



Voter Guide for Torrance & Valencia Counties

Guía del Votantes para los condados de Torrance y Valencia

Primary Election June 2, 2026

Elecciones Primarias del 2 de junio de 2026

Check Your Registration at the NM Secretary of State website: www.sos.nm.gov

On Tuesday, June 2, there will be a primary election to determine major party candidates for the November general election for various federal, state and county offices.

El Martes 2 de junio habrá unas elecciones primarias para determinar importantes candidatos de partido en la elección general de noviembre para varios cargos federales, estatales y del condado.

New This Year! / ¡Novedad de este año!

Independent and no party voters can vote in the primary!

¡Los votantes independientes y sin partido pueden votar en las primarias!

How to cast your ballot / Cómo emitir tu voto

Current Affiliation	How to Proceed	Affiliación Actual	Cómo Votar
No party, independent, DTS (declined to state)	Choose either Republican or Democratic ballot at polling place.	Sin partido, independiente, DTS (prefiero no decirlo)	Elige la boleta republicana o demócrata en el centro de votación.
Republican, Democratic	Obtain ballot for your own party at polling place.	Republicano, Democrático	Obtén la boleta de tu propio partido en el centro de votación.
Libertarian, Green	Change registration to DTS, Republican or Democratic at polling place.	Libertario, Verde	Cambie el registro a DTS, Republicano o Demócrata en el centro de votación.
Not yet registered	Register at polling place.	No registrado	Regístrate en el centro de votación.

May 5	Early voting starts at County Clerk offices. Last day to register online or by paper voter registration form Same day voter registration available at County Clerk locations Clerks begin sending absentee/mail-in ballots.	La votación anticipada comienza en las oficinas del secretario del condado. El último día para registrarse en línea o por el formulario impreso de registro de votante El registro de votante en el mismo día está disponible en las oficinas del secretario del condado Los secretarios comienzan a enviar por correo las boletas de voto en ausencia.
May 16 - May 30 (closed May 25 holiday)	Early voting at polling places Same day registration at polling places	Votación anticipada en los centros y lugares de votación Registro para votar el mismo día en los centros y lugares de votación
May 19	Last day to request an absentee ballot online	El último día para solicitar una boleta de voto por correo en línea
June 2	Election Day - last chance to vote in person! Absentee ballots are due in the clerk's office or at an Election Day Voting location no later than 7:00pm.	Día de las elecciones: ¡La última oportunidad para votar en persona! Las boletas de voto por ausencia deben entregarse en la oficina del secretario del condado o en un lugar de votación el día de las elecciones a más tardar a las 7:00 pm.

Absentee or mail-in voters must select either a Democratic or Republican ballot when they request their absentee ballot.

Los votantes ausentes registrados deben elegir una boleta demócrata o republicana cuando soliciten su boleta de voto ausente por correo.

How to use this guide, see Page 2.

Come usar esta guía, véase la página 2.

Voter Guide / guía para votantes

June 2, 2026 Primary Election

Elecciones Primaria del 2 de junio de 2026

<p>Who Can Vote You can vote, if you are a citizen of the United States, AND a resident of New Mexico, AND 18 years of age or older on Election Day, AND have registered to vote. Convicted felons who have satisfied all the terms and conditions of their sentencing are also eligible. You can register on the day you vote at most polling places.</p>	<p>¿Quién puede votar? Puede votar si es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos Y es residente de Nuevo México Y tiene 18 años o más el día de la elección Y se ha registrado para votar. También son elegibles los delinquentes convictos que hayan cumplido con todos los términos y condiciones de su sentencia. Puede registrarse el día que vota en la mayoría de los lugares de votación.</p>
<p>How to Use This Voter Guide Find out which districts you are in by either obtaining a sample ballot or contacting your County Clerk. Then use the <i>Voter Guide</i> Table of Contents to find the candidates that will be on your ballot. Both these steps can also be done online via VOTE411.org.</p>	<p>Cómo utilizar esta Guía para votantes Averigüe en cual distrito vive, ya sea para obtener una boleta de muestra o comunicarse con el secretario de su condado. Luego, utilice la tabla de contenidos de la <i>Guía para votantes</i> para encontrar los candidatos que estarán en su boleta. ¡Puede hacer ambos pasos en línea a través de VOTE411.org.</p>
<p>Sample Ballot and More You can verify your voter registration online, view your sample ballot, apply for an absentee ballot and check its status, and much more at nmvote.org. Scroll down to "Find My Registration & Election Information."</p> <p>You can also request a sample ballot from the County Clerk or at a voting location in your county.</p>	<p>Boleta de muestra y más Puede verificar su registro de votante en línea, ver su boleta de muestra, solicitar una boleta de voto en ausencia y verificar el estado de la boleta, y mucho más en nmvote.org. Desplácese hacia abajo hasta "Buscar mi registro e información electoral".</p> <p>También puede solicitar una boleta de muestra del secretario del condado o en un lugar de votación en su condado.</p>
<p>Registering To Vote in New Mexico You will need to provide proof of your identity and residency. If you did not provide this information when you registered, then you will need to provide it the first time you vote. Valid forms of proof include a current and valid photo identification, a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, student identification card, identification issued by an Indian Nation, tribe, or pueblo that shows your name and current address, or other government document. To be sure, bring more than one of these credentials. Voter registration on-line, by mail, via the Motor Vehicle Department and by organized voter registration drives is not available in the 28 day window preceding an election.</p> <p>Same-day in-person voter registration. You can register in person at the County Clerk's office or at any Early Voting or Election Day location with your identification and proof of residency papers.</p>	<p>Registrarse para votar en Nuevo México Tendrá que proporcionar una prueba de su identidad y residencia. Si no proporcionó esta información cuando se registró, deberá proporcionarla la primera vez que vote. Las formas válidas de prueba incluyen una identificación con fotografía reciente y válida, una factura de servicios reciente, un estado de cuenta bancario, un cheque del gobierno, un talón de pago, una tarjeta de identificación de estudiante, una identificación emitida por una nación, tribu o pueblo indígena que muestre su nombre y dirección actual, u otro documento gubernamental. Para estar seguro, lleve más de una de estas credenciales. El registro para votar en línea, por correo, vía el Departamento de Vehículos Motorizados y por las iniciativas para registro del votante no estará disponible desde 28 días antes de una elección.</p> <p>Registro de votante y votación en persona en el mismo día. Puede registrarse en persona en la oficina del secretario del condado o en cualquier lugar de votación anticipada o el día de las elecciones con su identificación y documentos que prueben su residencia.</p>
<p>Changing/Updating Registration. Documentation is required if a voter is merely changing their registration (name, address, and/or party affiliation) within the state of New Mexico.</p>	<p>Cambio/Actualización de Registro. Documentación si un votante simplemente cambia su registro (nombre, dirección, y/o afiliación partidista) dentro del estado de Nuevo México.</p>
<p>Absentee/Mail-in Voting New Mexico allows any registered voter to request an absentee ballot. You can request one at nmvote.org, or contact your County Clerk. The last day to request an absentee ballot for the 2026 Primary Election is Tuesday, May 19. Completed absentee ballots may be turned in at any polling place or voting site up through Election Day by 7:00 pm by the voter, a member of the voter's immediate family, or caretaker. You can also mail your ballot, but <i>it must arrive by 7:00 pm on Election Day.</i></p> <p>You can get on the permanent absentee list to receive an absentee ballot for every election via nmvote.org.</p>	<p>Voto en ausencia Nuevo México permite que cualquier votante registrado solicite una boleta de voto en ausencia. Puede solicitar una en nmvote.org o comunicarse con el secretario de su condado. El último día para solicitar una boleta de voto en ausencia para las elecciones primarias de 2026 es el martes 19 de mayo. Las boletas de voto ausentes completadas pueden ser entregadas por el votante, un miembro de la familia inmediata del votante o un guardián, en cualquier centro de votación hasta el día de las elecciones antes de las 7:00 pm. También puede enviar su boleta por correo, pero debe llegar antes de las 7:00 pm el día de las elecciones.</p> <p>Puede inscribirse en la lista permanente de votantes ausentes para recibir una boleta de voto en ausencia para cada elección en nmvote.org.</p>
<p>Additional Voting Considerations Write-in Voting. Only some races will have this option. For these, you must write in the name of a qualified write-in candidate (these are listed in this <i>Voter Guide</i>). To count, you must enter the full name OR the first two initials and last name OR the first and last name OR first name, middle initial, last name, OR first name, middle name, and last name.</p>	<p>Consideraciones adicionales de votación Votación por escrito. Sólo algunas contiendas electorales tendrán esta opción. Para estas, debe escribir el nombre de un candidato postulado por escrito (éstos se enumeran en esta Guía para Votantes). Para que su voto cuente, debe ingresar el nombre completo O las dos primeras iniciales y el apellido O el nombre y apellido O el nombre, la inicial del segundo nombre, y el apellido, O el nombre, el segundo nombre, y el apellido.</p>
<p>Provisional Ballots You will be issued a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the voter rolls, or you are a first-time voter but have not provided proof of identification and residency. The election officials will give you information on what you will need to do to ensure that your ballot will be counted and to see if it was counted.</p>	<p>Boletas Provisionales Se le expedirá una boleta provisional si su nombre no aparece en las listas de votantes, o si está votando por primera vez pero no ha proporcionado prueba de identificación y residencia. Los funcionarios electorales le darán información sobre lo que deberá hacer para asegurarse de que su boleta sea contada y para verificar si fue contada.</p>

WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE /DÓNDE Y CUÁNDO VOTAR

Early voting times and dates vary by county. **Election Day voting will be June 2 from 7am to 7pm.** This is also the deadline for turning in absentee ballots at one of the Election Day voting locations or the County Clerk’s office.

Los horarios y las fechas de votación anticipada varían según el condado. **El día de las elecciones será el martes 2 de junio, la votación será de 7:00 de la mañana hasta 7:00 de la tarde.** Este día es también la fecha límite para entregar las boletas de voto en ausencia en uno de los lugares de votación o en la oficina del Secretario del Condado.

Torrance County:

Voters may vote in person or deliver absentee ballots. Same Day Registration will be available during Early Voting and on Election Day.

Lists of polling places can be found online at www.torrancecountynm.org/departments/county-clerk

Early Voting in Torrance County,

- Torrance County Administrative Office, 205 S. 9th St, Estancia 87016: Monday-Thursday, May 5-May 30, 8am to 5pm (Closed Monday, May 25) Friday May 29, 8am to 5pm AND Saturday, May 30, 8am to 5pm
- Moriarty Civic Center, 202 Broadway Ave, Moriarty 87035: Tuesday-Saturday, May 16-May 30, 10am to 6pm

Election Day Voting in Torrance County

Polls will be open Election Day Tuesday, June 2, from 7am to 7pm.

- **Duran:** Duran Community Center 15 Vidal Street, 88319
- **Edgewood:** Moriarty/Edgewood Admin Bldg: 2422 US Route 66, 87035
- **Encino:** Encino Community Center: 427 B North Main St, 88321
- **Estancia:** Estancia High School Gym: 709 Hopewell, 87016
- **Manzano:** Manzano Community Center: 04 Community Center Rd, 87036
- **McIntosh:** McIntosh Senior Center: 16 Willow Lake Rd., 87032
- **Moriarty:** Moriarty Civic Center: 202 Broadway Ave, 87035
- **Mountainair:** Dr. Saul Community Center: 111 N. Roosevelt Ave, 87036
- **Tajique:** Tajique Community Center: 8636 Hwy 55, 87016
- **Torreón:** Torreón Community Center: 18 Torreón Heights Rd, 87061
- **Willard:** Willard Village Office: 712B Dunlavy Ave., 87063

Valencia County:

Voters may vote in person or deliver absentee ballots. Same Day Registration will be available during Early Voting and on Election Day.

Locations of polling places and hours can be found online at <https://www.co.valencia.nm.us/239/Bureau-of-Elections>

Early Voting at Valencia County Clerk’s Office

Valencia County Administration Offices, Bureau of Elections, 444 Luna Ave, Los Lunas 87031. May 5-May 15, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm (**Closed** Monday, May 25) AND May 16-May 30 Monday-Saturday, 10am to 6pm

Expanded Early Voting

May 16-May 30, Monday-Saturday, 10am to 6pm (**Closed** Monday, May 25)

- Belen Community Center, 305 Eagle Lane, Belen 87002
- Bosque Farms Public Library, 1455 W. Bosque Loop, Bosque Farms 87068
- Pueblo of Isleta Veteran’s Center, 4001 Highway 314, Los Lunas 87031

Election Day Voting in Valencia County

Tuesday, June 2, from 7am to 7pm

Belen

- Belen Community Center, 305 Eagle Lane, Belen 87002
- Belen Public Library, 333 Becker Ave, Belen 87002
- Del Rio Senior Center, 351 Rio Communities Blvd, Belen 87002
- Logsdon Hall, 19676 Hwy 314, Belen 87002

Bosque Farms

- Bosque Farms Public Library, 1455 W. Bosque Loop, Bosque Farms 87068

Jarales

- Don Jose Dolores Cordova Cultural Center, 426 Jarales Rd, Jarales 87023

Los Lunas

- Ann Parish Elementary School, 112 Meadow Lake Rd, Los Lunas 87031
- Century High School, 32 Sun Valley Rd, Los Lunas 87031
- El Cerro Mission Community Center, 309 El Cerro Mission Rd, Los Lunas 87031
- Los Lunas Schools Administration, 119 Luna St, Los Lunas 87031
- Meadow Lake Community Center, 100 Cuerdo Ln, Los Lunas 87031
- Pueblo of Isleta Veterans Center, 4001 Highway 314, Los Lunas 87031
- UNM-Valencia Workforce Training Center, 1020 Huning Ranch East Loop SW, Los Lunas 87031

Peralta

- Town of Peralta, 90A Molina Rd, Peralta 87042

Tome

- Tome Dominguez de Mendoza Community Center, 2933 Hwy 47, Tome 87060

Contact information for the County Clerks

Información de contacto de los secretarios del condado

Torrance County Clerk

505-544-4350; 1-844-698-4616
205 S 9th Street
Estancia, NM 87016 www.torrancecountynm.org/departments/county-clerk

Valencia County Clerk

505-866-2073
444 Luna Ave. SE
Los Lunas, NM 87031
www.co.valencia.nm.us/239/Bureau-of-Elections

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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.

