

VOTE 2012

**GENERAL ELECTION
Tuesday, November 6**

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that provides information about political issues and candidates for public office in order to promote greater citizen participation in government. Because the League is nonpartisan, it does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. It does publish and distribute factual information for citizens to use when preparing to vote.

The candidate information in this Voters' Guide was obtained by means of a questionnaire sent to all the candidates. Because of space restrictions, only candidates in contested races were included, and all candidates were limited to a specific number of words per response. The League does not edit for meaning, grammar, punctuation or spelling. Rather, we print the candidates' responses as they were submitted, with an ellipsis (...) to indicate where a candidate exceeded the word limit for that response.

This Voters' Guide is organized in ballot order: from federal, to state, to county offices and issues. Under each office, the candidates' names and responses are listed in ballot order. Proposed state constitutional amendments and state and county bond and tax issues are included, and briefly described, to help voters better understand them.

For additional election information, visit the League's website: www.lwvsfc.org.

SPONSORS

The 2012 Voters' Guide was produced and distributed by the Santa Fe New Mexican, in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County. Tax-deductible donations to the League's Education Fund are gratefully accepted to support voter services projects such as Voters' Guides, candidate forums, and voter registration efforts. If you would like to contribute to the LWVSFC to support voter services, please make your check payable to the LWV Education Fund.

League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County

1472 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505
505-982-9766
www.lwvsfc.org

QUESTIONS? NEED MORE INFO?

Visit The New Mexico Secretary of State's Voter View at <https://voterview.state.nm.us> to determine your voter registration status, your registered address, and your polling place.

Santa Fe County Bureau of Elections:
505-986-6280.

www.santafecounty.org/clerk/elections_information.php

NM State Bureau of Elections (Office of Secretary of State): 505-827-3600
www.sos.state.nm.us

Visit the League of Women Voters New Mexico's website for comprehensive, online information about the statewide candidates and issues in the 2012 General Election:
www.LWVNM.org.

Visit the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County website, www.lwvsfc.org, for more information on local issues and links to other resources.

Visit The Santa Fe New Mexican website at www.santafenewmexican.com

LWVSFC CANDIDATE FORUMS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3

Ben Ray Lujan (D) and Jefferson L. Byrd (R).
Wednesday, October 10, 2012, 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.
Santa Fe Public Library, 145 Washington Ave.

N.M. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICTS 43, 48 AND 50

DISTRICT 43: Stephanie Garcia Richard (D) and James W, Hall (R)

DISTRICT 48: Luciano "Lucky" Varela (D) and Bob Walsh (L)

DISTRICT 50: Stephen P. Easley (D) and Charles Larry Miller (R)

Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
Unitarian Church, 107 West Barcelona Rd.

KEY TO PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

(IN BALLOT ORDER)

- (D) Democratic Party
- (R) Republican Party
- (IAP) Independent American Party
- (C) Constitutional Party
- (L) Libertarian Party
- (NMI) New Mexico Independent Party
- (G) Green Party
- (I) Independent

KEY DATES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012

- Last day to register to vote in the November 6th election
- Absentee by mail and absentee in person voting begins
- Request an application for an absentee ballot by calling 986-6280 (ballots can be requested prior to October 9th, but will not be mailed before then)
- Early voting at the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office begins,
102 Grant Avenue, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(PLEASE NOTE: County Clerk's Office is NOT open for early voting on Saturdays, except for Saturday, November 3rd)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2012

- Early voting at Santa Fe County satellite locations begins
- Early voting at satellite sites is held Tuesday through Friday, 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Locations of early voting satellite sites are:
Santa Fe Fairgrounds
3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe
El Dorado Senior Center
14 Avenida Torreon, El Dorado
Edgewood Fire Station
25 E. Frontage Road, Edgewood
Pojoaque County Satellite Office
5 West Gutierrez, Pojoaque
Santa Fe County Clerk's Office
102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2012

- Last day to request an absentee ballot

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2012

- Last day of early voting at all sites, including at the County Clerk's Office

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012 ELECTION DAY 7AM-7PM.

- Last day to submit an absentee ballot in person (absentee ballots must be turned in at the County Clerk's Office or at the voter's assigned polling place)
- Mailed absentee ballots must be received by the Clerk by 7pm

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Four-year term. Annual Salary: \$400,000

The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and is the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Four-year term. Annual Salary: \$230,000

The Vice President, together with the President, is elected to a four-year term of office. The Vice President is the first person in the presidential line of succession, and would ascend to the Presidency upon the death, resignation, or removal of the President. Under the Constitution, the Vice President is President of the United States Senate. In that capacity, he or she is allowed to vote in the Senate when necessary to break a tie.

CANDIDATE'S NAME		CONTACT INFORMATION	PARTY
	 Barack Obama, President Joe Biden, Vice-President	P.O. Box 803638 Chicago, IL 60680 312-698-3670 www.barackobama.com Twitter: @BarackObama	DEMOCRATIC PARTY
	 Mitt Romney, President Paul Ryan, Vice-President	PO Box 149756 Boston, MA 02114-9756 857-288-3500 Twitter: @MittRomney	REPUBLICAN PARTY
	 Virgil Goode, President Jim Clymer, Vice-President	235 S. Main Street Rocky Mount, VA 24151 540-483-9030 www.goodeforspresident2012.com Twitter: @VirgilGoode	CONSTITUTION PARTY
	 Gary Johnson, President Jim Gray, Vice-President	731 E South Temple Salt Lake City, UT 84102 801-303-7922 www.garyjohnson2012.com Twitter: @govgaryjohnson	LIBERTARIAN PARTY
	 Ross C. "Rocky" Anderson, President Luis J. Rodriguez, Vice-President	314 West 300 South, Suite 225 Salt Lake City, UT 84101 801-990-5300 www.voterocky.org Twitter: @RockyAnderson	NM INDEPENDENT PARTY
	 Jill Stein, President Cheri Cheri Honkala, Vice-President	PO Box 260217 Madison, WI 53726-0217 www.jillstein.org Twitter: @JillStein2012	GREEN PARTY

