A General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. A General Election is held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even numbered years. If you are a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on Election Day, and registered to vote, you may vote in this General Election.

How to Register to Vote
You must be registered to vote by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9, to vote in this election. Voter registration applications are available online (at the County Clerk’s office, all public libraries and Motor Vehicle Division offices) or by contacting your County Clerk.

How to Vote on Election Day
Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on November 6. You must be registered to vote by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9, to vote on Election Day.

Precinct voting has been consolidated into Vote Convenience Centers. Information on your county’s Vote Convenience Center locations is available online through the Secretary of State’s office at www.nmvote.org or by contacting your County Clerk.

For Navajo language assistance please contact the County Clerk’s Office.

How to Use This Guide
Information on registering to vote and on voting in person at the polls on Election Day is provided here on Page 1. Information on early and absentee voting is provided inside the Guide. The Table of Contents at the right will help you find the information.

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| General Election November 6, 2018 |

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico is pleased to offer this Voter Guide for the 2018 General Election. The League believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens. We are nonpartisan – we do not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

Disclaimer
The information in this Voter Guide has been carefully assembled and compiled to assure maximum accuracy. However, the LWVNM assumes no responsibility either for correctness of all the information furnished to the League by candidates or other organizations or for errors or omissions.
EARLY AND ABSENTEE VOTING

EARLY VOTING IN SOCORRO COUNTY

Navajo language Interpreters will be available on site at Early Voting and Election Day locations on Indian Lands.

Absentee In-Person Voting begins at the Socorro County Clerk’s Office – 200 Church Street on October 9. This location will be open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 3, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Early Voting at Magdalena Senior Center, 500 Ninth Street, Magdalena, NM begins Saturday, October 20 through Saturday, November 3, 2018. Voting day and hours of operation are Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

HOW TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT IN SOCORRO COUNTY

Request a Ballot - By Phone - (575-835-0423), In person at the Socorro County Clerk’s Office or online at www.nmvote.org. Absentee ballot applications must be returned to The County Clerk by mail, in person or online. Absentee ballots will be mailed to qualified applicants beginning on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 and will continue through Friday, November 2, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Return your Absentee Ballot - You may return your completed absentee ballot by mail, in person to the County Clerk’s Office or on Election Day at any of the polling locations prior to 7:00 p.m.

Blind or Visually Impaired Voters may request an absentee application at www.nmvote.org and receive an electronic absentee ballot. This ballot delivery method will allow voters to use their own non-visual or low-vision technology to mark their ballot in the comfort of their own homes.

Absentee ballots must be received at the Socorro County Clerk’s Office or at a polling location by 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ABSENTEE VOTING

• Any person qualified to vote may vote by absentee ballot.

• Absentee ballots delivered in person must be returned by the voter, a member of the voter’s immediate family, or a caregiver.

• If you apply for an absentee ballot and receive it, you must vote that ballot.

Write-In Voting

Write-in voting is permitted on the paper ballot as long as the person you vote for is qualified as a write-in candidate. A write-in vote can only be counted if the name written in is the name of a declared write-in candidate and shows one of the following: two initials and last name; first name, middle initial or name and last name; first and last name; or full name.

Provisional Ballots

You will be issued a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the roster when voting in person during Early Voting or on Election Day or if you are a first-time voter who registered by mail and you did not provide the required identification.

Voting Offenses

Voters must report voting offenses to the County Clerk, the District Attorney, or the Secretary of State. Voting offenses are –

• Any form of campaigning within 100 feet of a building containing a polling place on Election Day and within 100 feet of the door through which voters may enter to vote at any Early Voting site.

• Using or possessing or carrying alcoholic beverages within 200 feet of a polling place.

• False voting including voting or offering to vote when not qualified, voting in another’s name, voting more than once in a single election, or asking or helping another person to commit a voting offense.
CANDIDATES

FEDERAL OFFICES

UNITED STATES SENATOR
Represents New Mexico in the United States Senate, which has 100 members, two from each state. Candidates must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States for at least nine years, and a resident of the state from which elected. One New Mexico seat is up for election this year. Elected statewide for six-year staggered term. Salary: $174,000.

MARTIN T. HEINRICH
Democrat

GARY E. JOHNSON
Libertarian

MICK RICH
Republican

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
Represents New Mexico in the United States House of Representatives, which has 435 members elected from districts based on population. New Mexico is entitled to three members. Candidates must be at least 25 years old, a United States citizen for seven years, and must be a resident of New Mexico. Elected by district for two-year term. Salary: $174,000.

