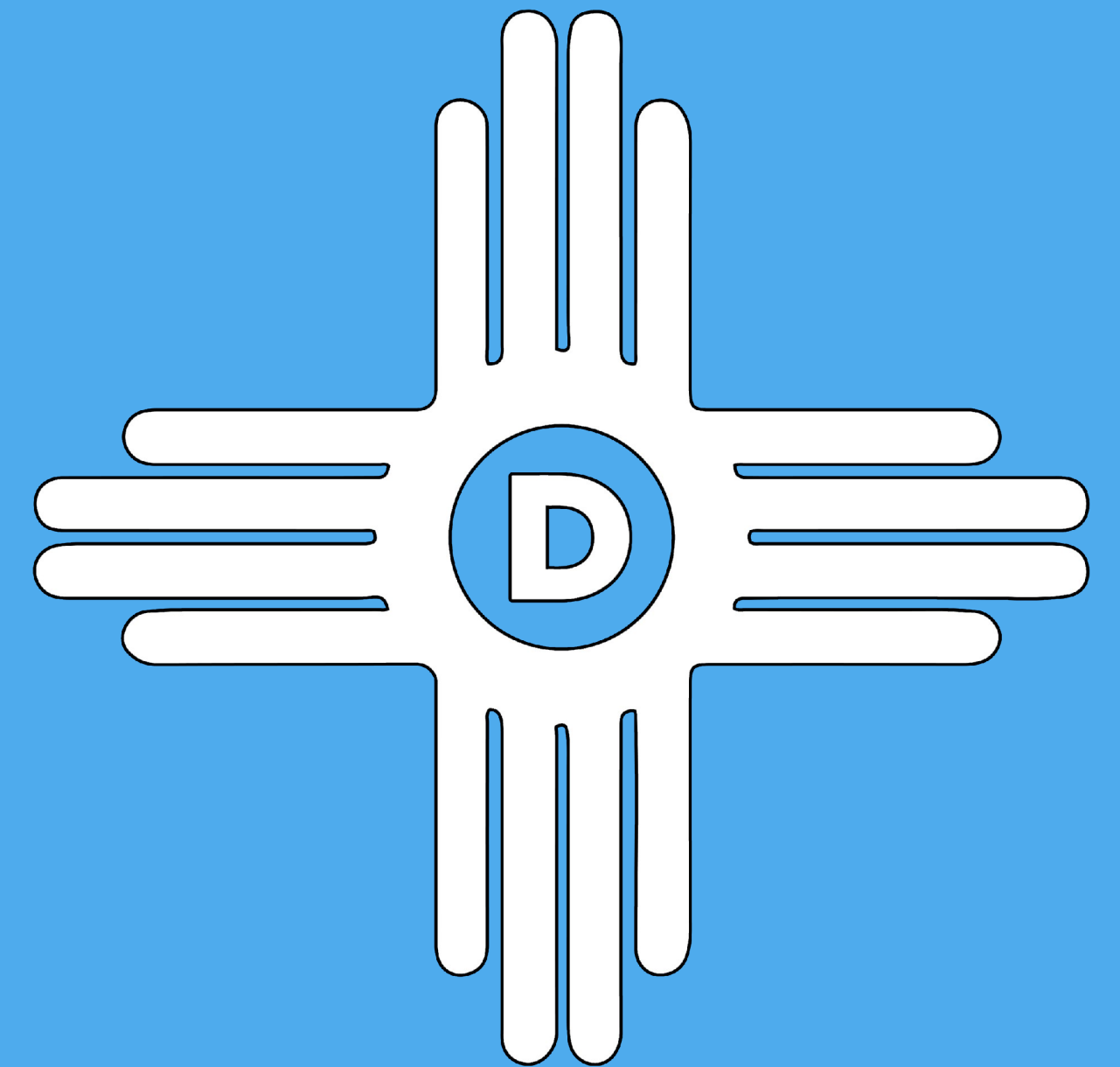
CALL PAST VOLUNTEERS

Call past volunteers to share information about this year's volunteer opportunities and help them get signed up.

Requires a computer with a good Internet connection and a phone.

SOCIAL NETWORK OUTREACH

Contact your own social networks to share information about volunteering with voter protection and its impact – and help them find the right volunteer opportunities for them.



