LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

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Valencia Torrance

Nonpartisan Voter Guide for Torrance & Valencia Counties

Guía del Votantes para los condados de Torrance y Valencia

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 online.	El último día para solicitar una boleta de voto por correo en línea.
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.

Torrance County:

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

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

Early Voting in Torrance County,

Torrance County Administrative Office, 205 S. 9th St, Estancia 87016:
Monday-Thursday, October 6-October 29, 8am to 5pm (**Closed** Monday, October 12)
Friday October 30, 8am to 5pm AND Saturday, October 31, 8am to 5pm
Moriarty Civic Center, 202 Broadway Ave, Moriarty 87035:
Tuesday-Saturday, October 17-October 31, 10am to 6pm

Election Day Voting in Torrance County

Polls will be open Election Day Tuesday, November 3, from 7am to 7pm.

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

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Valencia County:

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

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

Early Voting at Valencia County Clerk's Office

Valencia County Administration Offices, Bureau of Elections,
444 Luna Ave, Los Lunas 87031.
October 6-October 16, Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm (**Closed** Monday, October 12)
AND October 17-October 31, Monday-Saturday, 10am to 6pm

Expanded Early Voting

October 17-October 31, Monday-Saturday, 10am to 6pm

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

Election Day Voting in Valencia County

Tuesday, November 3, from 7am to 7pm

Belen

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

Bosque Farms

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

Jarales

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

Los Lunas

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

Peralta

Town of Peralta, 90A Molina Rd, Peralta 87042

Tome

Tome Dominguez de Mendoza Community Center, 2933 Hwy 47, Los Lunas 87031

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

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

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

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FEDERAL OFFICES

UNITED STATES SENATOR

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

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

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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.

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

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.

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

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SECRETARY OF STATE

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

	What qualifies you for this office?	***List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.***	***How would you help the public navigate election information in this era of AI and social media?***	***What is the Secretary of State's role in safeguarding the integrity of voter information and ensuring safe and fair elections?***
 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.

"We are bound by ideals that teach us what it means to be citizens.
Every child must be taught these ideals. Every citizen must uphold them…
I ask you to citizens. Citizens, not spectators. Citizens, not subjects.
Responsible citizens building communities
of service and a nation of character." – George W. Bush

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.
 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.

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.

"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

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.
 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.

"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

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NM 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 7				
 Rickie Allen **Gonzales** II Democrat	While I'm not an experienced politician, I have been politically involved for many years - both as a Precinct Chair and Voter Registration Agent. Increasingly over the years I felt compelled to get more involved and I feel that with my acumen in Visual Communications I can offer a more comprehensive operation in terms of helping to represent and address the concerns of my district and community.	One of the largest tenets of both my campaign and my priorities is pragmatism, and taking practical approaches when weighing initiatives. Accessibility and practicality are huge tenets for me, and I intend to carry both those notions throughout my campaign and possible tenure. This simply means that I intend to fully avail myself to my constituents and those organizations bringing forth initiatives which seek to help my constituents in a pragmatic manner.	I feel we should do a better job of conserving, treating and transporting water. Furthermore, we need to establish some form of Water Utility Authority to address runoff and flood concerns. All too often we hear of "100 year" flood events which increasingly seem to occur every three to five years. This flooding has left many residents decimated, and flood control as-well-as water conservancy need to be better dealt with. As a legislator, I would carefully scrutinize all legislation dealing with water use and abuse.	Specifically in my District (House District 7) while Valencia County has broken ground on a hospital facility on the West portion of the county, my constituents could use more medical facilities on the East portion of Valencia County, specifically in the realm of Substance Use Disorder and Behavioral Health to help compliment comprehensive medical treatment access.
Tanya R **Mirabal Moya** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 8				
Brian G **Baca** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
 Katherine Joanna **Gauer** Democrat	I have spent my career serving individuals one-on-one to find the best solutions within existing systems. Through my varied educational and work experiences, I have partnered with county and city municipalities; criminal, civil and family judicial systems; municipal, state and federal law enforcement; universities across the world; at-risk and special populations and service organizations. I know that bringing each of these experiences will make me a well-rounded, well-informed and collaborative leader.	We must improve the quality of life for every New Mexican beginning with accessible health insurance and affordable housing options. New Mexicans should have guaranteed access to healthcare that covers preventative care, dental, vision, metal/behavioral/addiction services and emergency services. We must increase affordable housing, including building state funded apartments and starter homes, and removing private equity that prices out locals. Locally, I will support and fund critical infrastructure in each municipality including roads, water treatment, emergency response systems, followed by quality of life projects including senior and recreation centers and staff, play grounds and shade structures etc.	The legislature should address future water needs in 3 ways: first, invest in water conservation and infrastructural improvements; second, develop new water supplies; third, support existing water consumers to transition to low-water methods. Some drinking water systems lose as much as 70% of clean drinking water via degraded infrastructure. Improving broken and leaking pipes will conserve significant potable water. We must invest in developing new water supplies for industrial use to include water reclamation and desalination. Finally, we should incentivize drought tolerant and low-water agricultural alternatives and offer homeowners who invest in native plant habitats, xero-scaped yards, and water reclamation systems a state tax credit.	First, we must ensure every person has access to insurance. One in 10 New Mexicans currently do not have insurance and nearly 6 out of 10 have sacrificed medical care past two years. When individuals are insured, they rely less on costly emergency room visits, free up critical response services and help keep insurance rates lower for everyone. Next, we must offer competitive benefits to medical providers (i.e. student debt forgiveness, home ownership assistance programs) to encourage out of state providers who align with our values to relocate. Finally, we must retain the next generation of medical professionals graduating from our universities by investing in quality of life projects that young professionals require.

