



2012 VOTERS GUIDE

This is your free copy of this guide to the election.



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**YOUR VOTE IS
YOUR VOICE**

GENERAL ELECTION

November 6, 2012

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. If you are a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on election day and are registered to vote in Doña Ana County, you may vote in this General Election. Felons who are also registered and have completed their conditions of release are eligible to vote. If you have a question concerning the election, please phone the Doña Ana Bureau of Elections (647-7428). This Voters' Guide is also available on the Internet at www.lwvglc.org

VOTING INFORMATION

Registering to Vote

Anyone who wants to vote in this election must have already registered to vote in Doña Ana County. If you have not yet registered to vote, you have already missed the deadline, and will be ineligible to vote in this election. The deadline was October 9, 2012. For questions about voter registration, call the Bureau of Elections (647-7428). The Bureau of Elections is located in the Doña Ana County Government Center, 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88007.

VOTING BEFORE ELECTION DAY

Absentee Voting

Any person qualified to vote may vote by absentee ballot. You do not need to give a reason to vote absentee. Absentee ballots may be requested in person from the Doña Ana Bureau of Elections at 845 N. Motel Blvd, Las Cruces, NM 88007, by phone (647-7428) or online at www.donaanacounty.org. Click on the Election tab, print and sign the application and mail it to the Doña Ana Bureau of Elections. The Bureau of Elections will verify the application information and mail your absentee ballot to you. Friday, November 2, is the last day the Bureau of Elections will accept applications for absentee ballots. The ballot contains instructions for completion and return. The County Clerk suggests that you do not wait this late to request an absentee ballot by mail but vote at one of the Early Voting sites listed below.

If you apply for an absentee ballot and **RECEIVE** it, you must vote that ballot. If you apply for but **DO NOT RECEIVE** the absentee ballot, you may go to the Bureau of Elections until Monday, November 5, 5:00 p.m. and apply for a replacement ballot. Your completed ballot must be received at a Voting Convenience Center or at the Bureau of Elections no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6. A voter, a caregiver to that voter, or a member of that voter's immediate family may deliver that voter absentee ballot in person to the Bureau of Elections, provided that the voter signed the outer envelope of the absentee ballot. You may also go to a Voting Convenience Center and vote on a provisional absentee ballot on Election Day. In both cases, you will be required to sign a sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, that you did not receive your ballot.

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If you are a military or overseas voter, you may transmit your absentee ballot by fax or scanned document to the County Clerk. You must sign and transmit a waiver of secrecy form that will be provided by the County Clerk. Military and overseas personnel may obtain a Federal absentee ballot by going to the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections website: <http://www.donaanacounty.org/elections/> If you become ill after the period for absentee balloting and are unable to go to the polls, you may request a ballot in writing. Your request must also be signed by your health care provider. Your ballot will be given to the person who presented the request to the county clerk and shall be returned by the same person.

Early Voting

Any person registered to vote within Doña Ana County may vote in person on a paper ballot at the Doña Ana County Government Center, 845 N. Motel Blvd. Las Cruces, NM 88007 (647-7428).

Early Voting at the Doña Ana County Government Center begins on October 9, 2012, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Early Voting is also open on Saturday, November 3, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Early Voting at Alternate Voting Locations begins at 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 20, 2012. Early Voting continues 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Alternate Early Voting Locations are closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Early Voting ends at all locations on Saturday November 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Hatch Valley Community Center

837 Highway 187
Hatch, NM 87937

Sonoma Elementary School

4201 Northrise
Las Cruces, NM 88011

Branigan Memorial Library

200 E. Picacho
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Anthony Elementary School

600 N 4th St.
Anthony, NM 88021

Betty McKnight Multi-Purpose Center

190 County Line Rd.
Chaparral, NM 88081

Gadsden Independent School District

Admin Building
4950 McNutt Rd
Sunland Park, NM 88063

Provisional Ballot

At a Voting Convenience Center if your name does not appear in the computer system as being a registered voter in Doña Ana County you will be asked to vote on a provisional ballot. If it is later determined by the Canvassing Board that you are properly registered, the vote you cast will be counted.

Voting Offenses

Voters are obligated to report voting offenses to the Bureau of Elections or the District Attorney.

Voting offenses are:

*Any form of campaigning within 100 feet of a building containing a Voting Convenience Center.

*Using, possessing or carrying alcoholic beverages within 200 feet of a Voting Convenience Center.

*Unlawful possession of an absentee ballot.

*Offering or accepting a bribe.

*False voting, such as, voting or offering to vote although not qualified, voting in another name, voting more than once during a single election or asking or assisting another person in committing a voting offense. Whoever commits false voting is guilty of a fourth degree felony.

Election Day

On **November 6, the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Your registration card carries your precinct number where you are registered. If you do not have your voter information card, you may contact the Bureau of Elections (647-7428). However, you may vote at **ANY** Voting Convenience Center location. No longer will there be any "wrong" places to vote, reducing drastically the need for provisional ballots. Watch **The Las Cruces Bulletin** or **The Las Cruces Sun-News** for a list of Voting Convenience Center locations and their addresses or go to: <http://www.donaanacounty.org/elections/locations/> to find them.

Voting at a Voting Convenience Center will be conducted in nearly the same fashion as Early Voting. When voters provide the poll worker with the required identification, the clerk will search for the voter record on a secure, networked system to verify eligibility. A paper ballot will be printed conforming to the precinct in which the voter is registered. The secured network system operates on a dedicated server and updates real-time, preventing anyone from attempting to vote more than once. There will be someone who speaks Spanish at each of the Voting Convenience Centers.

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Acceptable forms of identification

If your name is on the voter list, you must **EITHER**:

A) Say or write your name, registration address, and year of birth; OR, if you choose,

B) Show the election workers *one of the following documents*:

A current and valid photo identification. This can be either the original or a copy. If it has an address on it, it does not have to be the address you had when you registered to vote;

OR

An original or copy of ANY one of the following, which must show your name and address. The address does not have to match the one you used when you registered to vote.

*Voter Information Card

*Utility Bill

*Bank Statement

*Government Check

*Paycheck

*Student Identification Card

*Other government document, including identification issued by an Indian Nation, Tribe or Pueblo.

A voter may request assistance in voting if the voter:

A. is blind

B. is physically disabled;

C. is unable to read or write;

D. is a member of a language minority who has an inability to read well enough to exercise the elective franchise; or

E. requires assistance in operating the voting system.

All Voting Convenience Centers are equipped with state-of-the-art voting equipment enabling people with disabilities to mark their ballot without assistance.

See the Doña Ana County
Bureau of Elections website
for more information on the election.
<http://donaanacounty.org/elections/>

CANDIDATES

General eligibility requirements for all state, district, and county candidates:

A candidate must be a registered voter in New Mexico affiliated with the political party for which he/she is seeking office.

A candidate for district office must reside in the district of voter registration.

U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW MEXICO

Questions for the Candidates for the U.S. Senate (4 questions, 75 words each questions)

1. Describe your specific experience and abilities that prepare you for the office of United States Senator.
2. What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and create jobs?
3. What, if anything, should the federal government do to improve affordability and access to quality health care?
4. What should the federal government do to slow climate change?

Candidate: Martin T. Heinrich, Democrat



1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

Candidate: Heather Ann Wilson, Republican



1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

Candidate: Jon Ross Barrie, Independent American Party



1. 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.

2. 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!!

3. 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.

4. 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.

Candidate: Robert L. Anderson, Write-in (Independent- No party affiliation)



1. 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 many years.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

CANDIDATES

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW MEXICO

Questions for the Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives (4 questions, 75 words each questions)

1. Describe your specific experience and abilities that prepare you for the office of United States House Representative.
2. What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and create jobs?
3. What, if anything, should the federal government do to improve affordability and access to quality health care?
4. What should the federal government do to slow climate change?

District 2

Candidate: Evelyn Madrid Erhard, Democrat



1. My M.A. degree in Speech/Communication Studies, teaching at NMSU, Doña Ana Community College, and to soldiers at White Sands Missile Range, owning and managing a small business, and being a Democratic political activist who knocks on doors and listens to voters' needs have prepared me to serve the people of NM Congressional District.