	What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?	What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?	What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?	What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?
REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:				
Larry E Marker (write-in)	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 <p>Ben R Luján</p>	<p>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, which oversees Social Security programs, I know Social Security benefits are a vital lifeline for retirees and people with disabilities. Social security must be protected from funding cuts and Republican-led efforts to reduce benefits. I'm proud to support the Social Security Fairness Act to fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which currently reduce benefits for certain recipients.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
 <p>Matt Dodson</p>	<p>The wealthy stop paying Social Security at \$185,500. I would remove that cap. That alone makes Social Security solvent. The wealthy need to pay 35% on capital gains and other income. The poor pay 15% on every dollar they earn. So should the rich!</p>	<p>In the Senate I will make DREAMERS citizens now and give immigrant citizens the same rights as everyone else. Anyone who has served eighteen months in the US military will be granted citizenship. I will set a pathway to citizenship and eliminate ICE. I will pass a law that codifies what a "speedy and fair trial" (The Constitution of the United States, Amendment VI) means - to be in front of a judge within two weeks with legal representation. With the current lack of immigration judges and attorneys, this empties the concentration camps of immigrants currently in place.</p>	<p>I will strengthen and enforce environmental regulations as your next senator. Pollution permits need to take into account existing air and water quality. Any relaxed standards must be re-evaluated for human, animal and plant life. In every way possible I will assist the State of New Mexico to protect our waterways and aquifers. Our State's water belongs to the people and must not be squandered on data centers, missile manufacturers and the like. Fracking waste is not water and must never, never be treated as such.</p>	<p>We need Universal Healthcare now; to include vision, dental, mental health and traditional healing for Native Americans and others. We need to build hospitals and clinics in rural areas. Free college means all the way to an M.D. for doctors, B.S. for nurses and medical assistant programs, etc. We need thousands of healthcare workers at all levels in New Mexico alone. Too many rural clinics cannot keep doctors and have closed because they serve so many low-income people and can't get reimbursed for it. With Universal Healthcare, they will have a definite income stream to stay solvent and retain doctors. I look forward to fighting for you to make these things happen as your next U.S. Senator.</p>

Candidate responses and word limits. The responses of candidates to our questionnaires are printed exactly as entered by the candidate. The League assumes no responsibility for the content of any candidate's reply. Further, the League publishes this information neither to endorse nor reject the views of any candidates. The League has in no way edited for meaning, grammar, punctuation, or spelling. Because of space restrictions, the League has pre-advised the candidates of the word limits for the responses.

Candidate responses to additional questions may be viewed on the League of Women Voters of the United States Election Information Website: VOTE411.org. This website will also display additional candidate responses that were provided after the LWVCNM publication deadline.

Candidate order. This guide contains candidates for each race separated by party. Republican candidates appear first as a result of a coin toss which was performed by the LWVCNM Voter Guide team. Candidates for each party are listed in ballot order.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

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.

What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?

What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?

What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?

What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Ndidiamaka Ekwua
Charlene
Okpareke**

As a pharmacist and a daughter of elderly parents, I experience what financial insecurity does to seniors on a daily basis. Sustaining Social Security starts with protecting what seniors have earned, while making the system more honest and durable for the future. That means no sudden cuts for current retirees, and a commitment to gradual, responsible adjustments that reflect today's realities. The trust fund needs to be managed with long-term stability, not short-term politics. Sustainability is about growth and accountability. A stronger economy means more people working, higher wages, and more contributions flowing into Social Security.

I believe immigration reform must be grounded in two principles: the rule of law and the dignity of every human being. First, we must be sure that the border is secure. I support increased investment in advanced border technology that is highly effective. Second, the legal immigration system must be fixed. It must be time-efficient and reliable for law-abiding immigrants to achieve the American dream. There must be clear and enforceable standards for asylum. Our current system is overwhelmed and inconsistent. I support reforms that ensure legitimate asylum claims are processed quickly and fairly, while preventing abuse of the system that undermines public trust.

I support targeted federal investment in water infrastructure. In New Mexico, that means modernizing aging systems, improving drought resilience, expanding water recycling, and supporting local and tribal water projects. Water scarcity needs practical solutions.

There must be a balanced approach to energy and emissions. I support an all-of-the-above energy strategy that includes traditional energy, renewables, and innovation. This can be done safely and efficiently and have a positive impact on job creation and economic growth.

Local governments need the flexibility and resources to address their unique environmental needs, so I will support their autonomy.

I believe quality healthcare at an affordable rate starts with a simple principle: put patients first, not systems. I support strengthening and enforcing federal price transparency laws so families are no longer blindsided by hidden costs.

We need to eliminate Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) or require transparency in their practices, eliminate anti-competitive behavior, and ensure savings are passed directly to patients. Insurance must be more competitive across markets and telehealth should expand to support community health centers, and incentivizing providers to serve rural areas.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Melanie Ann
Stansbury**

Social Security is a promise that must be protected. That is why I have fought relentlessly to protect the Social Security system from dismantling, am the lead sponsor of the "Hands off our Social Security" bill, am a cosponsor of multiple bills to expand Social Security and Medicare benefits, and bills to protect Social Security data, offices, and workers as they have been under attack by DOGE. I am also proud to support legislation to ensure the long-term solvency of the fund. And, I have worked every day to help New Mexicans access their benefits and to support our families, seniors, and people with disabilities for whom Social Security is a lifeline.

We need comprehensive immigration reform. The system is broken. And, it has only been further broken by an Administration that has violated the law and rights of families and terrorized communities. The entire system must be reformed on a bipartisan basis. This means creating a pathway to citizenship, modernizing the system, protecting Dreamers, and securing our border from human and drug trafficking. This will require meaningful legislative reforms that are fair and humane, investments in immigration services, and adoption of modern technology—and a system that centers our communities and the longterm well-being of our country, our economy, and the incredible diversity and opportunity that makes this great country what it is.

As a water and science professional, I have worked on land, water, and climate issues my entire career. I have worked to defend our public lands, protect our water rights, and secure millions for conservation and stewardship of our natural resources. I have served on the House Natural Resources Committee and State Energy and Environment Committee where I have championed climate and environmental justice, helped pass the largest climate and clean energy bill in American history, passed bipartisan water and energy bills, fought to protect the Clean Water and Air Acts, clean up pollution, and protect tribal sacred sites, our Land Grants, and acequias, As chair of an Environmental Working Group I am helping lead on our policies for the future.

Healthcare is a human right. We need a universal healthcare system. As we work to do so, we must fix a broken system by expanding access to all Americans, building our healthcare workforce, and bringing more doctors to NM. We must reverse cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act and lower Rx costs. In NM we must expand our workforce, bring more healthcare workers, expand access to hospitals and clinics, and integrative care. That's why I have worked to bring millions to NM for hospitals, clinics, and emergency services, led on bipartisan bills to hire doctors and nurses, expand the VA, and address the behavioral health crisis. Because,

“You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting another man’s freedom. You can only be free if I am free.” -Clarence Darrow

What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?

What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?

What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?

What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 2

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Gregory G
Cunningham

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.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Gabriel
Vasquez

I believe the tax systems should be fair for working people - including ensuring that corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share. We can make our tax system more fair while protecting the long-term solvency of the trust fund.

As the Congressman that represents 180 miles of border, I have taken the lead in fighting for immigration reform. The New American Immigration Act I have proposed in Congress works to reform our immigration system by investing in new technology that can support our border patrol officers, while also expanding and streamline paths to citizenships. We need a strong, secure border that also treats people humanely and with dignity. That is what I am fighting for in Congress.

Our natural landscapes and air quality are huge parts of who we are as New Mexicans. As Congressman, I have delivered hundreds of millions of dollars to our district to protect these invaluable assets. This includes increased wastewater treatment plant funding and river protection legislation. I have also fought to deliver RECA benefits that are owned to downwinders that have been ignored in this state. I want to return to Congress for a third term so I can continue to bring these critical investments to our state and protect our environment.

We should be doing everything possible to expand healthcare access for all Americans. I believe we must protect Medicaid and Medicare; we should cap the price of life-saving drugs like insulin; and we must always protect and fight for reproductive freedom.

“If nothing is expected of a people, that people will find it difficult to contradict that expectation.” – Frederick Douglas

NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICES

GOVERNOR


New Mexico's Governor holds the supreme executive power of the state and sees that the state's laws are faithfully executed. The Governor's 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>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</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>
REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 <p>Greggory D Hull</p>	<p>I have been a New Mexico resident for more than 40 years, an entrepreneur, and Rio Rancho's longest-serving mayor, elected three times beginning in 2014. Before entering public service, I built and operated two businesses, gaining direct experience with job creation and regulatory challenges. As mayor, I doubled the police budget, helped Rio Rancho earn recognition as New Mexico's safest city, and attracted more than \$6 billion in investment. In 2024, Rio Rancho was named a Best Place to Live for Families and the state's most affordable city. I am ready to bring that same record of results to all New Mexicans.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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?</p>
 <p>Doug W Turner</p>	<p>I've spent my career in New Mexico building businesses that do work in more than in 40 countries, creating jobs and solving complex problems. I've served as Board Chairman of Public Charter Schools of New Mexico for 15 years, 8 years as Chairman of the New Mexico Judicial Standards Commission and also serve on the Village of Taos Ski Valley Village Council and TIDD board. My broad local, state, national and international experience has prepared me to bring accountability back to Santa Fe—whether that's improving educational outcomes, making our communities safe, or standing up for the industries and small businesses that power New Mexico. I bring the kind of disciplined, results-driven leadership that can win across party lines.</p>	<p>My focus as Governor will be on public safety, improving educational outcomes, cutting personal income and gross receipts taxes, cutting red tape for small businesses, developing economic opportunity and creating good paying jobs so families can build bright futures in New Mexico. I believe our state's core issues are deeply connected and must be tackled together. Our economy cannot grow and become competitive regionally unless we provide safe communities, good schools, and a less burdensome tax system. I'll achieve those priorities by providing hands-on leadership in Santa Fe that brings together both parties, restores accountability, and demands that state government work more efficiently for taxpayers.</p>	<p>Water is the lifeblood of New Mexico — for our families, our farmers, and our future. As we face growing demands on limited supplies, we must treat water as a strategic asset and ensure compliance with and enforcement of established water treaties.</p> <p>At the same time, I will prioritize investing in modern infrastructure, reforming water governance, and promoting responsible stewardship of water resources.</p> <p>Expanding and protecting our water supply begins with sound science and data-backed planning that includes assessments on the health of our aquifers, evaluates reservoir capacities, and forecasts future needs.</p>	<p>New Mexico must aggressively diversify our economy to create sustainable prosperity. Part of that equation is large scale development projects although these are by no means the answer to long-term job creation of economic diversification. As Governor, I'll promote our state to corporations seeking to leverage our many unique assets to grow. Our weather, scientific talent, geography, traditional and renewable energy resources are key drivers that set New Mexico apart. When evaluating proposed projects, we should focus on return on investment, job creation, and long-term potential. As Governor, I'll support projects when they clearly expand the tax base, create good-paying durable jobs, and don't leave taxpayers holding the bag.</p>
 <p>Duke Rodriguez</p>	<p>I spent multiple decades managing large systems. I started off at Lovelace, where I rose to become COO. I served as Secretary of the Human Services Department under Governor Gary Johnson. I headed a publicly traded company and built New Mexico's largest legal, licensed medical cannabis company. As a political outsider, I will bring a fresh management approach to New Mexico's problems. Coming from the private sector, I know that New Mexico is not a poor state, but it is absolutely a poorly managed state.</p>	<p>Institute an attitude of stewardship over New Mexico's budget, resources, and people.</p> <p>Enforce fiscal restraint so that public money actually benefits the people of the state.</p> <p>Eliminate state personal income tax.</p> <p>Eliminate gross receipts tax on retail sales.</p> <p>Manage Medicaid and SNAP sustainably.</p> <p>Invest in public infrastructure like desalination plants.</p> <p>Investigate public corruption so that taxpayer money is not wasted.</p>	<p>Invest in desalination plants.</p> <p>Research water re-use, including of produced water.</p> <p>Take a stronger position in the Colorado River interstate litigation.</p>	<p>Is the project multi-use?</p> <p>Is the project sustainable?</p> <p>Does the project create jobs after construction?</p> <p>Does the project reduce poverty?</p> <p>Does the project improve quality of life for residents?</p> <p>Does the project serve families?</p>

