



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO



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## Voter Guide for Bernalillo & Sandoval Counties

Guía del Votantes para los condados de Bernalillo y Sandoval

Check Your Registration at the NM Secretary of State website: [www.sos.nm.gov](http://www.sos.nm.gov)

### Primary Election June 2, 2026 Elecciones Primarias del 2 de junio de 2026

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.
<b>May 5</b>	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.	
<b>May 16 - May 30 (closed May 25 holiday)</b>	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	
<b>May 19</b>	Last day to request an absentee ballot online	El último día para solicitar una boleta de voto por correo en línea	
<b>June 2</b>	Election Day - <b>last chance to vote in person!</b> 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: <b>¡La última oportunidad para votar en persona!</b> 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><b>Who Can Vote</b>                  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><b>¿Quién puede votar?</b>                  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><b>How to Use This Voter Guide</b>                  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><b>Cómo utilizar esta Guía para votantes</b>                  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><b>Sample Ballot and More</b>                  You can verify your voter registration online, view your sample ballot, apply for an absentee ballot and check its status, and much more at <b>nmvote.org</b>. Scroll down to <b>"Find My Registration &amp; Election Information."</b></p> <p>You can also request a sample ballot from the County Clerk or at a voting location in your county.</p>	<p><b>Boleta de muestra y más</b>                  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 <b>nmvote.org</b>. Desplácese hacia abajo hasta <b>"Buscar mi registro e información electoral"</b>.</p> <p>También puede solicitar una boleta de muestra del secretario del condado o en un lugar de votación en su condado.</p>
<p><b>Registering To Vote in New Mexico</b>                  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><b>Same-day in-person voter registration.</b>                  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><b>Registrarse para votar en Nuevo México</b>                  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, via 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><b>Registro de votante y votación en persona en el mismo día.</b> 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><b>Changing/Updating Registration.</b> 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><b>Cambio/Actualización de Registro.</b> Documentación si un votante simplemente cambia su registro (nombre, dirección, y/o afiliación partidista) dentro del estado de Nuevo México.</p>
<p><b>Absentee/Mail-in Voting</b>                  New Mexico allows any registered voter to request an absentee ballot. You can request one at <b>nmvote.org</b>, 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 <b>nmvote.org</b>.</p>	<p><b>Voto en ausencia</b>                  Nuevo México permite que cualquier votante registrado solicite una boleta de voto en ausencia. Puede solicitar una en <b>nmvote.org</b> 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 <b>llegar</b> 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 <b>nmvote.org</b>.</p>
<p><b>Additional Voting Considerations</b>  <u>Write-in Voting.</u> 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><b>Consideraciones adicionales de votación</b>  <u>Votación por escrito.</u> 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><b>Provisional Ballots</b>                  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><b>Boletas Provisionales</b>                  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

<p>Early voting times and dates vary by county. <b>Election Day voting will be June 2 from 7am to 7pm.</b> This is also the deadline for turning in absentee ballots at one of the Election Day voting locations or the County Clerk’s office.</p>	<p>Los horarios y las fechas de votación anticipada varían según el condado. <b>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.</b> 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.</p>
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**Bernalillo County:**

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

**Early Voting Bernalillo County Clerk’s Annex**

1500 Lomas Blvd NW, Suite A  
 Albuquerque, NM 87104  
 Monday-Friday May 5-May 15, 8am to 5pm  
 Monday-Saturday May 16-May 30  
 (Closed Monday, May 25), 10am to 7pm

**Early Voting Convenience Centers** will be available Monday-Saturday May 16-May 30 (Closed Monday, May 25), 10am to 7pm, unless otherwise noted.

**Locations of polling places and hours can be found online at**  
<https://www.berncoclerk.gov/elections/early-voting/>

**Election Day Voting**

Tuesday, June 2, 2026, All election day voting centers will be open from 7am to 7pm.

**Locations of polling places can be found online at**  
<https://www.berncoclerk.gov/elections/election-day-voting/>

**Sandoval County:**

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

**Early Voting Sandoval County Clerk’s Office**

Sandoval County Admin Bldg D  
 1500 Idalia Road  
 Bernalillo, New Mexico, 87004  
 Monday-Friday, from May 5-May 30  
 (except Monday, May 25), 8am to 7pm, Saturday,  
 May 16, 23 & 30, from 10am to 7pm

**Expanded Early Voting and Election Day Voting**

Sandoval County has an interactive map where you can find the nearest polling location and get directions and view hours for:

**Early Voting**

Monday-Saturday, from May 16-May 30 (except Monday, May 25), 10am to 7pm, for most locations.

<https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/countyclerk/bureau-of-elections/elections/voting-options/early-voting-sites/>

**Election Day**

Tuesday, June 2, 7am to 7pm for all locations

<https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/countyclerk/bureau-of-elections/elections/voting-options/polling-sites/>

**Contact information for the County Clerks / Información de contacto de los secretarios del condado**

<p><b>Bernalillo County Clerk</b>                  505-468-1291; 505-243-VOTE (8683)                  415 Silver Ave. SW                  Albuquerque, NM 87102  <a href="https://www.berncoclerk.gov/">https://www.berncoclerk.gov/</a></p>	<p><b>Sandoval County Clerk</b>                  505-867-7577                  1500 Idalia Road, Building D                  Bernalillo, NM 87004  <a href="http://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/elected-officials/county-clerk/bureau-of-elections/">www.sandovalcountynm.gov/elected-officials/county-clerk/bureau-of-elections/</a></p>
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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.

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

<i>What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?</i>	<i>What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?</i>	<i>What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?</i>	<i>What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?</i>
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## 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,

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

*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.

## UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 3

### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Martin  
**Zamora**

*No response received.*

*No response received.*

*No response received.*

*No response received.*

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Teresa  
**Leger Fernández**

I believe Social Security is a sacred trust and the foundation of retirement security for our families and those disabled. To sustain it, I am a cosponsor of Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act, which would make the wealthy pay social security tax on their income above \$400,000. This fair share tax will allow us to increase benefits and provide solvency to the Fund into the next century. I oppose Republican proposals to reduce guaranteed benefits, raise the retirement age, or replace Social Security with risky individual investment accounts. I've opposed Trump's cuts to staff at Social Security and the DOGE release of your private social security data. I will fight to keep Social Security strong - a Democratic legacy of the New Deal.

We must fix our broken immigration system with a balanced, humane approach. I support a roadmap to citizenship for those who work hard and play by the rules, including Dreamers and farmworkers. We must provide visas and recognize the important role immigrants play in our health and care economy and other key industries in New Mexico. Simultaneously, I support cost-effective border security using advanced technology and funding for border patrol to detect cartel activity and illegal drugs like fentanyl. I've opposed the cruelty and brutality of the ICE and CBP raids, the arrests and killing of citizens and the mistreatment of people in detention centers, especially pregnant women and children. I oppose family separation.

Environmental health is non-negotiable for our survival & our economy. Keeping our fragile landscape healthy feeds our sense of awe & wonder in these beautiful lands. I delivered over \$1 billion to keep clean water flowing in New Mexico & am sponsoring 7 water settlement bills. I funded cleaning up abandoned oil & gas wells & the contamination plumes at LANL & Canon. The clean up also creates good paying union jobs & supports businesses. I've funded renewable energy projects that, sadly, Trump gutted, but Democrats will bring back because it's the cheapest electricity at a time when everything costs so much. Doing good by our planet also helps our pocketbook. I will reinstate & improve the clean air & water programs Trump destroyed.

Healthcare is a basic human right, but big insurers and private equity profits means we pay more, wait more and get less health care here. I understand the urgency of making care affordable and accessible everywhere, especially in rural areas. Congress must: Lower Drug Costs. We must build on the Inflation Reduction Act to negotiate lower drug prices for everyone and cap out-of-pocket costs. Expand and Improve Medicare. Moving toward a single-payer system like Medicare for All will save money and expand benefits to include dental, vision, and hearing coverage. Protect Access. We must codify reproductive rights through the Women's Health Protection Act and defend the Affordable Care Act & Medicaid against Republican bills to eliminate them.

# 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>
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### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Gregory D  
Hull**

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.

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.

Water security is not optional — it is the foundation of economic growth, agriculture, and stable communities. Rio Rancho led the state with the state's first-ever aquifer recharge system. As governor, I will invest in brackish water treatment to create new sources of supply, reducing pressure on rivers and freshwater aquifers. I will upgrade aging infrastructure to cut leaks, expand advanced wastewater treatment for safe reuse, and support modern irrigation systems to protect farmers' livelihoods. I will meet our interstate obligations to deliver water downstream and pursue transparent negotiations to resolve outstanding Tribal water rights. Long-term certainty for every water user starts with planning ahead and acting now.

Projects should be evaluated on the quality and wages of jobs created, their alignment with New Mexico's existing strengths — research, advanced manufacturing, energy, and defense — and whether they support workforce development. Incentives must be tied to measurable results and fiscal accountability. Projects should benefit both rural and urban communities, avoid placing undue burdens on infrastructure or public services, and strengthen long-term economic resilience. My core question: does this investment leave New Mexico more diversified, more self-sufficient, and better positioned to grow?



**Doug W  
Turner**

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.

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.

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.

At the same time, I will prioritize investing in modern infrastructure, reforming water governance, and promoting responsible stewardship of water resources.

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.

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.



**Duke  
Rodriguez**

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.

Institute an attitude of stewardship over New Mexico's budget, resources, and people.

Enforce fiscal restraint so that public money actually benefits the people of the state.

Eliminate state personal income tax.

Eliminate gross receipts tax on retail sales.

Manage Medicaid and SNAP sustainably.

Invest in public infrastructure like desalination plants.

Investigate public corruption so that taxpayer money is not wasted.

Invest in desalination plants.

Research water re-use, including of produced water.

Take a stronger position in the Colorado River interstate litigation.

Is the project multi-use?

Is the project sustainable?

Does the project create jobs after construction?

Does the project reduce poverty?


Does the project improve quality of life for residents?


Does the project serve families?

	<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>
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Deb Haaland</b></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><b>Sam Bregman</b></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>
<b>REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
<p><b>David M Gallegos</b></p>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
 <p><b>Manuel (Manny) Lardizabal</b></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 &amp; 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 <b>Dunn</b></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 <b>Toulouse Oliver</b></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>
 <p>Harold James <b>Pope Jr</b></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, &amp; healthcare. I will lower costs by expanding housing &amp; down payment assistance, capping prescription drugs, &amp; targeted tax relief. I will strengthen public education by supporting families, investing in educators, STEAM, trades, &amp; culturally relevant learning. I will grow living-wage jobs through workforce training, apprenticeships, economic incentives, and tech &amp; clean energy investments. I will expand healthcare access thru a public option, including behavioral health, &amp; address provider shortages. We must also improve public safety, protect our environment, &amp; 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>

“Democracy cannot be forced upon a society, neither is it a gift that can be held forever.

It has to be struggled hard for and defended everyday anew.” – Heinz Galinski

## SECRETARY OF STATE

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

*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

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

Lawrence

(write-in)

## 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>
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### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Joseph M  
**Maestas**

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.

The New Mexico Office of the State Auditor (OSA) is a constitutionally established executive office independent and accountable only to the people of New Mexico. The OSA has two primary statutory (Audit Act) purposes: (1) to ensure that the financial affairs of every agency shall be thoroughly examined and audited each year and (2) require the financial affairs and transactions of an agency to be audited in whole or in part. These purposes grant the State Auditor the authority to conduct both annual financial and special audits. The OSA is the State financial watchdog that protects taxpayer money from fraud, waste, and abuse. It also helps to hold court-appointed conservators accountable for managing financial assets of protected persons.

When public entity audit reports are submitted late, the public entity does receive a formal audit finding for a late report. 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.

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.

## 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>
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### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



James F  
**Ellison**  
(write-in)

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.  
  
This is not a job for a career politician — it's one for someone with proven investment credentials.

The highest responsibility of the State Treasurer is to safeguard and to responsibly grow the public funds entrusted to the state treasury office. The State Treasurer directly manages the \$20 billion state treasury portfolio, and serves on 13 boards, councils, and commissions which oversee \$160 in state funds.

I will advocate for putting unclaimed property administration with the State Treasury Office. The Taxation & Revenue Department is the wrong office, and it shows: we're holding \$390 million that belong to New Mexican families and businesses, and returning less than 5 cents on every dollar. As your Treasurer, I'll fix that.  
  
New Mexicans deserve to know how their money is performing. I will publish a clear, plain-English quarterly investment performance report on the Treasurer's website. Transparency isn't optional when managing \$20 billion of public funds.

I will use my seat on the board of the State Investment Council, as well as on other boards, to advocate for the responsible stewardship of state funds — not for political agendas.

To be clear, the state treasurer's office directly manages the state treasury's \$20 billion portfolio.

The question, then, is really what criteria I would recommend to other boards, such as the State Investment Council for selecting outside investment advisors. The SIC has a solid framework for selecting external advisors. There are some ways this can be improved, such as doing a better job of considering total costs rather than just headline management fees.

However, the bigger question is whether the ESG (environmental, social, and governance) policies that it requires managers to adhere to is a drag on investment returns. I would advocate for an implementation of this policy that does not result in a drag on returns.

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Laura M  
**Montoya**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

## 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><b>Jonas Moya</b></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 10

#### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Christopher P <b>Crane</b>	<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:



I have served in the New Mexico State Legislature for 6 terms. In this time I have been effective at working with the communities within House District 10 to provide vital community infrastructure projects. I have been a classroom teacher for eleven years and have been able to use my classroom experience to pass crucial, bipartisan education legislation that has been signed into law by both Republican and Democratic governors.	I would continue to use the interim legislative process to gather input from key community stakeholders and fellow legislators to craft well-vetted legislation for the betterment of our communities here in New Mexico.	As a state, we must bolster our water storage efforts upstream and continue to be efficient with our water usage.	The legislature must continue to expand Medicaid programs across the state to improve coverage for all New Mexicans. We must also continue to support medical malpractice reform efforts to recruit our medical school students and retain our existing doctors in the state.
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G Andres  
**Romero**

### STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 11

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

#### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

Javier I <b>Martínez</b>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
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### STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 12

#### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Steven E <b>Tafoya</b>	<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:

Art <b>De La Cruz</b>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
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### STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 13


THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 13 (Continued)

	<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>
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Patricia A Roybal Caballero</b></p>	<p>I am the Incumbent, serving my seventh term, tenured as an accomplished and experienced State Representative with a proven track record, currently serving as Chairwoman of House Labor, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. My full record of legislative service and accomplishments can be found by accessing nmlegis.gov. Additionally, as noted in my profile, my professional career and educational attainments together with my legislative proven record of experience and over fifty years of lived experiences working with community, are all what qualify me to continue my legislative work as a public servant.</p>	<p>Invest in public schools to improve educational outcomes of our children for better futures, Promote renewable, affordable and clean energy in homes, government and communities, Raise the minimum wage to a liveable wage &amp; adequate benefits for quality of living, Expand Voting Rights Access and Protections, Invest in Community &amp; School Safety, Promote Responsible &amp; Common Sense Gun Safety, Bring additional resources to District 13, Support small business development as a path toward sustainable, quality job creation, Oppose cuts to Medicaid programs and Provide Healthcare for All and Bring honesty, fairness &amp; transparency to government...</p>	<p>We have a duty to ensure we protect our future water needs by recruiting responsible businesses, and industries that are not high in water use, ensure they use clean water conservation technology, and that they find ways to innovate arid friendly economic development efforts. Some of these include Xeriscaping, use of smart irrigation systems and rainwater harvesting. We must also be more intentional about influencing our local governments to develop more water conservation ordinances, offer more public outreach information around water conservation methods such as using native, drought tolerant plants, reduce high water use grass lawns and use native grasses, water during optimal times, and use water efficient appliances.</p>	<p>We as legislators have a duty to require insurance companies offer lower costs, lower co-pays, require no prior authorizations and offer more expansive plans and services and in multiple languages. We also have a duty to ensure our constituents have more community primary care clinics by funding more, and ensure there are no cuts to Medicaid, we must expand and fund services covered by Medicaid, recruit and retain medical students to UNMH School of Medicine, create more pathways from public school to medical school with onsite training, internships at community and school based clinics and we must fund more community/primary health clinics, and promote community based home health education visits.</p>
 <p><b>Matthew E Archuleta</b></p>	<p>I have lived in my District for over 38 years. I was born and raised in Albuquerque. I'm always involved in my community wherever I've lived. I stood up for my community in front of the City Council, APS BOE, District Court, and the Planning Commission. I've been a little league coach, PTA President, Neighborhood Association President and active at San Martin Church. I've worked in affordable housing most of my life and have seen the struggles of our citizens. When my family was young, we struggled to make ends meet. I know what it's like to struggle, to work two jobs and to come home tired. We need people from the community representing us. I am that person who will listen, do what's right and have a common-sense approach to governance.</p>	<p>By working with other legislators, elected officials and the community to find common ground and solutions for the issues we face. Issues such as infrastructure needs (roads, lighting, etc.) community needs (community center, services, etc.), behavioral health issues (homelessness, lack of facilities), and issues surrounding our youth (education, CYFD, etc.) must be addressed. Community input is needed so all stakeholders can hear the struggles and challenges that have been encountered and all will have a voice in seeking resolution.</p>	<p>We need to continue researching ways to recycle water. Growth is inevitable. Smart choices on water use such as low flow devices should be available and used in every residential and business building. Local governments should have landscaping requirements for large businesses to prevent the overuse of water.</p>	<p>The Affordable Care Act started the dialog on the federal level. We must continue the dialog to ensure we all have adequate coverage. We must also recognize that access to health care is not only insurance, also access to clinics and medical offices. In the last 15 years, additional construction in our area by the healthcare providers to bring needed services closer has taken place. Where there is a healthcare desert, we need to research how we can bring needed services. Lastly, we must find a way to retain and attract Doctors, Nurse Practitioners and Physician's Assistants.</p>