Learning, having empathy for others, and being self-assertive are my greatest strengths.

2. Raising taxes on incomes over \$250,000, continuing to cut waste and fraud from government programs, creating clean, renewable wind and solar energy jobs, encouraging small business growth, bringing jobs back from overseas, repairing roads, bridges, and public schools will help. Furthermore, people will have personal financial security if we preserve Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act along with making sure that jobs are full time with retirement and health benefits.

3. Preserving Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act (Obama Care) will continue to improve affordability and access to quality health care until we work towards a single payer system like Medicare for everyone. Taking the middle man (insurance companies) out of our health care will save lots of money. In addition, when veterans have an emergency, they should be able to go to the nearest hospital; many live far from the nearest V.A. Hospital.

4. Investing in clean renewable energy will help slow down climate change and the need for the Keystone XL pipeline transporting dirty tar sand oil meant for other countries. It's important that laws protecting our environment during gas, oil, coal, and nuclear production, transportation, usage, and waste disposal are upheld. Furthermore, teaching about the science of climate change is critical. Moreover, continuing to put pressure on the auto industry for better gas mileage vehicles will help.

Candidate: Steve Pearce, Republican



1. My parents were not well off. We ended up in Hobbs, NM because the car broke down here while my father was searching for work. I joined the Air Force and flew missions during the Vietnam War. I earned an economics degree in College and started my own business. I understand the suffering families feel in this difficult economy.

Those experiences allow me to tackle the serious issues to make government work better.

2. The Federal Government needs to get its finances in order by moving rapidly toward a balanced budget. The deficit and taxes are taking money out of the system that is needed for businesses to grow and hire more people. Simultaneously we need to reform the policies and regulations that stifle jobs and create a path to prosperity for the middle class. Both of these are needed so New Mexico's small business can start hiring locally.

3. The Government's massive takeover of health care is going to drive up costs and rural New Mexico in particular is going to suffer from reduced access to doctors and hospitals. So first we repeal it. Then we make sure that people with pre-existing conditions and young people are covered by insurance. We reform frivolous lawsuits that drive up costs by nearly 17% and allow insurance to be purchased across state lines.

4. Start with a massive reform of our energy policy. We are too dependent on foreign oil. We can't function without electricity and power for our cars, homes and businesses. So let's expand and diversify U.S. energy production in every way. Expand wind, solar, nuclear, bio-fuels along with natural gas and domestic oil production. We stop buying oil from dictatorships then we can invest in making our energy production cleaner.

Candidate: Jack Arthur McGrann, Write-in (Republican)



1. I've lived here approximately eighteen years. Including six years enlisted at Holloman AFB then assigned as a B-52 Pilot until honorably discharged, returning to New Mexico in 1999. I love my country, my family, my countrymen and the American way of life. I will protect the U.S. Constitution remembering: that all men

are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights. I will serve faithfully as your representative.

2. The government should get out of the way and let the private sector grow the economy. The U.S. Chamber plan: Control deficits and the national debt this year to stop draining the economy of its capital. Make adjustments to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security to save these programs and prevent them from consuming the entire budget. Reform the tax code that is driving businesses, jobs, and investors away.

3. Elect Mitt Romney. "What the Court did not do on its last day in session I will do on my first ... I will act to repeal Obamacare. ... It was bad policy yesterday. It's bad policy today. "The reforms I propose for the country could not be more different from Barack Obama's. They entail no new taxes, no massive diversions of funds away from Medicare ... and no new bureaucracies." – Mitt Romney

4. I believe there are too many uncertainties in research results to make any final conclusions regarding global warming. The United States has made significant technological progress over the years to help prevent air pollution. Our best contribution may be to help China, Russia, India and other countries reduce their pollution. The Progressive's have used this issue to gain political control and certain organizations and individuals are using this as a worldwide money making scheme!

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS (RETENTION)

Questions for the Candidates for Judge of the Court of Appeals (Retention) (3 questions, 65 words each question)

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current Judge of the Court of Appeals?
2. 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?
3. What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence?

Candidate: Roderick T. Kennedy



1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

Candidate: Michael E. Vigil



1. 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.

2. The court must seek to find ways to render quicker decisions while maintaining a high level of quality.

3. I would abolish partisan, political elections of all judges.

CANDIDATES

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT (RETENTION)

Questions for the Candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court (3 questions, 65 words each question)

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current New Mexico Supreme Court Justice?
2. What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence?
3. What programs and changes to improve the New Mexico Supreme Court would you like to see implemented?

Candidate: Richard C. Bosson (Retention), Democrat



1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT (PARTISAN) (3 questions, 65 words each question)

1. What attributes and experience prepare you for service as a New Mexico Supreme Court Justice?
2. What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence?
3. What programs and changes to improve the New Mexico Supreme Court would you like to see implemented?

Candidate: Barbara J. Vigil, Democrat



1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

Candidate: Paul Kennedy, Republican



1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS (PARTISAN)

Questions for the Candidates for Judge of the Court of Appeals (3 questions, 65 words each question)

1. How have your training, professional experience, and interests prepared you to serve on the New Mexico Court of Appeals?
2. What improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented?
3. What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence?

Candidate: M. Monica Zamora, Democrat



1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

Candidate: J. Miles Hanisee, Republican



1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 disserves the public that immediately afterward we are required to associate with a single political entity in order to be elected.

CANDIDATES

STATE SENATOR

Questions for the Candidates for the New Mexico Senate (4 questions, 75 words each question)

1. The utilities companies in the State want to lower the price per KWH's paid to individuals who place solar on their homes and sell excess electricity back to the utilities companies. Describe how you will work with the Public Regulation Commission to ensure that the customer receives the best rate.
2. Why do you support or oppose the expansion of the Medicaid Program in New Mexico?
3. Give your reasons for opposing or favoring the current grading system A-F for public education.
4. What method do you prefer for campaign financing for state and local offices?

District 31

Candidate: Joseph Cervantes, Democrat



1. This year I successfully passed the November constitutional amendment now on the ballot to establish qualifications for members of the Public Regulation Commission. Assuring well qualified commissioners will best assure a proper rate structure, and encourage development of solar and other renewable energy and technologies.

2. New Mexico benefits enormously from federal matching dollars as a direct multiple to every dollar invested by New Mexico in healthcare access. Assuring greater access to healthcare insurance, and reducing the number of uninsured who are now being supported by all others with private insurance, will help reduce insurance rates and medical costs for everyone.

3. As a parent with three children educated in our public schools, the recently adopted grading system serves little purpose in meeting the necessary reforms. The grading method is cumbersome, highly subjective, and therefore lacks credibility or acceptance by education professionals. The goal should be to improve our schools and grading schools, will do very little to accomplish meaningful reforms as opposed to sound bites.

4. I support the current campaign financing system for the Public Regulation Commission, and our judges, to avoid fund-raising by those who must judge or directly regulate businesses such as the PRC. I have sponsored campaign finance laws to avoid having a small number of out-of-state and wealthy individuals contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to determine New Mexico election outcomes, as occurred in the last election of governor.

Candidate: Brett C. Preston, Republican



1. I support policies which make good business sense for the customer and each utility company. The Public Regulatory Commission has to be properly directed to do what is fair for all involved.

2. I oppose expansion of the Medicaid Program in New Mexico. We, as a state, need to explore implementation of a program that

better takes care of our residents. We should not be dependent on a federal program that is likely to not deliver as represented.

3. I support any system that reasonably measures the performance of our children and respectively the system that is charged with their education. Nothing can meaningfully improve it is not measured.

4. Campaign Finance has become a complex and important denominator in the election process. I want to see it as fair and open-market as possible and complete with sufficient disclosure for all of us.

District 34

Candidate: Ellen E. Wedum, Democrat



1. First I will learn about existing programs in other states. What do their utility companies charge to provide electricity, and what rate do they pay for excess electricity that is sold back to them? Then compare this information with the New Mexico equivalent. My training as a scientist will help me to do this. I would then share this information with other legislators

and ask for advice on how to proceed.

