



6739 Academy Rd NE Ste 124, Albuquerque, NM 87109
Email: leaders@lwvnm.org | Phone: 505-884-8441
lwvnm.org

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY VOTER GUIDE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2026

A General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. 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 the General Election.

Rio Arriba County Clerk Sarah Archuleta
1122 Industrial Park Rd, Española, NM 87532
Phone: (505) 753-1780
Website:
rio-arriba.org/Departments/DepartmentsDivisions/Clerk
Election & Registration Inquiries: SArchuleta@rio-arriba.org
For Navajo language assistance, please contact the County Clerk's Office.

VOTER REGISTRATION

You can register to vote or update your existing registration and vote on the same day at your County Clerk's Office. Forms of identification you will need are:

- 1) New Mexico drivers' license OR New Mexico identification card issued through the motor vehicle division;
- 2) Any document that contains an address in the county together with a photo identification card; OR
- 3) A current valid student photo identification card from a postsecondary educational institution in New Mexico accompanied by a current student fee statement that contains the student's address in the county.

Some County Clerks will offer additional same day voter registration locations at expanded early voting sites. If you are already registered to vote, you do not have to show a photo ID when you vote.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots are available on request from the County Clerk's office, or from the Secretary of State at nmvote.org. They must be returned to the County Clerk, either by mail or in person. Request an absentee ballot early and be sure to mail it early. Absentee ballots must be received by the County Clerk or at a polling location no later than 7 pm on Election Day. If you request an absentee ballot, you must use it to vote. If you decide to vote in person, you must take the absentee ballot with you to the voting place.

GENERAL ELECTION DATES & HOURS

October 6, 2026: First day of absentee/early voting at the County Courthouse, Mon-Fri 8 am to 5 pm
October 17, 2026: Early voting at alternate sites begins Tue-Sat 10 am to 6 pm
October 20, 2026: Last day County Clerk may receive applications and mail absentee ballots
October 31, 2026: Early voting at County Courthouse ends - This is the only Saturday when voters may cast their ballot at the Courthouse from 8 am-5 pm)
October 31, 2026: This is the last day of early voting at alternate sites 10 am-6 pm
November 3, 2026: Election Day - Polls will be open 7 am - 7 pm

Early In-Person Voting will not take place on Monday, October 12, 2026. County Offices will be closed in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

October 6, 2026: Voter Registration Closes, Absentee Voting by Mail Begins, Early In-Person Voting Begins

October 20, 2026: Last Day County Clerks Shall Mail Absentee Ballots

October 31, 2026: Early In-Person Voting Ends
For more information, call (505) 753-1780.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico is pleased to offer this Voter Guide for the 2026 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.

For unabridged candidate responses, personalized ballots, bilingual (English, Spanish) support, and more, access our 2026 General Election Voter Guide online at VOTE411.org.

Disclaimer

The information in this Voter Guide has been carefully assembled and compiled to assure maximum accuracy. However, the League assumes no responsibility for correctness of information furnished to the League by other organizations.

IN THE VOTER GUIDE

FEDERAL OFFICES

United States Senator
United States Representative

NEW MEXICO DISTRICT OFFICES

State Senator
State Representative
District Attorney
District Judge

COUNTY OFFICES

County Magistrate Judge
County Sheriff
County Assessor
County Commissioner
County Probate Judge

JUDICIAL RETENTION

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

BALLOT QUESTIONS

Rio Arriba County Polling Locations – Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

1122 Industrial Park Rd, Española, NM 87532
Phone: (505) 753-1780
Email: SArchuleta@rio-arriba.org
Bureau of Elections Phone: (505) 827-3600
rio-arriba.org/Departments/DepartmentsDivisions/Clerk

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Española County Clerk's Election Warehouse, 714 Calle Don Diego, Española, NM 87532
Tierra Amarilla Clerk's EV Site, 7 Main St OR 10 State Rd 531, Tierra Amarilla, NM 87575

ELECTION WAREHOUSE & EV SITE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 6-October 31, 2026
Monday – Thursday: 8 am - 5:30 pm
Friday: 8 am - 12 pm
Saturday, Oct. 31: 10 am - 6 pm

ALTERNATE EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Hernandez Community Center, 19418A US-84/285, Hernandez, NM 87537 | Saturday, October 17 – Saturday, October 31, 2026
Tuesday – Saturday: 8 am - 5 pm

Santa Clara Senior Citizens Bldg, 636 One Kee St, Española, NM 87532 | Tuesday, October 20 – Friday, October 30, 2026
Monday – Friday: 8 am - 5 pm

Ohkay Owingeh Senior Center, 217 N Cross Pl, Ohkay Owingeh, NM 87566 | Tuesday, October 27 – Saturday, October 31, 2026
Tuesday – Saturday: 8 am - 5 pm

Jicarilla Apache Nation Tribal Bldg, 25 Hawks Dr, Dulce, NM 87528 | Tuesday, October 27 – Saturday, October 31, 2026
Tuesday – Saturday: 8 am - 5 pm

ELECTION DAY VOTING LOCATIONS
Tuesday, November 3, 2026: 7am – 7 pm
VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER (VCC) SITES & PRECINCTS
1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 22

- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 1 | PRECINCTS 1, 2, 3** Jicarilla Apache Nation Tribal Bldg, 25 Hawks Dr, Dulce, NM 87528
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 2 | PRECINCT 4** Chama Senior Center, 2449 US Hwy 84/64, Chama, NM 87520
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 3 | PRECINCTS 10, 11** Tierra Amarilla Senior Center, 1113A State Rd 162, Tierra Amarilla, NM 87575
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 4 | PRECINCTS 12, 25** Canjilon Community Center, 3115 County Rd 455, Canjilon, NM 87515
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 5 | PRECINCTS 13, 14, 28, 39** Mesa Vista School, Hwy 285 Junction 111, Ojo Caliente, NM 87549
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 6 | PRECINCT 22** Lindrith Fire Department, 1380 State Rd 595, Lindrith, NM 87029
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 7 | PRECINCTS 23, 24** Gallina School House, 1 PR 1650, Gallina, NM 87017
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 8 | PRECINCTS 26, 35** Abiquiu Rural Events Center, 122A US Hwy 84, State Rd 554, Abiquiu, NM 87510
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 9 | PRECINCT 27** El Rito Community Center, 1115 State Rd 554, El Rito, NM 87530
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 10 | PRECINCTS 36, 37** Hernandez Community Center, 19418A US 84/285, Hernandez, NM 87537
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 11 | PRECINCTS 38, 40** Medanales Community Center, 214 Count Rd 142, Medanales, NM 87548

VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER (VCC) SITES & PRECINCTS
CONTINUED

- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 12 | PRECINCTS 45, 47** Velarde Community Center, 6 County Rd 60A, Velarde, NM 87582
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 13 | PRECINCTS 46, 56** Chamita Fire Department, 46 County Rd 56A, Chamita, NM 87566
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 14 | PRECINCTS 48, 49** Dixon Community Center, 318 State Rd 75, Dixon, NM 87527
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 15 | PRECINCTS 57, 58** Alcalde Community Center, 26 County Rd 41A, Alcalde, NM 87511
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 16 | PRECINCT 59** Ohkay Owingeh Senior Center, 217 N Cross Pl, Ohkay Owingeh, NM 87566
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 17 | PRECINCT 60** Santa Clara Senior Citizens Bldg, 636 One Kee St, Española, NM 87532
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 18 | PRECINCTS 61, 62, 66** Lucero Center Gym, 313 N. Paseo De Oñate, Española, NM 87532
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 19 | PRECINCTS 63, 64, 65** San Pedro Community Center, 30 County Rd 8, Española, NM 87532
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 20 | PRECINCTS 67, 68, 69** Fairview Elementary, 1000 Zuni Ln, Española, NM 87532
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 21 | PRECINCTS 70, 71** Arboleda Senior Center, 694 State Rd 76, Chimayo, NM 87522
- VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTER 22 | PRECINCTS 72, 73, 74** Truchas Senior Center, 58 County Rd 75, Truchas, NM 87578

- MAIL BALLOT & ABSENTEE PRECINCTS**
These precincts vote by mail ballot only and are not assigned a VCC site:
- PRECINCT 5** Los Pinos Mail Ballot Election Precinct
 - PRECINCT 21** Lybrook Mail Ballot Election Precinct
 - ABS** Rio Arriba County Absent Voter Precinct / TA Archive Center, 10 State Rd 531, Tierra Amarilla, NM 87575



*“We in America do not have government by the majority.
We have government by the majority who participate.”*

– Thomas Jefferson

FEDERAL OFFICES

UNITED STATES SENATOR

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

	<i>What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?</i>	<i>What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?</i>	<i>What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?</i>	<i>What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?</i>
 Ben R Luján Democrat	New Mexicans spend their lives paying into Social Security, and they deserve to know that the program will be there to support them upon retirement. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I know Social Security benefits are a vital lifeline for retirees and people with disabilities. Social Security must be protected from cuts and Republican-led efforts to reduce benefits. I was proud to support the Social Security Fairness Act and see it enacted into law. This bill repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which currently reduce benefits for certain recipients. I’m also proud to support the Social Security 2100 Act, which eliminates the Social Security tax cap.	The United States has not significantly updated its immigration laws since the 1980s, which is why I have long championed comprehensive immigration reform to address our broken immigration system and create an earned pathway for legal immigration. I support legislation like the DREAM Act to provide a legal pathway for Dreamers, the SECURE Act, which provides qualified Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) recipients a path to legal permanent residency, and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act to reform and modernize our temporary agricultural worker visa program. I am also a proponent of modern and effective border security that uses technology rather than walls to keep out narcotics and the cartels.	Growing up on a small family farm in New Mexico, I learned early that water is life. That is why I believe we must ensure our federal laws respect our ways of life and treat water as the life-giving resource it is. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I introduced legislation like the ACEQUIAS Act to ensure farmers and ranchers qualify for drought disaster assistance, and legislation to guarantee greater federal respect for our traditional land grants and acequias. I also believe we have a duty to support responsible, clean energy policies that protect our environment, improve our air quality, and encourage innovation. I’ll continue to ensure that New Mexico is a leader in the clean energy economy, benefiting our families.	Health care is a human right, not a privilege for the few. The Affordable Care Act that voted for in 2009 made critical reforms that expanded New Mexicans access to care. I continue to fight against the attempts to rip health care away by repealing the ACA and gutting Medicaid. I am also a co-sponsor of Medicare for All because every single person deserves high-quality health care when they need it, no matter how much money they make. Access to health care means being able to afford it, which is why I voted to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices so seniors and American taxpayers stop being overcharged.
 Larry E Marker Republican	We can address this issue with earnings from a windfall sovereign wealth fund. I have a plan to supplement the revenue paid into social security that supplemental income is structured to help offset the imbalance we currently have. This will be a permanent solution that properly administered will prevent the reduction of benefits we are facing in 2032. The goal of this plan is to provide a permanent solution to this issue.	My first priority is to remove from the immigration system political advantage for either party. My position on this matter is best communicated with what I would consider as my goals. Provide to the American people an immigration system that brings into our communities the best and brightest from all over the world. Immigrants that will assimilate into the American culture and way of life whose dreams and aspirations when fulfilled benefit not just them but all Americans. Any policy that takes us toward that goal is a policy I will support. That would include temporary visas.	First, we establish non-political, science-based standards then establish practical and sensible goals and or benchmarks moving forward with a plan that provides a standard future generations can maintain.	Remove political advantage for either side from healthcare. Find a goal, set the goal then go to work. Bumper sticker slogans and press clips will not solve this issue. Healthcare is too important to use as a political pawn.

“Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.”

– John Quincy Adams

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 3

This person represents one of New Mexico’s three districts in the United States House of Representatives. U.S. Representatives introduce and vote on proposed laws and serve on legislative committees. Representatives also participate in hearings, floor debates, fact-finding and investigations. They also may help constituents with issues and problems constituents have with federal agencies. Term: Two years; no limits.

	<i>What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?</i>	<i>What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?</i>	<i>What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?</i>	<i>What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?</i>
 Teresa Leger Fernández Democrat	I believe Social Security is a sacred trust and the foundation of retirement security for our families and those disabled. To sustain it, I am a cosponsor of Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act, which would make the wealthy pay social security tax on their income above \$400,000. This fair share tax will allow us to increase benefits and provide solvency to the Fund into the next century. I oppose Republican proposals to reduce guaranteed benefits, raise the retirement age, or replace Social Security with risky individual investment accounts. I’ve opposed Trump’s cuts to staff at Social Security and the DOGE release of your private social security data. I will fight to keep Social Security strong - a Democratic legacy of the New Deal.	We must fix our broken immigration system with a balanced, humane approach. I support a roadmap to citizenship for those who work hard and play by the rules, including Dreamers and farmworkers. We must provide visas and recognize the important role immigrants play in our health and care economy and other key industries in New Mexico. Simultaneously, I support cost-effective border security using advanced technology and funding for border patrol to detect cartel activity and illegal drugs like fentanyl. I’ve opposed the cruelty and brutality of the ICE and CBP raids, the arrests and killing of citizens and the mistreatment of people in detention centers, especially pregnant women and children. I oppose family separation.	Environmental health is non-negotiable for our survival & our economy. Keeping our fragile landscape healthy feeds our sense of awe & wonder in these beautiful lands. I delivered over \$1 billion to keep clean water flowing in New Mexico & am sponsoring 7 water settlement bills. I funded cleaning up abandoned oil & gas wells & the contamination plumes at LANL & Canon. The clean up also creates good paying union jobs & supports businesses. I’ve funded renewable energy projects that, sadly, Trump gutted, but Democrats will bring back because it's the cheapest electricity at a time when everything costs so much. Doing good by our planet also helps our pocketbook. I will reinstate & improve the clean air & water programs Trump destroyed.	Healthcare is a basic human right, but big insurers and private equity profits means we pay more, wait more and get less health care here. I understand the urgency of making care affordable and accessible everywhere, especially in rural areas. Congress must: Lower Drug Costs. We must build on the Inflation Reduction Act to negotiate lower drug prices for everyone and cap out-of-pocket costs. Expand and Improve Medicare. Moving toward a single-payer system like Medicare for All will save money and expand benefits to include dental, vision, and hearing coverage. Protect Access. We must codify reproductive rights through the Women’s Health Protection Act and defend the Affordable Care Act & Medicaid against Republican bills to eliminate them.
Martin Zamora Republican	<i>No response received yet.</i>	<i>No response received yet.</i>	<i>No response received yet.</i>	<i>No response received yet.</i>

NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICES

GOVERNOR

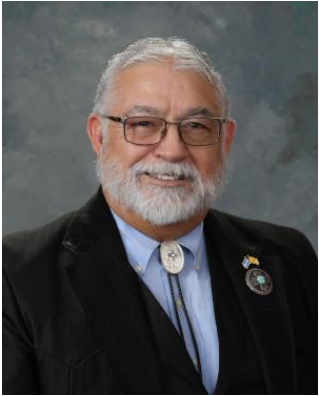
In New Mexico’s General Election the Governor is elected with the Lieutenant Governor of the same party. The Governor holds the supreme executive power of the state and sees that the state’s laws are faithfully executed. Responsibilities include preparing the state budget and submitting it to the legislature and overseeing the overall planning for key areas of state government; these areas include economic development, education, human and natural resources, energy and emergency planning. The Governor also appoints people to fill vacancies in a variety of both state and federal offices. Term: Four years, limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>What measures would you propose to improve Pre-K - 12 education?</i>	<i>How would you address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?</i>	<i>What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?</i>
 Greggory D Hull Republican	My top priorities are public safety, economic growth, education, infrastructure and water security, and protecting children. I will increase police presence and enhance border security to address crime and the fentanyl crisis. I will attract high-paying jobs through targeted business incentives and energy expansion. I will hold schools accountable for outcomes while expanding career training. I will invest in brackish water treatment and aquifer recharge for long-term supply. And I will reform CYFD with clear	New Mexico's reading and math scores rank among the nation's lowest, yet the state has responded by lowering standards rather than raising them. I will reverse that trend by tying a portion of school funding to measurable gains in literacy, math, and graduation rates. I will expand career and technical education so students graduate with industry-recognized skills, establish accessible tutoring programs, and give parents transparent access to curriculum and progress data. I will also address chronic absenteeism and reform the Public Education	Water security is not optional — it is the foundation of economic growth, agriculture, and stable communities. Rio Rancho led the state with the state’s first-ever aquifer recharge system. As governor, I will invest in brackish water treatment to create new sources of supply, reducing pressure on rivers and freshwater aquifers. I will upgrade aging infrastructure to cut leaks, expand advanced wastewater treatment for safe reuse, and support modern irrigation systems to protect farmers' livelihoods. I will meet our interstate obligations to	Projects should be evaluated on the quality and wages of jobs created, their alignment with New Mexico's existing strengths — research, advanced manufacturing, energy, and defense — and whether they support workforce development. Incentives must be tied to measurable results and fiscal accountability. Projects should benefit both rural and urban communities, avoid placing undue burdens on infrastructure or public services, and strengthen long-term economic resilience. My core question: does this investment leave New

	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>What measures would you propose to improve Pre-K - 12 education?</i>	<i>How would you address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?</i>	<i>What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?</i>
	standards, oversight, and stable caseworker staffing.	Department to focus on results.	deliver water downstream and pursue transparent negotiations to resolve outstanding Tribal water rights. Long-term certainty for every water user starts with planning ahead and acting now.	Mexico more diversified, more self-sufficient, and better positioned to grow?
 Deb Haaland Democrat	New Mexicans deserve to be able to afford groceries and rent in the same month, feel safe in their communities, see a doctor when they are sick, and for kids to have a quality public education. To put more money in people’s pockets, I will raise wages, expand tax relief for working families, pursue paid family and medical leave, aggressively build and grow affordable housing, and support job creation. To ensure our kids are able to read by third grade, I will prioritize literacy outcomes and expand investment in universal childcare, community schools, and educator recruitment. Finally on public safety and healthcare, I will tackle violent crime, drugs, and gun violence, while overhauling CYFD and expanding behavioral health services.	My goal is for every step of a child’s education to open doors. My top priority is helping kids read by third grade, because reading sets them up to succeed in every subject. I will invest in literacy support, coaches, summer learning, math screening and intervention, and stronger instruction. I will protect and expand universal childcare with quality childcare options, and make early education easier to access. To support kids who might not want to go to college, I will bring the trades into middle school and more high schools. For educators, I plan to expand teacher residencies, improve pay and benefits, help with housing in rural communities, and expand community schools plus Native language and culture programs for Tribal students.	I will always protect New Mexico’s water, air, and land. Water is precious—I carried it as a child from the community spigot to my grandmother’s house. Our water future must be built on conservation, infrastructure, accountability, and partnership. I will help Tribal nations, rural towns, acequia communities, and colonias repair aging systems, reduce leaks, and grow the workforce needed to keep water flowing. I will strengthen the Water Trust Board, prioritize communities with unsafe drinking water, hold polluters accountable, and require high-water-use industries to conserve so economic growth does not come at the expense of our limited water supply.	New developments must be mutually beneficial, creating good-paying jobs for New Mexicans using local labor while protecting families from cost increases. Projects must prioritize community well-being, utilizing transparency, community benefit agreements, accountability, and clawback provisions to ensure promises are kept. Investment must safeguard water, air, land, and public health, require accurate water reporting, and ensure industries support clean energy and grid stability. I aim for New Mexico to lead in energy, tech, film, and outdoor recreation with long-term value for our communities, preventing exploitation by outside corporations seeking short-term gains.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