UNITED STATES SENATOR

6-year term, Annual Salary \$174,000

The League asked:	Describe your specific experience and abilities that prepare you for the office of United States Senator. (75 words)	What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and create jobs? (75 words)	What, if anything, should the federal government do to improve affordability and access to quality health care? (75 words)	What should the federal government do to slow climate change? (75 words)
 <p>Martin T. Heinrich (D) Email: info@martinheinrich.com Phone: (505) 242-4416</p>	<p>As the son of an electrician and a factory worker, I am a committed advocate for New Mexico's middle class families. I am one of only a handful of members of Congress with a background in science and technology and bring a unique perspective to create good, sustainable jobs in growing industries like clean energy and biotechnology.</p>	<p>The federal government needs trade and tax policies that put the US and every other country on a level playing field. Right now, countries like China have a huge advantage because of their low wages and terrible working conditions. I have fought bad trade deals that send our jobs overseas and will work to close tax loopholes for US companies that outsource American jobs, while providing incentives for companies to return to the US.</p>	<p>I have consistently fought to protect the benefits our seniors have earned from constant attacks by those who would rather give tax breaks to the super-rich and big corporations than keep this country's promises to our parents and grandparents. We can and must reduce our deficit - but I will never agree to do so on the backs of New Mexico's seniors.</p>	<p>I have always fought to make our country energy independent. In Congress, I introduced the Clean Energy Promotion Act, bipartisan legislation to promote renewable energy projects on public lands. I also voted for the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. New Mexico, with its abundant wind and solar resources, can and should be the epicenter of the clean energy economy and I am committed to make that belief a reality.</p>
 <p>Heather A. Wilson (R) Email: info@heatherwilson.com Phone: (505) 899-2009</p>	<p>My record of service started when I enrolled at the U.S. Air Force Academy. As an Air Force officer, I served on the U.S. mission to NATO and later worked in the White House under the first President Bush. In 1995, I became cabinet secretary of New Mexico's Children, Youth and Families Department where we led efforts to reform welfare laws and improve early childhood education. I also served in the Congress for 10 years.</p>	<p>There is nothing more important in America right now than creating jobs and growing the economy. That means low taxes, a moratorium on job-killing regulations, an all-of-the-above energy strategy and government reform that will control the unsustainable growth in government spending. We also need a balanced long-term energy policy that makes America more energy independent and keeps costs of energy down so that we can attract business and create jobs.</p>	<p>The health care act was a mistake. It should be repealed and replaced. It drives up health insurance costs, cuts Medicare, increases taxes and could devastate rural healthcare. I will continue my work to improve the health status of low income Americans and quality of patient care. We must allow doctors and patients to make decisions about care, make healthcare more affordable, pass medical liability reform, and continue to lead the world in healthcare research.</p>	<p>The earth has been in a period of warming for the last 11,900 years, since the last ice age. The question is how much of warming in recent centuries is due to human activity and what, if anything, can and should be done about it. We must improve the science to reduce the high level of uncertainty that exists in our models and increase the amount of data from which to draw conclusions.</p>
 <p>Jon Ross Barrie (IAP) Email: jon@jonbarrieforsenate.com Phone: (505) 999-2118</p>	<p>I am a USAF Vietnam Veteran. My experience has been in aviation and alternative health (Homeopathic Practitioner.) I managed large budgets and kept costs under control. My employment with the Federal Aviation Administration has given me the experience and awareness of government involvement in the private sector. I will not continue the present practice of taxing, spending and overregulating our nation. I will donate 1/2 of my salary to children with disabilities in New Mexico.</p>	<p>Our citizens are being overtaxed and overregulated. The nation must return to a free market society. The federal government has to be reduced to its constitutional limits and then prosperity will increase. WE the people can create jobs without government interference. The government is not the answer. Ask any business owner and they will tell you two things: reduce taxes and eliminate burdensome, unnecessary regulations. That alone will create jobs and strengthen the economy!!</p>	<p>The federal government should not be in the health care business. Their huge tax program is not the answer. The free market can and will provide affordable access to quality health care. This is a compassionate nation and the states and individuals will develop alternatives for low income and those in need. If we de-regulate and lower taxes our health care system will enjoy immediate benefits to us all.</p>	<p>My research into this issue has revealed that there are no definitive human causes of climate change of any significance. The majority of reputable scientists have concluded that man-caused global warming is not an issue.</p>
 <p>Robert L. Anderson (I) Email: Anderson@swcp.com Phone: 505-401-4707 DECLARED WRITE-IN</p>	<p>Have been a professor of political science and other liberal arts fields for nearly 20 years now. Obtained a PhD from UNM. Lived in New Mexico for 40 years. Served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War, saw combat, honorably discharged. Am a client of the Veterans Administration medical services. Worked as a steelworker. Ran a community center for 8 years working with low income and unemployed. Worked for peace and justice campaigns for ...</p>	<p>Abandon trickle down economics and implement a progressive tax structure (tax the rich, not workers), close corporate tax shelters and loop holes, roll back the outrageous military budget and put that savings towards investment in our state's education, health environmental needs and a solar based green New Deal. Higher education should be free and home mortgage foreclosures cancelled to keep families in their homes. Support worker ownership programs and decolonize New Mexico's economy.</p>	<p>Remove private sector insurance companies from controlling access to health care for private profit. The problem is not affordable insurance but the building of a Medicare-for-all system for the whole country. Combat veterans like me already have this through the Veterans hospital system and it could be expanded to all Americans. It is just a political will question. Funds could come by recovering the welfare given to Wall Street banks and the military-industrial complex.</p>	<p>Stop using fossil fuels which are causing atmospheric warming from use in industry, cars and home heating. We need a crash program to go to sustainable energy sources and stop nuclear power like Japan is doing before we have a similar major disaster. A major solar, wind power, bio-fuels and other programs need to be developed immediately which should employ the under 25 age workers so we can build a new middle class.</p>

US REPRESENTATIVE-DISTRICT 1

2-year term, Annual Salary \$174,000

The League asked:	Describe your specific experience and abilities that prepare you for the office of United States Representative. (75 words)	What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and create jobs? (75 words)	What, if anything, should the federal government do to improve affordability and access to quality health care? (75 words)	What should the federal government do to slow climate change? (75 words)
 <p>Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) Email: mlgforcongress@gmail.com Phone: (505) 242-3511</p>	<p>After earning my law degree, I worked as director of the state Agency on Aging and protected seniors from scam artists. As Health Secretary, I fought for women's health and doubled the number of school-based health centers and banned junk food in schools. As a Bernalillo County Commissioner, I held leaders accountable and created hundreds of new jobs. I own a small-business that provides health care access to residents who were denied health insurance.</p>	<p>During my first year in Congress, I will fight to end the Bush Tax Cuts on millionaires and get rid of loopholes for corporate interests. We must show the American people that we are serious about putting the Middle Class first. I will also support a plan to help small businesses get access to capital.</p>	<p>I will advocate for healthcare programs to manage the underlying cause, not just treat the symptoms, and prevent more people from becoming obese so that these problems and their associated costs do not occur at the rates that we see today. I would start by creating pilot programs with medical professionals and lower-cost but well-trained paraprofessionals that effectively treat obesity. I will also push to have paraprofessionals to have their fees covered by insurance.</p>	<p>I will stand up to corporate polluters and Big Oil, and protect our land, our air and our water. As the home to two national labs, New Mexico can be a leader in the development of Clean Energy Technologies. In Congress, I will champion the development of those technologies to protect the planet, our citizens and grow the economy of New Mexico.</p>
 <p>Janice E. Arnold-Jones (R) Email: Janice@janice2012.us Phone: 505-797-8030</p>	<p>As a four-term NM House Representative, I earned a reputation as a leader committed to honesty, transparency, and a willingness to build consensus. I'll do the same in Congress. As a private citizen, I built a business and worked with business owners to provide jobs and make a payroll. With experience both in the private and public sectors, I have the experience to serve the needs and values of our district.</p>	<p>We must look past the policy failures that created this economic downturn and implement common sense solutions such as eliminating loopholes, ending duplicated regulations, revising financial industry rules so small businesses have access to loans and developing our own domestic energy production. These changes will create an environment for job growth throughout New Mexico. With more consistent and reliable regulations, job creators will have the tools to plan for their future and start hiring.</p>	<p>Affordability and access to health care will improve exponentially if government engages the private sector. When insurance companies are forced to compete in an open market, patients will always choose the provider that offers the best care at the best price. When providers adapt to the needs of patients by providing great care at a great price, America's working families will reap the benefits.</p>	<p>With so many of America's working families struggling, we must take a balanced approach to curbing harmful emissions that would contaminate our water or pollute our air. The solution lies in pursuing a policy of American energy independence; a solution that includes energy programs that keep Americans employed. The broader our energy base, the lower our reliance on a single energy component, and the stronger our country becomes by assuring affordable, accessible energy.</p>
 <p>Mary Jeanne Pahls (G) Email: jeannepahls@comcast.net DECLARED WRITE-IN</p>	<p>Worked with affordable housing issues and the homeless; Lived in inner city housing cooperatives and reservations; witnessed the obstacles that marginalized peoples experience in the U.S.; Worked with refugees; organized to support children in war-torn impoverished areas overseas; went and saw firsthand the devastation wrought there by our own foreign policy; Worked for nuclear disarmament; peace activist; Extensive experience in the field of education and working with at-risk children; www.PahlsforCongress.org</p>	<p>We must do the following: Eliminate tax cuts to the wealthy; Require corporations to pay their share in taxes; Cut the Defense budget; Nationalize companies that require bailouts/ tax cuts; return those companies' profits to workers (eliminating stockholders); require banks to return equity to homeowners when foreclosing; support small businesses, which hire locally, rather than corporations which exploit overseas; adequately fund education; require entities to honor employee pension agreements; increase affordable housing.</p>	<p>It is a good first step, initiating a discussion about the right to adequate health care and probably saving many lives at the same time. It unfortunately requires more people to turn to the insurance companies, which currently suck more than \$400 billion of our health care dollars per year (http://www.pnhp.org/facts/single-payer-resources). We need a government nonprofit, which will guarantee health care for all and keep costs down. This is single-payer healthcare.</p>	<p>We must fully pursue positive energy options: solar, wind, water power; local food sources and local production; electric (not gas powered) vehicles; mass transit, bicycling, pedestrian efforts. Coal and nuclear power are unacceptable. They involve pollution and radioactive waste. Climate change is a serious reality. Corporations must be regulated to prevent pollution and energy consumption. The Keystone Excel pipeline is not an option. It furthers our energy and climate change problems.</p>