State Representative District 22

	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?*
 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.

State Representative District 49

Gail Missy **Armstrong** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*

State Representative District 69

	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?
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.)

State Representative District 70

	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?
Anita Amalia **Gonzales** Democrat	Education: I support investments, from early childhood through higher ed, raising educator pay, expanding student services, improving STEM and career pathways, and connecting schools to workforce needs. Healthcare: I will expand rural access, grow the workforce, fund mental health and addiction programs, expand Telehealth, and defend reproductive rights. Jobs/Small Businesses: Support job training, internships, and broadband for education, telehealth, and commerce. Infrastructure: Fund broadband and water, repair acequias, and invest in public safety. Environment: Invest in renewable energy, mitigate wildfire risk, restore land, and protect water. Affordability: Support working families, local businesses, and affordable rural housing.	To manage New Mexico's water supply, I support investing in rural water and wastewater infrastructure, modernizing aging systems, and expanding emergency response capacity for communities facing shortages. Protecting and restoring watersheds is critical for clean water and post-fire recovery. We must promote groundwater management, conservation, and sustainable use, while supporting community driven solutions that reflect local needs in Torrance and San Miguel Counties. These strategies ensure safe, reliable water for families, agriculture, and future generations.	I would make state funding for local projects more transparent, equitable, and responsive to community needs. Funding decisions should prioritize rural and underserved areas, support critical infrastructure like water, broadband, and public safety, and include input from local governments, tribal nations, and community organizations. Streamlining application processes and ensuring timely disbursement of funds would prevent delays that hurt communities. By aligning state resources with local priorities, we can ensure projects are completed efficiently and benefit residents where they live.	The state should ensure that social media and AI are safe, transparent, and accountable. This includes protecting users from misinformation, harassment, and data misuse while promoting privacy and equity. Regulations should support ethical AI development and provide oversight without stifling innovation. The state should also invest in computer science and digital literacy education so all New Mexicans can navigate technology responsibly.

"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

NM 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 DISTRICT 6

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

	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?*
Stewart Alan **Ingham** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*

"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

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TORRANCE COUNTY OFFICES

TORRANCE COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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

	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?***
Craig M **Davis** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*

TORRANCE COUNTY SHERIFF

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

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

TORRANCE COUNTY ASSESSOR

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

	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?***
Hugh G **Jones** Democrat	I bring nearly 20 years of hands-on experience serving the residents of Torrance County in the Assessor's Office. During that time, I have gained extensive knowledge of property assessment, office operations, state requirements, and the needs of our taxpayers. As the current Office Manager, I understand the responsibilities of the Assessor's Office from the ground up. My experience, knowledge, and commitment to fair and respectful public service have prepared me to lead the office effectively.	My highest priorities are accuracy, fairness, transparency, and providing excellent service to the taxpayers of Torrance County. With nearly 20 years of experience in the Assessor's Office, I understand where improvements can be made. I will focus on maintaining accurate property records, ensuring fair and equitable assessments, supporting and training staff, improving efficiency, and making sure every taxpayer is treated with respect and has confidence in our office.	I will ensure accuracy and fairness by applying property valuation standards consistently and following New Mexico law and Property Tax Division requirements. With nearly 20 years of experience in the Assessor's Office, I understand the importance of accurate data and thorough review. I will promote transparency by clearly explaining how values are determined, listening to taxpayers' concerns, and making sure the public has access to the information and assistance they need.	I believe a knowledgeable staff is essential to serving taxpayers effectively. I will encourage ongoing training in property valuation, New Mexico property tax laws, appraisal standards, and the technology used in our office. I will also promote cross-training so employees understand all aspects of the Assessor's Office. My goal is to give staff the knowledge, resources, and support they need to perform their duties accurately, consistently, and professionally.
Crystal M **Garcia** Republican	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*