In New Mexico’s General Election the Lieutenant Governor is elected with the Governor of the same party. The Lieutenant Governor is the president of the New Mexico Senate (and can vote on a Senate issue in the event of a tie) and is the acting governor when the Governor is out of the state. The Lieutenant Governor also assists New Mexicans in their dealings with state agencies and refers complaints or special problems of New Mexicans to the proper agency. The Lieutenant Governor sits on several state boards and commissions, and performs any other duties assigned by the Governor. Term: Four years, limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will you achieve them.</i>	<i>How can you help the Senate operate more effectively and efficiently?</i>	<i>How will you facilitate communication and ensure transparency between government agencies and constituents?</i>
 David M Gallegos Republican	The Lt. Governor's primary constitutional role is presiding over the State Senate, and I've spent 14 years serving in that body. I already know the rules, the relationships, the pressure points, and the personalities. I know the difference between a bill that moves and one that dies in committee, and why. Beyond the Legislature, I bring 30 years with Gas Company of New Mexico and 16 years with Ramirez and Sons Construction--real-world experience in the industries the Senate's work directly affects. As a rural Hispanic 14th generation New Mexican, I bring a perspective that reflects communities too often unheard in Santa Fe.	Accountability: New Mexico has a spending problem masquerading as a revenue problem. I'll push for rigorous auditing of waste, fraud, and abuse--and make findings public. Public safety: I'll advance sentencing reform, oppose catch-and-release policies, and ensure officers have the resources and legal protections they need. Education: I'll champion accountability-based reform, value-added assessment, and expanded school choice for every family regardless of zip code. Affordability: I'll fight for policies that let small businesses breathe, grow our energy sector	Presiding over the Senate is a leadership role, and I intend to treat it that way. Fourteen years in the Legislature means I understand the procedural rules, have relationships throughout the chamber, and know how to move a body through its work without sacrificing deliberation. I will preside with fairness and consistency, apply the rules evenly regardless of party or personality, and ensure every member--majority and minority alike--has a full and fair opportunity to be heard. A Senate built on procedural integrity gets more done. That is the standard I will hold.	Transparency is a structural commitment. I'll use the Lt. Governor's office as an active conduit between state agencies and the New Mexicans they serve, particularly rural communities that feel like an afterthought in Santa Fe. That means statewide outreach every year, not just election years. It means pushing agencies to communicate plainly and responsively. And it means publicly naming failures when agencies aren't meeting expectations, because sunlight is the most powerful accountability tool we have.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will you achieve them.</i>	<i>How can you help the Senate operate more effectively and efficiently?</i>	<i>How will you facilitate communication and ensure transparency between government agencies and constituents?</i>
		responsibly, and reduce the regulatory burden crushing working families.		
 Stephanie Garcia Richard Democrat	I was a public school teacher for 19 years, a three-term State Representative, and Chair of the House Education Committee. As Commissioner of Public Lands for the last eight years, I’ve generated record- breaking revenue – over \$16 billion for our public schools – while holding oil and gas accountable. I also expanded renewable energy projects sevenfold, launched affordable housing initiatives, and reformed agency accountability to plug hundreds of abandoned wells. When Donald Trump attacks New Mexico, I know how to fight back—because I already have, creating protections for New Mexico’s precious and historical places, including Mount Taylor and Chaco Canyon.	Deb Haaland and I will lower the cost of living, expand access to affordable healthcare, stop price gouging, make our communities safer, protect our environment and water, and improve public education so our kids read at or above grade level. As Lt. Governor, I will move that agenda through the legislature and hold agencies accountable for delivering it.	I know the legislative process from the inside and out, having served three terms in the House and chaired the House Education Committee. As Lt. Governor, I will make sure the Senate operates with transparency and consistent application of its rules so the public understands what is happening every step of the way. With short, 30- and 60-day sessions, it will be my job to keep the Senate moving efficiently so we can address New Mexico’s most pressing challenges.	State government has to go to where New Mexicans actually live, rather than waiting for residents to come to Santa Fe. As Land Commissioner, I broke down agency silos and brought the Land Commissioner’s office to every part of New Mexico to meet directly with communities, ranchers, educators, and tribal nations, ensuring that policy wasn't built in a vacuum. I’ll continue that practice as Lt. Governor by bringing the Roundhouse to local communities and hearing directly from New Mexicans about the challenges they face where they live.

SECRETARY OF STATE

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

	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>What actions, if any, would you take to increase and protect voter participation in elections?</i>	<i>How would you help the public navigate election information in this era of AI and social media?</i>	<i>What is the Secretary of State’s role in safeguarding the integrity of voter information and ensuring safe and fair elections?</i>
 Amanda López Askin Democrat	My top priorities are protecting voting rights, modernizing election administration, and restoring trust through transparency. I will work to expand voter access by improving voter education, strengthening language access, supporting county clerks, and making election information easier to understand and access. I will also focus on protecting election systems and voter data through strong cybersecurity practices, regular training, and close coordination with local election officials. Just as important, I will make the office more responsive and transparent so voters, candidates, and administrators can get clear answers and timely support.	I would take every lawful action available to increase and protect voter participation. That includes improving public education around registration, absentee voting, early voting, and new election laws; expanding outreach to historically underrepresented communities; and working to remove barriers that discourage participation. I also believe voters should be able to cast a ballot free from fear and intimidation. That is why I supported SB 264 to prevent ICE presence at voting locations. Protecting voter participation means protecting access, dignity, and confidence in the process. I am the only candidate in this race who supported this bill.	The Secretary of State’s office must become a trusted, easy-to-find source of accurate information. In an era of AI, misinformation, and viral falsehoods, the public needs timely facts in plain language. I would prioritize rapid-response voter education, consistent myth-versus-fact messaging, multilingual outreach, and strong partnerships with county clerks, community organizations, and media outlets. The office should meet voters where they are while also making sure official information is easy to verify. We cannot allow confusion and disinformation to discourage participation or undermine trust.	The Secretary of State has a central responsibility to protect voter information, support secure election administration, and uphold fair access to the ballot. That means maintaining strong standards for cybersecurity, data privacy, training, and election procedures while working closely with county clerks and election staff across the state. It also means ensuring that elections are both secure and accessible because those values are not in conflict. A safe and fair election is one where voters know their information is protected, the rules are applied equally, and every lawful vote is counted accurately.

	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>What actions, if any, would you take to increase and protect voter participation in elections?</i>	<i>How would you help the public navigate election information in this era of AI and social media?</i>	<i>What is the Secretary of State’s role in safeguarding the integrity of voter information and ensuring safe and fair elections?</i>
 Ramona L Goolsby Republican	Priorities: election integrity and public confidence; accurate, user-friendly business filings; transparent, fair enforcement of campaign finance and lobbying laws; professional office operations. I will maintain accurate voter rolls, support common-sense safeguards, modernize business registration to reduce red tape, apply statutes evenly without favoritism, provide clear public information, and work consistently with county clerks so every eligible vote counts and New Mexico businesses operate efficiently.	Participation grows when eligible citizens trust the system is fair and accurate. I will protect access through accurate voter rolls (removing outdated registrations while safeguarding lawful voters), clear education on options, efficient processes with county clerks, and neutral administration as a fair referee. Restoring trust via transparency and consistent rules encourages more eligible New Mexicans to participate while protecting integrity.	The office must be the neutral, authoritative source of clear facts. I will prioritize plain-language resources explaining registration, voting methods, deadlines, and results; provide rapid transparent responses to questions and circulating claims. A transparency portal for election records accessible by the public will be top priority. Partnering with county clerks and using secure channels helps voters obtain reliable information directly from the elections administrator.	As chief elections officer, the Secretary helps administers elections, maintains official records including voter data, supports county clerks, enforces statutes, and ensures consistent transparent procedures. Integrity requires accurate voter rolls, protected data, secure systems, clear public information, and neutral refereeing so every eligible voter can participate and every legal vote is counted accurately. The role is administrative: apply the law evenly and build confidence through competence.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

New Mexico’s Attorney General heads New Mexico’s Department of Justice, which represents the interests of the state, state officers, state employees and New Mexico’s residents in a wide variety of courts and types of civil and criminal cases. The Attorney General issues opinions on questions of law from other state agencies or officials, and drafts contracts, bonds and other instruments for state agencies. The Attorney General also has primary authority for enforcement of consumer protection and antitrust laws, prosecution of criminal appeals and some complex white-collar crimes, training and certification of peace officers, and most natural resource and environmental matters. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>How would you protect the rights of New Mexicans?</i>	<i>What actions would you support to make citizens safer?</i>	<i>How would you protect states’ rights as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?</i>
 Raúl Torrez Democrat	As Attorney General, I have used my nearly two decades of experience as a prosecutor to strengthen our criminal justice system by implementing common sense policies to keep violent, repeat offenders off our streets. Additionally, the office has aggressively fought for consumers and workers, safeguarded the environment, took on corruption and special interests, and protected our democracy and women’s rights.	I've protected the rights of New Mexicans by taking direct legal action when people are harmed. I've sued Meta Platforms to address the exploitation of children online.I have also challenged federal action; joining litigation against changes to asylum and immigration policies, birthright citizenship and opposing federal restrictions that threaten access to health care and essential resources for our communities. I've enforce consumer protection laws to hold companies accountable for fraud and abuse. Protecting rights means using the law aggressively to defend safety, dignity, and justice for every New Mexican.	As a prosecutor, I prioritize public safety, I launched a statewide Crime Gun Intelligence Center and have always focused on curbing repeat violent offenders, combat organized retail crime, fentanyl trafficking, and gun violence. As the former Bernalillo County District Attorney, I have been a national leader for innovative “smart on crime” policies. I was sworn in during a crime crisis and brought new ideas, and energy to the office, while working across the political spectrum to help protect New Mexico families and businesses.	I protect states’ rights by enforcing the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and pushing back when federal decisions harm New Mexico’s authority. I have joined multi-state litigation opposing Donald Trump’s executive actions on elections that threatened to interfere with how states administer their own voting systems, as well as efforts to undermine birthright citizenship guaranteed under the Constitution. I have also worked with other states to challenge federal overreach in environmental and administrative rule-making. Protecting states’ rights means ensuring New Mexico retains the power to make its own decisions and is not sidelined by unlawful federal action.
 Samuel Isaiah Kane Sr Republican	While my platform includes many priorities and proposed solutions, there is no greater priority than community safety. I will first work to ensure that criminals who are taken off the streets stay off the streets. Our law enforcement officers work too hard only to have some criminal courts fail to effectively prosecute or sentence the offender. I will ensure that the courts no longer act as a revolving door for those who threaten	As the “chief legal officer,” the Attorney General has substantial power to protect the rights and interests of the people. In a very real sense, the AG is “the people’s lawyer,” but with the added ability to enforce the law for the people’s protection. When we talk about “the rights of New Mexicans,” we’re really talking about the rights we value most as a community. Safety, security, access to public resources, environmental	There is no excuse why New Mexico ranks at the very top of almost all national rankings when it comes to crime. Our crime rate is a product of decades of governmental neglect and meaningful change will take time. But when we prioritize success, we achieve success. First, we attack crime from the top down. Our law enforcement is already working hard to catch criminals, but the courts aren’t prosecuting. This will change. At the	The Attorney General is sworn to uphold and defend the law and protect the interests of the people. It is a privilege of that office to represent the people in court when the federal government tries to overstep its power and infringe upon rights guaranteed us by the U.S. Constitution. When the interests of the people demand, and should our guaranteed rights be threatened, I will not hesitate to hold the federal

	List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.	How would you protect the rights of New Mexicans?	What actions would you support to make citizens safer?	How would you protect states’ rights as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?
	our safety. And as the courts work harder to process and house criminals, our law enforcement can better direct their resources towards combating the specific crimes causing the most harm to our communities such as the influx of drugs. Protecting the people from harm, by whatever means, is my top priority.	preservation, constitutional freedoms—these are examples of the rights we value most because without access to these, we lose access to the rest. I will protect all the rights of New Mexicans by first fighting for and defending the rights that matter most—through whatever powers are available to my office.	same time, we will work with communities and schools to create and implement comprehensive programs to identify and work with at-risk youth to take them off the streets before the police do. My office will fight anyone who seeks to harm our communities, from drug dealers to the government itself.	government to account. I will also defend our own State’s legislation against federal government attack in defense of our citizens’ guaranteed rights. While I cannot rewrite the laws, I can, and will, prosecute and defend them with the full force of the New Mexico department of justice.

