



6739 Academy Rd. NE Suite 124, Albuquerque NM 87109
Email: leaders@lwvnm.org Phone: 505-864-8441
www.lwvnm.org

VOTER GUIDE

GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 5, 2024

A General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. 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.

Luna County Clerk Berenda McWright
700 South Silver Ave; Box 7, Deming, NM 88030
Phone: (505) 546-0491

Website: www.lunacountynm.us/departments/clerk/index.php

Election & Registration Inquiries: berenda_mcwright@lunacountynm.us

For Navajo language assistance please contact the County Clerk's Office.

This is your free copy of this guide to the election.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available on request from the County Clerk's office, or from the Secretary of State at www.NMVOTE.ORG. They must be returned by mail to the County Clerk, in person or online at www.NMVOTE.ORG. Request an absentee ballot early and be sure to mail it in 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.

Dates & Times for the General Election

October 8, 2024: First day of absentee/early voting at the County Clerk's Office, Mon -Fri 8 am to 5 pm

October 19, 2024: Early voting at alternate sites begins Tue - Fri 11 am to 7 pm Sat 9 am to 5 pm.

October 22, 2024: Last day County Clerk may receive applications and mail absentee ballots

November 2, 2024: Early voting at County Clerk's Office ends (This is the only Saturday voters may cast their ballot at the Clerk's Office 10 am to 6 pm)

November 2, 2024: Last day of early voting at alternate sites 9 am to 5 pm

November 5, 2024: Election Day - Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

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 post-secondary 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 go to vote.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico is pleased to offer this Voter Guide for the 2024 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 a complete Voter Guide with candidates' answers to our questions, go to www.VOTE411.org to see our online Voter Guide

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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BONDS

Early In-Person Voting will not take place on Monday, October 14, 2024

County Offices will be closed in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day.

Luna County Polling Locations

Early Voting

October 8 - November 2, 2024

Monday-Thursday 8:00-5:30

Friday 8:00-12:00

Saturday November 2 10:00-6:00

Luna County Clerk's Office

700 S Silver Ave, Deming, NM 88030

October 19 - November 2, 2024

Tuesday-Friday 11:00-7:00

Saturday 9:00-5:00

Mimbres Valley Learning Center

2300 E Pine St, Deming, NM 88030

Election Day

November 5, 2024

Tuesday 7:00-7:00

Holy Family Parish Hall

615 S Copper St, Deming, NM 88030

Mimbres Valley Learning Center

2300 E Pine St, Deming, NM 88030

Columbus Village Library

112 Broadway Ave, Columbus, NM 88029

FEDERAL OFFICES

Questions:

Q1. Why do you want to run for this seat?

Q2. What are the most important issues facing Congress in the next two years?

Q3. How would you address them?

Q4. What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding immigration?

Q5. What, if anything, would you do to improve the functioning of Congress?

United States Senator

This person represents New Mexico in the United States Senate. The Senate has 100 members, two from each state. Candidates must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States for at least nine years, and a resident of the state from which elected. Senators are elected statewide for staggered six-year terms. One New Mexico seat is up for election in 2024.

Martin Heinrich

Democratic

A1: As your Senator, we've passed legislation to deliver unprecedented investments for our children, our working families, and our seniors in New Mexico. Because of these investments, we've begun to see costs for things like

groceries and prescription drugs go down and our economy grow, I'm running for reelection to the Senate because we still have more work to do, from tackling climate change to expanding access to health care to ensure that every New Mexican has the opportunity to thrive.

A2: If reelected, my priorities will be to grow rural economies, reduce costs for New Mexico families, raise workers' wages, expand access to health care, protect the rights of workers, and tackle climate change while creating high-quality jobs.

A3: We should build on the Inflation Reduction Act, Infrastructure Law, and CHIPS and Science Act that we've passed into law and New Mexico is starting to feel the impacts of. The Inflation Reduction Act is bringing jobs to rural New Mexico, especially in clean energy manufacturing. The Inflation Reduction Act also lowered costs for prescriptions for seniors on Medicare and is making health insurance more affordable. The Infrastructure Law is bringing billions of dollars to New Mexico to rebuild roads, bridges, and energy infrastructure, and the CHIPS Act is bringing thousands of good paying jobs to expand manufacturing and strengthen our national security. Now it's time to ensure every New Mexican can access the benefits of these historic laws.

A4: We need solutions, not political stunts. We need to tackle the huge backlog of lawful immigration, so it doesn't take years for a person's paperwork to be processed. And we need to invest in smart border security technology that detects and stops drugs like fentanyl before they get into our communities. We need to staff and support the law enforcement agencies at our border that are helping to maintain our national security and efficiently process cross-border trade with our largest trade partner, Mexico. We need more pathways for skilled immigrants eager to fill labor shortages in industries with severe workforce shortages, like agriculture and health care. And we need to finally ensure DREAMers have a swift path to full citizenship.

