LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

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Nonpartisan Voter Guide for Bernalillo & Sandoval Counties

Guía apartidista del Votantes para los condados de Bernalillo y Sandoval

Election Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Elecciones el martes, 3 de noviembre de 2026

Find out what's on your ballot.

Your vote is your voice.

On Tuesday, November 3, there will be an election for Federal, State and County officials, including Judges. The ballot will also contain questions on State Constitutional Amendments, Bonds, and other local issues.

El martes, 3 de noviembre, habrá una elección para los oficiales federales, estatales y judiciales. También se incluirán enmiendas a la Constitución estatal, asuntos de bonos y otros temas locales.

October 6	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.
October 17 - 31 (closed October 12 holiday)	Early voting at designated polling places. **Same day registration at those polling places.**	Votación anticipada en los lugares designados de votación. **Registro para votar el mismo día en esos lugares de votación.**
October 20	Last day to request an absentee ballot.	El último día para solicitar una boleta de voto por correo.
November 3	**Election Day - last chance to vote in person!** Absentee ballots are due in the clerk's office, an official drop box, or at an Election Day voting site no later than 7:00 pm. **Same day registration at polling places.**	**Día de las elecciones: ¡La última oportunidad para votar en persona!** Las boletas de voto por ausencia deben entregarse en la oficina del secretario del condado o en un lugar de votación el día de las elecciones a más tardar a las 7:00 pm. **Registro para votar el mismo día en los lugares de votación.**

How to use this Voter Guide

- Find out what's on your ballot by obtaining a sample ballot from NMVote.gov. You can also contact your County Clerk or request one at a polling site.
- Locate your races and ballot questions via the table of contents on Page 3.

See VOTE411.org for an interactive, customized guide to your ballot. You will also find additional information from candidates.

Check Your registration and view your sample ballot at NMVOTE.gov

Visit VOTE411.org

Cómo utilizar esta Guía para votantes

- Averigüe qué aparece en su boleta por obteniendo una boleta de muestra en NMVote.gov. También puede comunicarse con el secretario del condado o solicitar una en un lugar de votación.
- Localice sus carreras y asuntos de boleta en el índice de contenidos en la página 3.

Consulte Vote411.org para una guía interactiva y personalizada para su papeleta. También encontrará información adicional de los candidatos.

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Voter Guide / guía para votantes

November 3, 2026 Election
Elecciones del 3 de noviembre de 2026

Who Can Vote in New Mexico 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.	**¿Quién puede votar en Nuevo México?** 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 delincuentes 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.
Sample Ballot and More You can verify your voter registration online, view your sample ballot, apply for an absentee ballot and check its status, and much more at **nmvote.gov**. Scroll down to "**Find My Registration & Election Information."** You can also request a sample ballot from the County Clerk or at any early voting location in your county.	**Boleta de muestra y más** Puede verificar su registro de votante en línea, ver su boleta de muestra, solicitar una boleta de voto en ausencia y verificar el estado de la boleta, y mucho más en **nmvote.gov**. Desplácese hacia abajo hasta **"Buscar mi registro e información electoral".** También puede solicitar una boleta de muestra del secretario del condado o en un lugar de votación anticipada en su condado.
Registering To Vote in New Mexico You will need to provide proof of your identity and residency. If you did not provide this information when you registered, then you will need to provide it the first time you vote. Valid forms of proof include a current and valid photo identification, a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, student identification card, identification issued by an Indian Nation, tribe, or pueblo that shows your name and current address, or other government document. To be sure, bring more than one of these credentials. Voter registration on-line, by mail, via the Motor Vehicle Department and by organized voter registration drives is not available in the 28 day window preceding an election. **Same-day in-person voter registration** You can register in person at the County Clerk's office or at any Early Voting or Election Day location with your identification and proof of residency papers.	**Registrarse para votar en Nuevo México** Tendrá que proporcionar una prueba de su identidad y residencia. Si no proporcionó esta información cuando se registró, deberá proporcionarla la primera vez que vote. Las formas válidas de prueba incluyen una identificación con fotografía reciente y válida, una factura de servicios reciente, un estado de cuenta bancario, un cheque del gobierno, un talón de pago, una tarjeta de identificación de estudiante, una identificación emitida por una nación, tribu o pueblo indígena que muestre su nombre y dirección actual, u otro documento gubernamental. Para estar seguro, lleve más de una de estas credenciales. El registro para votar en linea, por correo, via el Departamento de Vehiculos Motorizados y por las iniciativas para registro del votante no estará disponible desde 28 días antes de una elección. **Registro de votante y votación en persona en el mismo día** Puede registrarse en persona en la oficina del secretario del condado o en cualquier lugar de votación anticipada o el día de las elecciones con su identificación y documentos que prueben su residencia.
Changing/Updating Registration No identification is required if a voter is merely changing their registration (name, address, and/or party affiliation) within the state of New Mexico.	**Cambio/Actualización de Registro** No se requiere identificación si un votante simplemente cambia su registro (nombre, dirección, y/o afiliación partidista) dentro del estado de Nuevo México.
Absentee/Mail-in Voting New Mexico allows any registered voter to request an absentee ballot. You can request one at **nmvote.gov,** or contact your County Clerk. The last day to request an absentee ballot for the 2026 Election is Tuesday, October 20. 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 it must **arrive** by 7:00 pm on Election Day.* You can get on the permanent absentee list to receive an absentee ballot for every election via **nmvote.gov.**	**Voto en ausencia** Nuevo México permite que cualquier votante registrado solicite una boleta de voto en ausencia. Puede solicitar una en **nmvote.gov** o comunicarse con el secretario de su condado. El último día para solicitar una boleta de voto en ausencia para las elecciones de 2026 es el martes 20 de octubre. Las boletas de voto ausentes completadas pueden ser entregadas por el votante, un miembro de la familia inmediata del votante o un guardián, en cualquier centro de votación hasta el día de las elecciones antes de las 7:00 pm. También puede enviar su boleta por correo, pero debe **llegar** antes de las 7:00 pm el día de las elecciones. Puede inscribirse en la lista permanente de votantes ausentes para recibir una boleta de voto en ausencia para cada elección en **nmvote.gov**.
Additional Voting Considerations Write-in Voting. Only some races will have this option. For these, you must write in the name of a qualified write-in candidate (these are listed in this *Voter Guide*). For it 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.	**Consideraciones adicionales de votación** Votación por escrito. Sólo algunas contiendas electorales tendrán esta opción. Para estas, debe escribir el nombre de un candidato postulado por escrito (éstos se enumeran en esta *Guía para Votantes*). Para que su voto cuente, debe ingresar el nombre completo O las dos primeras iniciales y el apellido O el nombre y apellido O el nombre, la inicial del segundo nombre, y el apellido, O el nombre, el segundo nombre, y el apellido.
Provisional Ballots You will be issued a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the voter rolls, or you are a first-time voter but have not provided proof of identification and residency. The election officials will give you information on what you will need to do to ensure that your ballot will be counted and to find out if it was counted.	**Boletas Provisionales** Se le expedirá una boleta provisional si su nombre no aparece en las listas de votantes, o si está votando por primera vez pero no ha proporcionado prueba de identificación y residencia. Los funcionarios electorales le darán información sobre lo que deberá hacer para asegurarse de que su boleta sea contada y para verificar si fue contada.

WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE /DÓNDE Y CUÁNDO VOTAR

Early voting times and dates vary by county. **Election Day voting will be Tuesday, November 3 from 7am to 7pm.** This is also the deadline for turning in absentee ballots at an Election Day voting location or the County Clerk's office.	Los horarios y las fechas de votación anticipada varían según el condado. El día de las elecciones será **el martes 3 de noviembre, la votación será de 7:00 de la** mañana hasta 7:00 de la tarde. Este día es también la fecha límite para entregar las boletas de voto en ausencia en uno de los lugares de votación o en la oficina del Secretario del Condado.

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, October 6-October 16, 8am to 5pm (**Closed** Monday**,** October 12)
Monday-Saturday, October 17-October 31,10am to 7pm

Expanded Early Voting and Election Day Voting
Bernalillo County has an early voting locator tool where you can find the nearest polling location, get directions and view hours.

Early Voting Convenience Centers will be available
Monday-Saturday, October 17-October 31, 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, November 3, 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, October 6-October 31, 8am to 7pm, and Saturdays, October 17, 24 & 31, 10am to 7pm (**Closed** Monday**,** October 12)

Expanded Early Voting and Election Day Voting
Sandoval County has an interactive map where you can find the nearest polling location, get directions and view hours for:

Early Voting
Monday-Saturday, October 17-October 31, 10am to 7pm, most locations.
https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/countyclerk/bureau-of-elections/elections/voting-options/early-voting-sites/

Election Day
Tuesday, November 3, 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

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

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FEDERAL OFFICES

UNITED STATES SENATOR

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

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

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

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

	What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?	***What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?***	***What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?***	***What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?***
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 1				
Melanie Ann **Stansbury** Democrat	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,

	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?*
 Ndidiamaka Ekwua Charlene **Okpareke** Republican	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.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 2

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

"The only title in our democracy that is superior to that of President is that of citizen." – Louis Brandeis, Supreme Court Justice

U.S. Representative (Continued)

United States Representative District 3

	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?*
Teresa **Leger Fernández** Democrat	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.
Martin **Zamora** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*

NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICES

GOVERNOR / LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

In New Mexico's General Election the Governor is elected with the Lieutenant Governor of the same party.

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

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

Greggory D Hull / David M Gallegos

	What qualifies you for this office?	***List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.***	***How would you address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?***	***What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?***
Greggory D **Hull** Republican	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?

	What qualifies you for this office?	*List your top priorities, and explain how you will you achieve them.*	*How can you help the Senate operate more effectively and efficiently?*	*How will you facilitate communication and ensure transparency between government agencies and constituents?*
 David M **Gallegos** Republican	The Lt. Governor's primary constitutional role is presiding over the State Senate, and I've spent 14 years serving in that body. I already know the rules, the relationships, the pressure points, and the personalities. I know the difference between a bill that moves and one that dies in committee, and why. Beyond the Legislature, I bring 30 years with Gas Company of New Mexico and 16 years with Ramirez and Sons Construction--real-world experience in the industries the Senate's work directly affects. As a rural Hispanic 14th generation New Mexican, I bring a perspective that reflects communities too often unheard in Santa Fe.	Accountability: New Mexico has a spending problem masquerading as a revenue problem. I'll push for rigorous auditing of waste, fraud, and abuse--and make findings public. Public safety: I'll advance sentencing reform, oppose catch-and-release policies, and ensure officers have the resources and legal protections they need. Education: I'll champion accountability-based reform, value-added assessment, and expanded school choice for every family regardless of zip code. Affordability: I'll fight for policies that let small businesses breathe, grow our energy sector responsibly, and reduce the regulatory burden crushing working families.	Presiding over the Senate is a leadership role, and I intend to treat it that way. Fourteen years in the Legislature means I understand the procedural rules, have relationships throughout the chamber, and know how to move a body through its work without sacrificing deliberation. I will preside with fairness and consistency, apply the rules evenly regardless of party or personality, and ensure every member--majority and minority alike--has a full and fair opportunity to be heard. A Senate built on procedural integrity gets more done. That is the standard I will hold.	Transparency is a structural commitment. I'll use the Lt. Governor's office as an active conduit between state agencies and the New Mexicans they serve, particularly rural communities that feel like an afterthought in Santa Fe. That means statewide outreach every year, not just election years. It means pushing agencies to communicate plainly and responsively. And it means publicly naming failures when agencies aren't meeting expectations, because sunlight is the most powerful accountability tool we have.