DISTRICT 2

XOCHITL TORRES SMALL
Democrat

YVETTE HERRELL
Republican

NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICES

GOVERNOR
Head of the executive branch and the highest state official in New Mexico. Appoints and supervises directors of executive departments, appoints members of boards and commissions, and signs or vetoes statutes enacted by the Legislature. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: $110,000.

MICHIELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Democrat

STEVIE PEARCE
Republican

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Serves as Acting Governor when the Governor is out of the state, provides constituent services, presides over the New Mexico Senate and can vote in the event of a tie. In a general election the Lieutenant Governor is elected jointly with the Governor. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for the five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: $85,000.

HOWIE C. MORALES
Democrat

MICHIELLE GARCIA HOLMES
Republican

SECRETARY OF STATE
New Mexico’s chief elections officer, overseeing the entire election process. Regulates lobbyist activity and reporting of campaign finances, and maintains records vital to commerce and industry in New Mexico. Must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: $85,000.

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
Democrat

GINGER G. GRIDER
Libertarian

GAVIN S. CLARKSON
Republican

STATE AUDITOR
Assures that the financial affairs of every state and local entity are thoroughly examined and audited each year and determines that such audits conducted by independent auditors are made in a competent manner. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: $85,000.

BRIAN S. COLÓN
Democrat

WAYNE A. JOHNSON
Republican

STATE TREASURER
The state’s banker and is entrusted with receiving, keeping, and disbursing state money; deposits funds in financial institutions to invest; and oversees the short-term investment fund. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: $85,000.

TIM EICHENBERG
Democrat

ARTHUR L. CASTILLO
Republican

ATTORNEY GENERAL
The state’s legal officer, legal counsel to state government, and guardian of the public interest. Represents the state before courts or agencies and provides legal opinions upon request of the Legislature, state officials or district attorneys. Must be an attorney licensed by the New Mexico Supreme Court, at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for the five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: $95,000.

MICHAEL GARCIA HOLMES
Republican

GAVIN S. CLARKSON
Republican

GINGER G. GRIDER
Libertarian

BRIAN S. COLÓN
Democrat

WAYNE A. JOHNSON
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DISTRICT 6

Leads the State Land Office, which manages 9 million acres of land and 13 million acres of mineral rights held in trust to support public schools, universities, hospitals, charitable purposes and penitentiaries. Must be at least 30 years of age, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: $90,000.

DISTRICT 4

Represents his/her district in the New Mexico House of Representatives, which has 70 members elected from districts based on population. Together with other representatives enacts "reasonable and appropriate" laws, represents constituents in the district and serves on standing or interim committees. Legislature meets for 60 days in odd-numbered years and 30 days in even-numbered years. Must be at least 21 years old and a resident of the district from which elected. Two-year term, no term limits. $161 per diem plus mileage.

Member of five-person commission that regulates the utilities, telecommunications and motor carrier industries. Also oversees pipeline and fire safety. Must be a citizen of the United States and reside in the district he/she represents. Must also certify that he/she has at least ten years of specified professional experience or combined professional experience and education in an area regulated by the commission. Elected by district. Four-year staggered term. Districts 2, 4, and 5 are up for election this year. Salary: $90,000.

Judicial vacancies are filled through appointment by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. At the next regular election the judicial position is filled in a partisan election in which the appointed judge must participate and win the most votes to retain the seat. Judges serve for terms of a set number of years, after which they must win a 57% "yes" vote in retention elections to keep their seats.

Position 1

Member of ten-person commission that is advisory to the Secretary of Education. Commission authorizes and monitors all state-chartered charter schools. Must be 18 years of age, a United States citizen, and reside in the district he/she represents. Four-year staggered terms. Districts 2, 3, 5, and 7 are up for election this year. $95 per diem plus mileage.

Position 2

Serves as one of five justices on the highest court in New Mexico. It is the court of last resort and has supervisory control over all lesser courts and attorneys licensed in the state. Required to hear appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, election challenges and criminal cases when a defendant is sentenced to the death penalty or life imprisonment. Has discretionary authority to review rulings of the Court of Appeals and questions of law certified to it by the Court of Appeals or federal court. Must be 35 years old, have practiced law for 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Elected statewide for eight-year term. Salary: Chief Justice, $141,818; Associate Justice, $139,818.

