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CIBOLA COUNTY VOTER GUIDE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2026

A General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. If you are a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on Election Day, and registered to vote, you may vote in the General Election.

Cibola County Clerk Natalie A. Grine
700 East Roosevelt Ste 50, Grants, NM 87020
Phone: (505) 285-2535
Website: cibolacountynm.com/departments/clerk/index.php
Election & Registration Inquiries: elections@co.cibola.nm.us
For Navajo language assistance, please contact the County Clerk's Office.

VOTER REGISTRATION

You can register to vote or update your existing registration and vote on the same day at your County Clerk's Office. Forms of identification you will need are:

- 1) New Mexico drivers' license OR New Mexico identification card issued through the motor vehicle division;
- 2) Any document that contains an address in the county together with a photo identification card; OR
- 3) A current valid student photo identification card from a postsecondary educational institution in New Mexico accompanied by a current student fee statement that contains the student's address in the county.

Some County Clerks will offer additional same day voter registration locations at expanded early voting sites. If you are already registered to vote, you do not have to show a photo ID when you vote.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots are available on request from the County Clerk's office, or from the Secretary of State at nmvote.org. They must be returned to the County Clerk, either by mail or in person. Request an absentee ballot early and be sure to mail it early. Absentee ballots must be received by the County Clerk or at a polling location no later than 7 pm on Election Day. If you request an absentee ballot, you must use it to vote. If you decide to vote in person, you must take the absentee ballot with you to the voting place.

GENERAL ELECTION DATES & HOURS

October 6, 2026: First day of absentee/early voting at the County Courthouse, Mon-Fri 8 am to 5 pm
October 17, 2026: Early voting at alternate sites begins Tue-Sat 10 am to 6 pm
October 20, 2026: Last day County Clerk may receive applications and mail absentee ballots
October 31, 2026: Early voting at County Courthouse ends - This is the only Saturday when voters may cast their ballot at the Courthouse from 8 am-5 pm)
October 31, 2026: This is the last day of early voting at alternate sites 10 am-6 pm
November 3, 2026: Election Day - Polls will be open 7 am - 7 pm

Early In-Person Voting will not take place on Monday, October 12, 2026. County Offices will be closed in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

October 6, 2026: Voter Registration Closes, Absentee Voting by Mail Begins, Early In-Person Voting Begins
October 20, 2026: Last Day County Clerks Shall Mail Absentee Ballots
October 31, 2026: Early In-Person Voting Ends
For more information, call (505) 285-2535.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico is pleased to offer this Voter Guide for the 2026 General Election. The League believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens. We are nonpartisan—we do not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

For unabridged candidate responses, personalized ballots, bilingual (English, Spanish) support, and more, access our 2026 General Election Voter Guide online at VOTE411.org.

Disclaimer

The information in this Voter Guide has been carefully assembled and compiled to assure maximum accuracy. However, the League assumes no responsibility for correctness of information furnished to the League by other organizations.

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Cibola County Polling Locations - Cibola County, New Mexico
700 E. Roosevelt Ste 50, Grants, NM 87020
Phone: (505) 285-2535
Email: natalie.grine@cibolacounty.gov
Bureau of Elections Phone: (505) 827-3600
cibolacountynm.com/departments/clerk/elections.php

Cibola County Clerk's Office 700 E. Roosevelt Ste 50, Grants, NM 87020
Tuesday, October 6 – Friday, October 9, 2026: 8 am - 5 pm
Tuesday, October 13 – Friday, October 16, 2026: 8am - 5pm
Monday, October 19 – Friday, October 23, 2026: 8 am - 5 pm
Monday, October 26 – Friday, October 30, 2026: 8 am - 5 pm
Saturday, October 31, 2026: 10 am - 6 pm

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Laguna Tribal Building 22 Capital Rd, Laguna, NM 87026
Saturday, October 24, 2026: 8 am - 4 pm
Monday, October 26, 2026: 8 am - 4 pm
Tuesday, October 27, 2026: 8 am - 4 pm

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Grants Recreation Center 551 Washington Ave, Grants, NM 87020
Saturday, October 17 – Saturday, October 31, 2026: 8 am - 4 pm

Ramah Chapter House 419 BIA Route 125, Pinehill, NM 87357
Wednesday, October 28, 2026: 8 am - 4 pm
Thursday, October 29, 2026: 8 am - 4 pm
Friday, October 30, 2026: 8 am - 4 pm

Acoma Gymnasium 25 Pinsbaari Dr, Acoma, NM 87034
Tuesday, October 27 – Friday, October 30, 2026: 8 am - 4 pm

ELECTION DAY VOTING LOCATIONS
Tuesday, November 3, 2026: 7am – 7 pm

Taos County Courthouse 105 Albright St, Taos, NM 87571

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER SITES
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 1 Grants Recreation Center | 551 Washington Ave, Grants, NM 87020

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 2 County Clerk’s Office | 700 E. Roosevelt Ste 50, Grants, NM 87020

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 3 Milan Village Hall, 609 US-66, Milan, NM 87021

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 4 Acoma Gymnasium, 25 Pinsbaari Dr, Acoma, NM 87034

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 5 Ramah Chapter House, 419 BIA Route 125, Pinehill, NM 87357

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER SITES
CONTINUED

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 6 Laguna Tribal Building, 22 Capital Dr, Laguna NM 87026

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 7 Bluewater Senior Center, 5 Pinon St, Bluewater NM 87005

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 8 Bluewater Acres Fire Station, 9 Cod Dr, Thoreau NM 87323

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 9 San Rafael Elementary School, 27 Mesa View St, San Rafael, NM 87051

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 10 Cubero Community Center, 04 Camino Rael, Cubero NM 87014

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 11 Paraje Recreational Hall, 31 Paraje Rd, Paraje, NM 87007

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 12 San Mateo Fire Station, 110 San Mateo Main St, San Mateo, NM 87020

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 13 Fence Lake Community Center, 2125 Hwy 36, Fence Lake, NM 87315

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 14 Seboyeta Elementary School, State Rd 279, Seboyeta, NM 87014

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 15 Pagate Community Center, 60 Pagate Day School Rd, Pagate, NM 87040

“Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rules are not a President or senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country.”
– Franklin D. Roosevelt



FEDERAL OFFICES

UNITED STATES SENATOR

New Mexico has two Senators in the United States Senate. U.S. Senators introduce and vote on proposed laws, serve on legislative committees, and participate in hearings, floor debates, fact-finding and investigations. They also must approve or reject many Presidential appointments, Cabinet members, federal judges and U.S. ambassadors. Senators also may assist constituents with issues and problems constituents have with federal agencies. The Senate also has the sole power to try impeachments charges against non-military federal officers. Term: Six years; no term limits.

	<i>What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?</i>	<i>What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?</i>	<i>What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?</i>	<i>What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?</i>
 Ben R Luján Democrat	New Mexicans spend their lives paying into Social Security, and they deserve to know that the program will be there to support them upon retirement. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I know Social Security benefits are a vital lifeline for retirees and people with disabilities. Social Security must be protected from cuts and Republican-led efforts to reduce benefits. I was proud to support the Social Security Fairness Act and see it enacted into law. This bill repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which currently reduce benefits for certain recipients. I'm also proud to support the Social Security 2100 Act, which eliminates the Social Security tax cap.	The United States has not significantly updated its immigration laws since the 1980s, which is why I have long championed comprehensive immigration reform to address our broken immigration system and create an earned pathway for legal immigration. I support legislation like the DREAM Act to provide a legal pathway for Dreamers, the SECURE Act, which provides qualified Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) recipients a path to legal permanent residency, and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act to reform and modernize our temporary agricultural worker visa program. I am also a proponent of modern and effective border security that uses technology rather than walls to keep out narcotics and the cartels.	Growing up on a small family farm in New Mexico, I learned early that water is life. That is why I believe we must ensure our federal laws respect our ways of life and treat water as the life-giving resource it is. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I introduced legislation like the ACEQUIAS Act to ensure farmers and ranchers qualify for drought disaster assistance, and legislation to guarantee greater federal respect for our traditional land grants and acequias. I also believe we have a duty to support responsible, clean energy policies that protect our environment, improve our air quality, and encourage innovation. I'll continue to ensure that New Mexico is a leader in the clean energy economy, benefiting our families.	Health care is a human right, not a privilege for the few. The Affordable Care Act that voted for in 2009 made critical reforms that expanded New Mexicans access to care. I continue to fight against the attempts to rip health care away by repealing the ACA and gutting Medicaid. I am also a co-sponsor of Medicare for All because every single person deserves high-quality health care when they need it, no matter how much money they make. Access to health care means being able to afford it, which is why I voted to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices so seniors and American taxpayers stop being overcharged.
 Larry E Marker Republican	We can address this issue with earnings from a windfall sovereign wealth fund. I have a plan to supplement the revenue paid into social security that supplemental income is structured to help offset the imbalance we currently have. This will be a permanent solution that properly administered will prevent the reduction of benefits we are facing in 2032. The goal of this plan is to provide a permanent solution to this issue.	My first priority is to remove from the immigration system political advantage for either party. My position on this matter is best communicated with what I would consider as my goals. Provide to the American people an immigration system that brings into our communities the best and brightest from all over the world. Immigrants that will assimilate into the American culture and way of life whose dreams and aspirations when fulfilled benefit not just them but all Americans. Any policy that takes us toward that goal is a policy I will support. That would include temporary visas.	First, we establish non-political, science-based standards then establish practical and sensible goals and or benchmarks moving forward with a plan that provides a standard future generations can maintain.	Remove political advantage for either side from healthcare. Find a goal, set the goal then go to work. Bumper sticker slogans and press clips will not solve this issue. Healthcare is too important to use as a political pawn.

“Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.”

– John Quincy Adams

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 2

This person represents one of New Mexico’s three districts in the United States House of Representatives. U.S. Representatives introduce and vote on proposed laws and serve on legislative committees. Representatives also participate in hearings, floor debates, fact-finding and investigations. They also may help constituents with issues and problems constituents have with federal agencies. Term: Two years; no limits.

	<i>What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?</i>	<i>What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?</i>	<i>What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?</i>	<i>What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?</i>
 Gregory G Cunningham Republican	Social Security is a promise this country made to its workers and I will not let Washington break it. The people of NM-02 have worked hard their entire lives and they have earned every dollar of those benefits. My commitment is simple: I will not vote to cut benefits for anyone who is currently receiving them or who is close to retirement. I will oppose any effort to raid the Trust Fund to pay for other government spending. Sustaining Social Security long-term requires a growing economy, not bigger government. The best thing Congress can do for the future of this program is get out of the way of the workers and businesses that fund it.	NM-02 shares a long stretch of the southern border. I have watched this district bear the consequences of a broken immigration system for years. We need laws that are enforced consistently, a physical and technological border presence that actually deters illegal crossings, and a legal immigration system that is faster, fairer, and workable. I support pathways for workers critical to our economy and reforms that cut the bureaucratic backlog. But security must come first. A border that is not controlled is not a border, and the communities in this district deserve better than the chaos of the last several years.	Water is not an abstract policy issue in southern New Mexico. It is survival. I will fight to ensure federal water policy does not override state and local rights, and secure funding for aging water infrastructure in our communities. Local governments and states are often better positioned than Washington to manage environmental challenges specific to their regions. Top-down federal mandates that ignore the realities of rural western communities do more harm than good. Practical, locally informed solutions are what I will fight for.	As a small business owner, I saw firsthand what healthcare costs do to employers trying to offer coverage and employees trying to afford it. The answer is not a government takeover of the system. The answer is more competition, more transparency, and fewer middlemen driving up costs. I will prioritize funding for rural clinics and incentives to bring providers to underserved areas.
 Gabriel Vasquez Democrat	Social Security is money New Mexicans earned in every paycheck, and Congress should treat that promise as binding. I will oppose cutting benefits, raising the retirement age, or handing any part of the program over to Wall Street. I also cosponsored and voted for the Social Security Fairness Act, now law, so retired teachers, firefighters, and postal workers finally receive the full benefits they earned. And after the Administration made staffing cuts, I fought to ensure that seniors needing support with their Social Security weren’t waiting months for service.	I was raised in the borderlands– I know we can have a secure border and a humane system at the same time. I have secured more than 280 million dollars for border security and written bipartisan bills to go after cartels, human smugglers, and fentanyl traffickers, several of them endorsed by the Las Cruces and Sunland Park police departments. I also believe ICE must be reformed and held accountable so it focuses on violent criminals, not on grandmothers and gardeners who are working hard and following the rules. We need permanent protection for DREAMERs, a workable path to legal status for families already contributing here, and legal ports of entry that actually function.	Water is life in New Mexico, and this is always a top priority for me in Congress. When arsenic levels rose in Doña Ana County drinking water, I pressed the state to expand testing and hold the utility accountable to residents. I have worked to clean up PFAS contamination in groundwater near Holloman and Cannon Air Force Bases, and helped deliver nearly 19 million dollars to treat emerging contaminants in New Mexico drinking water systems. I also secured funding for desalination research in Alamogordo to make brackish water usable. On air, I will keep pushing to cut methane waste and reduce wildfire smoke through the bipartisan wildfire bill I wrote that is now law.	No one should go broke getting sick. I voted against the Republican tax law that stripped Medicaid from 38,000 people in this district, and I cosponsored the bill to reverse those cuts and permanently extend the tax credits that keep premiums affordable. I introduced the amendment to cap insulin at 35 dollars a month, and Republicans blocked it. I am cosponsoring a bill to cap prescription costs at 2,000 dollars a year for individuals and 4,000 for families, and I will protect Medicare's power to negotiate lower drug prices. I wrote the Patient Debt Relief Act to stop wage garnishment and foreclosures over medical bills. And I believe every family deserves the choice of a public option.

“Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.” – Winston Churchill

NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICES

GOVERNOR

In New Mexico’s General Election the Governor is elected with the Lieutenant Governor of the same party. The Governor holds the supreme executive power of the state and sees that the state’s laws are faithfully executed. Responsibilities include preparing the state budget and submitting it to the legislature and overseeing the overall planning for key areas of state government; these areas include economic development, education, human and natural resources, energy and emergency planning. The Governor also appoints people to fill vacancies in a variety of both state and federal offices. Term: Four years, limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>What measures would you propose to improve Pre-K - 12 education?</i>	<i>How would you address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?</i>	<i>What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?</i>
 Greggory D Hull Republican	My top priorities are public safety, economic growth, education, infrastructure and water security, and protecting children. I will increase police presence and enhance border security to address crime and the fentanyl crisis. I will attract high-paying jobs through targeted business incentives and energy expansion. I will hold schools accountable for outcomes while expanding career training. I will invest in brackish water treatment and aquifer recharge for long-term supply. And I will reform CYFD with clear standards, oversight, and stable caseworker staffing.	New Mexico's reading and math scores rank among the nation's lowest, yet the state has responded by lowering standards rather than raising them. I will reverse that trend by tying a portion of school funding to measurable gains in literacy, math, and graduation rates. I will expand career and technical education so students graduate with industry-recognized skills, establish accessible tutoring programs, and give parents transparent access to curriculum and progress data. I will also address chronic absenteeism and reform the Public Education Department to focus on results.	Water security is not optional — it is the foundation of economic growth, agriculture, and stable communities. Rio Rancho led the state with the state’s first-ever aquifer recharge system. As governor, I will invest in brackish water treatment to create new sources of supply, reducing pressure on rivers and freshwater aquifers. I will upgrade aging infrastructure to cut leaks, expand advanced wastewater treatment for safe reuse, and support modern irrigation systems to protect farmers' livelihoods. I will meet our interstate obligations to deliver water downstream and pursue transparent negotiations to resolve outstanding Tribal water rights. Long-term certainty for every water user starts with planning ahead and acting now.	Projects should be evaluated on the quality and wages of jobs created, their alignment with New Mexico's existing strengths — research, advanced manufacturing, energy, and defense — and whether they support workforce development. Incentives must be tied to measurable results and fiscal accountability. Projects should benefit both rural and urban communities, avoid placing undue burdens on infrastructure or public services, and strengthen long-term economic resilience. My core question: does this investment leave New Mexico more diversified, more self-sufficient, and better positioned to grow?
 Deb Haaland Democrat	New Mexicans deserve to be able to afford groceries and rent in the same month, feel safe in their communities, see a doctor when they are sick, and for kids to have a quality public education. To put more money in people’s pockets, I will raise wages, expand tax relief for working families, pursue paid family and medical leave, aggressively build and grow affordable housing, and support job creation. To ensure our kids are able to read by third grade, I will prioritize literacy outcomes and expand investment in universal childcare, community schools, and educator recruitment. Finally on public safety and healthcare, I will tackle violent crime, drugs, and gun violence, while overhauling CYFD and expanding behavioral health service.	My goal is for every step of a child’s education to open doors. My top priority is helping kids read by third grade, because reading sets them up to succeed in every subject. I will invest in literacy support, coaches, summer learning, math screening and intervention, and stronger instruction. I will protect and expand universal childcare with quality childcare options, and make early education easier to access. To support kids who might not want to go to college, I will bring the trades into middle school and more high schools. For educators, I plan to expand teacher residencies, improve pay and benefits, help with housing in rural communities, and expand community schools plus Native language and culture programs for Tribal students.	I will always protect New Mexico’s water, air, and land. Water is precious—I carried it as a child from the community spigot to my grandmother’s house. Our water future must be built on conservation, infrastructure, accountability, and partnership. I will help Tribal nations, rural towns, acequia communities, and colonias repair aging systems, reduce leaks, and grow the workforce needed to keep water flowing. I will strengthen the Water Trust Board, prioritize communities with unsafe drinking water, hold polluters accountable, and require high-water-use industries to conserve so economic growth does not come at the expense of our limited water supply.	New developments must be mutually beneficial, creating good-paying jobs for New Mexicans using local labor while protecting families from cost increases. Projects must prioritize community well-being, utilizing transparency, community benefit agreements, accountability, and clawback provisions to ensure promises are kept. Investment must safeguard water, air, land, and public health, require accurate water reporting, and ensure industries support clean energy and grid stability. I aim for New Mexico to lead in energy, tech, film, and outdoor recreation with long-term value for our communities, preventing exploitation by outside corporations seeking short-term gains.