US REPRESENTATIVE-DISTRICT 3

2-year term. Annual Salary \$174,000

The League asked:	Describe your specific experience and abilities that prepare you for the office of United States Representative. (75 words)	What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and create jobs? (75 words)	What, if anything, should the federal government do to improve affordability and access to quality health care? (75 words)	What should the federal government do to slow climate change? (75 words)
 <p>Ben R. Lujan (D) Email: peopleforben@gmail.com Phone: (505) 984-8950</p>	<p>I was born and raised in the community of Nambe where I tended to our acequias, land, and animals. I learned the values, culture, and traditions that make Northern New Mexico such a special place. Over the past four years I have been honored to represent Northern New Mexico in Congress, and I hope to continue my efforts to protect our land and water, strengthen our economy, and preserve Social Security and Medicare for our ...</p>	<p>The federal government must make responsible investments in innovation and education that strengthen our manufacturing sector. We need to prepare our young people with the skills and training for jobs in the science and technology fields so they can out-innovate the rest of the world. In addition, government investments in renewable energy can pave the way for a clean energy economy that creates new jobs by harnessing New Mexico's abundant renewable resources.</p>	<p>The Affordable Care Act took important steps that are already benefiting seniors, children, young adults, and small businesses in New Mexico. Seniors receive free preventive care through Medicare and discounts on prescription drugs. Children can no longer be discriminated against because of a pre-existing condition. Young adults can stay on their parents' plans until age 26. And small businesses are receiving tax credits to help them afford health insurance for their workers.</p>	<p>With more than half of the country suffering from drought conditions, we cannot wait to address climate change. Through investments in renewable energy and natural gas, we can reduce carbon emissions and our dependence on foreign oil. I have been a strong supporter of net metering, which encourages the use of renewable energy in homes and offices by allowing consumers to produce their own power through renewable sources and sell excess power to utility companies.</p>
 <p>Jefferson L. Byrd (R) Email: jeff@jeffbyrd2012.com Phone: (575) 361-0212</p>	<p>I have a lifetime of experience in agriculture and the energy industry, and today run my own small business on a ranch outside of Tucumcari. We need a Congressman who understands the district and where the jobs come from, who will stand up for New Mexicans and fight for New Mexico. I'll be a true representative for northern New Mexico who will represent real New Mexico values.</p>	<p>I will fight for and introduce legislation that will stimulate America's economy and get New Mexicans back to work again. I will work to implement an ambitious "New Jobs New Mexico" plan that will reduce regulations and boost private sector jobs in industries important to Northern New Mexico. Simplifying our tax code and regulatory system will go a long way to creating a climate where businesses can grow and thrive.</p>	<p>I would like to repeal the Affordable Healthcare Act and address each issue separately. I believe health insurance providers should be allowed to compete in order to reduce prices, much like car insurance companies do now. I believe insurance should cover those who have pre-existing conditions. I believe we need to address tort reform in order to reduce frivolous lawsuits. I believe that states should be allowed to implement their own healthcare reforms.</p>	<p>Being an Environmental Engineer I do not believe in the "Man Made Global Warming Theory". This theory is based in very poorly founded science. Although we have to work to protect the environment, this is not a factor of concern. Science is not a "consensus" but the facts. For those who want to read more about this I encourage them to see: http://www.middlebury.net/op-ed/global-warming-01.html. Climate Change is natural occurrence.</p>



NEW MEXICO STATE JUDICIAL OFFICES

Vacancies for courts in New Mexico are filled through appointment by the governor from a slate of potential nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. The newly appointed judge must then run in a contested, partisan election at the next general election. Thereafter, the judge runs in nonpartisan retention elections for set terms. In a partisan election, the candidate receiving the most votes will be elected. In a retention election, the justice or judge must receive a 57% "yes" vote out of all the votes cast on the question of whether the justice or judge should remain in office.


THE NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT

The five justices on the Supreme Court are elected by all voters in the state and serve eight-year terms. To be eligible to hold the office of Justice of the Supreme Court, a person must be 35 years old, have practiced law for at least 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last 3 years. The Supreme Court serves as the administrative head of the New Mexico judicial branch of government. It is the "court of last resort" for state appellate actions, regulates attorneys and judges, and has superintending control over all lower state courts. It has jurisdiction over civil cases where jurisdiction is not specifically vested in the state Court of Appeals, appeals from criminal cases imposing the death penalty or life imprisonment, appeals from decisions of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, certiorari review of state Court of Appeals decisions, and cases certified to it by the state Court of Appeals or any federal court. Annual salaries: Chief Justice, \$125,691; Justice, \$123,691.

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT - CONTESTED

The League asked:	What attributes and experience prepare you for service as a New Mexico Supreme Court Justice? (65 words)	What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence? (65 words)	What programs and changes to improve the New Mexico Supreme Court would you like to see implemented? (65 words)
 <p>Barbara J. Vigil (D)</p>	<p>As a District Court Judge for 12 years I have extensive judicial experience which is the most significant experience for service on the Supreme Court. As Chief Judge I am responsible for the oversight of court operations. My values are shaped by my experiences. Having lived a life knowing tragedy, hardship, the importance of family and hard work I understand the challenges people face</p>	<p>An independent, fair, and impartial judiciary is indispensable to our system of justice. The Code of Judicial Conduct governs the political activities of judges in order to maintain those principles which sustain an independent, impartial and competent judiciary. All judges including myself must obey the Code of Judicial Conduct in order to preserve these principles.</p>	<p>The Supreme Court along with the entire judiciary has been forced to incur significant budget decreases. Although the judiciary is an equal branch of government, its total budget is 2.5% of the entire state budget. Large cutbacks affect the administration of justice by limiting the number of new judgeships, the implementation of necessary technology needed to manage cases and to pay competitive salaries.</p>
 <p>Paul J. Kennedy (R)</p>	<p>When I was appointed to the Supreme Court ten years ago, I helped clear a large backlog of cases, some of which had been pending for over a year. Additionally, I have practiced law in New Mexico for over 35 years, first serving as a public defender and then in private practice where I have focused on both civil and criminal cases.</p>	<p>The laws of the land, of New Mexico, and of the United States, are the expressed will of the people. It is fundamental, in fact critical, that judges guard against the temptation to substitute their individual preferences for the law itself—for what is already in our statutes—effectively overriding the judgment of all New Mexicans. A truly independent judiciary must adhere to these principles.</p>	<p>Courts should be more responsive to the people. Delays cost New Mexicans, and impede the cause of justice. We should adopt procedures that provide for timely resolution of cases, and because we serve the people, not the other way round, we should endeavor to publish written opinions of every decision. The people deserve to know what judges rule, as well as how and why.</p>



JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT - RETENTION

The League asked:	What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current New Mexico Supreme Court Justice? (65 words)	What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence? (65 words)	What programs and changes to improve the New Mexico Supreme Court would you like to see implemented? (65 words)
 <p>Richard C. Bosson (D)</p>	<p>With 18 years on the bench, 8 with the Ct/App (two as Chief Judge) and 10 on the Supreme Court (two as Chief Justice), I have the most appellate experience of any sitting judge and more than almost anyone over the past 50 years. Despite the longevity, I work hard each day and am passionate about the pursuit of fairness and equal justice for all.</p>	<p>Judges must remain free of partisanship and the appearance of being political. This means avoiding partisan gatherings, fund raisers, endorsements, or even just associating in a manner that could be construed as political. And this includes your private life as well and even your family. It can be lonely, but that is the price of being part of the judiciary.</p>	<p>The Supreme Court functions well as long as good people get on the Court. Unfortunately, the present pay scale and requirement of running a state-wide political race discourages many excellent applicants from pursuing an interest. I would like to see some changes affecting the political requirements for appellate judges, perhaps as they do in Arizona where only trial judges run in partisan elections.</p>



THE NEW MEXICO COURT OF APPEALS

The ten judges on the Court of Appeals are elected by all voters in the state and serve eight-year terms. To be eligible to hold the office of Judge of the Court of Appeals, a person must be 35 years old, have practiced law for at least 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last 3 years. As the intermediate appellate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals currently reviews appeals in all cases, except criminal cases involving sentences of death or life imprisonment, appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, and cases involving habeas corpus. The judges sit in panels of three judges to decide cases. Annual salaries: Chief Judge, \$119,406; Judge, \$117,506.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS – PARTISAN

The League asked:	How have your training, professional experience, and interests prepared you to serve on the New Mexico Court of Appeals? (65 words)	What improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented? (65 words)	What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence? (65 words)
 M. Monica Zamora (D)	I have served as a District Court Judge for the past seven years. As a civil trial attorney for over 18 years, I practiced throughout the State and in Federal Courts, including the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. My extensive experience of arguing cases as well as presiding over trials has prepared me for this position.	We currently have a very good Court of Appeals bench. I would not propose improvements, but rather propose to enhance the Court of Appeals by expanding its collective experience to include juvenile justice, abuse and neglect cases and adoptions. There is no current sitting Court of Appeals judge with this experience.	Under the Code of Judicial Conduct, judges are required to establish, maintain and enforce high standards of conduct. We are also required to personally observe those standards so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary will be preserved. When we are sworn in as judges and we put on that black robe, we accept those restrictions freely and willingly. There are no exceptions.
 J. Miles Hannissee (R)	My service as a Court of Appeals Judge follows seventeen years of extensive appellate practice. Having worked for three federal appeals judges, represented the United States in appellate litigation for a decade, and now been a participant in dozens of appellate rulings, I add specific experience and passion for appellate law to our ten-member court that resolves nearly 1000 cases per year.	Citizens will see their access to courts suffer if funding to the Judiciary is not meaningfully increased. Our appellate and district courts operate under budgetary constraints that result in hardship to both litigants and court personnel. Adverse effects include delay in case resolution, less access to indigent services, and a decrease in the capacity to resolve disputes outside of the courtroom.	The most significant ethical dilemma preventing our judiciary from achieving political independence are elections based upon party affiliation. Appointed jurists like myself serve only after recommendation by Bi-partisan Judicial Nominating Commissions and selection by the sitting governor, regardless of party. It disservices the public that immediately afterward we are required to associate with a single political entity in order to be elected.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS – RETENTION

The League asked:	What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current Judge of the Court of Appeals? (65 words)	Given your experience as a Judge of the Court of Appeals, what improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented? (65 words)	What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence? (65 words)
 Roderick T. Kennedy	23 years judging, 11 on Court of Appeals. Recommended for retention by bipartisan commission. Have presided in magistrate, Metropolitan, tribal and district courts throughout New Mexico. Handled more than 65,000 cases, civil and criminal, in Metro Court. Human experience informs my decisions. Awards: ABOTA 2011 Outstanding Appellate Judge, British Forensic Society; NM Bar. Write and teach about science and the law, including at UNM Law.	The speed of justice is slowed by lack of resources. Cases are more complicated every year. Budget cuts result in slower appeals and less personnel to handle them efficiently. Lower courts have trouble moving appeals to us on time for the same reasons. Courts use about 3% of total state budget, and there is no slack left. Priority setting with legislature and Governor is required.	My Constitutional duty is to be independent and impartial. Courts referee disputes, sometimes saying the "will of the majority" is wrong. Forcing partisan elections on judges selected on their merit by bi-partisan commissions conflicts with judges responsibility to the judicial oath of impartiality. Retention races, and current evaluation commissions protect the public interest in judicial quality and independence better than the current system.
 Michael Vigil	I have been an attorney since 1976. As a private attorney, I handled a wide variety of civil and criminal cases, and served as appellate counsel in over 50 formal published cases of first impression. I have been a Judge since February, 2003, and I am the author of dozens of cases of first impression, both civil and criminal.	The court must seek to find ways to render quicker decisions while maintaining a high level of quality.	I would abolish partisan, political elections of all judges.

NEW MEXICO STATE LEGISLATURE

NEW MEXICO STATE SENATOR

Four-year term. No salary (per diem and mileage only).

The League asked:	Describe the education, experience and abilities that prepare you for this office. (65 words)	What will your priorities be for the budget? Where should cuts be made, if necessary? (65 words)	What should the state legislature do to improve the economy in New Mexico and ensure job growth? (65 words)	What should the state legislature do to ensure that all people living in New Mexico have access to affordable, quality healthcare? (65 words)
 Phil A. Griego (D) Email: senatorgriego@yahoo.com Phone: (505) 469-9470	I'm a proud native New Mexican. I grew up in Santa Fe and learned hard work and what it means to serve a community alongside my loving father who owned "Tito's Market" in Santa Fe. I graduated from St. Michael's High and law degree from Antioch. I'm a husband, father, grandfather, small business owner, rancher, former Santa Fe City councilman and State Senator for sixteen ...	Everything will be up for discussion because we must produce and maintain a healthy budget, however, I will look first at wasteful spending and other opportunities to reduce but not at the expense of the middle class hard working man and woman. I will find ways to reduce without job cuts or stripping education funding and vital programs for needy New Mexicans.	The single most important issue facing our state is rebuilding the economy and job creation. We need short-term jobs to accelerate growth now. Small business is our lifeblood and we must make it easier to succeed with simple, straightforward solutions. We need long-term career growth through widespread technology re-training. Wind, solar and alternative energy jobs are also key in NM where we have abundant sunshine...	We must accept the Medicaid expansion so that more than 170,000 more people in NM will be covered. I will champion the opportunity to stand as the example to the rest of the country in our determination that every New Mexican has affordable, accessible health care. We must reject any and all attempts to weaken and repeal the Affordable Care Act.
 Aubrey Dunn (R) Email: blackwalnut@hotmail.com Phone: (575) 420-6798	Second generation native New Mexican. Raised on apple orchard in High Rolls New Mexico. Graduate of Colorado State University with Animal Science Degree. 25 years as banker last ten of those as President and CEO of First Federal Bank. Currently rancher on Cattle ranch in Lincoln County. Vast experience in business world, budgets and community service.	Education would be first priority. Cuts would be in areas of least critical services to maintain the highest level of available for the budget constraints.	Create a business friendly business climate, making sure to not give more favorable tax rates to out of state headquartered corporations over New Mexico based corporations. Remove unnecessary regulations, while still protecting the scenic beauty and environment of New Mexico.	Create incentives to attract more physicians to New Mexico. Increase revenues from natural resources to help fund needed services. Currently not enough state revenue to ensure affordable healthcare.



NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Two-year term. No salary (per diem and mileage only).