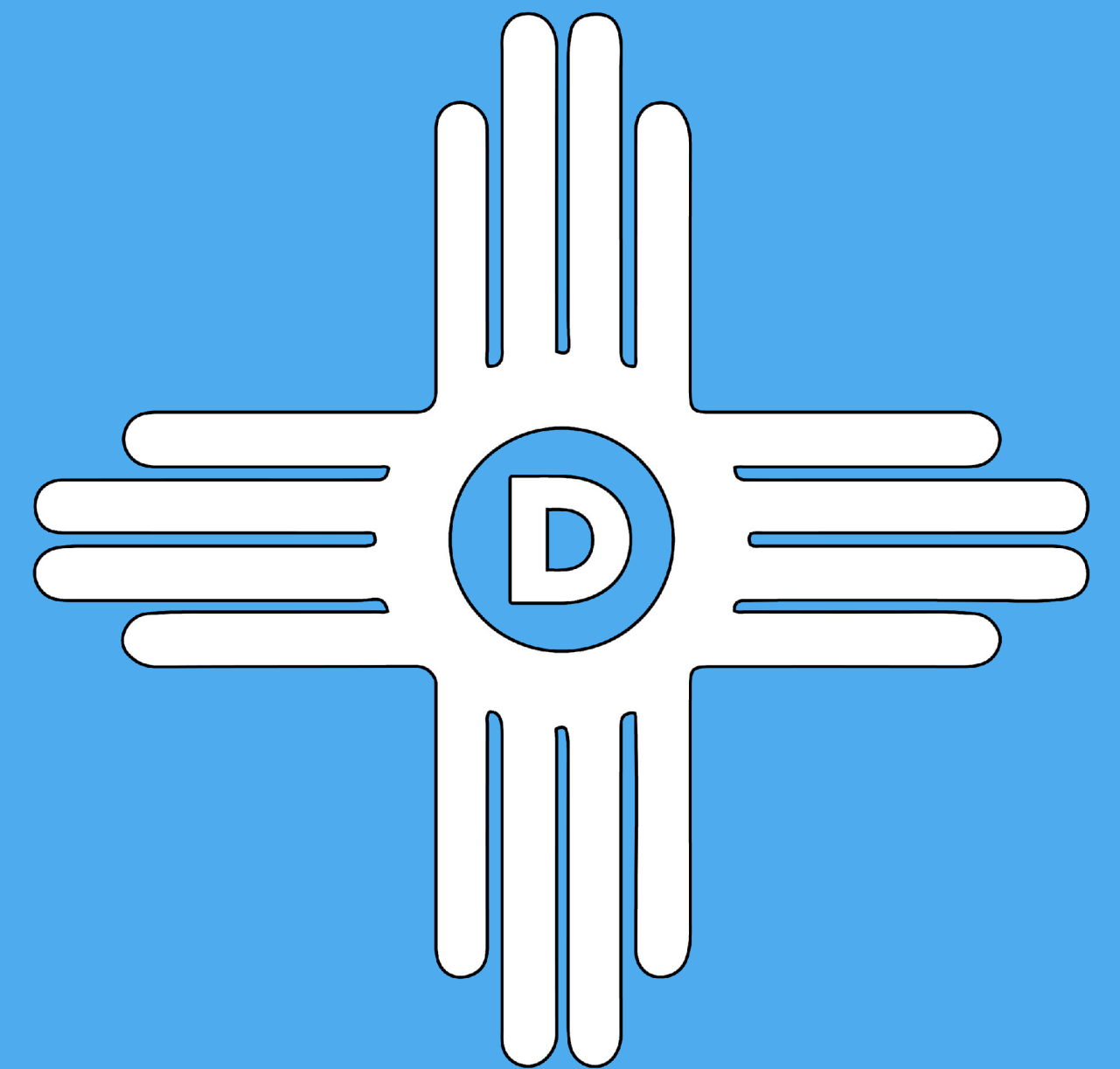
Legal Research & Special Projects

LAWYERS' ASSISTANCE & RESEARCH

Variety of legal research needs and special projects that could use lawyers' assistance, ranging from citation checking one evening to providing ongoing support on particular issues.

SCOPE & TIMING

These projects vary widely by state and time of year.



Remote Volunteer Opportunities

PHONE BANKING (VOTERS)

Phone Banking voters to help them update their voter registration

PHONE BANKING (VOLUNTEERS)

Phone Banking to find Voter Protection Volunteers

BALLOT CURE

Assist voters in correcting issues with their mail-in or provisional ballots to ensure their votes count.