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 14



<b>REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Richard Victor Zubia</b> (write-in)</p>	<p>I'm believe in doing the right thing even when it's not what I want. I believe elected officials are the voice of the average citizen. People are tired of the same old promises that never get fulfilled. It's time the will of the people be done, in the name of good!</p>	<p>I would rally and garner the support of the people who are affected by all policies. I would ensure that the policies align with the people's desires and effectively communicate this message in the New Mexico House of Representatives. By doing so, I would empower the people and give them a voice. Our government was established to serve the will of the people and protect their interests. It's time for "we the people" to be prioritized once again!</p>	<p>We will make it our goal to preserve our precious water. We will enforce existing practices and create new ones that will help us conserve and recycle the water we use. New Mexico is incredibly resilient, and with the right people and practical guidelines, it can continue to be a bountiful, beautiful, and prosperous home for generations to come.</p>	<p>We must address the physician shortage problem to ensure a great provider-to-patient ratio. Focusing on retaining current quality physicians will be crucial. We need to become competitive and offer a safe environment for both patients and providers. Expanding our telehealth and mental health programs is also important. Finally, making quality healthcare accessible to our rural communities is a major priority.</p>
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Miguel P García</b></p>	<p>In my 30 years as a legislator, I have been an unrelenting fighter for our school kids and needy children, for our working families, for our Spanish Land Grant communities and tribes, for equality of all New Mexicans, and for property tax relief to our veterans and low-income elderly and disabled. I have served the House of Representatives as Chairman of the Labor Committee from 2005-2014, and as Chairman of the Local Government, Land Grants, and Cultural Affairs Committee from 2017 to 2021.</p>	<p>In the County (Atrisco) portion of my district, road improvements with a modern storm drain system are crucial. Many households in the valley are in a designated FEMA flood plain where flood insurance is required with a qualified mortgage. That insurance can run anywhere from \$500 to \$4,000 a year. When roads are improved with a modern storm drain system, the flood insurance can be waived. Another significant issue is the need to be consistently vigil and proactive in defending our constitution.</p>	<p>The non-Pueblo irrigators and farmers in the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District are in crisis, and their water deliveries for the past 4 years have dwindled by 75%. They are having to cull their herds because of limited water deliveries to irrigate their pasture crops. The MRGCD has abandoned their responsibility to their farmers and irrigators by prioritizing Bureau of Indian Affairs and Rio Grande Compact water mandates. A legislative task force to reform this dilemma is urgently needed.</p>	<p>We must ensure that we are properly funding our School Based Health Clinics at the high school level. We must also ensure that all our elementary schools and mid-schools have a full-time nurse on staff. Our legislature and higher education institutions must work in tandem to grow our health care workforce by prioritizing the recruitment of New Mexico residents from rural and underserved areas in all health-related careers.</p>

	<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>
 <p><b>Joseph M. Romero</b></p>	<p>I'm a U.S. military veteran, attorney, and lifelong New Mexican with deep roots in House District 14. My service in uniform taught me discipline and accountability. I've fought in courtrooms for injured workers and everyday families against insurance companies and corporations that try to grind people down. That work taught me how to read a bill, spot a loophole, and fight to win. District 14 deserves a Representative who shows up, carries bills to tackle the healthcare crisis and youth violence, brings capital outlay dollars home, and fights back when Washington comes after our rights. I'll listen to constituents and deliver real results on public safety, affordability, healthcare, and economic development.</p>	<p>My approach has three parts. Show up. Do the work. Deliver results. I'll bring capital outlay dollars back into District 14 for the schools, clinics, and infrastructure we need. On affordability, I'll fight for a living wage, Paid Family Medical Leave, and an expanded Child Tax Credit. On public safety, I'll invest in youth violence prevention and school-based mental health, hold fentanyl suppliers accountable, and stand up to Washington's masked ICE agents raiding our neighborhoods. On healthcare, I'll defend Medicaid from Washington's attacks, pass safe staffing laws, and expand licensing compacts. And I'll partner with community organizations whose expertise should shape every bill I carry.</p>	<p>District 14 runs along the Middle Rio Grande and the Bosque, so water isn't just an idea here. It's our drinking water, our farms, our acequias, and the cottonwood ribbon that defines the South Valley. Heavy corporate water users like the Meta data center in Los Lunas draw millions of gallons from the same water our families depend on. I'll regulate heavy corporate water users, close loopholes that allow overuse, and fully fund our environmental agencies so we can defend our water from Washington's rollbacks. We need real investment in conservation, water reuse, drought-resilient agriculture, and acequia funding. I'll champion regional planning with Pueblos, farmers, and cities, and write clear climate and water goals into state law.</p>	<p>Healthcare in New Mexico is in crisis, and Washington is making it worse. District 14 feels it. Long waits, provider shortages, and families drowning in medical debt. I'll defend Medicaid from Washington's attacks and backfill federal cuts so community health centers and clinics like Planned Parenthood can stay open. We need safe staffing laws that set minimum provider-to-patient ratios so patients actually get seen. I'll push licensing compacts covering EMTs, counselors, physician assistants, therapists, audiologists, and dentists so qualified providers can come to New Mexico. I'll also expand mental and behavioral health services. Healthcare is a right, and District 14 deserves a Representative who will carry the bills to prove it.</p>

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 15

<p><b>THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.</b></p>				
<p><b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b></p>				
<p>Dayan "Day" Mercedes Hochman-Vigil</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>


## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 16

<p><b>THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.</b></p>				
<p><b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b></p>				
 <p><b>Yanira Gurrola Valenzuela</b></p>	<p>I bring both professional experience and a strong record of public service. I'm a longtime teacher, trained engineer, and bilingual educator, and I've represented House District 16 since 2023. As an immigrant, I bring a valuable perspective as I work to lower healthcare and housing costs, improve our schools, and support families and infrastructure. After 18 years in this district and 24 years in education, I've built deep community ties and a proven record of commitment.</p>	<p>I will continue focusing on education, safety, health, economic opportunity, and the environment. Education is central to my work, and I support a holistic approach that strengthens students, families, and those who support them. That means improving safety, supporting working families, and advancing real solutions that expand opportunity. My record reflects these priorities through work on education, student safety, and opportunity for New Mexicans.</p>	<p>We need to prioritize conservation, protect water quality, and plan for the long term. In our state, we must use our water wisely, invest in water reuse and infrastructure, and make decisions based on clear, reliable information. That also means supporting research at our universities and listening to advocates and communities whose knowledge and experience can help guide better water policy.</p>	<p>We've made progress, but more must be done to ensure people can access care close to home—including primary care, behavioral health, and preventive services. On the Westside, that means investing in clinics, providers, telehealth, and school-based health centers, while addressing barriers like cost and transportation. We also need to grow our local healthcare workforce. Care should be affordable, accessible, and centered on our community's needs.</p>
 <p><b>Marsella Duarte Serna</b></p>	<p>I'm a proud multigenerational New Mexican democrat who has called District 16 home my entire life. My career has been rooted in service, working on the frontlines with vulnerable families at CYFD and in the classroom at a Title I public school. I also served at the Legislature as a committee assistant, gaining firsthand experience in the lawmaking process. In 2022, I had the honor of being briefly appointed to the seat. I understand the challenges our families face because I've lived and worked alongside them, and I would be honored to earn your vote to serve as your next State Representative.</p>	<p>As a former teacher, I know we can do more to ensure equal educational opportunities and deliver results that move New Mexico from last in education. We should expand career and technical education, raise teacher and staff pay, strengthen partnerships with employers and colleges, and ensure schools have the mental health supports students need. I support smart investments and laws to keep communities safe and families protected. We must also address rising costs of living in utilities, food, and housing, by investing in affordable housing and senior services so New Mexicans can thrive.</p>	<p>Over the next 50 years, New Mexico will have approximately 25% less water available in rivers and aquifers. A statistic that should frighten all of us. As technologies advance - the use of water still remains at an all time high for most industrial industries. So, finding ways to incentivize reuse systems and modernizing waste and water systems, including grey and black water, should be prioritized. We need to pass the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, invest in watershed health and retention projects, and give the Office of State Engineer and other state agencies the resources needed to invest in systems for record keeping, research, and groundwater mapping and monitoring.</p>	<p>Ensuring access to healthcare requires strengthening the workforce, expanding services, and closing gaps in care. Recruitment and retention remain major challenges, so we must invest in growing and keeping providers across all fields. I support expanding interstate compacts for EMTs, counselors, physician assistants, therapists, audiologists, and dentists to address shortages. We must also stem nurse loss by advancing safe staffing standards. Expanding telehealth and supporting community health centers will improve access, especially in underserved areas. As our population ages, we need investments in at-home care. I will fight for funding to expand mental and behavioral health facilities and continue supporting Medicaid and preventive care.</p>


## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 17

<p><b>REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:</b></p>				
<p>Stacey Deanne Rich</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>


## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 17 (Continued)

	<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>
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Cynthia D Borrego</b></p>	<p>I hold a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Education, along with certifications in Real Estate, Land Use Law, International Investments and Emerging Markets through Wharton, and Credit Union Management and Leadership. With more than 30 years of experience in urban planning and public service, I have built my career around thoughtful leadership and community-centered problem solving.</p> <p>I have proudly served four years as a City Councilor, six years on the AMAFCA Board, and eight years on the Public Employees Retirement Board. I am also a graduate of Leadership Albuquerque.</p> <p>As the District 17 incumbent and a small business owner, I understand both the challenges facing our community and the importance of practical,</p>	<p>My highest priorities are promoting bills that are solutions to reducing crime, attracting economic development/jobs and improving our educational systems.</p> <p>I'm committed to lower prices and affordability issues for New Mexicans. Just this past 2026 Legislative session, I proposed two pension bills to help New Mexico public retirees with soaring cost of living prices, which have increased exponentially. Retirees benefits are not keeping up with inflation costs. In addition, I proposed bills to help our seniors with food insecurity Statewide, and will continue to fight for both our the security of our pension benefits, and the stability of our families during a chaotic economic downturn. I will also fight for Social Security sustainability.</p>	<p>My background in urban planning positions me to help prioritize and advance sustainable, long-term water solutions for New Mexico. In an increasingly arid state, conservation must remain a top priority, supported by smart policy and responsible resource management. Future legislation should balance population growth, economic development, and the preservation of our limited water supply. By investing in conservation, infrastructure, and sustainable development practices, we can protect water quality, strengthen our communities, and ensure a reliable water future for generations to come.</p>	<p>I was proud to Co-sponsor HB 99 Medical Malpractice Changes, signed by the Governor.</p> <p>This bill lowers cap for punitive damages, remains, while advancing long-term meaningful reform. HB 99 provides access to quality care in NM, creates a fair and predictable medical liability framework, while supporting patients, and allowing hospitals and physicians to continue providing care to their communities.</p> <p>Other bills I Co-sponsored included</p> <p>HB 32 Counseling Licensure Compact</p> <p>HB 33 Psychology Inter-jurisdictional Compact, other compacts were seen as priorities, so these can be reintroduced in 2026.</p>

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 18

<b>THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.</b>				
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Marianna A Anaya</b></p>	<p>As a freshman legislator, I've been at the forefront of some of our most pressing legislation, from being a lead sponsor on the Immigrant Safety Act and the Zorro Ranch Truth Commission to co-sponsoring the bill that subsidized ACA premiums and building the Medical Injury Collaborative Resolution Act through a year of doctor-trial lawyer coalition work. I was honored to receive Freshman Legislator of the Year from the UNM Alumni Association, the Luminarias Policy Champion Award from the Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, and the Equality NM Resilience Award for work in our LGBTQ community.</p>	<p>Healthcare, corporate accountability, and affordability are deeply connected. Together, we must finance single-payer healthcare, invest in primary care, fund global budgets for rural hospitals, and stop private equity rollups that drive up costs while squeezing out independent practices. The same pattern is hollowing out our housing, utilities, and local businesses — when extractive owners take over, prices go up and quality goes down. We have to regulate these corporations before they own everything that matters and price our families out of a quality life.</p>	<p>Water is not infinite, especially here in the desert. We need honest accounting, which means real-time public data on aquifers, surface flows, and large-volume industrial use. Just as important, we need pricing and permitting systems that reflect the scarcity we face. Large users like data centers and oil and gas shouldn't get sweetheart rates, new projects should prove net-neutral water impact before permits are issued and large industrial consumers should bare minimum pay their own bills and not pass the cost to New Mexicans.</p>	<p>We must end the practice of insurance companies overriding doctors; medical decisions should belong to patients and providers, not corporations. We must invest in the healthcare workforce strategic recruitment program I've introduced the last two sessions to bring more providers into the communities that need them most. And we have to draw a clear line: public dollars should be lifting up local clinics and independent providers, not flowing to private equity-owned hospitals that skimp on patient care to pad their margins, put providers in harms way, and abandon our communities when they close up shop. Investing in a single-payer system will ensure our healthcare system is no longer for sale.</p>

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 19

<b>THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.</b>				
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Janelle I Anyanonu</b></p>	<p>I'm proud to represent House District 19, the most diverse neighborhood in New Mexico, and I'm running for a third term because the work isn't finished. I was raised here, a Manzano graduate, and I'm the daughter of a Nigerian immigrant. In two terms I've written, carried, and debated legislation from kitchen-table idea to the Governor's desk. I delivered \$30 million for new housing at the State Fair grounds and worked to create an independent Board of Directors for the African American Performing Arts Center. I chair the Housing New Mexico Oversight Interim Committee and vice chair Commerce and Economic Development. District 19 deserves a Representative who knows the process and delivers results. I'd be honored to keep earning your vote.</p>	<p>I will continue to fight for housing. It is critical. As Chair of the Housing New Mexico Oversight Committee, I'm working to cut the bureaucratic redundancies and outdated zoning that slow construction. I'm pushing to establish a State Office of Housing Planning and Production, and I'm carrying legislation to automatically expunge old eviction records, because a single eviction shouldn't lock a family out of housing for life. I'm also working to focus our juvenile system from punishment into prevention, because stable kids do not commit crime. HD-19 kids deserve mental health care, mentorship, and opportunity, not a pipeline to prison. And I'll fight the affordability crisis squeezing working families, from groceries to utilities and rent.</p>	<p>Water is existential for New Mexico, and the legislature has to follow the people who actually know the science, our conservationists, Pueblo leaders, agricultural producers, and frontline environmental experts. Planning should be long-range and regional, not session to session. We need to rein in heavy corporate users, whose draws strain the same aquifers our families and farms depend on, invest seriously in conservation and reuse infrastructure, and write climate adaptation into state law so future legislatures can't walk it back. And we have to build water equity into every decision, because drought hits low-income and refugee communities first and hardest.</p>	<p>Every New Mexican deserves healthcare, and the long-term answer is single-payer at the state and federal level. At a minimum we need a public option on the marketplace. The federal government is sabotaging healthcare, gutting Medicaid, starving community health centers, and driving costs sky-high. I'm proud the Legislature has fought back, but we must do more. We have to defend Medicaid, step in where the federal government walks out, pass safe staffing standards so patients actually get seen, and meet people where they are with mental and behavioral health care, addiction treatment, and culturally competent services for refugee and immigrant communities in HD-19. The federal government has turned its back on working families. I am not.</p>

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 20

<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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### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Meredith A  
**Dixon**

As Vice Chair of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, I've played a direct role in shaping our state's budget and investing responsibly in New Mexico's priorities. I believe we can make New Mexico a place where constituents feel safe and have economic opportunity to thrive—through clean energy, sustainable industries, and good-paying jobs. I'm not asking voters to take a chance; I'm asking them to reelect an effective legislator who has put in the work.

I believe effective policymaking is guided by data and shaped by those most impacted. My priorities are advancing New Mexico's clean energy economy by attracting investments and good-paying jobs; strategic funding for workforce development and career technical education; a comprehensive public safety approach balancing law enforcement support with behavioral health interventions; and expanding affordable healthcare access, especially in rural and underserved communities

Water security is one of New Mexico's defining challenges, requiring strategic long-term planning. We must invest in modernizing aging infrastructure, supporting acequia and tribal water systems, and advancing produced water treatment and desalination technologies. Data-driven climate planning is essential, as is collaboration between the state, tribal governments, and the agricultural community. Protecting our water future is inseparable from our economy and remains a top legislative priority for me.

Access to affordable, quality healthcare remains a top priority. New Mexico faces a serious health care provider shortage, worsened by recent federal budget cuts. This session, I supported HB 99 to reform medical malpractice liability, and we passed SB 1 to streamline out-of-state physician licensing. Additionally, we must continue to invest in loan repayment programs, training, and residency programs that give doctors real reasons to build their careers here

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 21

### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Robert L  
**Mason**

I love this state and I'm tired of seeing it constantly on the bottom of the good lists (education) and the top of the bad lists (crime). The people in my district are tired of hearing the gunshots and experiencing the crime. I have also come to realize that the people in this district, unless they are trial attorneys or in the teachers union, have not had a voice in Santa Fe for some time. Over a 30 year Air Force career I have led large teams and managed very large budgets. After retiring from the Air Force I started a business to help supervisors and managers learn to be effective leaders. In these experiences, I've learned how to work with people to accomplish common goals; even when individual beliefs might be completely different.

The highest priority in my district is crime. Our legislature must seriously address the state's crime problem. But our oppressive tax structure and failing education systems are also critical as they are a part of the reason we have a crime problem. In Santa Fe I will push hard to pass laws that take crime seriously and hold criminals accountable. Multiple studies have shown that crime is related to educational issues and economic factors so I will push to hold our education system accountable and reduce or even eliminate individual income tax. We have plenty of money to meet our needs and it has been shown at both the state and federal level that, although it seems contrary to common sense, lower taxes always results in higher revenue.

We need to tap the large supply of brackish water we have in New Mexico. Capabilities already exist to treat that water and make it useable and so will advocate to use the resources we have available. Treating water takes energy and so I will also push for small nuclear power sources as a clean, safe source of energy for water treatment.

We need more doctors! Recent passage of the medical malpractice bill was a step in the right direction, but we need to concentrate on making the state a place where doctors want to practice. We need to eliminate the Gross Receipts Tax for doctors, (really for everyone) and address the crime and education issues that make the state an unattractive option.

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Debra Marie  
**Sarinana**

I have represented House District 21 since 2017, working on legislation, shaping state budgets, and strengthening oversight of how tax dollars are spent. I'm an APS educator with a B.S. in Education, an M.A. in Mathematics Education, and National Board certification, which shapes my data-driven, results-oriented approach to policy. I'm also a U.S. Air Force Reserve veteran. In the Legislature, I've served on House Appropriations & Finance and House Energy, Environment & Natural Resources (vice chair), as well as interim committees covering education, science & technology, hazardous waste, water and military & veterans' affairs. I've spent years digging into agency performance, funding requests, and whether programs are delivering results.