"Freedom comes in individual packages." – Shirley Boone

TORRANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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

TORRANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

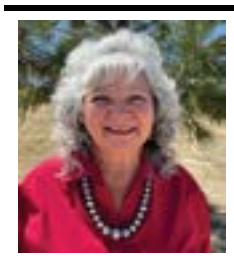
	What qualifies you for this office?	*How would you address your highest priorities?*	*How would you better inform citizens about matters coming before the County Commission before decisions are made?*	*How would you propose to balance growth with water scarcity in an increasingly arid state?*
Stephen E **Garrett** Independent	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
Albert **Chavez** Democrat	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*
Nathan Allen **Schafer** Republican	I bring a combination of real-world business experience, problem-solving, and connection to this community. I've worked directly with budgets, employees, regulations, and customers. I understand how decisions made at the county level can impact people trying to make a living. I'm not coming in to 'learn government' at the expense of taxpayers. I understand accountability, I know how to make tough decisions, and I believe in responsible stewardship of public funds.	My top priorities are fiscal responsibility, infrastructure, and public safety. I will push for disciplined budgeting, making sure taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently and transparently, and prioritizing essential services of government.	I will push for clearer, more accessible communication—posting agendas earlier, summarizing major issues in plain language, and using multiple channels like social media, the county website, and local meetings to get the word out.	Growth without water planning is irresponsible. Shutting down growth entirely isn't realistic either. We need a balanced, common-sense approach. That means encouraging responsible development that accounts for water availability, supporting conservation efforts, and working with state and regional partners on long-term water planning.

TORRANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Thomas J **Holt** Republican	I bring a proven record of leadership, sound decision-making, and community involvement. I take a business-minded, level-headed approach focused on responsible budgeting, infrastructure, and public safety. I listen, work collaboratively, and focus on practical solutions. I am committed to transparency, accountability, and using taxpayer dollars effectively. I focus on long-term planning while addressing immediate needs and always put the best interests of the entire community first.	Sustainable growth is critical for our county, especially in a state that often discourages it. I will prioritize policies that support responsible development while protecting what makes our community strong. Growth must also mean connection—I want a county where businesses, families, and neighborhoods thrive together. By leading with common sense and collaboration, we can set the standard for what a healthy, growing county should look like.	Many residents are unaware of what's happening in county government—not due to secrecy, but a lack of consistent communication. I will prioritize transparency by improving how we share information about meetings, decisions, department updates, and community needs. A more active and consistent social media presence, along with clear and timely updates, will help keep residents informed, engaged, and confident in their local government and its work.	Water scarcity is a real concern, especially where many rely on individual wells. When a well runs dry, families face a major financial burden. I support responsible growth that protects water resources within our county while ensuring residents have options. This includes expanding access to community water systems where feasible, promoting conservation, and planning development so growth does not outpace supply or put current residents at risk.
William F **Peifer** Democrat	I have over 40 years of experience in business and government contracting, mostly in the Project Management and Information Technology fields. I spent over 25 of those 40 years as an independent consultant in both the private and public/government sectors. I love talking to people face-to-face to hear their issues and work with them to solve problems. I also have extensive contacts in both state and local governments that I could use to the benefit of Torrance County and its residents.	#1 Issue - Water: I would support creation of a county-level Water Authority to address conservation, acquisition and distribution of water for householdagricultural/business use. #2 Issue - Roads: Repaving (not just patching the patches) of many of our paved roads and maintenance of unpaved roads with proper grading to encourage quick run-off of rain and reduce washboard roads. #3 Issue - Transparency: Better communication between county officials, both elected and appointed, and citizens.	First, I would actually pay attention to speakers during the "Public Comments" portion of County Commission meetings, which is sometimes not currently the case. Outside of those meetings I would conduct Town Hall meetings across the district on a regular basis and would support the idea of making such meetings a requirement for County Commissioners in Torrance County. Finally, I would encourage the county to communicate information back and forth with constituents via a user-friendly website.	Any businesses relocating to Torrance County should be required to submit a water conservation plan that might include methods to reclaim and recycle any water that they use. Water-hungry businesses like data centers would be required to utilize a "closed" system for any water being used for cooling, or a waterless solution.