A5: Congress should pass legislation to get dark money out of our elections and give the American people transparency into who is attempting to influence their votes. Additionally, the Senate should end the filibuster to prevent a single Senator from disrupting the Democratic process and ensure working people in America have a real seat at the table in Washington.

Nella Louise Domenici

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

United States Representative District 2

This person represents New Mexico in the United States House of Representatives. The House has 435 members elected from districts based on population. New Mexico is entitled to three members. Candidates must be at least 25 years old, a United States citizen for seven years, and must be a resident of New Mexico. Representatives are elected by district for a two-year term.

Gabriel Vasquez

Democratic

A1: I am running for re-election because there is still a lot of work to do for our community. Now more than ever, we need to protect reproductive rights, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, veterans, tribal communities, teachers, students, and our public lands. I want to run for this seat specifically because I

am so proud to have been born and raised in the borderlands. I am proud to call Las Cruces my home and will continue to dedicate my career to fighting for my community.

A2: Extreme Republicans prioritize petty politics over common-sense solutions. Actual governance is the biggest issue facing Congress, impacting women's reproductive rights, inflation, affordable housing, immigration and border security, which are top issues for Congress to solve. My constituents are concerned about the economy, access to clean water, affordable broadband and quality healthcare, including women's reproductive healthcare. Unlike my opponent, who sponsored legislation to restrict abortion access, I firmly believe in a woman's right to choose. I am tired of this district being left behind because Republican Leadership continues to put politics over people. We must keep this district blue and take back control of the House in 2024.

A3: We address them by working across the aisle, delivering common sense policies and always sticking to our values. Since my first day serving in Congress, I have prioritized putting forth bipartisan, common-sense solutions that would have strong support if Republican Leadership brought it to the floor. However, because extremist Republicans are prioritizing messaging bills for the 2024 election over solutions, progress will always stagnate. By prioritizing the well-being of our constituents over partisan politics, we can overcome the challenges ahead and ensure a brighter future for all residents of our district.

A4: Congress has not delivered meaningful immigration reform in over 40 years. Republicans prefer to use immigration as a political tool. I'm in Congress to provide solutions, not play partisan games. That is why I started the Bipartisan Southwest Caucus and have introduced bipartisan legislation that addresses our broken immigration system and the challenges we face at our border to: stop cartels and coyotes' ability to harm local communities; implement better technology and more staff to stop the flow of fentanyl; create pathways to visa reform for farm workers and enable immigrants working in critical sectors to remain and work legally here; hold detention centers accountable and prevent them from cultivating inhumane conditions.

A5: Republican House Leadership has created the most dysfunctional Congress. The resulting chaos and disarray, including the unprecedented removal of a Speaker, have hindered progress and left many Americans underserved. New Mexico deserves better. I focus on serving the people by addressing the everyday challenges working families face. From the affordability of groceries to the availability of housing, my commitment is to deliver tangible improvements that positively impact our constituents. To restore functionality to Congress, we must reclaim the majority and elect leaders who prioritize results over chaos. It's time to shift from policies that divide and inflame toward those that create a brighter, more equitable future for all Americans.

Yvette Herrell

Republican

A1: I am running because I feel a responsibility to serve the citizens of New Mexico's Second Congressional District. As I visit with voters across the district, too many do not feel represented in Washington, DC. I represent a return to the commonsense conservative values that made our country strong: fiscal sanity, personal responsibility, free markets, secure borders, and safe communities. If elected, I will always put the citizens of New Mexico first and do everything in my power to help make our state a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

A2: Lowering the cost of living and securing the border.

A3: Inflation was created by out of control federal deficit spending. I support a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution to ensure that the federal government lives within its means just like New Mexico families must. Our national debt is \$35 trillion and growing - this is totally unsustainable and must be addressed for the sake of future generations who will face the consequences of our nations' addiction to debt. Millions of illegal immigrants have entered our country under the Biden Administration, significantly more than the entire population of New Mexico. We must crack down on asylum fraud, end the practice of catch and release, reinstitute in Mexico, and complete the border wall.

A4: Again, we need to reimplement the Remain in Mexico policy, end catch and release, and complete the border wall. We need to reform our broken asylum system to ensure prompt deportation of the vast majority of illegal immigrants who do not qualify for asylum. We also need to see that those selling, transporting, and poisoning the American people with fentanyl and other dangerous drugs are held accountable and face serious consequences for their acts. Once we get the border secure and under control, Congress should turn its focus to reforming our broken legal immigration system to make it simpler for qualified immigrants to enter legally and have the opportunity to live the American Dream and make our country stronger.

A5: Congress should decentralize decision making and return to regular order. This starts by passing - and sticking to - a federal budget, then completing the appropriations process. Too often this process fails, leading to shutdown threats and last minute massive funding bills written in secrecy by a select few.

NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE

Questions: (SD 28)

Q1. Why do you want to run for this seat?