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</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>
DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 <p>Deb Haaland</p>	<p>I am qualified to serve as Governor because I bring both lived experience and a proven record of results. I am a lifelong New Mexican, educated in our public schools, a first-generation college graduate, a single mom, and a small business owner who understands what it means to rely on Medicaid and WIC and fight to keep a family afloat. In Congress and as Secretary of the Interior, I delivered infrastructure and broadband investments, protected public lands, launched the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Unit, advanced major clean energy projects, led historic pollution cleanup, and managed an \$18 billion budget and 70,000 employees. I know how to make government work for working people.</p>	<p>My top priorities are making New Mexico more affordable, strengthening education, improving public safety, and protecting healthcare. I want New Mexicans to afford groceries and rent, feel safe in their communities, see a doctor when they are sick, and ensure kids learn to read earlier. I will raise wages, expand tax relief for working families, pursue paid family and medical leave, grow affordable housing, and support job creation. I will invest in childcare, literacy, math, community schools, and educator recruitment. I will tackle violent crime, drugs, gun violence, and overhaul CYFD, while expanding behavioral health, crisis response, Medicaid, rural and Tribal access, and the healthcare workforce.</p>	<p>I will protect New Mexico's water, air, and land. I know 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.</p>	<p>We need to ensure new developments are mutually beneficial. They must: create good-paying jobs for New Mexicans, use local workers and contractors, protect families from higher utility costs, and leave communities better off. Projects should include strong community benefits agreements, accountability, and clawback provisions so the public is protected if promises are broken. They must also safeguard water, air, land, and public health, accurately report water use, and ensure high-demand industries provide clean energy and support grid stability. I want New Mexico to lead in energy, tech, film, and outdoor recreation with long-term value for our communities, not short-term gains for outside corporations that exploit New Mexicans.</p>
 <p>Sam Bregman</p>	<p>I've spent my career delivering results and taking on tough challenges. As District Attorney, I've led the fight against violent crime, held offenders accountable, and worked to make our communities safer. As District Attorney, I've managed the largest "law firm" in the state, worked across agencies, and know how to turn policy into action. I'm running for governor to bring that same results-driven leadership to fix what's not working and deliver for New Mexicans.</p>	<p>My top priorities are public safety, education, healthcare, economic opportunity and affordability.</p> <p>On public safety, I'll strengthen our juvenile justice system, hold violent offenders accountable, and invest in treatment and prevention for those who are addicted to drugs.</p> <p>In education, I'll focus on early literacy, set clear standards, and hold schools, parents, teachers and students accountable for results.</p> <p>On healthcare, I'll expand access by recruiting and retaining more doctors and allowing qualified providers to practice in New Mexico, especially in underserved areas.</p> <p>To grow our economy, I'll invest in workforce training, strengthen partnerships between education and employers, and create more opportunities in our burgeoning energy</p>	<p>We have to be proactive and realistic about our water future. I'll focus on better management of the water we have by investing in conservation, improving infrastructure, and reducing waste. That includes supporting agriculture with more efficient irrigation, promoting water reuse and recycling, and using data-driven planning to prepare for long-term drought. I will create a cabinet level agency called the Water Resources Department which will focus on assuring there is enough water by looking at all the impacts to our acequias, tribal interests, agriculture, and economic development. This is about protecting our communities, our economy, and our way of life in an increasingly arid state.</p>	<p>We should evaluate every major project based on whether it delivers real benefits for New Mexicans. That means good-paying jobs with proper benefits, long-term economic impact, and alignment with our workforce and education systems. Projects should be financially responsible, transparent, and protect our natural resources, especially water. If a project doesn't create lasting opportunity and strengthen our communities, it's not the right investment.</p>


LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR


New Mexico's 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 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>
REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:				
<p>David M Gallegos</p>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
 <p>Manuel (Manny) Lardizabal</p>	<p>I hold studies in Criminal Justice from Western New Mexico University, grounding me in the principles of justice, public safety, and ethical leadership. I also completed specialized training through The New Mexico Corrections Department (Penal Law, Juvenile Delinquency, Forensic Science), The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (Corrections Officer and Administrative Training), Leadership and Ministry Programs focusing on Business Leadership, Biblical Studies, and Financial Stewardship. As a private investor and entrepreneur, I understand fiscal responsibility, economic growth, and what it takes to create jobs and opportunity for working families. I also served on the Bernalillo/Albuquerque Retired & Senior Volunteer Program Advisory Council.</p>	<p>1 Public Safety: We face rampant crime, drugs, and violence that threaten our communities. I will achieve this by supporting law enforcement with resources and reforms, cracking down on cartel influence at the border, and implementing tough-on-crime policies like mandatory minimums for repeat offenders. 2 Economic Growth: My plan includes tax cuts for working families and businesses, streamlining permits to attract energy and tech sectors, and promoting entrepreneurship rooted in New Mexico's natural resources. 3 Quality Education: I'll push for school choice, parental rights in curriculum, and accountability measures like performance-based funding, while eliminating radical ideologies to refocus on reading, math, and practical skills.</p>	<p>I will preside over Senate sessions fairly, professionally, and in a nonpartisan manner, maintaining decorum while keeping proceedings moving smoothly. I will collaborate closely with the Senate President Pro Tempore to ensure bills move efficiently through committees, reach the floor promptly, and avoid bottlenecks that delay critical legislation. I will maximize our 30-day regular session by ensuring bills are prefiled, introduced before deadlines, and prioritized appropriately. We must use interim time productively so senators arrive prepared when session begins. I will foster bipartisan cooperation, focusing senators on shared goals—improving education, strengthening our economy, and keeping communities safe.</p>	<p>As Lieutenant Governor, I will make open government and two-way communication a top priority. My approach rests on three core principles: 1. Launch a centralized, user-friendly online portal where New Mexicans can track agency actions, budget allocations, and policy decisions in real time.</p> <p>2. Hold monthly town halls across all regions of New Mexico—in person and via Zoom—to listen directly to residents' concerns and answer questions about government actions.</p> <p>3. Ensure all agency advisory board meetings are publicly announced and streamed, with opportunities for public comment. Government should not operate behind closed doors—it should serve with the people, not over them.</p>

	<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>
 <p>Aubrey Blair Dunn</p>	<p>I have worked my entire professional career to hold government accountable to the laws and constitutions, I will continue to do so using that experience to preside over the Senate, and to advocate for the citizens as their voice directly in the executive branch.</p>	<p>My top priorities are to work with the Legislature to pass real and drastic reforms to education, criminal justice and to make living here more affordable for New Mexicans by making sure they keep more of their hard earned money.</p>	<p>By providing guidance working on cross the aisle to make sure that the laws that are passed not only represent sound policy benefiting all New Mexicans and to call out laws that are likely unconstitutional early so that time is not wasted on Legislation that attempts to strip New Mexicans of their rights, for instance to lawfully keep and bear arms.</p>	<p>By being a direct advocate for citizens with the Governor's office and all state agencies to make sure that the laws are being followed and people are being treated fairly by the government including federal agencies.</p>

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Maggie Toulouse Oliver</p>	<p>I am New Mexico's 26th and longest-serving Secretary of State. I have nearly 20 years of experience in county and state-level government, serving as Bernalillo County Clerk for 10 years before being elected to my current role. I have been involved in New Mexico politics since 1994, working for Senator Jeff Bingaman, serving as President of a New Mexico chapter of EMILYs List, and as director of the New Mexico chapter of the League of Conservation Voters. I will be ready on day one to serve with the next Democratic governor of New Mexico as both a trusted advisor and a fighter for bold legislation as President of the Senate in the Roundhouse.</p>	<p>My top priority is lowering the cost of living for our families. Skyrocketing prices are making life even harder for New Mexicans. The current Administration is ripping health care, food assistance, housing security, and energy security away from working people. I will work with the next Democratic governor and the Senate to support legislation that protects earned benefits, closes gaps in federal funding, and taps into New Mexico's wealth to invest in our people. I will support growing universal free childcare and improving public education, protecting women's reproductive freedom, preserving our environment, and combating climate change.</p>	<p>I have cultivated positive working relationships with senators from across New Mexico over decades of work in politics. I will be a Lt. Governor who listens to legislators and keeps an open door. I also support modernizing the Legislature with paid salaries at the median earning level for New Mexicans. This will allow legislators to focus on their work without worrying about financial insecurity, and open the door to serving for more young and working-class New Mexicans. Modernizing the legislature should also allow for more professional staff to assist our legislators with the deluge of bills they receive each session.</p>	<p>The Legislature and the Executive Branch should have an open and positive working relationship, and it is clear that better transparency and trust between them are needed. Throughout my career, I have implemented transparency reforms and focused on good governance in my offices as County Clerk and Secretary of State. We have seen the results in speedier election reporting, more access to voting sites and information, and consistent efforts to communicate clearly with the public. I believe these principles are applicable everywhere, and I plan to utilize them as Lt. Governor.</p>
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 <p>Harold James Pope Jr</p>	<p>I've spent almost the entirety of my adult life in service, first in the U.S. Air Force for over 20 years, rising from enlisted to officer, leading teams and managing complex programs. Today, as a State Senator, I am fighting for working families, seniors, veterans, students, and our communities, passing legislation to expand education, provide tax relief, support veterans, protect our environment, and strengthen public safety. I serve as Vice Chair of the Education Committee and key committees shaping our state's future. I also bring a strong academic background and am pursuing a Doctorate in Education. Most importantly, I show up, listen, and put people first—answering only to the people of New Mexico, not corporate or special interests.</p>	<p>My top priorities are affordability, education, jobs, & healthcare. I will lower costs by expanding housing & down payment assistance, capping prescription drugs, & targeted tax relief. I will strengthen public education by supporting families, investing in educators, STEAM, trades, & culturally relevant learning. I will grow living-wage jobs through workforce training, apprenticeships, economic incentives, and tech & clean energy investments. I will expand healthcare access thru a public option, including behavioral health, & address provider shortages. We must also improve public safety, protect our environment, & invest in infrastructure. As Lt. Governor, I will partner with communities to deliver localized solutions and real results.</p>	<p>As Vice Chair of the Education Committee, I've learned that an effective Senate depends on preparation, collaboration, and accountability. I come to hearings ready, work across the aisle to resolve issues early, and help keep meetings focused, transparent, and productive. As Lieutenant Governor, I will bring that same approach to presiding over the Senate. I will ensure sessions run efficiently, respect members' time, and uphold a fair and consistent process. I'll work with leadership from both parties to prioritize legislation, reduce bottlenecks, and create space for thoughtful debate without unnecessary delays. Most importantly, I'll lead in a way that is accessible, transparent, and focused on delivering results for the people of NM.</p>	<p>As Lieutenant Governor, I will serve as the people's ombudsman. Someone who shows up, listens, and helps New Mexicans navigate their government. I will create a clear, accessible constituent services process so individuals and small businesses can raise concerns and receive timely responses. My office will track issues, follow up, and ensure accountability. I will also expand communication through community forums, digital outreach, coordination with local leaders, and weekly walk-in office hours. Transparency will be a priority by making agency information more accessible and elevating concerns when they arise. This role is about being a bridge between the people and their government, ensuring every New Mexican is heard and served.</p>
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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.

What qualifies you for this office?

List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.

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?

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Ramona L Goolsby

I am a veteran, healthcare professional, rancher, and advocate with a proven record of service and problem-solving. My experience has instilled the discipline, leadership, and accountability needed to manage complex systems and deliver results. I have been actively engaged in election-related issues, working to promote transparency, accuracy, and public confidence. I understand the Secretary of State's role is not political, but administrative, ensuring fair, secure, and accessible elections for all eligible voters. I bring a practical, solutions-oriented approach focused on efficiency, integrity, and serving all New Mexicans.

My top priorities are strengthening election integrity, improving transparency, and increasing voter accessibility. I will work to ensure accurate voter rolls, secure systems, and consistent procedures across all counties. I will expand public access to clear, timely election information so voters understand how the process works and can have confidence in the results. I also support practical improvements that make voting more accessible for eligible voters, including efficient processes and strong communication with local election officials. My approach is focused on accountability, clarity, and ensuring every eligible vote is counted accurately and securely.

In this era of rapid change, the Secretary of State must be a definitive, nonpartisan source of truth. I will modernize office communications by ensuring our website is a user-friendly hub for verifying registration and polling data. To address challenges from AI and social media, I will prioritize professional oversight and consistent, fact-based communication. My focus is on providing transparent, real-time data that renders misinformation obsolete while ensuring state offices do not collaborate with platforms to censor speech. By maintaining an open, accessible record of truth, I will give every New Mexican the tools to navigate election information with absolute confidence.