House District 43	House District 43
 Stephanie Garcia Richard (D) stephanierichard2010@gmail.com Phone: (505) 672-4196	 James W. Hall (R) Email: jhall@newmexico.com Phone: (505) 672-6404
Originally from Silver City, NM, I attended Barnard College, Columbia University, and received my teaching certification at California State University-LA. Working well with others, being goal oriented, and demonstrating leadership and energy are the skills that prepare me for office. Working overseas in communities with considerably less than ours, and as a mother, I've learned how to be economical while keeping an eye on budgets.	As a 42 year resident of Northern NM, I have extensive experience in manual labor, management, consulting, and public service. I have degrees in math (undergraduate) and management (graduate). I have been a construction worker, firefighter, LANL division leader, successful consultant, NM cabinet secretary, and small business owner. I was elected twice to, and chaired, both the LA School Board and the LA County Council.
Priorities: creating jobs to improve our economy, investing in education and establishing equitable healthcare. The State has cut over \$700M from the budget in the last four years and at some point, cuts become counterproductive—especially in education. Let's examine the over \$1B in tax exemptions special interests receive annually. Furthermore, let's take advantage of the economic benefits of the new healthcare law.	My budget priorities are K-12 Education, health care, and rural infrastructure (roads, water systems, and wastewater systems). These areas need both funding and improved effectiveness in their operations. Cuts should focus on reducing duplication and overhead costs, especially in higher education institutions and among state agencies
Our policymakers must make decisions that promote job growth and support local businesses. I was surprised when my opponent voted to continue to allow out-of-state corporations to not pay taxes on the income they make in NM. This costs us millions and unfairly puts NM's business on unfair footing. I support supports job skills training and education, and capital to help small businesses add jobs.	Our historic dependence on federal funding is unsustainable. New Mexico must grow private jobs by doing three things. First, improve K-12 education. Second, reform the business tax code, especially gross receipts taxes on services and multiple "tax credits" that distort a "level playing field" among New Mexico businesses. Finally, streamline the state's regulatory obstacle course to bring predictability and confidence to our investment climate
I will push for improved access to a wide variety of healthcare services, increasing the number of New Mexican's who have health insurance coverage and support prevention efforts and non-traditional medicine. We must move as fast as possible to establish a strong NM Health Insurance Exchange. I will support adopting the expansion of Medicaid services provided for under the new law.	Federal policy limits state options. However, NM can improve health care access through three actions. First, reform Medicaid to allow coverage to be expanded at an acceptable cost. Second, implement a health exchange that offers people multiple options for acquiring health care insurance. Third, ensure sliding scale primary clinics are widely available in NM.

NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Two-year term. No salary (per diem and mileage only).

The League asked:	Describe the education, experience and abilities that prepare you for this office. (65 words)	What will your priorities be for the budget? Where should cuts be made, if necessary? (65 words)	What should the state legislature do to improve the economy in New Mexico and ensure job growth? (65 words)	What should the state legislature do to ensure that all people living in New Mexico have access to affordable, quality healthcare? (65 words)
<p>House District 48</p>  <p>Luciano "Lucky" Varela (D) Email: lucky4st@msn.com Phone: (505) 982-1292</p>	<p>25 yrs. State Govt./ 26 yrs Legislature – Chair/Vice Chair LFC/ Deputy Chair HAFC</p>	<p>Health care – Education – Public Safety./ Economic incentives for small businesses./ Broden our tax base – Avoid harmful cuts to services.</p>	<p>Broaden our tax base – Eliminate unessary tax loop holes. Promote small busines tax incentives/ Create jobs.</p>	<p>Encourage preserving Medicare at Federal level – take advantage of Affordable Care Act and expand Medicaid to cover more children and the poor.</p>
 <p>Bob Walsh (L) Email: walshb@cybermesa.com Phone: (505) 470-1254</p>	<p>I am a mathematician with degrees in physics and biology and experience in accounting and regulatory analysis. I am President of my neighborhood association, have assisted legislators, and teamed with other activists to achieve paper ballots. I helped start Rocky Mountain EMS. I am divorced with 2 children and 5 grandchildren, an ACLU Guardian of Liberty, and a Silver Life Master in Duplicate Bridge</p>	<p>The state must educate school-age children, maintain a National Guard, control pollution, and pay its debts. The state may be unable to pay future employee pensions unless it catches the funds up to a level consistent with a realistic return on investment. The Legislature should institute standard accounting controls to stop the ongoing corruption, where only dumb mistakes get caught. Everything else could be cut.</p>	<p>Some Nobel economists maintain that most government actions impede the economy. The Public Regulation Commission, intended to control monopolies, now protects the monopolies of its cronies. Most state agencies are siphoning the people's wealth to corrupt and unproductive individuals. Agencies and boards that restrict competition should be eliminated. However, there are a few actions that might help (See the next answer, for example.).</p>	<p>The NM Constitution sets no healthcare goal. However, the state should seize opportunities to benefit its residents, even if we disagree with Federal programs. We should commit about \$500 million through 2020 to expand Medicaid to about 170,000 people. Federal contributions will create enough provider and secondary jobs that tax revenue should cover state costs. However, Medicaid literature should clarify that benefits may be temporary.</p>
<p>House District 50</p>  <p>Stephen P. Easley (D) Email: doc@stepheneasley.com Phone: (505) 699-5516</p>	<p>I earned a Ph.D. and worked as a university professor and research scientist for 20 years. I have owned an Information Technology services company for 17 years. I understand the needs of small businesses. I served on the Alamogordo City Commission. I worked for seven years as a top IT executive in NM state government and am experienced with the executive and legislative branches.</p>	<p>My top budget priorities will be adequate public education funding, workforce development and job creation, and funding to improve protections for our clean air, land, and water. The Richardson era tax cuts for top NM earners should be repealed, and unwise and unnecessary tax loopholes, such as those for big box chain stores, should be eliminated. These will mitigate the need to cut state services.</p>	<p>The legislature must use capital outlay funds to improve the state's infrastructure, particularly green energy projects and the development of new sources of water. Companies will not come to NM unless we have well-developed infrastructure. New companies will bring new jobs. We also must fund programs at our high schools and colleges to build a high quality workforce to attract new companies and new jobs.</p>	<p>The legislature should follow the provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Expansion of Medicaid will provide health care insurance to 150,000 citizens who are currently uninsured. The Federal government will pay 100% of the cost for several years and 90% thereafter. Respected economists have shown that this approach will bring billions of dollars to NM, leaving a net cost to the state of \$0.</p>
<p>House District 50</p>  <p>Charles Larry Miller (R) Email: larrymiller505@gmail.com Phone: (505) 286-2181</p>	<p>I have had the privilege to serve New Mexicans through education: 9 years as School Superintendent; 15 years at Moriarty High School as Counselor/Assistant Principal; 2 years at TVI; currently serving as Principal of Estancia Valley Classical Academy. My experience extends to the US Department of Interior, 7 years and NM State Planning Office, 3 years. I moved my family to Edgewood in 1981.</p>	<p>Now that we have a balanced budget under Governor Martinez we must maintain that status. However, we must continue to self-monitor all government programs and illuminate unnecessary spending. One area of concern in dollars and productivity is how we use welfare. There are legitimate needs met by welfare but we must be responsible and be sure we are offering a hand-up not an ongoing hand-out.</p>	<p>We can create better job opportunities by doing away with unnecessary regulations and reducing the tax burden. One area of development that can continue to be expanded in New Mexico is in the field energy, helping America to strive for energy independence. Enacting a Right-to-Work law would create a permanent boost in employment and income growth.</p>	<p>We must understand the funding of health care; then make careful analysis of health care needs and empower individuals and communities to tailor health care to meet their needs. The action of the State Legislature includes proper cost/benefit analysis in health care (the system) compared to patient care (the service).</p>

ALL CANDIDATES ON THE 2012 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT (including both contested and uncontested races)

Please note: not all these candidates will appear on every ballot in Santa Fe County. To see a replica of the ballot you will be using when you vote, visit the County Clerk's website: http://www.santafecounty.org/clerk/elections_information.php