Q2. How have your experience and education prepared you for this position?

Q3. What will be your highest priorities?

Q4. How can the legislature address water issues in an increasingly arid state?

Q5. What should the legislature do to improve public safety in New Mexico?

Q6. What, if any, changes to NM's tax structure do you support?

Questions: (SD 35 and HD 32)

Q1: What skills, education and prior experiences qualify you for this office?

Q2: If elected, what are your highest priorities?

Q3: What changes, if any, need to be made in the tax structure of the state?

Q4: What would you propose to diversify New Mexico's economy and promote sustainable economic growth?

Q5: What reforms would you support to improve New Mexico's educational ranking?

State Senator

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, senators enact "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must

be at least 25 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a four-year term. Senators do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem.

State Senator District 28

Gabriel J Ramos

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

Chris M Ponce

Democratic

The candidate has not yet responded.

State Senator District 35

Crystal Diamond Brantley

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

State Representative

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, representatives enact “reasonable and appropriate laws,” represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 21 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a two-year term. Representatives do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem and mileage; there is also a pension program for legislators serving a minimum period.

State Representative District 32

Linda S Alvarez

Democratic

A1: Born and reared on the family farm in the Hatch Valley, I grew up in a large, close-knit Hispanic family that was completely self-sufficient. I attended Salem Elementary until 6th grade and graduated at age 17 from the Hatch Valley Municipal Schools in 1970. I worked for the Social Security Admin and Health Care Financing Admin in Baltimore, MD, for 15-years prior to starting a family. I became a full-time Mother caring for my dau and son for 7-years before going back to work. I attended the UofMD School of Law-City Campus: Paralegal Cert: Bachelor’s Degree, College of Santa Fe, Public Administration & will pursue graduate studies at: NMSU/UofAZ or St. John’s College-SFe Campus. I am currently an Advocate in the Hatch Valley.

A2: My highest priorities are: A. Statewide educational reform; B. rural economic development. C. Specialized training and care for Dementia patients.

A3: A. I would guard against taxing the poor inordinately. B. Recent alcohol tax legislation that requires alcohol sellers to track the volume and type of alcohol sales is problematic. It would be far more efficient and importantly accurate if the wholesaler tracked taxation amounts.

A4: Generally speaking, economic development needs to take into account safety, equality, and honest pay. A. I would encourage the Legislature to rejuvenate its’ interest in the Space Industry and to reorganize NM’s involvement in the Spaceport with an eye towards creating local job opportunities. C. I would propose that the Department of Economic Development be required to do outreach to rural areas and provide Technical Assistance in conjunction with the Local Government Division of the DFA. C. NM is not prepared to care for its’ citizens suffering with Dementia. I propose the Governor appoint a workgroup to conduct a needs assessment with solutions. Healthcare is a burgeoning industry that will sustain economic growth.

A5: or many years the Dept. Of Education has been plagued by a lack of consistent LEADERSHIP. This, in turn, leads to ‘mission erosion’ and a dysfunctional agency culture. This catastrophe requires strong governance. I suggest the following: A. Request a Federal Investigation and Technical Assistance. B. Require Special Education be given Divisional Status. C. Develop large-scale vocational and technical education opportunities for ALL students.

Jenifer M Jones

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

District Attorney 6th Judicial District

The District Attorney represents the government in the prosecution of criminal offenses. New Mexico has 13 judicial districts for which there is an elected District Attorney. DAs typically handle the following tasks: conduct grand jury investigations, review police reports and the criminal charges, handle preliminary hearings and all other courtroom-contested matters, offer plea bargains, conduct bench or jury trials, and litigate appeals. Four-year term.

Questions:

Q1: What skills, education and prior experiences qualify you for this office?

Q2: If elected, what are your highest priorities?

Q3: What criminal justice reforms do you support, if any?

Q4: Explain what factors you would consider when declining to prosecute a case?

Michael R Renteria

Party: Democratic

The candidate has not yet responded.

Norman R Wheeler

Party: Republican

A1: I have practiced both civil and criminal law for 43 years. I have prosecuted in two states and in four different districts in New Mexico. In the criminal arena I’ve resolved thousands of cases at the felony level. These cases run the gamut from non-violent drug possession to highly organized crime and racketeering to first degree murder. New Mexico is ranked the worst state for crime in the country. We need DAs who have qualified experience and don’t ignore the law. I will put protecting the community first.

A2: A community's prosperity depends on the citizens feeling safe. It takes dependable law enforcement officers and determined and competent professionals in the District Attorney's Office to hold criminals accountable. I will prioritize building strong bridges with law enforcement and victim support organizations to better serve the public. Additionally, I will not let the dangerous practice of "catch-and-release" further continue. It can be said that the District Attorney's office "holds the keys to the jail." If I am elected, I will keep dangerous criminals in jail pending trial. Even simply prosecuting crime rather than letting offenders off easy would be a step up for this DA's Office. The community has suffered enough.