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One of 67 judges in the state. There are 54 magistrate courts. Courts have limited jurisdiction, jury trials. Hear these types of cases: Tort, contract landlord/tenant rights up to $10,000, felony preliminary hearings, misdemeanor, OWI/DUI and other traffic violations. Must be at least 18 years of age, reside in the district from which elected, and have graduated from high school or attained the equivalent. Four-year term. Salary $89,907.

SOCORRO COUNTY OFFICES

MAGISTRATE JUDGE
One of 67 judges in the state. There are 54 magistrate courts. Courts have limited jurisdiction, jury trials. Hear these types of cases: Tort, contract landlord/tenant rights up to $10,000, felony preliminary hearings, misdemeanor, OWI/DUI and other traffic violations. Must be at least 18 years of age, reside in the district from which elected, and have graduated from high school or attained the equivalent. Four-year term. Salary $89,907.

FELIX WILLIAM SAAVEDRA
Democrat

PROBATE JUDGE
Serves as one of 33 judges in the state. Court has limited jurisdiction, no jury trials. Hears cases of informal probate, uncontested estates. Must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of the county from which elected.

DARRYL D. CASES
Democrat

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS – Retention
Voters at a retention election may vote either “yes” or “no” for each individual judge for retention. To retain the office, a judge standing for retention must receive 57% “yes” votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention.

J. MILES HANISEE

JUDICIAL RETENTION
ANALYSIS
The NM Legislature is asking voters to approve two amendments to the NM Constitution that they passed through joint resolutions this spring. The League has condensed the material provided by the NM Legislative Council Service (LCS) staff, which has no opinion on the proposals. Below are summaries of each proposed amendment and some of the possible arguments for and against. The LCS makes no claim for the validity or consistency of the arguments presented, nor does the League. Find the full LCS analysis here: https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/New_Mexico_State_Government/Constitutional_Amendment/Constitutional_Amendments_2018.pdf

Constitutional Amendment 1 proposes to add an independent state ethics commission to the NM Constitution. Currently, the NM Constitution requires the legislative council to issue advisory opinions concerning civil violations of laws governing ethics, standards of conduct and reporting requirements as provided by law. As a result, ethics complaints are investigated and resolved by the public officials involved. Under existing law, the NM Constitution requires appeals of probate, district court, magistrate and metropolitan court rulings to be decided initially by a district court before going to the court of appeals. A constitutional amendment would be needed to currently change that appeals process. ARGUMENTS FOR Proposed Constitutional Amendment 1

1. Could save both time and money for parties involved in appeals. Appeals of lower court decisions would go directly to the court of appeals instead of first going to district courts for intermediate rulings.
2. Could reduce caseloads in district courts. District courts would benefit from having fewer cases. The public could benefit if district courts resolved cases more quickly by having a reduced caseload.
3. Would reduce unnecessary layers of appeal conducted at public expense. Currently, some decisions have up to three levels of review, while other decisions with more serious penalties have up to two levels of review. Appeals of lower court decisions on traffic violations and other relatively minor offenses have new trials in district courts before they are appealed in the court of appeals and finally the supreme court. In contrast, appeals of felony criminal cases and other serious offenses go from district court to the court of appeals and possibly supreme court.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST Proposed Constitutional Amendment 1

1. May increase the number of cases in the appellate courts. Adding appeals from lower courts could mean that traditional cases would get less time and fewer resources. Changing the process might not benefit litigants.
2. May not result in greater court efficiencies and related cost-savings. Litigants and court staff would have to learn a new process. The public could benefit if district courts resolved cases more quickly by having a reduced caseload.
3. District courts may be best suited to establish a record for review. Probate judges and magistrate judges in 31 of 33 counties are not required to be licensed attorneys. A case appealed from one of these courts may benefit from a new trial in a district court presided by a judge with more experience and training. (District court judges must be at least 35 years old and have practiced law for at least six years.)

Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2 proposes establishing a state ethics commission. As a result, ethics complaints are investigated and resolved by the public officials involved. Under existing law, several state agencies already have ethics committees to investigate, adjudicate and issue advisory opinions concerning civil violations of laws governing ethics, standards of conduct and reporting requirements as provided by law. ARGUMENTS FOR Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2

1. New Mexico’s ethics laws are not coordinated now and are inconsistent across agencies. Establishment of a state ethics commission could result in a review existing laws governing ethics and help develop more consistent interpretations and more efficient enforcement.
2. NM is one of only 6 states without a state ethics commission. Voters and legislators in New Mexico and across the nation recognize the need for a commission dedicated to investigating complaints alleging violations of ethical conduct. The agency could prevent ethical misconduct by providing information and issuing advisory opinions. The legislature would determine how the commission receives and investigates complaints of unethical conduct and the qualifications and duties of the commissioners.
3. Establishing an ethics commission in the Constitution of New Mexico makes it more permanent than if it were created by statute. The new entity would be independent of the legislature.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2

1. A constitutional amendment is not necessary to create a state ethics commission. Under existing law, multiple state agencies already have oversight over ethics matters affecting their respective branches of government. Broadening or amending those agencies’ powers to meet any unmet needs might be more efficient than creating another oversight entity.
2. Before the commission could function, the legislature would first have to pass laws granting the commission its powers and duties and setting the qualifications and terms of the commissioners. A new ethics commission could duplicate efforts to combat unethical behavior already prohibited in law and could be costly. There have been several successful prosecutions of public officers and employees for violating laws governing ethics and conflict of interest.
3. A state ethics commission would be expensive to create and maintain. Improving current laws and enforcement procedures could be accomplished without the expense of creating a whole new agency.
STATE BOND QUESTIONS

2018 General Obligation Bonds and Taxes

A bond represents a debt for money borrowed by a government to finance capital improvement projects. The State of New Mexico promises to repay the amount borrowed, plus interest, over a period of time for each General Obligation bond that is approved by voters. The bonds are called “General Obligation” because payment of the debt service (principal plus interest) is a general obligation of the State and its property owners through property taxation. According to the Board of Finance records, 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 sold. Based on the assumption that all four bond issues will be passed by voters, the property tax year 2018 levy has been set at 1.36 mils, which is the same as the 2016 and 2017 rates. The State Board of Finance estimates that over a ten-year period, the four issues on the ballot would cost approximately $8.91 per $100,000 of asset value. Of the annual average $8.91, Bond Issue A accounts for $0.58, Bond Issue B accounts for $0.69, Bond Issue C accounts for $0.33, and Bond Issue D accounts for $7.31.

2018 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act

The New Mexico Legislature passed the 2018 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act detailing projects that would be funded by these bonds. No bonds will be issued or sold under the act until the state’s registered voters have voted upon and approved the bonds. Each bond is voted upon separately with a “For” or “Against” question.

Summary: The four 2018 bond issues ask for voter approval to issue general obligation bonds as follows:

- **Bond Question A – Aging and Long-Term Services Department**: The 2018 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed $10,770,000,000 to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition projects.

- **Bond Question B – Library Acquisitions**: The 2018 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed $12,876,000,000 to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal, and public library resource acquisitions.

- **Bond Question C – School Buses**: The 2018 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed $6,137,000,000 to make capital expenditures for the purchase of school buses.

- **Bond Question D – Higher Education Facilities**: The 2018 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed $136,230,000,000 to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions.

The total for all four questions, including bond issuance costs, is $166,013,000,000. A complete breakdown of the designated projects under each bond issue can be found on the New Mexico Legislature’s website: [https://nmlegis.gov/Publications/Capital_Outlay/Projects%20Requested%20by%20County%20w%20Purpose%2018.pdf](https://nmlegis.gov/Publications/Capital_Outlay/Projects%20Requested%20by%20County%20w%20Purpose%2018.pdf)

Each question set forth in this section includes a specific work or object to be financed by the bonds. If any such question is not approved by a majority vote of the electorate at the state’s 2018 general election, the issuance of bonds for the work or object specified by the question shall be excluded from and shall not be part of the 2018 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act. The failure of a question to be approved the electorate at the 2018 general election shall not affect those questions that are approved at the election.

General Obligation Bond Projects Chart by County

General Obligation Bond Projects Chart by Agency
The League of Woman Voters of New Mexico presents this special edition of the 2018 General Election Voter Guide.

The guide is produced by the League in coordination with the Native American Voting Task Force.

This Voter Guide was prepared with the assistance of many League volunteers and with a generous grant from the Thornburg Foundation.

Information Sources:
New Mexico Secretary of State’s Office
New Mexico Legislative Council Service
Board of Finance Division of the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration
Administrative Office of the Courts
Common Cause New Mexico
County Clerks’ staff and websites.