STATE AUDITOR

The State Auditor heads an office that ensures the financial affairs of every state and local governmental entity are thoroughly examined and competently audited each year. The State Auditor also ensures the comprehensive annual financial report for the state is thoroughly examined and audited each year. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

	What qualifies you for this office?	What is your highest responsibility as State Auditor?	What actions can you take when audits are not submitted in a timely manner?	What are the top three issues you will investigate as State Auditor?
Joshua James Ryan Lawrence Republican	No response received yet.	No response received yet.	No response received yet.	No response received.
 Joseph M Maestas Democrat	As the current State Auditor, I hold public entities and officials accountable for managing taxpayer funds and protecting taxpayer money from fraud, waste, and abuse. For example, my office has ensured that opioid settlement funds are being used properly and protected funding intended for mitigating natural disasters. Our office assisted small local public bodies like our acequias to become financially compliant and unlocked nearly \$15 million in withheld capital outlay. I’ve spent my life in public service, both in Federal civil service and in elected public service. I served as Chairman of the Public Regulation Commission, Mayor of Espanola and city councilor in both Espanola and Santa Fe. I’m also a licensed professional engineer.	The New Mexico Office of the State Auditor (OSA) is a constitutionally established executive office independent and accountable only to the people of New Mexico. The OSA has two primary statutory (Audit Act) purposes: (1) to ensure that the financial affairs of every agency shall be thoroughly examined and audited each year and (2) require the financial affairs and transactions of an agency to be audited in whole or in part. These purposes grant the State Auditor the authority to conduct both annual financial and special audits. The OSA is the State financial watchdog that protects taxpayer money from fraud, waste, and abuse. It also helps to hold court-appointed conservators accountable for managing financial assets of protected persons.	When public entity audit reports are submitted late, the public entity does receive a formal audit finding for a late report. I use my professional judgement to determine the underlying causes of the late report and determine the best course of action to address the issues. This includes referring the entity to other agencies for additional actions and informing policy makers. When audit reports are chronically late, the OSA can step in as the auditor of last resort and directly assist the troubled entity to become financially compliant as was done for Mesalands Community College through annual and special audits.	The top three issues that we will investigate and/or examine: 1) Incoming, anonymous, and credible fraud, waste, and abuse complaints. We currently have over 300 active cases; 2) High-risk public entities that are chronically late in audit report submittals and have a severe lack of internal controls, resulting in adverse and repeat findings; and 3) In partnership with the District Court system, we also investigate conservatorships, based on a risk screening of annual financial reports. These conservatorships manage the financial assets of our most vulnerable.



“People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote – a very different thing.” – Walter H. Judd

STATE TREASURER

The State Treasurer heads an office with a wide range of financial responsibilities, including acting as the central bank for state agencies, managing the investment of many state funds, and issuing state bonds. The Treasurer also provides a detailed statement of the condition of the state treasury to the New Mexico Legislature. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What is your highest responsibility as State Treasurer?</i>	<i>How would you address your top priorities?</i>	<i>What criteria would you recommend for selecting financial institutions in which to invest state funds?</i>	<i>Explain your position on whether the Treasurer should recommend increasing investments in NM-based companies.</i>
 James F Ellison Republican	The highest responsibility of the State Treasurer is to safeguard and to responsibly grow the public funds entrusted to the state treasury office. The State Treasurer directly manages the \$20 billion state treasury portfolio, and serves on 13 boards, councils, and commissions which oversee \$160 in state funds.	I will advocate for putting unclaimed property administration with the State Treasury Office. The Taxation & Revenue Department is the wrong office, and it shows: we're holding \$390 million that belong to New Mexican families and businesses, and returning less than 5 cents on every dollar. As your Treasurer, I'll fix that. New Mexicans deserve to know how their money is performing. I will publish a clear, plain-English quarterly investment performance report on the Treasurer's website. Transparency isn't optional when managing \$20 billion of public funds. I will use my seat on the board of the State Investment Council, as well as on other boards, to advocate for the responsible stewardship of state funds — not for political agendas.	To be clear, the state treasurer's office directly manages the state treasury's \$20 billion portfolio. The question, then, is really what criteria I would recommend to other boards, such as the State Investment Council for selecting outside investment advisors. The SIC has a solid framework for selecting external advisors. There are some ways this can be improved, such as doing a better job of considering total costs rather than just headline management fees. However, the bigger question is whether the ESG (environmental, social, and governance) policies that it requires managers to adhere to is a drag on investment returns. I would advocate for an implementation of this policy that does not result in a drag on returns.	In the state treasury's \$20 billion portfolio, there simply is no statutory authority to invest directly in New Mexico-based private companies. These investments are limited to high-quality, liquid fixed-income securities. Investing in New Mexico municipal and state-issued bonds, however, is something that the Treasurer can and does do. The State Investment Council is where investing in New Mexico businesses can and does happen. There are statutory requirements for how much the SIC must invest in the NM Small Business Investment Corp. The key tension is that of fiduciary duty. I would advocate for in-state investment above and beyond what is required by statute only if these investments would not depress returns.
 Laura M Montoya Democrat	I swore an oath to be the state's fiduciary. A fiduciary must always act in the best interest of the funds. This is the highest ethical and legal obligation. My job is to provide safety, liquidity, and yield, in that order. I pride myself in being accessible to the people and my job is to serve New Mexicans to the best of my ability even when making tough decisions. In 2023, the portfolio I managed was \$14 billion. Today, it is \$24 billion. That is a significant increase in a very short period of time. The workload within STO has dramatically increased, and the team that I have built are doing an amazing job that New Mexican should be proud of and feel confident in. We provide not only banking but outreach that promotes financial education.	I have been addressing them, and we are ready to continue the work with your support. We are building a strong team to achieve our goals. We are earning \$2 mil/day for the state and have the largest portfolio the state treasurer's office has ever had. We are holding the Trump administration accountable, especially when his orders negatively affect New Mexico. We are collaborating efforts with several partners to support financial fitness to open access to more opportunity, baby bonds to build generational wealth, and NM STABLE to assist our disability community. We are educating leaders on the resources needed to get the job done with best practices and internal controls as a priority.	If you are referring to working with banks to manage our cash deposits, we base the relationship on risk and compliance as well as their reporting, collateral requirements, and the rate they can provide. We are developing a new program that will allow me to work with our local banks at a lower rate, with the commitment that the local banks will do more to contribute to our communities in small business loans, mortgages, or small loans for community members. This is a great partnership with our local banks. We love our bank partners and what they do for our communities across New Mexico and how they support financial education.	My portfolio does not "invest in any companies." The State Treasurer's Office is the liquidity for the state and invests per 6-10-10 NMSA. I am on 13 boards, councils and commissions including the SIC, which is the second largest sovereign wealth fund in the country. We just updated our NM portfolio to make it more successful where we focus on rate of return and now encourage and hold fund managers accountable to work in or with NM when appropriate. There are a lot of amazing investments occurring in NM whether through SBIC, ED, Housing NM, NMFA, RETA, or our two pension funds, ERB and PERA. As important as it is to invest in New Mexico based companies, it is equally important to invest in our own young people, hence baby bonds.

“Democracy is not something you believe in or a place to hang your hat, but it’s something you do. You participate. If you stop doing it, democracy crumbles.” – Abbie Hoffman

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Commissioner of Public Lands heads the State Land Office, which oversees the use, including the collection of rent, on 9 million acres of land and 13 million acres of mineral rights. New Mexico holds these lands in trust to support public schools, universities, hospitals, charitable purposes, and penitentiaries. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What are your top three priorities for the State Land Office (SLO)?</i>	<i>What are the greatest challenges facing the SLO?</i>	<i>How would you balance the oversight and protection of state trust lands with the need to generate revenue for the support of the beneficiaries (e.g., public schools, universities, etc.)?</i>	<i>What actions, if any, should the State Land Office take to facilitate the expansion of transmission infrastructure to allow further development of New Mexico’s energy resources?</i>
 Michael Jack Perry Republican	First, maximize revenue for our beneficiaries, especially public schools through responsible energy development and sound land management. Second, support working lands by improving communication with lessees, expanding responsible access, and protecting traditional uses like grazing, hunting, and firewood gathering. Third, strengthen stewardship by improving forest and watershed management to reduce wildfire risk, protect water resources, and ensure long-term sustainability of our trust lands.	The biggest challenge is balancing increasing demand for revenue with responsible stewardship of the land. New Mexico relies heavily on trust land income to fund education, but we must also protect the long-term health of those lands. Other challenges include water scarcity, wildfire risk, access limitations, and ensuring fair and consistent policies across energy sectors. The SLO must also improve coordination with federal and local partners to better manage land, resources, and infrastructure.	The mission of the State Land Office is clear: generate revenue while protecting the long-term value of the land. Those goals are not in conflict when done right. Responsible energy development, well-managed grazing, and active land stewardship all contribute to both revenue and sustainability. I believe in a balanced, science-based approach that supports economic activity while ensuring proper reclamation, fair leasing practices, and long-term land health. If we manage the land well today, it will continue to provide for our schools and communities for generations.	The State Land Office should play a proactive role by ensuring leasing and permitting processes for transmission corridors are clear, efficient, and consistent. Transmission is critical to fully develop both traditional and renewable energy resources in New Mexico. I support coordinated planning with industry, utilities, and regulators to identify strategic corridors that minimize land impacts while maximizing access to markets. At the same time, we must ensure fair compensation to trust beneficiaries and maintain strong environmental and reclamation standards.
 Juan De Jesus Sanchez III Democrat	-Growing and diversifying revenue for public schools and institutions by expanding renewable energy, the outdoor economy, and long-term tools like conservation leases. While holding Oil and Gas; and all those who use our lands to the high standards. - Protect and preserve our state trust lands for future generations. - Increasing access to our lands, including expanding responsible recreation opportunities, while respecting cultural sites and traditional uses. We can generate revenue and protect what makes New Mexico special at the same time.	The greatest challenge is balancing revenue generation with long-term stewardship. State trust lands fund our public schools and institutions, but they must also be protected for future generations. That balance is becoming more difficult as we face increasing pressure from climate change, prolonged drought, and water scarcity, alongside growing demand for development on public lands. The State Land Office must take a long-term approach that ensures responsible use today while sustaining the health, productivity, and cultural value of these lands for generations to come.	These goals go hand in hand. Responsible stewardship ensures our lands remain productive over the long term. I would prioritize diversified revenue streams, including renewable energy, conservation leasing, and recreation, alongside responsible traditional development. Strong oversight, clear standards, and accountability are key. By taking a long-term approach, we can protect our lands, respect cultural values, and generate stable funding for schools and other beneficiaries.	The State Land Office should play a proactive role in facilitating responsible transmission development by leasing appropriate state lands and coordinating with federal, local, and tribal partners. Expanding transmission is critical to unlocking New Mexico’s renewable energy potential and growing revenue for our schools. At the same time, projects must be carefully sited to avoid impacts to sensitive landscapes, wildlife, and cultural resources. We also need to focus on community benefit funds for these projects, so communities impacted are benefiting as well. Done right, transmission can strengthen our economy while protecting what makes our state unique.