LIEUENANT GOVERNOR

In New Mexico’s General Election the Lieutenant Governor is elected with the Governor of the same party. The Lieutenant Governor is the president of the New Mexico Senate (and can vote on a Senate issue in the event of a tie) and is the acting governor when the Governor is out of the state. The Lieutenant Governor also assists New Mexicans in their dealings with state agencies and refers complaints or special problems of New Mexicans to the proper agency. The Lieutenant Governor sits on several state boards and commissions, and performs any other duties assigned by the Governor. Term: Four years, limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will you achieve them.</i>	<i>How can you help the Senate operate more effectively and efficiently?</i>	<i>How will you facilitate communication and ensure transparency between government agencies and constituents?</i>
 David M Gallegos Republican	The Lt. Governor's primary constitutional role is presiding over the State Senate, and I've spent 14 years serving in that body. I already know the rules, the relationships, the pressure points, and the personalities. I know the difference between a bill that moves and one that dies in committee, and why. Beyond the Legislature, I bring 30 years with Gas Company of New Mexico and 16 years with Ramirez and Sons Construction--real-world experience in the industries the Senate's work directly affects. As a rural Hispanic 14th generation New Mexican, I bring a perspective that reflects communities too often unheard in Santa Fe.	Accountability: New Mexico has a spending problem masquerading as a revenue problem. I'll push for rigorous auditing of waste, fraud, and abuse--and make findings public. Public safety: I'll advance sentencing reform, oppose catch-and-release policies, and ensure officers have the resources and legal protections they need. Education: I'll champion accountability-based reform, value-added assessment, and expanded school choice for every family regardless of zip code. Affordability: I'll fight for policies that let small businesses breathe, grow our energy sector responsibly, and reduce the regulatory burden crushing working families.	Presiding over the Senate is a leadership role, and I intend to treat it that way. Fourteen years in the Legislature means I understand the procedural rules, have relationships throughout the chamber, and know how to move a body through its work without sacrificing deliberation. I will preside with fairness and consistency, apply the rules evenly regardless of party or personality, and ensure every member--majority and minority alike--has a full and fair opportunity to be heard. A Senate built on procedural integrity gets more done. That is the standard I will hold.	Transparency is a structural commitment. I'll use the Lt. Governor's office as an active conduit between state agencies and the New Mexicans they serve, particularly rural communities that feel like an afterthought in Santa Fe. That means statewide outreach every year, not just election years. It means pushing agencies to communicate plainly and responsively. And it means publicly naming failures when agencies aren't meeting expectations, because sunlight is the most powerful accountability tool we have.
 Stephanie Garcia Richard Democrat	I was a public school teacher for 19 years, a three-term State Representative, and Chair of the House Education Committee. As Commissioner of Public Lands for the last eight years, I’ve generated record- breaking revenue – over \$16 billion for our public schools – while holding oil and gas accountable. I also expanded renewable energy projects sevenfold, launched affordable housing initiatives, and reformed agency accountability to plug hundreds of abandoned wells. When Donald Trump attacks New Mexico, I know how to fight back—because I already have, creating protections for New Mexico’s precious and historical places, including Mount Taylor and Chaco Canyon.	Deb Haaland and I will lower the cost of living, expand access to affordable healthcare, stop price gouging, make our communities safer, protect our environment and water, and improve public education so our kids read at or above grade level. As Lt. Governor, I will move that agenda through the legislature and hold agencies accountable for delivering it.	I know the legislative process from the inside and out, having served three terms in the House and chaired the House Education Committee. As Lt. Governor, I will make sure the Senate operates with transparency and consistent application of its rules so the public understands what is happening every step of the way. With short, 30- and 60-day sessions, it will be my job to keep the Senate moving efficiently so we can address New Mexico’s most pressing challenges.	State government has to go to where New Mexicans actually live, rather than waiting for residents to come to Santa Fe. As Land Commissioner, I broke down agency silos and brought the Land Commissioner’s office to every part of New Mexico to meet directly with communities, ranchers, educators, and tribal nations, ensuring that policy wasn't built in a vacuum. I’ll continue that practice as Lt. Governor by bringing the Roundhouse to local communities and hearing directly from New Mexicans about the challenges they face where they live.

“Democracy cannot be forced upon a society, neither is it a gift that can be held forever. It has to be struggled hard for and defended everyday anew.” – Heinz Galinski

SECRETARY OF STATE

As New Mexico’s chief elections officer, the Secretary of State oversees the entire election process and regulates lobbyist activity and reporting of campaign finances. The Secretary of State also maintains official records about business entities as required by state law. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

	List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.	What actions, if any, would you take to increase and protect voter participation in elections?	How would you help the public navigate election information in this era of AI and social media?	What is the Secretary of State’s role in safeguarding the integrity of voter information and ensuring safe and fair elections?
 Amanda López Askin Democrat	My top priorities are protecting voting rights, modernizing election administration, and restoring trust through transparency. I will work to expand voter access by improving voter education, strengthening language access, supporting county clerks, and making election information easier to understand and access. I will also focus on protecting election systems and voter data through strong cybersecurity practices, regular training, and close coordination with local election officials. Just as important, I will make the office more responsive and transparent so voters, candidates, and administrators can get clear answers and timely support.	I would take every lawful action available to increase and protect voter participation. That includes improving public education around registration, absentee voting, early voting, and new election laws; expanding outreach to historically underrepresented communities; and working to remove barriers that discourage participation. I also believe voters should be able to cast a ballot free from fear and intimidation. That is why I supported SB 264 to prevent ICE presence at voting locations. Protecting voter participation means protecting access, dignity, and confidence in the process. I am the only candidate in this race who supported this bill.	The Secretary of State’s office must become a trusted, easy-to-find source of accurate information. In an era of AI, misinformation, and viral falsehoods, the public needs timely facts in plain language. I would prioritize rapid-response voter education, consistent myth-versus-fact messaging, multilingual outreach, and strong partnerships with county clerks, community organizations, and media outlets. The office should meet voters where they are while also making sure official information is easy to verify. We cannot allow confusion and disinformation to discourage participation or undermine trust.	The Secretary of State has a central responsibility to protect voter information, support secure election administration, and uphold fair access to the ballot. That means maintaining strong standards for cybersecurity, data privacy, training, and election procedures while working closely with county clerks and election staff across the state. It also means ensuring that elections are both secure and accessible because those values are not in conflict. A safe and fair election is one where voters know their information is protected, the rules are applied equally, and every lawful vote is counted accurately.
 Ramona L Goolsby Republican	Priorities: election integrity and public confidence; accurate, user-friendly business filings; transparent, fair enforcement of campaign finance and lobbying laws; professional office operations. I will maintain accurate voter rolls, support common-sense safeguards, modernize business registration to reduce red tape, apply statutes evenly without favoritism, provide clear public information, and work consistently with county clerks so every eligible vote counts and New Mexico businesses operate efficiently.	Participation grows when eligible citizens trust the system is fair and accurate. I will protect access through accurate voter rolls (removing outdated registrations while safeguarding lawful voters), clear education on options, efficient processes with county clerks, and neutral administration as a fair referee. Restoring trust via transparency and consistent rules encourages more eligible New Mexicans to participate while protecting integrity.	The office must be the neutral, authoritative source of clear facts. I will prioritize plain-language resources explaining registration, voting methods, deadlines, and results; provide rapid transparent responses to questions and circulating claims. A transparency portal for election records accessible by the public will be top priority. Partnering with county clerks and using secure channels helps voters obtain reliable information directly from the elections administrator.	As chief elections officer, the Secretary helps administers elections, maintains official records including voter data, supports county clerks, enforces statutes, and ensures consistent transparent procedures. Integrity requires accurate voter rolls, protected data, secure systems, clear public information, and neutral refereeing so every eligible voter can participate and every legal vote is counted accurately. The role is administrative: apply the law evenly and build confidence through competence.