<p>PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES Democrat Barak Obama and Joe Biden</p> <p>Republican Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan</p> <p>Constitution Virgil Goode and Jim Clymer</p> <p>Libertarian Gary Johnson and James P. Gray</p>	<p>JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT Democrat Barbara J. Vigil</p> <p>Republican Paul J. Kennedy</p> <p>JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS Democrat M. Monica Zamora</p> <p>Republican J. Miles. Hanisee</p>	<p>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 43 Democrat Stephanie Garcia Richard</p> <p>Republican James W. Hall</p> <p>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 45 Democrat Jim R. Trujillo</p> <p>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 46 Democrat Carl P. Trujillo</p>	<p>COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 Democrat Miguel Chavez</p> <p>COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 Democrat Kathleen Suzanne Holian</p> <p>COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 Democrat Elizabeth T. Stefanics</p>
<p>New Mexico Independent Party Ross C. "Rocky" Anderson and Luis J. Rodriguez</p> <p>Green Jill Stein and Cheri Honkala</p> <p>UNITED STATES SENATOR Democrat Martin T. Heinrich</p> <p>Republican Heather A. Wilson</p> <p>Independent American Party Jon R. Barrie</p> <p>Declared Write-in/Independent Robert L. Anderson</p>	<p>STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 5 Democrat Richard C. Martinez</p> <p>STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 6 Democrat Carlos R. Cisneros</p> <p>STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 19 Republican Sue Wilson Beffort</p> <p>STATE SENATE DISTRICT 24 Democrat Nancy Rodriguez</p> <p>STATE SENATE DISTRICT 25 Democrat Peter Wirth</p>	<p>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 47 Democrat Brian F. Egoif, Jr.</p> <p>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 48 Democrat Luciano "Lucky" Varela</p> <p>Libertarian Bob Walsh</p> <p>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 50 Democrat Stephen P. Easley</p> <p>Republican Charles Larry Miller</p>	<p>COUNTY CLERK Democrat Geraldine Salazar</p> <p>COUNTY TREASURER Democrat Patrick Varela</p> <p>ELECTION OF NON-PARTISAN JUDGES Vote Yes or No for Each Judge Shall Richard C. Bosson be retained as a Justice of the Supreme Court? Shall Roderick T. Kennedy be retained as a Justice of the Court of Appeals? Shall Michael Vigil be retained as a Judge of the Court of Appeals?</p>
<p>UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 1 Precincts 15, 73 & 84 Democrat Michelle Luján Grisham</p> <p>Republican Janice E. Arnold-Jones</p> <p>Declared Write-in/Green Jeanne Pahls</p> <p>UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 3 PRECINCTS: All precincts except 15, 73 and 84 Democrat Ben R. Luján</p> <p>Republican Jefferson L. Byrd</p>	<p>STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 39 Democrat Phil A. Griego</p> <p>Republican Aubrey Dunn</p> <p>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 22 Republican James E. Smith</p> <p>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 41 Democrat Debbie A. Rodella</p>	<p>PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION DISTRICT 3 Democrat Valerie L. Espinoza</p> <p>DISTRICT ATTORNEY 1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT Democrat Angela R. "Spence" Pacheco</p> <p>PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION, DISTRICT 10 Democrat Jeff Carr</p>	

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

PROPOSED 2012 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

On November 6, 2012, five proposed constitutional amendments will appear on the New Mexico general election ballot as the result of passage of joint resolutions by the New Mexico Legislature in its 2011 and 2012 regular legislative sessions. For adoption, a constitutional amendment requires ratification by a majority of those voting on the constitutional amendment. Proposed constitutional amendments become effective upon approval by the voters unless an effective date is provided within the text of the proposed amendment.

The following is a list of the amendments that will appear on the ballot in the 2012 General Election with a brief summary of each amendment with “for and against” arguments. More comprehensive information can be found on the New Mexico Legislature’s website: <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/reports.aspx>.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 1

Proposing an amendment to Article 6, Section 32 of the Constitution of New Mexico to provide for two additional members to sit on the judicial standards commission, a municipal judge and a public member.

BRIEF ANALYSIS:

Constitutional Amendment 1 would amend Article 6, Section 32 of the New Mexico Constitution and increase the membership of the Commission from 11 to 13 by adding two commissioner positions. One new commissioner would be a municipal judge, selected in a manner set by the Legislature to serve a four-year term. The second would be a citizen who is neither a judge nor an attorney, appointed by the Governor to serve a five-year term.

ARGUMENTS FOR:

1) Municipal judges represent the largest category of judges in the state, and yet there is no dedicated slot for a municipal judge on the commission. Adding a municipal judge to the commission provides equal representation on the oversight body that monitors their job performance.

2) It is unfair for complaints regarding a municipal judge’s job performance to be resolved solely by people who lack the current, firsthand experiences and views of a municipal judge. Thus, adding a municipal judge as a member of the Commission increases fairness.

3) Adding a municipal judge and a citizen member would retain the current balance of power on the Commission. This change would ensure that views of municipal judges would be heard along with those of the other judges, attorneys, and citizen members. This is especially important when a municipal judge is the subject of a complaint alleging misconduct.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

1) Adding two more members to the Commission, for a total of 13, would make its work unnecessarily difficult. It is always challenging to reach consensus when more people are involved in a process. All disciplinary recommendations of the Commission require a majority consensus. It is not in the best interests of the citizenry to slow down the judicial oversight process.

2) A Constitutional Amendment is unnecessary because such changes could be accomplished by amending current law through the Legislature instead of permanently changing the Constitution. A bill requiring that a municipal judge be a member of the Commission could be passed by the Legislature.

3) Adding more members to the Judicial Standards Commission would increase the costs to the taxpayer for funding the Commission’s work. Members of the Commission are entitled to per diem and mileage

reimbursement.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 2

Proposing an amendment to Article 11, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico to increase the qualifications for Public Regulation Commissioners.

BRIEF ANALYSIS

Constitutional Amendment 2 would amend Article 11, Section 1 of the New Mexico Constitution to require the Legislature to enact a statute increasing the qualifications of Public Regulation Commission (“PRC”) commissioners. Currently, PRC commissioners are only required to be at least 18 years of age, not convicted felons, and registered to vote in New Mexico. The increased qualifications would apply starting with commissioners elected at the 2014 general election, as well as any commissioner appointed to fill a vacancy after July 1, 2013.

ARGUMENTS FOR:

1) The New Mexico PRC has a broader jurisdiction than any other regulatory agency in the country and makes decisions that impact the daily lives of all of New Mexico’s citizens, ranging from setting utility rates to regulating motor carrier safety and prices. Increasing the qualifications for commissioners would help make sure that they have a basic understanding of the complex industries they regulate.

2) Because PRC commissioners are expected to act much like judges, making their decisions by applying the relevant law to the evidence on the record, it is critical that commissioners understand the law and the specifics of the subject areas they regulate. Too often, and at too high a cost, the New Mexico Supreme Court has overruled PRC decisions because commissioners have not understood the law.

3) Many other states already require their utility commissioners to have educational or professional experience in a field relevant to utility regulation, such as accounting, finance, engineering, public or business administration, administrative law, or economics.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

1) The amendment leaves it up to the Legislature to establish the specific qualifications for PRC commissioners, meaning that voters would not know exactly what those qualifications would be before they vote on the amendment.

2) Depending on what qualifications are enacted into law, some citizens may not be qualified to run for the office of PRC commissioner, even though they would be qualified to run for other elected positions in state and local government.

3) It is unclear whether the Legislature is actually committed to enacting serious, substantive qualifications that are rigorous enough to ensure that PRC commissioners are truly qualified to do the job.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 3

Proposing to amend Article 11, Section 2 of the Constitution of New Mexico and to enact a new section of Article 11 to remove authority to charter and regulate corporations from the Public Regulation Commission and provide authority to charter corporations to the Secretary of State.

BRIEF ANALYSIS:

Constitutional Amendment 3 proposes to amend Article 11, Section 2 of the Constitution of New Mexico to remove the responsibility for chartering and regulating

corporations from the Public Regulation Commission (“PRC”) and transfer the responsibility for chartering corporations to the Secretary of State’s office.

ARGUMENTS FOR:

1) According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 41 of the 50 states assign responsibility for chartering corporations to their Secretaries of State. Aligning New Mexico with the overwhelming majority of states would make it easier for businesses, particularly those that are new to New Mexico, to know where to file their documents.