A3: There is currently a revolving door of defendants to the detriment of the public because of the horrendous "catch-and-release" policy currently in place. This is a position of public service, not a vehicle to abuse political power. I will meet with victims and members of the public and understand their concerns, and I will stop the practice of releasing dangerous criminals back onto the streets.

A4: Prosecutors in New Mexico take an oath to uphold the Federal and State Constitutions and the Laws of the State of New Mexico. In every case evaluation I determine constitutionality first. Then I examine the facts of the case and determine probable cause. I will not be swayed by emotion, bias or politics. There is an established process for prosecution, and I have been disappointed in the neglect of the current DA's office to follow through with this process.

COUNTY OFFICES

Luna County Clerk

The County Clerk is the chief election officer responsible for administration of elections for the county. The Clerk serves as ex officio to the Board of County Commissioners and maintains the minutes from proceedings and all related material. The Clerk's Office is the repository for public documents including real estate records, marriage records, occupation licenses and informal probate. Four-year term.

Questions:

Q1: What skills, education and prior experiences qualify you for this office?

Q2: 2. If elected, what are your highest priorities?

Q3: What steps would you take to enhance voter interest and participation in the voting process?

Q4: What measures would you employ to improve voting access and election security?

Berenda McWright

Democratic

A1: I am a New Mexico Certified County Clerk who has served two terms as Chief Deputy and one term as Clerk. I have 19 years of Election Administration Experience and an Associate Degree in Business. I have deep roots in the community with family ties dating back into the 1800's. I am a 5th generation Luna County Rancher who has raised four successful children.

A2: My highest priorities are to preserve the integrity of elections and to promote public awareness and participation in the electoral process while complying with applicable state statutes and rules.

A3: I will continue to educate citizens about how the process works. I will participate in the New Mexico County Clerks Affiliate to promote legislation that works for all of our citizens. I will also continue to have kindness and compassion for all of our voters regardless of party affiliation.

A4: I am currently working very hard to ensure the safety of our voters and our poll workers by collaborating with the New Mexico Secretary of States Office as well our county departments which include Information Technology, Emergency Management, and all Local Law Enforcement. Many measures have been put in place to avoid voter intimidation and to combat mis-information and mal-information. I will continue to provide a safe and friendly environment, while following all applicable laws, for any and all duly registered voters wishing to participate in the election process.

Barbara Jean Delaney

Party: Republican

A1: Computer literate with Microsoft programs and various accounting programs. I have two associate degrees in applied science and liberal arts. I served six years on a Board of Trustees for a community college, and two years as chairman of the board. I also served as trustee for four years on a local government board. I also worked in a family construction business for twenty-five years. My responsibilities included bookkeeping, payroll, and procurement.

A2: My highest priority to the voters of Luna County is to maintain an accurate voter registration list. My second priority is to ensure the highest level of customer service to the residents of Luna County, New Mexico.

A3: I would advertise the early voting start dates and the election date in the local newspaper and the local chamber of commerce publication.

A4: I would expand the locations and dates of voter registration. I would also do annual audits of the voter registration list. I would accomplish this by cross referencing death and marriage certificate registration lists.

Luna County Treasurer

The County Treasurer is responsible for keeping accounts of all county funds received and disbursed by the various county departments, keeping regular accounts of all checks and warrants drawn, and keeping the books, papers and money pertaining to the office. Four-year term.

Kristie L Hobbs

Party: Democratic

The candidate has not yet responded.

Carmen Marie MacDonald

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

Luna County Commissioner District 3

Together with other members of the County Commission, represents the County and its interests in all case not otherwise provided for by law. Appoints elections officials to fill vacancies. The Commission is responsible for the County budget, County ordinances and resolutions, and zoning and business regulation in unincorporated areas, and sets policy for the operations of County

government. Must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of district from which elected. Four-year term, no more than two terms in succession.

Christie Ann Harvey

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

Ariana Jaime Saldares

Democratic

The candidate has not yet responded.

JUDICIAL RETENTION

Judicial Retention Justice of the Supreme Court

There are five justices on the New Mexico Supreme Court, the highest court in the State. It is the court of last resort and has supervisory control over all lesser courts and attorneys licensed in the state. The Court is required to hear appeals from election challenges and criminal cases when a defendant is sentenced to the death penalty or life imprisonment. The Court has discretionary authority to review rulings of the Court of Appeals and questions of law certified to it by the Court of Appeals or federal court. Candidates must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for ten years and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Justices are elected statewide for eight-year terms. Voters at a retention election may vote either "yes" or "no" for each individual judge for retention. To retain the office a judge standing for retention must receive 57% "yes" votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention.

Questions:

Q1: What qualifies you for this position?

Q2: What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Supreme Court practices and why?

Q3: What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?