2. I believe this expansion is a good idea, because it will reduce New Mexico's healthcare costs. The preventive care given will reduce the need for conventional, and more expensive, "sickness" care. For example, it will decrease costly trips to the emergency rooms. It will also increase the happiness and productivity of New Mexico citizens.

3. One—at present this system is very badly organized and the criteria for the grades are unclear. Two—many more factors contribute to student success than test performance; the A—F system alone is not a definitive measurement. For example, the teachers should be able to grade parental involvement. An assessment of community safety and stability should also be part of any evaluation.

4. The Open and Ethical Elections program that is working so well in the Albuquerque municipal races should be applied statewide. Also, every candidate should have an opportunity to buy space in an Election Guide published by the state and mailed to every registered voter. This is standard practice in California and Oregon. The fees collected pay for publication of and postage for the Guide.

Candidate: Ron Griggs, Republican



1. Regulation of utility companies is the constitutional charge of the PRC. As Mayor of Alamogordo, I led a coalition of communities to mitigate the potentially damaging effects of PNM's recent rate increase. As a State Senator, I will make utilities and the PRC aware that I have a real interest in the fairness of a decision on this issue. This issue is more complicated than most think and all utility customers are involved.

2. Providing health care to all who genuinely cannot afford it is an admirable goal. Expanding Medicaid with 100% federal dollars for 3 years and 90% federal dollars thereafter as proposed by Obamacare merits a hard look. All sorts of cost numbers are being thrown out and most will be incorrect. The truth is someone pays for the uninsured's medical treatment and that someone is usually you and me. We need other approaches to evaluate.

3. The current grading system provides a "marker" to indicate where school improvement is needed. I believe that is all it should be. Recently, Gov. Martinez announced funding for additional training for teachers and administrators of those low graded schools. Using this approach we can put some of the state's money toward helping schools that genuinely need it.

4. I believe New Mexico has a pretty good approach overall. After saying that, we need to seriously evaluate the amount of money PAC's can pour into a campaign. They are really the only area of a campaign where the candidate does not control his/her destiny.

District 35

Candidate: John Arthur Smith, Democrat



1. The PRC is elected in their own right. I will likely support what the PRC recommends.

2. I support expansion with the stipulation that the Feds don't change the match.

3. The parents understand A-F. They don't understand AYP. It encourage parental involvement.

4. It is not what I prefer but what the courts will uphold.

Candidate: Russell G. Allen, Republican



1. With the continuing advancement of the solar technology, I fear that if we allow the PRC to set price too early it will only hurt those that make the decision now to install the equipment on their homes. If or when excess electricity is available to sell back, the PRC should have a sliding scale in place for rates paid based on the time of day that the excess is available.

2. When Tax and Regulation reform is completed, the revenue needed to expand Medicaid will become available. If the legislature will not take action on these reforms, then the \$300-500 million needed for the expansion will have to come from programs, like education, that are at this time, in need of additional funding.

3. Yes I favor the A-F grading system. It's simple, and everyone knows what an A stands for. We also know what an F stands for.

4. Full disclosure of every dollar from every individual or entity given to any candidate.

CANDIDATES

STATE SENATOR continued

District 36

Candidate: Mary Jane Garcia, Democrat



1. I will certainly be watching out for this legislative action and will offer to work with the utility companies to ensure that the customers get the best rate for this effort. New Mexico has the best of sunshine and we need to promote putting solar in the homes.

2. I fully support the expansion of Medicaid in New Mexico. We are a very poor state, and many people have no insurance at all. This would especially help single moms who have no support from their poor parents, and the child suffers from malnutrition and lack of adequate prenatal care. I feel that all children in poverty should have Medicaid- an expansion of this program would help children (especially) have a healthier life.

3. I supported the A-F Grading System from the beginning. My rationale at the time was if parents saw their children's schools get D or F they would be more inclined to get involved in their children's education to help that school increase their grade. That has not happened. The A-F system replaced the No Child Left Behind, and it's just as complex. There are appeal processes similar to the AYP process, the assessments are questionable.

4. I support campaign financing where every contributor must reveal who they are, what is their occupation, etc. I certainly do not support all these PACS that are just buying elections! Our state and our country can do better!

Candidate: Lee S. Cotter, Republican



1. This issue is within the Public Regulation Commission jurisdiction. The utilities should pay solar energy providers, including homeowners, the cost of generating by conventional fuels. Any higher payment would raise ratepayer bills unjustifiably. Solar and wind energy sources, while renewable, provide unreliable and high cost electricity. The purpose of our utility companies is to provide reliable energy at the least possible cost.

2. The current Medicaid program provides adequate coverage for all poorer residents. Expanding coverage would include the non-poor in the Medicaid roles. Non-poor citizens have a choice as to whether they purchase health insurance or not. A cornerstone to the success of the American economic system is the personal choice and responsibility to purchase things valuable to each of us.

3. The student's parents should be given the maximum information concerning the success or failure of their children's schools. The newly passed A-F system is a good beginning but needs improvement to create the most information available to help improve our schools. This improvement should include adding student test scores to each school's rating grade. The local school boards have primary responsibility to evaluate schools. Unfortunately, they have failed to provide this leadership.

4. The current system of private financing allows citizens to help or discourage candidates for public office. Any other method would have government or existing politicians take the authority from the people and give it to the select few.

District 38

Candidate: Mary Kay Papen



1. The best way I can work with the PRC as a legislator would be to support legislation that ensures the benefit is fair to all ratepayers, those who can afford to put solar on their homes and those who cannot.

2. I believe we must be fiscally responsible. I would like to see what the HSD's Centennial Care plan looks like and want to look at all

of the options that will cover the most people with the dollars we have available before deciding how to expand Medicaid. I know HSD's plan covers people up to 135% of poverty. I want to make sure we can afford to do the expansion in the long run.

3. There is no easy answer to how to go about rating schools. I like the concept behind the A-F grading system. I am not certain the current system that was passed in 2011 delivers on what a grading system can accomplish. We need to work on the methodology so the results we derive are an accurate picture of how a school is performing. The system needs to be easily understood and accessible by all schools.

4. I think campaign financing methods for state and local races must be fair and transparent. I do believe there should be limits on what can be contributed to campaigns from individuals, corporations, unions or political action committees. I voted for Senate Rules Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 116 in 2009 that set a limit of \$2300 for individuals and \$5000 for PACs. I believe this reform is a good start.

Candidate: Neal L. Hooks



No response received.

District 37

Candidate: William P. Soules, Democrat



1. New Mexico has abundant solar potential and the excess electricity, that is sold back to the electric companies, represents one type of incentive to encourage more solar installments. The PRC is tasked with representing the citizens of the state in negotiations with the electric companies. I will work with the PRC to make sure that

the legislation is in place that allows them to negotiate a fair rate for both the consumer and the utility.

2. I support the expansion of Medicaid in New Mexico. The Affordable Care Act will provide coverage for many citizens of New Mexico who currently cannot afford insurance. The first several years, it is 100% paid by the federal government. This will be an economic boost for the state with jobs in medical and related fields, better health care for the most vulnerable citizens, and lower indigent costs when medical issues are addressed early.

3. I oppose the current A-F grading system. It is an improvement over the prior system but does not provide clear information on how a school can improve, is graded such that 50% of the schools must be scored D or F even if all improve, and is heavily weighted on test scores. We need a system that is transparent, allows all schools to excel, and recognizes the richness of good school.

4. Money is corrupting the democratic process and strict financing laws might be helpful. All funding should be accounted for through the campaign with no money spent by outside Super PACs. Public financing that limits all money spent would be helpful. Candidates with more money should not have an advantage just because of the money.

Candidate: Cathey Jo Alberson, Republican



1. The PRC is governed by the PR Commissioners and this issue is under their jurisdiction.

2. I support protecting most vulnerable citizens, while balancing taxpayer dollars used in the most efficient manner.

3. New Mexico's A-F system was peer reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education and approved. Accountability and performance evaluations are required in many professions and ways of life. Students also have their performance evaluated and I feel that schools and teachers should also be "evaluated/graded".