Deb Haaland / Stephanie Garcia Richard

	What qualifies you for this office?	*List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.*	*How would you address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?*	*What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?*
 Deb **Haaland** Democrat	I will bring lived experience and a proven record of results to the Governor's office. I am a 35th-generation New Mexican, educated in our public schools, and a first-generation college graduate. I'm also a single mom who owned a small business and understands what it means to rely on Medicaid, SNAP, and WIC to keep a family afloat. I was a member of Congress and the Secretary of the Interior, where I managed an $18 billion budget and 70,000 employees. In both positions, I worked across the aisle to deliver infrastructure and broadband investments, protect public lands, launch the Missing and Murdered Unit, advance major clean energy projects, and lead historic pollution cleanup. I know how to make the government work for working people	New Mexicans deserve to be able to afford groceries and rent in the same month, feel safe in their communities, see a doctor when they are sick, and for kids to have a quality public education. To put more money in people's pockets, I will raise wages, expand tax relief for working families, pursue paid family and medical leave, aggressively build and grow affordable housing, and support job creation. To ensure our kids are able to read by third grade, I will prioritize literacy outcomes and expand investment in universal childcare, community schools, and educator recruitment. Finally on public safety and healthcare, I will tackle violent crime, drugs, and gun violence, while overhauling CYFD and expanding behavioral health service.	I will always protect New Mexico's water, air, and land. Water is precious—I carried it as a child from the community spigot to my grandmother's house. Our water future must be built on conservation, infrastructure, accountability, and partnership. I will help Tribal nations, rural towns, acequia communities, and colonias repair aging systems, reduce leaks, and grow the workforce needed to keep water flowing. I will strengthen the Water Trust Board, prioritize communities with unsafe drinking water, hold polluters accountable, and require high-water-use industries to conserve so economic growth does not come at the expense of our limited water supply.	New developments must be mutually beneficial, creating good-paying jobs for New Mexicans using local labor while protecting families from cost increases. Projects must prioritize community well-being, utilizing transparency, community benefit agreements, accountability, and clawback provisions to ensure promises are kept. Investment must safeguard water, air, land, and public health, require accurate water reporting, and ensure industries support clean energy and grid stability. I aim for New Mexico to lead in energy, tech, film, and outdoor recreation with long-term value for our communities, preventing exploitation by outside corporations seeking short-term gains.

	What qualifies you for this office?	*List your top priorities, and explain how you will you achieve them.*	*How can you help the Senate operate more effectively and efficiently?*	*How will you facilitate communication and ensure transparency between government agencies and constituents?*
 Stephanie **Garcia Richard** Democrat	I was a public school teacher for 19 years, a three-term State Representative, and Chair of the House Education Committee. As Commissioner of Public Lands for the last eight years, I've generated record- breaking revenue – over $16 billion for our public schools – while holding oil and gas accountable. I also expanded renewable energy projects sevenfold, launched affordable housing initiatives, and reformed agency accountability to plug hundreds of abandoned wells. When Donald Trump attacks New Mexico, I know how to fight back—because I already have, creating protections for New Mexico's precious and historical places, including Mount Taylor and Chaco Canyon.	Deb Haaland and I will lower the cost of living, expand access to affordable healthcare, stop price gouging, make our communities safer, protect our environment and water, and improve public education so our kids read at or above grade level. As Lt. Governor, I will move that agenda through the legislature and hold agencies accountable for delivering it.	I know the legislative process from the inside and out, having served three terms in the House and chaired the House Education Committee. As Lt. Governor, I will make sure the Senate operates with transparency and consistent application of its rules so the public understands what is happening every step of the way. With short, 30- and 60-day sessions, it will be my job to keep the Senate moving efficiently so we can address New Mexico's most pressing challenges.	State government has to go to where New Mexicans actually live, rather than waiting for residents to come to Santa Fe. As Land Commissioner, I broke down agency silos and brought the Land Commissioner's office to every part of New Mexico to meet directly with communities, ranchers, educators, and tribal nations, ensuring that policy wasn't built in a vacuum. I'll continue that practice as Lt. Governor by bringing the Roundhouse to local communities and hearing directly from New Mexicans about the challenges they face where they live.

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?*
Amanda **López Askin** Democrat	As a public servant for 25 years, I bring extensive experience in both government and corporate organizations. I am in my eighth year serving as Doña Ana County Clerk, where I have administered 12 elections in New Mexico's second most populous county. My experience gives me firsthand knowledge of what it takes to conduct accurate, secure, and accessible elections. I have worked directly within the systems that make our democracy function and understand the challenges election officials and workers face. I am prepared to bring that experience, commitment, and knowledge to the Office of Secretary of State and continue strengthening public trust, transparency, and access for voters across New Mexico.	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.
Ramona L **Goolsby** Republican	I am a U.S. Army Reserve veteran, retired family nurse practitioner (including VA service), longtime small-business owner, retired rancher, and elected Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District supervisor. Running a business and completing complex missions taught me precision, accountability, and efficient systems management. I have served as a poll clerk and sponsored transparency referendums. The Secretary of State role is administrative: managing elections, business entity records, and fair statute enforcement for all New Mexicans. I bring practical, results-focused leadership.	Priorities: election integrity and public confidence; accurate, user-friendly business filings; transparent, fair enforcement of campaign finance and lobbying laws; professional office operations. I will maintain accurate voter rolls, support common-sense safeguards, modernize business registration to reduce red tape, apply statutes evenly without favoritism, provide clear public information, and work consistently with county clerks so every eligible vote counts and New Mexico businesses operate efficiently.	The office must be the neutral, authoritative source of clear facts. I will prioritize plain-language resources explaining registration, voting methods, deadlines, and results; provide rapid transparent responses to questions and circulating claims. A transparency portal for election records accessible by the public will be top priority. Partnering with county clerks and using secure channels helps voters obtain reliable information directly from the elections administrator.	As chief elections officer, the Secretary helps administers elections, maintains official records including voter data, supports county clerks, enforces statutes, and ensures consistent transparent procedures. Integrity requires accurate voter rolls, protected data, secure systems, clear public information, and neutral refereeing so every eligible voter can participate and every legal vote is counted accurately. The role is administrative: apply the law evenly and build confidence through competence.

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.

	What qualifies you for this office?	*List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.*	*What actions would you support to make citizens safer?*	*How would you protect states' rights as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?*
Raúl **Torrez** Democrat	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 rulemaking. Protecting states' rights means ensuring New Mexico retains the power to make its own decisions and is not sidelined by unlawful federal action.

	What qualifies you for this office?	*List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.*	*What actions would you support to make citizens safer?*	*How would you protect states' rights as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?*
 Samuel Isaiah **Kane** Sr Republican	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 firsthand 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.

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.

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

"We in America do not have government by the majority.
We have government by the majority who participate." – Thomas Jefferson

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.

	What qualifies you for this office?	*What is your highest responsibility as State Treasurer?*	*How would you address your top priorities?*	*What criteria would you recommend for selecting financial institutions in which to invest state funds?*
 James F **Ellison** Republican	The Treasurer's job is to oversee the professionals who invest about $20 billion, judge their results, and explain them to the public. My training fits that job. I am a CFA charterholder, a credential that requires passing three levels of examination in securities analysis, portfolio management, and ethics. I served on the Public Regulation Commission, deciding complex financial cases on utility rates and capital costs, on the record and subject to court review. I hold a master's degree in management from Stanford. I am a professional, not a politician, and I would hold the office to professional standards: in my first year I will publish an assessment of what it would take to meet the Global Investment Performance Standards.	The State Treasurer's highest responsibility is to safeguard the public money entrusted to the office: about $20 billion belonging to the state and local governments, invested with safety first, liquidity second, and yield third. The Treasurer does not trade that portfolio personally. The job is to hire professionals, set the policy they work within, and hold them accountable for results. The Treasurer owes the public a clear account: New Mexicans should be able to see how their money is invested and how it performed, on time and against benchmarks. The Treasurer also sits on the State Investment Council and 12 other boards, councils, and commissions overseeing about $160 billion, and has a fiduciary duty to each of those funds.	My top priority is improving the transparency of the State Treasurer's Office. The FY2025 annual report was published eleven months after the fiscal year closed and contained no benchmarks -- that's not good enough. I will publish a new investment performance report, in plain English and with benchmarks, within four months of each fiscal year's close. The annual report will be issued by December 31 each year -- no exceptions. Second, I will advocate for moving unclaimed property to the Treasurer's office, as 31 of 50 states already do. Taxation and Revenue holds $390 million belonging to New Mexicans and returned less than 5% of that last year. If the program is transferred, I would make returning these funds a priority.	The Treasurer's staff manage about $20 billion directly, so the key selections are the banks holding state deposits, the governments and corporations whose securities the state buys, and the custodian safeguarding them. For banks: sound capital and regulatory standing, compliance with state collateral requirements, reliable reporting and operations, and a competitive rate—in that order. For securities: strong credit quality. For the custodian: segregated, independently verified holdings. Each relationship should be reviewed regularly against these criteria, with results disclosed. When a lower return is accepted to support local lending, it must stay within the limits set by law, and the yield forgone should be reported.
 Laura M **Montoya** Democrat	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 when making tough decisions. In 2023, the portfolio I managed was $14 billion. Today, it is $24 billion. That is a significant increase in a very short period of time. The workload within STO has dramatically increased, and the team that I have built are doing an amazing job that New Mexican should be proud of and feel confident in. We provide not only banking but outreach that promotes financial education.	I have been addressing them, and we are ready to continue the work with your support. We are building a strong team to achieve our goals. We are earning $2 mil/day for the state and have the largest portfolio the state treasurer's office has ever had. We are holding the Trump administration accountable, especially when his orders negatively affect New Mexico. We are collaborating efforts with several partners to support financial fitness to open access to more opportunity, baby bonds to build generational wealth, and NM STABLE to assist our disability community. We are educating leaders on the resources needed to get the job done with best practices and internal controls as a priority.	If you are referring to working with banks to manage our cash deposits, we base the relationship on risk and compliance as well as their reporting, collateral requirements, and the rate they can provide. We are developing a new program that will allow me to work with our local banks at a lower rate, with the commitment that the local banks will do more to contribute to our communities in small business loans, mortgages, or small loans for community members. This is a great partnership with our local banks. We love our bank partners and what they do for our communities across New Mexico and how they support financial education.