“Voting is fundamental in our democracy. It has yielded enormous returns.” – Arlen Specter

“The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all.”
– John F. Kennedy

ATTORNEY GENERAL

New Mexico’s Attorney General heads New Mexico’s Department of Justice, which represents the interests of the state, state officers, state employees and New Mexico’s residents in a wide variety of courts and types of civil and criminal cases. The Attorney General issues opinions on questions of law from other state agencies or officials, and drafts contracts, bonds and other instruments for state agencies. The Attorney General also has primary authority for enforcement of consumer protection and antitrust laws, prosecution of criminal appeals and some complex white-collar crimes, training and certification of peace officers, and most natural resource and environmental matters. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

	List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.	How would you protect the rights of New Mexicans?	What actions would you support to make citizens safer?	How would you protect states’ rights as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?
 Raúl Torrez Democrat	As Attorney General, I have used my nearly two decades of experience as a prosecutor to strengthen our criminal justice system by implementing common sense policies to keep violent, repeat offenders off our streets. Additionally, the office has aggressively fought for consumers and workers, safeguarded the environment, took on corruption and special interests, and protected our democracy and women’s rights.	I've protected the rights of New Mexicans by taking direct legal action when people are harmed. I've sued Meta Platforms to address the exploitation of children online.I have also challenged federal action; joining litigation against changes to asylum and immigration policies, birthright citizenship and opposing federal restrictions that threaten access to health care and essential resources for our communities. I've enforce consumer protection laws to hold companies accountable for fraud and abuse. Protecting rights means using the law aggressively to defend safety, dignity, and justice for every New Mexican.	As a prosecutor, I prioritize public safety, I launched a statewide Crime Gun Intelligence Center and have always focused on curbing repeat violent offenders, combat organized retail crime, fentanyl trafficking, and gun violence. As the former Bernalillo County District Attorney, I have been a national leader for innovative “smart on crime” policies. I was sworn in during a crime crisis and brought new ideas, and energy to the office, while working across the political spectrum to help protect New Mexico families and businesses.	I protect states’ rights by enforcing the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and pushing back when federal decisions harm New Mexico’s authority. I have joined multi-state litigation opposing Donald Trump’s executive actions on elections that threatened to interfere with how states administer their own voting systems, as well as efforts to undermine birthright citizenship guaranteed under the Constitution. I have also worked with other states to challenge federal overreach in environmental and administrative rule-making. Protecting states’ rights means ensuring New Mexico retains the power to make its own decisions and is not sidelined by unlawful federal action.
 Samuel Isaiah Kane Sr Republican	While my platform includes many priorities and proposed solutions, there is no greater priority than community safety. I will first work to ensure that criminals who are taken off the streets stay off the streets. Our law enforcement officers work too hard only to have some criminal courts fail to effectively prosecute or sentence the offender. I will ensure that the courts no longer act as a revolving door for those who threaten our safety. And as the courts work harder to process and house criminals, our law enforcement can better direct their resources towards combating the specific crimes causing the most harm to our communities such as the influx of drugs. Protecting the people from harm, by whatever means, is my top priority.	As the “chief legal officer,” the Attorney General has substantial power to protect the rights and interests of the people. In a very real sense, the AG is “the people’s lawyer,” but with the added ability to enforce the law for the people’s protection. When we talk about “the rights of New Mexicans,” we’re really talking about the rights we value most as a community. Safety, security, access to public resources, environmental preservation, constitutional freedoms—these are examples of the rights we value most because without access to these, we lose access to the rest. I will protect all the rights of New Mexicans by first fighting for and defending the rights that matter most—through whatever powers are available to my office.	There is no excuse why New Mexico ranks at the very top of almost all national rankings when it comes to crime. Our crime rate is a product of decades of governmental neglect and meaningful change will take time. But when we prioritize success, we achieve success. First, we attack crime from the top down. Our law enforcement is already working hard to catch criminals, but the courts aren’t prosecuting. This will change. At the same time, we will work with communities and schools to create and implement comprehensive programs to identify and work with at-risk youth to take them off the streets before the police do. My office will fight anyone who seeks to harm our communities, from drug dealers to the government itself.	The Attorney General is sworn to uphold and defend the law and protect the interests of the people. It is a privilege of that office to represent the people in court when the federal government tries to overstep its power and infringe upon rights guaranteed us by the U.S. Constitution. When the interests of the people demand, and should our guaranteed rights be threatened, I will not hesitate to hold the federal government to account. I will also defend our own State’s legislation against federal government attack in defense of our citizens’ guaranteed rights. While I cannot rewrite the laws, I can, and will, prosecute and defend them with the full force of the New Mexico department of justice.



“If liberty and equality are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost.” – Aristotle

STATE AUDITOR

The State Auditor heads an office that ensures the financial affairs of every state and local governmental entity are thoroughly examined and competently audited each year. The State Auditor also ensures the comprehensive annual financial report for the state is thoroughly examined and audited each year. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What is your highest responsibility as State Auditor?</i>	<i>What actions can you take when audits are not submitted in a timely manner?</i>	<i>What are the top three issues you will investigate as State Auditor?</i>
Joshua James Ryan Lawrence Republican	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
 Joseph M Maestas Democrat	As the current State Auditor, I hold public entities and officials accountable for managing taxpayer funds and protecting taxpayer money from fraud, waste, and abuse. For example, my office has ensured that opioid settlement funds are being used properly and protected funding intended for mitigating natural disasters. Our office assisted small local public bodies like our acequias to become financially compliant and unlocked nearly \$15 million in withheld capital outlay. I’ve spent my life in public service, both in Federal civil service and in elected public service. I served as Chairman of the Public Regulation Commission, Mayor of Espanola and city councilor in both Espanola and Santa Fe. I'm also a licensed professional engineer.	The New Mexico Office of the State Auditor (OSA) is a constitutionally established executive office independent and accountable only to the people of New Mexico. The OSA has two primary statutory (Audit Act) purposes: (1) to ensure that the financial affairs of every agency shall be thoroughly examined and audited each year and (2) require the financial affairs and transactions of an agency to be audited in whole or in part. These purposes grant the State Auditor the authority to conduct both annual financial and special audits. The OSA is the State financial watchdog that protects taxpayer money from fraud, waste, and abuse. It also helps to hold court-appointed conservators accountable for managing financial assets of protected persons.	When public entity audit reports are submitted late, the public entity does receive a formal audit finding for a late report. I use my professional judgement to determine the underlying causes of the late report and determine the best course of action to address the issues. This includes referring the entity to other agencies for additional actions and informing policy makers. When audit reports are chronically late, the OSA can step in as the auditor of last resort and directly assist the troubled entity to become financially compliant as was done for Mesalands Community College through annual and special audits.	The top three issues that we will investigate and/or examine: 1) Incoming, anonymous, and credible fraud, waste, and abuse complaints. We currently have over 300 active cases; 2) High-risk public entities that are chronically late in audit report submittals and have a severe lack of internal controls, resulting in adverse and repeat findings; and 3) In partnership with the District Court system, we also investigate conservatorships, based on a risk screening of annual financial reports. These conservatorships manage the financial assets of our most vulnerable.

STATE TREASURER

The State Treasurer heads an office with a wide range of financial responsibilities, including acting as the central bank for state agencies, managing the investment of many state funds, and issuing state bonds. The Treasurer also provides a detailed statement of the condition of the state treasury to the New Mexico Legislature. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What is your highest responsibility as State Treasurer?</i>	<i>How would you address your top priorities?</i>	<i>What criteria would you recommend for selecting financial institutions in which to invest state funds?</i>	<i>Explain your position on whether the Treasurer should recommend increasing investments in NM-based companies.</i>
 James F Ellison Republican	The highest responsibility of the State Treasurer is to safeguard and to responsibly grow the public funds entrusted to the state treasury office. The State Treasurer directly manages the \$20 billion state treasury portfolio, and serves on 13 boards, councils, and commissions which oversee \$160 in state funds.	I will advocate for putting unclaimed property administration with the State Treasury Office. The Taxation & Revenue Department is the wrong office, and it shows: we're holding \$390 million that belong to New Mexican families and businesses, and returning less than 5 cents on every dollar. As your Treasurer, I'll fix that. New Mexicans deserve to know how their money is performing. I will publish a clear, plain-English quarterly investment performance report on the Treasurer's website. Transparency isn't optional when managing \$20 billion of public funds. I will use my seat on the board of the State Investment Council, as well as on other boards, to	To be clear, the state treasurer’s office directly manages the state treasury’s \$20 billion portfolio. The question, then, is really what criteria I would recommend to other boards, such as the State Investment Council for selecting outside investment advisors. The SIC has a solid framework for selecting external advisors. There are some ways this can be improved, such as doing a better job of considering total costs rather than just headline management fees. However, the bigger question is whether the ESG (environmental, social, and governance) policies that it requires managers to adhere to is a drag on investment returns. I would	In the state treasury’s \$20 billion portfolio, there simply is no statutory authority to invest directly in New Mexico-based private companies. These investments are limited to high-quality, liquid fixed-income securities. Investing in New Mexico municipal and state-issued bonds, however, is something that the Treasurer can and does do. The State Investment Council is where investing in New Mexico businesses can and does happen. There are statutory requirements for how much the SIC must invest in the NM Small Business Investment Corp. The key tension is that of fiduciary duty. I would advocate for in-state investment above and beyond what is required