4. I am opposed to public financing of a campaign.

STATE SENATOR

Questions for the Candidates for the New Mexico Senate (4 questions, 75 words each question)

1. The utilities companies in the State want to lower the price per KWH's paid to individuals who place solar on their homes and sell excess electricity back to the utilities companies. Describe how you will work with the Public Regulation Commission to ensure that the customer receives the best rate.
2. Why do you support or oppose the expansion of the Medicaid Program in New Mexico?
3. Give your reasons for opposing or favoring the current grading system A-F for public education.
4. What method do you prefer for campaign financing for state and local offices?

CANDIDATES

NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Questions for the Candidates for the New Mexico House of Representatives (4 questions, 75 words each question)

1. The utilities companies in the State want to lower the price per KWH's paid to individuals who place solar on their homes and sell excess electricity back to the utilities companies. Describe how you will work with the Public Regulation Commission to ensure that the customer receives the best rate.
2. Why do you support or oppose the expansion of the Medicaid Program in New Mexico?
3. Give your reasons for opposing or favoring the current grading system A-F for public education.
4. What method do you prefer for campaign financing for state and local offices?

District 33

Candidate: Bill McCamley, Democrat



1. Legislators should work with the PRC to keep incentives for alternative energy (including solar, wind, and geothermal) as high as possible until it starts to become a burden on the overall population of electric customers. New Mexico has too much sun, wind, and other resources for us to not be a leader in the clean energy field, and the more of it we have, the better the economy and environment will be for all.

2. New Mexico has the tenth highest rate of uninsured residents in the nation at 21.1% (420,000 people). Increasing Medicaid coverage will not only lead to

better lives for these people, but will decrease overall costs for the state as the Federal government will help pay for a higher share of their expenses and seeing a doctor on a regular basis will lead to more preventative care and decreased major health costs.

3. Though we need more accountability mechanisms in our schools, using student testing as the sole measure for both schools as a whole and teachers individually is wrong. Being a good test taker doesn't help a kid get a good job, and I would therefore prefer a more comprehensive measure that takes in to account things like qualitative assessments from master teachers, improvement in testing plus other areas, and graduation rates.

4. We should be electing people based on their quality as officials, and not merely how good they are at raising money. Citizens United was one of the worst decisions the Supreme Court has ever made, and I support continually challenging it with laws that increase monetary restrictions and require more transparency on campaign funding at all levels.

Candidate: Angelina P. Carver, Republican



1. People who invest in solar products to provide energy for their homes and then have a surplus to sell to the utilities should not be penalized for their investment. The utility companies do not mind increasing rates to the general public. These individuals should get a fair price for their energy.

2. I oppose the expansion of Medicaid as it is set in the Obamacare legislation. It would ask for \$500 million more from the state and New Mexico does not have the money to afford this "affordable" care. There should be creative alternatives to work toward healthcare coverage. There are glaring areas that

need expansion, but these should be addressed conservatively.

3. The A-F grading system is a favorable way of measuring the competency of the schools. Just like academic grades, the A-F system should tell how well the schools are functioning. When the schools are A's or F's, lessons should be garnered to correct the problems or to replicate the success.

4. Big corporations and super PAC's from outside the state should either not be allowed to give to state and local offices, or there should be a limit as to the amount they are able to give. The present method is reasonable.

District 34

Candidate: Mary Helen Garcia, Democrat



No response received. No opponent.

District 35

Candidate: Jeff Steinborn, Democrat



1. Given that this is one of the most important incentives that encourage more use of solar power, I will oppose efforts by either utilities companies or the Public Regulation Commission to reduce the current KWH prices paid for solar generated surplus energy. As a state with an abundance of sunshine, we need to harness this resource and generate as much as clean energy as possible. New Mexico should be a leader in renewable energy production.

2. I support the expansion of Medicaid in New Mexico, within the confines of a balanced budget. This program provides health care to the neediest of New Mexicans, including children and senior citizens. Health care is a basic necessity that ensures our citizens lead healthy and productive lives. Given these benefits, and the federal financial match of several dollars for every dollar our state invests in Medicaid, this is a priority I will support.

3. I support measuring schools performance to help evaluate the effectiveness of our education system. I have concerns about any formula for schools and teachers that take a one size fits all approach, without considering diverse student needs from one school to another. We need dynamic measurement systems that fully funds opportunities for scholastic improvement of our children. As a State Representative I will support our schools needs as well as afterschool and job training opportunities.

4. I support reducing the amount of money spent to fund our elections. As a State Representative, I helped write and pass the new law establishing campaign contribution limits. Our political system has seen too much influence by special interests, and politicians who cater to them to hang on to political power. Reducing the role of large campaign contributors, be they individual or corporate, is essential to establishing a government that is responsive to its citizenry.

Candidate: Charles D. Green, Republican



No response received. No photo submitted.

CANDIDATES

NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES continued

District 36

Candidate: Phillip M. Archuleta, Democrat



1. Utilities must pay more to encourage more free electricity. SOLAR is everywhere we sell water, should sun utilities employees and retirees will tell of their earlier cheating. They want to move the goalposts ... or they could go to 98%. They fund for roofs, then discuss rates ... Change PRC and penalize heavily any recent and future recompense or profit by commissioners = life imprisonment. All options on table. Pro bono law research and backing to remove commissioners as fairness and justice.

2. Go to any low-priced clinic and look around. Bright, useful people are dying of diabetes, etc... Where \$5.00 in medication a month would make them profitable taxpayers. No high teck gets built here because too many people stay sick here. Where's the decency?

3. I do not oppose the current grading system. I think teachers should grade their students. This gives the student, parents and teacher a way of keeping track of the child to make the necessary steps to correct or help the child.

4. \$2,000 limit. We need to keep corporate and lobbyist out of our elections. Strict campaign limits: fair and just; Must have primary residence in New Mexico only; No Rovian auxiliaries; \$2,000 top limits; hus a campaign truly reflect more people.



Candidate: Mike A. Tellez, Republican

No response received.



Candidate: Andrew "Andy" Nuñez, Independent (No Party Affiliation)

No response received.

District 37

Candidate: Joanne J. Ferrary, Democrat



1. It's very important that we support the generation of solar energy by homes and businesses, including through a reasonable payment for the electricity they generate. Development of New Mexico's renewable energy resources will be a great boon to the New Mexico economy, and production by individual homes and business lowers the

need for expensive new power plants. I will work with the PRC to develop a regulatory framework that supports this important investment.

2. Medicaid expansion gives us the opportunity to extend medical coverage, at a very low cost to the state, to up to 200,000 New Mexicans. Besides the enormous relief this would be to working people and their families, the participation of these newly insured people in the health care system will add billions of dollars to the New Mexico economy, create hundreds of new jobs, and reduce the burden on local hospitals for uninsured care.

3. It's not clear to me how school grading systems provide better student outcomes, especially compared to investment in the coordinated support programs that will give every child a fair chance to succeed. Schools vary widely in the type of students they serve, and we should concentrate on giving educators what they need to serve a complex student population. Evaluation programs should help schools do their job better, not be an end in themselves.

4. Public financing of elections would allow every capable candidate a chance to run for office, not just those that can afford it through their own financial resources or those of special interests. The PAC and special interest money flooding our national, state and local campaigns is bad for our democratic system and creates a growing cynicism among voters that their participation makes a difference.

Candidate: Terry H. McMillan, Republican



1. My concern with subsidizing solar installations in homes in New Mexico is that only the relatively well-to-do among our citizenry can afford such installations. When utilities must subsidize these installations at increased cost, the difference will ultimately be shouldered by those who can ill afford higher rates, and who could not afford to

install such systems in their homes in the first place.

2. I oppose the expansion of the Medicaid Program under the current circumstances. The federal government will pull its complete funding of the expansion in several years, resulting in several hundred million dollars of additional expense to the state. We do not have these resources. I would happily support an expansion of Medicaid if that expansion included reform that required a system of co-pays and deductibles from the beneficiaries, on a needs-based tiered basis.