My priorities are education, public safety, health care access, and economic opportunity. I'll fund what works, publish clear plans, and report results. In education: early reading and math supports, strong materials, tutoring, and retaining great teachers—paired with regular outcome updates. In public safety: effective policing plus proven prevention like youth programs and mentoring to boost accountability and cut repeat offenses. In health care: train and keep more providers, expand primary and behavioral care, and reduce barriers such as transportation gaps and limited broadband for telehealth. For the economy: align training with in demand jobs and set clear performance standards for public incentives so taxpayers see a return.

New Mexico is getting hotter and drier, so we should act now with long term, science based goals, strong data, measurable conservation, and fair enforcement. I support funding what works—rebates for efficient fixtures, leak detection, and turf to xeriscape—plus pricing & assistance that reduce waste without compromising basic household needs, especially for low income families. We must repair leaky infrastructure, expand reuse and stormwater capture, and manage groundwater with metering, monitoring, and aquifer recharge and watershed restoration. I'll respect Tribal, acequia, and senior rights, consult meaningfully, help farmers and ranchers adopt drought ready practices, and back regional drought plans with statewide data & technical help.

I see too many people struggling to get care when they need it—clinics aren't open at convenient times, transportation is a barrier, and there aren't enough behavioral health providers. I want to expand evening & weekend appointments so working families don't have to choose between a paycheck and care, improve transportation options (especially for veterans & people with limited mobility), and build up behavioral health services by recruiting, training, and keeping more providers. I also support using telehealth where it makes sense, closing the digital divide with better broadband & device access, and providing stronger outreach and navigation help so people can sign up for coverage and get preventive care before problems turn into crises.

*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 23

### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:




**Alan T Martinez**

My passion for serving others is the reason I am running for office. As a public servant, I served with the Department of Veteran Services where I was the policy director for 16 years. I understand what it takes to pursue good policy for all New Mexicans,


Public Safety  
Economic Growth  
Health, both physical and mental

We as a state must look at the ability to renew brackish water. We must look to new technologies that are working for other states and countries.


We MUST put aside petty partisan politics and work together to grow our own physicians. This means making sure New Mexicans have a pathway to the UNM Medical School and to the residencies offered in this state. We must make sure that we are working to increase the number of general practice physicians in our state.

	<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>
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Elise Falanga Taylor</b></p>	<p>With a B.A. from the University of Rhode Island, I've built a career across corp. sales, the wedding industry, Medicare insurance, entertainment, and public service.</p> <p>As a licensed Medicare agent, I spoke with ~1,000 retirees about real struggles—medication costs, poor planning, loneliness. I later worked as an on-set guardian for children. I served as Legislative Aide during the 57th NM House session, helping legislators work effectively and listening to constituents. Between gigs, I completed 2,300+ rideshare rides, meeting people from every walk of life. A three-term union leader, I've advocated for film professionals at the Roundhouse.</p> <p>I've learned that everyone has a story, and understanding them is how we support each other.</p>	<p>My top priorities for HD23: public safety, affordability, and healthcare for every New Mexican.</p> <p>On public safety, I'll invest in technology, infrastructure, and courthouse capacity, protect officer recruitment and retention, and expand behavioral health co-responder programs and juvenile diversion.</p> <p>Affordability means living-wage jobs, accessible capital and simpler licensing for small businesses, and connecting families to SNAP, LIHEAP, and Medicaid benefits.</p> <p>On healthcare, the HCAF has helped many—but not the self-employed, rideshare drivers, or freelancers earning above 400% of poverty who can't absorb a 35% premium hike. That gap is fixable. I'll push to expand the fund's income threshold and build purchasing cooperatives.</p>	<p>New Mexico faces a severe water crisis—overuse exceeding natural replenishment. I'll work with water experts to build an effective strategy rooted in education, conservation, underground storage, wastewater reuse, infrastructure repair, and smart regulation across consumer and agricultural sectors.</p> <p>NM's rapid growth makes local impact impossible to ignore. We must protect our water supply as housing and development expand. New Mexico should fully fund the 50-Year Water Action Plan, expand the Strategic Water Supply program, and protect aquifer monitoring as they're the foundation of every home, school, and business here. And the NM transportation bond package must reach every corner of the state equitably.</p>	<p>Recruiting and retaining healthcare providers is key to improving access in New Mexico. The 2026 session passed HB99, a major victory. I will fully fund behavioral health and rural care, raise income limits for the Healthcare Affordability Fund, and expand licensing so nurse practitioners and physician assistants can practice independently.</p> <p>For seniors, I will raise Medicaid and Medicare Supplemental income limits, strengthen SPAP to close Part D gaps, expand Mi Via waivers, boost nursing home rates, and fund caregiver support.</p> <p>For children, I will expand Medicaid and CHIP eligibility to reach more families.</p> <p>Access improves when we invest in providers, close gaps, and empower patients. I am committed to this approach.</p>

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 24

<b>THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.</b>				
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Elizabeth L Thomson</b></p>	<p>I have served the district for 12 years, meeting and speaking with constituents throughout that time. I understand how the Legislature works. The mentorship program in the House for newly elected Democrats, was started by me and I continue in that role. I have introduced and passed many Bills, including healthcare, education, public safety, disability issues, taxes, and much more. I currently serve as the Chair for both the House and Legislative Health and Human Services Committees. Healthcare is a major issue for many New Mexicans, and I am one of very few healthcare providers in the legislature.</p>	<p>My highest priority is for New Mexicans to have access and be able to afford healthcare. This is a very complicated and long-standing problem. I have carried many healthcare compacts for many years. In the 2026 Session I carried six of them, and got them further along in the Senate than ever before. I will continue this work until we get the Bills passed. My absolute highest priority, is to make the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee professionalized. As it currently stands, this Committee has oversight over all of the states's health, and human services programs. The state spending in fiscal year 2025 was \$14.4 billion including the federal match. We are attempting to oversee this with zero staff. That must change.</p>	<p>We must be very protective of the little water that we have. It doesn't make sense for New Mexico to bring in industries, which demand a lot of water. The precious water must be prioritized for people, wildlife, and other such necessary uses. Using water for industrial use, such as fracking, cooling huge data centers, etc. should not be allowed to threaten our way of life.</p>	<p>See above. In addition, investing in recruitment and retention of healthcare providers, through loan forgiveness, tax incentives, and other methods. The investment we made during the 2026 Session, to double the size of UNM's healthcare programs, will be extremely helpful in the longer term. Making New Mexico a more attractive place to call home is also important. This would include improving our education systems, tax structures, and public perception. It does not help when entities spend hundreds of thousands of dollars advertising that New Mexico is a horrible place to provide healthcare. We must support financial and regulatory changes to provide assistance to smaller and local providers, not to out of state billion dollar corporations.</p>

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 25

<b>REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
<p><b>Denis Litvinenko</b></p>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Cristina S Parajon</b></p>	<p>Born in Albuquerque, I love my State deeply. My parents taught me the values they learned as UNM Lobos, working not "on" or "for" but "with" the community. I've brought this value to the work I led at the City and State on some of the largest projects on homelessness and healthcare. I am committed to my community, which is why I came back home after receiving a BA at Harvard and an MA in Economics and Business, made possible by scholarships. It would be my honor to continue representing you.</p>	<p>With over 350,000 New Mexicans facing housing instability, the housing crisis affects us all. It is up to us, the community and decision-makers to craft policy with data, humility, and intention. One 2016 study by UNM revealed that for every \$1 our City invests in housing someone, we earn back \$1.78. Plus, once housed, almost 90% stay housed for more than a year. The smartest way to solve homelessness is housing through voucher programs or by building more affordable housing.</p>	<p>I would ask groups like ABCWUA and the Middle Rio Grande Water protection groups to lead on real actionable plans that directly relate to their communities. Additionally, our state agencies, such as the Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission, need resources to get their jobs done— including updated technology to collect the right data. I support funding further research on New Mexico's brackish water aquifers, we should only draw on those resources if we understand them fully. We must recognize that New Mexico will have less potable water from natural sources in the future due to the impacts of climate change, so the legislature should also invest in the capability to recycle and reuse water to safeguard our future.</p>	<p>In addition to pursuing stronger public health infrastructure, like utilizing Community Health Workers, we must ensure we grow our own healthcare professionals. That starts with our young people who are pursuing careers in medicine. The legislature made great progress with recent investments in this area: increasing student loan repayment by up to \$300,000, funding more rural residencies, and doubling UNM's medical school. I was proud to sponsor funding in the budget for Work Force Solutions to develop all-year, paid high-school internships that feed directly into the medical profession. But we can always do more, for example, by expanding on the medical compacts passed for physicians to compacts for EMTs, and other medical professions.</p>


	<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 26

### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Corey Rubin <b>Zimmerman</b>	<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:

	<p>I have served four terms as a legislator. From 2009 to 2012, I represented House District 13. Since 2022, I have represented House District 26. I have also served on the Public Education Commission and the Bernalillo County Labor Board. I have also served on various boards of community organizations. I bring a wealth of experience in union and community organizing. I have a deep understanding of the hardships that families in my District face daily, and I will continue to fight to improve their lives.</p>	<p>My top priorities are healthcare, workers' rights, CYFD, and environmental protection. I will continue to work on systemic healthcare change to reduce costs and increase access. I believe workers should be able to organize without facing intimidation from management, and implementing nurse-to-patient ratios will improve staffing and patient care. CYFD has been on a downward spiral, causing harm to children and families. I support removing CYFD from the governor's purview and appointing Child Welfare experts to run the agency. We must protect our natural resources from industries that pollute our land, air, and water. I will introduce and support legislation that addresses all of these issues.</p>	<p>Climate change is depleting our water supply, and we must act with urgency. We need to expand the capacity of state agencies responsible for water management and provide them with the resources they need to support their work. We must abide by interstate compact agreements. Implementing the Water Security Planning Act is essential to future planning. We need to increase conservation efforts and create a public education program/campaign to teach New Mexicans how to conserve water in their daily lives. Industry must also act responsibly to conserve water.</p>	<p>We need to focus on growing our own healthcare workforce. During the 2026 legislative session, the legislature allocated \$500 million to the UNM School of Medicine to increase medical student admissions. The legislature allocated \$30 million for Medicaid expansion, \$25 million toward BeWell premium assistance, to prevent coverage loss for individuals and families earning under 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL), \$38.1 million to offset the expiration of EPTCs for those earning above the 400% of the FPL, and \$40 million for immigrant Medicaid enrollees who would otherwise lose eligibility on October 1, 2026. We must continue working to address the high cost of pharmaceuticals and other healthcare cost drivers.</p>
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Eleanor  
**Chávez**

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 27

### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

	<p>I'm a nurse practitioner, small business owner, and mother who has spent my life serving others, not in politics, but on the frontlines. I built two healthcare organizations from the ground up, creating jobs and caring for families across our community. I've seen firsthand how policies impact real people, whether it's access to care, rising costs, or small businesses struggling to survive. I bring real-world experience, not political theory. I understand what it takes to lead, solve problems, and make tough decisions, and I'm ready to bring that same commitment to serving the people of District 27.</p>	<p>My priorities are strengthening healthcare access, supporting small businesses, and protecting families. I will focus on reducing burdensome regulations, keeping taxes competitive, and creating an environment where businesses can grow and create jobs. In healthcare, we must address provider shortages and improve access without expanding costly government programs. I believe in practical, common-sense solutions, working with communities, cutting red tape, and holding systems accountable. We don't need more bureaucracy; we need leadership that focuses on results and puts people first.</p>	<p>Water is one of New Mexico's most critical challenges, and we need a balanced, responsible approach. That means investing in infrastructure, supporting water conservation, and protecting existing water rights, especially for farmers and rural communities. We should encourage innovation, including water reuse and improved storage, while ensuring decisions are made locally, not through heavy-handed mandates. Long-term planning, responsible stewardship, and collaboration between state, local, and private partners will be key to protecting this essential resource for future generations.</p>	<p>As a healthcare provider, I've seen the access crisis firsthand. We must focus on keeping providers in New Mexico by improving the practice environment, reducing regulatory burdens, and addressing issues like liability and reimbursement. Just as importantly, we need to make New Mexico a place where healthcare professionals want to live, work, and raise their families, by strengthening our education system and ensuring safe communities. Supporting workforce development and expanding telehealth, especially in rural areas, will also be key. Instead of one-size-fits-all government solutions, we should empower local providers and create a system that works for patients. Access starts with supporting the people who deliver care, and that's where I</p>
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Jahnelle Louise  
**Garcia**

	<p>I am a citizen of New Mexico and the United States and have resided within District 27 for over 25 years. I spent 23 years in Federal Law Enforcement in Albuquerque and will have a background and level of experience that no other individual will have in the State Legislature. I have worked on numerous political campaigns and spoken with many residents of this district and have listened to their concerns about crime, education, and the economy. As a small business owner, I am also aware of the headwinds and roadblocks we face as we try to provide the best goods and services to our customers while also providing the best employment opportunities for our employees.</p>	<p>In New Mexico, the poverty tail wags the economic dog and the Democrat Party feeds that metaphor by developing misguided program after program to create the illusion they are helping people. Consequently, this state remains mired in mediocrity, does not grow, and is actually losing population. We need to keep the businesses that we have and attract more business by reducing regulations and reforming the tax code, especially the gross receipts tax. We can reduce crime by letting the professionals do their job with the tools we can give them. We need to reform our education system to challenge our children, to encourage and reward success and not a system that accepts the status quo or confines children to pre-conceived notions of ability.</p>	<p>This problem has a rather simple solution. Almost 80 percent of the state's available water is used for agriculture. New Mexico is the Saudi Arabia of brackish water with 16 billion acre feet. Desalination of this water requires a great deal of energy that can be provided by nuclear energy. We should have been investing in Small Modular Nuclear Reactors years ago. They take up very little space, are safe, and provide enough energy to supply certain needs during the day and desalinate water at night. El Paso is already doing this, why should we be second fiddle to Texas.</p>	<p>Since the Legislature is part of government, it starts with government reducing its impact on health care. It's no big secret that health care costs have skyrocketed since government increased its involvement in the 1980's and that access to health care has been reduced. It's even worse in New Mexico as legislative actions have caused doctors to flee the state in large numbers. We all know friends and family that are seeking health care in other states because there is a shortage of doctors here. The passage of HB 99 may reverse that trend but the damage has already been done. We forget that the free market enterprise system is the best at delivering goods and services, even health care. Tort reform and higher reimbursements are needed.</p>
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Robert S  
**Godshall**


	<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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**DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:**


 <p><b>Marian Matthews</b></p>	<p>As a legislator, my job is to seek solutions to problems New Mexicans have that can be fixed by state law. I've spent my life solving problems through law. Take shoplifting: An epidemic a few years ago, now down 64% since HB234, a bill I sponsored that passed in 2023. As a law student in the 1970s, I was one of five women who led the successful effort for women's equal rights by passing a state Equal Rights Amendment. As a practicing attorney, I helped parents get needed special education for their kids. As an assistant attorney general, I prosecuted white collar crime and sexual predators. I served as Deputy Attorney General under Tom Udall focusing on consumer protection and argued for NM before the U.S. Supreme Court in a water case.</p>	<p>My priorities: (1) Adopt more interstate compacts to improve New Mexicans' access to health care providers; (2) Restructure CYFD to improve outcomes and protection of children in state custody; (3) Protect seniors and families living in mobile home parks from frequent rent increases imposed by private equity companies and from failing utility services; (4) End the 15-year Yazzie-Martinez litigation impacting 333,000 New Mexicans with funding from the Legislature to support reforms acceptable to the court and Plaintiffs; (5) Update New Mexico's Human Trafficking law to better protect children and women; (6) Support small business and union apprenticeships.</p>	<p>We are estimated to lose 25% to 30% of our water supply by 2050 from climate change and continued usage. A priority is conservation programs that offer substantial reductions in water use, like those adopted by Albuquerque in 1995 which reduced water use from 252 gallons per person a day to 150 gallons per day. I support efforts to map and replenish our aquifers; monitor pumping of ground water; invest in desalination; and treat oil wastewater for re-use. We also need to restrict the time of day and length of landscape watering by large users, including imposing fines for violating the restrictions. We must also seek to slow climate change and warn New Mexicans of how critical our water situation is becoming.</p>	<p>As the House sponsor of the doctor interstate compact in the last session, I am very aware that some 250 physicians left New Mexico after passage of the medical malpractice law in 2021 and that we are deficient in a number of health care provider fields. I and others will be sponsoring more compacts in 2027 to expand the number of practitioners constituents have access to. We also need to protect the laws that passed last session relating to compacts and to medical malpractice (HB99) from being watered down in the 2027 session. You can do that by letting your state legislators know that you support those laws and support passage of more compacts. Adding more financial support and scholarships for students in underserved fields would help.</p>
 <p><b>Abby Christine Foster</b></p>	<p>I bring policy experience and a record of community action. I worked as a legislative analyst, reviewing bills and helping lawmakers understand policy issues. As a Guardian ad Litem, I advocate for children, adults w/disabilities, and families in our state. I've also worked on policy for the City of ABQ. I'm a mother of two, raising my family in this district, and I've spent years knocking doors, listening to neighbors, and advocating for candidates and causes I believe in. Alternatively, my opponent will tout her legislative experience, but she's been the House's most absent member and she's a DINO who takes money from major Trump donors, like NextEra Energy - who is partially funding the demolition of the East Wing and the Trump Ballroom.</p>	<p>By continuing to listen to the community and passing important legislation. I believe in working with others to move good ideas forward. One reason I'm challenging my opponent is that she hasn't been effective at doing that. This year, she sponsored more legislation with Republicans than Democrats (17-2), and none of her sponsored bills passed because she doesn't work with members of her own caucus. My mediation experience taught me to work with others. I'll continue working with lawmakers to expand affordable and sustainable housing, improve school safety and heating and cooling, reform CYFD, address healthcare shortages, lower costs, and support paid family medical leave - all issues my opponent has failed to address or voted against.</p>	<p>The New Mexico Groundwater Alliance's 360 Report made recommendations that I would work to implement. We've made some progress, but much more needs to be done. We can't keep approving water-intensive development without stronger safeguards and accountability. I bring direct experience from my committee work for the legislature which include conservation, agriculture, acequias, and water resource issues. In addition, we need a representative who will show up and vote on water policy. My opponent has supported some water bills, but she has also purposefully missed key votes on water legislation like Water Law Violation Penalties, including HB 111 (2026) and HB 348 (2025).</p>	<p>We need affordable, reliable care that's close to home without long waits or unfair insurance barriers. We need to address doctor shortages, strengthen support for clinics, and push back on monopoly insurance practices that drive up prices. I support paid family medical leave so people can care for themselves or loved ones without losing income. My opponent has voted against healthcare and worker protections including paid leave, diabetic resources, lowering prescription drug costs, and healthcare workforce legislation. District 27 and New Mexico needs a representative who will show up, take our healthcare seriously, and put people before corporate donors.</p>