	<i>What is your highest responsibility as State Treasurer?</i>	<i>How would you address your top priorities?</i>	<i>What criteria would you recommend for selecting financial institutions in which to invest state funds?</i>	<i>Explain your position on whether the Treasurer should recommend increasing investments in NM-based companies.</i>
		advocate for the responsible stewardship of state funds — not for political agendas.	advocate for an implementation of this policy that does not result in a drag on returns.	by statute only if these investments would not depress returns.
 Laura M Montoya Democrat	I swore an oath to be the state's fiduciary. A fiduciary must always act in the best interest of the funds. This is the highest ethical and legal obligation. My job is to provide safety, liquidity, and yield, in that order. I pride myself in being accessible to the people and my job is to serve New Mexicans to the best of my ability even when making tough decisions. In 2023, the portfolio I managed was \$14 billion. Today, it is \$24 billion. That is a significant increase in a very short period of time. The workload within STO has dramatically increased, and the team that I have built are doing an amazing job that New Mexican should be proud of and feel confident in. We provide not only banking but outreach that promotes financial education.	I have been addressing them, and we are ready to continue the work with your support. We are building a strong team to achieve our goals. We are earning \$2 mil/day for the state and have the largest portfolio the state treasurer's office has ever had. We are holding the Trump administration accountable, especially when his orders negatively affect New Mexico. We are collaborating efforts with several partners to support financial fitness to open access to more opportunity, baby bonds to build generational wealth, and NM STABLE to assist our disability community. We are educating leaders on the resources needed to get the job done with best practices and internal controls as a priority.	If you are referring to working with banks to manage our cash deposits, we base the relationship on risk and compliance as well as their reporting, collateral requirements, and the rate they can provide. We are developing a new program that will allow me to work with our local banks at a lower rate, with the commitment that the local banks will do more to contribute to our communities in small business loans, mortgages, or small loans for community members. This is a great partnership with our local banks. We love our bank partners and what they do for our communities across New Mexico and how they support financial education.	My portfolio does not "invest in any companies." The State Treasurer's Office is the liquidity for the state and invests per 6-10-10 NMSA. I am on 13 boards, councils and commissions including the SIC, which is the second largest sovereign wealth fund in the country. We just updated our NM portfolio to make it more successful where we focus on rate of return and now encourage and hold fund managers accountable to work in or with NM when appropriate. There are a lot of amazing investments occurring in NM whether through SBIC, ED, Housing NM, NMFA, RETA, or our two pension funds, ERB and PERA. As important as it is to invest in New Mexico based companies, it is equally important to invest in our own young people, hence baby bonds.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Commissioner of Public Lands heads the State Land Office, which oversees the use, including the collection of rent, on 9 million acres of land and 13 million acres of mineral rights. New Mexico holds these lands in trust to support public schools, universities, hospitals, charitable purposes, and penitentiaries. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What are your top three priorities for the State Land Office (SLO)?</i>	<i>What are the greatest challenges facing the SLO?</i>	<i>How would you balance the oversight and protection of state trust lands with the need to generate revenue for the support of the beneficiaries (e.g., public schools, universities, etc.)?</i>	<i>What actions, if any, should the State Land Office take to facilitate the expansion of transmission infrastructure to allow further development of New Mexico’s energy resources?</i>
 Michael Jack Perry Republican	First, maximize revenue for our beneficiaries, especially public schools through responsible energy development and sound land management. Second, support working lands by improving communication with lessees, expanding responsible access, and protecting traditional uses like grazing, hunting, and firewood gathering. Third, strengthen stewardship by improving forest and watershed management to reduce wildfire risk, protect water resources, and ensure long-term sustainability of our trust lands.	The biggest challenge is balancing increasing demand for revenue with responsible stewardship of the land. New Mexico relies heavily on trust land income to fund education, but we must also protect the long-term health of those lands. Other challenges include water scarcity, wildfire risk, access limitations, and ensuring fair and consistent policies across energy sectors. The SLO must also improve coordination with federal and local partners to better manage land, resources, and infrastructure.	The mission of the State Land Office is clear: generate revenue while protecting the long-term value of the land. Those goals are not in conflict when done right. Responsible energy development, well-managed grazing, and active land stewardship all contribute to both revenue and sustainability. I believe in a balanced, science-based approach that supports economic activity while ensuring proper reclamation, fair leasing practices, and long-term land health. If we manage the land well today, it will continue to provide for our schools and communities for generations.	The State Land Office should play a proactive role by ensuring leasing and permitting processes for transmission corridors are clear, efficient, and consistent. Transmission is critical to fully develop both traditional and renewable energy resources in New Mexico. I support coordinated planning with industry, utilities, and regulators to identify strategic corridors that minimize land impacts while maximizing access to markets. At the same time, we must ensure fair compensation to trust beneficiaries and maintain strong environmental and reclamation standards.

“The capacity to combine commitment with skepticism is essential to democracy.” – Mary Catherine Bateson

 Juan De Jesus Sanchez III Democrat	-Growing and diversifying revenue for public schools and institutions by expanding renewable energy, the outdoor economy, and long-term tools like conservation leases. While holding Oil and Gas; and all those who use our lands to the high standards. - Protect and preserve our state trust lands for future generations. - Increasing access to our lands, including expanding responsible recreation opportunities, while respecting cultural sites and traditional uses. We can generate revenue and protect what makes New Mexico special at the same time.	The greatest challenge is balancing revenue generation with long-term stewardship. State trust lands fund our public schools and institutions, but they must also be protected for future generations. That balance is becoming more difficult as we face increasing pressure from climate change, prolonged drought, and water scarcity, alongside growing demand for development on public lands. The State Land Office must take a long-term approach that ensures responsible use today while sustaining the health, productivity, and cultural value of these lands for generations to come.	These goals go hand in hand. Responsible stewardship ensures our lands remain productive over the long term. I would prioritize diversified revenue streams, including renewable energy, conservation leasing, and recreation, alongside responsible traditional development. Strong oversight, clear standards, and accountability are key. By taking a long-term approach, we can protect our lands, respect cultural values, and generate stable funding for schools and other beneficiaries.	The State Land Office should play a proactive role in facilitating responsible transmission development by leasing appropriate state lands and coordinating with federal, local, and tribal partners. Expanding transmission is critical to unlocking New Mexico’s renewable energy potential and growing revenue for our schools. At the same time, projects must be carefully sited to avoid impacts to sensitive landscapes, wildlife, and cultural resources. We also need to focus on community benefit funds for these projects, so communities impacted are benefiting as well. Done right, transmission can strengthen our economy while protecting what makes our state unique.
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NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

State Representatives sit in the New Mexico House of Representatives, which is the lower house of New Mexico. Representatives introduce and vote on proposed laws, serve on legislative committees, and participate in hearings, floor debates, fact-finding and investigations. They also may assist constituents with issues and problems the constituents may have with government agencies within New Mexico. Term: Two years; no term limits.

	How would you address your highest priorities?	How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?	What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?	What more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 6

 Martha Garcia Democrat	My highest priority is serving the constituents of District 6. With my background and experience, I am able to effectively understand and address the needs of our communities. I have been assigned to the Education Committee, where my experience in education has been a strong asset. I also serve on the Rural Development, Land Grants, and Cultural Affairs Committee, which allows me to focus on issues that directly impact our region. In these roles, I am able to communicate effectively, advocate for our communities, and work toward solutions that support the people of District 6.	The legislature should work closely with individuals and communities who have direct experience managing water, especially during times of shortage. Their knowledge and practical solutions are essential in addressing both current and future water needs. Across our state, people are already finding ways to manage water in different conditions and regions. By listening to these voices, supporting local solutions, and investing in sustainable water practices, the legislature can take a more informed and effective approach to securing our water future.	Economic development projects should align with the needs and priorities of the community and follow best practices to ensure long-term success. It is important to evaluate whether the project is a good fit for the area it is being proposed in. Key considerations should include whether appropriate land is designated for development, utilities are available or can be supported, and transportation access to the site is adequate. These factors help ensure that projects are both practical and beneficial, while supporting sustainable economic growth for the region.	I represent District 6, which covers a large rural area where many residents must travel long distances to access health care. One important solution is expanding mobile health services that can reach people in their own communities and reduce those travel barriers. We should also work to expand access to state-funded health care programs and ensure they are available to all who need them. By using every available resource and approach, we can improve access and make sure that residents across District 6 receive the care they deserve.
Paul L Spencer Republican	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>

“People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote – a very different thing.” – Walter H. Judd

	<i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?</i>	<i>What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?</i>	<i>What more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?</i>
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 69

	1. Increasing the number of quality-of-life projects in my district (parks, rec centers, trails, pools, fields, etc.). 2. Improving the roads in our rural communities that are in dire need of repair. 3. Supporting law enforcement needs and creating opportunities for enhanced public safety and response times to emergencies. 4. Promoting healthier rural communities by securing funding to expand access to preventative care, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence resources, and lower the rates of chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes.	By learning and listening to experts and understanding the options and what would work best for New Mexicans.	1. Local Control 2. Impact - environment, economy, opportunity, etc. 3. Community Investment 4. Jobs 5. Sustainable Development	Recruitment, retention, grow within initiatives, good pay, maintain and/or upgrade facilitates, provide housing for employees, provide alternative care options (telehealth, in person, nurse visits, etc.)
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Michelle Paulene
Abeyta
Democrat