3. I favor the current grading system for public education. The No Child Left Behind legislation has been a dismal failure, and this state grading system serves to give valuable feedback to state officials, taxpayers, and the parents of students as to how our schools are achieving our educational goals. Corrections can be made, and improvement follows.

4. The principal changes I would favor would require complete transparency in campaign contributions and expenditures, including the indirect contributions to campaigns made by 501(c)3 organizations, and any campaign planning between candidates and Political Action Committees. I would not oppose some modest amount of public funding for candidates, but would not limit candidates to said funding. One of the measures of the resonance of a campaign with voters is its ability to raise funds.

District 39

Candidate: Rodolpho S. Martinez, Democrat



1. The New Mexico PRC is responsible for the oversight of the utility rates. As a legislator I will work the PRC to ensure that PRC Rule 568 and PRC Rule 570 are enforced and residents which provide excess electricity are compensated as per the ruling schedule. I will strongly urge the PRC to protect the established rates being

provided to the residents.

2. I am in full support of the expansion of the Medicaid Program in New Mexico. This is an opportunity for over one hundred and fifty thousand additional New Mexicans to become insured. This increase will insure our most vulnerable and in need of health care. It will open the door for health care for our children and senior citizens, which are the most unguarded. Individuals with pre-existing conditions will not be denied proper health care.

3. The grading system is premature in its implementation. A review and test by scientist at Los Alamos Laboratories have identified flaws and inconsistencies in the formulas being used to assign grades to the schools. Until such time that the grading system is corrected and applied in a fair manner across the state I cannot support the current grading system. The grading of schools creates a negative impact on the moral of the teaching profession.

4. The Legislature passed ethics legislation to reduce the amount of contribution a candidate was allowed to receive from any individual or corporation within the boundaries of the State of New Mexico. The legislator does not limit the amount of contributions contributed by out of state corporations. That needs to be amended and corrected.

Candidate: John L. Zimmerman, Republican



1. The PRC is elected to ensure Utility customers receive the best rate charges based upon services provided. That being said, they are also charged with responsibility to ensure excess KWH's produced by home owner solar systems are not paid more or less than the cost to produce and distributed this power to other users. As an elected

Legislator, I would encourage those elected officials to strictly adhere to the responsibilities of their constituents.

2. I would not oppose expansion of the Medicaid Program in New Mexico providing adequate funding were available without raising taxes.

3. Our colleges and universities received D's & F's compared to the rest of the country because many New Mexico high school graduates are not prepared for college and must take remedial classes when they reach college. We need to let teacher teach at the lower grades and quit forcing them to socially promote those children who are not proficient in reading by the third grade. Teacher's can only do so much in a classroom.

4. Financing a Campaign isn't easy, and usually the one who spends the most usually wins elections. If a set amount were established that could be spend on a campaign regardless of the party, this might even the playing field somewhat. One could argue that larger more rural districts should be allocated higher allotments than smaller urban area districts. In the end, nothing replaces hard work to reach potential voters.

CANDIDATES

NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES continued

NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Questions for the Candidates for the New Mexico House of Representatives (4 questions, 75 words each question)

1. The utilities companies in the State want to lower the price per KWH's paid to individuals who place solar on their homes and sell excess electricity back to the utilities companies. Describe how you will work with the Public Regulation Commission to ensure that the customer receives the best rate.
2. Why do you support or oppose the expansion of the Medicaid Program in New Mexico?
3. Give your reasons for opposing or favoring the current grading system A-F for public education.
4. What method do you prefer for campaign financing for state and local offices?

District 52

Candidate: Doreen Y. Gallegos, Democrat



1. Our state's solar, wind and geothermal resources are among the best in the nation and will be essential parts of our economy in coming years. Residential solar is a win-win resource; it saves homeowners money while eliminating the cost of building expensive new power generating facilities. Building a regulatory pathway that allows

full residential and commercial access to solar energy generation and distribution is essential

2. Almost a quarter of New Mexicans lack health insurance. Fortunately, the Affordable Care Act provides an opportunity to expand Medicaid to cover 200,000 of these uninsured at a very low cost to the state. We should seize this opportunity. Hard working people deserve affordable health care, and they shouldn't go without the routine care that helps prevent more serious conditions that we all end up paying for eventually.

3. Most importantly we need to give teachers the support they need to do their jobs effectively. Not all schools have the same advantages; some have more external factors such as poverty, hunger, and exposure to drugs and crime. I haven't been convinced that grading schools makes our children's education better, or accurately reflects the daily realities of our hardworking teachers and educational workers.

4. I believe an effective public financing option for state and local political campaigns would provide a fair and democratic way to level the playing field and allow more citizens to run for office. Access to financial resources shouldn't be the main factor determining our choices for public office.

Candidate: Arlington E. Brewbaker



1. First we read the Contract / Agreement between the Citizen and the Utility Company. Second We must continue to protect the Rights of our Citizens. Third We must continue to protect the rights of Businesses. Fourth we must make sure that the PRC does not over step it's authority within the laws of the State of New

Mexico, The Constitution of the State of New Mexico, and the Constitution of the United States of America.

2. I support Medicaid as a "Band-Aid" system. Designed to help our fellow Citizens when they have fallen on hard times. The Current System is out of Balance and Unsustainable. Changes must occur to allow smooth transitions so no one is without access to care. At this time, to blindly support the expansion without a proper funding vehicle in place would be irresponsible and I feel it would be in violation of my Oath of Office.

3. First I am assuming that your question is referring to the grading of a School and it's faculty. Public Education has used this method of grading students for decades. This is a great, simple method to measure and promote the success of School and it's faculty. I do hope that the school, the faculty, the student body, and the parents will recognize this as an opportunity to further promote ownership and pride within the community.

4. While I truly stand for individual freedoms as identified in the Oath of Office as a State Representative, and my strong conviction for free business enterprise, I would entertain an adjustment in the law. The current system allows for corruption to occur before and after the election. A true representation of the people should be controlled by each single vote and not the influence of the Dollar. A state held account system with equal distribution.

District 53

Candidate: Nate Cote, Democrat



1. I believe electricity consumers should receive the best rate they can, yet the utility companies do need to make a profit. If a significantly reduced purchase rate gets out of control then there is little incentive to install solar panels. The PRC has a mandate to set utility rates, but if I were to work with them I would want more information such

as how much does it cost them now to generate a KWH.

2. I support an enhanced Medicaid program over not supporting it for various reasons. Primarily, I believe it fits into the Affordable Care Act with insuring most families who are not covered at present. With approximately 200,000 of NM residents not insured an expanded Medicaid program would save taxpayer dollars over the current system with fewer ER visits, and an overall healthier citizenry.

3. I could support it if it was revamped and done correctly. Measurements should not only be linked to testing data, but also with some qualitative data and other factors built into the overall rating. I oppose the methodology of how it is currently done. We need a continuous improvement in our schools which should be done systematically with long term goals.

4. We need to get the big corporations, super PAC money and industries out of campaign financing. The buying of politicians and government by big business is wrong. I would either go with public financing or put a lower limit on the maximum that is contributed with this maximum applying to anyone equally.

Candidate: Ricky L. Little, Republican



No response received.



The first of three 2012 League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces Candidates Forums was held on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at the Las Cruces City Council chambers. A second forum was held on Oct. 10. The final one will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 17, featuring candidates for the 3rd Judicial District Court, District Attorney and some Doña Ana County government elected offices.

CANDIDATES

NEW MEXICO THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

Questions for the Candidates for New Mexico Third Judicial District Judge (2 questions, 75 words each question)

1. As you preside over gang related cases, describe a strategy that you could implement to impact gang activity.
2. From your perspective give details about two issues facing this court system and the solutions you would offer to deal with them.

Division 2

Candidate: Marci E. Beyer, Democrat



1. A judge should be part of a comprehensive, unified preventative approach instituted by the legislature, law enforcement, prosecutors, judiciary and community to address the reasons why gangs form and why youth or adults join gangs. I understand the most critical time for intervention is the first time that a youth appears in court, and I will carefully craft a response, for incarceration or community treatment, with strict accountability, that is best suited for each case.