Briana H. Zamora

Nonpartisan

A1: As a judge, I have served at all levels of the judiciary from the Metropolitan Court to the Supreme Court. I have presided in thousands of cases and well over a hundred jury trials. New Mexicans deserve experienced judges who are independent and have integrity. I have a wealth of judicial experience and a reputation of integrity and fairness. I hope to continue my service to New Mexico as a Supreme Court Justice.

A2: The Supreme Court oversees every court and judicial program in New Mexico. Overall, the judiciary in New Mexico is first rate. However, there are two areas I hope to improve. First, improving the efficacy and efficiency in how the judiciary implements its behavioral health programs would benefit the entire state. Second, working to ensure there is access to legal representation for all New Mexicans, particularly individuals in our rural communities.

A3: The Supreme Court and its employees work tirelessly to issue opinions that are accurate, fair and timely. Lack of resources is our greatest challenge. The

Court needs additional attorneys and paralegals to assist the Court in more efficiently issuing the Court's opinions, orders and Supreme Court Rules.

Judicial Retention Judge of the Court of Appeals

There are ten judges on the New Mexico Court of Appeals. It is the intermediate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court. Judges sit in panels of three. The Court reviews appeals in all cases, except criminal cases involving sentences of death or life imprisonment, and cases involving habeas corpus. Judges must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for ten years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Judges are elected statewide for eight-year terms. Judicial vacancies are filled through appointment by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. At the next regular election the judicial position is filled in a partisan election in which the appointed judge must participate and win the most votes to retain the seat. Judges serve for terms of a set number of years, after which they must win a retention election. Voters at a retention election may vote either "yes" or "no" for each individual judge for retention. To retain the office a judge standing for retention must receive 57% "yes" votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention.

Questions:

Q1: What qualifies you for this position?

Q2: What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Court of Appeals practices and why?

Q3: What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?

Judicial Retention Judge of the Court of Appeals Position 1

Jennifer Attrep

Nonpartisan

A1: I have nearly two decades of experience on the bench and in private practice. I have served as a Court of Appeals Judge since 2018 and currently serve as the Chief Judge. As an appellate judge, I have resolved hundreds of appeals in all areas of the law and assisted with Court administration. I previously was a trial judge in Northern New Mexico where I managed a varied docket, presided over thousands of cases, and held over 50 trials. Prior to joining the bench, I served as an appellate attorney and litigator in a variety of civil and criminal cases and clerked for a federal trial judge.

A2: The Court of Appeals is responsible for resolving the vast majority of appeals in New Mexico and, as a result, has a busy and heavy docket. The Court has made significant progress in resolving cases more quickly. Through the tireless efforts of staff and judges, the Court has cleared its backlog that had previously been amassed due to judicial turnover. The Court is dedicated to building on this progress and has adopted programs to increase efficiencies. The Court piloted a program that streamlines the appeal process, and recently implemented a program that provides free mediation services to more expeditiously resolve appeals. We are working to expand these programs and continue to explore other ways to better serve New Mexicans.

A3: The Court of Appeals is focused on expanding public access and improving Court administration. During the pandemic, the Court began allowing unrepresented parties to electronically file court documents; and we are

working to expand electronic access for unrepresented parties. The Court will be publishing self-help materials that explain the appellate process and assist unrepresented parties and attorneys in meeting their obligations on appeal. We will be rolling out live-streaming to increase access to our proceedings. The Court of Appeals also is working to obtain needed funding to build its administrative team, so the Court is more efficiently and effectively run. The current lack of staffing greatly overburdens our staff and judges.

Judicial Retention Judge of the Court of Appeals Position 2

Shammara Henderson

Nonpartisan

A1: I have been a judge on the NM Court of Appeals since my appointment by the Governor in 2020. In that time, I have gained valuable experience as an appellate judge. Prior to becoming a judge, I had a diverse career practicing in both criminal and civil law. I practiced in both state and federal court at the trial and appellate level. I have dedicated my career to ensuring diversity and equity in the judicial system.

A2: We have worked hard the last several years to reduce the time it takes for us to rule on cases before our court. We currently have two pilot projects that have dramatically decreased the time to file opinions in our cases. One impacts our criminal cases, and we have seen our turnaround time dramatically improve. The other is our mediation program, which while new, has already helped with our civil cases. I am dedicated to continuing our efforts to reduce our caseload and find ways to ensure we are ruling on cases in a timely manner.

A3: The main issue that our court has faced is a lack of resources. It has been a priority of mine to ensure that we have more resources. We have used these resources to rebuild our administrative staff and building maintenance. Our priority as judges should be to focus on our cases and to do so, we need the proper resources to ensure our court functions at the level expected by the parties who appear before us. We still have some improvements to make, but we have done a lot to rebuild the past several years.

Judicial Retention Judge of the Court of Appeals Position 3

Megan Duffy

Nonpartisan

A1: I have served as a judge on the Court of Appeals for nearly six years now and gained tremendous experience from working on hundreds of cases involving a broad range of legal issues. I take care with every case to show the parties that we have fully and fairly considered the issues, and to impartially explain what the law says about the issue so the parties understand our decision. Before joining the Court, I had 10 years of experience as an attorney. I began my legal career as a law clerk of Justice Richard Bosson at the New Mexico Supreme Court.