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.

	What qualifies you for this office?	*What are your top three priorities for the State Land Office (SLO)?*	*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.)?*	*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?*
 Michael Jack **Perry** Republican	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.

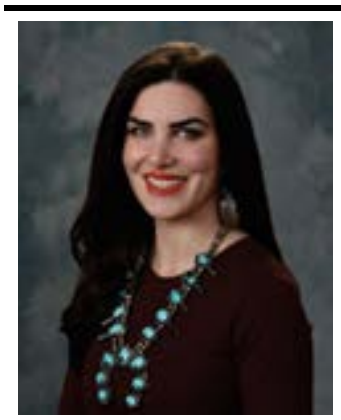
	What qualifies you for this office?	*What are your top three priorities for the State Land Office (SLO)?*	*How would you balance the oversight and protection of state trust lands with the need to generate revenue for the support of the beneficiaries (e.g., public schools, universities, etc.)?*	*What 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?*
Juan De Jesus **Sanchez** III Democrat	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. We also need to focus on community benefit funds for these projects, so communities impacted are benefiting as well. Done right, transmission can strengthen our economy while protecting what makes our state unique.

NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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

	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 10				
G Andres **Romero** Democrat	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.
Christopher P **Crane** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 11				
Javier I **Martínez** Democrat	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 12				
Art **De La Cruz** Democrat	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
Steven E **Tafoya** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*

	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 13				
Patricia A **Roybal Caballero** Democrat	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.	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 & adequate benefits for quality of living, Expand Voting Rights Access and Protections, Invest in Community & School Safety, Promote Responsible & 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 & transparency to government...	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.	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.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 14				
Miguel P **García** Democrat	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.	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.	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.	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.
Richard Victor **Zubia** Republican	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!	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!	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.	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.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 15				
 Dayan "Day" Mercedes **Hochman-Vigil** Democrat	I am a four term legislator with experience in several different key policy areas, such as public safety and the judiciary, transportation infrastructure and renewable energy development, environmental stewardship, transparency in government practices and legislative processes, and many others. I also currently serve as the House Majority Whip and am the former chair of the House Transportation, Public Works, and Capital Improvements committee. In my day job I am an attorney with fourteen years of experience specializing in aviation and space litigation and regulatory law.	My priorities for the 2027 60-day legislative session will be appropriate regulation and control of data centers around the state, expansion of clean energy, cite readiness and grid modernization, limitation of federal overreach, and healthcare expansion and access.	The state needs a comprehensive water conservation and infrastructure development plan, as well as additional state investment in aquifer preservation practices. The state must also limit tapping of water resources by large data center and construction projects without further state regulation.	We must continue to create an environment where healthcare providers want to live and work. That means leveling the playing field for legal liability (while also guaranteeing those hurt by malpractice are fairly and adequately compensated), creating more educational opportunities to work in the healthcare field without requiring crippling student debt, and incentivizing healthcare providers to live and raise their families in our state.

	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 16				
 Yanira **Gurrola Valenzuela** Democrat	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.	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.	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.	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.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 17				
 Cynthia D **Borrego** Democrat	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. 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. As the District 17 incumbent and a small business owner, I understand the challenges facing our community and, will offer practical solutions.	My highest priorities are promoting bills that are solutions to reducing crime, attracting economic development/jobs and improving our educational systems. 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.	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.	I was proud to Co-sponsor HB 99 Medical Malpractice Changes,signed by the Governor. 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. Other bills I Co-sponsored included HB 32 Counseling Liscensure Compact HB 33 Psychology Inter-jurisdictional Compact, other compacts were seen as priorities, so these can be reintroduced in 2026.
Brenda Diane **Boatman** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 18				
 Marianna A **Anaya** Democrat	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.	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.	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.	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.

	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 19				
Janelle I **Anyanonu** Democrat	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.	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.	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.	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.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 20				
Meredith A **Dixon** Democrat	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 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				
Robert L **Mason** Republican	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 also have access to "produced water" from our oil and gas wells. Right now the companies are selling that to Texas because we don't have standards to allow it to be used here. That water can also be treated and used in New Mexico.	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.

"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future." – John F. Kennedy

	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?*
 Debra Marie **Sarinana** Democrat	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.

State Representative District 22

 Stefani **Lord** Republican	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.
 Zachary P **Withers** Independent	I was born and raised in this community and have a depth of perspective on the challenges we face that comes only with time . I operate a regenerative farm and a local food business, and am intimately familiar with the challenges facing agriculture, as well as barriers to economic development more generally. I co-manage the Cedar Crest Farmers Market, and sit on the Bernalillo County Planning and Zoning Commission. I have done extensive policy work at the local, state and national level, and successfully lobbied to change laws to support local agriculture, and stop unsustainable development. I have I have a bachelors degree from Middlebury College in International Studies with a focus on Political Science, and a passion for water.	Decisive action to address the water is crisis is my main priority. Solutions have to address the underlying reality that the state has allocated roughly twice the amount of private use rights to water that our communities water resources can sustain. There is no 'new' water resource that we can tap into to sustain that demand. We must balance the states water budget by balancing the demand with sustainable supply. There are no silver bullets but there are solutions: Conservation, water reuse and recycling, direct catchment, large scale investment in regenerating our soils, restoring ecological healthy to our water sheds, stopping water waste and contamination, and ensuring equitable access to clean water as a right.	We should build on the Water Planning Security Act to develop water management districts based around hydrological basins, ban inter-basin tranfers, create democratic institutions to oversee those districts, and provide them with the resources and funding to monitor and manage available local water resources to meet the needs of the local communities. We should be investing billions into repairing and replacing aging water infrastructure and transitioning municipal water systems to water recycling, providing tax incentives and grant funds to pay for rain catchment infrastructure, modifying public land grazing prescriptions support regenerative grazing practices, and working to heal our water sheds from the head waters to the rivers.	We should enact modern anti-barratry laws to reduce predatory litigation and bring down malpractice insurance rates, provide supplemental funding to ensure rural health care access, especially OBGYN services for women in rural areas, legislate and enforce requirements for transparency in billing from health insurance companies, and provide the public with tools and support to advocate for their own health. Just as importantly we need to pay more attention what drives up demand for health care, and invest in increasing access to healthy, nutrient dense local food, eliminating toxins from our environment, ensuring access to healthy water, and building strong communities and a strong local economies where people can live a healthy life.
 William Bill **Scott** Democrat	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 in-depth 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 nontrival 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.

	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 23				
 Alan T **Martinez** Republican	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.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 24				
 Elizabeth L **Thomson** Democrat	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.	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.	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.	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.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 25				
Denis **Litvinenko** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
 Cristina S **Parajon** Democrat	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.	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.	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.	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.

"Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights and privileges of free people and who would preserve what is good and fruitful in our national heritage." – Dwight D. Eisenhower

State Representative District 26

	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?
Eleanor **Chávez** Democrat	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.	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.	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.	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.
Corey Rubin **Zimmerman** Republican	I live in HD 26. I am a board-certified hospice chaplain, life coach, and small-business and nonprofit leader with a Master of Divinity. I walk with families through crisis and have knocked on more than 1,000 doors here. I am qualified because I already live our district's problems—safety, schools, health care, and jobs—and I will work across the aisle to fix them.	My highest priorities for House District 26 are public safety, schools that actually prepare kids, and health care that families can use. I will start by listening in the district—not Santa Fe—and by co-sponsoring bills that already have a path: stronger consequences for repeat violent crime and fentanyl trafficking; workforce and trade pathways so graduates can earn here; and hospice and primary-care reforms that cut red tape so patients keep their doctors and families get support at the end of life. I will vote the budget like a household: fund the core, measure results, and say no to spending that does not make this district safer, better educated, or healthier.	Water is law before it is politics. The Legislature must keep New Mexico in compliance with the Rio Grande Compact and the Lower Rio Grande Settlement so we do not face new lawsuits. That means metering what we use, enforcing rights, fixing leaky pipes and ditches, and funding storage and watershed work that keeps water in the system. We should also learn from other dry places. Israel and parts of Arizona and Australia treat wastewater for farms and industry, and store wet-year water underground through aquifer recharge.	Access in District 26 means care close to home, not an ER across town. I will work to site a full-service hospital in this district so families don't have to d out of HD 26 for emergencies and deliveries. Doctors and hospitals will not stay here while New Mexico remains a lawsuit magnet. I support medical-liability reform on the Texas model: a hard cap on noneconomic damages, early expert-report requirements, and limits that let clinicians buy insurance and keep practicing. Patients would still recover economic losses,wages and medical bills. I also support increased reimbursement for Medicare and Medicaid at least 20%, so clinics and hospitals can keep staff. Pair that with training pipelines for nurses and aides. Measure it by wait times.

State Representative District 27

Jahnelle Louise **Garcia** Republican	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.	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.	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.	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. Acess starts with supporting the people who deliver care, and that's where I
Abby Christine **Foster** Democrat	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.	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.	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).	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.

