



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO



Link to: League of Women Voters of Central NM
<https://www.lwvcm.org/voters-and-elections>

Liga de Mujeres Votantes® del Centro de Nuevo México

Additional information is available online at www.lwvcm.org – including a pdf version of this guide, as well as detailed information about ballot issues.

Voter Guide

guía para votantes

GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Elecciones Generales del 5 de noviembre de 2024

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| There will be a major election for President, U.S. House, U.S. Senate, New Mexico Legislature, District Attorneys, Judicial Retention and County officials on Tuesday, November 5 . Also included will be amendments to the State Constitution, state and local bond issues, and more. | El martes 5 de noviembre habrá unas elecciones importantes para elegir el presidente, la cámara de representantes de los EE. UU., el senado de los EE. UU., la legislatura de Nuevo México, fiscales de distrito, retención judicial y funcionarios del condado. También se incluirán enmiendas a la Constitución estatal, asuntos de bonos estatales y locales, y más. |
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| Key Dates | Fechas Claves | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| October 8 | Early voting starts at County Clerk offices. Last day to register online or by paper voter registration form. Same day voter registration available at County Clerk locations. Clerks begin mailing absentee ballots. | La votación anticipada comienza en las oficinas del secretario del condado. Último día para registrarse en línea o por el formulario de registro de votante impreso. El registro de votante en el mismo día está disponible en las oficinas del secretario del condado. Los secretarios comienzan a enviar por correo las boletas de voto en ausencia. |
| October 19 - November 2 | Early voting at Vote Centers and polling places. Same day registration at Vote Centers and polling places. | Votación anticipada en centros de votación y lugares de votación. Registro el mismo día en centros de votación y lugares de votación. |
| October 22 | Last day to request an absentee ballot online | Último día para solicitar boleta de voto en ausencia en línea |
| November 5 | Election Day - last chance to vote in person! Absentee ballots are due in the clerk's office or at an Election Day Voting location no later than 7 pm. | Día de las elecciones: ¡última oportunidad para votar en persona! Se deben entregar los votos en ausencia en la oficina del secretario del condado o en un lugar de votación el día de las elecciones no más tarde de las 7 de la tarde. |

Contact information for the County Clerks / Información de contacto de los secretarios del condado

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| Bernalillo County Clerk 505-468-1291; 505-243-VOTE (8683) 415 Silver Ave. SW Albuquerque, NM 87102 https://www.berncoclerk.gov/ | Sandoval County Clerk 505-867-7577 1500 Idalia Road, Building D Bernalillo, NM 87004 www.sandovalcountynm.gov/elected-officials/county-clerk/bureau-of-elections/ |
| Torrance County Clerk 505-544-4350; 1-844-698-4616 205 S 9th Street Estancia, NM 87016 www.torrancecountynm.org/departments/county-clerk | Valencia County Clerk 505-866-2073 444 Luna Ave. SE Los Lunas, NM 87031 www.co.valencia.nm.us/239/Bureau-of-Elections |

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Link to: New Mexico Secretary of State Voting & Elections
<https://www.nmvote.org>

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| <p>Who Can Vote You can vote, if you are a citizen of the United States, AND a resident of New Mexico, AND 18 years of age or older on Election Day, AND have registered to vote. Convicted felons who have satisfied all the terms and conditions of their sentencing are also eligible. You can register on the day you vote at most polling places.</p> | <p>¿Quién puede votar? Puede votar si es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos, es residente de Nuevo México, tiene 18 años o más el día de la elección Y se ha registrado para votar. También son elegibles los delincuentes convictos que hayan cumplido con todos los términos y condiciones de su sentencia. Puede registrarse el día que vota en la mayoría de los lugares de votación.</p> |
| <p>How to Use This Voter Guide Find out which districts you are in by either obtaining a sample ballot or contacting your County Clerk. (See instructions below.) Then use the <i>Voter Guide</i> Table of Contents to find the candidates, judicial retention races, and ballot issues that will be on your ballot. Both these steps can also be done online via nmVOTE.org or VOTE411.org!</p> | <p>Cómo utilizar esta Guía para votantes Averigüe en cual distrito vive por medio de obtener una boleta de muestra o comunicarse con el secretario de su condado (vea las instrucciones abajo). Luego, utilice la tabla de contenidos de la <i>Guía para votantes</i> para encontrar los candidatos, las carreras de retención judicial y los temas de votación que estarán en su boleta. ¡Puede hacer ambos pasos en línea a través de VOTE411.org!</p> |
| <p>Candidate responses and word limits. The responses of candidates to our questionnaires are printed exactly as entered by the candidate. The League assumes no responsibility for the content of any candidate's reply. Further, the League publishes this information neither to endorse nor reject the views of any candidates. The League has in no way edited for meaning, grammar, punctuation, or spelling. Because of space restrictions, the League has pre-advised the candidates of the word limits for the responses.</p> | <p>Respuestas de los candidatos y límites de palabras. Las respuestas de los candidatos a nuestros cuestionarios se imprimen exactamente como las ingresó el candidato. La Liga no asume ninguna responsabilidad por el contenido de las respuestas de ningún candidato. Además, la Liga no publica esta información para aprobar ni rechazar las opiniones de ningún candidato. La Liga no ha editado ninguna respuesta con respeto a significado, gramática, puntuación, u ortografía. Debido a las restricciones de espacio, la Liga ha informado previamente a los candidatos sobre los límites de palabras de las respuestas.</p> |
| <p>Sample Ballot and More You can verify your voter registration online, view your sample ballot, apply for an absentee ballot and check its status, and much more at nmvote.org. Scroll down to "Find My Registration & Election Information."</p> <p>You can also request a sample ballot from the County Clerk or at an early voting location in your county.</p> | <p>Boleta de muestra y más Puede verificar su registro de votante en línea, ver su boleta de muestra, solicitar una boleta de voto en ausencia y verificar su estado, y mucho más en nmvote.org. Desplácese hacia abajo hasta "Buscar mi registro e información electoral".</p> <p>También puede solicitar una boleta de muestra del secretario del condado o en un lugar de votación anticipada en su condado.</p> |
| <p>Registering to vote in New Mexico As noted earlier, to register to vote you must be a U.S. citizen, a New Mexico resident, and at least 18 years old on election day. You will need to provide proof of your identity and residency. If you did not provide this information when you registered, then you will need to provide it the first time you vote. Valid forms of proof include a current and valid photo identification, a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, student identification card, identification issued by an Indian Nation, tribe, or pueblo that shows your name and current address, or other government document. To be sure, bring more than one of these credentials. There are several methods and many places to register:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● nmvote.org. You can register using the nmvote.org portal if you have a valid New Mexico driver's license or identification card up until <i>October 8, 2024</i>.● Via the Motor Vehicle Department and at organized voter registration drives until October 8.● Mail-in registration. If you are registering for the first time in New Mexico, you must submit a copy of identification that shows <i>both your name and your New Mexico address, or present these forms of identification the first time you vote.</i>● Same-day in-person voter registration. You can register in person at the County Clerk's office or at any Early Voting or Election Day location with your identification and proof of residency papers. | <p>Registrarse para votar en Nuevo México Como se indicó anteriormente, para registrarse para votar debe ser ciudadano de los EE. UU., residente de Nuevo México y tener al menos 18 años el día de las elecciones. Tendrá que proporcionar una prueba de su identidad y residencia. Si no proporcionó esta información cuando se registró, deberá proporcionarla la primera vez que vote. Las formas válidas de prueba incluyen una identificación con fotografía actual y válida, una factura de servicios actual, un estado de cuenta bancario, un cheque del gobierno, un talón de pago, una tarjeta de identificación de estudiante, una identificación emitida por una nación, tribu o pueblo indígena que muestre su nombre y dirección actual, u otro documento gubernamental. Para estar seguro, lleve más de una de estas credenciales. Hay varios métodos y muchos lugares para registrarse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● nmvote.org. Hasta del 8 de octubre de 2024, puede registrarse usando el portal en nmvote.org si tiene una licencia de conducir o una tarjeta de identificación de Nuevo México válida.● A través del Departamento de Vehículos Motorizados y en campañas de registro de votantes hasta el 8 de octubre.● Registro por correo. Si se está registrando por primera vez en Nuevo México, debe presentar una copia de una identificación que muestre tanto su nombre como su dirección en Nuevo México, o presentar estas formas de identificación la primera vez que vote.● Registro de votante en persona en el mismo día. Puede registrarse en persona en la oficina del secretario del condado o en cualquier lugar de votación anticipada o el día de las elecciones con su identificación y documentos que prueben su residencia. |
| <p>Changing/Updating Registration. No identification is required if a voter is merely changing their registration (name, address, and/or party affiliation) within the state of New Mexico.</p> | <p>Cambio/Actualización de Registro. No se requiere identificación si un votante simplemente cambia su registro (nombre, dirección, y/o afiliación partidista) dentro del estado de Nuevo México.</p> |
| <p>Absentee Voting New Mexico allows any registered voter to request an absentee ballot. You can request one at nmvote.org, or contact your County Clerk.</p> <p>The last day to request an absentee ballot for the 2024 General Election is Tuesday, October 22.</p> <p>Completed absentee ballots may be turned in at any polling place or Vote Center up through Election Day by 7:00 pm by the voter, a member of the voter's immediate family, or caretaker. You can also mail your ballot, but <i>it must arrive by 7:00 pm on Election Day.</i></p> <p>You can get on the permanent absentee list to receive an absentee ballot for every election via nmvote.org.</p> | <p>Voto en ausencia Nuevo México permite que cualquier votante registrado solicite una boleta de voto en ausencia. Puede solicitar una en nmvote.org o comunicarse con el secretario de su condado. El último día para solicitar una boleta de voto en ausencia para las elecciones generales de 2024 es el martes 22 de octubre. El votante, un miembro de la familia inmediata del votante o un cuidador pueden entregar los votos en ausencia completados en cualquier lugar de votación o centro de votación hasta el día de las elecciones antes de las 7:00 de la tarde. También puede enviar su boleta por correo, pero debe llegar antes de las 7:00 de la tarde el día de las elecciones. Puede inscribirse en la lista permanente de votantes ausentes para recibir una boleta de voto en ausencia para cada elección a través de nmvote.org.</p> |
| <p>Additional Voting Considerations <u>Write-in Voting.</u> Only some races will have this option. For these, you must write in the name of a qualified write-in candidate (these are listed in this <i>Voter Guide</i>). To count, you must enter the full name OR the first two initials and last name OR the first and last name OR first name, middle initial, last name, OR first name, middle name, and last name.</p> | <p>Consideraciones adicionales de votación <u>Votación por escrito.</u> Sólo algunas carreras tendrán esta opción. Para estas, debe escribir el nombre de un candidato por escrito que es calificado (estos se enumeran en esta Guía para votantes). Para que su voto cuente, debe ingresar el nombre completo O las dos primeras iniciales y el apellido O el nombre y apellido O el nombre, la inicial del segundo nombre, el apellido, O el nombre, el segundo nombre, y el apellido.</p> |
| <p>Provisional Ballots You will be issued a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the voter rolls, or you are a first-time voter but have not provided proof of identification and residency. The election officials will give you information on what you will need to do to ensure that your ballot will be counted and to see if it was counted.</p> | <p>Boletas Provisionales Se le emitirá una boleta provisional si su nombre no aparece en las listas de votantes, o si está votando por primera vez pero no ha proporcionado prueba de identificación y residencia. Los funcionarios electorales le darán información sobre lo que deberá hacer para asegurarse de que su boleta sea contada y para ver si fue contada.</p> |
| <p>Voting Offenses. These include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Voting or trying to vote when not qualified● Voting in another person's name● Voting more than once in a single election● Asking someone to commit a voting offense● Campaigning within 100 feet of a polling place● Using or possessing alcoholic beverages within 200 feet of a polling place● Unlawful possession of an absentee ballot● Falsifying any information on an absentee ballot● Intimidation● Obstructing the polling place● Disturbing the polling place <p>If you observe any of these offenses, you must report them to the County Clerk, District Attorney, or Secretary of State.</p> | <p>Delitos de voto. Estos incluyen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Votar o intentar votar sin estar habilitado● Votar en nombre de otra persona● Votar más de una vez en una sola elección● Pedirle a alguien que cometa un delito de votación● Hacer campaña a menos de 100 pies de un lugar de votación● Consumir o poseer bebidas alcohólicas a menos de 200 pies de un lugar de votación● Posesión ilegal de una boleta de voto en ausencia● Falsificar cualquier información en una boleta de voto en ausencia● Intimidación● Obstruir el lugar de votación● Alterar el lugar de votación <p>Si observa cualquiera de estos delitos, debe denunciarlos al secretario del condado, al Fiscal de Distrito o al secretario de estado.</p> |

WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE /DÓNDE Y CUÁNDO VOTAR

Early voting times and dates vary by county. **Election Day voting will be November 5 from 7am to 7pm.** This is also the deadline for turning in absentee ballots at one of the Election Day voting locations or the County Clerk's office.

Los horarios y las fechas de votación anticipada varían según el condado. **El día de las elecciones, el 5 de noviembre, la votación será de 7 de la mañana hasta 7 de la tarde.** Este día es también la fecha límite para entregar las boletas de voto en ausencia en uno de los lugares de votación o en la oficina del secretario del condado.

Bernalillo County:

Locations of polling places can be found online at

<https://www.berncoclerk.gov/elections/election-day-voting/>

Early Voting in Bernalillo County

Voters may vote in person or deliver absentee ballots.

Same Day Registration will be available during Early Voting and on Election Day.

Monday - Friday, from October 8 to October 18, 8am - 5pm (**Closed** Monday October 14)

Clerk's Annex - 1500 Lomas Blvd NW, Suite A, 87104

Twenty (20) Early Voting Convenience Centers, plus the Mobile Voting Unit, will be available,

Monday-Saturday October 19-November 2, 10am-7pm (unless otherwise noted):

Albuquerque:

- 98th & Central Shopping Center - 120 98th St NW, Suite B101 & B102, 87121
- Andalucia Shopping Center - 5600 Coors Blvd NW, Suite C-5, 87120
- Bernalillo County Visitor Center - 6080 Isleta Blvd SW, 87105
- Caracol Plaza - 12500 Montgomery Blvd NE, Suite 101, 87111
- Central Mercado - 301 San Pedro Dr SE, Suites B, C, D & E, 87108
- Clerk's Annex - 1500 Lomas Blvd NW, Suite A, 87104
- Cottonwood West - 10131 Coors Blvd NW, Suite C-02, 87114
- Daskalos Center - 5339 Menaul Blvd NE, 87110
- Four Hills Shopping Center - 13140 Central Ave SE, Suite 1420, 87123
- Holly Plaza Shopping Center - 6600 Holly Ave NE, Suite B-6, 87113
- Los Altos Plaza - 4200 Wyoming Blvd NE, Suite B-3, 87111
- Los Ranchos Villa - 6601 4th St NW, Suite U, 87107
- Petroglyph Plaza - 8201 Golf Course Rd NW, Suite D-1, 87120
- South Valley Multi-Purpose Senior Center - 2008 Larrazolo Rd SW, 87105
- The Shoppes at 6001 San Mateo - 6001 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite B-3, 87109
- University of New Mexico - Student Union Building, Louie's Lounge, 87131
- West Bluff Center - 5211 Ouray Rd NW, Suite B, 87120

Mobile Voting Unit - State Fair Grounds, 87108: Monday - Friday, 10am - 5pm. October 21 - November 1

Tijeras:

- Tijeras City Hall - 12 Camino Municipal, Tijeras, NM 87059

Sovereign Pueblos in Bernalillo County:

- Desiderio Community Center, 117 Tribal Rd 7036 To'Hajiilee, 87026: Monday - Friday, 10:00am - 6:00pm
- Isleta Elder Center - Building 79, 1005 Tribal Rd 140, Isleta, NM 87022

Election Day Voting in Bernalillo County

There are 72 Election Day Voting Centers in Bernalillo County. All Election Day Voting Centers will be open from 7am to 7pm, Tuesday November 5, 2024.

These include ALL of the Early Voting Centers (except for the Mobile Vote Unit) **AND ALSO:**

Albuquerque:

- Adobe Acres Elementary School, 1724 Camino Del Valle SW, 87105
- Albuquerque High School, 800 Odelia Rd NE, 87102
- Arroyo Del Oso Elementary School, 6504 Harper Dr NE, 87109
- Bandelier Elementary School, 3309 Pershing Ave SE, 87106
- Bellehaven Elementary School, 8701 Princess Jeanne Ave NE, 87112
- Chaparral Elementary School, 6325 Milne Rd NW, 87120
- Cibola High School, 1510 Ellison Dr NW, 87114
- CNM Workforce Training Center, 5600 Eagle Rock Ave NE, 87113
- Del Norte High School, 5323 Montgomery Blvd NE, 87110
- Double Eagle Elementary School, 8901 Lowell Dr NE, 87122
- Duranes Elementary School, 2436 Zickert Rd NW, 87104
- Eisenhower Middle School, 11001 Camero Ave NE, 87111
- Eldorado High School, 11300 Montgomery Blvd NE, 87111
- Garfield Middle School, 3501 6th St NW, 87107
- Hayes Middle School, 1100 Texas St NE, 87110
- Henry "Kiki" Saavedra Community Center, 201 Prosperity Ave SE, 87105
- Herman Sanchez Community Center, 1830 William St SE, 87102
- Highland High School, 4700 Coal Ave SE, 87108
- Holiday Park Community Center, 11710 Comanche Rd NE, 87111
- Hubert H Humphrey Elementary School, 9801 Academy Hills Dr NE, 87111
- Jackson Middle School, 10600 Indian School Rd NE, 87112
- Jefferson Middle School, 712 Girard Blvd NE, 87106
- Kennedy Middle School, 721 Tomasita St NE, 87123

- La Cueva High School, 7801 Wilshire Ave NE, 87122
- La Mesa Elementary School, 7500 Copper Ave NE, 87108
- Lyndon B Johnson Middle School, 6811 Taylor Ranch Rd NW, 87120
- Madison Middle School, 3501 Moon St NE, 87111
- Manzano High School, 12200 Lomas Blvd NE, 87112
- Manzano Mesa Elementary School, 801 Elizabeth St SE, 87123
- McKinley Middle School, 4500 Comanche Rd NE, 87110
- Montezuma Elementary School, 3100 Indian School Rd NE, 87106
- North Star Elementary School, 9301 Ventura St NE, 87122
- Oñate Elementary School, 12415 Brentwood Hills Blvd NE, 87112
- Pajarito Elementary School, 2701 Don Felipe Rd SW, 87105
- Polk Middle School, 2220 Raymac Rd SW, 87105
- Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center, 9800 4th St NW, 87114
- Rio Grande High School, 2300 Arenal Rd SW, 87105
- Rudolfo Anaya Elementary School, 2800 Vermejo Park Dr SW, 87121
- Sandia High School, 7801 Candelaria Rd NE, 87110
- Taylor Middle School, 8200 Guadalupe Trl NW, 87114
- Truman Middle School, 9400 Benavides Rd SW, 87121
- Valle Vista Elementary School, 1700 Mae Ave SW, 87105
- Valley High School, 1505 Candelaria Rd NW, 87107
- Van Buren Middle School, 700 Louisiana Blvd SE, 87108
- Ventana Ranch Elementary School, 6801 Ventana Village Rd NW, 87114
- Volcano Vista High School, 8100 Rainbow Blvd NW, 87114
- Washington Middle School, 1101 Park Ave SW, 87102
- West Mesa High School, 6701 Fortuna Rd NW, 87121
- Zuni Elementary School, 6300 Claremont Ave NE, 87110

Tijeras:

- A Montoya Elementary School, 24 Public School Rd, Tijeras, NM 87059
- Forest Meadow Baptist Church, 54 Hwy 217, Tijeras, NM 87059

Sandia Park:

- Vista Grande Community Center, 15 La Madera Rd, Sandia Park, NM 87047

Sandoval County:

Sandoval County has an interactive map where you can find the nearest polling location and get directions at <https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/countyclerk/bureau-of-elections/>. Lists of these locations, by region, appear below:

Early Voting in Sandoval County

Rio Rancho (municipality). All locations are open Monday - Saturday, from October 19 - November 2, 10am to 7pm.