TORRANCE COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

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

	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?*
 Mary Ann **Anaya-Hernandez** Republican	I bring both experience and dedication to this position. I previously served as Torrance County Probate Judge. I was appointed for two years and then elected to two consecutive terms, serving a total of 10 years. I have also been a real estate agent in Torrance County for more than 19 years. This experience has given me extensive knowledge of deeds, legal descriptions, chains of title, survey and property taxes; areas that are often critical in probate cases.	I would work to ensure the Probate Court is efficient, accessible and responsive to the needs of the public. My goal would be to maintain clear processes, treat everyone fairly, and provide the court with steady, experienced leadership.	I would give presentations at the senior centers, throughout the county and also speak to community groups such as. Rotary, Mavericks, and other civic clubs. I believe public education is important so that people better understand the Probate Court's role and processes.	I have lived in Torrance County for more than 45 years, and am a graduate of Estancia High School. I continued my education at ENMU and Alb. TVI, now known as CNM. I am bilingual. I spent more than 28 years working in County Government, working in the County Clerk's, County Assessor's & Manager's Office. I was also a real estate agent for over 19 years in Torrance County. I am married to my husband Anthony, who is a veteran. I believe in serving people with honesty, compassion and fairness.

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VALENCIA COUNTY OFFICES

VALENCIA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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

	What qualifies you for this office?	*What are the major challenges when serving as a Magistrate Judge?*	*What would be the most effective methods to improve Magistrate Court procedures and efficiency?*	*What other information would you like voters to know about you?*
VALENCIA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 1				
Miles Ross **Tafoya** Republican	I am qualified because I have been in this position for the past five years. My previous court experience as a surveillance officer and my time in the army also contribute to my qualifications. I have direct experience with managing time and resources efficiently. I can listen to all sides and make unbiased decisions, which leads to a judicial system that people can trust.	The major challenge is ensuring that the parties are heard before making my decision, in accordance with established rules and statutes. I must be unbiased and not swayed by emotion or sympathy. I must be patient with people who aren't always calm or are just having a really bad time. I uphold the oath I took to the rules, statutes, and constitution of New Mexico and the United States and am not swayed by the opinions of others.	Explanation and education of court processes improve court procedures. If those involved understand what is happening and what to expect, there is less confusion and better time management. Communication with other departments that the court works with improves efficiency. This happens when anyone who works in the criminal justice system can address issues and work together toward solutions.	For the past few years, I have invited community members to sit in on court sessions and ask questions afterward about the processes, rules, and statutes. This starts the conversation by identifying areas that may need to change, such as statutes and rules, as well as procedures that can be improved. If no one outside the judge and lawyers understands how the court works, then the court is not serving the community as intended.
VALENCIA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 2				
John R **Chavez** Republican	What qualifies you for this office? Incumbent Magistrate Judge for over 12 years. Adjudicated over 48,000 cases.	What are the major challenges when serving as a Magistrate Judge? In both Sandoval and Valencia Counties, magistrate judges have a very high caseload. Easily a 40-50 hour a week position with after hour, weekend, and holiday on-call work.	What would be the most effective methods to improve Magistrate Court procedures and efficiency? Both Sandoval and Valencia County magistrate courts led the transition to paperless court processes for the entire state. This has improved efficiencies, and time to disposition of cases.	What other information would you like voters to know about you? A retired U.S. Army Veteran of 27 years where Judge Chavez held Uniform Code of Military Justice authorities in various levels of responsibility.