The Secretary of State must be a nonpartisan position, serving as a fair referee rather than a political operator. The role is to ensure that election and campaign finance laws are enforced evenly and without favoritism. Using the office for a political agenda erodes public trust and discourages participation. By operating as a professional administrative body instead of an activist platform, the office can focus on transparent oversight, protecting access for every eligible voter, and ensuring secure, straightforward processes for everyone.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Katharine E Clark

With 25 years of experience in elections and public service, I am the two-term Santa Fe County Clerk in New Mexico's complex third-largest jurisdiction. I have modernized operations, built a high-performing election system with high turnout, 100% election-night reporting, while designing systems and policies adopted statewide by the SOS. I passed a national policy to block Trump's election interference and helped beat him in court. I led an overhaul of county clerk training to protect elections. I am the only person in NM with national and state election administration certifications, and my office earned 13 national awards for election performance. I will bring that same experience, toughness, and vision to the Secretary of State's office.

As Secretary of State, I will defend democracy by protecting voters from chaos, doubt, and intimidation, and I will be tough on Trump and his allies who undermine trust. I will expand ballot access by bringing youth civic education statewide, improving ballot language, expanding jailhouse voting, and strengthening Native voting rights and transparency. I will run trusted elections by working with county clerks, ensuring 100% election-night reporting, providing tools to prevent errors, and offering real-time turnout dashboards. I will reduce the influence of dark money by expanding public financing and increasing campaign finance transparency. I will continue modernizing the office with better technology and a clear, user-friendly website.

We need to move faster than the lies. I will make the Secretary of State's office the most trusted source of election information in NM by improving the website, expanding real-time updates, building tools like real-time results and turnout dashboards, and responding quickly to misinformation, including AI-generated fakes. As a panel expert on AI in elections, I understand how these threats evolve and how to counter them. I believe in prebunking falsehoods before they spread by educating voters early and making election information easy to understand. I have already built real-time election tools voters use today. MAGA's movement thrives on confusion. I want voters to have clear facts, trusted information, and confidence in the system.

The Secretary of State must protect voter data, support county clerks, enforce election law, and ensure elections are secure, transparent, and fair. I'm elected to the national election security board to monitor threats and share real-time information across states. That means strong cybersecurity, accurate voter rolls, secure polling places, and rapid response to threats or misinformation. My office has implemented first-in-nation election security innovations and is nationally recognized. I will defend New Mexico's elections from political interference, including federal overreach. This requires coordination across every county. Democracy cannot be taken for granted. The Secretary of State must protect voting and public trust.



Amanda López Askin

As a public servant for 25 years, I have a diverse background in corporate and governmental organizations. By any measure I am the most qualified and experienced candidate to be Secretary of State. I am in my eighth year of serving as the Doña Ana County Clerk, administering twelve elections in the second most populous county with arguably the most contentious elections. I am qualified for this office because I bring both hands-on election administration experience and a deep commitment to public service. I have worked directly in the systems that make our democracy function. I understand what it takes to run accurate, secure, and accessible elections because I have done that work on the ground. I know the pressure election workers face, t

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.

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.

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.

<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>What actions would you support to make citizens safer?</i>	<i>How would you protect states' rights as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?</i>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Samuel Isaiah Kane Sr

I know how the law works, and I know why it's not working for the people of New Mexico. Throughout my career, I have tirelessly advocated for the legal rights of my clients. I have seen first-hand how the justice system places politics over people. The office of Attorney General was created by the legislature to represent and protect the people's interests. But that's not happening. Our state has some of the poorest nationwide rankings when it comes to the most basic aspects of safety and security. Helping families, protecting communities, and preserving our resources matter more than grabbing headlines. New Mexico needs an Attorney General that will advocate for the people on things that matter most. I am qualified because that's all I do.

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.

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.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Raúl Torrez

I've served as New Mexico's Attorney General, an assistant District Attorney, assistant Attorney General, assistant US Attorney, and as a White House Fellow and senior advisor in President Obama's Department of Justice and have spent my career fighting to protect families. I have also served as District Attorney, managing the largest law office in the state, where we used smart-on-crime approach to solve decades-old rape cases. I've taken on extreme, right wing militias and big corporations like Facebook, and I know how to fight and advocate for the policies we need to make our communities safer. I will continue to fight to strengthen our criminal justice system, fight for consumers, safeguard the environment, take on corruption.

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.

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.

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>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Joshua James Ryan Lawrence
(write-in)


No response received.

No response received.

No response received.


No response received.


STATE AUDITOR (Continued)

	<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>
DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 <p>Joseph M Maestas</p>	<p>I've devoted my entire life to public service: over 30 years in Federal civil service and over 20 years in elected public service. I served as Chairman of the Public Regulation Commission, Mayor of Espanola and Councilman in Espanola and Santa Fe. I'm also a licensed professional engineer. As State Auditor, I hold public entities and officials accountable for managing taxpayer funds and protect 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 over \$10 million in withheld capital outlay.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>When public entity audit reports are submitted late, the public entity does receive a formal audit finding for a late report. As State Auditor, I work with the entity to get the audit report eventually submitted within 90 days of the submittal deadline. 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.</p>	<p>The primary role of the State Auditor is to inform and notify. We do not investigate with the exception of our Special Investigations Division which investigates and manages fraud, waste, and abuse (FWA) cases. My top three issues are to investigate and/or examine: 1) Incoming, anonymous, and credible FWA cases as we average one complaint per day with almost 300 currently active cases; 2) Public entities that are chronically late in audit report submittals and have a severe lack of internal controls resulting in an adverse audit opinion and findings; and 3) Annual financial reports considered high-risk from conservators managing financial assets for protected persons in coordination with the District court system often leading to an audit.</p>

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 qualifies you for this office?</i>	<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>
REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 <p>James F Ellison (write-in)</p>	<p>I hold the Chartered Financial Analysts designation, which is the gold standard of investment credentials. It signifies a strong foundation in securities analysis and portfolio management, and a commitment to ethics and professionalism in the investment industry.</p> <p>This is not a job for a career politician — it's one for someone with proven investment credentials.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I will use my seat on the board of the State Investment Council, as well as on other boards, to advocate for the responsible stewardship of state funds — not for political agendas.</p>	<p>To be clear, the state treasurer's office directly manages the state treasury's \$20 billion portfolio.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 advocate for an implementation of this policy that does not result in a drag on returns.</p>

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 <p>Laura M Montoya</p>	<p>I am qualified to continue serving as State Treasurer because I bring more than two decades of direct experience in public finance, treasury operations, and government leadership — and because I am already successfully performing the responsibilities of this office. My career has been built around safeguarding public funds, strengthening financial systems, and ensuring that New Mexicans can trust their government to manage their money responsibly.</p> <p>As State Treasurer, I oversee the state's investment portfolio, cash flow, banking services, and financial compliance functions. My background uniquely prepared me for this work while also pushing financial fitness as a graduation requirement, baby bonds, and UNM/NMSU financial certification.</p>	<p>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 if it is not the most favored decisions I am required to make.</p>	<p>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 have made more money 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.</p>	<p>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, and small loans for community members.</p>

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 qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What are your top three priorities for the State Land Office (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>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Michael Jack Perry

I've spent my career working on the ground in New Mexico, managing and stewarding the very lands this office oversees. I served over 20 years with the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, rising to Major of Southern Field Operations, and later as Assistant Commissioner of State Lands, where I helped manage millions of acres of trust land. I also run a wildlife and habitat consulting business, working directly with ranchers and landowners. I understand how land, water, and resources support our communities, and I bring practical, real-world experience, not theory to this job.

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 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.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Juan De Jesus Sanchez III

I'm a 13th-generation New Mexican who grew up working in a ranching family in Valencia and Socorro counties, where I learned firsthand the importance of land and water stewardship. Professionally, I've worked as a Natural Resource Specialist and Ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and as a technical assistant for the New Mexico Acequia Commission, supporting conservation and traditional water systems. I also served as Political Director for U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich, working on land, energy, and public policy. I bring lived experience, professional expertise, and a deep commitment to protecting our lands while delivering for our schools and communities.

-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.

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. Done right, transmission can strengthen our economy while protecting what makes our state unique.



Matthew McQueen


My entire career has been dedicated to the type of work that the State Land Office does. I've been a real property attorney for over 30 years, specializing in land conservation but experienced in commercial development, affordable housing, mineral rights, water rights, you name it. I've served in the New Mexico Legislature for 12 years, and for the past 10 years I have chaired the House Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee. And I have a track record of success in the Legislature, including working to raise the royalty rate in the Permian Basin, protect the Gila River, block the importation and storage of high-level nuclear waste in New Mexico, and reform the Department of Game & Fish into a modern Department of Wildlife.

We need to diversify the revenue of the Land Office by pursuing more renewable projects (wind, solar, geothermal), commercial projects (on appropriate parcels), and affordable and workforce housing (again, on appropriate parcels). We can do all of that while protecting agricultural lands, conservation and cultural areas, and outdoor recreation. I will continue to hold the oil and gas industry accountable, as the current administration has done and as I have done in the Legislature. And I want to establish an in-house education advocate to work with the Public Education Department, the Legislature (including LESC and LFC), unions, and others in supporting, promoting, and protecting public education.

The State Land Office holds 9 million surface acres (13 million mineral estate) in trust for all New Mexicans. There are areas that are appropriate for commercial or residential development; there are many other areas that are not. With so much land to work with (12% of the state), the Land Office can effectively earn money for the Land Grant Permanent Fund (which supports public schools, universities, and hospitals) while protecting agricultural lands, conservation and cultural areas, and outdoor recreation. I have expertise in all of these areas. Finally, in the Legislature I was a staunch advocate for ethics, transparency, and public process, and I will bring that advocacy with me to the Land Office.

In order to further develop renewable resources, we must also improve our transmission capacity, and that's why this year I sponsored and passed House Memorial 20 to create a "Renewable Energy Infrastructure Study Group" with public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders. The Study Group is tasked with developing ideas to create an approval process that is "swift, certain and fair; reasonably safeguards land, water, wildlife and scenic resources; and ensures meaningful public participation and appropriate judicial oversight." That will be a challenging task, but, pursuant to the memorial, the State Land Office will have a seat at the table.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS (Continued)

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What are your top three priorities for the State Land Office (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>
 <p>Jonas Moya</p>	<p>I'm running for Commissioner of Public Lands because I've spent my life working on the land and my career managing programs that support farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.</p> <p>Our state trust lands fund our public schools and institutions, and they deserve steady, experienced leadership. I bring both real-world land experience as a rancher and management experience from leading the USDA Farm Service Agency in New Mexico.</p> <p>This office is all about responsible stewardship. I aim to balance conservation efforts with economic opportunities, ensuring our lands remain vibrant and supportive for future generations.</p>	<p>My top priorities are strengthening revenue for our schools, supporting responsible energy development, and protecting the long-term health of our land.</p> <p>That means continuing to generate strong returns from oil and gas while also expanding opportunities in renewable energy, conservation leasing, and outdoor recreation.</p> <p>I also want to ensure that rural communities benefit from the lands around them through jobs, access, and economic development.</p>	<p>The State Land Office must do both: protect our land and generate strong, consistent revenue for our schools and institutions. Those goals work together when managed well. I would ensure all development. Oil and gas, renewable energy, and other uses are done responsibly, with clear standards that protect the long-term health of the land. At the same time, we must maximize returns through competitive leasing, strong oversight, and accountability. Diversifying revenue is key. By expanding renewable energy, conservation leasing, and recreation, we can reduce risk and build more stable, long-term funding. My focus is on delivering for today's beneficiaries while protecting our lands for future generations.</p>	<p>The State Land Office should play a proactive role in facilitating responsible transmission development. That means streamlining permitting on state trust lands, coordinating with utilities and developers, and ensuring projects are sited in a way that minimizes impacts to working lands and natural resources. Expanding transmission is essential to unlocking both renewable energy and continued responsible oil and gas development, which support our schools and economy. At the same time, we must ensure fair returns for trust beneficiaries through well-structured easements and leases. With the right balance, we can modernize our infrastructure, strengthen our energy economy, and protect the long-term value of our lands.</p>

“By voting, we add our voice to the chorus that forms opinions and the basis for actions.” Jens Stoltenberg

“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

NEW MEXICO STATE DISTRICT OFFICES

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.