- Broadmoor Senior Center, 3241 Broadmoor Blvd. NE, Rio Rancho, 87144
- Community of Joy Lutheran Church, 841 Saratoga Dr. NE, Rio Rancho, 87144
- Our Lady Queen of Angels, 1701 Tulip Rd. SE, Rio Rancho, 87124
- Plaza @ Unser Marketplace, 701 Unser Blvd. SE Unit A12. Rio Rancho, 87124
- Rio West Business Center, 103 Rio Rancho Blvd. SE Suite B1, Rio Rancho, 87124
- Sagebrush Plaza, 7555 Enchanted Hills Blvd. NE, Rio Rancho, 87144
- St. Francis Episcopal Church, 2903 Cabezon Blvd. SE, Rio Rancho, 87124

3 Sovereign Navajo Nation Chapters in Sandoval County. Dates and hours as noted.

- Counselors Chapter House, 9828 Chapter House Road 14, Counselors 87018:
Tuesday - Friday, October 29 - November 1, 10:00am - 5:00pm
- Ojo Encino Chapter House, 1435 Starlake Road, Ojo Encino 87013:
Tuesday - Thursday, October 23 - 25, 10:00am - 7:00pm
- Torreon Chapter House, Highway 197 Mile Marker 26, Torreon 87013:
Monday - Friday, October 21-25 and October 28 - November 1, 9:00am - 6:00pm

7 Sovereign Pueblos in Sandoval County. Dates and hours as noted.

- Cochiti Pueblo Hahn Center, 90 Cochiti St., Cochiti Pueblo, 87072.
Monday - Saturday, October 19 - 30, 10:00am - 7:00pm
- Jemez Community Resource Center, 129 Canal St., Jemez Pueblo, 87024:
Wednesday - Saturday, October 30 - November 2, 10:00am - 7:00pm
- San Felipe Pueblo Head Start, 10 Meadow View Rd., San Felipe Pueblo, 87001:
Monday - Saturday, October 19 - 30 and November 2, 10:00am - 7:00pm
- Sandia Pueblo Community Center, 481 Sandia Loop, Sandia Pueblo, 87004:
Monday - Saturday, October 19 - November 2, 10:00am - 7:00pm
- Santa Ana Pueblo Wellness Center, 225 Ranchitos Rd, Santa Ana Pueblo, 87004
Monday-Saturday, October 19 - November 2, 10:00am - 7:00pm
- Zia Pueblo Community Center, 135 Capital Square Dr., Zia Pueblo, 87053:
Monday - Saturday, October 19 - November 2, 10:00am - 7:00pm

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Bernalillo (municipality): Dates and hours as noted.

- El Zocalo/Salazar Building, 264 S. Camino Del Pueblo, Bernalillo, 87004:
Monday - Saturday, October 19 - November 2, 10:00am - 7:00pm
- Sandoval County Admin Building D, 1500 Idalia Road, Bernalillo, 87004:
Monday - Friday, October 8 - November 1, 8:00am - 5:00pm AND Saturdays October 19, 26, and November 2, 10:00am - 7:00pm

Corrales (municipality): Monday - Saturday, October 19 - November 2, 10:00am - 7:00pm

- Corrales Community Center, 4326 Corrales Road, Corrales, 87048

Cuba (municipality): Monday - Saturday, October 19 - November 2, 10:00am - 7:00pm

- Sandoval County Fairgrounds, 37 Rodeo Rd., Cuba, 87013

Placitas (municipality): Monday - Saturday, October 19 - November 2, 10:00am - 7:00pm

- Placitas Community Library, 453 Highway 165, Placitas, 87043

San Ysidro (municipality): Monday - Saturday, October 19 - November 2, 10:00am - 7:00pm

- San Ysidro Public Safety Room, 372 Highway 4, San Ysidro, 87053

Election Day Voting in Sandoval County

Tuesday November 5, 7am - 7pm for all locations

Rio Rancho (municipality)

- Broadmoor Senior Center, 3241 Broadmoor Blvd NE, Rio Rancho 87144
- Cielo Azul Elementary School, 3804 Shiloh Rd NE, Rio Rancho 87144
- Community of Joy Lutheran Church, 841 Saratoga Dr NE, Rio Rancho 87144
- Cornerstone Community Church, 2003 Southern Blvd SE, Rio Rancho 87124
- Eagle Ridge Middle School, 800 Fruta Rd NE, Rio Rancho 87124
- Joe Harris Elementary School, 2100 10th St SE, Rio Rancho 87124
- Martin Luther King Jr Elementary School, 1301 Nicklaus Dr SE, Rio Rancho 87124
- Mountain View Middle School, 4101 Montreal Loop NE, Rio Rancho 87144
- Our Lady Queen of Angels, 1701 Tulip Rd SE, Rio Rancho 87124
- Plaza @ Unser Market-lace, 701 Unser Blvd SE Unit A12, Rio Rancho 87124
- Puesta Del Sol Elementary School, 450 Southern Blvd SE, Rio Rancho 87124
- Rio Rancho Elementary School, 4601 Pepe Ortiz Rd SE, Rio Rancho 87124
- Rio Rancho Middle School, 1600 Loma Colorado Blvd NE, Rio Rancho 87144
- Rio West Business Center, 103 Rio Rancho Blvd SE Suite B1, Rio Rancho 87124
- Sagebrush Plaza, 7555 Enchanted Hills Blvd NE, Rio Rancho 87144
- St. Francis Episcopal Church, 2901 Cabezon Blvd SE, Rio Rancho 87124

3 Sovereign Navajo Nation Chapters in Sandoval County

- Counselors Chapter House, 9828 Chapter House Road 14, Counselors 87018
- Ojo Encino Chapter House, 1435 Starlake Road, Ojo Encino 87013
- Torreon Chapter House, Highway 197 Mile Marker 26, Torreon 87013

7 Sovereign Pueblos in Sandoval County

- Cochiti Pueblo Hahn Center, 90 Cochiti St, Cochiti Pueblo 87072
- Jemez Community Resource Center, 129 Canal St, Jemez Pueblo 87024
- Sandia Pueblo Community Center, 481 Sandia Loop, Sandia Pueblo 87004
- Santa Ana Pueblo Wellness Center, 225 Ranchitos Rd, Santa Ana Pueblo 87004
- San Felipe Pueblo Head Start, 10 Meadow View Rd, San Felipe Pueblo 87001
- Santo Domingo Pueblo Community Center, 134 Tesuque St, Santo Domingo Pueblo 87052
- Zia Pueblo Community Center, 135 Capital Square Dr, Zia Pueblo 87053

Bernalillo (municipality)

- Bernalillo High School, 148 Spartan Alley, Bernalillo 87004
- Bernalillo Senior Center, 801 Rotary Park Rd, Bernalillo 87004
- El Zocalo/Salazar Building, 264 S. Camino Del Pueblo, Bernalillo 87004
- Sandoval County Admin Building D, 1500 Idalia Rd, Bernalillo 87004

Corrales (municipality)

- Corrales Recreation Center, 500 Jones Rd, Corrales 87048
- Sandia View Christian School, 24 Academy Ln, Corrales 87048

Cuba (municipality)

- Sandoval County Fairgrounds, 37 Rodeo Rd, Cuba 87013

Jemez Springs (municipality)

- Jemez Valley Community Center, 8154 Highway 4, Jemez Pueblo 87024

San Ysidro (municipality)

- San Ysidro Public Safety Room, 372 Highway 4, San Ysidro, 87053

Unincorporated Areas of Sandoval County

- Algodones Elementary School, 1399 Hwy 313, Algodones 87001
- La Cueva Volunteer Fire Station, 122 Twisted Juniper, La Cueva 87025
- La Jara Volunteer Fire Station, 108 County Rd, La Jara, 87027
- La Madera Volunteer Fire Station, 826 Faith Dr, Sandia Park 87047
- Peña Blanca Community Center, 778 Highway 22, Peña Blanca 87041
- Placitas Community Library, 453 Highway 165, Placitas 87043
- Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Department, 4252 Highway 290, Ponderosa 87044

Torrance County:

Lists of polling places can be found online at

www.torrancecountynm.org/departments/county-clerk

Early Voting in Torrance County

- Torrance County Administrative Office, 205 S. 9th St, Estancia 87016:
Monday - Thursday, October 8 - 31, 7:30am - 5:30pm (**Closed** Monday October 14)
Friday, November 1, 7:30am - 5:30pm AND Saturday, November 2, 10:00am - 6:00pm
- Moriarty Civic Center, 202 Broadway Ave, Moriarty 87035:
Tuesday - Saturday, October 19 - November 2, 10:00am - 6:00pm

Election Day Voting in Torrance County

Polls will be open Election Day Tuesday, November 5, from 7:00am to 7:00pm.

- **Duran:** Duran Community Center 15 Vidal Street, 88301
- **Encino:** Encino Community Center: 427 B North Main St, 88321
- **Estancia:** Estancia High School Gym: 709 Hopewell, 87016
- **Manzano:** Manzano Community Center: 04 Community Center Rd, 87036
- **McIntosh:** McIntosh Senior Center: 79 Willow Lake Rd., 87032
- **Moriarty:** Moriarty Civic Center: 202 Broadway Ave, 87035
- **Moriarty:** Moriarty/Edgewood Admin Bldg: 2422 US Route 66, 87035
- **Mountainair:** Dr. Saul Community Center: 111 N. Roosevelt Ave, 87036
- **Tajique:** Tajique Community Center: 8636 Hwy 55, 87016
- **Torreon:** Torreon Community Center: 18 Torreon Heights Rd, 87061
- **Willard:** Willard Community Center: 520 N. Becker Ave., 87063

Valencia County:

Early Voting in Valencia County

Valencia County Administration Offices, Bureau of Elections, 444 Luna Ave, Los Lunas 87031.

October 8 - 18, Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm (**Closed** Monday October 14) AND

October 19 - November 1, Monday - Friday, 10:00am - 6:00pm AND

Saturday November 2, 10:00am - 6:00pm

Monday - Saturday, 10am-6pm, from October 19 - November 2

- Belen Community Center, 305 Eagle Lane, Belen 87002
- Bosque Farms Public Library, 1455 W. Bosque Loop, Bosque Farms 87068
- Pueblo of Isleta Veteran's Center, 4001 Highway 314, Los Lunas 87031

Election Day Voting in Valencia County

7:00am - 7:00pm, Tuesday November 5 at

Belen

- Belen Community Center, 305 Eagle Lane, Belen 87002
- Belen Public Library, 333 Becker Ave, Belen 87002
- Del Rio Senior Center, 351 Rio Communities Blvd, Belen 87002
- Logsdon Hall, 19676 Hwy 314, Belen 87002

Bosque Farms

- Bosque Farms Public Library, 1455 W. Bosque Loop, Bosque Farms 87068

Jarales

- Don Jose Dolores Cordova Cultural Center, 426 Jarales Rd, Jarales 87023

Los Lunas

- Ann Parish Elementary School, 112 Meadow Lake Rd, Los Lunas 87031
- Century High School, 32 Sun Valley Rd, Los Lunas 87031
- El Cerro Mission Community Center, 309 El Cerro Mission Rd, Los Lunas 87031
- Los Lunas Schools Administration, 119 Luna St, Los Lunas 87031
- Meadow Lake Community Center, 100 Cuerdo Ln, Los Lunas 87031
- Pueblo of Isleta Veterans Center, 4001 Highway 314, Los Lunas 87031
- UNM-Valencia Workforce Training Center, 1020 Huning Ranch East Loop SW, Los Lunas 87031

Peralta

- Town of Peralta, 90A Molina Rd, Peralta 87042

Tome

- Tome Dominguez de Mendoza Community Center, 2933 Hwy 47, Tome 87060


FEDERAL OFFICES

U.S. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

- Kamala Harris and Timothy Walz** Party: Democrat
- Laura Ebke and Trisha Butler** Party: Liberal Party USA
- Robert F Kennedy, Jr and Nicole Shanahan** Party: Declined to Select
- Chase Oliver and Mike Ter Maat** Party: Libertarian
- Jill Stein and Rudolph Ware** Party: Green
- Donald J Trump and JD Vance** Party: Republican
- Claudia De la Cruz and Karina Garcia** Party: Party for Socialism and Liberation