NEW MEXICO STATEWIDE JUDICIAL OFFICES

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE POSITION 1

The great majority of cases heard by judges of the Court of Appeals are appeals from lower courts, since the New Mexico Court of Appeals sits between the state district courts and the New Mexico Supreme Court. Term: Eight years; no term limit.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What are the major challenges for an Appeals Court Judge?</i>	<i>What would be the most effective methods to improve Appeals Court procedures and efficiency?</i>	<i>What other information would you like voters to know about you?</i>
	I believe wholeheartedly that due process is for everyone and that no one is above or beneath the law. I vow to uphold the US and NM Constitutions. I have served in this office since Gov. Lujan Grisham appointed me in 2025, after I was recommended to her by a bi-partisan nominating commission. I have since authored opinions for the Court in both criminal and civil law. I served most of my 18-year legal career in the Dep't of Justice at the US Attorney's Office in ABQ. As an Assistant US Attorney, I handled criminal, civil, and appellate cases. I served overseas as DOJ's Judicial Attaché in Colombia, and then returned to ABQ as Chief of the Criminal Division. Previously, I clerked for both the NM Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.	The breadth of law is staggering; an appellate judge must accurately decide cases in every area of law (criminal, negligence, family, probate, property, to name but a few). But it is impossible to know all the law. A great judge humbly seeks input from other chambers, staff, and clerks to ensure each case reaches the right result for the right reasons. The work demands rigorous legal analysis and clear writing. I follow the example of my mentors by carefully parsing applicable rules, statutes, and case law. I then work tirelessly with fellow judges, clerks, and staff to ensure we draft an opinion that is understandable by the public. Finally, with ~800 cases filed in the court each year, the work load demands discipline and diligence.	With just ten judges on the Court of Appeals serving the entire State, there is a great need for efficiency. Toward that goal, the Court has developed a number of strategies over the years. For example, the Court manages a team of experienced staff attorneys who use a calendaring system to filter cases by degree of difficulty. The Court recently piloted a successful mediation program that facilitates settlement for appropriate cases. Those strategies have reduced the number of cases awaiting a decision. But the Court should (and does) strive toward continual improvement. To that end, the judges meet monthly to discuss and employ new methods. We are working to build more efficiency in the way we write and participate on our opinions.	I am married to María Montoya who is an OB/Gyn and attending physician at the University of New Mexico Hospital. My wife and I are raising three children and stay busy with their football, soccer, basketball, and track activities. I earned my law degree from UNM School of Law, where I received the Dean's Award for Significant Contribution to the Law School Community and was on the Dean's List and Honor Roll. I also previously served as a Captain in the US Air Forces Reserves. I was commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force JAG Corps and was assigned to the 27th Special Operations Wing at Cannon Air Force Base and the 377th Air Base Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base.

Kris
Houghton
Democrat

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

Members of the Public Education Commission receive, review and approve or disapprove applications from charter schools that want to be chartered or renewed by the state. The Commission also may renew, suspend or revoke the charter of a state-chartered school. Term: Four years; no term limits.

	<i>What are your top three priorities for the Public Education Commission?</i>	<i>Should there be a cap on the total number of state charter schools? Please explain.</i>	<i>How should the Public Education Commission assess the financial stability of schools before authorizing or renewing a charter?</i>	<i>How will you evaluate the educational performance of state charter schools?</i>
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PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

Sharon E Clahchischilliage Republican	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
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PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 6

Stewart Alan Ingham Republican	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
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CIBOLA COUNTY OFFICES

CIBOLA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Magistrates are judges in limited jurisdiction courts. They hold the initial hearings in many types of serious criminal cases, and try criminal cases, including many first-time DUI/DWI and other misdemeanor cases which carry relatively less serious penalties. They also have jurisdiction over some types of civil cases (e.g., landlord/tenant and contracts) in which the amount sought is less than \$10,000. Term: Four years; no term limits.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What are the major challenges when serving as a Magistrate Judge?</i>	<i>What would be the most effective methods to improve Magistrate Court procedures and efficiency?</i>	<i>What other information would you like voters to know about you?</i>
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CIBOLA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 1

Tony L Mace Democrat	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
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CIBOLA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 2

 Robert Scott Windhorst Republican	I served a two year mission for my Church in the Philippines(1977-1979). I have been married for 43 years. My wife and I have raised nine children and we have 14 grandchildren. I studied Political Science at BYU and owned my own business for many years. I was also a Realtor for 17 years. I have served on numerous professional boards and have always been active in any community I have lived in. I have been elected two terms as a Cibola County Commissioner for District 4 and served honorably. For the past 11 years I have worked for the City of Grant in Planning and Zoning and Code Enforcement. This gave me experience with going to Municipal and Magistrate Court to handle citations filed with both courts.	Given that the Magistrate Court is the gateway court for the higher courts and has a heavy flow of cases that come before it every day, this presents challenges. The Magistrate Court also has issues with some of the court houses they inhabit. Magistrate Courts don't always get the funds they need to rehab or build new court houses. Another challenge is staffing and retaining staff. Court staff are very important to taking care of all the paperwork and keeping everything on the calendar running smoothly. Magistrate Judges must face re-election every four years in partisan elections, which can bring political pressure on Magistrate Judges. Avoiding bias at all cost protects Magistrate Judges.	Leadership is always top down. If the Magistrate Court Judge conducts themselves in a professional, organized and respectful manner, the court staff will step up and do the same. This will happen with continuing education and training. Funds from the State to keep the court running means that Magistrate Court Judges should be able to read a budget and adhere to it. One of my concerns will always be court safety and I, if elected, will petition the State to implement better safety technology to protect the public that comes before the court. We do have a metal detector, however, we should be more proactive in the security of the Magistrate Court. I will work full time and beyond to keep the court's business moving forward.	I have built a reputation throughout my life of helping those around me to succeed and move forward. My wife and I have raised a large family and we are very pleased with the result. I believe in having respect for all people, no matter what their situation is. I believe in doing the right thing for the right reason. I will be fair, firm and consistent in my rulings and will follow the law. I have cuff links my father had when he went to law school. Lady Justice wearing a blindfold, holding the scales of justice. People come to court for many reasons, they should always be able to depend on the Magistrate Court Judge to be fair and unbiased. I will be that kind of Magistrate Judge.
Jessica M Melonas Democrat	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.

CIBOLA COUNTY SHERIFF

The County Sheriff’s duties include policing and preventing crime; apprehending and arresting suspects; preserving public peace; enforcing laws and ordinances; executing court orders and warrants; and cooperating with and assisting other law enforcement agencies. Term: Four years, limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the administration of the Sheriff’s office?</i>	<i>What do you see as the most critical problems facing the Sheriff’s office?</i>	<i>What would you do about them?</i>	<i>What training, if any, should be provided to officers for dealing with mental health issues?</i>
Aaron Henry Baca Republican	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
Larry D Diaz Democrat	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>

CIBOLA COUNTY ASSESSOR

The County Assessor determines the taxable value of homes, businesses and other property within the county, as the basis of setting ad valorem (property) taxes, sending notice of assessed values to property owners, and preparing the property tax rolls for the County Treasurer. Term: Four years, limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>How do you plan to ensure fairness and transparency in property valuations?</i>	<i>What training will you provide for your staff in the technical, legal, and administrative aspects of property valuation and taxation?</i>
Jenna M Rodriguez Democrat	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>

CIBOLA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

County Commissions are policy-making body that may establish a budget, enact ordinances, approve tax levies, enforce planning and zoning rules, and coordinate with other government agencies to provide for the safety of the county and its inhabitants, to preserve community health, and promote prosperity within the county. Term: Four years, limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What are the biggest challenges facing your county?</i>	<i>How would you address these challenges?</i>	<i>How would you inform citizens about matters coming before the County Commission before decisions are made?</i>	<i>How would you propose to balance growth with water scarcity in an increasingly arid state?</i>

CIBOLA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

Richard Allen Cerno Democrat	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
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CIBOLA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

Martin M Vigil Democrat	I view the biggest challenges in Cibola County are economic development and public safety.	I believe Cibola County should provide all the tools necessary to address criminal activity in all areas of the county, specifically drug crimes. As we know, drug problems lead to property crimes. The county should also provide needed resources to the many local fire departments in the rural areas of the county. In our current drought situation, we need to figure out incentives that would allow the local fire departments to recruit volunteers and retain them. As for economic development, Cibola County should work directly with both local governments to bring in new businesses and jobs. We should always be on the lookout for any grants and legislative funding (state and federal) that could help accomplish these goals.	I believe Cibola County Commission meeting should be transparent even before the meeting is held. The current administration sends out email announcements regarding upcoming meetings with agendas. Perhaps that information can be posted on the Cibola County website. I would also like to see the Cibola County Commission meetings live streamed via YouTube. Not everyone, uses Facebook. Plus, YouTube archives meetings. I would also encourage citizens to reach out to their commissioners and offer their opinion prior to the meetings. If elected, I would consider a social media account specifically for constituent comments or opinions on matters presented.	Since I manage our Acequia in my home town, I understand water scarcity. My concern with water is, we need to be very cautious with big corporations seeking to build in Cibola County while consuming large amounts of water. Studies would need to be looked into before we make knee jerk decisions just to get agreements signed. We basically need to look at the future implications before we decide. The impact may or may not be immediate, which is why we need detailed studies. Making quick decisions may have adverse affects to future generations in our community. Quick money doesn't always equal a positive outcome.
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CIBOLA COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

Judges in probate courts handle the procedures governing the distribution of a decedent’s property in less complicated cases. (More complicated cases are handled by state District Court judges.). Term: Four years; no term limits.