<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<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 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 7

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Tanya R Mirabal Moya	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Rickie Allen
Gonzales II

While I'm not an experienced politician, I have been politically involved for many years - both as a Precinct Chair and Voter Registration Agent. Increasingly over the years I felt compelled to get more involved and I feel that with my acumen in Visual Communications I can offer a more comprehensive operation in terms of helping to represent and address the concerns of my district and community.	One of the largest tenets of both my campaign and my priorities is pragmatism, and taking practical approaches when weighing initiatives. Accessibility and practicality are huge tenets for me, and I intend to carry both those notions throughout my campaign and possible tenure. This simply means that I intend to fully avail myself to my constituents and those organizations bringing forth initiatives which seek to help my constituents in a pragmatic manner.	I feel we should do a better job of conserving, treating and transporting water. Furthermore, we need to establish some form of Water Utility Authority to address runoff and flood concerns. All too often we hear of "100 year" flood events which increasingly seem to occur every three to five years. This flooding has left many residents decimated, and flood control as-well-as water conservancy need to be better dealt with. As a legislator, I would carefully scrutinize all legislation dealing with water use and abuse.	Specifically in my District (House District 7) while Valencia County has broken ground on a hospital facility on the West portion of the county, my constituents could use more medical facilities on the East portion of Valencia County, specifically in the realm of Substance Use Disorder and Behavioral Health to help compliment comprehensive medical treatment access.
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 8

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Brian G Baca	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Katherine Joanna
Gauer

I have spent my career serving individuals one-on-one to find the best solutions within existing systems. Through my varied educational and work experiences, I have partnered with county and city municipalities; criminal, civil and family judicial systems; municipal, state and federal law enforcement; universities across the world; at-risk and special populations and service organizations.	We must improve the quality of life for every New Mexican beginning with accessible health insurance and affordable housing options. New Mexicans should have guaranteed access to healthcare that covers preventative care, dental, vision, meta/behavioral/addiction services and emergency services. We must increase affordable housing, including building state funded apartments and starter homes, and removing private equity that prices out locals.	The legislature should address future water needs in 3 ways: first, invest in water conservation and infrastructural improvements; second, develop new water supplies; third, support existing water consumers to transition to low-water methods. Some drinking water systems lose as much as 70% of clean drinking water via degraded infrastructure. Improving broken and leaking pipes will conserve significant potable water. We must invest in developing new water supplies for industrial use to include water reclamation and desalination. Finally, we should incentivize drought tolerant and low-water agricultural alternatives and offer homeowners who invest in native plant habitats, xero-scaped yards, and water reclamation systems a state tax credit.	First, we must ensure every person has access to insurance. One in 10 New Mexicans currently do not have insurance and nearly 6 out of 10 have sacrificed medical care past two years. When individuals are insured, they rely less on costly emergency room visits, free up critical response services and help keep insurance rates lower for everyone. Next, we must offer competitive benefits to medical providers (i.e. student debt forgiveness, home ownership assistance programs) to encourage out of state providers who align with our values to relocate. Finally, we must retain the next generation of medical professionals graduating from our universities by investing in quality of life projects that young professionals require.
I know that bringing each of these experiences will make me a well-rounded, well-informed and collaborative leader.	Locally, I will support and fund critical infrastructure in each municipality including roads, water treatment, emergency response systems, followed by quality of life projects including senior and recreation centers and staff, play grounds and shade structures etc.		

What qualifies you for this office?

How would you address your highest priorities?

How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?

What more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 22

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Stefani Lord

I am qualified to serve because I have consistently delivered real results for District 22 while staying grounded in our communities' needs.

My work has focused on the issues that matter most to everyday New Mexicans, such as healthcare access, infrastructure, public safety, water resources, responsible growth, and investing millions directly into our communities for roads, facilities, and critical services.

One of my top priorities has been addressing New Mexico's doctor shortage. I cosponsored HB 99, a bipartisan reform to our medical malpractice system, helping make our state more competitive for physicians and improving access to care, especially in rural communities.

My top priorities are improving access to healthcare, protecting our water resources, maintaining public safety, and ensuring responsible growth in our communities.

New Mexico continues to face a serious doctor shortage, and I will keep working on solutions that attract and retain providers, especially in rural areas.

Water is also critical. I have worked with state agencies and local leaders to address PFAS contamination concerns and will continue pushing for long-term solutions that protect our drinking water.

I am also committed to investing in infrastructure, roads, emergency services, and community facilities, while ensuring development reflects the needs and values of local residents.

New Mexico must take a long-term, practical approach to water management that protects our communities and future.

We need to invest in infrastructure, repair aging systems, reduce water loss, and improve delivery. I've supported water system improvements in Carnuel, Tranquillo Pines, and throughout Torrance County.

We must also protect water quality. I've worked with state agencies and local leaders to address PFAS contamination in the East Mountains and will continue advocating for safe drinking water.

Finally, planning must be responsible. Development should reflect limited water resources, and we must support conservation, reuse, and innovation.

We need to continue addressing the root causes of New Mexico's healthcare shortage by making our state a more viable place for providers to practice.

I cosponsored HB 99 to reform our medical malpractice system, an important step toward reducing barriers that have driven doctors out of the state, especially in rural areas.

We must also invest in workforce development, expand access to rural and emergency care, and support infrastructure that allows providers to serve more patients.

At the same time, we must address quality-of-life factors, reducing crime, strengthening schools, and expanding loan repayment programs to attract and retain medical professionals in New Mexico.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



William Bill Scott

I had spent over twenty-two years in the military as both an Army officer specializing in Latin America foreign relations, military intelligence, and an enlisted cavalry

scout. I'm a jack-of-all-trades that came out of New Mexico. In the military, I served in the Pentagon and embassies abroad providing indepth analysis and political-military implementation advice. I know the work that is done to make policy a reality. This has made me attunely aware of unintended side-effects of ill-planned decisions. I had attended both UNM and NMSU (studying computers and mathematics respectively) before getting a master's degree at Vanderbilt University in Latin American

Studies.

I will restore dignified communication by prioritizing constituent service, respectful bipartisan problem-solving, and clear public outreach. I'll hold regular town halls and office hours, require plain-language summaries of bills, and set a code of conduct for legislative debate that emphasizes facts over personal attacks. I'll join and promote bipartisan working groups with shared goals and reward collaboration in committee assignments and budgeting, so solving problems, not scoring points, drives our work.

I would like to see implementation of building codes that require rainwater harvesting and graywater usage to flush toilets. Toilets account for 1/3 of water use. This is a nontrivial amount of fresh drinking water used to dump sewage. Additionally, New Mexico regulations should encourage the agriculture of drought-resistant crops.

I'll push for practical, low-cost steps that fit District 22's realities: prioritize and fund short stretches of the worst washout roads, widen/replace undersized culverts, pre-monsoon ditching and gravel regrading, and fast contracts with local small contractors for emergency repairs; formalize mutual-aid agreements with counties, equip first responders with basic off-road gear and radios, post clear seasonal route maps/signage, pursue targeted state and federal repair grants, and report a few simple metrics (closures, average repair time) to keep officials accountable.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 49

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Gail Missy

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.


No response received.

Armstrong


THERE ARE NO DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 69

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<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 more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?</i>
DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 <p>Harry Garcia</p>	<p>I'm running to represent District 69 because this is my home and my heart is here—with the hardworking families, small business owners, and kids who make our communities strong. As a veteran, business owner, and dad, I know firsthand the struggles we face: fighting for better jobs, stronger schools, affordable healthcare, and good roads. Over four terms as your representative, I've worked hard to bring funding for infrastructure, support workforce development, and invest in opportunities for our future. I've made mistakes, but I've owned them, learned from them, and kept showing up to deliver for you. Leadership is about listening, growing, and standing together—and together, we can build a brighter future for District 69.</p>	<p>Our highest priorities—better jobs, stronger schools, affordable healthcare, and improved infrastructure—are rooted in the daily challenges and dreams of families in District 69. To create jobs, I'll fight for funding that supports local workforce development programs and incentivizes small businesses. For schools, I'll prioritize investments in classrooms, teacher pay, and resources to prepare our kids for bright futures. I'll advocate for affordable healthcare by expanding access in rural areas and easing costs for working families. Lastly, I'll ensure better roads and infrastructure by securing state resources for rural projects that keep our communities connected. Together, we'll build a stronger future for western New Mexico.</p>	<p>Water is life here in New Mexico, and as our state grows more arid, we all feel the urgency to protect this vital resource—for our families, farmers, and future generations. The legislature must focus on innovation and conservation. That means investing in technologies for water reuse, modernizing irrigation systems, and supporting local efforts to fix outdated infrastructure. We also need stronger incentives for responsible water use and partnerships that prioritize long-term sustainability. By working together—community by community—we can safeguard our water supply while balancing the needs of agriculture, industry, and families. This issue affects us all, and it will take all of us to find solutions.</p>	<p>Healthcare isn't just a policy issue—it's deeply personal. Families in District 69 deserve access to care that's close to home, affordable, and trustworthy. To make that a reality, our legislature can do more to expand rural clinics, attract and retain healthcare professionals, and invest in telehealth services that connect families to care without the long drive. We can also ease the burden of high prescription costs and ensure Medicaid remains strong for those who rely on it. Healthcare should never be out of reach for any family. By working together—making smart investments and listening to communities—we can build a system that puts people first and ensures every resident has what they need to live healthy, secure lives.</p>
 <p>Michelle Paulene Abeyta</p>	<p>NM House D69 is a large 3.4-million-acre diverse district with multi-jurisdictions ranging from state, tribal and federal. Our land is a combination of rural, frontier, and some urban. For years this district has not had a leader who understands the diversity and legal complexity. For even longer, the smaller communities' needs have been ignored. I am from here, grew up here, I am raising my family here, and we are committed to improving the standard of living, health care, services, and programming for all.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>By learning and listening to experts and understanding the options and what would work best for New Mexicans.</p>	<p>Recruitment, retention, grow within initiatives, good pay, maintain and/or upgrade facilities, provide housing for employees, provide alternative care options (telehealth, in person, nurse visits, etc.)</p>
	<i>What are the policy priorities that made you want to run for state representative?</i>	<i>What strategies would you support to manage New Mexico's water supply in light of growing water demand?</i>	<i>What changes would you make to the process of state funding for local public projects and why?</i>	<i>What role should the state government play in the regulation of social media and artificial intelligence?</i>

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 70

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.				
DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 <p>Anita Amalia Gonzales</p>	<p>Education: I support investments, from early childhood through higher ed, raising educator pay, expanding student services, improving STEM and career pathways, and connecting schools to workforce needs.</p> <p>Healthcare: I will expand rural access, grow the workforce, fund mental health and addiction programs, expand Telehealth, and defend reproductive rights.</p> <p>Jobs/Small Businesses: Support job training, internships, and broadband for education, telehealth, and commerce.</p> <p>Infrastructure: Fund broadband and water, repair acequias, and invest in public safety.</p> <p>Environment: Invest in renewable energy, mitigate wildfire risk, restore land, and protect water.</p> <p>Affordability: Support working families, local businesses, and affordable rural housing.</p>	<p>To manage New Mexico's water supply, I support investing in rural water and wastewater infrastructure, modernizing aging systems, and expanding emergency response capacity for communities facing shortages. Protecting and restoring watersheds is critical for clean water and post-fire recovery. We must promote groundwater management, conservation, and sustainable use, while supporting community driven solutions that reflect local needs in Torrance and San Miguel Counties. These strategies ensure safe, reliable water for families, agriculture, and future generations.</p>	<p>I would make state funding for local projects more transparent, equitable, and responsive to community needs. Funding decisions should prioritize rural and underserved areas, support critical infrastructure like water, broadband, and public safety, and include input from local governments, tribal nations, and community organizations. Streamlining application processes and ensuring timely disbursement of funds would prevent delays that hurt communities. By aligning state resources with local priorities, we can ensure projects are completed efficiently and benefit residents where they live.</p>	<p>The state should ensure that social media and AI are safe, transparent, and accountable. This includes protecting users from misinformation, harassment, and data misuse while promoting privacy and equity. Regulations should support ethical AI development and provide oversight without stifling innovation. The state should also invest in computer science and digital literacy education so all New Mexicans can navigate technology responsibly.</p>
<p>Ambrose M Castellano</p>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS


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>
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THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Kris Houghton</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>I have served in this office since Gov. Lujan Grisham appointed me last year, 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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 decision for the right reasons.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Finally, with ~800 cases filed in the court each year, the work load demands discipline and diligence.</p>	<p>With just 10 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. I look forward to building more efficiency in the way we write and participate on our opinions.</p>	<p>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 in and stay busy with their track, football, soccer, basketball, and piano activities.</p> <p>I earned my law degree from the University of New Mexico 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.</p>
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“If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.” - Abigail Adams (1744-1818)

“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

“Elections belong to the people. It is their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.” - Abraham Lincoln

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 6

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 qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What are your top three priorities for the Public Education Commission?</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>
REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:				
Stewart Alan Ingham	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
THERE ARE NO DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.				

“It is always easier to fight for one’s principles than to live up to them.” – Alfred Adler

“Democracy is the slow process of stumbling toward the right decision instead of going straight forward to the wrong one.” – Anonymous

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

TORRANCE COUNTY OFFICES

TORRANCE 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>
REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:				
Bobby L Garcia	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
Craig M Davis	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>

THERE ARE NO DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

TORRANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

County Commissions are policy-making bodies 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 qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>How would you better 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>
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TORRANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:				
Nathan Allen Schafer	I bring a combination of real-world business experience, problem-solving, and connection to this community. I've worked directly with budgets, employees, regulations, and customers. I understand how decisions made at the county level can impact people trying to make a living. I'm not coming in to 'learn government' at the expense of taxpayers. I understand accountability, I know how to make tough decisions, and I believe in responsible stewardship of public funds.	My top priorities are fiscal responsibility, infrastructure, and public safety. I will push for disciplined budgeting, making sure taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently and transparently, and prioritizing essential services of government.	I will push for clearer, more accessible communication—posting agendas earlier, summarizing major issues in plain language, and using multiple channels like social media, the county website, and local meetings to get the word out.	Growth without water planning is irresponsible. Shutting down growth entirely isn't realistic either. We need a balanced, common-sense approach. That means encouraging responsible development that accounts for water availability, supporting conservation efforts, and working with state and regional partners on long-term water planning.


DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:				
Albert Chavez	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>

TORRANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:				
Thomas J Holt	I bring a proven record of leadership, sound decision-making, and community involvement. I take a business-minded, level-headed approach focused on responsible budgeting, infrastructure, and public safety. I listen, work collaboratively, and focus on practical solutions. I am committed to transparency, accountability, and using taxpayer dollars effectively. I focus on long-term planning while addressing immediate needs and always put the best interests of the entire community first.	Sustainable growth is critical for our county, especially in a state that often discourages it. I will prioritize policies that support responsible development while protecting what makes our community strong. Growth must also mean connection—I want a county where businesses, families, and neighborhoods thrive together. By leading with common sense and collaboration, we can set the standard for what a healthy, growing county should look like.	Many residents are unaware of what's happening in county government—not due to secrecy, but a lack of consistent communication. I will prioritize transparency by improving how we share information about meetings, decisions, department updates, and community needs. A more active and consistent social media presence, along with clear and timely updates, will help keep residents informed, engaged, and confident in their local government and its work.	Water scarcity is a real concern, especially where many rely on individual wells. When a well runs dry, families face a major financial burden. I support responsible growth that protects water resources within our county while ensuring residents have options. This includes expanding access to community water systems where feasible, promoting conservation, and planning development so growth does not outpace supply or put current residents at risk.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>How would you better 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>
 <p>Leanne M Tapia</p>	<p>I have community roots and involvement for 20 plus years.</p> <p>I have leadership skills as I have been President of several organizations. (Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club)</p> <p>I understand local issues, and I walk with integrity and accountability.</p>	<p>Transparency is a must, we need to be able to let the people of Torrance county speak.</p>	<p>Open door policy.</p> <p>Being available to answer questions is key. {being informed if power}</p> <p>Giving the people the hope that they can trust our leadership.</p>	<p>Being involved in those decisions and looking out for the best interest of Torrance County. (those who have already established roots here and those wanting to move in.)</p>

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:


 <p>William F Peifer</p>	<p>Extensive experience in business and Information Technology</p>	<p>Water - Creation of a county-level Water Authority</p> <p>Roads - Repaving (not just patching the patches) of paved roads and proper maintenance of unpaved roads</p> <p>Affordable High-Speed Internet Access</p> <p>All are achievable with grant funding.</p>	<p>First, I would actually pay attention to speakers during the "Public Comments" portion of County Commission meetings. Outside of those meetings I would conduct Town Hall meetings across the district on a regular basis. Finally, I would push the county to communicate information back and forth with constituents via a more user-friendly website.</p>	<p>Businesses relocating to Torrance County should be required to submit a water conservation plan that might include methods to reclaim and recycle any water that they use. For instance, a water-hungry data center might be required to utilize a "closed" system for any water being used for cooling.</p>
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TORRANCE 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 qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities for law enforcement?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the administration of the Sheriff's office?</i>	<i>What training should be provided to officers for dealing with mental health issues?</i>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Thomas D Carter</p>	<p>Tom Carter brings real-world law enforcement experience and steady leadership as Chief of Police in Estancia. Known for his integrity and "extreme ownership" mindset, he leads from the front - supporting deputies, protecting constitutional rights, and working to reduce violent crime while building trust with the community.</p>	<p>Tom's highest priority is addressing violent crime through proactive, strategic enforcement while ensuring deputies are supported, trained, and held to high standards. He leads with a servant leadership mindset, taking ownership at every level. Tom is committed to constitutional policing and believes strong relationships with the community- built through trust, presence, and consistency- are essential to effective law enforcement.</p>	<p>Tom would strengthen the Sheriff's Office by building a culture of accountability, support, and clear leadership. He would prioritize deputy training, mental health and wellness, improve communication within the department, and ensure consistent standards are upheld. Through servant leadership and an ownership mindset, he would create a professional, disciplined agency focused on public safety, constitutional policing, and earning the trust of the community.</p>	<p>Deputies should receive training to safely and effectively respond to mental health crises, including crisis intervention, de-escalation, and recognizing signs of mental illness and substance abuse. Deputies should also be trained to connect individuals with appropriate resources. Just as important, Tom will build a culture where deputies prioritize their own mental health, practice self-care, and feel supported in asking for help.</p>
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TORRANCE COUNTY SHERIFF (Continued)

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities for law enforcement?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the administration of the Sheriff's office?</i>	<i>What training should be provided to officers for dealing with mental health issues?</i>
 <p>David E Frazee</p> <p>Frazee</p>	<p>David E Frazee has decades of law enforcement experience, formal education in criminology, administrative and investigative leadership, and active policy and operational initiatives as the current Sheriff of Torrance County.</p> <p>27 years with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office, retiring as a Lieutenant. Sheriff of Torrance County 2022-2026.</p> <p>Owner of Global Soldier Investigations, LLC since 2016. Bachelor's degree in Criminology from the University of Albuquerque. Written a five-year plan.</p>	<p>Five priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revitalizing Community Policing. We NEED the community's help. 2. Re-implementing the "Cops in Schools" programs. Bring back school programs like DARE 3. Increase funding and police presence. Accessing more grants and strengthening the Reserve Deputy program. 4. Strengthening Interagency Cooperation. Building upon the surrounding assets as a force multiplier, including state and federal partners. 5. Maintaining professionalism and public trust. Being respectful role models. 	<p>Continue to build better relationships between deputies and residents, increase police presence, and encourage programs that foster positive interactions with law enforcement. Help students see deputies as approachable and provide safety education.</p> <p>Securing increased grant funding for staffing and equipment. We will revitalize community policing, strengthen youth engagement, and boost departmental resources. These initiatives are outlined in our agency's five-year plan. We will hire more staff.</p>	<p>Crisis Intervention Training for all deputies (not only assigned to the CIT team or the Hostage Negotiation team). We should provide Advanced Mental Health Officer training, Mental Health First Aid for Law Enforcement, as well as Officer Wellness and Burnout Prevention training. Currently, we actively use peer-to-peer support groups for inter-agency and intra-agency use. The training must include training on handling mentally impaired people and include stress management for deputies and staff.</p>


THERE ARE NO DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

TORRANCE 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>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>How do you plan to ensure accuracy, 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>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Martin A Lucero</p>	<p>Leadership-I'm a combat veteran with 12 years of military service and 8 years in leadership roles. I have extensive knowledge on managing budgets, people, and operations</p> <p>I have business ownership experience and am a self starter. I understand property value costs for consumers, real-world tax impact knowledge, and budgeting and financial responsibility. I have a business degree and several specialized certifications in construction and safety. I'm committed to fairness and transparency.</p>	<p>Earning trust of the people I represent, being fair and accountable to the people.</p>	<p>Accuracy, fairness, and transparency come from good data, an office open to the public and willing to address concerns and consistent processes.</p>	<p>Customer service and taxpayer interaction; data collection and field training; mass appraisals and valuation methods; professional certification; appraisal; appeals and legal processing; and ethics and fairness training.</p>
<p>Crystal M Garcia</p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

<p>Hugh G Jones</p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>
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TORRANCE 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>What qualifies you for this office?</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>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Melvin Roy
McNeil

Having lost my wife of 42 years, 2 years ago, I understand the need for empathy, and compassion for those who have lost loved ones. In addition during Vietnam war I was on the Honor Guard Funeral Detail with the U. S. Air Force and learned and developed a compassion and understanding of losing a loved one.

The NM state laws and rules are pretty straight forward. At this time I do not see any necessary changes.

Through social media and local news.

I'm retired U.S. Air Force, 21 years and retired City Mail Carrier, 21 years. Worked at the Edgewood Walmart as the Front End Team Lead for 5 years. Lived in Moriarty since 2014. Chairman of the Republican Party of Torrance County 2016-2021.



Tracey J
Master

My years of working with the public, along with ongoing education, have prepared me to provide quality service to everyone who comes through the probate court. As a Certified Peer Support Worker, I understand the challenges families face after the loss of a loved one. I will follow the law while bringing compassion and understanding to every case.

Based on my current understanding, I would not make immediate changes to probate court operations. My focus would be on continuing to provide efficient, high-quality service to the community. I also believe it's important to expand outreach and education so residents better understand the probate process.

I've already begun educating the public during my campaign by sharing information on social media about the importance of having a will, the probate process, and what happens when someone dies intestate. Moving forward, I would continue these efforts and expand outreach so our community better understands what to expect and how to navigate the court during a difficult time.

As a nearly 30-year resident of Torrance County, I've been dedicated to serving our community in many roles. I began as a volunteer judge for Teen Court, then worked for the county for over 21 years as a 911 dispatcher and later as the DWI Prevention Program Coordinator. Since retiring in 2023, I've continued serving through volunteer work with Torrance County Emergency Response Partners and working with the Domestic Violence Program. I'm always happy to answer questions at 505-269-8178.

Nathan M
Dial

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.



Mary Ann
Anaya-Hernandez

I bring both experience and dedication to this position. I previously served as Torrance County Probate Judge. I was appointed for two years and then elected to two consecutive terms, serving a total of 10 years. I have also been a real estate agent in Torrance County for more than 19 years. This experience has given me extensive knowledge of deeds, legal descriptions, chains of title, survey and property taxes; areas that are often critical in probate cases.

I would work to ensure the Probate Court is efficient, accessible and responsive to the needs of the public. My goal would be to maintain clear processes, treat everyone fairly, and provide the court with steady, experienced leadership.

I would give presentations at the senior centers, throughout the county and also speak to community groups such as.

Rotary, Mavericks, and other civic clubs. I believe public education is important so that people better understand the Probate Court's role and processes.

I have lived in Torrance County for more than 45 years, and am a graduate of Estancia High School. I continued my education at ENMU and Alb. TVI, now known as CNM. I am bilingual. I spent more than 28 years working in County Government, working in the County Clerk's, County Assessor's & Manager's Office.

I was also a real estate agent for over 19 years in Torrance County.

I am married to my husband Anthony, who is a veteran.

I believe in serving people with honesty, compassion and fairness.

THERE ARE NO DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

VALENCIA COUNTY OFFICES

VALENCIA 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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VALENCIA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Miles Ross

Tafoya

I am qualified because I have been in this position for the past five years. My previous court experience as a surveillance officer and my time in the army also contribute to my qualifications. I have direct experience with managing time and resources efficiently. I can listen to all sides and make unbiased decisions, which leads to a judicial system that people can trust.

The major challenge is ensuring that the parties are heard before making my decision, in accordance with established rules and statutes. I must be unbiased and not swayed by emotion or sympathy. I must be patient with people who aren't always calm or are just having a really bad time. I uphold the oath I took to the rules, statutes, and constitution of New Mexico and the United States and am not swayed by the opinions of others.

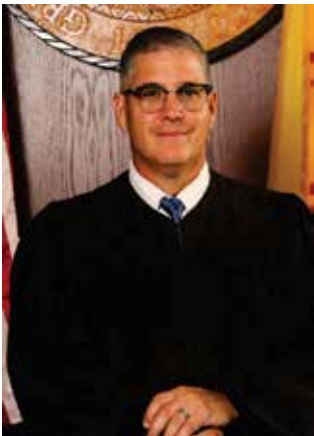
Explanation and education of court processes improve court procedures. If those involved understand what is happening and what to expect, there is less confusion and better time management. Communication with other departments that the court works with improves efficiency. This happens when anyone who works in the criminal justice system can address issues and work together toward solutions.

For the past few years, I have invited community members to sit in on court sessions and ask questions afterward about the processes, rules, and statutes. This starts the conversation by identifying areas that may need to change, such as statutes and rules, as well as procedures that can be improved. If no one outside the judge and lawyers understands how the court works, then the court is not serving the community as intended.

THERE ARE NO DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

VALENCIA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 2

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



John R

Chavez

Incumbent Magistrate Judge for over 12 years. Adjudicated over 48,000 cases.

In both Sandoval and Valencia Counties, magistrate judges have a very high caseload. Easily a 40-50 hour a week position with after hour, weekend, and holiday on-call work.

Both Sandoval and Valencia County magistrate courts led the transition to paperless court processes for the entire state. This has improved efficiencies, and time to disposition of cases.

A retired U.S. Army Veteran of 27 years where Judge Chavez held Uniform Code of Military Justice authorities in various levels of responsibility.

THERE ARE NO DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

What qualifies you for this office?

What are the major challenges when serving as a Magistrate Judge?

What would be the most effective methods to improve Magistrate Court procedures and efficiency?

What other information would you like voters to know about you?

VALENCIA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 3

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Y Danielle
Gonzalez

I have worked in the legal field, in Valencia County, for over 20 years. I have worked directly for the Courts for 19 years. In performance of my duties, while working for the Courts, I have worked in the clerk's office, which included processing documents for attorneys and pro se litigants. Throughout my career I have interacted with the public, attorneys, and law enforcement on a daily basis. I have worked in the Judge's office since 2012, preparing pleadings, orders, setting hearings, and managing the Judge's docket. There have been times when I needed to serve as the bailiff. I have also taken the official Court record at times. My Court experience is vast and I know how to operate it.