INFORMATION RESEARCH

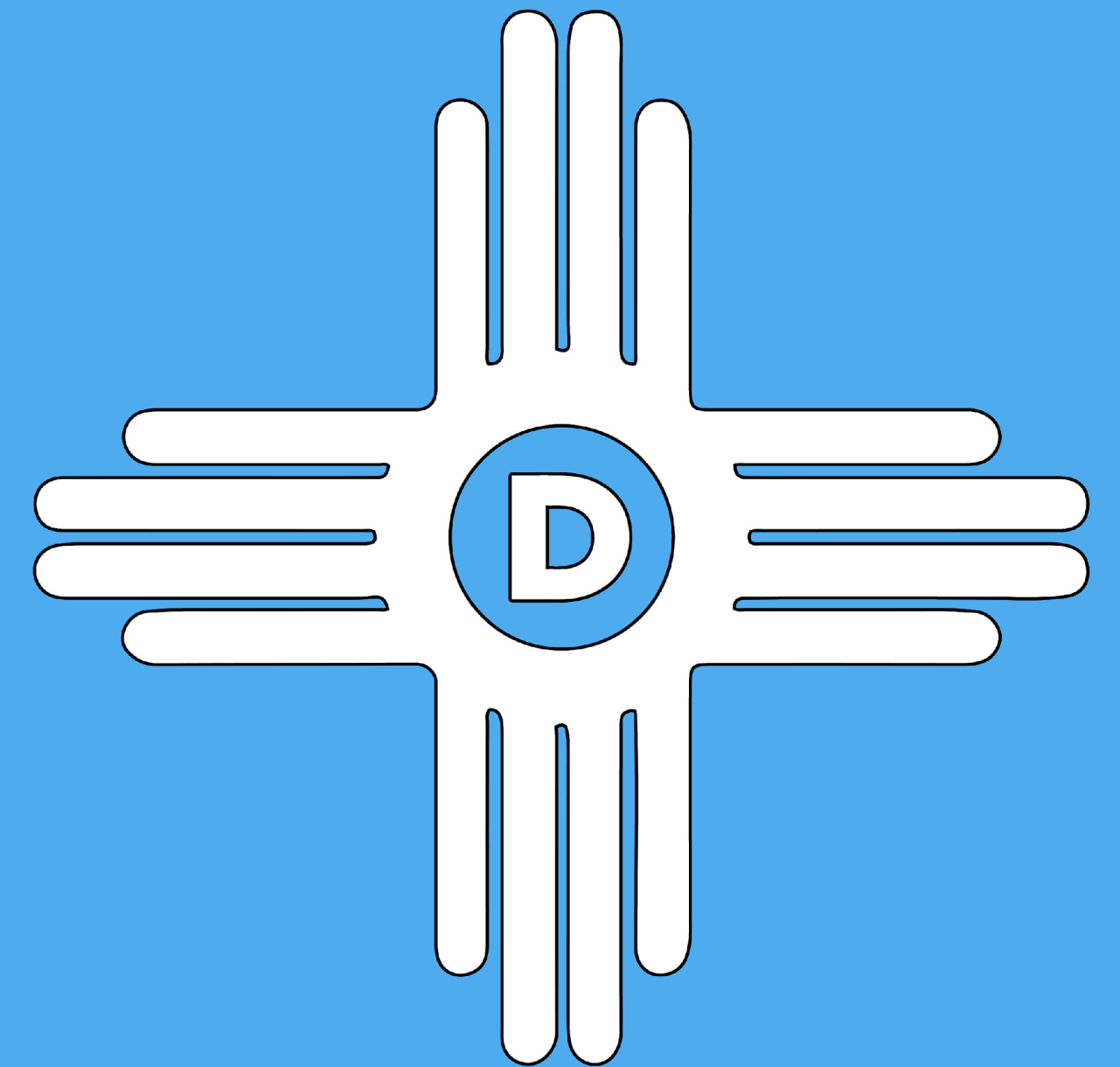
Research on county websites/Facebook pages, voting locations or election websites for clear and accurate information

DATA & TECH SUPPORT

Project Management, data work and tech support

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Special Projects, like updating the legal manual and filing records requests



In Person Volunteer Opportunities

POLL CHALLENGER INSIDE

Serve inside polling locations to monitor voting processes.

Requires credentials.