	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 28				
Pamelya Paulette **Herndon** Democrat	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.	My highest priorities focus on ensuring all children have access to a quality education, and economic opportunities are available to everyone. I help address systemic issues of juvenile crime by providing access to internship and apprenticeship programs and by helping students know they are a valued part of our community. I work to ensure every person has equal access to healthcare, with special emphasis on accessing behavioral healthcare. I am a strong proponent of working with city and county officials to help individuals have access to quality, affordable housing. I focus on ensuring there are viable infrastructure platforms in place to protect access to water in New Mexico. I work to keep our communities safe and walkable.	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.	We must first find ways to encourage doctors who are completing their medical residency programs 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 premiums.
Brenda J **Olson** Republican	At 20, I began a service career in the U.S. Air Force, earning an FBI Top Secret security clearance. I maintained B-52 aircraft and missile integration systems, protected classified information, managed training and deployments, wrote government contracts, improved technical manuals, and taught safety and security requirements. Two years in Japan taught me to build relationships, solve problems, and work across cultures. While working full time, I earned an MBA in Global Management. I later served with the U.S. Forest Service, interpreting regulations affecting more than 60,000 employees and turning complex requirements into practical solutions. I bring discipline, accountability, teamwork, and a results-driven approach to public service.	Crime: I support a real "Three Strikes" law for repeat offenses, especially violent crimes, sexual abuse, and crimes against minors. Life without parole should mean life, not release after 30 years. Juveniles who commit heinous crimes should face adult consequences. I support stronger victims' rights protections against repeat offenders. Accountability: Require a full, independent audit of state spending and transparent individual income reporting by legislators. Eliminate the GRT, and provide oil and gas resource rebates to adult New Mexico residents. CYFD: Put child safety first, separate neglected children from juvenile offenders, improve facilities and foster care, and strengthen independent oversight. Children are New Mexico's future.	New Mexico and local governments must take primary responsibility for conservation, watershed restoration, drainage maintenance, and water infrastructure. Federal agencies should provide funding, technical assistance, and support—not replace local decision-making. Employ seasonal workers to clear culverts and drainage systems after fires, reducing flash floods, mudflows, and erosion. Invest in local restoration and erosion-control strategies. Require non-potable water for public landscaping, and enforce fines for violations. Use the General Fund to replace outdated infrastructure, reduce leaks, prevent failures and sinkholes, and expand water harvesting and aquifer recharge. Work with Congress to explore desalination opportunities.	New Mexico's malpractice system should protect patients without punishing good doctors. I support a review of malpractice claims through an independent process, reform tort actions, and place reasonable limits on attorney fees. Expand healthcare across state lines, and reduce licensing requirements. Invest in our healthcare workforce by expanding training and residency opportunities, provide loan-forgiveness programs for local students who practice here, and offer incentives to attract healthcare professionals in underserved communities. Eliminate the GRT on medical costs and make medical expenses fully tax deductible. We need to build accessible mental health facilities throughout the state to deal with the mental health crisis.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 29				
Joy I **Garratt** Democrat	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.	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.	We must address the water use realities of everyone from consumers watering their yards to the crops we grow to 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.	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.
Carolyn **Stith** Republican	I have over 40 years' experience leading and advising teams across multi-governmental and international services: Current Disabled Veteran Small Business Owner. I 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 & 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 policy.	New Mexico is NOT a "poor" state; but IS a "poorly run" state. Get back to the basics of restoring Common-Sence Governance: Integrity: 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, affordability and quality of life support, and legislation empowering our law enforcement agencies to reduce crime. Service: I will engage with my constituents to represent their concerns. I am for the people. Excellence: New Mexicans are so much better than the narrative! Protect our citizens and legal immigrants and capitalize on our state resources (generational education and training, small businesses, oil and gas/farmers).	This is not my area of expertise. Anyone claiming to be the "end all" or "know it all" who claims to have answers to all the issues is a fake. I am thrilled to see water release from northern New Mexico into the Rio Grande! We have a lot of very smart and engaged people in our state who are familiar with our water needs who also can provide their expertise and possible solutions to address this issue. I would continue to and listen and learn from 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. Together we can create solutions for our state.	I believe we as a state have already begun to make some in-roads to address our access challenges. We must look at providing attractive incentives to keep our college graduates and their families in New Mexico, and to encourage others to come and serve in our state. Additional fire, police, and medical facility are needed. First responder response time and access to medical facilities is crucial. We must look at incentives to encourage and support nurses, medical, Emergency Medical Technicians, doctors, and fire and law enforcement technicians/officers to come, remain and serve our New Mexico population. These resources include education, safety, and affordability (housing/quality of life for them and their families).

	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				
 Jerry L **Trujillo** Republican	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.
 Elizabeth Diane **Torres-Velásquez** Democrat	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 address my priorities of equity and civil rights through my work in public education, expanded access to and affordability of health care, public safety, and making life more affordable for every New Mexican by collaborating with and listening to my constituents, stakeholder groups, experts in these fields, and my colleagues in both chambers. I make decisions based on numerical data and am informed by the stories my constituents share. I examine relevant policies, hold town hall meetings in my community, and identify solutions that are working, building on those successes, or I identify and propose needed change. I contribute to initiatives that protect our natural resources, uplift our communities, and move our state forward.	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				
 Nicole **Chavez** Republican	I bring more than 26 years of healthcare leadership experience, firsthand experience as a victim advocate, and a proven legislative record. I have sponsored and co-sponsored legislation addressing violent crime, protections for law enforcement, victims' rights, healthcare access, provider shortages, and medical malpractice reform, including legislation signed into law. I understand the challenges families face with public safety, healthcare access, and rising costs. I will continue bringing practical experience, accountability, and a strong voice for the Northeast Heights to the Roundhouse.	My highest priorities are public safety, healthcare access, affordability, and CYFD reform. I will continue working to hold violent and repeat offenders accountable and support law enforcement while investing in prevention and rehabilitation. We must recruit and retain healthcare providers, lower barriers to care, and address costs affecting families and small businesses. I will also push for stronger oversight and accountability at CYFD, earlier intervention for families in crisis, responsible spending, and policies that make New Mexico safer and more affordable.	New Mexico needs an all-of-the-above approach to secure our future water supply without placing unnecessary costs on families. We should protect existing supplies while investing in infrastructure, conservation, reuse, storage, and new technologies. That includes responsibly treating brackish water and exploring appropriate uses of treated produced water to reduce pressure on freshwater. Long-term planning should balance the needs of families, agriculture, communities, and responsible economic development while protecting this limited resource for future generations.	*New Mexico must recruit and retain more healthcare providers and make care more affordable and accessible. I support eliminating the gross receipts tax on healthcare provider services, expanding loan repayment and provider recruitment programs, and reducing barriers to practicing in our state. I co-sponsored medical malpractice reform; HB99 and co-sponsored interstate licensure compact legislation to help expand our workforce. With more than 26 years in healthcare, I will continue working on practical solutions that keep providers in New Mexico and improve access to quality care.*
 Lisa **Curtis** Democrat	For 30 years, I've represented New Mexico families against powerful interests and built businesses that invest in people. The Northeast Heights is home: I graduated from Sandia High, UNM and UNM Law, raised four children here, coached their teams, and my parents still live in the district. I employ more than 20 people, many who have been with me for decades, and my second business restores historic Albuquerque buildings. I've also served as a special prosecutor in the case of a serial rapist, chaired the NM Commission on the Status of Women, and for 20 years led the L.K. Curtis Children's Fund. I've seen NM's potential and where our systems fall short. I know how to bring people together, solve problems and make our government work better.	Healthcare is in crisis. We can address the immediate primary-care physician shortage with better pay and reimbursement rates, and the long-term shortage by training, attracting and keeping providers. We should push Congress to expand residency slots and incentives to practice here, and tie medical-school tuition assistance to years of service in New Mexico. Education needs help: smaller classes, supported teachers, more STEM, skilled trades and community schools. AI data centers need a moratorium while strong water and power safeguards become law. We need stronger gun-safety laws and action on juvenile violence and drugs fueling violent crime. Finally, we need to invest in our people and move New Mexico out of survival mode.	Urgent action is needed to protect our water supply, especially as large water users like AI data centers want to come to New Mexico. The state projects approximately 25% less water will be available in our rivers and aquifers over the next 50 years. New Mexico needs federal drought relief, infrastructure funding and sustainable management to support local communities, farmers and ranchers —as Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury has advocated.	Access to good healthcare is a right and my focus. We have a crisis, and we must protect patients and providers. As I stated above we can grow, attract and keep providers of all types. Paying tuition with a tie to years of service, cutting health insurance and corporate control of providers and patients. The new law on punitive damages should reassure physicians. And we need to start building a universal nonprofit healthcare option that businesses can buy alongside Medicare, Medicaid — based on the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) model. Congress must expand medical-school and residency slots to address the national shortage long term. But New Mexicans can't wait—we need state action now to improve access to care.

State Representative District 41

	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?
Yolanda R **Jaramillo** Democrat	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 acequieros 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.

State Representative District 43

	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?
Christine **Chandler** Democrat	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 a 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 physican 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.

State Representative District 44

Kathleen M **Cates** Democrat	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 I 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 and Healthcare are my top priorities. I have and will continue to sponsor bills that provide investments in our water infrastructure and map our aquifers. Having reformed medical malpractice, we still have a long way to go in attracting and retaining healthcare workers. I have sponsored legislation to provide incentives for healthcare professionals to remain in NM and support investments in our medical, nursing, and other healthcare educational programs.	Studies show that NM will have 25% less water in 50 years. In addition to my above comments on water, I have funded and carried legislation to 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.

	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?*
 Adam Stanley **Prior** Republican	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 responsibilitv, 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 currentlv 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.

State Representative District 50

	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?*
 Kenneth Donald **Brennan** Republican	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 incentify 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 to 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.
 Sarah **Boses** Democrat	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. 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.	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.	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.	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.

"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

	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 57				
 Chriselle Verene **Martinez** Democrat	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.	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. 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. 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 Fe	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. 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.	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.
 Catherine Jeanette **Cullen** Republican	I bring proven leadership, experience, and a strong commitment to Rio Rancho. I served for over eight years on the Rio Rancho School Board, where I held leadership roles and advanced Career and Technical Education. As State Representative for District 57, I've focused on education, public safety, healthcare, and our economy. I sponsored legislation to expand New Mexico's RICO Act and strengthen our ability to hold criminals accountable, and I co-sponsored high-quality literacy and math legislation to provide earlier support for students. I also supported medical malpractice reform and helped secure investments in CTE right here in Rio Rancho. With decades in real estate, I understand the challenges our growing community faces.	Public Safety: Pass Juvenile Justice Reform to strengthen our legal system, stop the revolving door, and expand mental health and addiction resources. Support law enforcement with the resources they need. Healthcare: Address New Mexico's shortage of medical professionals by expanding training and improving conditions to recruit and retain providers. Education: Expand Career Technical Education in Rio Rancho and statewide. Ensure students read by 3rd grade through high-impact tutoring, and make sure state dollars reach the classroom. Economy: Bring more high-paying jobs to New Mexico through a competitive business climate and workforce investment. Veterans: Ensure our veterans receive the resources and benefits they've earned.	*Invest in infrastructure to reduce water loss. *Invest in the treatment and desalination of brackish groundwater for industrial use, conserving our limited freshwater supplies for communities and agriculture.	*Recruit and retain more doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals, particularly with regard to specialists. *Ensure medical malpractice reform stays intact *Expand medical education and residency programs in New Mexico. *Strengthen loan repayment programs to keep providers in our state. *Pass additional interstate healthcare licensing compacts. *Expand BA/MD Programs *Expand telehealth, especially for rural and underserved communities.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 60				
 Luke Nicholas **Jungmann** Democrat	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.
Joshua N. **Hernandez** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 65				
Derrick J **Lente** Democrat	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*

	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 68				
Charlotte L **Little** Democrat	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.	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. 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. I am also committed to addressing public safety by passing commonsense 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.	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.	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.
David E **Adkins** Republican	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 in Westside 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 69				
Michelle Paulene **Abeyta** Democrat	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.	1. Increasing the number of quality-of-life projects in my district (parks, rec centers, trails, pools, fields, etc.). 2. Improving the roads in our rural communities that are in dire need of repair. 3. Supporting law enforcement needs and creating opportunities for enhanced public safety and response times to emergencies. 4. Promoting healthier rural communities by securing funding to expand access to preventative care, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence resources, and lower the rates of chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes.	By learning and listening to experts and understanding the options and what would work best for New Mexicans.	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.)