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

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"I would like to be remembered as someone who used whatever talent she had to do her work to the very best of her ability."
– Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

VALENCIA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 3

	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?*
Eric **Montano** Republican	I am qualified for Magistrate Judge through a combination of experience, education, and real-world judgment. I bring 30 years of law enforcement experience, where I've made critical decisions grounded in fairness, accountability, and the law. I earned my MBA in Law Enforcement and Corrections from the University of the Southwest, strengthening my understanding of the justice system. As a husband, father, and small business owner, I understand how court decisions impact everyday people. I will apply the law as written, base decisions on facts, and treat everyone with respect and impartiality.	One of the biggest challenges is balancing efficiency with fairness. Magistrate Judges handle a high volume of cases, but every person deserves to be heard and treated with respect. Another challenge is making difficult decisions that can significantly impact people's lives while remaining impartial and grounded in the law. There is also the responsibility of ensuring individuals understand the court process, especially those without legal representation. Maintaining public trust is critical, every decision must be based on facts, applied consistently, and free from personal bias or outside influence.	The most effective way to improve Magistrate Court procedures and efficiency is to stay grounded in the Constitution, laws, and statutes established by the Supreme Court while strengthening how the court operates day to day. Clear, consistent procedures and well-trained staff help ensure cases move efficiently without sacrificing fairness. Improving scheduling practices, using technology for case tracking and communication, and reducing unnecessary delays can make a significant impact. It's also important to ensure individuals understand the process, especially those without representation. Efficiency should never come at the expense of justice, every case must still be handled with impartiality, respect, and strict adherence to the law.	I want voters to know that I'm not removed from the community—I live the same daily life many of you do. I balance work, family, and responsibilities, and I understand how courtroom decisions affect real people. I'm a small business owner and partner at No Limits Jiu Jitsu and Fitness in Belen, where I don't just own the business—I train and coach. I've also instructed advanced motorcycle riders through my business, ProRider Albuquerque, and I serve at my local church. Service isn't something I talk about—it's something I live daily. My 30 years in law enforcement have prepared me professionally, but my life in this community keeps me grounded. I'm committed to applying the law fairly, listening first, and treating every person with respect
Rorik S **Rivenburgh** Democrat	I am qualified to serve as magistrate judge because I bring a lifetime of experience grounded in fairness, service, and sound judgment. I spent 30 years working for United Parcel Service, where I developed a strong work ethic and respect for people from all backgrounds. For over 20 of those years, I was elected by my peers to serve as a union shop steward. In that role, I represented employees, resolved disputes, and worked to ensure decisions were fair and consistent. I learned to listen carefully, remain impartial, and handle difficult situations with integrity. I am involved in my community. I serve as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, Appointed by the judge to advocate for children in foster care.	One of the major challenges of serving as a magistrate judge is balancing a high caseload while ensuring that every case receives careful attention. Magistrate courts often handle a large number of cases, and it is important to manage them efficiently without sacrificing fairness or thoroughness. Another challenge is making timely decisions in situations that can have a significant impact on people's lives, such as setting bond, issuing warrants, or determining outcomes in misdemeanor cases. These decisions must be made based on the law and the facts, often under time pressure, while remaining fair and impartial. It is essential to set aside personal opinions and remain impartial at all times.	Improving magistrate court procedures and efficiency begins with strong organization and consistent case management. Setting clear schedules, starting court on time, and ensuring that cases move forward without unnecessary delays helps respect the time of everyone involved while maintaining fairness. Clear communication is also essential. Many individuals in magistrate court are not represented by attorneys, so providing straightforward explanations of procedures and expectations can reduce confusion, prevent delays, and help cases proceed more smoothly. The goal is to create a court that is efficient, but never at the expense of fairness, respect, or careful consideration of each case.	I have spent my life committed to service, fairness, and my community. I have been married to my wife for 42 years. We are proud to have our daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter living next door, which reflects how deeply rooted we are in this community. Throughout my career with United Parcel Service and in my volunteer work, I have always believed in treating people with respect and standing up for those who need a voice. Whether serving as a union shop steward, a volunteer with Court Appointed Special Advocates, or as an ombudsman advocating for residents in assisted living facilities, my focus has always been on fairness and helping others. A courtroom should be a place where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