I believe that rendering decisions that impact not only individuals, but also the community is a huge responsibility. As a Magistrate Judge you are following the laws that the legislature puts in place, as well as Supreme Court decisions, you must have the knowledge of the laws that you are being elected to uphold. As a Magistrate Judge, you are required to make quick decisions, based on the law, and to get those decisions right. One big challenge as a Magistrate Judge is how little discretion that you have. All of the decisions a judge makes must follow the laws in place, whether you agree with a particular law or not. A Magistrate Judge in many instances must put their own personal opinions aside to carry out their duties.

There is always room for improvement, and I am open to assisting with whatever improvements can be made to move the Court forward. However, I know that the staff currently in place work hard to operate our Courts and I want to give recognition to that. I believe the Court can be most effective when a Judge is prepared for and familiar with the information in every single case that comes before them. I believe that making forms and processes easy to understand helps self-represented litigants navigate the system efficiently, minimizing errors and delays.

This is the first office I am running for and I do not have aspirations for other positions to run for in the future. My decision to run comes from a genuine passion for the legal system and a commitment to apply the law, to be fair, and respectful. Having worked in the Courts for 19 years, preparing orders, issuing documents, assisting with law enforcement, attorneys, pro se litigants, and managing a Courtroom, I understand how hard this job is, and I have the hands on experience to know how to handle it and am prepared to do so. I am the only candidate with this experience. It takes someone with the appropriate experience and disposition to properly carry out the duties and responsibilities of a Magistrate Judge. I have those qualities.



Eric
Montano

I am qualified for Magistrate Judge through a combination of experience, education, and real-world judgment. I bring 30 years of law enforcement experience, where I've made critical decisions grounded in fairness, accountability, and the law. I earned my MBA in Law Enforcement and Corrections from the University of the Southwest, strengthening my understanding of the justice system. As a husband, father, and small business owner, I understand how court decisions impact everyday people. I will apply the law as written, base decisions on facts, and treat everyone with respect and impartiality.

One of the biggest challenges is balancing efficiency with fairness. Magistrate Judges handle a high volume of cases, but every person deserves to be heard and treated with respect. Another challenge is making difficult decisions that can significantly impact people's lives while remaining impartial and grounded in the law. There is also the responsibility of ensuring individuals understand the court process, especially those without legal representation. Maintaining public trust is critical, every decision must be based on facts, applied consistently, and free from personal bias or outside influence.

The most effective way to improve Magistrate Court procedures and efficiency is to stay grounded in the Constitution, laws, and statutes established by the Supreme Court while strengthening how the court operates day to day. Clear, consistent procedures and well-trained staff help ensure cases move efficiently without sacrificing fairness. Improving scheduling practices, using technology for case tracking and communication, and reducing unnecessary delays can make a significant impact. It's also important to ensure individuals understand the process, especially those without representation. Efficiency should never come at the expense of justice, every case must still be handled with impartiality, respect, and strict adherence to the law.

I want voters to know that I'm not removed from the community—I live the same daily life many of you do. I balance work, family, and responsibilities, and I understand how courtroom decisions affect real people. I'm a small business owner and partner at No Limits Jiu Jitsu and Fitness in Belen, where I don't just own the business—I train and coach. I've also instructed advanced motorcycle riders through my business, ProRider Albuquerque, and I serve at my local church. Service isn't something I talk about—it's something I live daily. My 30 years in law enforcement have prepared me professionally, but my life in this community keeps me grounded. I'm committed to applying the law fairly, listening first, and treating every person with respect.



Denise A
Vigil

I have 25 yrs of Law Enforcement experience where I have had hands on time in the Magistrate courts with numerous cases that I have presented, and prosecuted. As a Law Enforcement officer I have knowledge of the rules set before the judge and the proceedings that are being heard, and how they are to be conducted in a fair, non opinionated manner, all that matters are the facts in the case. In my current position as Sheriff and a total of 25 years of Law Enforcement I have had to be impartial in all aspects of the job, I feel this is what I would bring to the bench. I have also treated everyone with the respect needed no matter their background or history.

I do not see anything really being a challenge, other than the general public does not fully understand the judicial rules. I have seen in many cases people are upset by decisions made by a judge, there are rules to the law and victims and defendants have rights at this level. Expectations are that an accused be treated as if convicted, and that is simply the misunderstanding in the courts. The judicial system has many steps and participants, all of which have to be in sync to come to a final disposition. Some examples include, a case dismissed for the moment due to awaiting evidence from the crime lab, defense attorneys ask for more time to prepare a case, the District Attorney's Office may ask for an extension.

I have not heard of any issues regarding the method at the Magistrate Courts, I believe the case loads are high on some levels and those may take more time then others depending on the level of crime. I do not believe that issue can be handled differently or make the process more effective. All cases are handled with the time and respect needed.

I was raised in a good family who taught me right from wrong and I have valued that from my parents. I have instilled this into my two sons, who also are public servants in Valencia County. My dedication to public service has come easy to me, this has been the only job I was never tired of doing. Being a single mother for half of my career was not easy, but I managed to give my full dedication to my family and the people of Valencia County. I still have the energy to continue serving my community and doing so with the upmost respect for the position. In all the years my values have not changed in helping people and doing what is right even when it comes with criticism as we are not always going to make people happy.




Andrew Milton
Owen

I have over 20 years law enforcement experience in Valencia County, 5 of which as the Chief of Police for Bosque Farms. I have been in every Magistrate Court and know the rules and procedures to effectively and efficiently be on the bench. I have been on the streets and a Police Administrator knowing all different aspects to bring fresh ideas to the office for efficiency. Leadership with the ability to listen to other's ideas where we can formulate the most efficient process possible for everyone.

At first, it is going to be recusing myself from cases. I know many of the officers in Valencia County and citizens deserve their case be heard without any inclination of bias. We have lady justice for a reason, blind with balanced scales. It is the State's burden to prove the guilt of the citizen beyond a reasonable doubt. In a civil matter, it is a fair and un-bias evaluation of the facts presented to determine what is fair.

Working with legal counsel from both sides, probation and compliancy officers, the other Judges and the hard working clerks to hear what works and what hasn't been attempted yet. We have to work together in the judicial system to be as efficient as possible to best serve the citizens. The use of technology can aid and hinder the process. It must be trustworthy and constantly checked for reliability. Being able to think of other avenues to achieve a more efficient process is what is needed.

A USMC Vet of 10 plus yrs as military police, distinct honor to be hand selected to serve on Marine One, protecting Presidential Assets for 2 1/2 yrs. An honorable discharge, I served Valencia County for 20 plus yrs as a police officer and recently retired as Chief of Police. My leadership, law enforcement training and experience working a case from the streets all way through the courtroom, I am best suited to adjudicate cases fairly and the integrity that the citizens deserve.

	<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>
DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 <p>Rorik S Rivenburgh</p>	<p>I am qualified to serve as magistrate judge because I bring a lifetime of experience grounded in fairness, service, and sound judgment.</p> <p>I spent 30 years working for United Parcel Service, where I developed a strong work ethic and respect for people from all backgrounds. For over 20 of those years, I was elected by my peers to serve as a union shop steward. In that role, I represented employees, resolved disputes, and worked to ensure decisions were fair and consistent. I learned to listen carefully, remain impartial, and handle difficult situations with integrity.</p> <p>I am involved in my community. I serve as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, Appointed by the judge to advocate for children in foster care.</p>	<p>One of the major challenges of serving as a magistrate judge is balancing a high caseload while ensuring that every case receives careful attention. Magistrate courts often handle a large number of cases, and it is important to manage them efficiently without sacrificing fairness or thoroughness.</p> <p>Another challenge is making timely decisions in situations that can have a significant impact on people's lives, such as setting bond, issuing warrants, or determining outcomes in misdemeanor cases. These decisions must be made based on the law and the facts, often under time pressure, while remaining fair and impartial.</p> <p>It is essential to set aside personal opinions and remain impartial at all times.</p>	<p>Improving magistrate court procedures and efficiency begins with strong organization and consistent case management. Setting clear schedules, starting court on time, and ensuring that cases move forward without unnecessary delays helps respect the time of everyone involved while maintaining fairness.</p> <p>Clear communication is also essential. Many individuals in magistrate court are not represented by attorneys, so providing straightforward explanations of procedures and expectations can reduce confusion, prevent delays, and help cases proceed more smoothly.</p> <p>The goal is to create a court that is efficient, but never at the expense of fairness, respect, or careful consideration of each case.</p>	<p>I have spent my life committed to service, fairness, and my community. I have been married to my wife for 42 years. We are proud to have our daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter living next door, which reflects how deeply rooted we are in this community.</p> <p>Throughout my career with United Parcel Service and in my volunteer work, I have always believed in treating people with respect and standing up for those who need a voice. Whether serving as a union shop steward, a volunteer with Court Appointed Special Advocates, or as an ombudsman advocating for residents in assisted living facilities, my focus has always been on fairness and helping others.</p> <p>A courtroom should be a place where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.</p>

VALENCIA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

County Commissions are policy-making bodies 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 qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>How would you better 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>
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VALENCIA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:				
<p>Christopher K Williams</p>	<p>I bring real-world experience and a strong record of service. As an emergency planner and first responder, I've handled complex and high-consequence issues that require coordination, clear communication and accountability. I know how to listen, make informed decisions and follow through.</p>	<p>I focus on public safety, responsible growth and fiscal accountability. That means supporting first responders, aligning development with infrastructure and ensuring tax dollars are spent wisely. I set clear priorities, measure results and adjust as needed to deliver real outcomes for our community.</p>	<p>Transparency must come before decisions. I support earlier public notification, plain language summaries of agenda items and more community engagement. We have to be accessible, predictable and responsive to our residents.</p>	<p>Growth cannot outpace water. I would require verified, sustainable water sources before approval, support conservation efforts and coordinate with water authorities. Responsible growth means protecting our future.</p>
 <p>Christopher Steven Garcia</p>	<p>I bring 18 years of experience as an educator, club sponsor, coach, activity director, and leader, where I've worked every day to serve families, solve problems, coordinate events, and build strong relationships. My career has required strong leadership, accountability, and the ability to make thoughtful decisions that impact lives. I know how to listen, collaborate, and follow through. I am a lifelong resident of Valencia County, which means I am invested in its success, safety, and future.</p>	<p>Public safety is my first concern. This will be addressed by building strong relationships with law enforcement and first responders and ensuring that the people who protect us have the tools they need to keep us safe. Infrastructure is also important. We must always plan for the future, not wait for problems to happen before we fix them. We must plan for growth. I will advocate for sustainable growth. Growth is important, but it must be done responsibly through smart planning and no shortcuts.</p>	<p>Transparency and communication are critical. I would work to make information more accessible by sharing clear, easy-to-understand summaries of upcoming agendas through social media and community newsletters. As commissioner, I am responsible for budgeting taxpayers' money and creating/approving policies that affect their daily lives. They deserve to know what's being discussed and to have a voice in those decisions.</p>	<p>Growing up on a small farm, my grandpa always used the phrase "El agua es la vida." Water isn't just a resource- It's a lifeline. I will prioritize development that aligns with our available water, encourage conservation efforts, and support policies that protect our long-term water supply. Agriculture is important in Valencia County. Protecting our water isn't just an environmental issue- it's essential to Valencia County's small-town way of life.</p>
 <p>Helen Saiz</p>	<p>With 23 years of experience in Valencia County Government, I've worked in the Clerk's office, Assessor's, Mapping, and Public Works. I also served four years as County Commissioner for District 1. This background gives me direct insight into county operations, budgeting, and infrastructure. I spearheaded the RFP for the hospital and worked with the Village of Los Lunas to secure the Corridor during my term. I'm prepared to lead, make informed decisions, and help move Valencia County forward.</p>	<p>I will address my priorities by listening to our residents, working with local agencies, and making informed decisions that reflect our community's needs. My focus will be on infrastructure, public safety, homelessness, and long-term water sustainability. I will address these priorities through clear timelines, setting measurable goals, and making sure we're delivering results that residents can see.</p>	<p>I believe in proactive transparency. I will ensure citizens are informed ahead of time through clear agenda summaries, regular updates by using online social media and county websites to highlight key issues. Also, open forums where residents can engage, ask questions, and understand the impact of upcoming decisions is very important to the residents. Everyone deserves to know what's ahead before key decision are made.</p>	<p>I support smart, controlled growth that aligns with our existing water supply, along with conservation and reuse efforts. We have a responsibility to protect our resources while still allowing our community to grow responsible. It's about protecting our farmers, our families, and our future. It's about common sense and long-term sustainability. We can welcome growth, but only if it's tied to responsible water management, and ensuring our county's future remains secure.</p>

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>How would you better 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>
DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:				
Sharalaina Piro-Rael	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.