"Freedom comes in individual packages." – Shirley Boone

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NEW MEXICO STATEWIDE JUDICIAL OFFICES

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE POSITION 1

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

	What qualifies you for this office?	*What are the major challenges for an Appeals Court Judge?*	*What would be the most effective methods to improve Appeals Court procedures and efficiency?*	*What other information would you like voters to know about you?*
Kris **Houghton** Democrat	I believe wholeheartedly that due process is for everyone and that no one is above or beneath the law. I vow to uphold the US and NM Constitutions. I have served in this office since Gov. Lujan Grisham appointed me in 2025, after I was recommended to her by a 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 result for the right reasons. The work demands rigorous legal analysis and clear writing. I follow the example of my mentors by carefully parsing applicable rules, statutes, and case law. I then work tirelessly with fellow judges, clerks, and staff to ensure we draft an opinion that is understandable by the public. Finally, with ~800 cases filed in the court each year, the work load demands discipline and diligence.	With just ten judges on the Court of Appeals serving the entire State, there is a great need for efficiency. Toward that goal, the Court has developed a number of strategies over the years. For example, the Court manages a team of experienced staff attorneys who use a calendaring system to filter cases by degree of difficulty. The Court recently piloted a successful mediation program that facilitates settlement for appropriate cases. Those strategies have reduced the number of cases awaiting a decision. But the Court should (and does) strive toward continual improvement. To that end, the judges meet monthly to discuss and employ new methods. We are working to build more efficiency in the way we write and participate on our opinions.	I am married to María Montoya who is an OB/Gyn and attending physician at the University of New Mexico Hospital. My wife and I are raising three children and stay busy with their football, soccer, basketball, and track activities. I earned my law degree from UNM School of Law, where I received the Dean's Award for Significant Contribution to the Law School Community and was on the Dean's List and Honor Roll. I also previously served as a Captain in the US Air Forces Reserves. I was commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force JAG Corps and was assigned to the 27th Special Operations Wing at Cannon Air Force Base and the 377th Air Base Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base.

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

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.

	What qualifies you for this office?	*What are your top three priorities for the Public Education Commission?*	*How should the Public Education Commission assess the financial stability of schools before authorizing or renewing a charter?*	*How will you evaluate the educational performance of state charter schools?*
PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2				
Kenneth James **Pascoe** Republican	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 properly reflects the funding the school 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.
PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3				
Dennis C **Dinge** Forwardist	First of all I'm a dad to two kids who have attended Charter Schools. I have been an educator. I was a professor for several years. I am a scientist and will rigorously pursue data driven solutions to improve public charter schools. My wife is a former APS high school science teacher and is currently an educator giving presentations to dozens of APS elementary schools each year on water production, use and conservation for the water authority. She is an excellent sounding board and advisor for what it's like to be a public school teacher in New Mexico and what students at various schools are like.	The evaluation of Charter schools must be based on scientifically sound, transparent and equitable methods. The criteria used by the PEC to determine this should be reviewed annually. Charter schools should focus on eliminating any barriers to attendance for the at risk and disadvantaged. Charter schools must satisfy the requirements of the Martinez/Yazzie court ruling. Public charter schools are the research and development branch of the public school system. I will emphasize making sure best practices from from public charter schools are transferred to all public schools and work to make sure transfer mechanisms are available.	All state authorized charter schools are required to have an annual audit. The audit will include the audited financial statements of the school along with any audit findings and recommendations on the charter school's financial operating systems. A review of these financials and reports from the annual audit should provide as a basis for renewal. The PED's Budget Office should be requested to provide key indicators of financial sustainability. These indicators should include what the schools student membership was projected to be and what it actually is since student membership determines actual funding. The PEC should check that the school is meeting state financial reporting deadlines and contractual financial compliance items.	Charter schools should be evaluated against their peers and against similar student populations. If the data exist this is how as a scientist I would do it. I would take the anonymized data for each student in the charter school. I would find anonymized doubles for each student at a variety of different but similar non-charter public schools. Then I would compare outcomes. It is important to I think to eliminate any bias know or unknown from comparing to just one school or a few. If the data is not available I would pursue the best unbiased method that could be done with the data that is available. For aspects of the charter school curricula that may not exist elsewhere the educational performance will necessarily need to be case by case

	What qualifies you for this office?	*What are your top three priorities for the Public Education Commission?*	*How should the Public Education Commission assess the financial stability of schools before authorizing or renewing a charter?*	*How will you evaluate the educational performance of state charter schools?*
 Jacob A **Trujillo** Democrat	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. 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. That experience has kept me closely connected to families, educators, and students across New Mexico. I understand how decisions made truly impact our communities.	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. 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. 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.	For first time applications, the PEC should require detailed, realistic financial plans, including enrollment projections, budgets, community buy-in, and long-term sustainability. We must be cautious of overly optimistic projections or unclear funding sources. 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. 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.	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. 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. 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.
PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5				
Sharon E **Clahchischilliage** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 6				
Stewart Alan **Ingham** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

NM DISTRICT COURT JUDGES SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

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.

	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?*
DIVISION 2				
 Matthew Edwin **Chavez** Democrat	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.

NM District Court Judges Second Judicial District (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?*
Division 11				
 Bryan T **Fox** Democrat	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.
Division 19				
 Diana Lynn **Garcia** Democrat	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.
Division 24				
 Crystal Emerald **Lees** Democrat	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.

BERNALILLO METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGES

JUDGE OF THE METROPOLITAN COURT

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?*
DIVISION 5				
 Ramon J **Maestas** Democrat	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 handouts 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.
 Kerry J **Morris** Republican	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 Metorpolitan 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. I 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 knowlegeable pubilic servant for the people of New Mexico.
DIVISION 19				
Andrea Inez **Gunderson** Democrat	I bring to the Metropolitan Court bench nearly two decades of legal practice and experience in diverse areas of law. Most recently, I served a 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.

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

BERNALILLO COUNTY OFFICES

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.

	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?*
John D **Allen** Democrat	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.	Through continued collaboration, research, and proven results. Policy, budget, discussion, and follow through are necessary to succeed as Bernalillo County Sheriff.	Continuation of goals and initiatives. Technology, trust, engaged community policing have proven results and will continue our success.	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.

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.

	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?*
Michael Ray **Maine** Republican	40 years of Business Management experience, multiple long and short-term rentals with a focus on details and accountability.	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.	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.	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.
Linda **Stover** Democrat	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. I also served 2 terms as the Bernalillo County Clerk. I am very familiar with the process of government at the County level.	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.	Hire and train appraisers that are qualified to do the job.	Any and all that is available. Make sure all employees are current on education requirements.

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.

	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?*
BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1				
Barbara Christine **Baca** Democrat	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*

Bernalillo County Commissioner District 5

	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?
Thomas Wayne **Riley** Republican	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.	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.	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.	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.
Eric **Olivas** Democrat	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.	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.	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.	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.

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.

	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?
Veronica **Hernandez** Democrat	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,& integrity.	Change is necessary when a current or previous system is no longer effective. I would assess and analyze what processes are no longer working or beneficial. You don't have to be an attorney to recognize when change needs to be implemented. It takes common sense and actual experience working with the public. Knowing and understanding that Bernalillo County is highly diverse in cultures. Most importantly, firsthand knowledge of what families need, to make any processes more efficient.	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.	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.

"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

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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.

	What qualifies you for this office?	*What are the major challenges when serving as a Magistrate Judge?*	*What would be the most effective methods to improve Magistrate Court procedures and efficiency?*	*What other information would you like voters to know about you?*
SANDOVAL COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 1				
Ann Marie **Maxwell-Chavez** Democrat	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
SANDOVAL COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 2				
F Kenneth **Eichwald** Democrat	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
SANDOVAL COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 3				
Delilah M **Montano-Baca** Democrat	I have a degree is 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 beach.	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.	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.	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.

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.

	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?*
Victor J **Rodriguez** Republican	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.	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!	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.	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.

	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?
John Paul **Trujillo** Democrat	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	Protecting rights of the community and upholding the constitution of the United States and the state of New Mexico	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	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

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?
Lawrence D **Griego** Republican	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.
Gerred **Prairie** Democrat	My qualifications are grounded in direct experience, public service, and a long-standing commitment to Sandoval County and the Bernalillo community. I bring 25 years of direct experience in the Assessor's Office as a Mobile Home Clerk/Appraiser, giving me firsthand knowledge of office operations, property assessments, and the importance of accurate, fair, responsive public service.	I will pursue taxpayer relief requiring County and Legislative approval, including a senior exemption for residents 65 and older with incomes of $150,000 or less, and review updating the $2,000 head-of-household exemption. I will also work to protect agricultural status by working with farmers, ranchers, communities, villages, and governing bodies to address drought, economic pressures, and rural needs to safeguard the agricultural exemption status.	I will promote accurate, fair, and transparent property valuations by applying tax laws consistently, using reliable data, maintaining current records, meeting deadlines, clearly explaining assessments and exemptions, helping owners understand corrections and appeals, improving customer service, and using technology to increase accuracy.	I support ongoing training and professional development for appraisers and staff to ensure accurate, fair, and efficient public service. This includes IAAO certifications, online courses, New Mexico Association of Assessors Affiliate participation, and training in property valuation, law changes, data management, GIS mapping, cross-training, office operations and respectful public interaction.

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

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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.

	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 1				
Paul J **Madrid** Democrat	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.
Rebecca Lynn **Skartwed** Republican	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 communal interests. I now serve as an Advancement Strategist, where I continue to build partnerships, secure resources, and assist with long-term community development.	The thing I place first is the protection and conservation of Sandoval County's water resources since water is a necessity in New Mexico and it is essential to our future that we guard our aquifers and watersheds. I am going to work on keeping the natural flow of water from the Sandia Mountains to the Rio Grande, will oppose any development projects that put at risk our already scarce water supply, and will support responsible growth that combines economic opportunity with Sustainability.	I believe technology should make county government more open and accessible. With a background in Information Systems and Business, I would improve information sharing by creating clearer, easier-to-understand summaries of agenda items, expanding digital notifications, and making the county website more user-friendly. I would also combine these tools with in-person community updates and outreach. This way, residents receive information early and in ways that work for them.	My family has been connected to the land and water of New Mexico since 1765, when we settled in Placitas. Today, the state is using more water than the land and climate can handle. When springs or acequias run dry, entire communities feel the effects. Counties can help by protecting watersheds, making sure new development matches real water supplies, respecting traditional water uses, being more transparent, and pushing for better data. Water is essential to life.
SANDOVAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3				
Edwin Paul **Linson** Republican	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.
Frank James **Smith** Jr Democrat	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 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.