VALENCIA COUNTY SHERIFF

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

	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?*
Alan Fredrick **Montano** Democrat	I bring over 28 years of law enforcement experience, including 10 years as Commander of the Maximum-Security Unit at New Mexico Corrections Department in Santa Fe, NM, three years as a Probation Parole Officer in Los Lunas, NM, and 13 years at Valencia County Sheriff's Office, where I progressed from Deputy to the rank of Sergeant also managing Safer NM Grant. Currently, I serve as a Probation Officer for the Valencia County Drug Court, and I facilitate DWI Education to first offenders.	Conduct regular training for staff, enforce accountability in the Sheriff's Office, and prioritize community safety with fast response times. Recruit qualified candidates to support departmental growth. Deploy Community Service Aides to help with traffic, alarms, transports, and scene security. Create a Crisis Management Team to assist citizens facing mental health crisis.	Ensure accountability among both Office and Command staff members. Delegate division duties to those with the appropriate expertise. Being the Sheriff, I would make myself accessible to command staff by regularly being present both at the office and out in the field each day.	State statutes mandate that deputies undergo 40 hours of crisis intervention training annually. Furthermore, I recommend forming a Crisis Intervention Team comprised of skilled negotiators who operate independently from law enforcement. This team would engage individuals in crisis, facilitate de-escalation to a stable mental health state, and ensure proper referral to relevant support services for continued assistance.
Joseph Eugene **Rowland** Republican	I bring over 27 years of law enforcement experience, including 12 with VCSO, where I currently serve as the senior Lieutenant. My background includes service as a U.S. Army Military Police officer and Federal Agent with the NNSA. I've completed advanced executive law enforcement leadership training at Northwestern University and have a clear plan to shift VCSO from responsive to proactive policing, targeting repeat offenders and drug trafficking to reduce crime and improve our quality of life.	Public safety is my top priority. We currently face violent and property crime rates twice the national average. I will shift the current Sheriff's Office from a reactive model to a proactive crime fighting organization, focusing on repeat offenders and drug trafficking. I will expand proactive units from its current 10% to over 30%, strengthening investigations, apprehension, and narcotics enforcement. I will also collaborate with federal agencies to remove offenders and protect our community.	I will strengthen the Sheriff's Office by raising hiring standards, fostering leadership and pride, and building esprit de corps across all ranks. I will expand technology, pursue federal and state grants, update policies to prioritize public safety, and provide specialized training. Deputies will have the tools, training, and support needed to shift the agency to proactive policing, reduce crime, and build stronger, relationships with the community.	As Sheriff, I will ensure VCSO not only meets all state mandated training, including HB 93 on interacting with persons with mental impairments, but exceeds them. All deputies will receive advanced crisis intervention training, and our specialized Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) will continue intensive crisis negotiations training and response. This three-tiered approach ensures VCSO leads when responding to crisis and effectively managing individuals with mental health challenges or impairments.

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VALENCIA COUNTY ASSESSOR

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

	What qualifies you for this office?	*How would you address your highest priorities?*	*Given the recent errors with 2025 property tax bills, how will you address these issues to ensure no reoccurrence and reassure property owners?*	*What training will you provide for your staff in the technical, legal, and administrative aspects of property valuation and taxation?*
Torres G. **Leyba** Democrat	I have been an elected official, community leader and a political advocate over a public career spanning four decades. I have managed large teams to achieve superior constituent satisfaction, and once elected I and my team will bring a culture of Responsibility, Accountability and Oversight to the office of Assessor. This is my pledge - to ensure that the work that the Assessor does to determine our citizen's future property values will go forward in partnership with those who elected me.	First, and most importantly I would do everything possible to make the office of Assessor more transparent and accessible to the public, so property owners can know what role my office plays in determining each property owner's yearly tax bill. Also, I would commit to my office working and cooperating with any and all State agencies over the course of my term to see where mistakes might have been made in the past, while developing best practices to ensure that similar errors are not repeated.	Along with the strategies listed above, I am committed to making myself available to citizens groups throughout the County to bring regular updates on what the office is doing to ensure error-free protocols for reporting property values to the County for the next four years. I want to help my constituents understand what the Assessor does, what role they play in helping determine your final tax bill, and how our office works to help them receive maximum property values each and every day.	My staff will be empowered to obtain training in as many aspects of administering this office as they are able, and they will have my full support in seeking more efficient and transparent ways to bring true value to the property owners of New Mexico. If additional funding for my staff to obtain this training is required from the County, I will be an advocate for that funding to ensure that my staff is one of the most educated and prepared to be stewards of our County's property values.
Burgandy Bree **Casias** Republican	I bring over 20 years of experience in the mortgage industry, working with homeowners, appraisals, property values and tax information every day. My career requires accuracy, attention to detail and an understanding of how property values affect families. I also bring leadership, accountability and a commitment to serving the public. I believe my real-world experience and fresh perspective will help build an Assessor's Office that is accurate, accessible, transparent and accountable.	My priorities are fair and consistent valuations, accuracy, transparency and accessibility. I will improve communication so property owners understand how their values are determined and are aware of exemptions they may qualify for. Taxpayers should be able to get clear answers when they have questions and have confidence that their Assessor's Office is working for them and treating everyone fairly and respectfully.	The 2025 tax bill errors showed why accuracy, accountability and communication between county offices are so important. As Assessor, I will put stronger checks and balances in place, including multiple levels of review before valuation information leaves our office. I will work closely with other county offices to identify discrepancies before they affect taxpayers. Property owners deserve clear answers and an Assessor's Office that is accessible, transparent and accountable.	I will ensure staff receive ongoing training in valuation methods, state laws, administrative procedures and changes that affect property taxation. I believe in hands-on training, continuing education and cross-training so employees understand not only their own responsibilities, but how the entire office works. Clear procedures, consistent standards and accountability will help prevent errors and ensure taxpayers receive accurate information and knowledgeable service.