A2: The Court of Appeals experienced tremendous judicial turnover from 2015-2022, which resulted in a backlog of hundreds of cases. My colleagues and I have worked hard for several years to clear that backlog and I'm happy to report that we have done so. Stability on the Court (no turnover in the last 2 years), was important to accomplishing this goal. In addition, we received some additional resources from the Legislature in the last few years, which allowed the Court to restart a mediation program, fill vacant positions, and work with retired

appellate judges on a pro tem basis. That was a wonderful experience, and having a robust pro tem program could benefit courts, especially during periods of turnover.

A3: While we are proud of our work in clearing the backlog, the Court still wants to move cases faster through the court. We have set a goal of resolving 95% of all cases within 720 days, or just under two years. We have made tremendous progress in our time-to-disposition, but still have work to do. We have been working to obtain the resources we need (both funding and personnel), and piloting programs that we hope will allow us to resolve cases quicker, including (1) a revamped mediation program, (2) a pilot project for criminal cases that produces briefing earlier in the case, and (3) a speech-to-text program that allows us to review trials and hearings more efficiently.

Judicial Retention District Court Judge Sixth Judicial District Division 03

New Mexico's 33 counties are divided into 13 judicial districts. These are courts of general jurisdiction that hold jury trials in the following types of civil cases: tort, contract, real property rights and estate contests. District courts generally have exclusive jurisdiction over domestic relations, mental health, appeals for administrative agencies and lower courts, criminal appeals, and juvenile cases. Must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for at least six years, and reside in the district from which elected. Six-year term. Judicial vacancies are filled through appointment by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. At the next regular election the judicial position is filled in a partisan election in which the appointed judge must participate and win the most votes to retain the seat. Judges serve for terms of a set number of years, after which they must win a retention election. Voters at a retention election may vote either "yes" or "no" for each individual judge for retention. To retain the office, a judge standing for retention must receive 57% "yes" of all the votes cast on the question of retention.

Questions:

Q1: What qualifies you for this position?

Q2: What alternatives to incarceration do you support for nonviolent crimes?

Q3: What can be done to reduce backlogs of court cases?

Jim Foy

Nonpartisan

The candidate has not yet responded.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Constitutional Amendment 1:

“Proposing an amendment to Article 8, Section 15 of the constitution of New Mexico to extend a property tax exemption, currently only allowed for one hundred percent disabled veterans and their widows and widowers, to veterans with less than a one hundred percent disability and their widows and widowers and basing the amount of the exemption on a veteran’s disability rating.”

ARGUMENTS FOR

1. Exemption would provide disabled veterans protection from rising property taxes. Allowing the property tax exemption for veterans with a permanent service-connected disability will support property-owning disabled veterans and their widowed spouses in an amount proportional to the percentage of the veteran's disability rating.
2. Expanding the property tax exemption sends the message that anyone who suffers a disability while serving in the armed forces deserves to be taken care of equally, regardless of the severity of the injury.
3. Expresses support of the state for veterans.
4. A decrease in property tax could provide an incentive for veterans of the armed forces to move to and buy property in New Mexico, which may increase the state's population and tax base.
5. The estimated cost of an additional annual per capita burden of \$34.00 for the general population of the state is comparatively low to the benefit provided to the nearly 30,000 service-related disabled veterans with property tax liability in the state.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

1. Exemption may benefit those who do not need financial assistance. If the purpose is to relieve the financial burden on those who are unable, due to their disability, to pay property taxes, then the exemption should target those with limited incomes.
2. Financial assistance is already available for disabled veterans through a number of programs. There are other social programs that disabled veterans may access to assist with living expenses. For instance, there are numerous state, federal and nonprofit programs that serve veterans.
3. Non-disabled-veteran property taxpayers will pay more due to exemption. By expanding eligibility for a property tax exemption, the property tax bills of other state residents will increase
4. A property tax is traditionally based on the value and nature of the property, not the personal characteristics of the owner. Creating an exemption for certain individuals is a departure from the underlying principle of property taxation and could set a precedent for other groups to seek a similar exemption.
5. The federal government should help disabled veterans, not the state. If voters believe that more compensation is due to disabled veterans and their spouses, then they should ask their representatives in Congress to address the issue.
6. Property tax benefit for veterans already exists in the Constitution of New Mexico.
7. Exemption excludes other property taxpayers who are disabled due to work-related injuries. There are many dangerous but necessary occupations with a high chance of disability from injury, so it is unclear why disabled veterans warrant preferable treatment in comparison to other disabled persons.

Constitutional Amendment No. 2

“Proposing an amendment to Article 8, Section 5 of the constitution of New Mexico to increase a property tax exemption for honorably discharged members of the armed forces and their widows and widowers.”