U.S. SENATOR

This person represents New Mexico in the United States Senate. The Senate has 100 members, two from each state. Candidates must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States for at least nine years, and a resident of the state from which elected. Senators are elected statewide for staggered six-year terms. One New Mexico seat is up for election in 2024.

| | <i>Why do you want to run for this seat?</i> | <i>What are the most important issues facing Congress in the next two years?</i> | <i>How would you address them?</i> | <i>What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding immigration?</i> |
|--|--|--|--|---|
|  <p>Martin Heinrich Democrat</p> | <p>As your Senator, we've passed legislation to deliver unprecedented investments for our children, our working families, and our seniors in New Mexico. Because of these investments, we've begun to see costs for things like groceries and prescription drugs go down and our economy grow, I'm running for reelection to the Senate because we still have more work to do, from tackling climate change to expanding access to health care to ensure that every New Mexican has the opportunity to thrive.</p> | <p>If reelected, my priorities will be to grow rural economies, reduce costs for New Mexico families, raise workers' wages, expand access to health care, protect the rights of workers, and tackle climate change while creating high-quality jobs.</p> | <p>We should build on the Inflation Reduction Act, Infrastructure Law, and CHIPS and Science Act that we've passed into law and New Mexico is starting to feel the impacts of. The Inflation Reduction Act is bringing jobs to rural New Mexico, especially in clean energy manufacturing. The Inflation Reduction Act also lowered costs for prescriptions for seniors on Medicare and is making health insurance more affordable. The Infrastructure Law is bringing billions of dollars to New Mexico to rebuild roads, bridges, and energy infrastructure, and the CHIPS Act is bringing thousands of good paying jobs to expand manufacturing and strengthen our national security. Now it's time to ensure every New Mexican can access the benefits of these historic laws.</p> | <p>We need solutions, not political stunts. We need to tackle the huge backlog of lawful immigration, so it doesn't take years for a person's paperwork to be processed. And we need to invest in smart border security technology that detects and stops drugs like fentanyl before they get into our communities. We need to staff and support the law enforcement agencies at our border that are helping to maintain our national security and efficiently process cross-border trade with our largest trade partner, Mexico. We need more pathways for skilled immigrants eager to fill labor shortages in industries with severe workforce shortages, like agriculture and health care. And we need to finally ensure DREAMers have a swift path to full citizenship.</p> |
| <p>Nella Louise Domenici Republican</p> | <p>No Response Received</p> | | | |

CANDIDATE'S RESPONSES AND WORD LIMITS: The responses of candidates to our questionnaire are printed exactly as received by the League. The League assumes no responsibility for the content of any candidate's reply. Further, the League publishes this information neither to endorse or reject the views of any candidates. The League has in no way edited the meaning, grammar, punctuation, or spelling. Because of space restrictions, the Leagues has pre-advised the candidates of the word limits on the responses.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

This person represents New Mexico in the United States House of Representatives. The House has 435 members elected from districts based on population. New Mexico is entitled to three members. Candidates must be at least 25 years old, a United States citizen for seven years, and must be a resident of New Mexico. Representatives are elected by district for a two-year term.

Why do you want to run for this seat?

What are the most important issues facing Congress in the next two years?

How would you address them?

What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding immigration?

DISTRICT 1



Steve Jones
Republican

To use my financial accounting background to prevent the bankruptcy of the US government.

Spending & debt control. Navigating the dangerous geopolitical conflicts.

Propose legislation; Limit debt to a percentage of GDP and Participate in congressional delegations to stabilize our position

Create a document to compare and contrast our immigration policies with Mexico and insist on uniformity. Mexico is the key to meeting the desire for economic opportunity for immigrants within Mexico.



Melanie Ann Stansbury
Democrat

I am running to continue serving New Mexico in Congress because as a New Mexican that has spent my life working on land, water, and community issues—I am committed to serving our state and ensuring our communities' voices are heard in Congress. Every day, we are working to tackle our biggest challenges and working to build a more equitable and sustainable future.

This means building our economy and jobs and investing in roads, broadband, and water. It means investing in rural healthcare and behavioral health, education, and public safety. It means protecting our lands and waters, showing up for our communities, respecting and caring for our veterans, elders, and children, and ensuring every New Mexican can live with dignity and opportunity

In the next two years Congress must tackle the urgent issues of: (1) cost of living in housing, food, healthcare, and education, (2) protecting of our democracy and rights, and (3) tackling climate change and opportunity.

On costs—we must tackle the housing crisis, lower the costs of food and energy, and ensure everyone can access healthcare and education.

On protecting our rights—we must protect a woman's right to choose, voting rights, and other rights impacted by the courts, address corruption in government, and restore faith in our democracy.

For our future—we must ensure historic investments we passed over the last three years continue to transform local economies and create new jobs and opportunities for our children.

Every day my office is working to achieve these goals by:

1. Building our economy—delivering millions in infrastructure, creating new jobs, and investing in our ag, science and tech, and rural economies.
2. Investing in our people—delivering millions for public safety, fire, housing and homelessness, fentanyl and addiction programs, rebuilding schools and healthcare clinics, and services for veterans.
3. Protecting our lands and waters—with legislation for tribal, acequia, land grant and public lands and investments in climate and clean energy.
4. Reforming government—with bills to reform the courts and ensure transparency.
5. Celebrating and lifting up New Mexicans—by celebrating our histories, cultures, traditions and ways of life.

We need bipartisan immigration reform. For decades Congress has failed to act, including last year when GOP leadership killed a bi-partisan immigration package that would have invested millions in manpower and technology to address border and fentanyl issues. While there was bi-partisan support for the bill, it was killed for political and not substantive reasons. With millions of lives on the line, the political games must stop.

We must pass comprehensive reform to address border security issues and to provide a clear pathway to citizenship, to protect Dreamers, reform our asylum system, and ensure our policies respect human dignity and reflect our values as a nation. As a nation, our diversity is our strength.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

Why do you want to run for this seat?

What are the most important issues facing Congress in the next two years?

How would you address them?

What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding immigration?

DISTRICT 2



Gabriel Vasquez
Democrat

I am running for re-election because there is still a lot of work to do for our community. Now more than ever, we need to protect reproductive rights, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, veterans, tribal communities, teachers, students, and our public lands. I want to run for this seat specifically because I am so proud to have been born and raised in the borderlands. I am proud to call Las Cruces my home and will continue to dedicate my career to fighting for my community.

Extreme Republicans prioritize petty politics over common-sense solutions. Actual governance is the biggest issue facing Congress, impacting women's reproductive rights, inflation, affordable housing, immigration and border security, which are top issues for Congress to solve. My constituents are concerned about the economy, access to clean water, affordable broadband and quality healthcare, including women's reproductive healthcare. Unlike my opponent, who sponsored legislation to restrict abortion access, I firmly believe in a woman's right to choose. I am tired of this district being left behind because Republican Leadership continues to put politics over people. We must keep this district blue and take back control of the House in 2024.

We address them by working across the aisle, delivering common sense policies and always sticking to our values. Since my first day serving in Congress, I have prioritized putting forth bipartisan, common-sense solutions that would have strong support if Republican Leadership brought it to the floor. However, because extremist Republicans are prioritizing messaging bills for the 2024 election over solutions, progress will always stagnate. By prioritizing the well-being of our constituents over partisan politics, we can overcome the challenges ahead and ensure a brighter future for all residents of our district.

Congress has not delivered meaningful immigration reform in over 40 years. Republicans prefer to use immigration as a political tool. I'm in Congress to provide solutions, not play partisan games. That is why I started the Bipartisan Southwest Caucus and have introduced bipartisan legislation that addresses our broken immigration system and the challenges we face at our border to: stop cartels and coyotes' ability to harm local communities; implement better technology and more staff to stop the flow of fentanyl; create pathways to visa reform for farm workers and enable immigrants working in critical sectors to remain and work legally here; hold detention centers accountable and prevent them from cultivating inhumane conditions.



Yvette Herrell
Republican

I am running because I feel a responsibility to serve the citizens of New Mexico's Second Congressional District. As I visit with voters across the district, too many do not feel represented in Washington, DC. I represent a return to the commonsense conservative values that made our country strong: fiscal sanity, personal responsibility, free markets, secure borders, and safe communities. If elected, I will always put the citizens of New Mexico first and do everything in my power to help make our state a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Lowering the cost of living and securing the border.

Inflation was created by out of control federal deficit spending. I support a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution to ensure that the federal government lives within its means just like New Mexico families must. Our national debt is \$35 trillion and growing - this is totally unsustainable and must be addressed for the sake of future generations who will face the consequences of our nations' addiction to debt. Millions of illegal immigrants have entered our country under the Biden Administration, significantly more than the entire population of New Mexico. We must crack down on asylum fraud, end the practice of catch and release, reinstitute in Mexico, and complete the border wall.

Again, we need to reimplement the Remain in Mexico policy, end catch and release, and complete the border wall. We need to reform our broken asylum system to ensure prompt deportation of the vast majority of illegal immigrants who do not qualify for asylum. We also need to see that those selling, transporting, and poisoning the American people with fentanyl and other dangerous drugs are held accountable and face serious consequences for their acts. Once we get the border secure and under control, Congress should turn its focus to reforming our broken legal immigration system to make it simpler for qualified immigrants to enter legally and have the opportunity to live the American Dream and make our country stronger.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

Why do you want to run for this seat?

What are the most important issues facing Congress in the next two years?

How would you address them?

What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding immigration?

DISTRICT 3



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Democrat

Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God's plan is for us to prosper, have hope and a future. My job in Congress is to help create that prosperity, hope and future for NM by creating opportunity and investing in hard-working families. I'm running for reelection because I want to continue to fight for our communities. In Congress, I have secured billions in funding for infrastructure, broadband, manufacturing; millions for community projects, including clean water projects; invested the most in rural America since the New Deal; passed the largest climate investments in U.S. history, and lowered prescription drug prices. I represent New Mexicans, regardless of party, and I know that together we can build a prosperous, hopeful future for us all.

We must expand access and bring down energy and health care costs. We must address income inequality where the wealthiest CEOs and corporations don't pay their fair share. We must make housing affordable so our families can live in the communities they love. We also face a grave threat to our democracy as the Republican presidential candidate has denied election results, proclaimed he would be a dictator on day one, and would seek revenge on political opponents. We must protect women's freedom to reproductive health care. Women need health care, not handcuffs. We must also address Social Security to ensure the promise we have made to working Americans who have paid into the system is kept for generations to come.