“The highest measure of democracy is neither the ‘extent of freedom’ nor the ‘extent of equality,’ but rather the highest measure of participation.” – A. de Benoist

NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

State Representatives sit in the New Mexico House of Representatives, which is the lower house of New Mexico. Representatives introduce and vote on proposed laws, serve on legislative committees, and participate in hearings, floor debates, fact-finding and investigations. They also may assist constituents with issues and problems the constituents may have with government agencies within New Mexico. Term: Two years; no term limits.

	<i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?</i>	<i>What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?</i>	<i>What more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?</i>
--	---	---	---	---

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 40

Landon McGuire Dooley Republican	I would address my highest priorities with urgency, discipline, and measurable action. I will listen directly to constituents and local leaders, identify the problems government can actually solve, and move quickly to introduce or support focused legislation—one issue at a time. I will demand accountability from agencies, track results, and report back to the people I represent. On public safety, education, economic growth, and land stewardship, I will work with anyone willing to produce real results for District 40. I am not going to Santa Fe to occupy a seat. I am going there to work.	New Mexico must treat water as a long-term security issue, not a crisis we address only during drought. I support investing in aging water infrastructure, reducing leaks and waste, improving watershed and forest health, protecting existing water rights, expanding conservation and reuse where practical, and evaluating storage and supply projects based on sound science. I will listen closely to farmers, ranchers, acequia communities, municipalities, tribes, engineers, and water experts. Good water policy must protect both future growth and the people already depending on this resource. Especially now that half of the state floods while the other half hasn't seen water in months.	Large economic development projects should be judged by measurable benefit to New Mexicans, not by the size of the press release. I would look at permanent jobs and wages, taxpayer return, water and energy demands, infrastructure costs, effects on local businesses and housing, environmental responsibility, and whether the project can remain viable without permanent public subsidy. As of yet, that model doesn't exist, and I do not support the current plans. Local communities should have a meaningful voice. If taxpayers are asked to invest, there should be clear performance standards, transparency, and consequences when promised results are not delivered. We have all seen that one before. Fool me once.	Rural New Mexicans should not have to drive hours or wait months for basic care. I support incentives to recruit and retain qualified doctors, nurses, mental-health professionals, dentists, and other providers in underserved communities; stronger rural clinics and EMS; responsible use of telehealth; and reducing administrative burdens that take providers away from patients. I do not support lowering standards to achieve this goal. We should also audit programs for waste, so limited resources reach the people who need them most. Veterans, seniors, children, and working families deserve timely care close to home whenever possible, no matter their party, skin tone, or biological sex.
 Joseph L Sanchez Democrat	Senior citizens, veterans, opportunity for our citizens, and children continue to be my highest priorities. We need to ensure we fully fund the programs that serve these demographics, while attracting jobs and other opportunity to our state.	We need to look at other options to compliment the fresh water available and move forward with technologies that can help with that.	We need to look at water impacts, and community impacts whether positive or negative.	We need to ensure that we sufficiently fund programs that provide these services, even when the federal government doesn't.

	<i>What are the policy priorities that made you want to run for state representative?</i>	<i>What strategies would you support to manage New Mexico's water supply in light of growing water demand?</i>	<i>What changes would you make to the process of state funding for local public projects and why?</i>	<i>What role should the state government play in the regulation of social media and artificial intelligence?</i>
--	---	--	---	--

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 41

 Yolanda R Jaramillo Democrat	I'm running because I'm an advocate for others and deeply care about our community. What drives me is expanding opportunity for New Mexico's children and families—especially in our rural, small, and Native communities across Northern New Mexico. I'm from Dixon and come from a long line of farmers and acequeros who taught me to protect our land, water, and way of life. As an	We must protect our acequias, watersheds, and drinking water while investing in rural water infrastructure. That means safeguarding our natural resources and preserving traditional and agricultural water uses that are central to our communities. I will continue the work of Rep. Susan Herrera by supporting Mutual Domestic Water Associations and advancing	New Mexico funds local projects through capital outlay, but too often funding is spread too thin, projects are delayed, and priorities aren't aligned with long-term needs. We need a more strategic, transparent, and equitable approach—prioritizing ready projects, aligning with local plans, and directing resources to underinvested rural and Native communities. That means	New Mexico has a responsibility to protect our children and communities as social media and AI evolve—especially without strong federal laws. I support efforts like those led by Attorney General Raúl Torrez and State Rep. Linda Serrato to require transparency for AI content, protect victims of deepfakes, and crack down on scams and misinformation.
---	--	---	---	--

	<i>What are the policy priorities that made you want to run for state representative?</i>	<i>What strategies would you support to manage New Mexico’s water supply in light of growing water demand?</i>	<i>What changes would you make to the process of state funding for local public projects and why?</i>	<i>What role should the state government play in the regulation of social media and artificial intelligence?</i>
	educator, acequia leader, and advocate, I’ve spent my career supporting students, families, and communities. My experience—as a teacher, youth suicide prevention advocate, and caregiver—has shaped my focus on education, mental and behavioral health, healthcare access, protecting our natural resources, and creating economic opportunity for rural communities.	efforts like the Rio Chama aquifer mapping project to protect our long-term water supply. I also have serious concerns about the use of produced water and will not support uses that risk our drinking water or agricultural systems. Finally, we need modern, science-based water planning to manage growing demand and ensure a sustainable future for New Mexico.	fully funding critical infrastructure like water systems, acequias, housing, and broadband, and ensuring projects are completed and deliver real results.	We must also hold platforms accountable for impacts on youth mental health and invest in prevention and support services. New Mexico should lead in protecting our communities while ensuring innovation doesn’t come at the expense of our kids and our democracy.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?</i>	<i>What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?</i>	<i>What more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?</i>
--	---	--	--	--	--

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 65					
Derrick J Lente Democrat	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.

NEW MEXICO STATEWIDE JUDICIAL OFFICES

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE POSITION 1

The great majority of cases heard by judges of the Court of Appeals are appeals from lower courts, since the New Mexico Court of Appeals sits between the state district courts and the New Mexico Supreme Court. Term: Eight years; no term limit.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What are the major challenges for an Appeals Court Judge?</i>	<i>What would be the most effective methods to improve Appeals Court procedures and efficiency?</i>	<i>What other information would you like voters to know about you?</i>
 Kris Houghton Democrat	I believe wholeheartedly that due process is for everyone and that no one is above or beneath the law. I vow to uphold the US and NM Constitutions. I have served in this office since Gov. Lujan Grisham appointed me in 2025, after I was recommended to her by a bi-partisan nominating commission. I have since authored opinions for the Court in both criminal and civil law. I served most of my 18-year legal career in the Dep't of Justice at the US Attorney's Office in ABQ. As an Assistant US Attorney, I handled criminal, civil, and appellate cases. I served overseas as DOJ’s Judicial Attaché in Colombia, and then returned to ABQ as Chief of the Criminal Division. Previously, I clerked for both the NM Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.	The breadth of law is staggering; an appellate judge must accurately decide cases in every area of law (criminal, negligence, family, probate, property, to name but a few). But it is impossible to know all the law. A great judge humbly seeks input from other chambers, staff, and clerks to ensure each case reaches the right result for the right reasons. The work demands rigorous legal analysis and clear writing. I follow the example of my mentors by carefully parsing applicable rules, statutes, and case law. I then work tirelessly with fellow judges, clerks, and staff to ensure we draft an opinion that is understandable by the public. Finally, with ~800 cases filed in the court each year, the work load demands discipline and diligence.	With just ten judges on the Court of Appeals serving the entire State, there is a great need for efficiency. Toward that goal, the Court has developed a number of strategies over the years. For example, the Court manages a team of experienced staff attorneys who use a calendaring system to filter cases by degree of difficulty. The Court recently piloted a successful mediation program that facilitates settlement for appropriate cases. Those strategies have reduced the number of cases awaiting a decision. But the Court should (and does) strive toward continual improvement. To that end, the judges meet monthly to discuss and employ new methods. We are working to build more efficiency in the way we write and participate on our opinions.	I am married to María Montoya who is an OB/Gyn and attending physician at the University of New Mexico Hospital. My wife and I are raising three children and stay busy with their football, soccer, basketball, and track activities. I earned my law degree from UNM School of Law, where I received the Dean’s Award for Significant Contribution to the Law School Community and was on the Dean’s List and Honor Roll. I also previously served as a Captain in the US Air Forces Reserves. I was commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force JAG Corps and was assigned to the 27th Special Operations Wing at Cannon Air Force Base and the 377th Air Base Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base.

NEW MEXICO DISTRICTED JUDICIAL OFFICES

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

State district court judges hear many types of cases, both civil and criminal. Their civil cases include private injury lawsuits, contracts, real estate, family law, and some mental health and election-related issues. The criminal cases they hear include felony and more serious misdemeanor matters.