ARGUMENTS FOR

1. Reducing the property tax paid by honorably discharged members of the armed forces and their widowed spouses supports property-owning veterans and their widows or widowers and helps them maintain homeownership.
2. Increasing property tax exemptions for honorably discharged veterans demonstrates New Mexico's support for and appreciation of members of the armed forces who risked their lives and served their country honorably.
3. A decrease in property tax could provide an incentive for veterans of the armed forces to move to and buy property in New Mexico, which may increase the state's population and tax base.
4. By adjusting the amount of the exemption for inflation, the amount of the exemption for veterans will increase without requiring a future constitutional amendment, which is a challenging, lengthy and costly process.
5. The increased exemption amount is fairer to veterans and their spouses in 2024. The current exemption was set in 2002 and, since then, the value of the dollar has increased approximately 72% while property values have increased by approximately 80%.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

1. Congress should be responsible for providing veterans' benefits. It is inappropriate for state and local governments to bear the expense of providing extended benefits to veterans in return for their service in a branch of the United States armed forces. If more generous benefits are due to veterans and their spouses, Congress should provide those benefits.
2. Exemption could benefit those who chose to enlist. Special property tax benefits should not be extended to someone who makes the choice to work in a branch of the United States armed forces.
3. Unfair to other property taxpayers who will pay more due to exemption increase. An increase in this property tax exemption will shift the tax burden, and the tax bills of all other New Mexico property owners will increase.
4. Tax relief measures should be based on need. There is no evidence that veterans have lower incomes or a greater need for property tax relief than other taxpayers. It is possible that, with the passage of the proposed constitutional amendment, veterans who are financially stable and who own large, high-value homes will be relieved from contributing their property tax share.
5. Exemption for special groups of property taxpayers could set precedent for other individuals to seek tax relief. Property tax is based on the value and nature of the property, not the personal characteristics of the owner. Creating an exemption for certain individuals is a departure from the underlying principle of property taxation and could set a precedent for other groups to seek similar exemptions.
6. The exemption amount benefits a portion of veterans as it only applies to owner-occupied residences that are used as a principal place of residency and will exclude veterans who are institutionalized, homeless or renters.
7. Inflation provision would increase property taxes even more for non-veteran property taxpayers. The proposal to index the amount of exemption for inflation may continue to erode the property tax base and annually increase the property tax bills for those who are not eligible for the property tax exemption.

Constitutional Amendment No. 3

“Proposing to amend Article 6, Section 35 of the constitution of New Mexico by allowing the dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law to appoint a designee to the Judicial Nominating Commission.”

ARGUMENTS FOR

1. The role of chair of the Appellate Judges Nominating Commission is primarily administrative. The Rules Governing Judicial Nominating Commissions outline the role of the chair and task the chair with the duties of announcing the existence of a judicial vacancy to the public and members of the commission, scheduling meetings of the commission and providing the media with notice of the meetings, preparing application packets and preparing agendas for meetings. These are not tasks that require the legal mind of the dean of a school of law, but even if they were, this proposed amendment ensures that there will be an esteemed legal scholar serving as chair of the commission.

2. The University of New Mexico School of Law serves a vital interest to the state by educating a vast majority of the attorneys who practice here since it is the only school of law in New Mexico. Beyond the normal duties of being the dean of a school of law, and the current requirement to serve as chair of the Appellate Judges Nominating Commission, the dean is also required by statute to serve as the chair of the Judicial Compensation Commission. Allowing the dean's designee to serve on the Appellate Judges Nominating Commission would relieve the dean of a commitment that could be performed by others

3. The dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law is already permitted to have a designee for important commissions, including the New Mexico Sentencing Commission and the New Mexico Compilation Commission. The dean is also required to appoint three members to the Public Defender Commission. Each of these commissions have functioned adequately without requiring the dean to attend every meeting. The dean should be allowed to appoint a designee

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

1. Potentially removes a neutral tie-breaking vote from the commission. When the Appellate Judges Nominating Commission was created, there was a desire to have a neutral person who could break any of the commission's tie votes. The legislature, which passed the joint resolution to create the commission, and the people, who voted to pass the constitutional amendment in 1988, believed that the dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law was the best person to put into this neutral tie-breaking role.

2. Could remove one of New Mexico's most prominent legal scholars from the judicial appointment process. The Appellate Judges Nominating Commission serves a vital role in New Mexico's judicial system by vetting and nominating candidates for the most prominent judicial positions in the state. The dean is tapped into New Mexico's legal community by virtue of being the head of the state's only law school. The dean's connections in the legal community could provide insight into the careers and backgrounds of the applicants that the commission vets.

Constitutional Amendment No. 4

“Proposing an amendment to Article 10, Section 1 of the constitution of New Mexico to provide that the salaries of county officers shall be established by the Board of County Commissioners, remove references to the First Legislative Session and clarify that any fees collected by a county official shall be paid into the treasury of the county.”