VALENCIA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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

	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?*
VALENCIA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1				
Christopher K **Williams** Republican	I bring real-world experience and a strong record of service. As an emergency planner and first responder, I've handled complex and high-consequence issues that require coordination, clear communication and accountability. I know how to listen, make informed decisions and follow through.	I focus on public safety, responsible growth and fiscal accountability. That means supporting first responders, aligning development with infrastructure and ensuring tax dollars are spent wisely. I set clear priorities, measure results and adjust as needed to deliver real outcomes for our community.	Transparency must come before decisions. I support earlier public notification, plain language summaries of agenda items and more community engagement. We have to be accessible, predictable and responsive to our residents.	Growth cannot outpace water. I would require verified, sustainable water sources before approval, support conservation efforts and coordinate with water authorities. Responsible growth means protecting our future.
Sharalaina **Piro-Rael** Democrat	I'm a lifelong Valencia County resident, a graduate of Los Lunas High School, and I hold a bachelor's degree from UNM. For the past 13 years, I've owned and operated J Sharp Music on Main Street in Los Lunas. I have real world experience managing budgets, meeting payroll, and understanding the pressures small businesses and everyday families face here. That's the experience District 1 needs, and if elected I will always remember that I am Working for You!	My top priorities are accountability, small business, smart growth, water, and affordability. After the county's $2 million scam this year, I will push for real financial oversight. As a 13-year small business owner, I will fight for policies that help local businesses thrive. Valencia County is the fastest growing county in the state, and I will work to ensure roads and services keep pace. And I will always look for ways to ease costs for families here.	Communication builds trust. I will post summaries of upcoming agenda items on social media before meetings, not just after decisions are made. I will also look into holding local events in District 1 and working with local outlets like the News-Bulletin to get information out early. Transparency should not be an afterthought. It should be a regular part of governing.	Water scarcity is not a future problem, it is already visible in dry stretches of our Rio Grande. As Valencia County grows, every major development should come with a real water impact review. I will push for strong coordination with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and water utilities so growth and conservation are both planned together. I will oppose projects without a sustainable water plan.

Valencia County Commissioner District 3

	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?
 Karla J **Laurie** Democrat	I served Valencia County as a firefighter and paramedic for 20+ years. During my career, I developed strong organizational and analytical skills and often worked within limited timeframes and under extreme and chaotic conditions-qualifications that will serve me well to clean up the mismanagement at all levels of Valencia County government.	Responsible water management while encouraging economic development is crucial for our prosperity. I believe our aquifers should be treated like critical infrastructure. I am the daughter of a WWII USN Pearl Harbor Survivor and career firefighter, sister of a disabled USN Veteran and the widow of a USN veteran and retired AFD firefighter. I am a retired first responder as well and will always advocate for all first responders and veterans for their rights, equipment and benefits.	I would announce town halls on the Valencia County website and also in the local newspaper as well as my social media platform which will include my opinions and voting record.	I will improve emergency readiness for increased wildfires expected in our drier and hotter climate. I will ensure that new developments include flood and erosion mitigation plans, which are crucial to improving our roads, infrastructure and drainage. I will support economic opportunity that does not exhaust our limited water resources.
 Sharon L **Smith** Republican	My experience with homes, working with police and fire departments, and spending 13 years in a New Mexico corrections facility has given me a strong understanding of Valencia County, its unique community, and its needs. I am a people person who enjoys helping others and addressing their concerns. I have been actively involved in our community for 26 years, including supporting the Boys & Girls Club, OPA, and local senior centers.	My highest priority is helping people and making sure they know they matter. Everyone has the right to be heard. I will listen to our residents' concerns, needs, and suggestions, work to understand their priorities, and make sure their voices are represented. Good leadership starts with listening, being accessible, and working together to find practical solutions for our community.	I would prioritize transparency and communication by attending local meetings and providing clear information about proposed projects and their impact. I would also meet with constituents before Commission meetings to hear concerns, discuss both sides, and consider community input before decisions are made. Elected officials have a responsibility to listen to and represent the voters who entrusted them with office.	I would balance growth with water scarcity by expanding desalination of brackish water, treating and reusing wastewater, repairing leaking water infrastructure, and improving irrigation efficiency through drip irrigation and smart technology. We should protect the Rio Grande and aquifers while developing new water sources, allowing agriculture, communities, and our economy to grow without relying solely on diminishing freshwater supplies.