I'd lower healthcare costs by expanding prescription drug caps, increasing access to healthcare in rural NM, and strengthening the Affordable Care Act. The wealthiest and corporations must pay their fair share and we must make the Child Tax Credit permanent. I've introduced a Home Of Your Own Act and funded homeownership programs for NM. To protect democracy and voting rights we must pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the key provisions in it I authored for tribal voters. I cosponsored the Women's Health Protection Act and will fight Republicans' attempt to enact a federal abortion ban. I cosponsored Social Security 2100, which would have the wealthiest pay Social Security taxes, increase benefits, and keep the program solvent.

We need to reform our broken immigration system, which includes strengthening the security of our borders and providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and law-abiding undocumented workers currently in our country. Reforming our immigration system would be a \$1.3 trillion dollar benefit to the US economy. My first year in Congress the House passed on a bipartisan basis the American Dream and Promise Act and the Farm Worker Modernization Act, and the No Ban Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion. Sadly, extreme Republicans blocked these bipartisan measures and recently House Republicans and Trump killed another bipartisan border deal. We need solutions not political maneuvering on this important issue.



Sharon E Clahchischillage
Republican

There is a lack of representation in preserving the voice and livelihood of New Mexico constituents from out of touch politicians and failed leadership,

Inflation, over regulation, decline of quality education, affordable and available health services, effective land management, water and agricultural advocacy and the funnel orchestrated by the progressive agenda, at the border.

Advocate for minimizing over regulation, shutting down the border, and only allowing for strict, vetted legal immigration. This will stop illegal human and drug trafficking that are destroying New Mexico's communities.

Address the laws regarding the border and enforce them.

NEW MEXICO STATE DISTRICT OFFICES

STATE SENATOR

Represents a district in the New Mexico State Senate, which has 42 members. In odd-numbered years, the legislature meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call for special sessions. Senators sponsor and vote on "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their districts, and serve on legislative committees. Positions are unpaid, except for per diem expenses. Elected for a four-year term.

| <i>What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?</i> | <i>What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?</i> | <i>What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?</i> | <i>What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?</i> |
|---|--|--|--|
|---|--|--|--|

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 9 - Bernalillo, Sandoval



Cindy Nava
Democrat

I am the first former DACA recipient to be appointed by the White House, where I served as Senior Policy Advisor to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, supporting 64 field offices, implementing innovative methods to address homelessness, and engaging in ongoing Tribal partnership. I have 20 years of policy experience, from affordable housing to education. I have also lived all the policies I advocate for. It's not theoretical for me. Policy is how we change lives.

My top priority is that everyone in our state has access to the New Mexican Dream, without the obstacles that I have overcome to attain it. That means expanding affordable housing programs, recruiting and retaining talented health care professionals to provide access to high quality healthcare, and transforming our educational system to the top-notch system our children deserve, from early childhood to public elementary and secondary schools to trade schools and universities.

To improve water policy and actions, we need only to look to New Mexico's elders and ancestors: that means protecting and funding acequias and implementing strong water quality policy to protect the water from pollution. We also need to work collaboratively with surrounding states to ensure that we as a region are protecting our water supply and using water responsibly.

Safe neighborhoods and communities are a key priority for me. Gun crime is out of control and we must implement common sense gun safety reforms, like waiting periods, age requirements and capacity bans. We also need to prioritize better funding for mental health and problematic substance use treatment, including both outpatient programs and residential programs. Finally, we need continued training, staffing, and funding support for law enforcement.



Audrey Trujillo
Republican

I have an MA in Public Admin. BA Criminology, BA Spanish/Portugues, and have been very active in my community in the public and private sectors. I have volunteered for our community in numerous positions including the Parent Teacher Assoc. (PTA) as the President/ Treasurer as well as the Parent Teacher Org. (PTO) President. I am a small business owner and director of the Corrales Mentor Center (CMC) I organized community anti-bully seminars for the public. Most importantly I love NM citizens.

My top priority is keeping my community safe. I plan to partner with our local law enforcement to address the issues and establish a fiscally responsible plan to ensure safety measures have the necessary funding needed to combat the different problems faced. Task forces and other ideas will be looked at in more detail as well as seeing what is working in different areas similar to ours. I also want to build our economy by attracting new small businesses by eliminating gross receipt tax & reg.

I am a firm believer in protecting our waters and making sure our drinking water is safe for our citizens. I would like to see more testing and the standards be raised to ensure our citizens are drinking healthy water.

I believe our first responders and police should have the proper equipment and technology to help them do their jobs. I also would like to see more community engagement in combating crime through public awareness programs and neighborhood watch groups. Finally I believe that keeping a clean well taken care of community, keeps crime down. Pride in a community is very powerful.

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 10 - Bernalillo, Sandoval

Rudy B Mora
Republican

No Response Received



Katy Duhigg
Democrat

I am an attorney, a policy wonk, and have been involved in policy development in New Mexico for many years. I am the Chair of the Senate Rules Committee and Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I frequently help folks craft or re-write legislation so that it meets those Committees' exacting standards, and avoids unintended consequences, while achieving the policy goals that are sought.

Right now my top priority is ensuring that New Mexicans have affordable, accessible, high-quality healthcare. In the 2024 Session I passed the Healthcare Consolidation Oversight Act, and am spending the interim working with stakeholders -- the Supt. of Insurance, medical providers, patients and patient advocates -- to evolve this essential oversight that New Mexico has lacked until now. Voting rights, education, public safety, and addressing climate change are also priorities of mine.

Water is a sacred resource, and I am very concerned about the projections I am hearing about water availability in the not so distant future. We should be working with climate scientists to take action now, should be incentivizing agriculture that does not use large amounts of water, and need to continue guarding against policies that prioritize profitability over sustainability.

We need to address root causes of crime like poverty, and substance abuse, but we also can't wait 20 years for results. In the mean time, we need to invest in evidence-based approaches -- not window dressing. Too many of the "solutions" that are pushed these days are things that data shows do not actually change behavior. When we waste our time on things that are not effective, that takes critical funds and energy away from approaches that can actually make a difference.

STATE SENATOR (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 11 - Bernalillo



Linda M Lopez
Democrat

During my tenure as State Senator for Dist 11, I have sponsored legislation addressing: limited resources of water; environmental justice issues; issues affecting our acequias/land grants; a fair, equitable and transparent election system via a paper trail for voters in 2006; equitable public education to include students with learning disabilities; assuring access to women's reproductive health care; safety against domestic violence/sexual assault; investing in community to prevent crime.

There are several issues to continue working on: access to healthcare services, access to mental health services, affordable housing/rent, gun safety, drug rehabilitation services, public safety, domestic violence, sexual violence, safety for children. Systems of support need to be rebuilt and given priority via legislation and funding.

NM must update it's laws that protect access to water; hold those who are polluting water accountable; develop a statewide conservation plan; develop a public education plan on water conservation; fund efforts by State Engineer to finish adjudicating water rights. Attention must also be placed on housing/business developments to follow water conservation plan (local government buy-in is needed).

Improving public safety is a continual process. Education/training must happen in all sectors of our community. Police are not the only ones responsible for public safety. We must work on reducing domestic violence/bullying. We must invest in mental health and drug rehabilitation programs. Share information on who/where to call for intervention. Support programs that offer intervention for families in need of services. Public safety is a system that needs support/interaction/funding.

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 12 - Bernalillo



Phillip Ramirez
Democrat

I am currently the Vice Chairman of the construction commission for CID representing the GB 98 contractors. I will bring the knowledge from this commission to the State. I will use my construction experience to fight for trades. I currently run our family small business which has given me the tools and education to fight for small businesses.

Bringing trades into the school curriculum. If we get with local unions, AGC and ABC to streamline education and start training during the Junior year of high school this will give these young adults the ability to start a career at a higher pay. I would work with public education systems to bring diverse classes to the high school setting. increase the budget for public educators to higher local trade teachers to teach during the day.

As a UA member and signatory UA local 412 contractor, I was invited by the union to meet for the water conservation coalition. We discussed the implementations of capturing rain water and reusing it for irrigation and grey water for toilet fixtures.

Work with local and state law enforcement entities to discuss the laws that need to be changed to support their efforts on reducing crime. Work on the state budget to find money to help recruit more people to become sworn officers. Provide incentives for added behavioral education and degrees. Work with community members to ensure that the public safety needs are met.



Jay C Block
Republican

USAF (ret) Lt Col/combat veteran trusted with our nation's nuclear codes. I commanded on foreign soil representing our country partnering with our allies on national security issues. I am also a leader in private industry leading teams & business development efforts helping grow our market from two dozen employees to 200. Lastly, I am currently serving on the Sandoval County Commission, implementing policies helping the county/Rio Rancho become the fastest growing and safest place for families.

My top priority is public safety. NM was just named the most dangerous place to live, we need strong leaders in Santa Fe to pass stronger criminal laws that actually keep people in jail instead of putting them back on the street putting people at risk. I firmly believe if we had bail, stop catch & release, had harsher laws for violent criminals/drug dealers, tougher judges & better programs to treat mental health/substance abuse, our crime rates and homeless problem would decrease significantly.

New Mexico must invest in desalination like other states have successfully done. We are blessed with huge aquifers across the state that can transform our agriculture, ranching and mining industries. This is a huge opportunity that integrates with economic opportunities that will help enable and grow our rural areas, providing a much-needed boost to our farmers and ranchers who are struggling today.

We must pass tougher laws holding drug dealers/violent criminals accountable. We are tired of seeing multiple news stories of repeat criminals committing crimes & becoming more aggressive because of catch and release. Too many businesses have shut their doors due to high criminal activity leaving our state and we lose those jobs. Lastly, we must provide police officers incentives to stay on the job and other incentives to recruit qualified officers due to the current shortage in law enforcement.

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 13 - Bernalillo



M Debbie O'Malley
Democrat

In the early 1990's, I came together with my neighbors to force the environmental clean-up of the contaminated groundwater and soil in the Sawmill District left over by negligent industry. Later, I was the founder and first executive director of the Sawmill Community Land Trust, a nationally recognized affordable housing community. As a City Councilor and Bernalillo County Commissioner, I have successfully championed public projects and policies to uplift families and neighborhoods.

My top three priorities include reducing crime and gun violence, reducing homelessness and creating permanently affordable housing. Public safety and affordable housing are further addressed in subsequent questions. Regarding homelessness, more investment in transitional, immediate housing with wrap-around services is needed such as the proposed Palletshelter Recovery Village in partnership with the City and County.

We need clear, strong policies that prevent "produced water" from contaminating ground water used for agriculture, livestock and human consumption. We also need policies that assure those established communities--like the Village of To'hajille--has access to clean drinking water. It has taken over a decade for this native Village to gain access, and it was only through the threat of condemnation for easements on private land that this pipeline is finally under construction.

In addition to providing law enforcement with the tools they need to prevent gun violence and other crime in our neighborhoods, we also need to provide resources for families to succeed--from early childhood and youth support services to access to affordable housing, drug abuse treatment and mental health programs.

STATE SENATOR (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 14 - Bernalillo



Michael Padilla
Democrat

Growing up in extreme poverty, foster homes, and with various family members, it taught me to understand the importance of working for the community. I am a father with grown children who have obtained masters degrees, who also work for the community. I am a business owner that has created thousands of jobs in different parts of NM. I have served in the state senate for twelve years, including in leadership as majority whip for five years. I have passed legislation that directly impacts poverty.

My top priority is to eliminate poverty in our state. I am doing this through the passage of legislation that proactively affects early childhood education. I and others created a new department of state government that positively impact children from birth to five and prepares them for K-16 education. For the issues related to poverty today, I passed the legislation called the Hunger Free Student Bill of Rights (2017) and University Free Breakfast and Lunch for all (2023).

A requirement for water management and conservation for all children prior to graduation. I have introduced this legislation but have not been able to get it passed yet.

I am in favor the governor's crime package and would support a special session to pass it and fund it. This legislation strengthens penalties while balancing services.

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 15 - Bernalillo



Heather Jean Berghmans
Democrat

I am running because public service is one of the most impactful ways to improve the lives of children, women, and families, and because unethical leaders must go. Over the past five years, I've collaborated with lawmakers to pass legislation on abortion rights, gun violence prevention, climate, healthcare, voting rights, education, labor rights, and more. I want to use my experience to lead in reducing crime and homelessness, improving education, increasing access to healthcare, and more.

It's been my experience that top-of-mind issues for voters in the city today are the increased number of people experiencing homelessness, school and neighborhood safety, housing affordability, healthcare access, and childcare/elder care. A top priority is housing. Addressing housing issues requires affordable solutions for homeowners and renters, governmental cooperation to reduce homelessness, establishing trust funds for renters, and streamlining construction processes for residential units.

Fully funding executive branch agencies working on water issues is imperative for securing New Mexico's future amidst water scarcity concerns. Establishing a dedicated office within the NM Environmental Department is crucial. Adequate legislative funding is essential to support these programs effectively. In response to the 2023 Sackett v. EPA case, New Mexico should reinstate pre-ruling protections at the state level, especially for surface water.

I support efforts to reduce violence, retail, and property crime, and combat the fentanyl crisis. I support sensible gun safety laws like assault weapon bans and red flag laws. Collaboration with law enforcement and government entities is critical for swift justice. We must prioritize full funding and support for frontline defenders and preventive programs like the Violence Intervention Program. As a legislator, I'll push to fund such initiatives and evidence-based behavioral health programs.



Craig Degenhardt
Republican

Have been Project Manager, NGO President, Neighborhood Association President, Lived and worked around the world with many cultures and societies . I have successfully completed engineering, architectural, cultural, projects by working with people showing the benefits of cooperation and striving for a common goal. Together we can reach compromise for the betterment of our State. This is what I can bring to the citizens of NE Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico.

1. Protect our Children via CFYD overhaul
2. Give the homeless a hand up not a hand out
3. Reduce Crime by helping increase Law Enforcement
4. Protect our border humanely
5. Improve Economy by bringing into the State companies with good paying jobs
6. Improve our Education system, limit number of days yet increase Teachers pay, not administrators.
7. Eliminate Property Tax for Seniors paperwork burden.
8. Term Limits for Pollical Offices
9. Tell me how I can serve YOU!

Save our Water, Cover Acequias and Arroyos when there is water in them to reduce the evaporation factor. Encourage water reclaim from roof tops. Encourage a reduction of water usage during showers and baths. Have businesses and municipalities reduce water usage, Restock our aquifers. Attempt to renegotiate our water agreements.

Increase the number of Law Enforcement personnel, Increase the pay for Law Enforcement . Remove the revolving doors at our Prisons

STATE SENATOR (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 16 - Bernalillo



Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Democrat

I have served in this position since January, 2019. I am a former law professor and executive director of a domestic violence agency. I am a graduate of UNM and obtained my law degree at UCLA.

I have twin priorities, the well being of residents of this state and the well being of our environment.

We need aggressive water saving approaches and sophisticated and smart water allocations. We need to prevent water pollution and wasting of clean water.

We have greatly increased funding for our law enforcement agencies and the justice system. We need to ensure it is used to create robust effective systems. We also need to address the root causes of violence and threats to public safety.

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 17 - Bernalillo

Mimi Stewart
Democrat

No Response Received

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 18 - Bernalillo

Kurstin S Johnson
Republican

No Response Received



Natalie R Figueroa
Democrat

I have been a State Rep for HD 30 since 2019; I am Vice Chair of the Government, Election & Indian Affairs Committee and a member of the Appropriations Committee. I have taught in public schools for over 30 years and have been department chair and a master teacher. I have unique insights into the challenges and assets of our state and will continue to speak for families and especially our youth. I have a BA from Stanford Univ. with distinction and an M.Ed. from UCLA.

Education will always be a priority for me as a lifelong teacher. I know the future of my students depends on improvements to our educational system and also on the stability and growth of New Mexico's economy. Toward that end, I have worked to improve broadband infrastructure across the state, and will continue to prioritize further improvements. Public safety is also a priority for all New Mexicans, and requires complex, sustained solutions. Modernization of the legislature is also a priority.

New Mexico has aging water infrastructures, in some areas at the point of collapse. Now is the time, while our revenues are high, to address our water infrastructure needs and plan for the future. Water planning needs to be part of every project, and we must incentivize reducing water use. In addition, restructuring our capital outlay process to vet and prioritize big projects would help us accomplish some of these necessary infrastructure changes.

Again, this is a complex issue that must be addressed with both short and long-term action on multiple fronts. Public safety is improved when New Mexicans in financial and medical crises have safe shelter, food, and access to care. In the long term, New Mexico must address critical shortages in behavioral health services, affordable housing, educational equity, and a diversified economy. In addition, improve our criminal justice system to shorten the time awaiting trial and reduce recidivism.

STATE SENATOR (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 19 - Bernalillo, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Torrance



William Burton Scott
Democrat

As a veteran of the Army for over 22 years, I understand that a state senator is not only a leader but a servant to the constituents. I'll endeavor to be an effective communicator to listen then articulate the district's needs. My decisions are information based after analysing complex issues, and I always look for win-win outcomes that will bring about a positive change.

High violent crime and poor economic conditions are so interlinked that they are not separate issues. New Mexico needs solutions to prevent the conditions that draw people into violent criminal behavior. I pledge to revitalize community policing, improve the criminal justice system, encourage business in New Mexico, affect universal provision of high-quality childcare that is affordable for all, rebuild the link between economic prosperity and wages, and rehabilitate victims of drug abuse.

Implementing comprehensive water policies is crucial to ensure sustainable water management. First, water conservation is crucial. It should include public awareness campaigns, incentives for efficient water use, and regulations promoting water-saving technologies. Next, water management should include clear and fair water rights system that ensures equitable distribution and sustainable use that consider factors like population growth and the local ecosystem changing needs.

Community policing brings about improved public safety in many ways. When law enforcement takes the approach to build strong bonds between police officers and the community they serve, it helps to build trust and cooperation. Policing strategies then can address specific needs of the community, focus on the root cause of security concern, and work with community members to develop preventive measures. This collaborative approach leads to increased crime reporting and safer environments.

Ant L Thornton
Republican

No Response Received



Catherine Ann McDivitt
Libertarian
(write-in)

I am an American citizen. I was educated in parochial schools in grade school and public high school and college. I completed my college degree in a scientific field of study (nutrition) and was employed in medical services for my whole working career. I have adapted to the tech explosion from dial telephones and letter writing to satellite instant communication. I pride myself in competency, truth and commitment.

As a senior New Mexico citizen, personally I am frustrated by the mediocrity of medical services here. I have had four primary care doctors in the last 6 years move away and then had to wait 6 months for a different provider. This is unsatisfactory. Having lived in other states, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Texas, I know firsthand that their medical services are superior to New Mexico. Retaining the current doctors plus attracting more physicians to our state is top priority.

No additional policies are needed. In fact, getting government out of the way would almost certainly improve people's access to water.

We all suffer when public safety systems fail. Like education, we suffer a failing grade for the Albuquerque police department. The state legislature must fix the laws to protect our law enforcement officers instead of making them scapegoats for a failed court system.

STATE SENATOR (Continued)

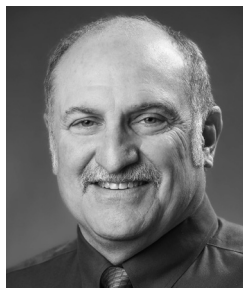
What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 20 - Bernalillo



Wayne A Yevoli
Republican

I am a small business owner with 24 years operating an engineering firm in New Mexico. I have worked in all parts of the state and understand its diverse people and cultures.

My top priorities for my role as senator is working with others in my party and across the aisle to introduce bills on housing and tax reform. The state does not have enough affordable housing for its citizens and the current tax climate in NM is detrimental to small business.

NM has a limited water supply and careful usage and re-use measures must be reviewed and moved forward. In addition, our state has many deep water aquifers but are too salty to use with out treatment. We need to utilize this water and recharge existing aquifers for continued reuse. This will need broad support from the legislature and the state engineers office.

Public safety is paramount to a free society and with the migrant crisis, homelessness and the lack of police in our state has made crime rampant. We need to elect public officials to take a tough on crime approach and pass meaningful legislation to end the revolving door.



Martin E Hickey
Democrat

4 year incumbent; mother was chair of League of Women voters for state of Illinois and home town multiple times; on legislature fully experienced in all aspects of healthcare and its financing and inter-relationships; 40 years as Physician Executive and CEO of health systems, hospitals, medical groups and health plans

Mental health and addiction; crisis in medical provider shortage (I started the Medicaid payment increases and will continue to pursue); economic development for better paying jobs.

Not my area of expertise but a lot of research into what is practical and doable

Build and staff rehab facilities and housing with case management while "patients" are in ambulatory programs; supplement addiction treatment with professional mental intervention. Increase pay for police and prosecutors and judges, encourage police to finish college degree and provide scholarships.

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 21 - Bernalillo



Athena Ann Christodoulou
Democrat


I was the committee analyst for the 2023 NM House Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources committee. I'm an energy and environmental engineer, but policy and people minded. Retired Navy Commander, tech entrepreneur, member of Sierra Club, and former president of NMSEA, I have been in/co-organized: Clean energy, environment, and RE day in Santa Fe as well as made public comments elsewhere, including the Air Quality Board, NM Environmental Improvement Board, EPA, PRC, and ABQ Journal.

Transition NM to pollution-free energy by being on the Finance Committee to monitor 2023 SB 26 to free NM from O/G revenues and give us healthier air, water, and food. Fully fund NMED and EMNRD and give our state land office as much say over oil and gas leasing of state public lands as they wield over RE leases. Institute immediate limits on methane leaks and wasted \$ since it is over 150 times worse than CO2. Stop subsidizing polluters at the cost of New Mexicans' health and welfare. G+HST

Create a NM Water Dept. Gather all stakeholders including acequias, MRCOG, agriculture, State water engineer, Interstate Stream Commission, NMED & EMNRD. Designate produced water as a hazardous waste. An environmental engineer, I see our biggest efforts still need to go to reducing fossil fuel emissions. Otherwise water might become cost prohibitive for a large population and agriculture. I'd seek help from experts like Norm Gaume and Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates. mrgwateradvocates.org

Public Safety is a top priority. Our governments must collaborate in diverting our youth toward success, address mental illness and drug addiction, enact gun safety laws, change police tactics and tech to catch the guilty, yet still protect 2nd graders AND our 2nd Amendment rights. I would sit down with BCSO, AG, our DA and others involved to craft any such legislation and focus on protecting our law-abiding citizens. But FYI, hotter temperatures mean hotter tempers and increased crime. G+HST


STATE SENATOR (Continued)

| | <i>What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?</i> | <i>What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?</i> | <i>What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?</i> | <i>What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?</i> |
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|  <p>Nicole L Tobiassen Republican</p> | <p>I have been a leader in business for 25 years. The last 16 years I have coached business owners and their teams throughout New Mexico. I challenge the status quo in business models for a living and help the owner and key stake holders identify challenges and opportunities that require innovation and change to move the team and organization towards their short and long term goals, while living their mission and fulfilling their vision. I want to take these skills to improve NM for all.</p> | <p>I am passionate about growing our economy by improving and innovating our public education system, making sure our youth are exposed to different career paths and are able to graduate high school with real life job training, certifications and/or college courses. I want to bolster our community centers where all ages can participate in activities, sports and adult learning. I want to incentivize Dr's to return to NM and serve our communities and address the many challenges facing our medical sys</p> | <p>Obviously as we grow, water conservation is paramount. We need to be proactive in this area to ensure we have an efficient long term plan to address changing needs, with changing annual precipitation rates. We also need to balance this with preserving property and water rights.</p> | <p>This is a huge area of concern for all New Mexicans. The Arnold Tool needs to be evaluated in its original form(we only use 2 of the 3 categories) or its use discontinued to end catch and release. We need tougher legislation for criminals and robust preventative programs that address the root causes of crime in our communities.</p> |

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 22 - Bernalillo, McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Sandoval

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| <p>Benny Shendo, Jr Democrat</p> | <p>No Response Received</p> | | | |
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STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 23 - Bernalillo

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| <p>Terry Lynne Aragon Republican</p> | <p>No Response Received</p> | | | |
|  <p>Harold James Pope, Jr Democrat</p> | <p>As a retired Air Force Officer with over 20 years of service, I bring leadership, strategic skills, and servant leadership to this position. I have attained three Master's degrees and I am a strong advocate for education, veterans' issues, and public safety. My legislative experience, community engagement, and commitment to public service make me well-qualified to continue representing my constituents effectively and push for meaningful change.</p> | <p>My top priority is the improvement and expansion of Paseo del Norte Blvd. I recognize its vital role in easing traffic congestion, enhancing safety, and supporting economic growth. I am committed to securing additional funding and resources on top of the millions we have already secured to advance this critical infrastructure project. A well-developed Paseo del Norte Blvd is essential for the prosperity and quality of life for constituents and the entire region. Ground breaking will be soon.</p> | <p>Water is a precious and limited resource that is vital for survival, agriculture, and the environment. Prioritizing its use for drinking water, farming, and maintaining healthy ecosystems is essential for long-term sustainability. Our communities rely on clean water for daily life, and our agricultural economy depends on it to grow food. Ensuring that water is allocated first to these critical areas helps protect public health, supports local economies, and preserves the natural environment.</p> | <p>Improving public safety requires investing in education and youth programs to support at-risk youth, addressing social determinants like poverty and housing, and fostering community policing to build trust. Enhancing substance abuse prevention and treatment is essential, as is providing robust reentry programs to reduce recidivism. By tackling these root causes and promoting community well-being, we can create safer, more inclusive environments and prevent crime before it occurs.</p> |

STATE SENATOR (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 26 - Bernalillo



Antonio "Moe" Maestas
Democrat

I have 25 years of legal experience and I have 18 year experience serving in the legislature. I was trained as community organizer and advocate at Seattle's El Centro de la Raza and was a union factory worker at night while going college. I have been a practicing lawyer for 25 years. I served as a violent crimes prosecutor at the Bernalillo County DAs Office and know how criminal laws intersect with our law enforcement agencies. I know how to get things done and a track record to prove it.

The overwhelming priority is the economy and producing high paying jobs in our communities. 24% of our children live below the federal poverty line. Generations of poverty beat down on a community, contributing to disfunction, despair and other social ills. With the billions of dollars in surplus we need to make dramatic changes to grow our economy.

I had the honor of studying with the great Al Utton at UNM Law School. He taught me that no matter how difficult the problem was, humans can solve it. We need to do a complete audit and economic analysis about our entire water supply. All water fights must be clearly established and preserved. Our entire water statutes need to be revisited and modernized so the state engineer, interstate steam commission, local water trust boards and conservancy districts can do their jobs effectively.

We must adequately fund our criminal justice systems to ensure people are held accountable with swift & certain justice. As one of only 3 former prosecutors in the legislature, I have passed, Expungment law; outlawing solitary confinement for mentally ill; legalizing medical cannabis; legalizing hemp; & removing court fees. I have also written and passed our sex offender notification laws; made the prison time for 2nd degree murder fit the crime; and passed our organized retail crime statute.

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 29 - Bernalillo, Valencia



Tina R Garcia
Democrat

As a past elected County Clerk, Magistrate Judge and an appointed School Board member, I have vast experience in the challenges and the opportunities within my district. I have a lifelong commitment to this county and would like to continue to see it thrive for future generations.

Crime, Education and the Economy are my top priorities. I will work with local county governments and government leaders to find sensible solutions. Communicating with these stakeholders is crucial. They know what they need to make our students thrive and what assistance they need well protecting our community. Teachers need to be respected and heard and school districts need help funding their various successful programs. I will also be fierce in defending our right to vote.

The Land of Enchantment is beautiful, however we have a water crisis. I will learn as much as I can about this topic. I will listen to the people that have knowledge about what we need and I will listen to what the public supports. This district has a vast farming and agricultural landscape and they need to be heard.

Listen to Law Enforcement and what they need. Making new laws may be necessary, however funding those laws and giving agencies what they need when laws are passed, needs to be addressed. Courts and Law Enforcement agencies work with various other supporting stakeholders doing their best to assist communities with very little money. Treatment, counseling, pre trial programs and Probation need help in holding people accountable when laws are broken.

Joshua A Sanchez
Republican

No Response Received

No Response Received

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 30 - Cibola, McKinley, Socorro, Valencia



Angel M Charley
Democrat

I bring a wealth of experience in executive leadership, advocacy, community engagement, and lived experience that make me well-suited to serve in this office. My tenure as the former Director of the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women sharpened my skills in managing a large-scale organization and overseeing substantial budgets, ensuring fiscal responsibility and leading transformational changes for Indigenous survivors of systemic oppression.

Our district has significant needs, and I aim to champion all of these issues in the legislature. Some of the most urgent priorities are the lack of jobs and economic opportunity, the lack of accessible healthcare, the rising costs of groceries and gas, and the critical need to protect our water. As Senator, I'll advocate for economic growth, healthcare access, transportation solutions, and rural infrastructure investment for our district.

In New Mexico, we need policies to manage water resources effectively. Concerns about water-bottling companies in Valencia County highlight the need for community involvement in water decisions. I'll oppose actions that exploit shared resources without local input and advocate for ensuring safe water access across the entire state, protecting these vital supplies for future generations.

I will focus on fully funding education and expanding healthcare services, including mental health and addiction treatment. I advocate for better infrastructure and economic opportunities in rural areas, ensuring equitable service access. Additionally, protecting natural resources and guaranteeing clean drinking water are crucial for community health and safety. My background in advocating for women and children's safety through policy reform highlights my commitment to these priorities.

STATE SENATOR (Continued)

What prior experience and/or education have prepared you for this position?

Why are you running for this position?

What would be your priorities for the next session?

What, if any, changes to New Mexico's tax structure would you support?

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 39 - Bernalillo, Lincoln, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Torrance, Valencia



Elizabeth Liz Stefanics
Democrat

Liz Stefanics is serving in her 3rd four year term as a NM State Senator. Her district is primarily rural and covers parts of 6 counties. She served 8 years as a Santa Fe County Commissioner. She has experience in state government at the Human Services Department, the Risk Management Division, the Health Policy Commission; as Higher Education faculty; and in nonprofit management.

I am running for this office to continue serving my constituents and the state of New Mexico. I believe that the experience I bring to the position allows further dialogue about the issues. No issue is black and white. While I can support an initial position, there are issues which can be successful with negotiation.

I have several issues that I will work on for my constituents - health care accessibility, reduced pharmacy costs, tax benefits, environmental protections, renewable energy, water protections/planning, and many more.

I continue to support working family tax credits, and the child tax credit. I would support changes to the tobacco and alcohol taxes. Protections for low income working and for middle income individuals and families.

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 40 - Sandoval



Amina N Everett
Democrat

25 years of public service in State and Local government managing people and programs.

Public Infrastructure and quality of life related to water access and sustainability. Work with all relevant leadership to get funding for ICIP (Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Plan) for Rio Rancho.

Recycling of surface water in conjunction with replenishing the underground aquifer

Support and enforce responsibility for gun security and safety.



Craig W Brandt
Republican

I have submitted and passed several bills to help our schools and our community. I understand the rules of the Senate and have successfully argued the rules many times. I actually read every bill before I vote on them. I was an analyst and know where to look and what to look for to try to stop bills that have unintended consequences that hurt our state.

The crime in our state has gone beyond a critical point. We must keep criminals behind bars and enforce all our laws to protect our communities. I bought a crime package last session and will continue to do so until the majority party decides to take crime seriously. Our RICO statute is horrible. I have worked with the AG, Governor and DA's Association to fix our RICO law only to have the Democrats not schedule it for a hearing in Judiciary. How much crime do we have to endure, BEFORE THEY ACT?

I think if the City of Albuquerque would quit wasting water by overwatering and watering outside of recommended hours, that would be helpful. Our Federal Government has over planted our forest to the point that the water doesn't break through the canopy. We should look to the Mescalero Apache Tribe to learn how to manage our forest for our climate.