2) Transferring the responsibility for corporate filings to the Secretary of State would create a “one-stop shop” for all businesses filings. Currently, the Secretary of State registers some businesses, like Limited Liability Partnerships, while the PRC registers others, like Limited Liability Companies. The Secretary of State also registers state trademarks and service marks and files documents required by the Uniform Commercial Code.

3) Removing responsibility for chartering businesses would allow the PRC to focus on its core duties of regulating utilities, which are very different from the secretarial duty of filing business documents.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

1) There would be a one-time cost associated with transferring the PRC’s corporate registration responsibilities to the Secretary of State.

2) The Legislature has not studied whether the Secretary of State’s office is the ideal state agency in which to place the responsibility for corporate registration, so that duty should remain with the PRC until the Legislature undertakes such a study.

3) The corporate registration division has not been the source of most of the scandals or corruption that have plagued the PRC, so moving it would not address those problems.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 4

Proposing to amend Article 11 of the Constitution of New Mexico to remove the regulation of insurance companies and others engaged in risk assumption from the Public Regulation Commission and place it under a Superintendent of Insurance appointed by the Insurance Nominating Committee as provided by law.

BRIEF ANALYSIS:

Constitutional Amendment 4 proposes to amend Article 11 of the Constitution of New Mexico to remove the responsibility for regulating insurance from the Public Regulation Commission (“PRC”) and create an Office of the Superintendent of Insurance to regulate insurance companies and others engaged in risk-assumption in the state. The amendment would establish an Insurance Nominating Committee to appoint the Superintendent of Insurance based upon qualifications for the position established by the Legislature. The Legislature would also establish how the members of the Insurance Nominating Committee are appointed.

ARGUMENTS FOR:

1) The insurance industry is so complex and so important to the lives of New Mexicans that it should be overseen by an independent agency that is solely focused on that task. PRC commissioners lack the specialized expertise to successfully oversee the insurance industry.

2) Removing insurance regulation from the PRC and placing it within an independent agency would help to insulate it from politics. The political pressure placed on the Insurance Division by the PRC (for example, to hire

unqualified staff) is a major reason why the National Association of Insurance Commissioners placed the division on probation for several years and a 2012 review by the Center for Integrity gave the Division an “F.”

3) This amendment would align New Mexico with the 35 other states that have stand-alone departments of insurance.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

1) The amendment leaves it up to the Legislature to establish the membership of the nominating committee and the qualifications of the Insurance Superintendent, meaning that voters would not know exactly what those will be before they vote on the amendment.

2) Although the PRC’s Insurance Division has suffered from numerous problems, the PRC has been working to improve it and should be allowed to continue the process.

3) Having the Superintendent of Insurance appointed by a nominating committee rather than by the PRC means that voters would no longer vote directly for the people who appoint the Superintendent.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 5

Proposing an amendment to Article 6 of the Constitution of New Mexico to add a new section that provides for the organization of an independent Public Defender Department.

BRIEF ANALYSIS:

Constitutional Amendment 5 would amend Article 6 of the New Mexico Constitution to establish the Public Defender

Department as an independent state agency not under the Governor’s authority. It would create a Public Defender Commission empowered to appoint and provide guidance to the Chief Public Defender and oversee administrative aspects of the Department. The amendment would also allow the Legislature to establish the term, manner of appointment, and qualifications for the Chief Public Defender and members of the Commission.

ARGUMENTS FOR:

1) Funding for the Department is currently inadequate. An independent Public Defender Department may be better able to secure the resources to properly perform its constitutional mandate of protecting the rights of people accused of crimes who cannot afford attorneys. Funding the defense of alleged criminals is often politically unpopular, particularly with officials seeking re-election. Many other states have independent public defender departments that can lobby more effectively for necessary funding removed from the political process.

2) Having an independent Department would ensure compliance with the “Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys.” Because the Chief Public Defender is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor, there is potential for interference with the attorney’s independent judgment, especially when defending a notorious or unpopular alleged criminal. As an independent state agency, the Department would be less susceptible to political influence.

3) The Governor already sets many policies of the criminal justice system by appointments to various departments and through the executive’s legislative

PROPOSED 2012 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND TAXES

General obligation bonds allow the state to borrow money to finance capital improvement projects. The principal and interest on the bonds are paid out of property taxes. The specific amount of property taxes collected in a given year is attributable to a number of factors, including the amount of debt service required for existing general obligation bonds, the projected debt service required for the new bond issue, the latest assessed valuation of net taxable property, cash balances in bond debt service accounts, the date of issuance, and the actual interest rate obtained on the bond sale.

Based on current projections, the State Board of Finance estimates that the three bonds will generate a maximum of \$140.2 million at the current State property tax mill levy rate of 1.36 mills. If all three bonds are approved by the voters in November 2012, the average cost to the owner of a property worth \$100,000 over a 10-year period will stay at a flat rate of \$8.04 per year. Of that \$8.04 average cost per year, \$6.88 is attributable to the higher education bond, \$0.59 to the senior facilities bond, and \$0.56 to the library acquisitions bond. If any of the bonds are not approved, the State property tax mill rate could decline slightly.

A complete breakdown of the capital projects designated in each bond issue can be found on the New Mexico Legislature’s website: www.nmlegis.gov.

BOND A — SENIOR CITIZEN FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT (\$10,335,000)

The 2012 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 ten million three hundred thirty-five thousand dollars (\$10,335,000) 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?

Summary of Senior Center Projects in Santa Fe County: This bond includes \$1,222,800 for 11 projects in Santa Fe County.

BOND B — ACADEMIC, PUBLIC, AND TRIBAL LIBRARIES ACQUISITIONS AND CONSTRUCTION (\$9,830,000)

The 2012 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of library acquisition and construction bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed nine million eight hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$9,830,000) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal and public library resource acquisitions and construction 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?

BOND C — HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS ACQUISITIONS AND CONSTRUCTION (\$120,000,000)

The 2012 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher education and special schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed one hundred twenty million dollars (\$120,000,000) to make capital improvements and acquisitions for certain higher education and special schools 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?

Summary of Higher Education and Special School

initiatives and priorities. The Governor currently appoints the Chief Public Defender and oversees the Public Defender Department, giving the executive branch too much power in determining the policies and practices of the criminal justice system. Having an independent department would offer a clear way to balance this power.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

1) Making the Public Defender Department an independent state agency and requiring the creation of a Public Defender Commission to oversee it could be costly to taxpayers. The current per diem rate is \$95, and voters have no way of knowing how many members would be on the Commission nor how many days of work-related travel and expenses the state would incur for those members.

2) This amendment creates yet another level of unnecessary bureaucracy. The proposed Commission would not actually assist in representing indigent defendants or performing core functions. It would add a superfluous layer of management, requiring consultation on and oversight of decisions better left to a qualified Chief Public Defender. A Commission would cause unnecessary delays in the Department’s operations.

3) Concerns about undue political influence in representing indigent defendants are effectively addressed by the rules of professional conduct that prohibit attorneys from permitting a non client, including the Governor, to influence their judgment in rendering legal services to a client. Changing the Department’s executive agency status to avoid political pressure is unnecessary.

Projects in Santa Fe County: This bond includes \$1,000,000 for Santa Fe Community College, \$800,000 for the Institute of American Indian Arts, and \$1,300,000 for the Santa Fe Indian School.

SANTA FE COUNTY

COUNTY FIRE EXCISE TAX

Shall the County of Santa Fe, New Mexico, for the purposes of, financing the operational expenses, ambulance services or capital outlay costs of independent fire districts or ambulance services provided by the county, impose an excise tax equal to one-fourth of one percent (.25%) of the gross receipts reported or required to be reported by the person pursuant to the New Mexico Gross Receipts and Compensating Tax Act as it now exists or as it may be amended?

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

QUESTION 1

Shall Santa Fe County issue up to \$19,000,000 in general obligation bonds payable from general (ad valorem) taxes to acquire, construct, design, equip and improve roads within the County?