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 28**


**REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:**


 <p><b>Brenda J Olson</b></p>	<p>Trusted at 21 to safeguard national security resources, I learned to make sound decisions under pressure. My Air Force service managing millions in assets built real-world problem-solving skills. Living in Japan taught me to bridge cultural differences, leading me to pursue an MBA in Global Management. My Forest Service work interpreting federal regulations strengthened my analytical judgment. I'll bring discipline, openness, and commitment to Santa Fe for the people of New Mexico.</p>	<p>I support a Three Strikes Law for violent crimes, firearm offenses, and sexual abuse of minors, with life without parole meaning exactly that. Juveniles who commit heinous crimes should face adult consequences. We need real deterrence. I support a full independent audit of state spending and a citizen rebate from natural resources. Federal-state cooperation is vital for infrastructure and safety, but local communities should guide resource management.</p>	<p>Upgrade drainage to prevent stormwater pollution. Require non-potable water for public landscaping and drought-resistant plants at public buildings. Enforce existing fines for public waste. Increase R&amp;D and incentives for efficient agricultural irrigation. Expand rainwater storage to support aquifers. Improve access to salvage yards to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste.</p>	<p>New Mexico's malpractice system should protect patients without punishing good doctors. I support a review committee to investigate questionable claims, reform tort actions, and reduce high insurance rates. We must invest in our workforce with loan forgiveness for NM-trained students and support for rural doctors, including housing and education incentives, while expanding training and residency slots to attract more providers.</p>
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## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 28 (Continued)

	<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>
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Pamela Paulette Herndon</b></p>	<p>I am qualified to hold the position of State Representative for House District 28 in New Mexico due to my extensive experience in law, public service, and community advocacy. My background as an attorney provides me with a solid understanding of legislative processes and legal frameworks, while my involvement in various civic organizations demonstrates my commitment to serving the needs of my constituents. Additionally, my prior leadership roles in non-profit and governmental organizations have equipped me with the skills necessary to effectively represent and advocate for a variety of interests and needs when they arise in my legislative district.</p>	<p>My highest priorities focus on ensuring that all children have access to a quality education, that economic opportunities are available in various professions, and ensuring equitable access to healthcare, with a special emphasis on behavioral healthcare. I am a strong proponent of providing access to internships and apprenticeships for students. I work to provide access to quality, affordable housing in collaboration with city and county programs. I also focus attention on ensuring that there is a viable infrastructure program to protect access to water, in New Mexico. I address these priorities by fostering collaborative policies with other governmental entities that support lifting the well-being of the people of New Mexico.</p>	<p>To address future water needs in New Mexico, the legislature must continue to develop and expand water reuse programs. We must encourage efficient irrigation practices, and support the development of drought-resistant crops. Additionally, the legislature must ensure equitable access to clean water for all communities, while collaborating with local communities throughout the state to promote responsible management of existing water resources and repairing infrastructure as soon as defects are discovered. These strategies will help protect public health, support economic growth, and safeguard access to clean water for generations in the future.</p>	<p>We must first find ways to encourage doctors who are completing their medical residency program or their fellowship programs to stay in New Mexico, after graduation. We must expand the network of community clinics and mobile health units that are available throughout the state. We must focus on increasing funding for behavioral health services and telemedicine initiatives that will help address gaps in care, particularly for those individuals facing transportation challenges. We must collaborate with local organizations to provide outreach, education, and enrollment assistance in health insurance programs. We must continue to support programs that help individuals pay the rising cost of health insurance.</p>

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 29

<b>REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Carolyn Stith</b></p>	<p>I have over 40 years' experience leading and advising teams across multi-governmental and international services: Disabled Veteran and Small Business Owner who served 26 years in the United States Air Force; Leadership and advisory experience in military (all 5 branches), Department of Defense, civilian contractor, and international leadership positions. Mentor of senior managers and supervisors, and junior/future leader employees; Senior performance and safety culture advisor and analyst for both the Defense Intelligence Agency &amp; Department of Energy, and business manager and acting director for the Behavioral (Mental) Health Division of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Authored administrative/strategic/operations doctrine.</p>	<p>New Mexico is NOT a "poor" state; but IS a "poorly run" state. Get back to the basics of restoring Common-Sense Governance: Integrity First: Accountability and transparency are paramount to restoring public trust and our path forward. Do the right things in the best interest of our state and citizens. Focus on education, supporting our law enforcement agencies and empower them to reduce criminal activities. Service before Self: I will engage with my constituents and represent address their concerns. I am chosen by the people for the people. Excellence: New Mexicans are so much better than the narrative! Protect our citizens and legal immigrants and maximize our resources expertise (education, small businesses, oil &amp; gas, and farmers).</p>	<p>This is not my area of expertise. BEWARE: Anyone claiming to be the "end all" or "know it all" who claims to have answers to all the issues is a fake. I do not have all the answers but do know that we have a lot of very smart people in our state who are not only familiar with this issue, but who also can provide their expertise to provide possible solutions to address said issue. I would defer to and listen to the experience and expertise of those researchers who are actively engaged in addressing this issue AND the voices of my voters (city, rural, farmers, etc.) who are willing to share their own personal experiences concerning water needs and shortages.</p>	<p>Infrastructure is a problem – additional spaces for expansion/growth other than west, roads, school and safety (police, fire, medical substations and access) are a concern for my district. The largest and nearest full-service medical facility is located in Rio Rancho (approximately 5 miles away). With the expansion of Albuquerque well beyond Paseo Del Norte towards the Double Eagle Ranch Airport, there is an expressed need for an additional fire, police, and medical facility. This would improve emergency response time and provide access to medical facilities provided first responders could be hired to support said access.</p>

<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Joy I Garratt</b></p>	<p>I have a strong work ethic, and I listen to what my constituents have to say regardless of whatever their political affiliation may be or position on any given issue is. I have visited every corner of the state during the last eight years listening to the issues and concerns and proposed solutions of frontier, rural and urban residents regarding education, public safety, economic development, health and broadband access. More than 28 years of pre-K to higher education experience gives me a profound understanding of education issues, from cradle to college and career--financed by 50% of the state budget. My legislation reflects the input of my district constituents and statewide New Mexicans.</p>	<p>Education (cradle to college and career), public safety, health, broadband access and affordability, protecting the environment, and transportation continue to be my highest priorities. By conducting town halls and constituent meetings; ensuring that key topics are addressed by advocates and experts during the interim committee meetings; and researching best practices within New Mexico and in other states, I will back policies, sponsor legislation, and work to put the necessary funding in the state budget. Tracking the results and any unanticipated consequences of legislation is also important. Legislation sometimes needs to be amended based on the feedback of New Mexicans; we also need to make sure we adequately fund our initiatives.</p>	<p>We must address the water use realities of everyone from consumers watering their yards to the crops we grow, the industries we build and serve, and the recreation we enjoy with strategic solutions. Solutions include continued research and implementation of treating brackish water for industrial needs while we reserve fresh water for drinking and agricultural use. We must implement water re-use technology research and grants, aquifer storage and recovery projects, and the effective management of watersheds. We must fund vital agricultural technology monitoring solutions and consider alternative low-water usage crops. Finally, we must conduct the enforcement of policies and laws to protect our groundwater, not just propose solutions.</p>	<p>Co-sponsoring and passing House Bill 99, Medical Malpractice Changes, was step one. Passing the first two of ten medical practice interstate compacts was the next step, but now we must pass the rest in the 2027 session. These compacts facilitate access to additional medical practitioners in every category. The increase in student loan repayment for health professionals and the Opportunity Scholarship plan support the financial costs of those pursuing medical careers. Finally, young medical professionals starting their practices and raising families benefit from universal free childcare—several constituents report that friends in other states are now exploring careers in New Mexico because childcare expenses are one of their main concerns.</p>

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 30

### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Jerry L  
**Trujillo**

As a professional engineer in NM, I have spent 35 years in the construction engineering, power plant design, highway design and project management business. As with many engineers I am in the problem solving business. This is what civil engineers do in their career. NM has many infrastructure needs where my expertise would serve the state well. Lets stop dragging these badly needed projects on for decades. These delays are the result of poor planning and execution where I can help.

My management skills will also help me navigate other non engineering solutions.

1. Education (we have a failed system with poor grades across the board.) NM is last in reading and math proficiency, and money is not the problem. It is common sense.
2. Soft on crime, means the revolving door will keep revolving until there are real consequences.
3. Election integrity is crucial to our democracy.
4. NM can attract doctors if we have the right patient/doctor protection laws. Other states do not have this problem!

1. Initiate a domestic water saving campaign followed by a graduated cost for excessive usage.
2. Impose golf course watering restrictions (no day time watering) and implement water metering.
3. Zero scape all new home construction where possible.
4. Use artificial turf on sports fields where possible.

1. In general, NM laws must be written to balance our doctors and patients health care needs, where we all win. I do not think we have to reinvent the wheel. There must be one state in this country that has a proven program that works, lets use it. When a sick New Mexican is in pain for months to see a local doctor, this is criminal. Recruitment incentives do work. PHD students from the UNM medical program should be recruited with the right money and protection incentives.

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Veronica Nadine  
**Mireles**

As a civil litigation attorney, I understand how the law shapes everyday life and its ripple effects on families, businesses, and communities. I helped shape New Mexico House Bill 99, including testifying twice, and gained firsthand insight into policymaking and its real-world impact. I have direct insight into the challenges of raising a family here, as well as the barriers to attracting healthcare providers, tradespeople, and small businesses. I also understand the realities of poverty, domestic violence, and the imbalance affecting our state, and I'm committed to advancing practical solutions in the New Mexico House of Representatives.

My highest priorities are improving access to healthcare, strengthening public safety, and expanding economic opportunity and affordability for New Mexico families. Addressing these challenges requires more than broad ideas; it requires listening closely to voters, community leaders, and stakeholders, including healthcare providers, small businesses, and working families. By engaging directly with those affected, I gain a clearer understanding of both immediate needs and long-term structural issues and use those insights to develop legislative plans that are practical, responsive, and grounded in real-world experience.

Combine sound policy with direct input from those who understand the issue best. We must adopt a long-term environmental approach that prioritizes conservation, responsible allocation, and infrastructure that reduces waste and captures more of our limited supply. We should also encourage practical, creative solutions such as water smart architecture and land use planning that retains and reuses water, while supporting job creation. We should also thoughtfully consider innovative legal and policy frameworks, including the potential recognition of personhood for waterways where appropriate, to strengthen stewardship and long-term protection. By listening and investing in innovation, we can build resilience and protect our water resources.

We must create an environment where healthcare providers want to live and practice. New Mexico HB99 was an important first step, but it is not the end of the work. To ensure residents have adequate access to care, we should continue strengthening policies that recruit and retain providers, including fair liability standards and candid, transparent communication frameworks. Candor and apology laws can improve patient trust and outcomes while reducing unnecessary litigation barriers. At the same time, we must balance these protections with meaningful accountability to ensure quality care. By stabilizing the provider landscape and reducing disincentives to practice here, we can expand access, shorten wait times, and improve access to care.



Elizabeth Diane  
**Torres-Velásquez**

Throughout my life, I have stood for the values of our democracy, fighting with and leading the people of New Mexico as a champion for educational equity and civil rights. My work on the Martinez and Yazzie lawsuits centered on the constitutional rights promised to all children of our state. As a researcher and appointed Hispanic Education Liaison, I exposed the achievement patterns we are now addressing in legislative education reforms. My contributions to public education and justice earned me a lifetime achievement award from MALDEF. I bring academic expertise, legislative experience, and deep community roots. My strong commitment to families, fairness, and opportunity make me the strongest advocate for the people of House District 30.

I would address my highest priorities collaboratively, listening to my constituents and to a variety of experts on the topic. With the critical issues we face together, I would create a task force to contribute collective expertise and identify the root cause of the issue or the highlight of the priority. Data is usually present in the form of numbers and the stories we share. However, we would identify any areas that need further study or current data. We would identify solutions that are working and build on those. We would create new ideas, protecting our natural resources and population, pilot these ideas, and assess every aspect of our work along the way. At any point, this could become the basis for legislation.

Water 2130 (ABC Water Authority's 100-year plan) is doing a great job of preserving groundwater supplies by renewing surface water.

Our legislature must prioritize building on this plan statewide by calling upon great water experts and wisdom in New Mexico ranging from centuries-old tribal irrigation practitioners, the New Mexico Acequia Association, hydrologists, ABC Water Authority, Office of the State Engineer, Public Land Commissioner, and farmers. I am partnering with faculty at the UNM School of Law with expertise on water law and conservation to create a task force. We need current data on surface water and groundwater withdrawals and steps for water conservation. The state may need to consider additional incremental reductions.

1. Christus St. Vincent has found success with clinician-led improvement, culturally grounded care, advanced technology, extra safety and workforce development, greatly improving patient outcomes. 2. Between this work, the new School of Medicine facility, and the doubling of the BA/MD program at UNM, we will become a model for the rest of the country in provider preparation. 3. APS Public-school community health clinics have been cut to 12 hours a week due to budget cuts. Given that New Mexico has the highest percentage of private equity healthcare/hospitals in the country I would propose a bill that would inspire private equity to sponsor full care community health clinics at public schools, since they benefit directly from my district.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 31

### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Nicole  
**Chavez**

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

Ryan Anselm  
**Braid**

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

*What are the policy priorities that made you want to run for state representative?*

*What strategies would you support to manage New Mexico's water supply in light of growing water demand?*

*What changes would you make to the process of state funding for local public projects and why?*

*What role should the state government play in the regulation of social media and artificial intelligence?*

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 41

**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Yolanda R Jaramillo**

I'm running because I'm an advocate for others and deeply care about our community. What drives me is expanding opportunity for New Mexico's children and families—especially in our rural, small, and Native communities across Northern New Mexico.

I'm from Dixon and come from a long line of farmers and acequeros who taught me to protect our land, water, and way of life. As an educator, acequia leader, and advocate, I've spent my career supporting students, families, and communities.

My experience—as a teacher, youth suicide prevention advocate, and caregiver—has shaped my focus on education, mental and behavioral health, healthcare access, protecting our natural resources, and creating economic opportunity for rural communities.

We must protect our acequias, watersheds, and drinking water while investing in rural water infrastructure. That means safeguarding our natural resources and preserving traditional and agricultural water uses that are central to our communities.

I will continue the work of Rep. Susan Herrera by supporting Mutual Domestic Water Associations and advancing efforts like the Rio Chama aquifer mapping project to protect our long-term water supply. I also have serious concerns about the use of produced water and will not support uses that risk our drinking water or agricultural systems.

Finally, we need modern, science-based water planning to manage growing demand and ensure a sustainable future for New Mexico.

New Mexico funds local projects through capital outlay, but too often funding is spread too thin, projects are delayed, and priorities aren't aligned with long-term needs.

We need a more strategic, transparent, and equitable approach—prioritizing ready projects, aligning with local plans, and directing resources to underinvested rural and Native communities. That means fully funding critical infrastructure like water systems, acequias, housing, and broadband, and ensuring projects are completed and deliver real results.

New Mexico has a responsibility to protect our children and communities as social media and AI evolve—especially without strong federal laws. I support efforts like those led by Attorney General Raúl Torrez and State Rep. Linda Serrato to require transparency for AI content, protect victims of deepfakes, and crack down on scams and misinformation.

We must also hold platforms accountable for impacts on youth mental health and invest in prevention and support services. New Mexico should lead in protecting our communities while ensuring innovation doesn't come at the expense of our kids and our democracy.



**Debbie A. Rodella**

Quality, high-paying jobs, education opportunities, access to water, affordable health care and prescriptions, rebuilding infrastructure and mental health programs to provide compassionate solutions that decrease crime.

We must do all we can to protect our traditions and invest in practical solutions. I would support the following:

Investments in infrastructure to reduce water loss; protect our acequias and support local control; regionalization of water systems; implement conservation and education efforts; invest in developing technology that introduce new water supplies and help grow local economies and support farming jobs.

State funding for local public projects are essential especially in rural, unincorporated communities that have no tax base, no local match or cost-sharing ability. These critical infrastructure projects enhance our quality of life. I would support changes so that NMFA can provide assistance to rural, unincorporated communities who currently rely on volunteers to maneuver through the necessary compliance requirements and regulations to access their allocated funding. Requests always exceed available funding and many projects receive piecemeal funding that contribute to increased costs and completion delays. I will work directly with agencies to ensure projects are completed in a timely and cost-effective manner.

New Mexico has a law that adds disclaimer requirements for advertisements containing materially deceptive media and creating the crime of distributing or entering into an agreement with another person to distribute materially deceptive media. Our attorney general successfully sued Meta Platforms, Inc. for misleading consumers about the safety of its platforms and endangering children over child safety and a jury awarded \$375 million in civil penalties.

Artificial intelligence legislation has been proposed and attempts to establish a working group or interim committee have also been proposed. I support practical steps to protect our children and families, and demand accountability, while not overreaching or violating free speech.

*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 43

**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Christine Chandler**

My experience in public service is broad. In addition to my service as District 43 Representative for nearly 8 years, I was elected as a Los Alamos County Councilor twice and also serviced as Los Alamos Probate Judge. I chaired the House Taxation & Revenue Committee prior to my current chairmanship of the House Judiciary Committee. I have an established track record of carrying legislation that is well-researched, balanced and consistently focused on advancing the interests of New Mexico working families. For example, I successfully led House efforts to enact meaningful medical malpractice reform and supported other legislation that will improve healthcare access.

To lay the ground work for my legislative priorities, I consult constituents, various stake holder groups and colleagues in both chambers as well as executive branch staff to understand state needs and gaps. I study the underlying policies and often look at successful legislative approaches in other states. My current legislative priorities continue to be health care access and quality, data privacy, AI consumer protection regimes, and the protection of the civil rights of all New Mexico residents. I will continue to work to support initiatives that improve our educational system and the welfare of our children and families.