	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?*
 Donna Iven **Tillman** Democrat	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. As a retired Tenured Professor with a Juris Doctorate, I have the legal foundation necessary to interpret statutes, apply precedent, and ensure that all probate matters—wills and estates are handled with precision and fairness. My Ph.D. & M.B.A. equip me with strong organizational and management skills.	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.	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 or opening an estate . I would support regular community outreach such as senior centers and retirement homes.	I moved to New Mexico because my son, daughter, and two grandchildren, Miles & Alena Gonzales already lived here. It was a very good place to retire. I have volunteered my time with various non-profit organizations. I served on the Board of Directors of Rebuilding Together Sandoval County for 15 years. It is a non-profit charity which provides very low income homeowners with help in fixing their homes & anyone who needs help should contact them by way of their website, help@rebuildingnm.org.
 Rebecca A **Torres** Republican	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.	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.	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.	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.

"The vote is a trust more delicate than any other,
for it involves not just the interests of the voter,
but his life, honor and future as well." – José Martí

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

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JUDICIAL RETENTION MEASURES

JUSTICES OF THE NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT

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

Ballot Language: Shall NAME OF INCUMBENT be retained as Justice of the SUPREME COURT? [YES/NO]

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

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

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

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

JUDGE OF THE NEW MEXICO COURT OF APPEALS

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

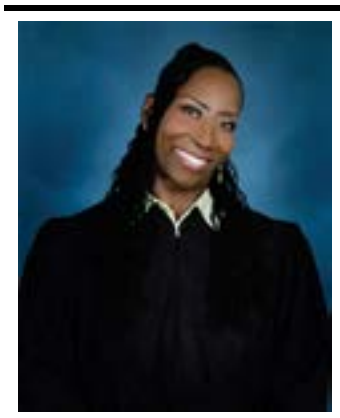
Ballot Language: Shall NAME OF INCUMBENT be retained as Judge of the COURT OF APPEALS? [YES/NO]

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

NM DISTRICT COURT JUDGES SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

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

Ballot Language: Shall NAME OF INCUMBENT be retained as Judge of the NAME OF COURT? [YES/NO]

	What qualifies you for this office?	*In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how have you helped improve the operations of the District Court?*	*What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?*	*What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to equal justice in this judicial district?*
DIVISION 1				
William Edward **Parnall** Nonpartisan	I was raised in the south valley in albuquerque and understand our people. I care for New Mexico and our people and hope to improve their lives. I have been a judge for 18 years.	I have participated in the tribal/state judicial consortium with the aim to work with Native American judges to improve the relationship between state and tribal governments.	Only the strength and integrity of judges can ensure the independence of the judiciary. I do my best to be strong in my desire to do justice.	I do not see many obstacles in our district except for the lack of sufficient attorneys and staff to do the work of Cyfd.
DIVISION 4				
 Beatrice J **Brickhouse** Nonpartisan	I was appointed as a judge to the civil division in 2009 and have served in this position for 17 years. Prior to becoming a judge, I was a lawyer for 16 years. I have handled thousands of cases, hearings, and trials, and I always endeavor to do my best. I am knowledgeable about the law which ensures that my decisions are well informed. Additionally, I have always received a Retain recommendation from the New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission.	As the presiding judge of the civil division, I assist the chief judge with administrative duties for the court. Like all the judges, I support and do my part in sharing resources court-wide so that all judges can perform their duties effectively.	There should be policies regulating the conduct of judges. New Mexico has a policy, the Code of Judicial Conduct. The Code requires that judges "uphold and promote the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary." I believe strongly in my obligation to remain free of political influence.	The lack of resources and funding present the greatest obstacles for equal justice. Without the necessary resources and funding, many citizens face challenges that are difficult to overcome and may impact their access to justice. The court tries to mitigate these challenges by providing assistance in many ways, including through having programs and employees to assist self-represented litigants, a track for smaller claims to be resolved more quickly, public computer access for hearings and to access court dockets, and the foreclosure settlement program.
DIVISION 7				
Alma C Garcia **Roberson** Nonpartisan	I am well qualified for the office of District Court Judge, having served my community as a Children's Court Judge in the Second Judicial District Court since February 2021. In this role, I preside over the full range of matters arising under New Mexico's Children's Code, and I have developed a deep and practical understanding of the laws and rules governing abuse and neglect, delinquency, adoption, fostering connections, and emancipation proceedings in Bernalillo County. These five years of direct experience on the bench, on top of my role as an attorney in Children's Court prior to taking the bench, have uniquely prepared me to continue serving my community in this role.	I currently chair the New Mexico Supreme Court's Children's Court Improvement Commission (CCIC), which works to improve outcomes for children and families in Children's Court by engaging stakeholders in innovative initiatives. I also serve on the New Mexico Supreme Court's Children's Court Rules Committee, where I join other stakeholder representatives in reviewing, researching, and analyzing proposed rule changes and making recommendations to the Supreme Court regarding their adoption. In addition, I serve as Co-Chair of Bernalillo County's Justice, Equity, and Development Initiative (JEDI), which supports the statutory purpose of the Children's Code's Delinquency Act, NMSA 1978, Section 32A-2-2 (2007).	Public education about the judiciary's role is essential. Judicial independence depends on the public's understanding that judges apply the law to the facts of each case rather than political considerations. Our decisions are guided by statute, precedent, and constitutional principles rather than external pressure. We need continued transparency about how judges are selected, evaluated, and held accountable as well as public outreach explaining the rules and laws that guide our decisions. Together, this helps insulate the judiciary from political influence and preserves public confidence in the courts.	A significant obstacle is the shortage of practitioners in Children's Court, which is causing critical case delays. This shortage spans multiple essential roles, from attorneys to CYFD permanency workers. Our district does not currently have enough of these vital stakeholders to meet demand.

Judicial Retention Measures (Continued)

	What qualifies you for this office?	*In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how have you helped improve the operations of the District Court?*	*What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?*	*What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to equal justice in this judicial district?*
Division 10				
Bruce C **Fox** Nonpartisan	I have been a District Court Judge in Albuquerque for the last 5 years, since being appointed by Governor Lujan Grisham in 2021, then getting elected in the 2022 general election. Previously, I was the Chief Judge for the Pueblo of Laguna for 8 years. Prior to being a judge, I lived in New Mexico and practiced law for about 20 years in a variety of areas of law, at DNA Legal Services on the Navajo Nation, private practice, and at the Law Offices of the Public Defender. I became licensed to practice law in New Mexico in 1993.	I have been appointed to different New Mexico Supreme Court Committees, each designed to improve the overall practice of law in New Mexico, including District Court. These are the Criminal Uniform Jury Instruction Committee, the New Mexico Tribal/State Judicial Consortium, and the Commission on Mental Health and Competency. Additionally, I am one of two judges to preside over the Second Judicial District Court Mental Health Court in Albuquerque. This is a special program that focuses on treating individuals whose severe behavioral health issues are associated with their charged crimes. The goal is to get these people stable on proper medication and treatment, and maintain that stability long-term to reduce further criminal activity.	Additional policies are not necessary to maintain judicial independence from political influence. Instead, it is a matter of following the existing laws and assuring that when judges take office they understand the role of the judge. The New Mexico Constitution defines and empowers the judicial branch as distinct from the legislature and the governor. Additionally, the New Mexico Supreme Court has adopted judicial standards that give direction to judges in order that they maintain judicial independence. By following these existing laws, judges should remain independent.	One of the major obstacles to equal justice in this judicial district is individuals who lack either education or resources that allow them to fully access the justice system. And this tends to have a greater impact on minorities and the poor. Addressing these concerns is an ongoing issue. We have legal aid services, and public defenders, and the court has online access to legal forms. Additionally, there are other programs run through the State Legal Bar such as lawyers who volunteer representation to those who can't afford it, and days set up for lawyer volunteers to give people free legal advice over the phone. It is a matter of assuring that these programs and organizations have enough resources that will assure equal justice.
Division 13				
Lisa Chavez **Ortega** Nonpartisan	I am grateful to have served as District Judge at the Second Judicial District Court in the Civil Division since April 2019. For more than seven years, I have presided over bench and jury trials and maintained a docket of more than 1,300 cases. I enjoy the breadth of the civil docket which includes a variety of substantive areas of law including personal injury and wrongful death, breach of contract, probate, property, guardianship, and foreclosure to name a few. The docket also includes complex disputes between large corporations as well as conflicts between neighbors. Before being appointed to this position, I practiced civil law for more than 21 years, which prepared me well for service on the bench.	Operations at the district court have changed significantly since I joined the bench, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through those challenges, our courts had to pivot and essentially transform operations. That transformation resulted in providing the public with more opportunities for access through remote, videoconference appearances and on-line filing. As a judge, I have been flexible and patient with the many changes in technology. And I learned a great deal about how to use that technology. Those technological developments have improved court operations.	Judges are bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct which sets forth the ethical rules and standards to ensure fairness, integrity and independence of the judiciary.	*No response received.*
Division 16				
Jennifer J **Wernersbach** Nonpartisan	I have been in my position as a judge for over five (5) years and had seventeen (17) years of experience as a lawyer in Albuquerque and around New Mexico prior to that.	I am currently the senior judge in our Drug Court treatment program, which strives to help defendants achieve and maintain sobriety in order to prevent future criminal charges. Through Drug Court, we have cut down recidivism and have helped hundreds of participants find a path forward without crime by helping them seek treatment, find stable housing, and reunite with their families as trusted and sober members of our community. This is not only good for our participants but also our community and helps cut down the volume of new cases coming into the District Court.	The laws and canons already in place mandate that judicial officers do not take into account political influences or public opinions in their decision-making. Educating the public of the limitations on what judges can and should consider in each case would be a helpful step in understanding the role judges play in our three-branch system of government. Each judge following their already imposed mandates fosters judicial independence as well.	Difficulties in accessing the court, difficulties in understanding different rules and requirements that can change depending on the nature of the case, logistical obstacles in obtaining outside information for cases, monetary limitations in hiring attorneys, lack of understanding in what the justice system can and cannot do.
Division 22				
Amber Louise Chavez **Baker** Nonpartisan	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*

	What qualifies you for this office?	*In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how have you helped improve the operations of the District Court?*	*What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?*	*What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to equal justice in this judicial district?*
DIVISION 25				
Jane Conway **Levy** Nonpartisan	I have been a judge for almost ten years and it has been a rewarding and hard job. My qualifications are also that I am well over the minimum age and have been a lawyer for decades.	I am the co-chair of our court's pro bono committee, which focuses on expanding everyone's access to qualified attorneys and legal services. I am also the chair of the New Mexico Judiciary's technology committee, which seeks to help us keep up with technological advances to make courts function better and people have more access to our court services.	As a judge, I do not feel that I can answer policy questions and should instead focus on making sure I am independent and not afraid to make hard decisions, as that is very much part of my job.	I always focus on what we can do to make it easier for everyone, no matter their income or background, to feel they can access their courts when they need court intervention and that they were given a fair opportunity to be heard by the court. Access to justice is an important goal and that leads to equal justice.
DIVISION 28				
Clara M **Moran** Nonpartisan	I am honored to serve as a district court judge in Bernalillo County. I am a native New Mexican, graduating from UNM law school in 2005. I was a prosecutor from 2005 to 2020, last serving in the role of Chief Deputy Attorney General. I was vetted by a judicial nominating commission, and was appointed by the Governor in July of 2020 and elected by the public in November of 2020.	I currently serve as chair of the 2nd Judicial District Court Security Committee and have worked with stakeholders to ensure the safety of all who enter the courthouse. We have developed protocols for limited and secured cell phone access by litigants, court observers, and jurors. I also served as a judge for the Drug Court specialty court from 2020 to 2025, requiring additional hearings and proceedings beyond my assigned cases.	The code of judicial conduct requires that judges abstain from any conduct or appearance that a judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality is compromised by political loyalty or ideology. New Mexico judicial ethics require that when a judge has a conflict of interest or a significant relationship with a party they must recuse from a case. Judicial retention elections are nonpartisan, and an important way for the public to make informed decisions about judiciary.	The importance of civic education and awareness cannot be overstated. Represented parties, persons accused of a crime, enumerated victims of crime, and prospective jurors should have a basic understanding of criminal procedure and constitutional law. Judges and attorneys should ensure that they are taking every opportunity to explain the constitutional rights that guide procedure, process, and proceedings to those who may not have an understanding of the legal frame work and rule of law.

