Anna Hansen  
Santa Fe County Commissioner, New Mexico  
Elected 2016

What is your most significant or important accomplishment as an elected leader?  
There are many important accomplishments I have achieved since being elected. Here are a few:

1. In my district, I have a Traditional Historic Village, which has wanted sewers for the past 50 years. I ran on putting sewers in the village and began working on the design and utility plan as soon as I was elected. We are investing $10 million over the next 5-10 years to put sewers in the THV, and the first eight roads will be getting sewers in 2019.

2. Santa Fe County has made history in its agreements with the pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso and Tesuque regarding the legal status of Santa Fe County maintained roads within the pueblos’ exterior boundaries. The negotiations have been completed and the Board of County Commissioners approved four separate agreements with the individual pueblos in January. All combined through the approved agreements provide rights of way and assured public access for approximately 34 miles of county-maintained roads within Pueblo boundaries for two 99-year consecutive terms. The agreements also provide a pueblo process for individual property owners to gain insurable access to their private property where the property owner must cross
pueblo land to get to their private parcel. The county will also continue to maintain the rights of way for the term of the agreements. Santa Fe County, the pueblos and the U.S. government agreed that litigation would unnecessarily divide the affected communities for years to come and that, by settling, the parties would avoid the uncertainty and great expense of litigation. We look forward to the implementation of these agreements so that our communities can move forward with the implementation of the Aamodt Water Rights Settlement and Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System. Water is life, and I encourage all communities to shore up your water supplies as the climate changes.

3. Resolution 2017-128 was a resolution to undertake legal action regarding the opiate epidemic. A lawsuit would seek to recover damages associated with tax dollars spent to address the impact of the opiate epidemic in our community.

What has been the biggest challenge?
Working with the elected officials of the city of Santa Fe, which is the capital city of our state and located in Santa Fe County.

What advice would you give someone considering running for office for the first time?
Find a city, county and/or state board to serve on, so you can gain experience and understand what is important to the office you hope to hold. Get some training in finance and land use.

Is there a conservation-related policy, rule or idea you would like to see implemented at the local, state or national level?
Stewart Udall, Secretary of Interior (1960-1968) is my hero, so conservation is very important to me. We passed a resolution supporting the Land and Water Conservation Fund and sent it to our delegation, Senators [Tom] Udall and [Martin] Heinrich. Plus, we joined "We Are Still In" as soon as President Trump withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement.

In the beginning of this year, I brought forward Resolution No. 2018-28 opposing the Bureau of Land Management’s proposed repeal of its methane rule. The methane rule was intended to reduce and regulate methane leaking, venting and flaring from oil and gas operations and by doing so, protect public health through cleaner, more efficient energy production. This resolution was approved unanimously by the BCC.