POLL OBSERVER / GREETER

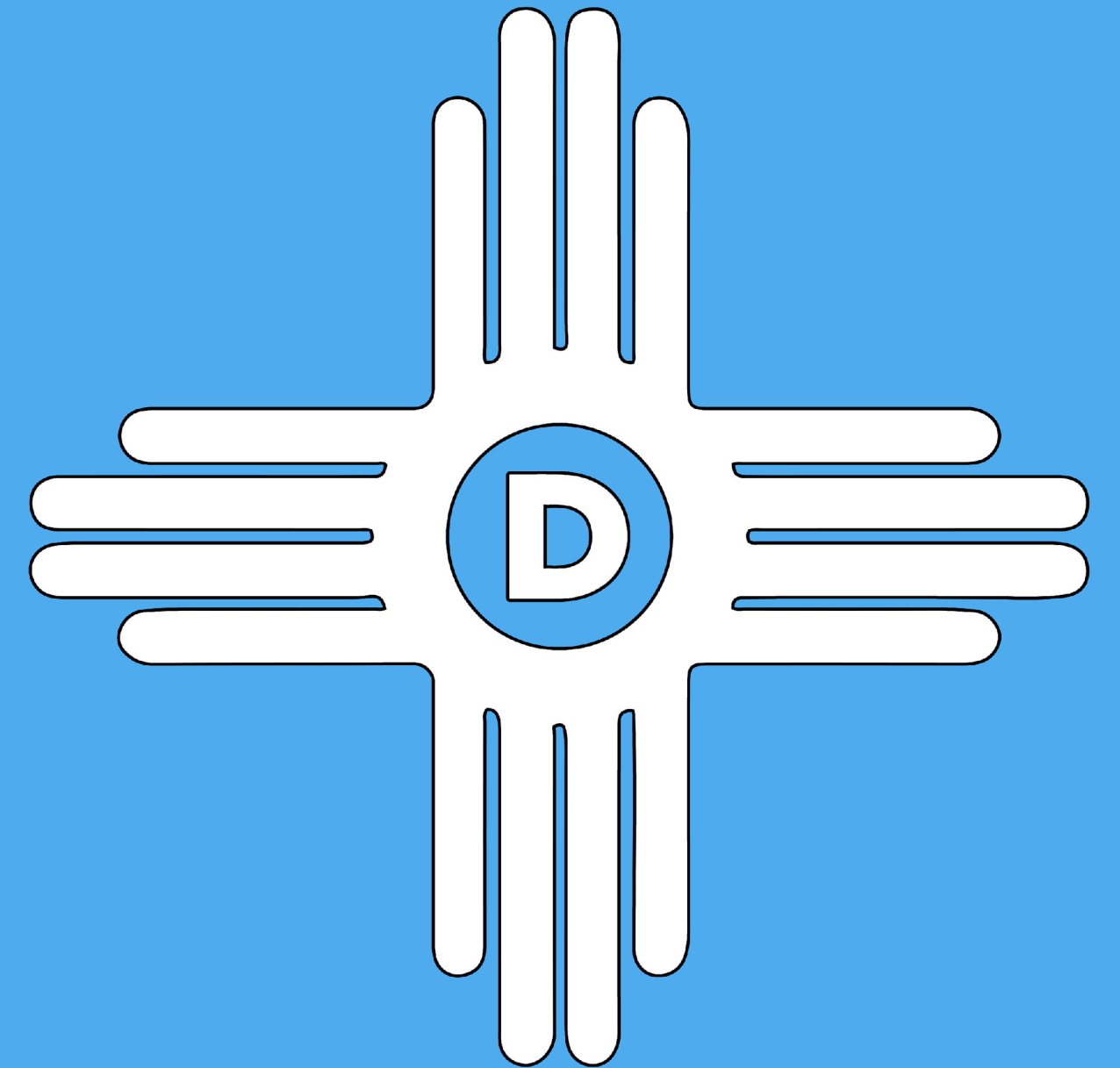
Assist voters and monitor election activities from outside the polling location.

ELECTION ADMIN LIAISON

Act as the primary point of contact with the County Board of Elections.

BOILER ROOM SUPPORT

Provide critical assistance for resolving voting issues that escalate to the state level.



Timeline

JULY

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Voter Protection Program design and Liaison Meetings with Local Election Administrators.

AUGUST

PROGRAM KICKOFF

Roundtables Hosted & Voter Protection Kickoff.

SEPT

TRAININGS BEGIN

Challenger / Observer Trainings officially begin.