2. The number of cases involving self-represented litigants is significant and growing, causing a strain on limited court resources. More programs to assist such litigants must be developed including education, mediation, and settlement facilitation. The number of people being sent to jail is growing to an unsustainable level. Judges and others should participate in developing or enhancing preventative measures and community based alternatives involving restorative justice, mediation and rehabilitation services, especially for youth.

Candidate: Susan M. Riedel, Republican



1. Intimidation is a problem in gang related trials. Fair trials are free from outside influences unrelated to the evidence. Witnesses provide accurate testimony only when confident there will be no repercussions. As judge, I would implement security measures; banning gang colors, monitoring "sign throwing", etc. These ensure a fair trial, allowing both sides to present all proper evidence. By ensuring gangs cannot influence the trial's outcome, our courts can have an effect on gang activity.

2. Two interrelated issues: 1) overcrowded dockets and 2) assisting those who cannot afford an attorney. As co-chair of our Pro-Bono Committee, I am encouraging the development of a program for local attorneys to volunteer as settlement facilitators who would assist unrepresented litigants to negotiate fair resolutions. In turn, this assistance would reduce the number of unnecessary court hearings, relieving the overcrowding and allowing hearings to be set more quickly in cases which require court intervention.

Division 3

Candidate: Darren Murray Kugler, Democrat



1. Early intervention is the key to successfully addressing gang problems in Ana County. My focus as District Judge will be on supporting ongoing anti-gang efforts such as the Weed & Seed Program and the Gang Task Forces of local law enforcement while also trying to develop community awareness and support of programs like Aprendamos, Avance, The Boys & Girls Club, FYI (Families & Youth, Inc.) and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children).

2. Those challenges are the rapidly increasing caseload from population growth in Doña Ana County and the growing number of self-represented litigants (parties without an attorney). Our Courts deserve additional judgeships for Doña Ana County. I will work with our legislators to obtain those additional judgeships. After four years on the bench in the domestic violence court, I have demonstrated the ability to fairly and efficiently preside over hundreds of cases each year with self-represented parties.

Candidate: Nelson J. Goodin, Republican



1. Victims and witnesses must feel safe and secure so they can testify without fear of retaliation. Each case must be considered individually, taking into account the offender's age, seeking to identify those amenable to rehabilitation with programs to change behavior taking that change into the community to reduce gang related activity. When rehabilitation is not realistic, other means must be considered to protect the community and reduce the negative influence of gang related activity.

2. Two issues facing the court are the delay in time from filing to resolution of cases and the high number of self-represented parties. I will schedule hearings quickly to resolve cases in a timely manner while giving the parties sufficient time to prepare but also tracking cases in way to prevent unnecessary delay. I will also work to expand the pro se clinic to give individuals more meaningful access to the courts.

Division 4

Candidate: Mary W. Rosner, Democrat



1. Honoring the judicial canons to be impartial, avoid the appearance of impropriety, to be independent and have integrity, I would look at the charges brought against the individual gang member, and apply the law to those facts properly admitted into evidence. I would favor neither the State nor the Defendant. My goal is to be so fair and consistent, that both sides of any litigation can predict what I will do.

2. (A) Getting people, unrepresented by attorneys, through the court system in a manner which protects children and is fair to both parents. (B) Triage for real emergencies. For A: (1) Obtain volunteers to help others through the entire court process. (2) Give a mandatory educational lecture (open to the public) to all non represented people once/week, for 2 hours. (3) Minute Orders, which are mini-orders, filed in open court. Triage: Re-define "emergency."

Candidate: Jacinto Palomino, Republican



1. As presiding children's court judge, I deal with the gang problem every day and have taken a systemwide approach, using all the community's resources such as juvenile probation officers to provide supervision and gang abatement, social services to help redirect children away from gangs, parental involvement and service to develop ties to community. As part of my responsibilities with the truancy program, I also work to keep children in school and out of gangs.

2. The two major issues I see are the time it takes to bring cases to trial, and resources for low-income litigants. To address them, the court should maintain stricter timelines for cases and grant fewer continuances, especially for people who are in custody. I would also recommend more legal resources and guidelines for low-income litigants and those seeking to represent themselves, so that they can have an equal voice in court.

CANDIDATES

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Questions for the Candidates for New Mexico Third Judicial District Attorney (2 questions, 75 words each question)

1. Domestic violence cases were diverted from the lower courts systems in Doña Ana County. Describe the effectiveness of this change and other improvements that can be made.
2. Describe the most frustrating experience you've had with this court system and suggest a change that would make your work easier.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Questions for the Candidates for Third Judicial District Magistrate (2 questions, 75 words each question)

1. Describe your qualifications for this office.
2. Identify two issues you will focus on as a Magistrate Judge.

Candidate: Mark D'Antonio, Democrat



1. Diverting domestic violence cases was intended to provide rapid access to justice and safety. That change has not been entirely successful. To improve the administration of justice, the District Attorney must coordinate with the Domestic Violence Commissioner, public safety officers, and social service workers to establish a comprehensive plan ensuring that the most vulnerable of society are protected. Equally important, but currently lacking, is a unified strategy to prevent domestic violence before it occurs.

2. Our court resources are overburdened. We need additional victim related resources such as increased survivor services and victim advocates. The shortages of these services discourages many victims of domestic violence, mostly women and children, from pursuing justice. I propose a change in policy that would expand the recruitment of highly motivated individuals who possess the training and expertise necessary to compassionately guide victims of violence through what is often perceived as an intimidating judicial process.

Candidate: Amy L. Orlando, Republican



1. My office has a 97% conviction rate on domestic violence cases and very few are transferred to district court. Rather, my office transfers many DWI cases to district court which is a court of record, to limit appeals and effectively hold drunk drivers accountable. Improvements include designating magistrate court a court of record and requiring a legal basis for all appeals

2. The largest cause of frustration is the lack of recognition of victim's rights. My opponent is a criminal defense lawyer and I agree everyone accused of a crime has the right to a lawyer. However, I believe the constitutional rights of victims should never be overshadowed. That is why I have been a career prosecutor and why I support reform that give a greater voice to honoring the constitutional rights of victims.

Candidate: Beverly Jean Singleman, DTS (Declined to State)



1. Judge Singleman obtained a law degree with High Distinction in 1976 from the University of Arizona School of Law. She has lived and worked in private practice in Doña Ana County, New Mexico for more than 35 years. Before becoming Magistrate Judge, she was a Certified Appellate Practice Specialist for ten years, the only such attorney in southern New Mexico, and also served in 2000 as a Judge on the New Mexico Court of Appeals.

2. While serving in Magistrate Court, Judge Singleman focuses on bringing matters before her to conclusion expeditiously, but with full opportunity for litigants to be heard. She strongly believes that all citizens, whether appearing pro se or through counsel, should be treated equally, with respect and fairness. She pledges to continue working hard, as do all magistrate judges in Doña Ana County, to provide the community with a court of which they can be proud.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Questions for the Candidates for County Commissioner (3 questions, 75 words each question)

1. Infrastructure in the colonias remains a problem. Give details about efforts you will make to improve water and road systems in the colonias.
2. How do you propose to fund various county needs, including maintenance of parks, roads, and county vehicles?
3. Describe the efforts you will take to reduce gang problems in the county.

District 2

Candidate: David J. Garcia, Democrat



1. When the BOCC looks at infrastructure needs in our colonias, we see a wide-range of services, including streets maintenance, water and sewer facilities, police and fire protection, law enforcement; budget is most important. In my view two essential requirements are vital, knowledge of your community and communication with the people. Infrastructure systems must be intergraded into a "Needs Assessment" that links with county budget with a set of priorities to be accomplished by the BOCC.

2. One of the responsibilities of the BOCC is to plan and provide for parks, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities. The BOCC must pursue methods of expanding sources of revenue or finding new ones to keep up with the increasing demand. Networking with elected officials, building coalitions with county, state, city officials, county staff, and state legislators is imperative to gain acquisition of support for the funding needs of the county is of utmost importance.