VALENCIA COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

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

	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?
 Wendy Emily **Wallace** Republican	I've been proud to serve as Valencia County Probate Judge and bring four years of hands-on experience to the role. During my time in office, I have worked to ensure fairness, professionalism, and compassion for every family I serve. I have also completed ongoing judicial education to strengthen my knowledge and stay current on the law, allowing me to better serve our community with integrity and dedication.	Over the past four years, I have worked closely with our clerk staff to streamline the probate process and improve accessibility for residents. We have added probate packets and clear instructions to the County website to better guide families. I continue to build on these improvements by collaborating with other probate courts, sharing ideas, and implementing best practices to ensure our court remains efficient, accessible, and responsive to the needs of our community.	We are committed to educating the public about the probate process by updating the County website with helpful resources, providing educational brochures in the Clerk's lobby for elderly and low-income residents, and hosting community Q&As. We will continue expanding outreach efforts while ensuring information remains clear, accessible, and easy to understand.	I'm deeply committed to serving the people of Valencia County with integrity, fairness, and compassion. As a longtime resident, community volunteer, and local business owner, I understand the needs of our community and strive to be accessible and responsive. Over the past four years, I have gained a deeper understanding of what families go through during difficult times and have truly grown to love this work, making it an honor to serve our residents.
  Pedro **Rael** Democrat	Practicing attorney over 40 years; District Judge 5 years; bilingual; 90 trials, some of them Probate; advised probate judges and took over their case when needed;	More thorough training for probate judges; expand their responsibilities; lay out alternatives to avoid a district court probate with expensive legal fees and save taxpayers significant amounts of money.	At the "first meeting" after a loved one's death, explain court alternatives to the heirs and to the personal representative.	I have had a successful career in Valencia County for over 40 years and have been a District Judge for nearly 6 years. The job is second-hand to me and I have no conflicts of interest.

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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 OF 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 JUDGE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (CATRON, SIERRA, SOCORRO, AND TORRANCE COUNTIES)

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				
Mercedes C **Murphy** Nonpartisan	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*	*No response received.*

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

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.*

"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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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]

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

VALENCIA COUNTY BONDS

BOND QUESTION 1 - SHERIFF AND FIRE DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

Ballot Language:

Shall Valencia County issue up to $1,000,000 of its general obligation bonds, to be repaid from property taxes, to construct, renovate, furnish, enhance and otherwise improve buildings for sheriff and fire department facilities? [FOR /AGAINST]

BOND QUESTION 2 - PUBLIC ROADS

Ballot Language:

Shall Valencia County issue up to $4,000,000 of its general obligation bonds, to be repaid from property taxes, to construct, rehabilitate, enhance and otherwise improve public roads, including purchasing capital equipment for such projects? [FOR /AGAINST]

BOND QUESTION 3 - PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Ballot Language:

Shall Valencia County issue up to $2,000,000 of its general obligation bonds, to be repaid from property taxes, to construct, equip, renovate, enhance and otherwise improve and to acquire equipment for park and recreational facilities including public parks, splash pads, sports fields and other recreational facilities, open space, bike paths, Bosque lands and trails? [FOR /AGAINST]

BOND QUESTION 4 - COMMUNITY CENTERS

Ballot Language:

Shall Valencia County issue up to $2,000,000 of its general obligation bonds, to be repaid from property taxes, to construct, equip, renovate, enhance and otherwise improve County owned community centers, including those for families, youth and senior citizens? [FOR /AGAINST]

"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!

In Appreciation – 2026 LWVCNM Voter Guides

Thank you to our friends of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico.
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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Notes

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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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