VALENCIA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3


REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 <p>Sharon L Smith</p>	<p>My vast experience with house purchasing, police department, fire department, and 13 years in the corrections facility. I am a people person and love to help people. I am actively involved in communication with the communities and willing to do what I can to assist.</p>	<p>With as much information about all issues, talk to the public, and meet and work with other officials to get the job done.</p>	<p>Attend local meetings to give information about how the projects are meant progress and meet with the constituents prior to the meetings so both sides can be shared and discussed to obtain the best outcome.</p>	<p>Any industries petitioning the county to relocate here as part of their construction plan needs to have a plan on how to recycle and repurpose water through the company. Also to have a plan to maintain their pipes to make sure there are no leaks, to keep water waste to a minimum.</p>
 <p>Morris R Sparkman</p>	<p>The last four years in office have been a whirlwind of experience and learning. And while challenging, I'm a more effective commissioner for it. Our county needs steady leadership with someone who knows how to get things done for our communities and who can continue to build on our successes. Valencia County is too important to not to put our best foot forward. In my next term, I'll continue to lean on my past while striving for a better future.</p>	<p>In my next term, my highest priorities will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Expanded Parks & Rec: 2.) Opening of the Valencia County Hospital 3.) Continued Community Enhancement & Accountability 	<p>I'd like to see Valencia County better utilize all media outlets available to us to quickly and effectively communicate problems and solutions. Whether this is increased social media engagement, newspaper interviews, or press-releases, we have ways of getting out information quickly and effectively that are currently being under utilized.</p>	<p>Water is our most precious commodity in New Mexico, and Valencia County is no different. With the increase in growth throughout our county the need to be good stewards of our water is also increasing. In my next term, when a new development or commercial operation seeks zoning approval from the commission, one of my main questions will be about the impact this growth will have on our water supply. Anyone without a viable study or plan will not receive a vote from me.</p>

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:				
Karla J Laurie	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.


VALENCIA 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 qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities for law enforcement?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the administration of the Sheriff's office?</i>	<i>What training should be provided to officers for dealing with mental health issues?</i>
REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 <p>Joseph Eugene Rowland</p>	<p>I bring over 27 years of law enforcement experience, including 12 with VCSO, where I currently serve as the senior Lieutenant. My background includes service as a U.S. Army Military Police officer and Federal Agent with the NNSA. I've completed advanced executive law enforcement leadership training at Northwestern University and have a clear plan to shift VCSO from responsive to proactive policing, targeting repeat offenders and drug trafficking to reduce crime and improve our quality of life.</p>	<p>Public safety is my top priority. We currently face violent and property crime rates twice the national average. I will shift the current Sheriff's Office from a reactive model to a proactive crime fighting organization, focusing on repeat offenders and drug trafficking. I will expand proactive units from its current 10% to over 30%, strengthening investigations, apprehension, and narcotics enforcement. I will also collaborate with federal agencies to remove offenders and protect our community.</p>	<p>I will strengthen the Sheriff's Office by raising hiring standards, fostering leadership and pride, and building esprit de corps across all ranks. I will expand technology, pursue federal and state grants, update policies to prioritize public safety, and provide specialized training. Deputies will have the tools, training, and support needed to shift the agency to proactive policing, reduce crime, and build stronger, relationships with the community.</p>	<p>As Sheriff, I will ensure VCSO not only meets all state mandated training, including HB 93 on interacting with persons with mental impairments, but exceeds them. All deputies will receive advanced crisis intervention training, and our specialized Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) will continue intensive crisis negotiations training and response. This three-tiered approach ensures VCSO leads when responding to crisis and effectively managing individuals with mental health challenges or impairments.</p>

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities for law enforcement?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the administration of the Sheriff's office?</i>	<i>What training should be provided to officers for dealing with mental health issues?</i>
 <p>Preston Wade Smith</p>	<p>I have over 18 years of law enforcement experience, all within Valencia County, that has built deep knowledge of the community and how things actually work on the ground.</p>	<p>Deputy retention is a top priority, as maintaining full staffing levels directly impacts other aspects of public safety, such as response times, officer visibility in the community, and our ability to take a proactive approach to crime reduction. Competitive pay, fair and consistent supervision, and addressing deputies' concerns are essential to making that happen.</p>	<p>I would prioritize strengthening communication and coordination with surrounding law enforcement agencies, recognizing that collaboration makes us more effective and better equipped to serve our communities.</p>	<p>Expanded access to Crisis Intervention Training should be provided to all deputies to enhance their ability to recognize mental illness, apply effective de-escalation techniques, and connect individuals with appropriate resources.</p>
<p>Kevin Marcos Vega</p>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:


 <p>Alan Fredrick Montano</p>	<p>I bring over 28 years of law enforcement experience, including 10 years as Commander of the Maximum-Security Unit at New Mexico Corrections Department in Santa Fe, NM, three years as a Probation Parole Officer in Los Lunas, NM, and 13 years at Valencia County Sheriff's Office, where I progressed from Deputy to the rank of Sergeant also managing Safer NM Grant. Currently, I serve as a Probation Officer for the Valencia County Drug Court, and I facilitate DWI Education to first offenders.</p>	<p>Conduct regular training for staff, enforce accountability in the Sheriff's Office, and prioritize community safety with fast response times. Recruit qualified candidates to support departmental growth. Deploy Community Service Aides to help with traffic, alarms, transports, and scene security. Create a Crisis Management Team to assist citizens facing mental health crisis.</p>	<p>Ensure accountability among both Office and Command staff members. Delegate division duties to those with the appropriate expertise. Being the Sheriff, I would make myself accessible to command staff by regularly being present both at the office and out in the field each day.</p>	<p>State statutes mandate that deputies undergo 40 hours of crisis intervention training annually. Furthermore, I recommend forming a Crisis Intervention Team comprised of skilled negotiators who operate independently from law enforcement. This team would engage individuals in crisis, facilitate de-escalation to a stable mental health state, and ensure proper referral to relevant support services for continued assistance.</p>
<p>Gabriel Trujillo</p>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>


VALENCIA 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>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>Given the recent errors with 2025 property tax bills, how will you address these issues to ensure no reoccurrence and reassure property owners?</i>	<i>What training will you provide for your staff in the technical, legal, and administrative aspects of property valuation and taxation?</i>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:


 <p>Celia Dittmaier</p>	<p>I started in the Assessor's office in 2015 as a GIS mapper. I worked my way up in the office assisting in customer service, then to appraiser and finally to Chief Deputy Assessor. After I left the Assessor's office, I worked for Property Tax Division where we reviewed appraisals for state property and oversaw the County Assessors. I am a state certified appraiser.</p>	<p>My highest priorities for my second term is to continue to keep the public informed, even when it feels uncomfortable. I was the only person who stepped forward to make sure the tax payers felt heard and knew the county was working on a solution. I will also ensure fair and balanced assessments for all Valencia County tax payers in both residential and commercial properties. Many Assessor's don't revalue commercial and then the bulk of the tax burden falls on the residents.</p>	<p>Given that I was originally told that the errors were caused by a mistake I made and then later found out that I had cleared that error with the state in June long before September when DFA issued the mill rates, I would promise the taxpayers to challenge DFA of any mill rate that seems even a little bit off before the rates are presented to the Commission for approval. I would also like to propose legislation to allow more than 5 days to have the rates approved to ensure they are correct.</p>	<p>I have always believed that education is one of the most important thing. In my time as Assessor, 5 of the appraisers in the office have become state certified. I will continue to make sure all the staff has opportunities for any classes they want to take including continuing education to help them keep up with anything new in appraisals.</p>
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	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>Given the recent errors with 2025 property tax bills, how will you address these issues to ensure no reoccurrence and reassure property owners?</i>	<i>What training will you provide for your staff in the technical, legal, and administrative aspects of property valuation and taxation?</i>
 Burgandy Bree Casias	<p>I bring over 20 years of real-world experience working with property values, taxes, and homeowners every day. As a mortgage loan officer, I review appraisals and property data regularly. I understand how mistakes impact families, which is why accuracy, consistency, and accountability are critical in this role.</p>	<p>My priorities are accuracy, consistency, and transparency. I would implement strong checks and balances to prevent errors, ensure fair and consistent valuations, and improve communication so taxpayers clearly understand their values. I would also make the office more accessible and responsive to the people we serve.</p>	<p>After the 2025 tax bill errors, restoring trust starts with accuracy and accountability. I would implement strong checks and balances, including multiple review steps before values are submitted. I would also improve communication between offices and make the process more transparent so property owners understand their values and have confidence in the system.</p>	<p>I would ensure staff receive ongoing training in valuation methods, state laws, and proper procedures. This includes regular updates, hands-on training, and clear standards for accuracy and consistency. I also believe in cross-training and accountability, so everyone understands their role and the importance of getting it right for taxpayers.</p>
David A Hyder	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 Torres G. Leyba	<p>I have been an elected official, community leader and a political advocate over a public career spanning four decades. I have managed large teams to achieve superior constituent satisfaction, and once elected I and my team will bring a culture of Responsibility, Accountability and Oversight to the office of Assessor. This is my pledge - to ensure that the work that the Assessor does to determine our citizen's future property values will go forward in partnership with those who elected me.</p>	<p>First, and most importantly I would do everything possible to make the office of Assessor more transparent and accessible to the public, so property owners can know what role my office plays in determining each property owner's yearly tax bill. Also, I would commit to my office working and cooperating with any and all State agencies over the course of my term to see where mistakes might have been made in the past, while developing best practices to ensure that similar errors are not repeated.</p>	<p>Along with the strategies listed above, I am committed to making myself available to citizens groups throughout the County to bring regular updates on what the office is doing to ensure error-free protocols for reporting property values to the County for the next four years. I want to help my constituents understand what the Assessor does, what role they play in helping determine your final tax bill, and how our office works to help them receive maximum property values each and every day.</p>	<p>My staff will be empowered to obtain training in as many aspects of administering this office as they are able, and they will have my full support in seeking more efficient and transparent ways to bring true value to the property owners of New Mexico. If additional funding for my staff to obtain this training is required from the County, I will be an advocate for that funding to ensure that my staff is one of the most educated and prepared to be stewards of our County's property values.</p>

VALENCIA 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>What qualifies you for this office?</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>
REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:				
 Wendy Emily Wallace	<p>I've been proud to serve as Valencia County Probate Judge and bring four years of hands-on experience to the role. During my time in office, I have worked to ensure fairness, professionalism, and compassion for every family I serve. I have also completed ongoing judicial education to strengthen my knowledge and stay current on the law, allowing me to better serve our community with integrity and dedication.</p>	<p>Over the past four years, I have worked closely with our clerk staff to streamline the probate process and improve accessibility for residents. We have added probate packets and clear instructions to the County website to better guide families. I continue to build on these improvements by collaborating with other probate courts, sharing ideas, and implementing best practices to ensure our court remains efficient, accessible, and responsive to the needs of our community.</p>	<p>We are committed to educating the public about the probate process by updating the County website with helpful resources, providing educational brochures in the Clerk's lobby for elderly and low-income residents, and hosting community Q&As. We will continue expanding outreach efforts while ensuring information remains clear, accessible, and easy to understand.</p>	<p>I'm deeply committed to serving the people of Valencia County with integrity, fairness, and compassion. As a longtime resident, community volunteer, and local business owner, I understand the needs of our community and strive to be accessible and responsive. Over the past four years, I have gained a deeper understanding of what families go through during difficult times and have truly grown to love this work, making it an honor to serve our residents.</p>

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:				
Pedro Rael	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>

VOTER GUIDE 2026

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

This guide represents the efforts of the many LWVCNM members who have worked hard to draft questions and contact candidates in order to create a nonpartisan educational resource for the community.

The LWVCNM Voter Guide 2026 was prepared and distributed by the following people:

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ABOUT the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico is an educational non-profit organization dedicated primarily to nonpartisan voter education. We are affiliated with the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, which functions as a statewide advocacy organization supported by the four local leagues: Central New Mexico, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Southern New Mexico.

The League provides nonpartisan voter education to citizens on issues and candidates by conducting and/or sponsoring public discussion, forums, lectures, and other similar programs; by producing observer reports of various public councils, boards, and commissions; and by producing online and/or printed information on issues, candidates, and officials. This includes the popular Voter Guide and Who's Who Political Directory.

ABOUT the Voter Guide

This guide is published to assist voters in learning about candidates, on their ballots.
The work is done completely by volunteers.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or political parties.
This year the Leagues in New Mexico have put together an online statewide Voter Guide called VOTE411. Using software developed by the LWV of the United States, we ask candidates to enter their answers to a series of questions developed by the local Leagues. No one at the League edits or alters their answers.
The only restriction we impose is a character limit for answers.
VOTE411 also includes information about what's on the ballot.

If this guide helped in making your decisions, please consider donating to and/or joining our organization at lwvcnm.org.

The print versions of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico Voter Guides for the 2026 NM Primary Election were funded in part by a grant from the League of Women Voters of New Mexico Education Fund.

Donating to the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico is a 501(c)(3) organization.
All contributions to LWVCNM are tax deductible.

The League depends on the generosity of individual supporters and members, foundations, and businesses to fund its citizen education and advocacy activities.

You can donate by:

- Sending a check to LWVCNM, 6739 Academy Rd NE Ste 124, Albuquerque NM 87109. Let us know if your donation is for a specific purpose.
- Using a credit card to donate online at lwvcnm.org.
- Adding LWVCNM to your will, trust, or estate plans, or setting aside a portion of a required minimum distribution from an IRA plan for LWVCNM. The JoAnne Ramponi Society was created to recognize these donors. Call our office at (505) 884-8441 for more information.

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico appreciates your support!



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The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico (LWVCNM) is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The mission of the

League is *“empowering voters and strengthening democracy.”*

LWVCNM covers Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia counties.