NM DISTRICT COURT JUDGES THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (CIBOLA, SANDOVAL, AND VALENCIA COUNITES)

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

Ballot Language: Shall NAME OF INCUMBENT be retained as Judge of the NAME OF COURT? [YES/NO]

	What qualifies you for this office?	*In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how have you helped improve the operations of the District Court?*	*What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?*	*What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to equal justice in this judicial district?*
DIVISION 1				
James Lawrence **Sanchez** Nonpartisan	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
DIVISION 4				
Amanda Sanchez **Villalobos** Nonpartisan	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
DIVISION 7				
Christopher George **Perez** Nonpartisan	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*

Judicial Retention Measures (Continued)

BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGES

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. Initially, Metropolitan Court judges are either appointed by the Governor or win in a general election. Appointed judges must run in the next general election so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a general election, all Metropolitan Court judges face a nonpartisan retention election every four years. To remain on the Court after their first term, they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Term: Four years; no term limits.

Ballot Language: Shall NAME OF INCUMBENT be retained as Judge of the NAME OF COURT? [YES/NO]

	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?*
Division 2				
Christine Eve **Rodriguez** Nonpartisan	I've been a Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Judge for 10 years. I strive daily to administer my adjudicatory duties fairly and impartially. In addition to my criminal court docket, I volunteer as Presiding Judge of the DWI Recovery Court. This is a treatment court program that strives to hold repeat DWI offenders accountable with intensive court intervention while simultaneously providing treatment and needed resources to prevent defendants from reoffending and keeping our community safer.	Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court is open to the public and anyone is welcome to sit in any courtroom to observe proceedings. This helps to maintain the integrity of the Court, prevents abuse of power, and fosters public confidence in the justice system. Offering virtual hearings for specific court hearings also helps foster access to justice in an expeditious manner. Our administrators are constantly assessing procedures to ensure we are running as efficiently and judiciously as possible.	There have been significant improvements in support offered to judges over the last few years. The NM Judicial Wellness Program offers support for judges to improve on their mental, physical, and spiritual health. Additionally, the program offers judicial coaching for those judges seeking support. I trained and volunteered to serve as a judicial coach for this initiative as well. Programs such as these are needed now more than ever.	I do not take for granted this important role and title I have been afforded by you, the voters. I am a wife, mother, and member of this community. I am honored to serve on the bench and will do so with continued enthusiasm, impartiality, and fairness. I humbly ask for your continued support.
Division 4				
Joshua J **Sanchez** Nonpartisan	I have nearly 20 years of legal experience, including private practice and public defense, handling thousands of misdemeanor, felony, and juvenile cases. I have served as a Metro Court judge in the Criminal and Felony Divisions and presided over Behavioral Health Court. As Chief Judge, I've worked to strengthen court operations, access to justice, and public trust while ensuring fairness, impartiality, and accountability.	We can increase efficiency by exploring ways to strengthen our Self-Help Center and make court information and resources more accessible to the public. I would also look for opportunities to streamline procedures, use technology effectively, reduce unnecessary delays, and improve communication. We will continue participating in community outreach events to increase transparency, educate the public about the court system, and help people better understand court processes.	I support continued investment in judicial education and training that prepares judges to address the evolving challenges facing Metropolitan Court. This includes practical training on new laws, technology, behavioral health, specialty courts, and courtroom management. I would also encourage greater opportunities for judges to share best practices and learn from one another. Strong training and support help judges make informed, consistent, and fair decisions.	I want voters to know that I am committed to serving our community with fairness, integrity, and respect for everyone who comes before the court. My experience as a judge and Chief Judge has reinforced the importance of an accessible, efficient, and accountable court. I value community engagement, collaboration, and continuous improvement, and I remain committed to strengthening public trust in our justice system.
Division 8				
Jill **Martinez** Nonpartisan	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
Division 10				
Brittany Maldonado **Malott** Nonpartisan	As a first-generation college graduate, UNM School of Law graduate, and lifelong New Mexican, I have dedicated my career to serving our community. I was appointed to the bench after being recommended by a bipartisan commission, and later elected as a Metro Court Judge in 2020. Most recently, I received a second recommendation for retention from the nonpartisan Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission following evaluations by prosecutors, law enforcement, defense attorneys, and court staff.	I pride myself on running my docket efficiently, reducing unnecessary delays, and communicating effectively with those who come before the Court. I support expanding technology to improve access to court information, streamline communication, and identify additional ways to not only make our justice system more transparent, but also inform the public as to updates to the law and judicial procedure. Any changes must preserve due process and the fairness and integrity of the judicial process.	As a Metro Court Judge handling misdemeanor offenses, my docket does not include serious felony offenses. Given my role, it is imperative to support expanded training in behavioral health and substance use in order to address patterns of behavior that contribute to continued and/or escalated involvement in the criminal justice system. As technology and science evolve, we must seek out the most up-to-date practices to find more effective solutions to the challenges facing our community.	I am a mother, a native New Mexican, and someone who cares deeply about Albuquerque. This is my home. I want to see our city grow while providing a safe and fair environment where families can build a good life. My path to the bench has been rooted in public service, and I take seriously the responsibility voters place in our judges. I serve as Presiding Judge of Behavioral Health DWI Court and created a diversion program for those charged with low-level offenses and behavioral health needs.
Division 12				
Jason M **Jaramillo** Nonpartisan	I have served on the Metropolitan Court for the past seven years. After graduating from the University of New Mexico School of Law, I dedicated my legal career to public service. Prior to being appointed to the bench, I gained broad experience over 12 years as an attorney working for State, Federal and County government agencies. I was nominated for appointment to the the Metropolitan court by the bipartisan Judicial Nominating Commission, prior to being appointed by the Governor in 2019.	I have been working with various committees of the New Mexico Supreme Court to enact changes to court rules and forms to assist self-represented litigants navigate our courts. The better we can prepare citizens who cannot afford attorneys to navigate our judicial system, the more efficient it will be for everyone. We hope to start a pilot project for Bernalillo County designed to reduce the rate of defaults in consumer debt cases.	New Mexico has a wealth of excellent and experienced judges, and I am grateful to serve alongside them. I would like to see more opportunities for peer to peer training and support to compliment to the existing efforts of the Court Education Institute that has been the primary source of training for judges.	It is a privilege to serve the people of Bernalillo County on the Metropolitan Court. I am grateful to have served in various public service roles in this community for the last 20 years, and also to have served in the New Mexico Army National Guard. I hope the voters see fit to vote yes to retain, just as they did in 2022.

	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?*
DIVISION 14				
Vidalia G **Chavez** Nonpartisan	In nearly 12 years of service as Judge, I have shown my deep commitment to serving New Mexican families, defending the Constitution, and protecting community safety. I was elected in 2014 as a licensed attorney and Supreme Court Appointee to various legal committees. Serving in both our criminal and civil divisions, as Presiding Criminal Judge, and over the DWI Behavioral Health Court, I have been recommended by the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission in every retention election thus far.	One of our proudest accomplishments at Metro Court is having perfected our systems to be highly efficient and accessible. A few examples are our early traffic plea program with the City Attorney's Office; virtual appearances that came about during Covid, with a streamlined system on our website to allow parties to easily log in by judge; and public in-person and virtual hearings, where all are welcome to attend and observe.	In 2023, the New Mexico Supreme Court created the Court Education Institute which provides annual mandatory training for all judges in New Mexico. The Institute follows up-to-date national standards for judicial education and continues to develop and expand into new areas as the legal field changes. I believe one positive change would be the implementation of a mandatory mentorship component for new judges to fully access the diverse judicial talent and wisdom we have across the state.	Adherence to our time-honored Code of Judicial Conduct ensures judicial independence, a central tenet of our constitutional democracy. I am committed to basing my rulings solely on evidence properly before the Court and am not swayed by outside interests, including other branches of government. I will continue to be a steadfast guardian of judicial independence. As a mother of two, I am also keenly aware of the challenges facing our community and rely on my life experience in serving the public.
DIVISION 16				
Claire Ann **McDaniel** Nonpartisan	I graduated from the UNM School of Law in 2010. I worked at a civil plaintiff's firm for a few years then as a prosecutor for almost a decade. I joined the Bench at Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court in 2022 and have spent the past 4 years presiding over a felony preliminary hearing docket.	I am very proud of how efficient and transparent the Metropolitan Court is. In my courtroom, I try to be punctual and efficient while also taking the time to clearly explain my decisions and make people feel heard. I would invite anyone to come observe the process and ask questions.	I am very proud of the support and camaraderie the judges show for one another at the Metropolitan Court. We have regular training opportunities in the courthouse and are encouraged to attend training outside the Courthouse if we choose to.	I love my community and am so honored to be able to serve it.
DIVISION 18				
Rosie Lazcano **Allred** Nonpartisan	I have been an attorney in New Mexico for 31 years. I was a trial attorney for my first 10 years, and I have now been a Metropolitan Court judge for the last 21 years. I began my time with Metro Court hearing criminal cases, and I now serve in the civil division. I have presided over countless trials and hearings over the years. My experience as a trial attorney and as a judge have prepared me to serve the people of Bernalillo County as a Metropolitan Court judge.	Both efficiency and transparency are necessary for the court to function well. One tool that has helped with both is the New Mexico Courts Case Lookup. The Case Lookup has helped to make the court more accessible to all people. We should continue to improve this tool by finding ways to make it more user friendly. Because we serve many litigants that do not have attorneys, we can also continue to make court forms more accessible and easy to understand.	Metropolitan Court judges continue to receive excellent training through the Administrative Office of the Courts. This training has been extremely valuable. One area of concern is that courts have begun to encounter the use of artificial intelligence by litigants. AI is already impacting cases. Moving forward, I would like to participate in more training related to AI so that I continue to stay ready for the challenges that may arise.	I have lived in New Mexico for 32 years. I have always worked in public service, and it has been an honor to serve the people of Bernalillo County as a Metro Court judge since 2005. I have learned a great deal from this community and am committed to serving with respect, diligence, and fairness.