	<i>Describe the specific legal training and knowledge that have prepared you for the office of Probate Judge.</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the functioning of the Probate Court?</i>	<i>How can you educate the public about the court’s processes?</i>	<i>What other information would you like voters to know about you?</i>
 Corrine C Padilla Democrat	My service as Probate Judge from 1986 to 1998 and again from 2010 to 2018 provided extensive legal training and practical knowledge directly relevant to the office. Over those years, I gained a deep understanding with the laws and procedures regarding probate. I completed all requirements for judicial education and compliance with New Mexico Law and Supreme Court Rules.	I would re-evaluate the current office hours of the Cibola County Probate Court.	I would educate the public by providing clear and easy to understand information about court process, printed materials and online resources. My goal will be to make the probate process, more accessible, transparent, and less overwhelming for everyone.	I am a lifelong resident of Cibola County and have a deep commitment to serving my community. I bring years of experience in the court system and a strong understanding of probate matters.

JUDICIAL RETENTIONS

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

Ballot Language

JUDICIAL RETENTION: Shall NAME OF INCUMBENT be retained as Justice of the SUPREME OF COURT

[YES/NO]

The Supreme Court is the highest court in New Mexico. Most of the cases decided by the New Mexico Supreme Court justices are final appeals from lower state courts. The Supreme Court also has supervisory control over all the lower courts and all attorneys licensed in the state. Initially, Supreme Court justices are either appointed by the Governor or win in a general election. Appointed judges must run in the next general election, so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a general election, all justices face a nonpartisan retention election every eight years. To remain on the Court they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Term: Eight years; no term limits.

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT			
David K Thomson Nonpartisan	I have served eight years as Justice on the New Mexico Supreme Court. I just finished a two year term as Chief Justice. I am honored to receive a "Retain" recommendation from the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. I started my judicial career as a trial court judge in the 1st Judicial Court. I served in the House of Delegates for the American Bar Association. I am a member of the American Law Institute. I have developed a rule of law initiative where we travel around the state to conduct oral argument and visit local schools. I have been recognized for my work in judicial education and I teach legal education on a number of topics. I am a native of Santa Fe, NM.	As Chief Justice, I developed on on line portal where the public can see what cases we are considering and how our work compares to our performance measures. Transparency and professionalism were the themes of my tenure. The judiciary should continue to advocate for its independence from the other political branches. The Supreme Court should continue to advance the rule of law and get out to the community to ensure that the citizens of this State understand our role in the democratic system.	Our main job is to decide cases in a timely manner and write decisions that lawyers and non-lawyers can understand. We should continue to make efforts to expand our rule of law program and to make legal assistance affordable and accessible for all New Mexicans. For citizens to trust their government they must trust that the Supreme Court is an independent and unbiased institution.

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT			
 Shannon Bacon Nonpartisan	I have been serving New Mexico as a judge for over 16 years. I bring that experience and my passion for the rule of law to my work everyday. I am also a leader locally and nationally on issues that state courts must address: access to the courts, rural justice, artificial intelligence, and legal education and licensing reform.	The Court has moved to a new calendar system that requires the justices to file all opinions heard in a term (September to July) by July 15. Continuing to refine and expand this process is important because timely deciding our cases provides stability and predictability for the judicial system and the community.	The continuing challenge for the Supreme Court and the judiciary as a whole is addressing access to justice -- providing legal representation for those who cannot afford it. Improving how New Mexicans can effectively and affordably access the courts is a constant need.

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

Ballot Language

JUDICIAL RETENTION: Shall NAME OF INCUMBENT be retained as Judge of the COURT OF APPEALS

[YES/NO]

The great majority of cases heard by Court of Appeals judges are appeals of lower court rulings, since the New Mexico Court of Appeals sits between the state district courts and the New Mexico Supreme Court. Initially, Court of Appeals judges are either appointed by the governor or win in a general election. Appointed judges must run in the next general election, so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a general election, all Court of Appeals judges face a nonpartisan retention election every eight years. To remain on the Court they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Term: Eight years; no term limit.

	<i>What qualifies you for this position?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Court of Appeals practices and why?</i>	<i>What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?</i>
 J. Miles Hanisee Nonpartisan	It has been my honor to serve New Mexicans as one of ten judges on the Court of Appeals for more than 15 years. In that time, I've been elected twice, authored over 1000 cases on behalf of our court, and served as a judge on thousands more. I am grateful that the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission recommends that I be retained for another term, and strive every day to efficiently and swiftly resolve disputes of critical importance to people, families, and businesses throughout our state. Upholding individual rights, ensuring adherence to the constitution and laws of New Mexico, and resolving appeals without preference or bias are the hallmarks of judicial service, to which I faithfully adhere.	The New Mexico Court of Appeals resolves nearly 1000 cases a year, ranging from criminal to civil to administrative, affecting numerous people, communities, the environment and our state's precious natural resources. Finding a way to speed up complicated appellate processes, while providing litigants an appropriate amount of time to develop and present their cases, is always a challenge. I support modernizing rules related to notices of appeal, docketing statements (preliminarily identifying issues on appeal), and the provision of trial court records to appellate courts in order to more quickly render cases capable of resolution by our court.	Simplifying court processes to emphasize access to justice, providing an environment that is even more open and transparent and explanatory, adjusting to changes in technology and the use of artificial intelligence, supplying answers that are readable and able to be understood by any member of the public, and not just lawyers, are areas in which all courts--including ours--can improve. We as a court of ten judges, assisted by our staff attorneys and law clerks and paralegals and administrative professionals, are committed to bettering ourselves and our court in the months and years to come, recognizing the critical and evolving role of the judiciary in New Mexico.

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUDGE OF THE ...

Ballot Language

JUDICIAL RETENTION: Shall NAME OF INCUMBENT be retained as Judge of the NAME OF COURT

[YES/NO]

State District Court judges hear many types of cases, both civil and criminal. Their civil cases include private injury lawsuits, contracts, real estate, family law, and some mental health and election-related issues. The criminal cases they hear include felony and more serious misdemeanor matters. Initially, District Court judges are either appointed by the governor or win in a general election. Appointed judges must run in the next general election so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a general election, all District Court judges face a nonpartisan retention election every six years. To remain on the Court they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Term: Six years; no term limits.

	<i>In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how have you helped improve the operations of the District Court?</i>	<i>What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?</i>	<i>What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to equal justice in this judicial district?</i>	<i>What other information would you like the voters to know about you?</i>
JUDICIAL RETENTION JUDGE OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DIVISION 01				
James Lawrence Sanchez Nonpartisan	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
JUDICIAL RETENTION JUDGE OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DIVISION 04				
Amanda Sanchez Villalobos Nonpartisan	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
JUDICIAL RETENTION JUDGE OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DIVISION 07				
Christopher George Perez Nonpartisan	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.

“Evolution of democracy is not possible if we are not prepared to hear the other side.” – Mahatma Gandhi

PROPOSED NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1: ELIMINATE POCKET VETOES

Ballot Language

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 4, SECTION 22 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO REQUIRE THE GOVERNOR TO PROVIDE VETO MESSAGES ON ALL BILLS VETOED IN WHOLE OR IN PART AND TO PROVIDE THAT ALL BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE AND NOT ACTED ON BY THE GOVERNOR WILL BECOME LAW.

[YES/NO]

Enmienda Constitucional 1:

Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 4, Sección 22, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para requerir que el gobernador que presente mensajes de veto sobre todos los proyectos de ley vetados total o parcialmente, y para establecer que todos los proyectos de ley aprobados por la Legislatura sobre los cuales el gobernador no actúe se conviertan en ley.

[SÍ/NO]

Explanation:

This proposed amendment would remove the “pocket veto.” The pocket veto occurs when the governor does not sign a bill that was passed during the last three days of the legislative session, stopping the bill from becoming law. Under the proposed amendment, a bill sent to the governor during the last three days of the session would automatically become law unless the governor vetoes the bill within 20 days after the legislature’s adjournment. Also, the governor would be required to provide a written, substantive explanation for any veto.

Arguments For:

- Requires the governor to give a written explanation about why any legislation is vetoed, so that the legislature can reintroduce legislation in the future to address the governor’s concerns.
- May bring greater balance among branches of government because lawmakers could ask the courts to determine whether the governor has provided a substantive explanation.

Arguments Against:

- The term ‘substantive explanation’ is undefined and may lead to court action between the legislature and the governor.
- The governor’s office might be burdened after the session by a large number of bills that would need a substantive explanation’ of their veto.
- It is unnecessary since the legislature could eliminate the pocket veto simply by enacting important legislation earlier in the session.

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2: SCHOOL ELECTIONS TIMING

Ballot Language:

PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 7, SECTION 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT SCHOOL ELECTIONS BE SEPARATE FROM PARTISAN ELECTIONS.

[YES/NO]

Enmienda Constitucional 2:

Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 7, Sección 1, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para eliminar el requisito de que las elecciones escolares sean separadas de las elecciones partidistas.

[SÍ/NO]

Explanation:

This amendment would allow school districts the option to add bond and mill levy questions to ballots in a partisan election, such as the regular general election. It would also give the legislature the authority to allow local school board elections to be held during the same election cycle as partisan elections.