Efforts that the state should advance are supporting technologies to mine and clean brackish water and encouraging more effective use of surface and ground water, especially in agriculture. The legislature should develop a regulatory frame work for deep water mining and for industries that rely heavily on water use such as resource extraction and data centers.

Improving patient access to health care requires both short-term strategies and long-term strategies. Short-term strategies include enacting all the health care compacts, implementing strong recruitment programs, supporting increased physician residency programs, and offering robust loan repayment programs. Longer-term strategies include expanding the medical school and other health care educational programs. The quality of our schools and the safety of our neighborhoods are issues that have been cited as detracting from our recruitment efforts. We must continue to advance policies that address these issues as well.

<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 44

### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Adam Stanley**  
**Prior**  
(write-in)

My qualifications are rooted in a deep commitment to the families and small business owners of District 44. Having lived and worked in New Mexico, I understand the unique challenges our community faces—from the rising cost of living to the need for safer neighborhoods. My background has equipped me with a results-oriented mindset and the ability to find practical solutions to complex problems. I am not a career politician; I am a neighbor who is ready to bring accountability, fiscal responsibility, and a strong voice for Rio Rancho to the Roundhouse

My highest priorities are economic prosperity, public safety, and educational excellence.

I will address these by:

**Cutting Red Tape:** Streamlining regulations to make New Mexico the most business-friendly state in the Southwest.

**Supporting Law Enforcement:** Ensuring our police have the funding and legal protections necessary to keep our streets safe and hold repeat offenders accountable.

**Empowering Parents:** Promoting school choice and ensuring education funding reaches the classroom directly to improve our states literacy and graduation rates.

Water is our most precious resource, and we must manage it with long-term sustainability in mind. I support a "multi-tool" approach:

**Infrastructure Investment:** Modernizing aging delivery systems to prevent waste and leaks.

**Innovation:** Encouraging and incentivizing water recycling brackish water desalination and advanced agricultural technologies that allow for higher yields with less water.

**Rights Protection:** Protecting senior water rights while facilitating collaborative local-level water management agreements that prevent top-down mandates from Santa Fe.

New Mexico's healthcare crisis is largely a provider shortage crisis. To ensure District 44 residents have access, we must:

**Recruit and Retain:** Reform our medical malpractice laws and gross receipts tax (GRT) on healthcare services, which currently drive doctors out of our state.

**Expand Telehealth:** Support the expansion of high-speed broadband to ensure telehealth is a viable, reliable option for all.

**Market Competition:** Reduce bureaucratic barriers that prevent new clinics and specialized care facilities from opening in rapidly growing areas.

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Kathleen M**  
**Cates**

I have been serving as a State Representative since 2023. I have lived in my community nearly 20 years, own a business, a home, my children went to the Rio Rancho Public Schools and was an executive for nonprofits serving individuals with disabilities. I am vested in the welfare of our district. I have corporate and government policy writing experience.

Water, Housing, Public Safety, Government Ethics and Accountability, Public Safety and accessibility for all in New Mexico.

We can't plan for the 25% less water we will have in 50 years unless we know how much water we have. Aquifer Mapping is a top priority. We need to measure the water we have. I have funded and carried legislator to invest in water infrastructure, remove government waste on high water needs not necessary like nonfunctional grass, invest in technologies that can repurpose non potable water sources for industrial use and increase penalties of water thieves.

In 2026 I voted to support HB99 (Medical Malpractice Reform), 10 Compacts (The Senate passed 2 which was signed by the Governor), increase medical education debt forgiveness as well as investments to double the medical school in UNM, increase the Medical Residency salary bills. I will continue to carry bills that will help recruit and retain medical providers.

<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>
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## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 50

### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Kenneth Donald**  
**Brennan**


I feel New Mexico can be a top state in education, medical services, safety, the economy and more. Right now, we are failing in all these areas. Legislation needs to be balanced, reflecting every constituent. I do not believe this is the case in HD50. I want to bring a fresh look and voice to the legislature. Additionally, I feel that our citizens are not being properly represented or heard. I will listen and communicate with the people, working to make legislation that reflects the majority but keeping in mind the wants of the minority.

Water is our most precious natural resource and should not be wasted. I will work on improving water conservation methods and promote recycling technology to utilize every drop. Increase water exploration to include the desalinization of our plentiful brackish water that lies deep in the ground in many areas of the state. Support legislation that will incentivize the implementation of water efficiency and recycling technology in new construction of commercial and residential developments and retrofitting of existing properties. This legislation could also include tax credits for the retrofit, rain harvesting, residential wastewater recycling system for septic systems among others.



It appears that there have been projects in the past that should never have been approved. For example, the El Camino Real Heritage Center south of Socorro. Projects like this must show how it will benefit the public. The vetting process needs to be improved. It should include more public and private sector comments and concerns. This should also be included in the funding application. There needs to be full accountability in every phase of the project regarding monies spent from conception to completion. Millions were wasted because there wasn't proper policy oversight in place. I will work with my fellow legislators to ensure that the people's money is well utilized.

Social media is great for connecting people and as a source of information. Unfortunately, all too often it is abused and misused for nefarious activities, especially with minors. I am pleased to see the recent court victories holding social media responsible for their lack of safeguards. Legislation needs to be passed that will make social media accountable and set standards to be followed. AI is a great tool, but it also can be misused. When AI is used to create content, it must be clearly stated. The use of AI in schools needs to be strictly regulated and should never be used to replace original thought. Students must learn how to use their minds first and AI second. The state must also work with federal agencies to achieve these goals.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 50 (Continued)

	<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>					
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>									
 <p data-bbox="113 801 220 889"><b>Sarah Boses</b></p>	<p data-bbox="491 354 850 612">Our healthcare system may work great for insurance companies but it's failing us. I've seen this firsthand working as a nurse. If you have cancer, every ounce of your being should be focused on your treatment and recovery. Instead, patients and their families spend countless hours fighting with insurance companies, even though they've paid premiums for years on end.</p> <p data-bbox="491 623 850 908">As a two-term school board member, education is a big priority. I know that our public schools are a lot like our healthcare system. The best way to improve our schools is more competitive pay, safe schools, professional development that educators actually want, and increased access to healthcare, housing, counseling and treatment programs for all New Mexicans in need.</p>	<p data-bbox="875 354 1234 741">Water is our most precious resource, and we must manage it with common sense and innovation. My strategy focuses on fixing our aging rural infrastructure to stop hidden water loss from leaks before it ever reaches your tap. I support using modern technology like satellite leak detection and protecting our Strategic Water Reserve to keep our rivers flowing. We must balance our deep agricultural heritage with water-smart development and new solutions like desalination. We have to protect our water today so our grandkids can thrive here tomorrow.</p>	<p data-bbox="1257 354 1617 741">The Capital Outlay process is a vital tool for our district, and I will ensure every dollar is spent on our specific, urgent needs, like road repairs, senior centers, and water upgrades. I will work directly with our local leaders to ensure these projects are community-driven, not politically motivated. Most importantly, I'll advocate for total transparency so you know exactly where your tax dollars are going. My goal is to be a bridge between the Roundhouse and our backyard, making sure projects don't just get funded, but actually get finished.</p>	<p data-bbox="1644 354 2003 741">Technology should help us, not harm us. We need firm guardrails on AI to prevent discrimination in housing and jobs. When it comes to social media, I am focused on the mental health of our children. The research on the negative effects of social media on developing brains is clear. I support efforts to remove phones from schools and limit screen time to protect our students' well-being. The state must hold big tech platforms accountable for protecting our children's data and privacy. We must prioritize our kids over tech industry profits.</p>					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="86 916 478 1016"></th> <th data-bbox="478 916 863 1016"><i>What qualifies you for this office?</i></th> <th data-bbox="863 916 1247 1016"><i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i></th> <th data-bbox="1247 916 1631 1016"><i>How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?</i></th> <th data-bbox="1631 916 1995 1016"><i>What more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?</i></th> </tr> </thead> </table>						<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 57

<b>REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p data-bbox="113 1612 352 1701"><b>Catherine Jeanette Cullen</b></p>	<p data-bbox="491 1150 850 1696">I bring proven leadership, experience, and a strong commitment to our community. I served for over eight years on the Rio Rancho School Board, including in leadership roles, focusing on strengthening policies, supporting educators, and improving student outcomes. I'm now in my first term as State Representative for District 57, serving on the House Education Committee and the House Rural Development, Land Grants, and Cultural Affairs Committee. I've spent decades in the real estate industry, giving me insight into our local economy and growth. I'm a graduate of Leadership New Mexico's Local Government Leadership Program and Leadership Sandoval, and I bring a proven record of working with others to deliver real results for our community.</p>	<p data-bbox="875 1150 1234 1696">My priorities are public safety, education, economic stability, support for our veterans, and healthcare access. I believe in practical solutions that focus on what actually works—making sure law enforcement has the resources they need, strengthening career technical education so students are ready for real jobs, and building pathways that connect education to the workforce. I've also supported measures to backfill SNAP benefits, expand healthcare coverage, and invest in childcare. I support policies that help local businesses grow, create jobs, and ease the burden on families, while ensuring veterans receive the care and benefits they've earned. I believe we must use taxpayer dollars wisely to truly benefit our communities.</p>	<p data-bbox="1257 1150 1617 1615">New Mexico must take a long-term, strategic approach to water. We need to invest in infrastructure to reduce water loss, expand reuse and recycling, and explore solutions like desalination. This includes better use of brackish water from our aquifers and produced water from the oil and gas operations by treating and reusing it for industrial purposes, helping conserve fresh water for communities and agriculture. Strong collaboration with local governments, agriculture, and industry is essential. By planning and making smart investments now, we can protect our water supply, support growth, and ensure sustainability for future generations.</p>	<p data-bbox="1644 1150 2003 1696">We must continue recruiting and retaining healthcare providers by expanding medical education, increasing the number of residency programs, and strengthening loan-repayment incentives. We've made progress through expanded programs at UNM and by passing additional interstate medical compacts to bring more qualified providers to New Mexico. I've also supported efforts to expand healthcare coverage so more families can access care when they need it. However, we need to do more. There are additional interstate healthcare licensing compacts we need to pass. Supporting telehealth and innovative care models will help reach rural and underserved areas, ensuring residents have timely access to quality care close to home.</p>
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p data-bbox="113 2056 323 2145"><b>Chriselle Verene Martinez</b></p>	<p data-bbox="491 1792 850 2333">I'm a mom, wife, and small business owner, with one son in high school and another in college. My professional background spans higher education and community development finance. At UNM, I worked as an academic advisor and later led student initiatives, building partnerships to better support students and their families. I then worked nationally with credit unions to expand access to fair lending in underserved communities—bringing resources and opportunity to working families. That experience gave me a deep understanding of the financial challenges people face and how access to education, fair lending, and opportunity can change lives. Today, I run my own consulting and coaching business, continuing that work here in our community.</p>	<p data-bbox="875 1792 1234 1991">I would address my priorities by focusing on practical, community-driven solutions. That starts with strengthening public education—investing in teachers, expanding career and technical pathways, and making sure students are prepared for good-paying jobs.</p> <p data-bbox="875 2002 1234 2239">I would also work to lower costs for families by supporting affordable healthcare, housing, and everyday expenses. Through my background in community development finance, I understand how access to fair lending and economic opportunity can help families get ahead, and I'll bring that perspective to the legislature.</p> <p data-bbox="875 2249 1234 2378">Just as important, I'll stay rooted in the community, listening to families, small businesses, and educators, and making sure their voices guide the decisions I make in Santa</p>	<p data-bbox="1257 1792 1617 1916">New Mexico must take a long-term, practical approach to water because in an increasingly arid state, it is our most critical resource. Conservation must remain a top priority.</p> <p data-bbox="1257 1927 1617 2265">In communities like Rio Rancho, we face real challenges, drought, reliance on groundwater, aging infrastructure, and water quality concerns. As we grow, we must focus on sustainability by reducing water loss, supporting conservation and smart land use, improving infrastructure, and aligning development with long-term water availability. I'm committed to working with local leaders and experts to protect our water for future generations.</p>	<p data-bbox="1644 1792 2003 2123">District 57 is home to NM Sandoval Regional Medical Center (SRMC), which helps make care accessible—but not always affordable. We need to ensure residents understand what services and resources are available and have help navigating those options. I see my role as connecting constituents to care, answering questions, and advocating for solutions that make healthcare more affordable and accessible for everyone.</p>

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 60

### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Joshua N. Hernandez	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
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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?
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Zachary David Anaya

I am a father and a private sector professional, not a career politician. My leadership is rooted in real world experience, having served in executive roles like Senior Vice President at The Perry Group. I have spent years building a career in New Mexico's real estate and construction industries, giving me a firsthand look at how government overreach can hinder local prosperity.

My qualifications are also shaped by personal conviction. Having overcome addiction through my faith in Jesus Christ, I understand that people can change and deserve grace. I am running to protect our families, empower parents in education, and ensure District 60 has a leader who stands on firm principles rather than party talking points.

I will prioritize cutting government waste by auditing state agencies and eliminating redundant programs. My plan includes returning control to the people by eliminating the Department of Education and the Taxation and Revenue Department. To ensure public service remains a sacrifice and not a career, I will vote against paying state legislators.

I will also defend our economy by protecting private property and reducing regulations that hurt small businesses. Furthermore, I will fight for parental rights, ensuring no bureaucrat comes between a parent and their child's health or education. My goal is a limited government that honors faith, family, and freedom.

To address our water needs, we must prioritize innovation and infrastructure over government mandates. I support investing in technology like brackish water desalination and aquifer recharge projects—such as Rio Rancho Pure—to secure our supply without crushing our economy. We must stop wasting water by fixing aging, leaky infrastructure and holding state agencies accountable for every dollar spent.

Conservation should be driven by the free market and local control, not top-down bureaucracy. We need to protect the water rights of our farmers and ranchers while incentivizing high-efficiency technology. By reducing red tape and focusing on practical stewardship, we can ensure a reliable future for our children.

We must shift from a system of "sick care" to one that prioritizes prevention and transparency. I support keeping Medicaid and Medicare available while pushing for reforms that hold every dollar accountable. True access comes from a model that treats illness before it starts and ensures our spending actually reaches patients.

We should also protect the hundreds of community health centers and FQHCs in New Mexico that provide essential services like cancer screenings and prenatal care. By ensuring funds go to these local clinics, we keep care accessible for families in their own communities. We must limit government interference and protect the privacy of the doctor-patient relationship.

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Luke Nicholas Jungmann

I am a New Mexican native, and I want to use my knowledge and experience to make New Mexico the best state that it can be.

My highest priority is healthcare. New Mexico was the first state to pass Universal Childcare and college tuition in the country, and I will work to make it the first to pass Universal Healthcare. I will also fight for housing access with strict regulations on short term rentals and private equity home ownership, and to fund social housing. Finally, I will work to protect our environment and fund massive renewables projects throughout our state.

I believe the legislature should fight against every water-heavy project in the state, including datacenters, corporate farming, and fracking.

I will fight for Universal Healthcare, and to ensure no matter who you are or where in the state you are you know you can walk in to any hospital and receive the same high level of care.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 65

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

Derrick J. Lente	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
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## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 68

### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



David E. Adkins


As a business owner, I understand what it takes to start a business, hire people, and make tough decisions. As a former legislator, I am not new to the intricacies of policy making, and the time it takes to build relationships and weigh the pros and cons of every decision while serving the public. Both my private and public experiences have provided a strong foundation for my ability to lead and make life better for my community on the Westside of Albuquerque.

My highest priorities will all follow strict parameters. Building relationships and creating alliances with the party in majority will be vital to getting good things done for my district. I will never forfeit my values, but if there are common issues where I can find support, then I will work with whoever I can to move the needle. We need strong leaders who execute, who deliver results, and who follow through.



New Mexico's underground water is around 90% brackish (saline), so it requires treatment before consumption or irrigation. Investments are underway for various desalination projects, but more can be done to promote a true pathway for water security, including increased investments in ways to reuse produced water from oil and gas production, advanced nuclear reactor technology for desalination plant generation, and continued investment in wastewater treatment.

The immediate solution to allow better access to care is expanding compacts to ensure specialized healthcare practitioners are readily available, in person and via telehealth. I also believe in rewarding, healthy behavior through tax credits or tax deductions for qualifying expenses related to health and wellness, creating a culture of health. Medical malpractice still needs to work to allow us to compete with surrounding states, and we must look at ways to keep our medical students in New Mexico to alleviate the healthcare shortage among primary care and mental health.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 68 (Continued)

	<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>
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Charlotte L Little</b></p>	<p>I'm proud to have served this district as your Representative since 2022. My background in healthcare administration and tribal governance has uniquely prepared me to navigate complex systems and advocate for meaningful policy changes that benefit all New Mexicans. During my time in the Roundhouse, I have remained focused on expanding healthcare access and improving public safety. I am committed to being a transparent and accountable voice for House District 68, ensuring our government is responsive to the needs of every family.</p>	<p>I'm honored to be a member of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, where I've worked to ensure our state budget reflects our values as New Mexicans.</p> <p>My focus remains on achieving tangible results for our community, such as the interstate medical compacts I helped pass to expand healthcare and mental health access for New Mexico families.</p> <p>I am also committed to addressing public safety by passing common-sense legislation that prioritizes accountability and protects our neighborhoods. Additionally, I continue to advocate for the sustainable management of our water resources to protect our future.</p>	<p>Addressing New Mexico's future water needs requires a shift from reactive management to long-term stewardship. In the legislature, I advocate for modernizing our state's water infrastructure and securing the funding necessary to protect our aquifers. My work on the House Appropriations and Finance Committee is focused on ensuring our budget reflects the urgency of this crisis. We must prioritize sustainable conservation, improve data-driven mapping of our water resources, and foster collaboration between state, local, and tribal governments.</p>	<p>We did a lot of work last session -- passing interstate medical compacts and addressing medical malpractice. We must continue prioritizing incentives that make New Mexico truly competitive for recruiting and retaining doctors. While the compacts have streamlined the licensing process for out-of-state physicians, professional recruitment remains a critical challenge in our rural landscape. We need to expand state-funded loan repayment programs and specialized incentives for medical students who commit to practicing in high-need areas. We also need to expand telehealth.</p>

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 69

<b>THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.</b>				
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Harry Garcia</b></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><b>Michelle Paulene Abeyta</b></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"> <li>1. Increasing the number of quality-of-life projects in my district (parks, rec centers, trails, pools, fields, etc.).</li> <li>2. Improving the roads in our rural communities that are in dire need of repair.</li> <li>3. Supporting law enforcement needs and creating opportunities for enhanced public safety and response times to emergencies.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<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 facilitates, provide housing for employees, provide alternative care options (telehealth, in person, nurse visits, etc.)</p>

# 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:



**Kris Houghton**

I believe wholeheartedly that due process is for everyone and that no one is above or beneath the law. I vow to uphold the US and NM Constitutions.