"The experience of democracy is like
the experience of life itself – always changing, infinite in its variety,
sometimes turbulent and all the more valuable for having been
tested in adversity." – Jimmy Carter

"Democracy is like blowing your nose.
You may not do it well, but you ought to do it yourself." – G.K. Cheston

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NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1: ELIMINATE POCKET VETOES

Ballot Language

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 4, SECTION 22 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO REQUIRE THE GOVERNOR TO PROVIDE VETO MESSAGES ON ALL BILLS VETOED IN WHOLE OR IN PART AND TO PROVIDE THAT ALL BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE AND NOT ACTED ON BY THE GOVERNOR WILL BECOME LAW. [YES/NO]

Explanation:

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

Arguments For:

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

Arguments Against:

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

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2: SCHOOL ELECTIONS TIMING

Ballot Language:

PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 7, SECTION 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT SCHOOL ELECTIONS BE SEPARATE FROM PARTISAN ELECTIONS. [YES/NO]

Explanation:

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

Arguments For:

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

Arguments Against:

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

"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

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 3: BOARDS OF REGENTS NOMINATING COMMITTEES

Ballot Language:

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

Explanation:

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

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

Arguments For:

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

Arguments Against:

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

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 4: LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION

Ballot Language:

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

Explanation:

Currently, New Mexico state senators and representatives only receive daily limited compensation for mileage and per diem for meals and lodging.

This amendment would allow legislators to receive a salary equal to the median household income for New Mexico, currently approximately $68,000. This amount could be adjusted by the legislature in the future. The amendment would go into effect in January 2029.

Arguments For:

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

Arguments Against:

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

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GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND QUESTIONS

A bond represents money borrowed by a government to finance capital improvement projects. The bonds are called general obligation (GO) bonds because payment of the debt (principal plus interest) is a general obligation of the governmental entity issuing the bond. Voter approval of separate bond questions is a way to get general revenue for capital projects. GO bonds must be sold to investors within a specific time after voter approval. They must be fully spent on capital (bricks and mortar) projects or equipment, not on daily operations or maintenance. Bond money cannot be transferred from one category to another. Because old bonds are retired as new bonds are approved, bonds generally do not increase taxes.

NEW MEXICO STATE BONDS

GENERAL ELECTION 2026 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND TAXES

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

BOND QUESTION 1: AGING AND LONG-TERM SERVICES

Ballot Language:

The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed twenty-one million five hundred eighty-two thousand two hundred thirteen dollars ($21,582,213) to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition projects and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law? [YES/NO]

BOND QUESTION 2: LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Ballot Language:

The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of library acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed nineteen million three hundred twenty-four thousand one hundred eighty-eight dollars ($19,324,188) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, public and tribal library resource acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law? [YES/NO]

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

Ballot Language:

The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed three hundred fifty-two million two hundred twenty five thousand three hundred seventy-nine dollars ($352,225,379) to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law? [YES/NO]

BERNALILLO COUNTY BONDS

BOND QUESTION 1: LIBRARY

Ballot Language:

Shall Bernalillo County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding $2,500,000 for the purpose of purchasing materials and resources for libraries within Bernalillo County, New Mexico, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law? [FOR/AGAINST]

BOND QUESTION 2: PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES, FLEET AND OTHER COUNTY BUILDING

Ballot Language:

Shall Bernalillo County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding $8,900,000 for the purpose of acquiring property, planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, remodeling, purchasing, furnishing, equipping, repairing and otherwise improving, County facilities and fleet, including but not limited to health and public safety facilities, fire station and law enforcement facilities, jail and detention center facilities, courthouse facilities, youth and family service center and learning facilities, visitors center facilities, necessary redevelopment of facilities, and replacement of fleet vehicles and heavy equipment, and construction and improvements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law? [FOR/AGAINST]

BOND QUESTION 3: PARKS AND RECREATION

Ballot Language:

Shall Bernalillo County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding $20,384,920 for the purpose of acquiring property, planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, remodeling, furnishing, equipping, repairing and otherwise improving park and recreational facilities within the County, including but not limited to parks, aquatic centers, community centers, playgrounds, ball fields, open spaces, cultural and educational facilities, community recreation centers and pools, and necessary redevelopment of facilities, and construction and improvements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law? [FOR/AGAINST]

BOND QUESTION 4: TRANSPORTATION

Ballot Language:

Shall Bernalillo County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding $6,215,080 for the purpose of acquiring property, planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, rehabilitating, furnishing, equipping, repairing and otherwise improving transportation facilities within the County, including but not limited to roads, non-motor vehicle pathways, bridges, traffic calming facilities, guardrails, bike lanes, trails, sidewalks, transit improvements, paving, landscaping, traffic signals and other street improvements, and necessary construction and improvements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law? [FOR/AGAINST]

BOND QUESTION 5: STORM DRAINAGE AND UTILITIES

Ballot Language:

Shall Bernalillo County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding $1,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring property, planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, rehabilitating, equipping, repairing and otherwise improving drainage and utility infrastructure, including but not limited to storm sewer and drainage, wastewater, water and drainage systems and facilities within Bernalillo County, New Mexico, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law? [FOR/AGAINST]

BOND QUESTION 6: HOUSING

Ballot Language:

Shall Bernalillo County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding $6,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring property, planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, remodeling, rehabilitating, furnishing, equipping, repairing and otherwise improving housing facilities within the County, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law? [FOR/AGAINST]

SANDOVAL COUNTY BONDS

BOND QUESTION 1: LIBRARY

Ballot Language:

Shall Sandoval County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding $3,400,000 for the purpose of planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, remodeling, furnishing, equipping, repairing and otherwise improving library facilities within Sandoval County, New Mexico, and purchasing books and other library resources for libraries within Sandoval County, New Mexico, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law? [FOR/AGAINST]

BOND QUESTION 2: FIRE FACILITIES

Ballot Language:

Shall Sandoval County, New Mexico be authorized to issue up to $9,000,000 of general obligation bonds for the purpose of planning, designing, engineering, constructing, acquiring and building a County Fire Department training facility and other fire department stations, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law? [FOR/AGAINST]

BOND QUESTION 3: COUNTY BUREAU OF ELECTIONS SECURE STORAGE FACILITY

Ballot Language:

Shall Sandoval County New Mexico be authorized to issue up to $22,000,000 of general obligation bonds for the purpose of designing, constructing, equipping, and furnishing a County Bureau of Elections secure storage facility for voting machines, polling facility and offices, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law? [FOR/AGAINST]

SPECIAL DISTRICT BONDS

ALBUQUERQUE METROPOLITAN ARROYO FLOOD CONTROL BONDS (AMAFCA)

Ballot Language:

Shall the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority be authorized to issue its General Obligation Bonds in principal amount not exceeding $30,000,000 for the extension, betterment, alteration, reconstruction, repair and other improvements of the Authority's Flood Control System? [FOR/AGAINST]

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ALBUQUERQUE BALLOT QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1 - VOTER APPROVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Ballot Language:

Shall the Charter of the City of Albuquerque be amended to repeal Article XI, Section 7, which requires voter approval before the City may appropriate more than $10 million for a performing arts center so that future funding of any amount would no longer require a separate vote? [YES/NO]

What Do YES/NO Votes Mean?

- "YES" means you support repealing this requirement. The City could appropriate any amount for a performing arts center without a separate voter approval.
- "NO" means you want to keep the requirement. The City would still need majority voter approval before appropriating more than $10 million for a performing arts center.

QUESTION 2 - ALBUQUERQUE COMMUNITY SAFETY (ACS) CHIEF APPOINTMENT

Ballot Language:

Shall the Charter of the City of Albuquerque be amended to designate the Director of Albuquerque Community Safety as the "ACS Chief" and require that this position be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the City Council, subject to the same confirmation, employment agreement, and removal terms currently applied to the Police Chief and Fire Chief? [YES/NO]

What Do YES/NO Votes Mean?

- "YES" means the ACS Director would become the "ACS Chief" and would need Council confirmation to be appointed, would serve under an employment agreement expiring at the end of the Mayor's term, and could be removed by the Mayor for cause or by a two-thirds-plus-one Council vote. This is the same structure that already governs the Police Chief and Fire Chief.
- "NO" means the ACS Director position would keep its current status which is appointed by the Mayor without requiring Council confirmation, and without the fixed-term employment agreement or the added removal process that applies to the Police Chief and Fire Chief.

QUESTION 3 - PUBLIC SAFETY GROSS RECEIPTS TAX DEDICATION UPDATE

Ballot Language:

Shall the City of Albuquerque amend the Public Safety Gross Receipts Tax to divide funds amongst updated city services? The money would be divided as follows: Police 35%; Fire 38%; Albuquerque Community Safety 8%; Health, Housing, and Homelessness 8%; Prisoner Transport 6%; and Code Enforcement 5%. This would not increase the tax rate. [YES/NO]

What Do YES/NO Votes Mean?

- "YES" means the tax rate would stay the same. The money would be divided as follows: Police 35%; Fire 38%; Albuquerque Community Safety 8%; Health, Housing, and Homelessness 8%; Prisoner Transport 6%; and Code Enforcement 5%.
- "NO" means the tax rate would stay the same. The money would continue to be divided as follows: Police 34%; Fire/Emergency Preparedness 34%; Corrections 6%; Crime Prevention and Intervention 26%.

"The highest measure of democracy is neither
the 'extent of freedom' nor the 'extent of equality,'
but rather the highest measure of participation." – A. de Benoist

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

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 County, and Southern New Mexico.
The League provides nonpartisan voter education to citizens on issues and candidates by conducting and/or sponsoring public discussion, forums, lectures, and other similar programs; by producing observer reports of various public councils, boards, and commissions; and by producing online and/or printed information on issues, candidates, and officials. This includes the popular *Voter Guide* and *Who's Who Political Directories*.
ABOUT the Voter Guide
This guide is published to assist voters in learning about candidates, constitutional amendments, bond questions, and other issues on their ballots. The work is done completely by volunteers.
The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or political parties. This year the Leagues in New Mexico have once again used 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, including constitutional amendments, bond issues, and other local questions.
If this guide helped in making your decisions, please consider donating to and/or joining our organization at lwvcnm.org.

Donating to the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

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

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

You can donate by:

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

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

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We appreciate your support of our educational efforts.

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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, contact candidates, and research information about elections and ballot measures in order to create a nonpartisan educational resource for the community.

The LWVCNM Voter Guide 2026 was prepared and distributed by the following people (and many who stepped forward to help distribute after the Guide went to print):

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Most importantly, we wish to thank the candidates who are running for office and who participated by providing information for voters in our community.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

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