QUESTION 2

Shall Santa Fe County issue up to \$10,000,000 in general obligation bonds payable from general (ad valorem) taxes to acquire real property and necessary water rights for, and to construct, design, equip, rehabilitate, and improve water and wastewater projects within the County?

QUESTION 3

Shall Santa Fe County issue up to \$6,000,000 in general obligation bonds payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, to acquire, design, construct, improve, equip and restore open space, trails and parks within the county?

COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION EXCISE TAX 2012

Voters who reside in the unincorporated areas of Santa Fe County will have the opportunity to vote on the renewal of the County Fire Protection Excise Tax on November 6, 2012.

Q: Why is Santa Fe County asking voters to renew the Fire Protection Excise Tax?

A: It has been put forward for the purpose of financing the operations, capital outlay and ambulance expenses of the Santa Fe County Fire Department. The tax will cover essential maintenance and improvements to the Department's 32 fire stations, as well as to fund the purchase of replacement fire trucks, ambulances, firefighting and medical equipment, and protective gear for volunteer and career firefighters and paramedics.

Q: Will the Fire Protection Excise Tax pay for employee salaries?

A: No. State law prohibits Fire Protection Excise Tax funds from being used to pay the salaries or benefits for Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, or other fire department personnel (NMSA 1978, 7-20E-16).

Q: The voter option is to renew the tax. When was it originally imposed and how has it benefited Santa Fe County?

A: The tax was originally imposed in the 1980's and served for 25 years as an essential funding source used by the Santa Fe County Fire Department and the department's 14 volunteer fire districts. It expired in 2008 and in order to be reinstated will once again require the approval of voters in unincorporated Santa Fe County.

The Fire Protection Excise Tax was the primary means to fund equipment and apparatus purchases for the county fire department. It was used to replace fire trucks, water haulers, and ambulances; repair and maintain fire stations; purchase essential gear and equipment for volunteer and career firefighters; and to purchase new apparatus and equipment to meet the growing demand for emergency services throughout Santa Fe County and enhance the safety and abilities of our firefighters and medical personnel.

Q: Is the Fire Protection Excise Tax still subject to a sunset clause?

A: No. The original sunset clause was removed from the law by the New Mexico State Legislature in 2004. Removal of the clause was recognized as an important means to allow county fire departments to better prepare for the future by anticipating capital needs and tying those needs to a dedicated funding source with predictable revenue. Deletion of the sunset will also provide the department the opportunity to fund revenue bonds. This provides greater flexibility in planning and can allow a more cost effective means to purchase expensive fire and EMS apparatus and equipment, resulting in cost savings to tax payers.

Q: What can the tax revenue pay for?

A: The tax can be used to replace aging and worn out fire engines and water trucks, repair and maintain the department's fire stations, replace hose and nozzles, and replace or repair damaged and worn out firefighting equipment including protective coats, pants, helmet, gloves, boots, and firefighter breathing masks and air tanks.

The tax revenue can be used to replace worn out ambulances and medical equipment to ensure that the Department's Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics have essential modern appliances like defibrillators, oxygen systems, extrication tools like the Jaws of Life, and other essential rescue and life-saving equipment.

The tax revenue can also fund wildland firefighting equipment and protective gear, be used to purchase and maintain brush trucks and wildland fire engines and water tenders, and maintain and enhance the Department's radios, pagers, and radio repeater sites to ensure reliable and rapid communications over a two thousand square mile response area.

Q: How much is the Tax?

A: The tax is a one quarter of one percent (0.25%) gross receipts tax imposed on all non-medical and non-food items purchased in the unincorporated areas of Santa Fe County. This equates to 25 cents on a one hundred dollar purchase.

Q: Who will pay the tax?

A: The tax is only levied on the unincorporated areas of Santa Fe County. Incorporated areas of the County such as the City of Santa Fe and Town of Edgewood will not have the tax levy.

Q: Do other Counties have a Fire Protection Excise Tax?

A: The tax has been enacted in twenty other counties in the State of New Mexico.

Q: How much will the tax generate and is the revenue kept in Santa Fe County?

A: It is estimated that the tax will generate \$1.24 million annually to help fund the critical needs of the County Fire Department. All of the revenue from the tax is retained locally.

Q: How does Santa Fe County identify Department needs?

A: The fire department uses a five year planning process to identify apparatus and equipment in need of replacement. The 2010-2014 Plan was approved by the Board of County Commissioners and is linked on the department's website.

2012 GENERAL ELECTION POLLING PLACES BY PRECINCT Precinct Location

01, 02	Sombrillo Elementary School, 20C State Road 106
03	Benny J. Chávez Center, 354A Juan Medina Road:
04	Cundiyo Fire Station, 5 Jose Simon Drive:
05	El Rancho Community Center, 394 County Road 84:
06	Tesuque Pueblo Intergenerational Center, 39 TP 804
07	Río En Medio Community Center, 1 El Alto
08	Tesuque Elementary, 1555 Bishop's Lodge Road
09, 36, 47	Acequia Madre Elementary School, 700 Acequia Madre.
10, 30	Fort Marcy Complex, 490 Bishop's Lodge Road.
11, 20, 21	Gonzales Community School, 851 W. Alameda St.
12, 62	La Cienega Community Center, 136 Camino San Jose.
13, 68	Hondo Fire Station #2, 645 Old Las Vegas Highway
14	Turquoise Trail Elementary School, 13 th San Marcos Loop.
15, 16	South Mountain Elementary School, 577 State Road 344.
17	Galisteo Community Center, 35 County Road 33A.
18, 85	Edgewood Middle School, 17 W. Venus Road.
19	Stanley Community Center, 13 W. Kinsell Avenue.
22, 28	Montezuma Lodge, 431 Paseo de Peralta.
23	Nambé Head Start, 180 B State Road 503.
24	Academy at Larragoite, 1604 Agua Fria.
25, 33	Aspen Community Magnet School, 450 La Madera.
26, 27	El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe, 555 Camino de La Familia.
29, 56, 78	Santa Fe County Fair Building, 3229 Rodeo Road.
31, 32, 34	Salazar Elementary School, 1231 Apache Avenue.
35, 50	Nava Elementary School, 2655 Siringo Road.
37, 54, 81	Capshaw Middle School, 351 W. Zia Road.
38, 39, 49, 74	Kearny Elementary School, 901 Avenida de Las Campañas.
40	San Ildefonso Pueblo, 2 Tunyo Po.
41, 51	De Vargas Middle School, 1720 Llano Street.
42, 43	Public Schools Administration Building, 610 Alta Vista.
44	Wood Gormley Elementary School, 141 E. Booth.
45, 46	Unitarian Church, 107 W. Barcelona.
48	Atalaya Elementary School, 721 Camino Cabra.
52	E.J. Martinez Elementary School, 401 W. San Mateo.
53	Pasa Tiempo Senior Center, 664 Alta Vista Street.
55	Elks BPOE 460 Lodge, 1615 Old Pecos Trail.
57	Glorieta Fire Station, 43 Fire Station Road.
58, 79	Abedón López Community Center, 155 A Camino de Quintana.
59, 60	Pojoaque Middle School, 1797 B State Road 502.
61	Nambé Head Start, 180 B State Road 503.
63, 65, 69, 71	El Dorado Community School, 2 Avenida Torreon.
64, 75	Sweeney Elementary School, 501 Airport Road.
66, 80	Agua Fria Community Center, 1 Prairie Dog Loop.
67	Ramirez Thomas Elementary School, 3200 Calle Po Ae Pi.
70	Amy Biehl Community School, 301 Avenida del Sur.
72	St. Joseph's Parish Hall, 7 First Street.
73, 84	Edgewood Elementary School, 171 State Road 344.
76, 77	Chaparral Elementary School, 2451 Avenida Chaparral:
82	La Tierra Fire Station, 6 Arroyo Calabasas:
83	Unity Church of Santa Fe, 1108 La Cuchara Road.
86	Ortiz Middle School, 4164 S. Meadows Road: