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

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

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

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

KEY DATES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012
• Last day to register to vote in the November 6th election
• Absentee by mail and absentee in person voting begins
• Request an application for an absentee ballot by calling 986-6280 (ballots can be requested prior to October 9th, but will not be mailed before then)
• Early voting at the Santa Fe County Clerk’s Office begins, 102 Grant Avenue, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(PLEASE NOTE: County Clerk’s Office is NOT open for early voting on Saturdays, except for Saturday, November 3rd)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2012
• Early voting at Santa Fe County satellite locations begins
• Early voting at satellite sites is held Tuesday through Friday, 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
• Locations of early voting satellite sites are: Santa Fe Fairgrounds 3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe
El Dorado Senior Center 14 Avenida Torreon, El Dorado
Edgewood Fire Station 25 E. Frontage Road, Edgewood
Pojoaque County Satellite Office 5 West Gutierrez, Pojoaque
Santa Fe County Clerk’s Office 102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2012
• Last day to request an absentee ballot

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2012
• Last day of early voting at all sites, including at the County Clerk’s Office

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012
ELECTION DAY 7AM-7PM.
• Last day to submit an absentee ballot in person (absentee ballots must be turned in at the County Clerk’s Office or at the voter’s assigned polling place)
• Mailed absentee ballots must be received by the Clerk by 7pm
The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and is the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate’s Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barack Obama, President  Joe Biden, Vice-President</td>
<td>P.O. Box 805568 Chicago, IL 60660 312-698-3674 <a href="http://www.barackobama.com">www.barackobama.com</a> Twitter: @BarackObama</td>
<td>DEMOCRATIC PARTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitt Romney, President  Paul Ryan, Vice-President</td>
<td>PO Box 145736 Boston, MA 02114-9756 617-288-3500 Twitter: @MittRomney</td>
<td>REPUBLICAN PARTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgil Goode, President  Jim Clymer, Vice-President</td>
<td>239 S. Main Street Rocky Mount, VA 24151 540-483-9930 <a href="http://www.goodeforpresident2012.com">www.goodeforpresident2012.com</a> Twitter: @VirgilGoode</td>
<td>CONSTITUTION PARTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Johnson, President  Jim Gray, Vice-President</td>
<td>321 E South Temple Salt Lake City, UT 84101 801-303-7952 <a href="http://www.garyjohnson2012.com">www.garyjohnson2012.com</a> Twitter: @GaryJohnson</td>
<td>LIBERTARIAN PARTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross C. “Rocky” Anderson, President  Luis J. Rodríguez, Vice-President</td>
<td>345 West 300 South, Suite 225 Salt Lake City, UT 84101 801-990-5300 <a href="http://www.voterocky.org">www.voterocky.org</a> Twitter: @RockyAnderson</td>
<td>NM INDEPENDENT PARTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill Stein, President  Cheri Cheri Honkala, Vice-President</td>
<td>PO Box 262017 Madison, WI 53726-0217 <a href="http://www.jillstein.org">www.jillstein.org</a> Twitter: @JillStein2012</td>
<td>GREEN PARTY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNITED STATES SENATOR
6-year term. Annual Salary $174,000

The League asked:
Describe your specific experience and abilities that prepared you for the office of United States Senator.

What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and improve affordability and access to quality health care?

What federal policies might you change to improve the national economy and access to quality health care?

What should the federal government do to address climate change?

What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and improve affordability and access to quality health care?

What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and improve affordability and access to quality health care?

WASHINGTON, DC

Brian Barby (AP)
Email: BrianBarby@ap.com
Phone: (303) 899-2118

Our citizens are being overtaxed and overregulated. The nation must return to a active market economy. The federal government has to be reduced to its' constitutional limits and then prosperity will increase. We must make life better for the people that live in this state and nation. We need to talk to government leaders and reduce the federal government to where it will actually work and become a contributor to our society and not a hindrance.

I am a USAF Vietnam Veteran. My experiences in military and business leadership have taught me leadership, management and negotiation skills that are critical to handling the legislative process.

Michelle Lujan Grisham (D)
Email: mlujangrisham@mlujangrisham.com
Phone: (505) 444-3511

Since winning my last degree, I worked as director of the State Agency on Aging and protected seniors from scam artists. As Health Secretary, I fought for women's health and doubled the number of school-based health centers and banned junk food in schools. As a Bernalillo County Commissioner, I led federal accountable and created a system for the first time in New Mexico that allowed low-income seniors without health insurance to have their benefits covered by insurance. I am a client of the Veterans Health Administration. Combat veterans like me already have this through the Veterans health system for the whole country. We have a similar major disaster. The solution lies in a clean energy economy and I am a unique perspective to create access to health care.

The health care is a war. It should be ended by creating jobs and growing the economy. That means low taxes, a minimum wage, a family credit to help those without health insurance, reducing the overall energy strategy and government reforms that will control the unsustainable growth in government spending. We 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.

The earth has been in a period of warming for the last 11,000 years. The question is how much we want to do in the next century to change that condition. I have a plan to do it, if anything, care and should be done about it. We must increase the science to reduce the high default rate of seniors in our market and increase the amount of data from vehicles to know conclusions.

As a four-term NH House Speaker, I am a pragmatist that understands that compromise and cooperation is needed to get things done. I can build consensus and balance interests. We need to continue my work to improve the health status of New Mexico. As the leader of a state with the lowest Medicare increase and costs, I have seen the success of that type of program.

US REPRESENTATIVE- DISTRICT 1
2-year term. Annual Salary $174,000

The League asked:
Describe your specific experience and abilities that prepared you for the office of United States Representative.

What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and improve affordability and access to quality health care?

What, if anything, should the federal government do to slow climate change?

What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and improve affordability and access to quality health care?

What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and improve affordability and access to quality health care?

WASHINGTON, DC

Robert L. Anderson (D)
Phone: (303) 457-6700

I have the experience to serve the people of my state and nation. I am a two-term state and national elected official with 37 years of service. I am a local community leader with 13 years of service to the Denver community- first 8 years working with low income and unemployed. Worked for peace and justice campaigns for over 20 years.

I have consistently fought to protect the benefits seniors have earned from constant attacks by those who would rather give their taxes to the super-rich and big corporations than keep the country’s promise to our parents and grandparents. We can and must reduce our deficit – but I will oppose any tax cuts on the backs of seniors while providing incentives for companies to return to the US.

I have been a professor of political science and technology and bring a unique perspective to create solutions such as eliminating corporate loopholes, capping medical expenditures, and increasing funding for Affordable Care Act programs to manage the mounting costs. I must show the American people that we are serious about putting the Middle Class first. I will also support a plan to help small businesses get access to capital.

After many years at large, I worked as director of the State Agency on Aging and protected seniors from scam artists. As Health Secretary, I fought for women’s health and doubled the number of school-based health centers and banned junk food in schools. As a Bernalillo County Commissioner, I led federal accountable and created a system for the first time in New Mexico that allowed low-income seniors without health insurance to have their benefits covered by insurance.

Our citizens are being overtaxed and overregulated. The nation must return to a active market economy. The federal government has to be reduced to its' constitutional limits and then prosperity will increase. We must make life better for the people that live in this state and nation. We need to talk to government leaders and reduce the federal government to where it will actually work and become a contributor to our society and not a hindrance.

I am a USAF Vietnam Veteran. My experiences in military and business leadership have taught me leadership, management and negotiation skills that are critical to handling the legislative process.

The federal government should not be in the health care business. Their health care program is not the answer and is not for the broad range of citizens. A government controlled monopoly will not provide access affordable care at a quality health care. There have been a lot of times the government has plunged in the war on terrorism and other areas we can save money. The President's proposal that our health care system will become a voucher system will never work.

Our research into this area has revealed that there are no health care business. Their health care program is not the answer and is not for the broad range of citizens. A government controlled monopoly will not provide access affordable care at a quality health care. There have been a lot of times the government has plunged in the war on terrorism and other areas we can save money. The President's proposal that our health care system will become a voucher system will never work.

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Abandoned trickle-down economics have driven the country to the brink. We need to find the middle way to economic recovery and responsibly restore American prosperity: a tax code that benefits most Americans, investments in education and training, and strong labor and environmental standards.

Reduced and eliminate unnecessary regulations that don’t accomplish anything. The American people are the best equipped to plan for their own health care needs. The American people have the tools to plan for their own health care needs, but we must provide them with the means to do so.

Stop using food stamps which are a vehicle for community-funding to support local food banks, while allowing food processors to keep profits. The problem. We need a smart program to get our senior citizens to the food bank and to plan for their own health care needs, rather than give them a handout to help them manage their income. We need a plan to help small businesses get access to capital.

State and local governments must have the tools to plan for their own health care needs, rather than give them a handout to help them manage their income. We need a plan to help small businesses get access to capital.

We must protect the policy framework that created the economic downturn and implement common solutions such as eliminating corporate loopholes, capping medical expenditures, and increasing funding for Affordable Care Act programs to manage the mounting costs. I must show the American people that we are serious about putting the Middle Class first. I will also support a plan to help small businesses get access to capital.

Worked with affordable housing providers to transform the nation into one with a healthcare system that provides care to all who need it. I have pushed for research and development of Clean Energy Technologies. In Congress, I will stand up to corporate polluters and Big Oil, and protect our land, our water, and our climate.

I want to put the policy framework that created the economic downturn and implement common solutions such as eliminating corporate loopholes, capping medical expenditures, and increasing funding for Affordable Care Act programs to manage the mounting costs. I must show the American people that we are serious about putting the Middle Class first. I will also support a plan to help small businesses get access to capital.

I will stand up to corporate polluters and Big Oil, and protect our land, our water, and our climate. I will fight for clean energy technologies that protect the planet, our climate and grow the economy of New Mexico.

Affordable and access to health care is the number one issue. I will stand up to the majority leadership of polarization that keep Americans employed. The farmers in our community and our country are living in their own world that want to see the government do to slow climate change and protect our way of life.

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As America’s working families struggle, we must take a balanced approach to cutting harmful emissions while eliminating unnecessary regulations that don’t accomplish anything. The President’s proposal that our health care system will become a voucher system will never work.

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The League asked:

Describe your specific experience and abilities that prepare you for the office of United States Representative. (75 words)

Ben R. Lujan (D)
Email: peopleforben@gmail.com
Phone: (505) 984-8950

I was born and raised in the community of Nambe where I tended our ancestral land, and animals. I learned the value of hard work and giving back to Northern New Mexico such a special place. Over the past four years I have been honored to represent Northern New Mexico in Congress, and I hope to continue my efforts to protect our land and water, strengthen our economy, and preserve Social Security and Medicare for our seniors.

What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and create jobs? (75 words)

The Affordability Care Act took important steps that are already benefiting seniors, children, young adults, and small businesses. The Health Care Reform Act also reduced prices for energy and natural gas, we can reduce our carbon emissions and diversify our dependence on fossil fuel. Children can no longer be discriminated against because of a pre-existing condition. Young adults can stay on their parents’ plans until age 26. And small businesses are receiving tax credits to help them afford health insurance for their workers.

What should the federal government do to slow climate change? (75 words)

The Federal government must make responsible investments in innovation and education that strengthens our manufacturing base, supports our young people with the skills and training for jobs in the science and technology fields so we can out-innovate the rest of the world. In addition, government investments in renewable energy can pave the way for a clean energy economy that creates new jobs by harnessing New Mexico’s abundant renewable resources.

The League asked:

What attributes and experience prepare you for service as a New Mexico Supreme Court Justice? (65 words)

Barbara J. Vigil (D)
Email: vigiloffice@nmsupremejustice.org
Phone: (505) 346-3151

Being an Environmental Engineer, I understand the importance of protecting our environment. I have experience with administrative law, which will be relevant to run the Supreme Court. I’ve also worked at a healthcare provider, which will be helpful to run a government agency.

What ethical practices are critical in maintaining the Supreme Court’s public trust? (65 words)

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Paul J. Kennedy (R)
Email: paul@paulj kennedy.org
Phone: (575) 621-4121

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 and strategies which I shaped by my work in school, police, and social service settings. Additionally, I understand the importance of family and traditions that make New Mexico special.

What programs and changes to improve the New Mexico Supreme Court would you like to see implemented? (65 words)

The Supreme Court along with the entire judicial branch has faced significant budget decreases. Although the judiciary is an equal branch of government, its total budget is 2.5% of the entire state budget. Cuts cannot affect the administration of justice. As a District Court Judge, I believe the New Mexico Supreme Court should have more resources for appellate judges, perhaps as they do in other states.

The League asked:

What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current New Mexico Supreme Court Justice? (75 words)

Richard C. Bosser (D)
Email: bosseroffice@nmsupremejustice.org
Phone: (505) 346-3151

When I was appointed to the Supreme Court ten years ago, I helped to create a new system that allows the public to review court proceedings. I have practiced law in New Mexico for over 20 years, first serving as a public defender and then in private practice where I have focused on both civil and criminal cases.

What ethical practices are critical in maintaining the Supreme Court’s public trust? (65 words)

The laws of the land, of New Mexico, and of the United States are the supreme will of the people. Judges must guard against the temptation to substitute their personal preferences for the law itself—for what is already in the law. Judges must adhere to the Code of Judicial Conduct in order to preserve their integrity.

What programs and changes to improve the New Mexico Supreme Court would you like to see implemented? (65 words)

The Supreme Court functions well as long as good people get to run the Court. Unfortunately, the political influence that judges guard against the temptation to substitute their personal preferences for the law itself—for what is already in the law. Judges must adhere to the Code of Judicial Conduct in order to preserve their integrity.

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The League asked:

What attributes and experience do you possess that qualify you for the office of the Judge of the Court of Appeals? (5 words)

I have served as a District Court Judge for the past seven years. An avocational trial attorney for over 18 years, I practiced throughout the state and in Federal Court, including the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals of the United States Supreme Court. My extensive experience of appellate review, oral argument, and writing as a trial judge prepared me for this position.

What improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could these improvements be implemented? (5 words)

The speed of justice is slowed by too much paperwork. 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 for the same reasons. In case review, less appeal, and decisions in the court of appeals result in no decision outside of the court.

What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence? (5 words)

My Constitutional duty is to be independent and impartial. Judges resolve disputes, sometimes-saying the “will of the majority” is wrong. For partisan political candidates on judges selected on their merit by bi-partisan commissions conflicts with judges’ responsibility to the judicial oath of impartiality. Among AdvocaTa’s recommendations for the people to retain control, an elected commission with legislative and Governor’s approval is necessary.

The League asked:

How has your training, professional experience, and interests prepared you to serve on the New Mexico Court of Appeals? (5 words)

I have served as a District Court Judge for 37 years. My experience as a Court of Appeals Judge, having worked for three federal Judicial Judges, represented the United States in appellate law for a decade, and has been a participant in dozens of appellate rulings. I add specific experience and passion for appellate law to our ten-member court that currently hears nearly 300 cases per year.

What improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could these improvements be implemented? (5 words)

Our court system is vulnerable to the financial instability of any year. Budget constraints are now more severe. Our judicial system could be much more efficient with a reduction in staff, less personnel to handle issues, and a non-partisan selection process.

What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence? (5 words)

The single most important issue facing our state is shrinking the economy and job creation. We need shorter term jobs to accelerate green growth. New businesses are critical to our future economy. As a business owner, I know that it is easier to succeed with smaller, streamlined operations. We need long-term career growth, not short-term band-aid solutions. Re-investing, wind, and alternative energy ideas are also key in NM where we have abundant resources.

I support the state legislators do to ensure that all groups living in New Mexico have access to affordable, quality health care? (30 words)

We must accept the Medicaid expansion that more than 170,000 new people in NM will be covered. I will champion the opportunity to create a health insuranc e program. I will fight for the Medicaid expansion in our state in order to demonstrate that every New Mexico family has affordable, accessible health care. We must reassure and all segments to weaken and the Affordable Care Act.
NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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

House District 48

Luciano “Lucky” Venegas (D)


What should the state experience and abilities that prepare you for this office. (50 words)

I am a mathematician with degrees in physics and biology and experience in economics and regulatory analysis. I am President of my neighborhood association, have sat on legislatures, and worked with other activists to achieve paper ballots. I helped start Rocky Mountain YAM. I dress out with 6 children and 5 grandchildren, an ACLU, Guardians of Liberty. However, these are not my greatest skills. Everything else I could do.

The state must educate school-age children, maintain National Guard, control pollution, and pay in debt. The state may be unable to pay future employee pension without it catches the funds up to level consistent with a realistic return on investment. The Legislature should institute standard accounting controls to stop the ongoing corruption, where only debt and debt is the result. Everything else could be cut.

The NM Constitution sets no healthcare. However, the state could improve opportunities to benefit its citizens, even if we disagree with how government does it. We should consult about $50 million through 2010 to expanded Medicaid to about 270,000 people. Federal contributions will create enough provider and secondary jobs that tax revenue should cover state costs. The NM Constitution prices at the most. For example, the state agencies are siphoning 3.5 million through 2020 to expand Medicaid. We should commit about $50 million per year to expand Medicaid. We should commit about $50 million per year to Medicaid.

All candidates on The Clerk’s website: http://www.santafecounty.org/clerk/elections_information.php

House District 50

Stephen P. Estudy (D)

I earned a Ph.D. and worked as a university professor and research scientist for 20 years. I have served on an Information Technology services company for 17 years. I understand the needs of small businesses. I am on the Alamogordo City Commission. I worked for some time with the NM state government and am experienced with the executive and legislative branches.

What should the state experience and abilities that prepare you for this office. (50 words)

I have had the privilege to serve New Mexico through education with 10 years on School Superintendent, 15 years at Monterey High School as Counselor/Assistant Principal, 2 years at TVC, currently serving as Principal of Estancia Valley Classical Academy. My experience extends to the US Department of Interior, 7 years, and NM State Planning Office. 3 years. I moved my family to Edgewood in 1981.

We must understand the funding of health care, thanks to careful research of health care needs and empower individuals and communities to take health care to meet their needs. The action of the State Legislature includes proper cost/benefit analysis in health care (the system) compared to patient care (the service).

Bob Walsh (L)

Health care – Education – Public Safety/ Economic incentives for small businesses/ Broken our tax base – Avoid harmful cuts to services.

ALL CANDIDATES ON THE 2012 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

(including both contested and uncontested races)

PRESIDENT

SHALL MICHAEL VIGIL BE RETAINED AS A JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT?

Vote Yes or No for Each Judge

NON-PARTISAN JUDGES

Patrick Varela

Geraldine Salazar

Jill Stein and Cheri Honkala

Green

Ross C. “Rocky” Anderson

Jeff Carr

Jefferson L. Byrd

Jefferson L. Byrd

Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan

Barak Obama and Joe Biden

The legislature should follow the provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Expansion of Medicaid will provide health care insurance to 50,000 citizens who are currently uninsured. The Federal government will pay 100% of the cost for several years and 90% thereafter. Respected economists have shown that this approach will bring billions of dollars to NM, leaving a net cost to the state of $0.

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

COLLEGE ATTORNEY

DISTRICT 3

DISTRICT 41

DISTRICT 3

DISTRICT 25

DISTRICT 43

DISTRICT 45

DISTRICT 5

DISTRICT 47

DISTRICT 49

DISTRICT 48

DISTRICT 50

DISTRICT 9

DISTRICT 4

DISTRICT 2

DISTRICT 32

DISTRICT 39

DISTRICT 38

DISTRICT 37

DISTRICT 36

DISTRICT 35

DISTRICT 34

DISTRICT 33

DISTRICT 32

DISTRICT 31

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DISTRICT 29

DISTRICT 28

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DISTRICT 24

DISTRICT 23

DISTRICT 22

DISTRICT 21

DISTRICT 20

DISTRICT 19

DISTRICT 18

DISTRICT 17

DISTRICT 16

DISTRICT 15

DISTRICT 14

DISTRICT 13

DISTRICT 12

DISTRICT 11

DISTRICT 10

DISTRICT 9

DISTRICT 8

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 1
Proposing an amendment to Article 3, Section 14 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico to increase the number of members on the Public Regulation Commission.

ARGUMENTS FOR:
1) The amendment would allow the Commission to better regulate the various industries it oversees.
2) The amendment would ensure that the Commission has the necessary expertise to do its job effectively.
3) The amendment would provide for greater public participation in the regulatory process.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:
1) The amendment would be too costly and would create a superfluous layer of regulation.
2) The amendment would create unnecessary bureaucracy and would not actually assist in representing indigent defendants.
3) The amendment would add an unnecessary bureaucracy to the already convoluted system of legal representation.

PROPOSED 2012 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND TAXES

General obligation bonds allow the state to borrow money to finance capital improvement projects. The principal amount of the bonds is the maximum amount that the state is obligated to pay the bondholders plus any interest due. The bonds are paid for out of property taxes. The rate of the tax to finance the bonds is determined by the New Mexico Legislature.

PROPOSED 2012 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND TAXES

PROPOSED 2012 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 3
Proposing an amendment to Article 6 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico to establish a new section that provides for the issuance of insurance obligation bonds.

ARGUMENTS FOR:
1) The amendment would allow the state to finance insurance obligation bonds to improve the insurance industry and protect consumers.
2) The amendment would provide for greater transparency and accountability in the insurance industry.
3) The amendment would provide for greater public participation in the insurance regulatory process.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:
1) The amendment would create unnecessary bureaucracy and would not actually assist in representing indigent defendants.
2) The amendment would add an unnecessary bureaucracy to the already convoluted system of legal representation.
3) The amendment would be too costly and would create a superfluous layer of regulation.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 5
Proposing an amendment to Article 11 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico to establish a new section that provides for the issuance of tribal facilities acquisition and construction bonds.

ARGUMENTS FOR:
1) The amendment would allow the state to finance tribal facilities acquisition and construction projects that are not covered by the state’s general obligation bonds.
2) The amendment would provide for greater transparency and accountability in the allocation of funds for tribal facilities.
3) The amendment would provide for greater public participation in the allocation of funds for tribal facilities.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:
1) The amendment would create unnecessary bureaucracy and would not actually assist in representing indigent defendants.
2) The amendment would add an unnecessary bureaucracy to the already convoluted system of legal representation.
3) The amendment would be too costly and would create a superfluous layer of regulation.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 6
Proposing an amendment to Article 11 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico to establish a new section that provides for the issuance of Public Regulation Commission obligation bonds.

ARGUMENTS FOR:
1) The amendment would allow the state to finance Public Regulation Commission obligation bonds to improve the regulation of public utilities.
2) The amendment would provide for greater transparency and accountability in the regulation of public utilities.
3) The amendment would provide for greater public participation in the regulation of public utilities.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:
1) The amendment would create unnecessary bureaucracy and would not actually assist in representing indigent defendants.
2) The amendment would add an unnecessary bureaucracy to the already convoluted system of legal representation.
3) The amendment would be too costly and would create a superfluous layer of regulation.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 7
Proposing an amendment to Article 11 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico to establish a new section that provides for the issuance of Education and Special School Facilities Acquisition and Construction Bonds.

ARGUMENTS FOR:
1) The amendment would allow the state to finance Education and Special School Facilities Acquisition and Construction Bonds to improve the education and special school systems.
2) The amendment would provide for greater transparency and accountability in the allocation of funds for education and special school facilities.
3) The amendment would provide for greater public participation in the allocation of funds for education and special school facilities.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:
1) The amendment would create unnecessary bureaucracy and would not actually assist in representing indigent defendants.
2) The amendment would add an unnecessary bureaucracy to the already convoluted system of legal representation.
3) The amendment would be too costly and would create a superfluous layer of regulation.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 8
Proposing an amendment to Article 11 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico to establish a new section that provides for the issuance of Child Protection Services Obligation Bonds.

ARGUMENTS FOR:
1) The amendment would allow the state to finance Child Protection Services Obligation Bonds to improve the protection of children.
2) The amendment would provide for greater transparency and accountability in the protection of children.
3) The amendment would provide for greater public participation in the protection of children.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:
1) The amendment would create unnecessary bureaucracy and would not actually assist in representing indigent defendants.
2) The amendment would add an unnecessary bureaucracy to the already convoluted system of legal representation.
3) The amendment would be too costly and would create a superfluous layer of regulation.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 9
Proposing an amendment to Article 11 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico to establish a new section that provides for the issuance of Health and Social Services Obligation Bonds.

ARGUMENTS FOR:
1) The amendment would allow the state to finance Health and Social Services Obligation Bonds to improve the health and social services.
2) The amendment would provide for greater transparency and accountability in the health and social services.
3) The amendment would provide for greater public participation in the health and social services.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:
1) The amendment would create unnecessary bureaucracy and would not actually assist in representing indigent defendants.
2) The amendment would add an unnecessary bureaucracy to the already convoluted system of legal representation.
3) The amendment would be too costly and would create a superfluous layer of regulation.
November 6, 2012.

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

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

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

Q: The voter opinion is to renew the tax. When was it originally imposed and how was it beneficial to Santa Fe County?
A: The tax was originally imposed in the 1980s and served for 25 years as an essential funding source used by the Santa Fe County Fire Department and the Department’s 14 volunteer fire districts. It expired in 2005 and in order to continue it will once again require the approval of voters in unincorporated Santa Fe County.

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

Q: Is the Fire Protection Excise Tax still subject to a sunset clause?
A: No. The original sunset clause was rescinded by the law in the New Mexico State Legislature in 2004. Removal of the clause was recognized as an important means to allow county fire departments to better prepare for the future by anticipating capital needs and tying those needs to a dedicated funding source with predictable revenue.

Q: Do other counties have a Fire Protection Excise Tax?
A: The tax is only levied on the unincorporated areas of Santa Fe County. Incorporated areas such as the City of Santa Fe and Town of Edgewood will not have the tax.

Q: In what areas will the tax be levied?
A: The tax can be used to replace aging and worn out fire engines and water trucks, replace hose and nozzles, and replace or repair damaged and worn out firefighting equipment including protective coats, pants, helmet, gloves, hoods, and firefighting breathing masks and air packs.

The tax revenue can be used to purchase replacement fire trucks, ambulances, and medical equipment to ensure that the Department’s Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics have modern essential apparels like defibrillators, oxygen systems, extraction tools like the jaws of Life, and other essential rescue and life-saving equipment.

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

Q: How much is the Tax?
A: The tax is one quarter of one percent (0.25%) gross receipts tax imposed on all non-residential sales to ensure reliable and rapid communications over a two thousand square mile response area.

Q: How much will the tax generate and is the revenue kept in Santa Fe County?
A: It is estimated that the tax will generate $1.24 million annually to help fund the critical needs of the County Fire Department. All of the revenue from the tax is retained locally.

Q: Does Santa Fe County identify Department needs?
A: The fire department uses a five year planning process to identify apparatus and equipment in need of replacement. The 2010-2014 plan was approved by the Board of County Commissioners and is linked on the department’s website.