I have served in this office since Gov. Lujan Grisham appointed me last year, after I was recommended to her by a bipartisan nominating commission. I have since authored opinions for the Court in both criminal and civil law.

I served most of my 18-year legal career in the Dep't of Justice at the US Attorney's Office in ABQ. As an Assistant US Attorney, I handled criminal, civil, and appellate cases. I served overseas as DOJ's Judicial Attaché in Colombia, and then returned to ABQ as Chief of the Criminal Division. Previously, I clerked for both the NM Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

The breadth of law is staggering; an appellate judge must accurately decide cases in every area of law (criminal, negligence, family, probate, property, to name but a few). But it is impossible to know all the law. A great judge humbly seeks input from other chambers, staff, and clerks to ensure each case reaches the right decision for the right reasons.

The work demands rigorous legal analysis and clear writing. I follow the example of my mentors by carefully parsing applicable rules, statutes, and case law. I then work tirelessly with fellow judges, clerks, and staff to ensure we draft an opinion that is understandable by the public.

Finally, with ~800 cases filed in the court each year, the work load demands discipline and diligence.

With just 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.

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.

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.

# PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONERS

## PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

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

<i>What 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>
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### PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

#### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Kenneth James Pascoe**

I know education because I have succeeded in education at all levels up to PhD, including military training and education. I educate my fellow engineers at work on a variety of topics, in formal training sessions. I am an analytical problem solver who has managed and led people, directed complex programs, and found creative solutions to various organizational and technical problems. I am a father of four grown children, all of whom attended Albuquerque Public Schools and University of New Mexico, and are now successful professionals.

First, I will maintain high standards in charter public schools. Second, I will limit the encroachment of teachers unions into charter schools. Teachers unions represent teachers, not students, and thus usually do not place priority on student outcomes. They can even get in the way of education reforms. Third, I will standardize processes at PEC so that every charter school's leaders clearly understand how their school is being evaluated.

The Public Education Commission must ensure that the budget submitted with each school's application for a charter must properly reflect the funding they will receive based on the public school funding formula.


Choosing the right metrics to assess a charter school is vital. If we on the commission ask the wrong questions, we will get the wrong answers. Student performance on tests such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an objective score that tells us a lot about school quality. However, student performance on tests by itself rewards schools for having more gifted students. Student improvement is a better metric but needs a lot of careful work on the details to ensure that student progress is being captured properly.

**THERE ARE NO DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

### PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

## PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 (Continued)

	<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>
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <b>Jacob A Trujillo</b> (write-in)	<p>I bring both lived experience and proven public service. I attended a D-3 charter school, AIMS, from 6th grade through 12th, so I understand that system firsthand. At 26, I'm only eight years removed from it. I've seen the opportunities charter schools can provide, and where they can fall short.</p> <p>For nearly five years, I've served as a congressional staffer, worked in nonprofit roles across my community, and now serve as Chair of the Democratic Party of Bernalillo County. In each role, my job has been the same: listen to people, act on what I hear, and report back with results.</p> <p>That experience has kept me closely connected to families, educators, and students across New Mexico. I understand how decisions made truly impact our communities.</p>	<p>First, accountability. Charter schools must meet strong academic, financial, and legal standards, as well as the expectations of the communities they serve. Approval is not a blank check, and renewal should reflect real performance.</p> <p>Second, equity. As a Hispanic student from a low income family, I have seen gaps firsthand. I am grateful for the progress New Mexico has made, but we must keep going. I will always push for equitable schools and equitable policy. As a Commissioner, I won't be scared to stand for what's right and to push for progress.</p> <p>Third, more community-centered decisions and engagement. Do you know what the PEC is or does? We need to do better and speak to schools, students, and families more publicly and more often.</p>	<p>For first time applications, the PEC should require detailed, realistic financial plans, including enrollment projections, budgets, community buy-in, and long-term sustainability.</p> <p>We must be cautious of overly optimistic projections or unclear funding sources.</p> <p>Approval is not the end. Ongoing monitoring is critical and will be my job. If a school shows signs of financial instability, the PEC must act early to protect students and public funds.</p> <p>To help with renewal questions, I will request two yearly meetings with each D-3 school. One for faculty and leadership. One for families and students.</p>	<p>Performance should be evaluated using multiple measures, not just test scores. Our students deserve more. We must look at student growth, graduation rates, attendance, community feedback, and how well schools serve all populations.</p> <p>Just as important is whether schools meet the goals in their charter and contribute positively to the broader system. Schools that consistently underperform, fail to show impact, or do not serve students equitably should be required to improve or face non-renewal.</p> <p>As your next Commissioner, I'm not an automatic yes or no. I care about public education, I care about our communities, and I care about the future of this State. I will work hard in this role to always promote student, and community, success. Thanks.</p>

## PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

<b>REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
Sharon E <b>Clahchischillage</b>	<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.**

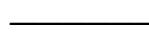
## PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 6

<b>REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
Stewart Alan <b>Ingham</b>	<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.**

“Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us.

The ultimate rules are not a President or senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt



“I would rather belong to a poor nation that was free than to a rich nation that had ceased to be in love with liberty.” – Woodrow Wilson

# STATE AND DISTRICT JUDICIAL OFFICES

## 2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

State district court judges hear many types of cases, both civil and criminal. Their civil cases include private injury lawsuits, contracts, real estate, family law, and some mental health and election-related issues. The criminal cases they hear include felony and more serious misdemeanor matters.

<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What in your background would serve you best as a District Court judge?</i>	<i>In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how can you help improve the operations of District Court?</i>	<i>What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?</i>
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### 2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DIVISION 02

**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

#### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Matthew Edwin Chavez**

I was appointed to the Second Judicial District Court in March 2025 by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, after being recommended by the bipartisan Judicial Nominating Commission. Before my appointment to the bench, I worked on both sides of the criminal justice system--- representing the accused for more than a decade and also as Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Public Safety. Serving our state as a Judge has been my lifelong dream. In no other domain do we find such a consequential interplay of constitutionalism, philosophy, and public service. And nowhere else do we find such profound opportunities to make a difference in our community and in the individual lives of so many every single day.

For more than a decade, I worked with justice stakeholders on some of the most challenging issues facing our communities: substance use disorder, mental illness, homelessness, violent crime, access to justice, and building the infrastructure to address the root causes of these issues. As a District Court Judge, I will apply this experience to support the Court's work in expanding diversionary programs to reduce recidivism and to interrupt the cycle of addiction and incarceration. I will marshal the knowledge and experience I gained during my career in public service to identify appropriate cases for diversion into structured rehabilitation programs.

By working closely with the Chief Judge, the presiding criminal court judge, and my colleagues on the bench, I will work pragmatically on solutions to the operational challenges that our busy court faces. In practice this means problem-solving court procedures to guarantee the constitutional rights of the accused, of the victims of crime, and of timely and sure access to justice.

The Code of Judicial Conduct strictly governs the independence and impartiality of judges, and I will strictly adhere to those rules. I will also support the judiciary's effort to galvanize itself against external influences. The most important thing the judiciary can do to maintain its independence is for individual judges to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and dignity of office every day and to apply the law without fear or favor.

### 2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DIVISION 11

**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

#### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Bryan T Fox**

In addition to meeting the requirements of the New Mexico Constitution, I made a conscious decision not to pursue being a Judge until I had enough practical and life experience to be able to make a positive contribution to the bench. I practiced law for 28 years before serving our community as a Family Law Judge. My law practice was heavily focused on family law, but I also represented many small businesses. This provides me with a unique understanding of family law issues, particularly when it comes to addressing parties with small, family-owned businesses who find themselves in the family court. I also possess compassion, open-mindedness, a commitment to equal justice, and an ability to act decisively.

My career was built on a foundation of unwavering commitment to justice, fairness, and equitable resolution of disputes. Based upon my years of experience in private practice, I have a profound understanding of the complexities and nuances inherent in family law cases. I know the people appearing before me are entering the legal system with a tremendous range of emotions – fear about financial security, worry about their children, anxiety about navigating the court system, and strong feelings toward the other party. My extensive litigation experience, ethical integrity, and devotion to ensuring that all people appearing before me are met with compassion, open-mindedness, and patience contribute to my ability to serve as a Family Law Judge.

Actively managing caseloads is important to make sure cases are steadily moving forward toward conclusion. To do this, I hold hearings at the beginning of cases to set deadlines so the finalization of the case is not delayed. There are also a high number of people representing themselves. I take time to explain and simplify the litigation process for them as much as possible and refer them to resources that are available to help them in pursuing their case.

It is important to first understand that Judges do not create policies or laws. We interpret and apply the laws in an unbiased way to the facts of a case as presented to us. However, an independent judiciary is critical to ensuring the rule of law is respected. Judges must be free to make impartial decisions based solely upon applying the existing law to the facts of a case, and not the shifting political climate. In presiding over cases, I apply six policies of my own – 1) keep an open mind; 2) be prepared; 3) treat everyone with dignity, courtesy, and respect; 4) guaranty the opportunity to be heard in a fair and impartial way, 5) be decisive; and 6) show judicial restraint by not allowing any personal agenda to influence my decisions.

### 2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DIVISION 19

**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

## 2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DIVISION 19 (Continued)

*What qualifies you for this office?*

*What in your background would serve you best as a District Court judge?*

*In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how can you help improve the operations of District Court?*

*What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?*

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Dominic Levi  
La Fayette**

I have spent the past eight years working directly in New Mexico's Court system, handling cases involving child abuse, neglect, and family stability, areas that require careful, disciplined legal decision-making.

I currently serve as Assistant General Counsel for the CYFD and previously worked as a Children's Court Attorney, giving me experience across multiple roles within the system. My work has involved complex litigation, advising on difficult legal issues, and training judges and attorneys on ICWA and IFPA. My experience is focused, hands-on, and grounded in the types of cases that come before this court every day. That perspective is critical to understanding both the legal framework and the real-world impact of decisions.

My background in Children's Court is shaped not only by my legal experience, but by how I was raised. I did not grow up with privilege. I grew up in the same community as many of the families who come before the court. Combined with my work on high-stakes cases, that perspective gives me a clear understanding of both the law and its real-world impact. At a time when there is increased public focus on these cases, I bring experience and insight into where the system works and where it can improve, while remaining committed to fairness, consistency, and due process.

In addition to deciding cases, judges set the tone for how the court operates. A courtroom should be calm, consistent, and respectful, where all parties feel heard and proceedings are guided by the law. From my experience working within the system, I understand how delays, unclear communication, and inconsistent practices can affect both families and outcomes. I would prioritize timely rulings, clear expectations from the bench, and an approach that reflects preparation, professionalism, and impartiality. These practices strengthen public confidence and ensure the court functions with fairness and integrity.

Judicial independence depends on judges who are disciplined, impartial, and committed to applying the law without outside influence. Courts must remain separate from political pressure, public opinion, and external interests. That requires strong adherence to ethical standards, transparency in decision-making, and respect for the separation of powers. Independence is not just a policy; it is a daily responsibility. Judges must remain steady, apply the law consistently, and ensure that every decision is based on the facts and the law, not outside pressure.



**Diana Lynn  
Garcia**

I was deemed qualified by the bipartisan judicial nominating commission, appointed by the Governor, and have served as your judge for over two years. I have 30 years of legal experience, practicing in the Children's Court for 25 years. My experience includes 18 years in the District Attorney's Office and a decade at the Public Defender's Office. With extensive experience in juvenile law, I have trained attorneys, law enforcement, schools, and community organizations on juvenile legal matters.

My qualifying legal experience is bolstered by service on national and local juvenile justice boards. I have extensive training in adolescent brain development, trauma-informed practices, mental health, substance use, domestic violence, violence reduction, and best practices within the system. I am committed to ensuring due process and to the fair, unbiased application of the law. I have already served in this role for over two years.

I have worked on court improvement for a decade. Drawing on 30 years of experience, I implemented internal procedures in my courtroom by identifying bottlenecks, using differentiated case management, and not accepting "it's always been like this" as a reason to maintain the status quo. My goal is to ensure our court is efficient, accessible, and equitable. My goal is to efficiently make decisions and to help our children find a path out of the system.

To keep the judiciary independent, judges should reach the bench through merit-based appointments, chosen for legal expertise rather than political ties. When running for a judicial seat, public financing should be mandatory to reduce concerns about undue influence. Judges should also be encouraged to recuse when appropriate to protect the integrity of the courts. I am the only candidate in this race to utilize public financing.

## 2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DIVISION 24

**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Crystal Emerald  
Lees**

I was appointed to the Second Judicial District family court by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham in January of 2025 after being the only applicant recommended by the bi-partisan Judicial Nominating Commission. Prior to my appointment, I was adjudicating family court cases as a Domestic Relations Hearing Officer for the Second Judicial District Family Court since 2018. Prior to that, I was in private practice as a family law attorney. I am very patient, punctual, and respectful to all litigants. I have devoted my entire legal career to family law, either in private practice or as a judicial officer.

I believe that my personal background makes me uniquely situated to assist families in my capacity as a judicial officer. I grew up on public assistance and attending Albuquerque Public Schools. I graduated from Sandia High School and then went on to obtain my bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of New Mexico. Additionally, my parents went through an acrimonious divorce when I was 14 years old, after years of domestic violence in the home. Rather than considering what I went through as a child to be "traumatic," I see it more as a gift that has allowed me to remain sensitive and open to the families in crisis with whom I come into contact on a daily basis.

I do my very best to ensure that each person I encounter is treated uniquely and with dignity and compassion. I strive to balance the needs of each individual family with an expeditious resolution. I believe that efficient use of the resources we have combined with allowing all individuals an opportunity to be heard would improve operations of the family court specifically.

I definitely believe there needs to be an understanding that judges are not, and should not, be subject to political influence or pressures of any kind. We are sworn to apply the facts and the law to each individual case without regard to what would be considered "popular opinion." Rather than internal policies, educating the public on our roles and limitations as a judicial officer is critical to ensuring that the people who come before us maintain trust and faith in the integrity of the judicial system as a whole.

# METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGES

## METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGE

Metropolitan Court judges hear civil cases valued at less than \$10,000; the criminal cases they hear include misdemeanor DWI/DUI, misdemeanor domestic violence, traffic violations and other misdemeanors, as well as certain court appearances in felony cases. Term: four years; no term limits.

What qualifies you for this office?	What steps, if any, would you take to make Metropolitan Court procedures more efficient and transparent?	What changes in training and support for Metropolitan Court judges would you like to see implemented?	What other information would you like the voters to know about you?
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### METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGE DIVISION 05

#### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Kerry J  
**Morris**

I have represented individuals, insurance companies, the State of New Mexico, and small businesses for 45 years. My experience includes most areas of law that would be brought before me as a judge of the Metropolitan Court, Civil Division.

The system as it is currently operating is working for the most part. I would like the opportunity evaluate the procedures more thoroughly. In the past, when I was employed by District Attorney Steve Schiff in 1983, I worked as an assistant DA in the Metro Court. While at that position, I was able to change the way certain jury trial cases were handled at a substantial savings of jury fees and expenses for the Metro Court. I am sure that my 45 years in private practice will enable me to do more.

I cannot answer this question at this time as I am in private practice now and not privy to the training and support Metro judges receive.

My pledge is to be fair, impartial, and independent as a Metropolitan Court judge. My decades of legal experience in serving New Mexicans will make for a knowledgeable public servant for the people of New Mexico.

#### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Ramon J  
**Maestas**

I have been a practicing attorney since 2015. Starting my career as a prosecutor with the District Attorney's Office, I gained extensive felony trial experience. I have worked as a staff attorney and general counsel for various city and state agencies. Most recently I was the Chief Clerk of the NM Court of Appeals. In March 2025, I was appointed to the Civil Division of the Metropolitan Court, I have presided over hundreds of cases and numerous trials adding to my qualifications as a judge.

The Metropolitan Court's Self-Help Division does a good job at providing resources to litigants including hand-outs and staff to answer questions while litigants make their way through the justice system. In my practice as a judge, I try to explain the proceedings as they are happening and what is coming next to help litigants better understand the process. In reaching a decision, I strive to make a clear and understandable ruling, to ensure transparency, minimize confusion, and avoid delay.

While accessible, more training with pro se litigants could be helpful. Specifically, more training on interacting with people with disabilities would be very helpful. In the Civil Division, a majority of our cases are landlord/tenant--we come across litigants with disabilities quite often.

My interest in the Metropolitan Court started because of my dedication to public service, my love of the law, and because I understand the impact that the issues at the Metropolitan Court have on peoples lives. While following the law, I am mindful of the various issues that litigants face and I use my experiences from being a trial attorney, a general counsel, and Chief Clerk to encourage meaningful arguments from litigants to reach a just outcome.

### METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGE DIVISION 19

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

#### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Andrea Inez  
**Gunderson**

I bring to the Metropolitan Court bench nearly two decades of legal practice and experience in diverse areas of law. Most recently, I served as a Special Commissioner in the Second Judicial Children's Court overseeing juvenile delinquency, mental health civil commitments, and abuse/neglect matters. I began my legal career as an Assistant District Attorney and transitioned to civil litigation, criminal defense, and child welfare.

In the year that I have been at the Metropolitan Court, I have seen that the procedures and resources available to the community are above par. The staff, security, and programs that provide assistance to individuals involved in cases are important to the dockets running smoothly and efficiently. That being said, the court recognizes that there is always room for improvement, adaptation, and change and regularly listens to suggestions from the public.

The training provided has been exceptional and continuous. After a year on the bench, I still regularly confer with other judges in the building on courtroom management, legal matters, and courtroom skills. This continued support and open communication is imperative to all judges who are faced with community members who find themselves in highly emotional and difficult situations.

I am a native New Mexican raised in the North Valley. I love and have served my community through pro bono legal services, serving on boards and committees, and returning each year as faculty at the UNM School of Law. Supporting, educating, and giving back to my community, to make it that much stronger, has always been and continues to be important to me.