3. All stakeholders in all communities of the county must endeavor to have a safe place for residents, workers and visitors by reducing gang development and activities. It is essential to establish preventive systems, stern ordinances and policies, educational programs, punishment for gang violations, linked with community service programs to assist maintenance of county buildings, parks, roads and schools. We must involve the sheriff department, probation office, the court system, community people, volunteers, and schools personnel.

Candidate: Janice Kaye Brooks, Republican



1. People buy property with no infrastructure because it is cheap. The county should enforce existing zoning laws fairly and equally. Government cannot fix every bad decision of our citizens with other people's money. It's time to re-establish basic common sense policies. Americans live free with less government interference and an equal application of the law. I understand the problem. I too live on an unpaved road and drink from a well.

2. With the present economic conditions, taxpayers as well as government are facing difficulty in balancing their budgets. Making difficult decisions is mandatory for all council members as we allocate current resources. Once elected, I will wheedle, plead and convince my fellow commissioners of the necessity for prioritizing and managing need versus want. This is not the time to establish new taxes or programs without eliminating ineffective and inefficient ones.

3. The County Sheriff is our first line in dealing with gangs. We need to support him and his department completely. Putting too many departments, with conflicting agendas in the mix, waters down our efforts. It's time to organize a grass-roots women's program to take back neighborhoods and stop the violence much like women did in Ireland when they became sick and tired of the senseless killing by the IRA.

CANDIDATES

DOÑA ANA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS continued

District 4

Candidate: Wayne D. Hancock, Democrat



1. I value all communities in the county and will be attentive to the underserved needs of the colonias. I will encourage county management to seek and apply for CDBG Grants, NMFA Colonia Infrastructure Grants, USDA Rural Development grants, and funding from the North American Development Bank (NADB) Border Environment Infrastructure Fund. I will support the County Community Development Department's efforts to develop a comprehensive Colonias Development Plan to complement the county's Strategic Plan.

2. Utilizing my business background I will promote efficiencies in the county's evolving Strategic Plan which will yield additional funds for required maintenance. I will identify and promote management plans that more specifically address the county's needs. I will encourage the development of economies of scale by cooperating with municipalities and other administrative units within the county to reduce costs. I will use my technical expertise to encourage utilization of cost saving technologies.

3. Reducing gang violence requires education, enforcement and addressing the underlying social and economic problems that give rise to gang activity. I currently serve on the Community Unity Coalition, which was created to address the prevention of bullying in Doña Ana County. I support the efforts of the Sheriff's Community Policing Unit (CPU) to stop gangs. I will work with the CPU to incorporate educational materials about gangs and bullying to educate the community.

Candidate: Robert S. Jeska, Republican



1. Poor infrastructure in outlying areas of the County has been a combination of government neglect and lack of public involvement. As Commissioner I will require the County offices responsible to evaluate capital investment priorities. I will sponsor neighborhood community meetings in District 4 with responsible County officials to define problems with public input in a manner that will affect investment priorities, and encourage the formation of more neighborhood associations.

2. DAC currently has about \$100 million in cash on hand. Some is budgeted for approved projects. Some should be used to maintain DAC equipment and property. As Commissioner I will ensure approvals of future projects consider the total cost of ownership including maintenance. I favor fixed criteria for approving new projects and continuing old ones to ensure expected benefits justify the costs. My focus is improving roads, water, and flood water controls.

3. Gangs are criminal enterprises which harm and impact communities tolerating them. Motivations to join a gang are individual and include fear, greed, safety, status, and security. So remedies must be comprehensive. I will fully resource DASO and promote cooperation with LCPD gang units. Gangs are another reason for citizens to form neighborhood groups. County public assistance policies must discourage and avoid unintentionally subsidizing gang related activities.

District 5

Candidate: Leticia Duarte Benavidez, Democrat



1. There is a great need for infrastructure in the colonias. I will work with County Management to obtain Federal, State and Local funds to improve water and road systems. I will work with State Legislators to obtain CDBG funds and NMFA Colonia Infrastructure Grants to obtain funds for road improvements. The County is working with North American Development Bank (NAD-Bank) in assisting the rural communities & Colonias with their water and sewer systems.

2. The county budget has been approved to make sure that roads in each county district and the maintenance of parks have been addressed. Supervisors have to come up with creative ways to have county employees maintain all the parks because more communities are requesting parks for their neighborhoods. As for county vehicles the Department Heads determine how many vehicles are needed for their department and they must include the cost at the end of each.

3. It takes a variety of groups to combat gang violence. From the Courts, to law enforcement to the schools. Education at an early age to both students and parents is necessary for the prevention of gang violence. If we can educate young students on how to prevent bullying and animal cruelty it will help combat gang violence in the future. I would like to continue working with the Sheriff's Department Community Policing Programs and the...

Candidate: Thomas W. Austin, Republican



1. I will work with the county manager to get county staff to identify the needs within the colonias based on priority. Water and wastewater infrastructure first, followed by roads. I will work with local non-profit organizations, such as Colonias Development Council, and with the local domestic water associations, to assist them in acquiring state and federal monies available for infrastructure improvements within the designated colonias.

2. I will seek to fund various county needs first, needs that are expected by county constituents from whom county government acquires funding through taxes and fees. Police protection, fire protection, and infrastructure should be first in priority. The bigger county government gets, the more difficult this becomes. I will seek to cut the cost in maintenance, for both infrastructure and fleet, by contracting with local private companies through maintenance contracts where possible.

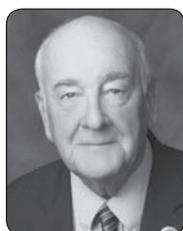
3. As Commissioner, I will work to see that DASO is fully funded to address the existing gang related crime. But I will also seek to promote and fully fund youth crime prevention programs, such as D.A.R.E. I believe that every dollar spent in youth enhancement programs has a long-term benefit to society, both economically and in human cost.

COUNTY CLERK

Questions for the Candidates for County Clerk (2 questions, 75 words each question)

1. In your view, describe two of the most important functions of the Clerk's office and your approach to addressing them.
2. If elected, will you retain the voting convenience centers as the method of voting in Doña Ana County? Explain.

Candidate: Lynn Ellins, Democrat



1. The most important functions of the office are elections and real estate document recording/license issuance. Elections will continue to be conducted with honesty and fairness towards candidates of all parties, with meaningful public transparency. Safeguarding recorded documents against consumer fraud will continue as new technology comes on-line. I am passionate about offering the highest level of customer service and maintaining the public's confidence in the Clerk's office as a valued county government undertaking.

2. Having introduced Voting Convenience Centers in Doña Ana County during the 2012 Primary election, my office will continue to make this well received procedure the preferred method for voting in future elections. In addition, school districts and municipalities may now operate their own Voting Convenience Centers. With experience under its belt, the Clerk's office stands ready to assist local governments in establishing Voting Convenience Centers for their constituents as the standard for election day voting.

Candidate: Dolores Lucero Connor, Republican



1. The primary function of the Clerk's office is the management of elections and all responsibilities associated with a transparent and efficient voting system for the county. Maintenance of records for voters is critical to a successful voting system. As a part of that function, the Clerk should also promote the elections process. Secondly, the Clerk is the keeper of records, including marriage licenses, deeds, county resolutions and ordinances, and other public record documents.

2. I would retain this method, which proved it could work in the initial 2012 Primary election. While the 2011 NM State Legislature approved Voter Convenience Centers for elections, some implementation issues may have occurred. I favor methods that ease the voting process, but I am concerned that the number of voting locations may have been reduced too much. For example, centers in rural areas were too scattered and potentially disenfranchised some voters.

CANDIDATES

COUNTY TREASURER

Questions for the Candidates for Treasurer (2 questions, 75 words each question)

1. Describe two issues that you consider the most challenging for this office and how you plan to deal with them.
2. Identify the effect of the current downturn on the economy in the revenues for Doña Ana County.