	<i>What in your background would serve you best as a District Court judge?</i>	<i>In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how can you help improve the operations of District Court?</i>	<i>What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?</i>	<i>What other information would you like the voters to know about you?</i>
--	---	---	--	---

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT DIVISION 4

	Before being appointed as a District Judge, I had a broad range of legal experience in civil, criminal and family law matters. I am able to draw on each of these areas of law in making decisions and assisting individuals who appear in court. Specifically, the eight years I worked with U.S. District Court Judge Martha Vazquez for the District of New Mexico, gave me invaluable experience in legal writing, analysis and in the courtroom that serves me now in my work as a judge.	The District Court serves a large number of individuals who are unfamiliar with the court system, the law and are unable to afford to hire an attorney. As such, it can be a highly stressful and intimidating place for many people, especially when they have so much at stake. Education is critical to helping people understand their rights and the court process. Taking time to help people understand how to bring a case without counsel, what to expect during their case, and answer their questions best serves the individual parties and the court as a whole to arrive at more fair and just outcomes.	In New Mexico, all judges are bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct, which serves to maintain the independence and integrity of the judiciary. There are strict limitations on what a judge can and cannot do to avoid conflicts of interest and inappropriate political influence. Every judge should strive to adhere to the Code of Judicial Conduct and set aside their personal ideology when deciding a case. As a society, we should seek to have judges who make decisions based upon the applicable law and facts of a case, and nothing more. Electing judges with the strength of character to make difficult and, at times, unpopular decisions is imperative to judicial independence and our democracy.	I am committed to public service. I was raised with the belief that if you are able to help, you should. Before becoming a judge, outside of my work as a lawyer, I dedicated a substantial amount of my time volunteering with organizations that help children and support education. I have served on the board of Girls, Inc. and Partners in Education. I was an event chair and President of the PTC at my children's school. I have also volunteered for Access to Justice, the St. Elizabeth's Shelter, the Adelante Program and the Food Depot. My work as a judge is yet another form of public service where I can continue helping children and families in our community. It is an honor and privilege to be able to do this work.
--	---	---	--	--

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT DIVISION 8

	The experience, knowledge and relationships that I have gained throughout the duration of my career as well as my commitment to the community serve me best as a current District Court Judge. Given my extensive trial experience I am very comfortable with courtroom procedure, the rules of evidence and trial practice. I believe that these skills are invaluable on the bench. Additionally, given the experience that I had practicing in Rio Arriba I am very aware of gaps in services as well as systemic community issues such as deficient community transportation. This knowledge is extremely important to ensure that I can help direct individuals to services that are needed and ensure that they can comply with court orders.	Prior to being appointed to the bench I was the Adult Protective Services Attorney for the New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department and was General Counsel for the agency for approximately three and half years. During my time as General Counsel, I learned the intricacy and importance of administration and I brought that understanding to the bench. Some of the operations that I have been working to improve is the modernization of warrant service with the courts and law enforcement to ensure that warrants and warrant returns are entered electronically which significantly reduces the risk of an improper arrest as well creates real time notification to the courts when a warrant returned is filed.	It is imperative that the judiciary maintain independence from political influence to ensure that justice is served for all regardless of their socioeconomic, cultural or political differences. I went through a non-partisan judicial nominating commission and believe that process is very important to ensure judicial independence. Further, public perception of the judicial process shapes the confidence individuals have in the judiciary. Therefore, it is very important that there is equal access to courts as well as a robust judicial standards commission.	I am extremely committed to our community and have dedicated my career to public services. I am a parent to two wonderful children (ages 5 and 12) and being a parent has strengthened my commitment to serve our community. Both of my children participate in various activities including soccer, mariachi, band and dance and these activities allow me to engage with the community in a meaningful non-work related way. In addition to my experience and interest in trial practice it is important to me as a community member, parent and a professional that I am contributing to the community in a positive and productive way.
---	--	--	---	--

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY OFFICES

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What are the major challenges when serving as a Magistrate Judge?</i>	<i>What would be the most effective methods to improve Magistrate Court procedures and efficiency?</i>	<i>What other information would you like voters to know about you?</i>
--	---	---	---	---

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 1

Joseph Madrid Democrat	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
-------------------------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 2

Alexandra C Naranjo Democrat	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
---	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY SHERIFF

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

	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the administration of the Sheriff’s office?</i>	<i>What do you see as the most critical problems facing the Sheriff’s office?</i>	<i>What would you do about them?</i>	<i>What training, if any, should be provided to officers for dealing with mental health issues?</i>
--	---	--	---	--



Monica L
Salazar
Democrat

The administration I would create is one of shared responsibility, where each member is cross-trained to assist each other, and the knowledge that they work for the community and the deputies under their command. I want an administration that believes in creating partnerships with other agencies, groups within our community, and becoming mentors to the youth in our schools.

Becoming an administrator or part of the command staff means that we present a unified command structure that promotes positivity and the willingness to assist others regardless of rank. I want an administration that is open and honest with the community we serve, and always available to help those in need.

Currently, there is low morale in the sheriff's office and the office has gone through a lot of turmoil over the last year. Many of the deputies have communicated to me their intent to leave the department if the current administration does not change. Rio Arriba County is surrounded by many other agencies that can afford to pay their officers/deputies higher wages, and losing the deputies from this agency to others is always an issue.

There is also not enough deputies on duty to provide 24-hour coverage to the community of over 40,000 people and nearly 6,000 square miles.

Most deputies simply want to be treated with respect and made to feel as though they matter. They are not just another number that can be easily replaced. While I was the Undersheriff, I made the deputies feel as though they were part of a family and the past Sheriff made it clear that each person was a puzzle piece to our success. I would again make these employees feel as though they are needed and appreciated. The county may not be able to pay the higher wages that other surrounding agencies can, but some things are not valued monetarily. Feeling respected, appreciated, and valued costs nothing, but can often mean everything to someone.

The mental health of the deputies is of utmost importance. It is difficult for deputies to work effectively if they are not protecting their mental health. I would encourage each deputy to attend advanced training for mental health issues by bringing such training to our location and making it possible for each deputy to attend the training. I would also continue using an app we had purchased last year so that deputies and their families could reach out for assistance when needed and it would remain anonymous.

Asking for help when needed should be normalized rather than looked down upon. Consistent, frequent training for the deputies and their families would be one of my top priorities.

Robert R Vigil Republican	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
--	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

“The vote is a trust more delicate than any other, for it involves not just the interests of the voter, but his life, honor and future as well.” – José Martí

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY ASSESSOR

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

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>How do you plan to ensure fairness and transparency in property valuations?</i>	<i>What training will you provide for your staff in the technical, legal, and administrative aspects of property valuation and taxation?</i>
 Joaquin Valdez Democrat	I have over 33 years of experience in property valuation, assessment, and taxation. I hold both a New Mexico Real Estate Appraiser Apprentice License and a New Mexico Certified Appraiser Certification. I have worked with multiple counties across the state, gaining extensive knowledge of New Mexico’s property tax code. I currently serve as Treasurer of the New Mexico Association of Assessing Officers, and I am a member of both the International Association of Assessing Officers and the New Mexico Counties Board of Directors. I actively participate in various committees and organizations and have served as an expert witness in court proceedings and legislative committees. In addition, I am the Chairman of our local Acequia.	We have made significant progress in Rio Arriba County, but there is still more to do. My priority is to complete a full countywide reappraisal, as required by law, something not done in recent years. We have identified many properties previously omitted from the tax roll, which had shifted the burden onto others. By adding approximately \$170 million in value, mostly from omitted properties, we are ensuring a fairer, more balanced system where everyone pays their share. I will continue to advocate for homeowners, seniors, low-income residents, veterans, ranchers, and farmers by supporting sensible legislation and staying actively engaged.	Throughout my tenure, I have remained committed to fairness and transparency. We will continue to diligently use our resources to discover, list, and value all property in Rio Arriba County in a uniform manner and in full compliance with the property tax code. We are committed to implementing best practices and equipping our staff with the tools and training needed to grow as professionals in our field, all while providing the highest level of service and accurate information to our constituents. We have modernized our operations, website, and applications to support these efforts, and we continue to share vital information through public outreach, radio, newspapers, our website, and social media.	Recruiting, retaining, and developing professional staff has been a top priority. Following best practices in our field is essential to delivering the highest level of service to our constituents. I have ensured our team has the resources needed to excel in their craft, including training in appraisal, mapping, legal seminars, conferences, and leadership development. Currently, six of our staff members hold the New Mexico Certified Appraiser designation. Many are also actively involved in professional organizations and remain committed to ongoing education and growth.

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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

	<i>What are the biggest challenges facing your county?</i>	<i>How would you address these challenges?</i>	<i>How would you inform citizens about matters coming before the County Commission before decisions are made?</i>	<i>How would you propose to balance growth with water scarcity in an increasingly arid state?</i>
--	---	---	--	--

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

 Barney R Trujillo Democrat	The county faces several interconnected challenges. First is financial management and accountability. Repeated audit findings and inconsistent financial practices undermine public trust and limit our ability to invest in critical services. Second is infrastructure. Many residents continue to face poor road conditions, limited access to reliable services, and aging public facilities that require long-term planning and investment. Third is economic opportunity. While the region has strong assets, including proximity to major employers and cultural resources, many residents still lack access to stable, well-paying jobs. Workforce gaps and limited business	Addressing these challenges starts with accountability and strong financial management. I would prioritize clean audits, accurate reporting, and clear oversight to ensure public funds are used effectively and responsibly. For infrastructure, I would focus on strategic investment by leveraging state and federal funding, improving project planning, and ensuring that resources are directed to the areas of greatest need. To strengthen economic opportunity, I would work to attract and retain businesses, support workforce development programs, and build stronger partnerships with regional employers, educational institutions,	Transparency and public engagement are essential to good governance. I would ensure that information about upcoming decisions is shared early and clearly through multiple channels, including the county website, social media, and local media outlets. I would also support holding regular community meetings and forums where residents can ask questions, provide input, and better understand the issues being considered. Accessibility is important, so outreach should include both in-person and virtual options. In addition, I believe in simplifying complex information so it is understandable to the public. Residents should not need to navigate	Balancing growth with water scarcity requires careful planning and responsible policy. Growth should not come at the expense of long-term sustainability. I would support development that aligns with available water resources and encourages conservation from the outset. This includes promoting water-efficient infrastructure, supporting agricultural and acequia systems that have sustained our communities for generations, and working with regional partners to manage water resources collaboratively. I would also advocate for stronger coordination between land use planning and water availability to ensure that new development is both
---	---	---	--	---

	<i>What are the biggest challenges facing your county?</i>	<i>How would you address these challenges?</i>	<i>How would you inform citizens about matters coming before the County Commission before decisions are made?</i>	<i>How would you propose to balance growth with water scarcity in an increasingly arid state?</i>
	development continue to hold the county back. Finally, water scarcity and long-term su	and neighboring communities. A coordinated regional approach is key to long-term success. For sustainability, I would su	technical language to know what is happening in their county government. Most importantly, public input	feasible and responsible. Investing in modern water systems, conservation programs, and reuse strategies will b

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Aleandrino Manuel Naranjo Democrat	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
---	------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

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

	<i>Describe the specific legal training and knowledge that have prepared you for the office of Probate Judge.</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the functioning of the Probate Court?</i>	<i>How can you educate the public about the court’s processes?</i>	<i>What other information would you like voters to know about you?</i>
Elias Coriz Democrat	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
Darlene G Armijo Republican	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>

JUDICIAL RETENTIONS

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

Ballot Language

JUDICIAL RETENTION: Shall NAME OF INCUMBENT be retained as Justice of the SUPREME OF COURT [YES/NO]

The Supreme Court is the highest court in New Mexico. Most of the cases decided by the New Mexico Supreme Court justices are final appeals from lower state courts. The Supreme Court also has supervisory control over all the lower courts and all attorneys licensed in the state. Initially, Supreme Court justices are either appointed by the Governor or win in a general election. Appointed judges must run in the next general election, so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a general election, all justices face a nonpartisan retention election every eight years. To remain on the Court they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Term: Eight years; no term limits.

	<i>What qualifies you for this position?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Supreme Court practices and why?</i>	<i>What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?</i>
--	---	--	---

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

David K Thomson Nonpartisan	I have served eight years as Justice on the New Mexico Supreme Court. I just finished a two year term as Chief Justice. I am honored to receive a "Retain" recommendation from the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. I started my judicial career as a trial court judge in the 1st Judicial Court. I served in the House of Delegates for the American Bar Association. I am a member of the American Law Institute. I have developed a rule of law initiative where we travel around the state to conduct oral argument and visit local schools. I have been recognized for my work in judicial education and I teach legal education on a number of topics. I am a native of Santa Fe, NM.	As Chief Justice, I developed on on line portal where the public can see what cases we are considering and how our work compares to our performance measures. Transparency and professionalism were the themes of my tenure. The judiciary should continue to advocate for its independence from the other political branches. The Supreme Court should continue to advance the rule of law and get out to the community to ensure that the citizens of this State understand our role in the democratic system.	Our main job is to decide cases in a timely manner and write decisions that lawyers and non-lawyers can understand. We should continue to make efforts to expand our rule of law program and to make legal assistance affordable and accessible for all New Mexicans. For citizens to trust their government they must trust that the Supreme Court is an independent and unbiased institution.
--	---	--	---

	<i>What qualifies you for this position?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Supreme Court practices and why?</i>	<i>What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?</i>
--	---	--	---

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

	I have been serving New Mexico as a judge for over 16 years. I bring that experience and my passion for the rule of law to my work everyday. I am also a leader locally and nationally on issues that state courts must address: access to the courts, rural justice, artificial intelligence, and legal education and licensing reform.	The Court has moved to a new calendar system that requires the justices to file all opinions heard in a term (September to July) by July 15. Continuing to refine and expand this process is important because timely deciding our cases provides stability and predictability for the judicial system and the community.	The continuing challenge for the Supreme Court and the judiciary as a whole is addressing access to justice -- providing legal representation for those who cannot afford it. Improving how New Mexicans can effectively and affordably access the courts is a constant need.
Shannon Bacon Nonpartisan			

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

Ballot Language

JUDICIAL RETENTION: Shall NAME OF INCUMBENT be retained as Judge of the COURT OF APPEALS

[YES/NO]

The great majority of cases heard by Court of Appeals judges are appeals of lower court rulings, since the New Mexico Court of Appeals sits between the state district courts and the New Mexico Supreme Court. Initially, Court of Appeals judges are either appointed by the governor or win in a general election. Appointed judges must run in the next general election, so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a general election, all Court of Appeals judges face a nonpartisan retention election every eight years. To remain on the Court they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Term: Eight years; no term limit.

	<i>What qualifies you for this position?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Court of Appeals practices and why?</i>	<i>What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?</i>
	It has been my honor to serve New Mexicans as one of ten judges on the Court of Appeals for more than 15 years. In that time, I've been elected twice, authored over 1000 cases on behalf of our court, and served as a judge on thousands more. I am grateful that the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission recommends that I be retained for another term, and strive every day to efficiently and swiftly resolve disputes of critical importance to people, families, and businesses throughout our state. Upholding individual rights, ensuring adherence to the constitution and laws of New Mexico, and resolving appeals without preference or bias are the hallmarks of judicial service, to which I faithfully adhere.	The New Mexico Court of Appeals resolves nearly 1000 cases a year, ranging from criminal to civil to administrative, affecting numerous people, communities, the environment and our state's precious natural resources. Finding a way to speed up complicated appellate processes, while providing litigants an appropriate amount of time to develop and present their cases, is always a challenge. I support modernizing rules related to notices of appeal, docketing statements (preliminarily identifying issues on appeal), and the provision of trial court records to appellate courts in order to more quickly render cases capable of resolution by our court.	Simplifying court processes to emphasize access to justice, providing an environment that is even more open and transparent and explanatory, adjusting to changes in technology and the use of artificial intelligence, supplying answers that are readable and able to be understood by any member of the public, and not just lawyers, are areas in which all courts--including ours--can improve. We as a court of ten judges, assisted by our staff attorneys and law clerks and paralegals and administrative professionals, are committed to bettering ourselves and our court in the months and years to come, recognizing the critical and evolving role of the judiciary in New Mexico.
J. Miles Hanisee Nonpartisan			

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUDGE OF THE ...

Ballot Language

JUDICIAL RETENTION: Shall NAME OF INCUMBENT be retained as Judge of the NAME OF COURT

[YES/NO]

State District Court judges hear many types of cases, both civil and criminal. Their civil cases include private injury lawsuits, contracts, real estate, family law, and some mental health and election-related issues. The criminal cases they hear include felony and more serious misdemeanor matters. Initially, District Court judges are either appointed by the governor or win in a general election. Appointed judges must run in the next general election so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a general election, all District Court judges face a nonpartisan retention election every six years. To remain on the Court they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Term: Six years; no term limits.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how have you helped improve the operations of the District Court?</i>	<i>What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?</i>	<i>What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to equal justice in this judicial district?</i>	<i>What other information would you like the voters to know about you?</i>
--	---	--	--	--	---

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUDGE OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT DIVISION 01

Francis J Mathew Nonpartisan	I have served in this office since February 2013. After being recommended by a bipartisan selection committee, I was	I have served on various statewide committees and in this District, including the Statewide Judicial Budget committees	The Judiciary relies on the Legislature for funding of its operations and programs and the Governor’s approval of	The greatest obstacle is the lack of attorneys available or willing to assist poor and modest means citizens who are not	I graduated from law school and commenced practicing in Santa Fe in 1979. I started my law practice in a
---	--	--	---	--	--

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how have you helped improve the operations of the District Court?</i>	<i>What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?</i>	<i>What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to equal justice in this judicial district?</i>	<i>What other information would you like the voters to know about you?</i>
	appointed to this position by the then Governor and was elected in a general election in 2014. I was retained in this office by a vote for my retention in the general election of 2020. As a lawyer, I represented individuals, local business entities, national companies, banking institutions, debtors, creditors, plaintiffs and defendants. I have experienced litigation as a party as well as a representative attorney. I have participated in the community as a board member on non-profits and advisory school boards. I believe these experiences have given me perspective, empathy, patience needed to serve in this office.	which reviews and analyzes the budgets of every judicial district, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court and then makes recommendations used by the Supreme Court and the Legislature in setting the Statewide Judicial Budget. In addition, I serve as the presiding judge for this Court’s Treatment Court program dealing with criminal defendants’ mental health and addiction issues.	that funding. As long as the Judiciary has this dependence, it will be susceptible to political influence. In addition, without deciding whether it is a good or bad process, each judge and justice must go through at least one general contested election and then go through general uncontested retention elections. This process is inherently political, and candidates and judges remain susceptible to political influence under this system. Providing the judiciary with funding in a way that is not dependent on a political system by way of legislative grant and subject to a gubernatorial veto would assist this process.	able to handle the technicalities of the legal system, including the requirements for presenting cases in court under the rules of procedure and evidence. The court’s ability to assist these citizens is limited to general advice and forms, as the court’s role in disputes is as a decision maker and not a representative of any party or an advocate for any party. The public does not always understand the limitations or restrictions placed on the court and its employees. This Judicial District is understaffed and underpaid. The District needs more employees who are appropriately compensated.	general practice law firm handling probates, landlord tenant disputes, commercial transactions, commercial disputes, banking issues, property law issues, including property transactions and disputes, domestic relations matters dealing with divorces and custody disputes and a limited amount of criminal law. In 2003, I opened my own law firm and practiced as a sole practitioner handling the same types of matters and cases and in 2006, I served as the Probate Judge for Santa Fe County. I have raised my family in Santa Fe, served on community boards and continuously served the people of this Judicial District.

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUDGE OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT DIVISION 07

T Glenn Ellington Nonpartisan	I have served as a district judge in the first judicial district for 18 years. During that time I have presided over thousands of criminal ,civil ,family, and children’s court cases. In addition to my tenure on the district court bench,I have also served as a Judge on the New Mexico Court of Appeals, Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Department of Taxation and Revenue and Chief Public Defender for the state of New Mexico. I also have 14 years of experience as a trial attorney both in the public and private sector.	Over the years I have sat on multiple committees tasked with improving and modernizing daily practices beginning in the 1990s when we worked from paper files to the present day when we conduct multiple remote hearings and have a completely digital filing system.	Recognition that the judiciary is an independent and coequal branch of government	The lack of resources at all levels, including resources for the courts partners within the community who provided direct services related to cases adjudicated in the district court	<i>No response received.</i>
--	--	--	---	---	------------------------------

JUDICIAL RETENTION JUDGE OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT DIVISION 10

 Kathleen McGarry Ellenwood Nonpartisan	I practiced law for 33 years before I took the bench; in these last 6 years, I have had the opportunity to preside over all types of civil cases and work with litigants, represented or not, and reach resolutions in cases that are important to them and their lives. Those experiences will serve me well going forward, if the citizens	I try to encourage the employees to ask questions about cases that are before me to help them understand the issues. We all benefit from having employees feel challenged by their jobs and feeling that they are making a difference in the process. We now have 11 judges in our district and I do what I can to make sure a	Many policies are all ready in place, there are Judicial Standards that all judges must follow and that guide us in what is appropriate and what is not. In New Mexico, the use of retention elections help to keep political influence at at minimum, letting the people decide whether to keep a judge, or not. Due to restrictions, judges do not do a lot		My hope is that any person that comes into my courtroom will feel that they had a fair opportunity to present their case, win or lose. I believe strongly in the rights that the Constitutions of New Mexico and the United States provide and try my best to interpret the laws passed by the Legislature.
--	--	--	---	--	---

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how have you helped improve the operations of the District Court?</i>	<i>What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?</i>	<i>What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to equal justice in this judicial district?</i>	<i>What other information would you like the voters to know about you?</i>
	of this Judicial District chose to retain me.	new judge feels welcome and to answer questions they may have. We are lucky to have many of the resources we have in the First Judicial Court. Our Family Court Services, Pretrial Services and Treatment Court provide options here that many of the courts around the state do not have.	of campaigning which is good and bad. Good, because it helps limit the political influencers, but bad because it is hard for the voting public to find out a lot of information on judicial candidates.		When not on the bench, or working on cases, I like to ride my bike and play with our two Australian Cattle dogs. We have such diverse communities in the First Judicial District, getting out and enjoying the land and the people help me understand better the people whose cases come before me.

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

“Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country and this world.” – Sharon Salzberg

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

PROPOSED NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1: ELIMINATE POCKET VETOES

Ballot Language

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 4, SECTION 22 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO REQUIRE THE GOVERNOR TO PROVIDE VETO MESSAGES ON ALL BILLS VETOED IN WHOLE OR IN PART AND TO PROVIDE THAT ALL BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE AND NOT ACTED ON BY THE GOVERNOR WILL BECOME LAW.

[YES/NO]

Enmienda Constitucional 1:

Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 4, Sección 22, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para requerir que el gobernador que presente mensajes de veto sobre todos los proyectos de ley vetados total o parcialmente, y para establecer que todos los proyectos de ley aprobados por la Legislatura sobre los cuales el gobernador no actúe se conviertan en ley.

[SÍ/NO]

Explanation:

This proposed amendment would remove the “pocket veto.” The pocket veto occurs when the governor does not sign a bill that was passed during the last three days of the legislative session, stopping the bill from becoming law. Under the proposed amendment, a bill sent to the governor during the last three days of the session would automatically become law unless the governor vetoes the bill within 20 days after the legislature’s adjournment. Also, the governor would be required to provide a written, substantive explanation for any veto.

Arguments For:

- Requires the governor to give a written explanation about why any legislation is vetoed, so that the legislature can reintroduce legislation in the future to address the governor’s concerns.
- May bring greater balance among branches of government because lawmakers could ask the courts to determine whether the governor has provided a substantive explanation.

Arguments Against:

- The term ‘substantive explanation’ is undefined and may lead to court action between the legislature and the governor.
- The governor’s office might be burdened after the session by a large number of bills that would need a substantive explanation’ of their veto.
- It is unnecessary since the legislature could eliminate the pocket veto simply by enacting important legislation earlier in the session.

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2: SCHOOL ELECTIONS TIMING

Ballot Language:

PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 7, SECTION 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT SCHOOL ELECTIONS BE SEPARATE FROM PARTISAN ELECTIONS.

[YES/NO]

Enmienda Constitucional 2:

Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 7, Sección 1, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para eliminar el requisito de que las elecciones escolares sean separadas de las elecciones partidistas.

[SÍ/NO]

Explanation:

This amendment would allow school districts the option to add bond and mill levy questions to ballots in a partisan election, such as the regular general election. It would also give the legislature the authority to allow local school board elections to be held during the same election cycle as partisan elections.

Arguments For:

- Currently school districts can only place bond issues and mill levy questions in local nonpartisan elections, which are held in odd numbered years. If the proposed amendment passes, school boards have the option to place bond issues or mill levy questions on the ballot in any election cycle, giving them more flexibility to manage their capital needs.
- Allowing school districts to place a bond or mill levy question on the ballot during partisan general elections may increase the number of voters who participate in school elections, better reflecting the voice of the community.
- School districts still have the option to hold special bond elections if these better suit their needs.

Arguments Against:

- Adding school questions to the general election ballot may create voter fatigue and increase the cost of elections if a longer ballot is needed.
- The importance of school issues on a partisan general election ballot may be diminished due to the high number of issues and candidates on the ballot.

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 3: BOARDS OF REGENTS NOMINATING COMMITTEES

Ballot Language:

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 12, SECTION 13 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO ESTABLISH NOMINATING COMMITTEES TO PROVIDE LISTS OF NOMINEES TO THE GOVERNOR FOR APPOINTMENT OF NONSTUDENT MEMBERS TO THE BOARDS OF REGENTS OF STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; PROVIDING THAT STUDENT MEMBERS OF BOARDS OF REGENTS SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM A LIST PROVIDED BY AN ELECTED STUDENT GOVERNING BODY OF THE INSTITUTION; PROVIDING THAT, EXCEPT FOR A STUDENT MEMBER, MEMBERS OF THE BOARDS OF REGENTS SHALL NOT HAVE CHANGED THEIR POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION IN THE TWELVE MONTHS PRECEDING APPOINTMENT.

[YES/NO]

Enmienda Constitucional 3:

Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 12, Sección 13, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para establecer comités de nominación que proporcionen listas de nominados al gobernador para el nombramiento de miembros no estudiantiles de las juntas de regentes de las instituciones educativas estatales; disponiendo que los miembros estudiantiles de las juntas de regentes serán nombrados de una lista proporcionada por un órgano de gobierno estudiantil electo de la institución; disponiendo que, con excepción de un miembro estudiantil, los miembros de las juntas de regentes no hayan cambiado su registro de partido político durante los seis meses anteriores a su nombramiento.

[SÍ/NO]

Explanation:

A board of regents governs each of the ten state educational institutions. Currently, the regents for each of these institutions are appointed by the governor and approved by the Senate. The amendment would:

- Require the governor to appoint:
 - regents from a list of candidates selected by a nonpartisan nominating committee established by the legislature; and
 - student regents from a list provided by each institution’s student government, not the institution’s president.
- Disqualify any non-student regents if they changed political party registration in the 12 months before being appointed.

Arguments For:

- A regent nominating committee should ensure that nominees will best serve the interests of the particular institution, thereby providing more accountability in its control and management.
- Since the nominating committee would be nonpartisan, nominees would more likely be best qualified and would not be appointed based on their relationship with the governor or the governing political party.

Arguments Against:

- This amendment would dilute both the governor’s constitutional authority to appoint regents and the senate’s power to advise and consent.
- The Governor and the Senate are directly responsible to voters, whereas a regent nominating committee would not be.

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 4: LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION

Ballot Language:

PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 4, SECTION 10 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO ALLOW LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION THAT IS LIMITED TO THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR NEW MEXICO, TO REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION TO BE REDUCED IF THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR NEW MEXICO FALLS, TO ALLOW LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION TO BE INCREASED ONLY IF THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR NEW MEXICO RISES AND TO PROVIDE FOR DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION.

[YES/NO]

Enmienda Constitucional 4:

Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 4, Sección 10, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para permitir una compensación legislativa limitada al ingreso familiar mediano de Nuevo México; requerir que la compensación legislativa se reduzca si el ingreso familiar mediano de Nuevo México disminuye; permitir que la compensación legislativa aumente únicamente si el ingreso familiar mediano de Nuevo México aumenta; y disponiendo una implementación diferida.

[SÍ/NO]

Explanation:

Currently, New Mexico state senators and representatives only receive daily limited compensation for mileage and per diem for meals and lodging.

This amendment would allow legislators to receive a salary equal to the median household income for New Mexico, currently approximately \$68,000.

This amount could be adjusted by the legislature in the future. The amendment would go into effect in January 2029.

Arguments For:

- A more diverse group of people might run for the legislature if they have less financial pressure to prioritize their other jobs and don’t have to choose between earning a living and public service, giving voters more candidates choices that better represent communities they serve.
- Positions the legislature to serve as a co-equal branch of government with the governor and judicial branches since they will be able to dedicate more time to their duties.
- Legislators work year-round beyond the 30 or 60-day sessions, by serving on interim committees, drawing up legislation, and handling constituent needs.

Arguments Against:

- The salary proposed is higher than many other states, especially considering the number of days the legislature is in session and the poverty level in the state.
- Legislators receiving salaries would have an unfair advantage against opposing candidates who must campaign and raise funds that could require them to lose employment income, while incumbent legislators would be paid while they run for office.
- Paying legislators would add more than \$7 million each year to public spending.

NEW MEXICO BALLOT QUESTIONS

NEW MEXICO BOND QUESTION 1: AGING AND LONG-TERM SERVICES

GENERAL ELECTION 2026 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND TAXES

[Assume] all three bond questions described below will be approved by voters, the property tax year 2025 mill levy has been set at 1.36 mils, which is the same as the 2023 and 2024 rates. The State Board of Finance estimates if all three bond questions are approved by the voters, the annual cost of repaying the bonds over a ten-year period would be approximately \$12.82 per \$100,000 of asset value per year. Of the annual average \$12.82, Bond Question 1 accounts for \$0.70, Bond Question 2 accounts for \$0.63, and Bond Question 3 accounts for \$11.49.

Ballot Language:

The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed twenty-one million five hundred eighty-two thousand two hundred thirteen dollars (\$21,582,213) to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition projects and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

[YES/NO]

Pregunta de Bonos 1

El Acta de Bonos de Obligación General para Proyectos de Capital de 2026 autoriza la emisión y venta de bonos para el mejoramiento, la construcción y la adquisición de equipo para instalaciones para adultos mayores. ¿Deberá autorizarse al estado a emitir bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no exceda de veintiún millones quinientos ochenta y dos mil doscientos trece dólares (\$21,582,213) para realizar gastos de capital para ciertos proyectos de mejoramiento, construcción y adquisición de equipo para instalaciones para adultos mayores, y disponer la imposición y recaudación de un impuesto general sobre la propiedad para el pago del capital, los intereses y los gastos incurridos en relación con la emisión de los bonos y la recaudación del impuesto según lo permitido por la ley?
[SÍ/NO]

NEW MEXICO BOND QUESTION 2: LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Ballot Language:

The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of library acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed nineteen million three hundred twenty-four thousand one hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$19,324,188) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, public and tribal library resource acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?
[YES/NO]

Pregunta de Bonos 2

El Acta de Bonos de Obligación General para Proyectos de Capital de 2026 autoriza la emisión y venta de bonos para adquisiciones para bibliotecas. ¿Deberá autorizarse al estado a emitir bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no exceda de diecinueve millones trescientos veinticuatro mil ciento ochenta y ocho dólares (\$19,324,188) para realizar gastos de capital para adquisiciones de recursos para bibliotecas académicas, bibliotecas de escuelas públicas, bibliotecas públicas y bibliotecas tribales, y disponer la imposición y recaudación de un impuesto general sobre la propiedad para el pago del capital, los intereses y los gastos incurridos en relación con la emisión de los bonos y la recaudación del impuesto según lo permitido por la ley?
[SÍ/NO]

NEW MEXICO BOND QUESTION 3: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITIONS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND TRIBAL SCHOOLS STATEWIDE

Ballot Language:

The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed three hundred fifty-two million two hundred twenty five thousand three hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$352,225,379) to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?
[YES/NO]

Pregunta de Bonos 3

El Acta de Bonos de Obligación General para Proyectos de Capital de 2026 autoriza la emisión y venta de bonos para mejoras de capital y adquisiciones para la educación superior, las escuelas especiales y las escuelas tribales. ¿Deberá autorizarse al estado a emitir bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no exceda de trescientos cincuenta y dos millones doscientos veinticinco mil trescientos setenta y nueve dólares (\$352,225,379) para realizar gastos de capital para ciertas mejoras de capital y adquisiciones para la educación superior, escuelas especiales y escuelas tribales, y disponer la imposición y recaudación de un impuesto general sobre la propiedad para el pago del capital, los intereses y los gastos incurridos en relación con la emisión de los bonos y la recaudación del impuesto según lo permitido por la ley?
[SÍ/NO]



411

Create Your Voting Plan Today!

[illegible]