# BERNALILLO COUNTY OFFICES

## BERNALILLO 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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### BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1



**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:**

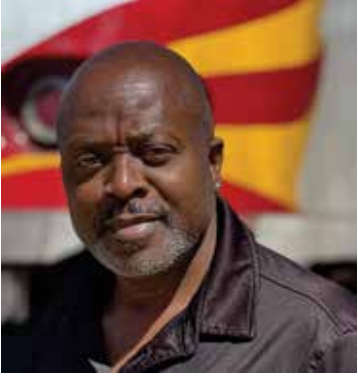
Barbara Christine Baca	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
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### BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

**REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:**

 <p>Thomas Wayne Riley</p>	<p>I have been in the Financial Industry for over a decade, I have been a public educator for five years, I run a local fraternity, and I have been involved in the Elks Lodge as an officer for the past six months. I know how to make financial decisions and run an organization. My wife and I just had our first child last year and our plan is to raise him in the community which makes me deeply invested in the future of our county, specifically District 5.</p>	<p>I want economic growth through local businesses. I would like to keep out projects that would cost the community water and our local character. I want to keep our Public Lands safe from being destroyed or sold off. I want to listen to and meet with my neighbors to see what projects they are interested in to better the community.</p>	<p>I would reach out to the community through social media, my website and podcast, and handing out fliers to our local businesses. I would be willing to meet with anyone who wanted to discuss anything related to the East Mountains and the County.</p>	<p>I would work hard to keep out any new developments that would cost us our precious water. Working with the community to help them start and grow local businesses is the way forward. Keeping out non local corporations or costly projects would be my focus.</p>
 <p>Wayne A Yevoli</p>	<p>I am running for this position as county commissioner because I believe that the county should be working for the people living in the county to bring more economic development into the county. I look around at other cities and states in this region and see them prospering, and New Mexico is still not seeing that prosperity. I believe that county commissioners with some vision and forethought can increase and attract the number and types of businesses for the people of Bernalillo county.</p>	<p>We need to attract long-term, high-quality jobs, which crime reduction impacts. Once crime is more effectively managed, the county will be in a better position to attract and retain jobs. We also need to streamline the development process.</p> <p>Another top priority is crime prevention. We need more Deputy Sheriffs on the streets with ongoing support from the County Commission. I believe we need to provide incentives to encourage young men and women to join the Sheriff's Department.</p>	<p>More transparency and informing the public with additional postings to the public forums.</p>	<p>The ABCWA should be planning for the needs of future water scarcity by looking into the deep water aquifers in the Rio Grande valley and how to desalinate the water for use by the public.</p>

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:**

 <p>Byron K Powdrell</p>	<p>I'm qualified to serve District 5 because I understand the distinct needs of both the East Mountains and the urban areas of Bernalillo County. I know rural communities require infrastructure, wildfire protection, and access to services, while the city faces growth, housing, and public safety challenges. My strength is listening to both sides and bringing balanced, practical solutions that ensure neither community is overlooked, but instead work together for the benefit of all residents.</p>	<p>I would address my highest priorities by focusing on practical, results-driven solutions that reflect the needs of District 5. That means improving public safety, supporting responsible economic growth, and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace in both urban and rural areas. I will work closely with community members, first responders, and local leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and deliver measurable progress that improves quality of life for all residents.</p>	<p>I would make sure residents are informed early and clearly about issues coming before the County Commission. That includes hosting regular community meetings in both the East Mountains and the city, sharing plain-language summaries online and through social media, and sending out timely email updates. I would also encourage public input before decisions are finalized, so residents have a real voice in shaping outcomes that affect their communities.</p>	<p>I would balance growth with water scarcity by promoting responsible development that aligns with our limited water resources. That means supporting conservation, investing in water reuse and efficient infrastructure, and requiring new projects to demonstrate long-term sustainability. I would work with regional partners to protect our aquifers and ensure that growth does not outpace our water supply, so we can support both our economy and future generations.</p>
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	<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><b>Eric Olivas</b></p>	<p>Born in Albuquerque I attended APS and earned two bachelors degrees from UNM in biology and chemistry. I earned a masters in biology from UNM. I worked through school running a landscaping business that I still operate today. I'm also a journeyman plumber. I have served as a county commissioner for 4 years, and bring an outsiders perspective to the commission. As a plumber I solve problems and I try to use that skillset to analyze and build solutions.</p>	<p>Public safety will remain a priority. I'd like to grow the ranks of the Sheriff's department which is fully staffed thanks to investments I championed. I'd also like the county to partner with the city to grow ACS into county areas. I want to push our goals to house more people with wraparound services and provide more transitional options. I also want to build great facilities; from parks and community centers to roads we need to provide for a great quality of life in our community.</p>	<p>People are busy and have demanding lives. There are so many levels of government that it's hard to stay informed. I have prioritized communication in as many forms as possible to meet people where they are at. My office is one of the only ones to send out a newsletter, we frequently respond to individual emails, we field media inquiries, we attend public meetings, and we are very active on social media. This all the above strategy is important to get information out and solicit public feedback.</p>	<p>We have seen climate change drive reductions in surface water and snow pack. In the East Mountains wells are going dry pitting neighbors against newcomers. On the water utility board I have worked to prioritize conservation and sustainability. At the county we adopted a plan to ensure we consider water use and availability when permitting new development. Growth is an afterthought without water, we must invest in conservation and ensure that new users pay their fair share and offset their use.</p>



## BERNALILLO 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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**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:


 <p><b>Philip A Snedeker</b></p>	<p>1976-B.A.-Social Science, 1977-M.A.-Educational Administration, Western New Mexico University, Silver City.                      1974-1976-City Police Officer, Silver City Police Department, Silver City, NM                      1977-1987-New Mexico State Police, State Police Officer                      1987-1989-Elected Democratic Sheriff, Quay Co., Tucumcari, NM                      1991-2022-New Mexico State Probation-Parole Division/Law Enforcement/Peace Officer/Administrator, Albuquerque Regional Office, Albuquerque, NM.                      47 yr. Law Enforcement/Public Service Career.</p>	<p>After thorough and comprehensive evaluation of the Department, its personnel, processes, and resources, fiscal appropriations, etc. , Written Goals and Objectives of my Administration, and my vision for the Department will be provided, to all Department personnel, via Written Policy, Procedure, Training and Communication, coupled with Direct oversight and evaluation, and modification as necessary, for Compliance/Practice, and achievement, of determined objectives of my Administration.</p>	<p>Please refer to response, above relative to review, evaluation and assessment of Departmental personnel. Such practices and processes will be utilized to place the most qualified persons in appropriate Administrative roles, for the achievement of our goals and objectives. I would immediately address the disturbing and persistent pattern of Criminal misconduct by some Department personnel. The current Administration has failed to address same.</p>	<p>Continuous, comprehensive, best practices training and response to such matters will be initiated, focused upon a response utilizing the dual responder model, wherein law enforcement officers along with trained mental health professionals respond to such situations, with the objective of providing intervention, and referral/connection to resources/treatment, is implemented and achieved.</p>
 <p><b>John D Allen</b></p>	<p>Experience as I am already serving in the role as Bernalillo County Sheriff. Leadership, organization, and representing constituents as a whole as shown by example is one example. Representation, inclusion, and following through with action proves not shows why I qualify.</p>	<p>Through continued collaboration, research, and proven results. Policy, budget, discussion, and follow through are necessary to succeed as Bernalillo County Sheriff.</p>	<p>Continuation of goals and initiatives. Technology, trust, engaged community policing have proven results and will continue our success.</p>	<p>We are already doing it and leading the region in this area to included having all deputies continue with advanced training in the area of behavioral health. Training is continuous and must evolve as we adjust to a changing environment in law enforcement. Since taking office deadly force encounters have decreased and this shows proof of the training we implement.</p>

## BERNALILLO 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><b>Michael Ray</b> <b>Maine</b></p>	<p>40 years of Business Management experience, multiple long and short-term rentals with a focus on details and accountability.</p>	<p>My highest priorities would be an intensive analysis of recent mishaps in the Assessors' office, which have created increased workloads for government employees and majorly inconvenienced the tax-paying public.</p>	<p>I will uncover the root causes of recent tax mistakes arising from the current administration, instituting measures to check for inconsistencies to reduce conflicts between the public and local government.</p>	<p>My professional experience has equipped me with the skills necessary to uncover lapses in employee support mechanisms. Once I assess the current opportunities, I will streamline processes for efficiency, accuracy, and transparency.</p>
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### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:




 <p><b>Damian R Lara</b></p>	<p>My mother brought us to the US when I was six, with nothing but four boxes of clothes. We worked the potato and onion fields of Southeastern New Mexico as migrant farm workers. I was raised with the work ethic and a passion for making ethical government work for all. I'm an attorney with 20 years experience in property assessments, including serving as your current Assessor. I'm the first New Mexican to serve on the board of the International Association of Assessing Officers in over 90 years.</p>	<p>I bring work ethic and ethical work to the Office. I will implement fair and equitable assessments for homeowners and require corporate owners of abandoned "zombie" buildings and boarded up homes to pay their fair share. I will also work with the legislature to increase the head of family exemption for primary residence that will make homeownership more affordable to first time homeowners, creating a truly progressive property tax code.</p>	<p>I have rebuilt the office and trained all employees. We have increased the number of union members, high paying positions, and developed upward career mobility. I've also created an office culture of service and ethical behavior. We provide cooperative assistance to all property owners and openly share our valuation methods and data used to arrive at all valuations. We worked closely with the State Legislature to provide exemptions for the over 26,000 veterans in the County.</p>	<p>As the Former Lead Staff Attorney for the Revenue Stabilization &amp; Tax Policy Committee and congressional staffer at the US House of Representatives, I know the importance of highly qualified staff. I worked with the legislature to ensure all employees of the Assessor's Office have access to New Mexico Appraiser Certification. Additionally, as an instructor for NM Edge courses and Continuing Legal Education, I train staff on technical, legal, and administrative aspects of our statutory duties.</p>
 <p><b>Linda Stover</b></p>	<p>I have worked in the mortgage industry for over 33 years. I was a realtor for 6 years. I understand the importance of fair and equitable appraisals.</p>	<p>That all properties are treated with fair and equitable assessments that fall within state statutes. I want to keep Bernalillo County locally owned by working with property owners and being reasonable with minimum state requirements so property taxes don't sky rockets. I want to keep people in their homes and businesses in a position to prosper.</p>	<p>Hire and train appraisers that are qualified to do the job.</p>	<p>Any and all that is available.</p>

## BERNALILLO 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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**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

	What qualifies you for this office?	What changes, if any, would you make to the functioning of the Probate Court?	How can you educate the public about the court's processes?	What other information would you like voters to know about you?
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p data-bbox="128 733 275 822"><b>Joseph W Gandert</b></p>	<p data-bbox="499 290 861 647">I believe in helping people. I have been a practicing attorney in Albuquerque for over four decades. My managerial experience includes being supervisor of both the juvenile division of the State Public Defender and of the Albuquerque office of the Federal Public Defender. Following my retirement, I assisted my son in his civil general law practice, which included many probate cases. I have also worked representing victims of domestic violence and volunteered at the Homeless Legal Clinic.</p>	<p data-bbox="882 290 1243 647">Common sense improvements are my main focus. The overall probate process needs to be streamlined as much as possible so that the court can actually work efficiently for the people. I would also update and modernize the website and videos (some unchanged since COVID) to make the current process more understandable for everyone. Finally, I would be able to devote my full attention to the job of Probate Judge, since I am not in private practice as were previous Probate Judges.</p>	<p data-bbox="1264 290 1625 620">Accessibility is everything. I want to update and simplify the website to make it as user-friendly as possible. For those who might not use the website, I want to ensure that probate process brochures are readily available and widely distributed at all libraries and senior centers, which I'm happy to help do personally. In terms of general outreach, I also want to make myself and Probate Court staff available for free workshops and for Q&amp;A's with civic groups to explain the probate process.</p>	<p data-bbox="1646 290 2007 647">I am a native New Mexican and life-long Democrat who vehemently opposes Donald Trump and everything he stands for. Along with my wonderful wife June, who is a retired APS teacher, I have 3 adult sons and 2 grandsons. I also know how painful it can be to lose a loved one, and I want to make the probate system as easy to navigate as possible for anyone going through such a difficult time. The people of Bernalillo County deserve a Probate Court that is efficient, effective, and compassionate.</p>
 <p data-bbox="128 1276 323 1365"><b>Veronica Hernandez</b></p>	<p data-bbox="499 844 861 1174">For over two decades, I have served thousands of New Mexican families. Supporting individuals during some of the most difficult and emotional times in their lives. I have worked closely with residents of Bernalillo Co. for over 18 years specializing in interventions, and most importantly reunification. I understand that Probate Court plays a vital role in helping families manage the legal process after the loss of a loved one. My profession has been built on public service, advocacy, &amp; integrity.</p>	<p data-bbox="882 844 1073 862"><i>No response received.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1264 844 1625 1201">I will assist in educating the public on probate court will involve providing clear, accessible information through community outreach, digital resources, and simplified, step-by-step guides. Other helpful methods would be hosting workshops, distributing informative pamphlets, creating online video tutorials, and offering self-help materials and center to help individuals navigate and simplify the process of working through what seem to be a difficult process and working through probate court.</p>	<p data-bbox="1646 844 2007 1174">I understand that Probate Court plays a vital role in helping families manage the legal process after the loss of a loved one. Ensuring assets through estate plans that include wills, trusts and powers of attorney are distributed properly with fairness. Specifically providing clarity during times of uncertainty. As a proud born and raised on the west side of Albuquerque. I am deeply connected to the community I serve. I understand the importance of culture and trust in the legal process.</p>
 <p data-bbox="128 1835 254 1924"><b>Robert L Padilla</b></p>	<p data-bbox="499 1381 861 1631">With over 30 years at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court, including more than a decade as Court Executive Officer, I have managed court operations, budgets, and programs that improved access to justice. My experience gives me a deep understanding of how courts function and how to serve the public with efficiency, transparency, and integrity.</p>	<p data-bbox="882 1381 1243 1631">I would focus on making the Probate Court more accessible, efficient, and user-friendly. This includes simplifying processes, improving communication, and ensuring cases move in a timely manner. Families often come to Probate Court during difficult times, and the court should provide clarity, compassion, and guidance every step of the way.</p>	<p data-bbox="1264 1381 1625 1658">Public education starts with clear, accessible information. I would support outreach through workshops, online resources, and partnerships with community organizations to explain probate processes in plain language. Expanding self-help resources and improving communication can empower families to better understand and navigate the court system.</p>	<p data-bbox="1646 1381 2007 1631">I believe public office is a responsibility, not a title. I was the first in my family of 13 siblings to graduate from college, earning a Criminal Justice degree from UNM, and I have also served our community as a high school coach and mentor. I will approach this office with humility, ethics, accountability, and respect for every family who comes before the court.</p>
 <p data-bbox="128 2206 348 2295"><b>Carmela Dorothy Starace</b></p>	<p data-bbox="499 1946 861 2276">Of four candidates, I am the only probate attorney. Two candidates are not attorneys at all, and the third is a criminal attorney. BernCo Probate Court sees over 2000 filings a year. I am the only candidate who knows the Probate Code with its hundreds of statutes from my ten years in probate court. I know if a will is valid. I know who gets the inheritance when there is no will. If I am judge, it will not be "Let me get back to you." It will be "Let me help you now."</p>	<p data-bbox="882 1946 1243 2303">In recent years, I've seen BernCo Probate Court make changes to be more efficient and less bureaucratic. The staff is helpful, smart, compassionate. I get endorsed orders back within 72 hours. If elected, I would keep that benchmark and ensure the continued satisfaction of both the residents who file and the hardworking staff who serve them. That said, there can always be improvement. My philosophy is to listen to the residents and use common sense to make things easier for them, not harder.</p>	<p data-bbox="1264 1946 1625 2276">Almost daily, clients tell me they want to avoid probate. I tell them how excellent our probate court process is in this state. For \$30, you can file a probate and have your appointment within three days. While it might not be the stuff of Law and Order shows, probate is the stuff of real life, something we may all have to deal with eventually. I enjoy speaking to the public, talking about this, making it less scary. As a judge, I'd have more opportunities to do so.</p>	<p data-bbox="1646 1946 2007 2303">I was drawn to probate after losing my sister, brother &amp; father to cancer. I know when a loved one dies, you need a human response. I practice law with empathy, hoping to take some burden off the survivor's shoulders. I moved here in 1995 to teach fifth grade and coach basketball at San Felipe school. I am a 2005 graduate of UNM Law School, where I served on the Law Review and received the Clinical Honors Award. I play mandolin in the queer bluegrass band. Green for chicken; Red for pork.</p>

# SANDOVAL COUNTY OFFICES

## SANDOVAL 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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### SANDOVAL COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 1

**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:**

Ann Marie <b>Maxwell-Chavez</b>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
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### SANDOVAL COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 2

**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**


**DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:**

F Kenneth <b>Eichwald</b>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
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### SANDOVAL COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 3

**THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.**

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:**

 <p>Delilah M <b>Montano-Baca</b></p>	<p>I have a degree in Criminal Justice and I am a Certified Legal Secretary. My twenty (20) years on the bench have given me institutional knowledge that allows me to train and/or quasi-mentor other newly elected Judges. I make all my decisions based on the law and deliver all my decisions and Judgments from the bench.</p>	<p>Security for employees and Judges has been at the top of the list. There are currently efforts in place to address and/or correct these ongoing issues. The second would be the high volume of cases that are handled. Sandoval County continues to grow and the amount of Judges and employees at the Magistrate Court should also increase in order to accommodate the increased caseloads.</p>	<p>Ever since the Pandemic, the Judiciary has implemented "new" procedures for handling cases that address optimizing and utilizing technology to have more virtual hearings so as to accommodate the general public and Attorneys. This allows them to appear for court and/or hearings via Google. By having these procedures in place it has been a plus for the Court, as well as the citizens; and also the Attorneys that have to appear for these settings. The new technology at first was difficult to get used to. But as time has passed, I'm sure all parties can appreciate the convenience and efficiency.</p>	<p>I am a hard worker, I treat everyone that comes before me with respect and I address each case individually. I am easy going and approachable and level headed. Personally, I enjoy watching my grandchildren grow and play sports.</p>
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“I would like to be remembered as someone who used whatever talent she had to do her work to the very best of her ability.” – Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

# SANDOVAL 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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## SANDOVAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

### REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Rebecca Lynn  
**Skartwed**

My leadership is grounded in years of public service, including serving as President of the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant and as Vice Chair of the New Mexico Land Grant Council. In these roles, I worked across state, federal, tribal, and local governments to protect land, water, and community interests. I now serve as an Advancement Strategist, where I continue building partnerships, securing resources, and supporting long-term community development.

My priorities as County Commissioner are protecting land, water, and cultural resources; ensuring responsible growth; and strengthening partnerships across state, federal, tribal, and local governments. With experience as President of the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant, Vice Chair of the NM Land Grant Council, and now an Advancement Strategist, I will champion transparent governance, support rural and historic communities and protect our water resources.

I believe technology should make county government more open and accessible. With a background in Information Systems and Business, I would improve how information is shared by creating clearer, easier-to-understand summaries of agenda items, expanding digital notifications, and making the county website more user-friendly. I would also pair these tools with in-person community updates and outreach, so residents receive information early and in ways that work for them.

My connection to New Mexico's land and water is personal and generational my family has lived in Placitas since 1765. New Mexico is using more water than our land and climate can sustain. When springs or acequias fail, entire communities are affected. Counties can protect watersheds, ensure development matches real water availability, respect traditional water uses, increase transparency, and push for better data. Water is life.

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Paul J  
**Madrid**

I'm a sixth-generation rancher at Circle B Ranch, and that's where my qualifications start. Ranching isn't just a job; it's a masterclass in responsibility. As a Commissioner for the Cabezon Livestock Pipeline Association, I helped lead the charge to bring water to Cabezon and San Luis. As President of the Bernalillo Public School Board, I've spent years navigating complex budgets and advocating for our families.

My approach to our county's priorities is built on the same values I use to run Circle B Ranch: hard work, accountability, and looking out for your neighbors. When we face challenges like water security or crumbling roads, we can't just talk, we have to take responsibility and fix what's broken. I'll work across our diverse communities, from Bernalillo to the rural areas, to ensure every family has the infrastructure and safety they deserve. I'm not here to play politics; I'm here to do the work.

To better inform our citizens, we need to meet people where they are—not just expect them to find us. I'll push for more accessible, plain-language summaries of Commission priorities sent directly to residents before major votes, ensuring you don't need a law degree to understand how a decision affects your ranch or your neighborhood.

I'll also advocate for holding town halls across the district—from Bernalillo to the more rural areas—so I can listen to your concerns face-to-face.

We can't grow beyond what our water supports. In our arid state, every new project must be tied to a proven, sustainable water supply—it's about stewardship, not just expansion.



John Mark  
**Sapien**

Sandoval County is my home, and I've spent my life working to make it better. As a former State Senator, I fought for strong schools, safe neighborhoods, and policies to help families and small businesses succeed. As a business owner, I understand the challenges local businesses face and know how to create opportunities for growth. I'm ready to lead with integrity, listen to our community, and deliver results that make a real difference. Let's strengthen Sandoval County—together.

My highest priorities are your priorities—building a stronger economy, improving transparency, and planning for a future we can be proud of. I'll tackle these by listening to you, making informed decisions rooted in what's best for our community, and staying focused on action, not talk. From supporting local jobs to protecting resources like water, it's about working together to solve real problems. Every step I take will be guided by what strengthens Sandoval County and empowers its people.

I believe transparency builds trust. To keep you informed, I'll work to expand outreach by sharing agendas and updates through newsletters, social media, and community forums well before decisions are made. I'll advocate for livestreamed meetings and easily accessible public records because you deserve to know what's happening in your backyard. Your voice matters—whether through town halls or online feedback, I'll make sure there's a seat at the table for everyone in Sandoval County.

Balancing growth with water scarcity isn't just about policy; it's about protecting our future. We need smart planning—investing in water-saving technologies, incentivizing responsible development, and prioritizing conservation efforts that ensure our children will have what they need. I'll push for collaboration with local, state, and regional leaders to tackle this together, because growth can't come at the expense of the resources that sustain us. It's about planning wisely and acting boldly.

*What qualifies you for this office?*

*How would you address your highest priorities?*

*How would you better inform citizens about matters coming before the County Commission before decisions are made?*

*How would you propose to balance growth with water scarcity in an increasingly arid state?*

**SANDOVAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3**

**REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:**



Edwin Paul  
**Linson**

My 23 years in law enforcement as a Detective and Chief of Police show my dedication to protecting families and earning the community's trust. As a 20-year small-business owner, I understand the importance of fiscal discipline and working hard for local prosperity. I bring a strong work ethic and sense of duty. I've lived in Rio Rancho for years, and as a husband, father of five, and grandfather of four, I'm personally invested in keeping Sandoval County safe and thriving.

My top priorities are public safety, infrastructure, water security, and fiscal responsibility because these issues directly impact our community's well-being. I'll fully fund our Sheriff's Department and Fire & Rescue to improve recruitment, retention, and response times so our families stay safe. I'll advocate for smart infrastructure planning to reduce congestion and save time. Every budget decision will focus on essentials, not bureaucracy—I'll act as a watchdog for your tax dollars.

Transparency and accountability aren't optional—they're essential. I'll make sure the public gets clear, timely information through regular updates on the county website, community meetings, and straightforward communication about upcoming issues. As your Commissioner, I'll hold open forums and use plain language so every resident in District 3 understands what's on the agenda and how it affects their families. Government should serve the people, not hide behind bureaucracy.

Water is essential for our future in New Mexico. I am committed to growth that protects our water rights and manages our supply wisely. We must expand today without risking future shortages. Smart planning should meet current residents' needs and ensure new projects do not strain our resources. I will work with experts and fellow commissioners to secure long-term water availability while supporting responsible growth.



Daniel J  
**Stoddard**

*No response received.*

*No response received.*

*No response received.*

*No response received.*

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:**



Frank James  
**Smith Jr**

I am a third generation New Mexican and Marine Corps veteran with nearly 30 years of business experience. I currently serve as Chair of the New Mexico Veterans and Military Families Caucus. My background includes leadership, problem solving, and working with people from different perspectives to address issues affecting veterans, families, and the broader community. I understand the importance of accountability, public service, and making practical decisions that serve the public interest.

My highest priorities are Safety, Savings, and Service. Safety means supporting law enforcement, fire and emergency response, safe roads, and protecting water resources. Savings means careful budgeting, responsible infrastructure planning, and respect for taxpayers. Service means staying focused on core county responsibilities, responding to residents, and making decisions openly. I would address these priorities through practical planning, coordination, and accountability.

To better inform Sandoval County citizens, I will "meet voters where they are" through outreach. I'll utilize social media and a District 3 newsletter for plain-language updates on County issues.

Additionally, I'll include monthly "Coffee with the Commissioner" in spots like Enchanted Hills and town halls for major decisions. By engaging neighborhood and veteran groups, I'll ensure residents are empowered and heard before a vote is cast.


Citizens should be informed before decisions are made, not after. I would support earlier notice, plain language explanations, and outreach beyond the county website alone. That means meeting constituents where they are, including community platforms such as Nextdoor, email, and public meetings. I would also push for clear agendas, timely posting of supporting materials, and meaningful chances for public input before major votes.

# SANDOVAL 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>
<b>REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Alvin Eric Miller</b></p>	<p>I have a strong sense of loyalty and service. I was honorably discharged from the United States Navy in 1994, where I served as an Aviation Machinist's Mate on the SH-3H Sea King helicopter, supporting anti-submarine and search-and-rescue missions.</p> <p>Following my military service, I spent 29 years in law enforcement, working as a police officer within the northern pueblos before continuing my career in public schools and universities. I concluded my career at the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office</p>	<p>One of my highest priorities as Sheriff is restoring a strong, consistent deputy presence in our schools. By building relationships with students, families, and staff, we can identify and support those who need help. Deputies will also be visible and engaged in our communities—approachable and trusted. These interactions reveal not only crime concerns but also basic needs like food, housing, and care. Deputies are not just law enforcers—they are community caretakers.</p>	<p>The Sandoval County Sheriff's Office needs to refocus on what matters most, serving our communities. Too often, resources are directed by preference instead of need, with personnel assigned outside the county and units not fully supporting our deputies.</p> <p>As Sheriff, I will ask one simple question: How does this improve service to the citizens of Sandoval County? If it doesn't, it will be realigned.</p> <p>My priority is clear. Put our resources back where they belong: serving Sandoval County.</p>	<p>Deputies should receive, at a minimum, one week of Crisis Intervention Training, along with additional training focused on helping individuals in need.</p> <p>I also plan to develop a proactive program where families can meet with the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office before a loved one reaches a crisis point, allowing us to guide them through the process and ensure treatment is handled with dignity and compassion.</p>
 <p><b>Victor J Rodriguez</b></p>	<p>A family-oriented and faith-based New Mexican with nearly 26 years of proven public safety experience serving as chief of police and commander at the state, county, city, and tribal levels. Professionalism, respect and integrity guide me. Master's Degrees in Criminal Justice and Business Administration, along with the highest executive-level certification. Graduate of Northwestern University's Public Safety Center, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Chief's Command School, and the FBI Command Course.</p>	<p>Mental health, drug use, violent crime and building community trust are my highest priorities. Empathy combined with consistent enforcement will guide my efforts to improve public safety. I will build strong partnerships with legislators, community leaders, and you, the voter, to develop genuine solutions. Leading by example and providing competitive employee wages and benefits. Transparency and community engagement will be standard practices, not just election-year promises. We work for you!</p>	<p>Create a community policing division to improve public engagement. Create a mental health response team and first responder mental wellness program. Evaluate our current workforce and reassign certain personnel into the communities to better address issues you see. Enhance patrol division, drug/criminal investigations units and create a multi-agency missing persons task force. Cross commission all eligible police officers to include tribal. Create new districts in metro and east mountains.</p>	<p>As a certified police mental health instructor, mental health training is very important to me. Response to these situations require safety, empathy and compassion. The officer's safety and the safety of others is paramount. All officers are required to complete mental health training under their certification requirements. Active listening and reality based deescalation training will provide strategies that are important when interacting with individuals experiencing mental health issues.</p>
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 <p><b>Jose Eloy Gonzales Jr</b></p>	<p>I bring over 40 years of law enforcement experience as a patrol officer/deputy, detective, special agent, sergeant, and now Undersheriff. I hold an executive police certification and serve as an instructor. I work with the deputies' union to ensure fair pay, safe working conditions, and officer safety issues, while managing daily operations, budgets, and key administrative functions. I am currently involved in the day to day operations and have the working knowledge to continue as the Sheriff.</p>	<p>My top priority is staffing, even though additional personnel have been added over the past eight years. By pursuing grant funding for the additional staffing, we can continue to grow without placing a burden on taxpayers. This will allow us to create a dedicated DWI unit and establish a warrant division to address outstanding warrants, improving efficiency and helping drive crime rates even lower while keeping our communities safe.</p>	<p>The Sheriff's Office currently has an appropriate level of administrative staffing for its size. However, I would consider possibly make a few minor adjustments to assignments to possibly improve efficiency and better support operations. As the agency continues to grow, I would also conduct periodic reviews of the organizational chart to ensure the structure evolves with our needs and continues to support effective, professional service.</p>	<p>Officers receive state-mandated training in de-escalation and crisis intervention to safely manage encounters involving individuals experiencing mental health crises. I would expand this by adding more critical incident training focused on communication, recognition of behavioral cues, and practical de-escalation techniques. This approach helps deputies respond effectively while connecting individuals to appropriate care and treatment services.</p>
 <p><b>John Paul Trujillo</b></p>	<p>Been law-enforcement for 28 years graduated FBI Academy graduate of the law-enforcement state Academy in New Mexico and graduate of the Longmont sheriffs Academy in Colorado</p>	<p>Protecting rights of the community and upholding the constitution of the United States and the state of New Mexico</p>	<p>Keep good contacts with other law-enforcement agencies throughout the state and keep our technology in law-enforcement up-to-date and keep continuing the sheriff's office technology that's in place now and keep adding to it</p>	<p>Officers would go through mental training to combat the problem of mental illness, and how to deal with people with mental illness and get them the right help through social services in the county</p>

## SANDOVAL COUNTY SHERIFF (Continued)

	What qualifies you for this office?	How would you address your highest priorities for law enforcement?	What changes, if any, would you make to the administration of the Sheriff's office?	What training should be provided to officers for dealing with mental health issues?
 Martin M <b>Arellano</b>	I am the only candidate with large organization management skills of an Army Battalion of over 300 personnel with multiple units that was the most successful Recruiting Battalion in the US. I retired as Command Sergeant Major. I also retired as a Deputy with Santa Fe County Sheriff's office and have the insight to revitalize the agency to have a fully staffed, well trained, competitive wage group.	Sandoval County needs efficiency of response times to the furthest borders. Having enough personnel is essential. By having competitive wages and benefits, the agency will retain seasoned Deputys and attract others. Providing training for current climates and situations to allow for the best outcomes for all calls for service. And always keeping accountability and transparency available to the public.	Evaluating all resources currently in the agency to assess what is beneficial and what has the least productivity would be a good starting point.	Having worked alongside other veterans with PTSD, I feel that our large veteran population in Sandoval county would benefit from training provided to address this demographic. We have multiple agencies in the state that work in coordination for appropriate skills. Additional training in recognizing those with mental disabilities would be beneficial.

## SANDOVAL 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.


	What qualifies you for this office?	How would you address your highest priorities?	How do you plan to ensure accuracy, fairness, and transparency in property valuations?	What training will you provide for your staff in the technical, legal, and administrative aspects of property valuation and taxation?
<b>REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
 Lawrence D <b>Griego</b>	I have 20 years of experience in the Sandoval County Assessor's Office as an Appraiser and Appraiser Supervisor. I hold a B.S. in Organizational Leadership and am a State Certified Appraiser. Additionally, I earned my national RES designation from IAAO and am a nationally Certified Public Manager. I have also instructed appraisal courses for NMSU/NM EDGE. My hands-on appraisal experience, leadership, and management skills prepare me to serve effectively as your Sandoval County Assessor.	I will prioritize accurate, fair, and uniform property valuations. I will support ongoing staff training, strengthen internal processes, and use accepted appraisal practices to ensure consistency and compliance with state standards. I will expand public awareness of available exemptions that help taxpayers save money and improve outreach to educate taxpayers on the appraisal and protest process. I will ensure the Assessor's Office is responsive, accessible, and focused on serving the public.	I will ensure accuracy, fairness, and transparency by applying professional appraisal standards and methods. Consistent application of regulations and processes across all properties will ensure uniformity in valuations. Regular staff training and quality reviews will maintain high standards. I will provide clear, accessible information on property values, exemptions, and the protest process to help taxpayers understand how values are determined and strengthen trust in the Assessor's Office.	I currently provide and will continue to provide ongoing staff training in accepted appraisal methods, state property tax laws, and day-to-day operational procedures, drawing on my experience as an appraiser, supervisor, and instructor. I have trained many Sandoval County appraisers in valuing property, applying laws and regulations, defending valuations at protests, maintaining records, processing exemptions, coordinating workflow, and delivering responsive, professional service to taxpayers.
Richard <b>Shanks</b>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:</b>				
Gerred <b>Prairie</b>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>

## SANDOVAL 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:

 <p>Rebecca A <b>Torres</b></p>	<p>I am the only candidate who is a licensed New Mexico attorney. My 15 years of experience already include extensive work in probate and estate law, and I've helped countless families in Sandoval County navigate the probate process, settling their loved ones' wills and estates. As a law firm owner since 2015, I bring practical experience and real-world insight into how probate impacts families, and I have seen firsthand how important it is to have a court that is both welcoming and knowledgeable.</p>	<p>Probate often occurs during difficult times, and the process should feel manageable, not overwhelming. To that end, my goal is to ensure that the Probate Court remains clear, consistent, and easy to navigate. I would build on the current foundation by continuing to emphasize clear communication, consistency, and a welcoming, calm environment. I would also prioritize responsiveness and organization to help ensure efficiency, and to earn the public's trust.</p>	<p>Probating a will can feel overwhelming. But the good news is that many cases can be handled without an attorney. I will be sure to provide straightforward instructions, accessible forms, and practical guidance to keep the process simple, and so individuals can know exactly what to expect. In my experience, even small amounts of clearer directions can make a big difference for families. The goal is to make the process feel less intimidating and more manageable, especially during a difficult time.</p>	<p>As a native-born New Mexican, I care deeply about my community and my neighbors who live here. As a small business owner and working parent, I value fairness, accountability, and treating people with respect. I will work to ensure the Probate Court is welcoming, efficient, and grounded in the law, as well as the needs of our working families. I bring both legal experience and a commitment to public service, and I would be honored to serve the good people of Sandoval County.</p>
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### DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Donna Iven <b>Tillman</b></p>	<p>My qualifications for serving as Probate Judge of Sandoval County are grounded in a combination of legal training, administrative experience, and a deep understanding of human behavior.</p> <p>With a Juris Doctorate, I have the legal foundation necessary to interpret statutes, apply precedent, and ensure that all probate matters—wills, estates, and guardianships—are handled with precision and fairness under New Mexico law.</p> <p>My M.B.A. equips me with strong organizational and management skills.</p>	<p>This office has been professionally run by Attorney, Ed Lovato for the past four years, so I doubt that I would need to make any changes. However, once I am in this position I can see if there is more stream lining and use of technology that would be appropriate. I am technologically literate and could see if it would be useful in this office.</p>	<p>Educating the public about the court's processes is essential to ensuring access to justice, especially in probate matters where individuals are often navigating the system for the first time during emotionally difficult periods. I would ensure that clear, plain-language resources are readily available—both online and in print—explaining common procedures such as filing a will, opening an estate, or seeking guardianship. I would support regular community outreach such as senior centers.</p>	<p>I moved to New Mexico because my son, daughter, and two grandchildren already lived here. It was a very good place to retire. I have volunteered my time with various non-profit organizations. I am on the Board of Directors of Rebuilding Together Sandoval County which provides very low income homeowners with help in fixing their homes. We replace roofs that leak, bathrooms that are nonfunctional and what is necessary to make a home safe and secure for the homeowner such as replacing water lines.</p>
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“People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote – a very different thing.” – Walter H. Judd

# 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.

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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.

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### 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.

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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.

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If this guide helped in making your decisions, please consider donating to and/or joining our organization at [lwvcnm.org](http://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](http://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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WOMEN VOTERS®  
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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, Tarrant, and Valencia counties.