OCT

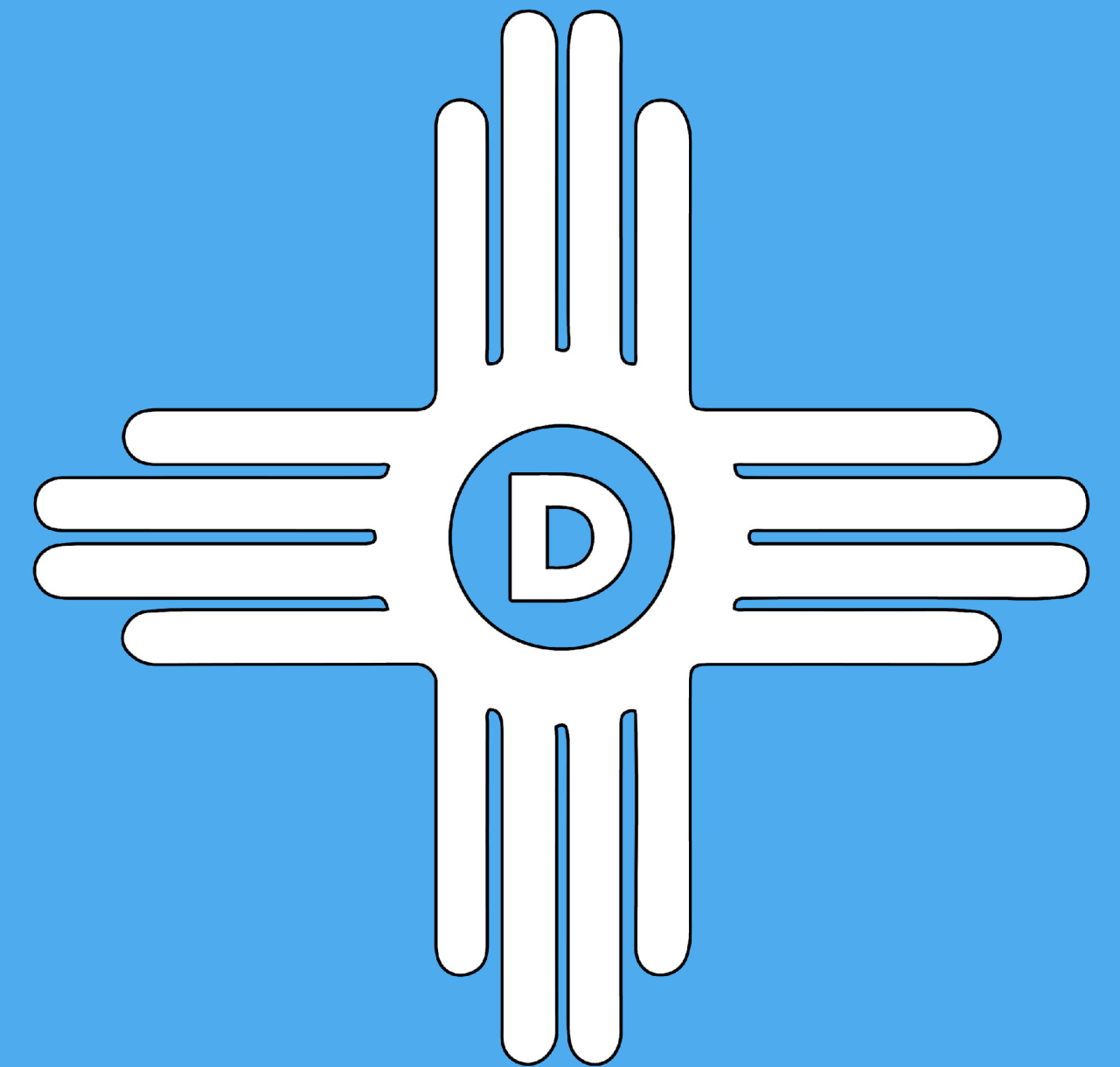
EARLY VOTING

Early Vote Begins. Challengers and Observers deployed in expanded Early Vote locations.

NOV

ELECTION DAY

Mobilization and final voter protection execution on Election Day.



Questions?

Contact Information

Victoria Wedel

Voter Protection Director

victoriarobledo@nmdemocrats.org

Vicki Maenchen

Deputy Voter Protection Director

vicki@nmdemocrats.org

Sign Up Here