ARGUMENTS FOR

1. While it made sense for the legislature to set county officer salaries when the state was new, the counties are now longstanding, established entities that handle their own affairs without such close state guidance. This amendment is a measure to modernize the system to better reflect the realities of day-to-day governance. The current law only sets maximum salaries for county officers and already allows boards of county commissioners discretion in determining salary increases for their officers within the statutory limitations.

2. County officers manage complex bureaucracies and require executive experience and specialized skills to be effective on behalf of their constituents. To ensure that voters have the opportunity to elect qualified officers, counties need the flexibility to set salaries to attract experienced and skilled candidates. This amendment would allow counties to be more responsive to their own needs and provide for more professional management.

3. Constitutional and statutory safeguards exist to check the power of county commissioners in setting salaries. The constitution and laws of the state have measures that serve as a check on the powers of county commissioners in setting the salaries of county officers.

4. Will give voters more say in how their counties are managed. County officers are locally elected and directly accountable to their constituents. This amendment would localize salary decisions and make county officers more accountable to their constituents.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

1. Without legislative oversight, county official salaries will be wide-ranging and inconsistent among counties. Pursuant to its current obligation to fix the salaries for county officers, the legislature has established a comprehensive classification system based on a combination of a county's population and the total value of real estate within the county. This system helps to ensure that salaries are uniform and proportional across the state. This proposed amendment empowers boards of county commissioners to establish officer salaries without any standards.

2. Removing legislature's authority could lead to negative consequences for counties. Allowing boards of county commissioners full discretion to determine salaries for their officers takes authority and power away from the legislature. The people of the state have an interest in the legislature retaining the power to set county officer salaries because it serves as a mutual check – it is a reasonable limit on counties' powers and requires accountability from the legislature.

3. County commissioners would set their own salaries. Currently, Article 10, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico places the legislature in a neutral third-party role and provides assurances to the people of the state that county officer salaries are determined impartially. This proposed amendment may make these determinations more susceptible to short-term political or personal considerations.

BONDS

Bond Question 1 – Aging and Long-Term Services Department

Authorizes the state to issue up to \$30,758,100 in bonds to fund senior citizen facilities.

"The 2024 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 thirty million seven hundred fifty-eight thousand one hundred dollars (\$30,758,100) 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?
For___ Against___"

Bond Question 2 – Library Acquisitions

Authorizes the state to issue up to \$19,305,000 in bonds to fund public, tribal, public school and academic libraries.

"The 2024 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 five thousand dollars (\$19,305,000) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal and public 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?
For___ Against___"

Bond Question 3 – Higher Education

Authorizes the state to issue up to \$230,258,400 in bonds to fund public institutes of higher education, special schools and tribal schools.

"The 2024 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 two hundred thirty million two hundred fifty-eight thousand four hundred dollars (\$230,258,400) 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?
For___ Against___"

Bond Question 4: Public Safety

Authorizes the state to issue up to \$10,297,100 in bonds to fund modernization of public safety radio communications systems.

"The 2024 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of public safety radio system improvement bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed ten million two hundred ninety-seven thousand one hundred dollars (\$10,297,100) to make capital expenditures for public safety radio

communications systems stabilization and modernization 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?
For___ Against___"

OFFICE OF THE LUNA COUNTY CLERK
DEMING, NEW MEXICO

Legal Notice

August 7, 2024

Pursuant to Section 1-6-5.7, NMSA, 1978 Compilation, Luna County Clerk Berenda McWright announces that the Mimbres Valley Learning Center, 2300 E. Pine, will serve as an alternate early voting site for the 2024 GENERAL ELECTION beginning Saturday, October 19, 2024 and continuing through Saturday, November 2, 2024.

The voting hours at Mimbres Valley Learning Center will be as follows:

Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Voting will NOT be conducted at Mimbres Valley Learning Center on Sundays or Mondays.

NOTICIA LEGAL
7 de Agosto de 2024

De conformidad con la Sección 1-6-5.7, NMSA, Compilación de 1978, la Escribana del Condado de Luna, Berenda McWright, anuncia que el edificio Mimbres Valley Learning Center, 2300 E. Pine, servirá como un sitio alternativo de votación anticipada para la ELECCIÓN GENERAL a partir del sábado 19 de octubre de 2024 y continúa hasta el sábado, 2 de noviembre de 2024.

El horario de votación en el edificio Mimbres Valley Learning Center será el siguiente:

Martes a Viernes de 11:00 am 7:00 pm.
Sábados de 9:00 am a 5:00 pm

La votación NO se llevará a cabo en el edificio Mimbres Valley Learning Center los Domingos o Lunes.

Berenda McWright

Berenda McWright, Luna County Clerk
Escribana Del Condado de Luna

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NM Secretary of State NMVOTE.GOV
NM Legislative Council Service NMLEGIS.GOV