Arguments For:

- Currently school districts can only place bond issues and mill levy questions in local nonpartisan elections, which are held in odd numbered years. If the proposed amendment passes, school boards have the option to place bond issues or mill levy questions on the ballot in any election cycle, giving them more flexibility to manage their capital needs.
- Allowing school districts to place a bond or mill levy question on the ballot during partisan general elections may increase the number of voters who participate in school elections, better reflecting the voice of the community.
- School districts still have the option to hold special bond elections if these better suit their needs.

Arguments Against:

- Adding school questions to the general election ballot may create voter fatigue and increase the cost of elections if a longer ballot is needed.
- The importance of school issues on a partisan general election ballot may be diminished due to the high number of issues and candidates on the ballot.

“If you have a plan, we want to hear it. Tell your community leaders, your local officials, your governor and your team in Washington. Believe me, your ideas count. An individual can make a difference.” – George H.W. Bush

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 3: BOARDS OF REGENTS NOMINATING COMMITTEES

Ballot Language:

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 12, SECTION 13 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO ESTABLISH NOMINATING COMMITTEES TO PROVIDE LISTS OF NOMINEES TO THE GOVERNOR FOR APPOINTMENT OF NONSTUDENT MEMBERS TO THE BOARDS OF REGENTS OF STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; PROVIDING THAT STUDENT MEMBERS OF BOARDS OF REGENTS SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM A LIST PROVIDED BY AN ELECTED STUDENT GOVERNING BODY OF THE INSTITUTION; PROVIDING THAT, EXCEPT FOR A STUDENT MEMBER, MEMBERS OF THE BOARDS OF REGENTS SHALL NOT HAVE CHANGED THEIR POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION IN THE TWELVE MONTHS PRECEDING APPOINTMENT.
[YES/NO]

Enmienda Constitucional 3:

Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 12, Sección 13, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para establecer comités de nominación que proporcionen listas de nominados al gobernador para el nombramiento de miembros no estudiantiles de las juntas de regentes de las instituciones educativas estatales; disponiendo que los miembros estudiantiles de las juntas de regentes serán nombrados de una lista proporcionada por un órgano de gobierno estudiantil electo de la institución; disponiendo que, con excepción de un miembro estudiantil, los miembros de las juntas de regentes no hayan cambiado su registro de partido político durante los seis meses anteriores a su nombramiento.
[SÍ/NO]

Explanation:

A board of regents governs each of the ten state educational institutions. Currently, the regents for each of these institutions are appointed by the governor and approved by the Senate. The amendment would:

- Require the governor to appoint:
 - regents from a list of candidates selected by a nonpartisan nominating committee established by the legislature; and
 - student regents from a list provided by each institution’s student government, not the institution’s president.
- Disqualify any non-student regents if they changed political party registration in the 12 months before being appointed.

Arguments For:

- A regent nominating committee should ensure that nominees will best serve the interests of the particular institution, thereby providing more accountability in its control and management.
- Since the nominating committee would be nonpartisan, nominees would more likely be best qualified and would not be appointed based on their relationship with the governor or the governing political party.

Arguments Against:

- This amendment would dilute both the governor’s constitutional authority to appoint regents and the senate’s power to advise and consent.
- The Governor and the Senate are directly responsible to voters, whereas a regent nominating committee would not be.

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 4: LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION

Ballot Language:

PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 4, SECTION 10 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO ALLOW LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION THAT IS LIMITED TO THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR NEW MEXICO, TO REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION TO BE REDUCED IF THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR NEW MEXICO FALLS, TO ALLOW LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION TO BE INCREASED ONLY IF THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR NEW MEXICO RISES AND TO PROVIDE FOR DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION.
[YES/NO]

Enmienda Constitucional 4:

Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 4, Sección 10, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para permitir una compensación legislativa limitada al ingreso familiar mediano de Nuevo México; requerir que la compensación legislativa se reduzca si el ingreso familiar mediano de Nuevo México disminuye; permitir que la compensación legislativa aumente únicamente si el ingreso familiar mediano de Nuevo México aumenta; y disponiendo una implementación diferida.
[SÍ/NO]

Explanation:

Currently, New Mexico state senators and representatives only receive daily limited compensation for mileage and per diem for meals and lodging. This amendment would allow legislators to receive a salary equal to the median household income for New Mexico, currently approximately \$68,000. This amount could be adjusted by the legislature in the future. The amendment would go into effect in January 2029.

Arguments For:

- A more diverse group of people might run for the legislature if they have less financial pressure to prioritize their other jobs and don’t have to choose between earning a living and public service, giving voters more candidates choices that better represent communities they serve.
- Positions the legislature to serve as a co-equal branch of government with the governor and judicial branches since they will be able to dedicate more time to their duties.
- Legislators work year-round beyond the 30 or 60-day sessions, by serving on interim committees, drawing up legislation, and handling constituent needs.

Arguments Against:

- The salary proposed is higher than many other states, especially considering the number of days the legislature is in session and the poverty level in the state.
- Legislators receiving salaries would have an unfair advantage against opposing candidates who must campaign and raise funds that could require them to lose employment income, while incumbent legislators would be paid while they run for office.
- Paying legislators would add more than \$7 million each year to public spending.

“Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country and this world.” – Sharon Salzberg

NEW MEXICO BALLOT QUESTIONS

NEW MEXICO BOND QUESTION 1: AGING AND LONG-TERM SERVICES

GENERAL ELECTION 2026 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND TAXES

[Assume] all three bond questions described below will be approved by voters, the property tax year 2025 mill levy has been set at 1.36 mils, which is the same as the 2023 and 2024 rates. The State Board of Finance estimates if all three bond questions are approved by the voters, the annual cost of repaying the bonds over a ten-year period would be approximately \$12.82 per \$100,000 of asset value per year. Of the annual average \$12.82, Bond Question 1 accounts for \$0.70, Bond Question 2 accounts for \$0.63, and Bond Question 3 accounts for \$11.49.

Ballot Language:

The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed twenty-one million five hundred eighty-two thousand two hundred thirteen dollars (\$21,582,213) to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition projects and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

[YES/NO]

Pregunta de Bonos 1:

El Acta de Bonos de Obligación General para Proyectos de Capital de 2026 autoriza la emisión y venta de bonos para el mejoramiento, la construcción y la adquisición de equipo para instalaciones para adultos mayores. ¿Deberá autorizarse al estado a emitir bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no exceda de veintiún millones quinientos ochenta y dos mil doscientos trece dólares (\$21,582,213) para realizar gastos de capital para ciertos proyectos de mejoramiento, construcción y adquisición de equipo para instalaciones para adultos mayores, y disponer la imposición y recaudación de un impuesto general sobre la propiedad para el pago del capital, los intereses y los gastos incurridos en relación con la emisión de los bonos y la recaudación del impuesto según lo permitido por la ley?

[SÍ/NO]

NEW MEXICO BOND QUESTION 2: LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Ballot Language:

The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of library acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed nineteen million three hundred twenty-four thousand one hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$19,324,188) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, public and tribal library resource acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

[YES/NO]

Pregunta de Bonos 2:

El Acta de Bonos de Obligación General para Proyectos de Capital de 2026 autoriza la emisión y venta de bonos para adquisiciones para bibliotecas. ¿Deberá autorizarse al estado a emitir bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no exceda de diecinueve millones trescientos veinticuatro mil ciento ochenta y ocho dólares (\$19,324,188) para realizar gastos de capital para adquisiciones de recursos para bibliotecas académicas, bibliotecas de escuelas públicas, bibliotecas públicas y bibliotecas tribales, y disponer la imposición y recaudación de un impuesto general sobre la propiedad para el pago del capital, los intereses y los gastos incurridos en relación con la emisión de los bonos y la recaudación del impuesto según lo permitido por la ley?

[SÍ/NO]

NEW MEXICO BOND QUESTION 3: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITIONS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND TRIBAL SCHOOLS STATEWIDE

Ballot Language:

The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed three hundred fifty-two million two hundred twenty five thousand three hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$352,225,379) to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

[YES/NO]

Pregunta de Bonos 3:

El Acta de Bonos de Obligación General para Proyectos de Capital de 2026 autoriza la emisión y venta de bonos para mejoras de capital y adquisiciones para la educación superior, las escuelas especiales y las escuelas tribales. ¿Deberá autorizarse al estado a emitir bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no exceda de trescientos cincuenta y dos millones doscientos veinticinco mil trescientos setenta y nueve dólares (\$352,225,379) para realizar gastos de capital para ciertas mejoras de capital y adquisiciones para la educación superior, escuelas especiales y escuelas tribales, y disponer la imposición y recaudación de un impuesto general sobre la propiedad para el pago del capital, los intereses y los gastos incurridos en relación con la emisión de los bonos y la recaudación del impuesto según lo permitido por la ley?

[SÍ/NO]

“*The moral test of a government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life – the children; the twilight of life – the elderly; and the shadows of life – the sick, the needy and the handicapped.*” – Hubert Humphrey

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ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Create Your Voting Plan Today!

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. A single vertical red margin line runs down the left side of the page. The paper appears to be from a notebook or a standard writing template. There are no markings, text, or drawings on the page.