Candidate: David Gutierrez, Democrat



1. I was County Treasurer from 1996 to 2004. In 2008 I ran against the incumbent, because of his obvious office mismanagement, and won. As promised, I restored competent office management as demonstrated by consistent clean annual audits and excellent customer service. I also made good on my promise to help the local economy by investing millions of tax dollars in our community. I have the experience and education (MBA) to meet any office challenges.

2. Doña Ana County has several sources of revenue. As County Treasurer I am responsible for the collection of property taxes and the investment of County money. The downturn did not affect property tax revenue because tax rates are adjusted annually. Revenue from investments dramatically collapsed from \$1,313,035 in 2008 to \$634,857 in 2011. The forecast for interest rates is to remain at historic lows for the foreseeable future. However, the County remains financially sound.

Candidate: Hank Bear Strevel, Republican



1. Integrity has been decidedly missing as a vital aspect of public service. Integrity is an unwavering leadership trait that encompasses every aspect of public service. I will restore integrity through frequent assessments of my staff and conscious discipline regarding my own actions. Excellent customer service is a key component to public service which includes the expectation that the experience is both prompt and educational. I will simplify procedure and be proactive about fostering informed customers.

2. According to the MVEDA, from 2006 to 2012, even notwithstanding the negligible increases in gross receipts tax (GRT) revenues in 2010 and 2011, GRT revenue increases continued to drop from 13.4% in 2006 to negative 3.4% in 2009. The Hinkle/Landers Financial Report in 2011 showed that the County's General Fund has experienced a very gradual increase in all revenue sources, offset by a decrease in charges for services and budgetary cutbacks.

NEW MEXICO BONDS

State Capital Projects General Obligation Bonds and Tax Questions

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

The ballots used at the 2012 general election shall contain substantially the following language:

Bond A-\$10,335,000 for senior citizen facilities (construction and improvement)

A. 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?

For _____ Against _____

Bond B -\$9,830,000 for acquisitions and construction expenditures at academic, public, and tribal libraries

B. 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?

For _____ Against _____

Bond C- \$120,000,000 for higher education and special school facilities

C. 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 expenditures for certain higher education and special school 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?

For _____ Against _____

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

League of Women Voters of New Mexico Voters Guide Summaries Approved by the Legislative Council Service

Constitutional Amendment No. 1

Proposing to amend Article 6, Section 32 of the Constitution of New Mexico to increase the membership of the Judicial Standards Commission from 11 to 13, to include a municipal judge appointed in a manner set by the Legislature and an additional citizen who is neither a judge nor an attorney appointed by the Governor.

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.

continued on following page

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

continued from previous page

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 move the authority to charter and regulate corporations from the Public Regulation Commission 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 move the regulation of insurance and other risk-assumption companies from the Public Regulation Commission to a Superintendent of Insurance appointed by the Insurance Nominating Committee.

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

Proposes to amend the Constitution of New Mexico to create a Public Defender Department as an independent state agency, thereby removing the Department from its current location, where it is administratively attached to the Corrections 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, removing it from the supervision of the Corrections Department and the control of the Governor, who currently appoints the Chief Public Defender. It would create instead a Public Defender Commission empowered to appoint and provide guidance to the Chief Public Defender and oversee 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 poor people accused of crimes. Funding the defense of alleged criminals is often politically unpopular, particularly with officials seeking re-election. Because of this, 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 this system by appointments to various departments and through the executive's legislative 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 those members would incur.

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 approval 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.



**The Voters Guide, Spanish Edition
was made possible by funding from
New Mexico Communities
in Action & Faith**



**NM Communities in Action & Faith
(CAFé).**

We are a non-partisan, multi-faith 501(c)3 organization that is part of the PICO National Network, the largest faith-based community organization in the country. We are a multi-faith, multi-cultural group that trains and builds the capacity of low and moderate-income families to help shape public policies aimed at improving people's quality of life in New Mexico. We do not endorse or support any candidates for office. CAFé is part of the PICO National Network (piconetwork.org)

CAFé works to keep families in their homes by preventing foreclosures and working on quality housing. CAFé trains volunteers and leaders to act in their faith to improve their communities. CAFé seeks to help immigrant youth and young adults apply for Deferred Action. CAFé supports the expansion of Medicaid to New Mexicans.

CAFé wants **YOU** to **VOTE** this **NOVEMBER 6TH**

Problems Voting?

If you have problems voting on or before election day, call these numbers below to report problems, find a polling location or check early voting hours.
English 1-866-Our-Vote (1-866-687-8683)

MY FAMILY VOTES! RALLY & PICNIC

Join CAFé on Saturday, October 20, 2012, 2:00-4:00pm at Albert Johnson Park (in front of Branigan Library 200 E. Picacho)
Speakers include:

Mayors of Las Cruces, Anthony & Sunland Park
Bishop Ricardo Ramirez
First Time Voters, Veteran Voters, Faith Voters Celebrate our **Right & Duty TOGETHER** as a community for fun, food & voting! This event is scheduled so that you can come out and **VOTE EARLY** at Branigan Library. You are not required to bring an ID to vote; however, it is recommended but not necessary.

To RSVP email

cafeinfo@organizenm.org
or call/text 575-618-6ACT
(575-618-6228)

For more information about CAFé visit us at www.organizenm.org

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VOTE INFORMED!

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces is presenting Candidate Forums at the Las Cruces City Council Chambers, 700 N. Main St. Each forum will be broadcast live on Comcast Cable channel 20, and re-broadcast until the Nov. 6 election.

CANDIDATES FORUM

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 17
6 to 8 p.m.
3rd Judicial District Court
& District Attorney
County: Commissioners, Clerk, Treasurer

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

The information in this Voters Guide was obtained by means of questionnaires sent to all the candidates. **Their answers are printed exactly as received by the League.** Because of space restrictions, candidates are limited to a specific number of words. Also, lists are converted to paragraphs and responses are converted to normal text. All candidates are listed in alphabetical order. Three dots at the end of a candidate's response indicate the word limit has been exceeded.

Disclaimers

The information in this Voters Guide has been carefully assembled and compiled to ensure maximum accuracy. However, the League assumes no responsibility either for correctness of all the information furnished to the League by candidates or other organizations or for errors or omissions. In instances where there is a question of potentially defamatory content, the League will defer to the opinion of counsel.

Furthermore, the League assumes no responsibility for any possible errors in translation for the Spanish edition. Material in the Voting Information section was correct as of August 22, 2012. The League is not responsible for any changes made by the Secretary of State or Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections between that date and the election.

**League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces**

**2012 Voters Guide
List of Contributors**

The Voters Guide is funded by contributions to the League of Women Voters Education Fund from community supporters and members of the League.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

- John Ameriks, M.D.
- Anonymous
- Biad Chile Ltd. Co.
- Dr. Christopher P. Brown
- Julia M. Bruner
- Reed R. Burn
- Marjorie & Alex Burr
- Sue & Terry Cain
- Joseph P. Camunez, D.D.S.
- Maury Castro
- Democratic Women's Club of Doña Ana County
- Donald Dresp
- Edward Jones - Connie Lee
- Jackie & Adrian Edwards
- Rae Fortunato
- Leonard Gambrell & Lori Miller
- Erika Graf-Webster
- Janet Greenlee
- Margaret Glesner Griffin
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- Francisco Mario Ortiz Law Firm
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- Sarah Smith
- Sunspot Solar Energy
- Laura Szalay
- Donna and Tom Tate
- Dave Tornblom
- Jack Welch
- Barbara Whitehill
- Williams Design Group, Inc.
- Aletta Wilson
- Kathy Wooten
- Zia Engineering & Environment Consultants
- Helen Zagona
- Judy Zimmerman

AND

To the many community supporters who did not wish to be recognized by name—Thank you.

- Voter Services Committee
- Gwen Hanson & Gracia Class, Co-Directors
- Bonnie Burn, Erika Graf-Webster, Thomas Schmutge, Vicki Simons

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Special thanks to our translators
Lucy Jiménez and Maribel Salmón

We thank David McCollum,
Publisher/Editor, and the staff of the
Las Cruces Bulletin

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