Support our law enforcement not attack them. Make sure criminals are held accountable for their crimes. Go after the organized crime groups that are destroying our state. Take human trafficking seriously. Close the border so that fentanyl doesn't keep flowing into our state. Provide the communications equipment and other equipment that our front line officers need.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE


Represents a district in the New Mexico House of Representatives, which has 70 members. In odd-numbered years, the legislature meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call for special sessions. Representatives sponsor and vote on "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their districts, and serve on legislative committees. Positions are unpaid, except for per diem expenses. Elected for a two-year term.

| <i>What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?</i> | <i>What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?</i> | <i>What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?</i> | <i>What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?</i> |
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 7 - Valencia

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| <p>Tanya R Mirabal Moya Republican</p> | No Response Received | | |
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 8 - Valencia

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|--|---|--|--|---|
|  <p>Brian G Baca Republican</p> | <p>I have served three years in the legislature. I am currently on the House Education and House Appropriations and Finance</p> | <p>My focus areas are education, public safety, economy, and infrastructure to name a few. I will advocate and support efforts to address these areas that affect our families and communities</p> | <p>Water is a valuable resource for New Mexico, we need to conserve what we have and continue our work with brackish water</p> | <p>Adequately funding our local fire and police departments and adopt laws to end the revolving door and keep dangerous criminals off the streets</p> |
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 10 - Bernalillo

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| <p>G Andres Romero Democrat</p> | No Response Received | | |
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 11 - Bernalillo

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|  <p>Bart H Kinney, III Republican</p> | <p>I'm a native of Albuquerque and have witnessed our general decline. I'm a decades long small business owner and Board Member and leader of many charitable organizations over the years. I seek measured solutions to problems and have always worked in collaborative settings.</p> | <p>Crime. Many things can be done legislatively to roll back the effects of our current pre-trial release rules. I would support stronger penalties for crimes committed with a firearm. I would like to tighten the rule for those mentally incompetent to stand trial, and abolish the "Arnold Tool". I support involuntary mental health treatment, especially for repeat offenders and will support increased funding to provide those mental health resources to those that need assistance.</p> | <p>I believe we need more balance on our water policies and actions. In the City of Albuquerque, we have landscaped hundreds of thousands of acres with rock creating a noticeable increase in our Urban Heat Island, which simply forces citizens to use water in different ways. There's room for discussion about increasing turf areas allowed and allowing more planting of trees to help shade our properties.</p> | <p>Public Safety in New Mexico is a dumpster fire. Criminals are treated with more compassion than their victims. Our crime rates have skyrocketed since we passed Constitutional Amendment 1, which on it's face, was a reasonable amendment and passed by 90% of citizens. The rules published by the NM Supreme Court subsequent to that amendment have created the revolving door that now defines our Justice System. We must pass legislation that addresses the shortcomings in the Judicial Rules.</p> |
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?



**Javier I
Martinez**
Democrat

I've worked as a social impact lawyer for 14 years and a community organizer for 22 years. I've also served in the State House for the last 10 years helping lead the fight for higher wages for workers, creating more access to affordable and quality healthcare, expanding the child and working families tax credits, and helping make NM the first state in the country to guarantee access to early childhood education in its constitution. I now serve as the Speaker of the House.

Building state budgets that are equitable and just, and that bring needed resources to all communities. In addition, continuing to build a more equitable NM by ensuring access to reproductive healthcare, quality education from cradle to career, and improving public safety. Also, we must continue the work of diversifying our economy and continuing to build opportunities for a renewable energy future.

We need reforms and updates to water policy and plans to ensure the needs of farmers, individual consumers, and economic development opportunities are met.

Continue to support upstream strategies like access to early childhood education, housing, and behavioral health services, as well as proven programs like violence intervention programs, law enforcement recruitment and retention, and supports for local governments to enforce the laws that are in the books. Furthermore, we need to ensure that the most dangerous criminals are held accountable - fully funding the judiciary would be a good step forward.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 12 - Bernalillo

**Art
De La Cruz**
Democrat

No Response Received

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 13 - Bernalillo



**Patricia A
Roybal Caballero**
Democrat

I am the Incumbent, an accomplished and experienced legislator with the proven track record of over eleven years introducing and passing legislation signed into law.

Paid Family and Medical Leave, Living Wage and Gun Safety legislation are my top priorities. I intend to build on the years of coalition work, and strengthen relationships to see these to the finish line and into law in 2025.

We need to ensure we have water policies which address keeping our water safe and clean from contaminants so we need to strengthen all regulations and continue to ensure our oversight departments have adequate funding.

We need to have strong gun safety legislation, ensure our law enforcement departments have adequate funding, and provide access and opportunity to mental and behavioral health and continue to address root causes of crime.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 14 - Bernalillo

**Konnie L
Legried**
Republican

No Response Received

**Miguel P
Garcia**
Democrat

No Response Received

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 15 - Bernalillo



**Dayan 'Day'
Mercedes
Hochman-Vigil**
Democrat

I will be a fourth term incumbent with experience chairing a major committee in the New Mexico House of Representatives.

Responsible and climate friendly infrastructure expansion, as well as public safety improvements and expansion of mental and behavioral health resources.

We need to implement Governor Lujan Grisham's 50 year water plan.

We need to expand and simplify access to mental and behavioral health resources, incentivize law enforcement hiring and retention, bolster funding for both the district attorney and law office of the public defender, and codify changes to the pre-trial detention services algorithm to better predict recidivism.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 16 - Bernalillo



**Yanira
Gurrola
Valenzuela**
Democrat

I am a career educator and spent the majority of my years teaching math in an APS Title I public school, where I was also a Department Chair and union leader. Before I immigrated to Albuquerque, I was an engineer in Mexico. I have lived on the Westside for more than 15 years, and bought my home in the district in 2008. I have served in the State Legislature since 2023 where my background and skills are a benefit, especially as we strive to diversify our economy and strengthen STEM education.

From what voters tell me, reducing crime, gun violence, and homelessness are top priorities. I support proven strategies to prevent crime: neighborhood policing, drug treatment, and more police officers; and I will champion gun safety legislation like regulating "ghost guns". To reduce homelessness, we must continue to invest in evidence based mental health and substance abuse programs to address some of the root causes of homelessness and commit to creating more affordable housing.

We live in a desert and have been experiencing decades long drought. We must plan now for our water future. Following up on a legislation that I sponsored last session, I'm working with organizations and issue experts to develop water legislation focused on harvesting and conservation, including the use of gray water. We need to invest in infrastructure for rainwater capture, promote drought-resistant landscaping, and encourage water-saving technologies.

Improving public safety is a priority for me. I support and I have worked for increasing funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment, implementing evidence-based crime prevention strategies, and strengthening gun safety laws. We need to improve coordination between law enforcement, community organizations, and local government.



**Leland Benwood H
Bohannon**
Republican

A 25-year career in the US Air Force, commanding at various levels, has taught me what it means lead with conviction, learn from others, and follow through. I have learned it takes a team to accomplish the most important things for a community. My ability to listen well and collaborate with others even when we don't see eye to eye is something that can bring new and better answers to our Legislature for the problems we face.

It's the economy-prices at the grocery store, low wages, and over taxation have hobbled economic growth. We can change that by electing people to office who will reform the tax structure to bolster small businesses and encourage big business investment. We can foster entrepreneurship, drive down prices, and boost job creation by reforming the gross receipts tax; attracting Fortune 500's to anchor innovative start-ups; and focusing education for in-demand skills.

Water, Power and the Economy are linked. Follow El Paso's lead in mapping deep underground brackish aquifers for untapped water sources. Plan investment for desalination to provide water for advanced manufacturing (new jobs). The current administration wants to divert water for hydrogen production for electrical power generation. Balance it with building/installing small modular nuclear reactors-a stable, safe, reliable, zero-carbon power source and emerging industry sector.

Mental health and drug abuse are major underlying drivers for non-violent crime-it's a statewide problem that needs private/public partnerships to solve. Better training and resourcing to expedite the end of the APD DOJ consent decree. Judicial reform to end catch-and-release laws and reestablish bail for repeat offenders. In 2023 ABQ had the highest fatality rate per miles traveled. More police presence is needed to stop reckless drivers from killing innocent New Mexicans.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 17 - Bernalillo



Joshua Taylor Neal
Republican

As a Civil Engineer, I design, plan, and oversee construction of infrastructure projects like roads, commercial centers, and residential neighborhoods. My job requires strong attention to detail, critical thinking skills, and problem solving skills to analyze site conditions, ensure compliance with regulations, and collaborate with various stakeholders - all while staying on budget. My skills as an engineer are crucial for addressing the multifaceted challenges facing our state.

Many families do not have hope for a future in NM. High violent crime, poor education, and unaffordable housing drive families away. My top priority is to make NM a place where families thrive. We've got to end catch and release and hold violent criminals until their trial. We need School Choice, so that every kid can go to good schools - no matter their zip code. And we need to invest in infrastructure - creating jobs, building houses, and laying the foundation for economic growth.

NM is not prepared for water shortages. We need robust drought preparedness and response plans to mitigate the impacts of droughts on water availability, agriculture, and ecosystems. Additionally, NM needs \$3.3 billion to shore up drinking water infrastructure. I support conservation programs, water reuse and recycling, aquifer recharge projects, & investing in infrastructure like dams, reservoirs, and irrigation systems to help improve water storage capacity and distribution efficiency.

We have all been affected by crime. We need to end catch and release, keeping violent criminals behind bars until their trial. We also need to take a harder stance on organized crime. Let's put more bite into theft penalties and go after groups looting stores, stealing catalytic converters, etc. And finally, let's go after drug dealers and stop them from selling fentanyl on our streets.



Cynthia D Borrego
Democrat

I bring over 28 years of experience in city and county planning, coupled with two years as an incumbent in the State Legislature. My background includes serving on key committees such as Legislative Pensions & Investments, Advisory Tax, and Housing, as well as holding leadership roles like Albuquerque City Council President and ABC Schools Board Chair. My educational background in Public Administration and Education, a small business owner and flood control board member

Reduction of crime. Fund Police, provide support for training, equipment and new technology. Encourage and expand Community Policing in local communities, so that neighborhoods know and work with their police officers. Fund Afterschool Yourh Programs, and work with &engage our youth in the community. I'll work to increase affordable housing, reduce grocery costs, protect access to abortion services, and secure more funding for public schools, ensuring every child gets a quality education.

New Mexico must adopt a comprehensive water management strategy that addresses future population growth and climate challenges. I advocate for policies that emphasize conservation, efficient water usage, and the protection of our water sources. Encouraging xeriscaping, utilizing native landscaping, and exploring new technologies for water conservation and reuse will be critical. We should also focus on capturing and repurposing stormwater to meet future demands.

Improving public safety requires a balanced approach that combines law enforcement support with community engagement and preventative measures. This includes providing necessary resources for our police, such as funding for advanced training and technology, while also promoting community policing strategies that involve local residents in safety initiatives. Addressing the root causes of crime, such as poverty and lack of opportunity, through targeted youth programs and mental health resources

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 18 - Bernalillo



Marianna A Anaya
Democrat

I'm proud to run on experience, having passed a variety of legislation through the years as an organizer and policy advocate. I've led legislative efforts to repeal the 1969 abortion ban, pass the Voting Rights Act, expand the Human Rights Act and led the coalition to pass Paid Family and Medical Leave. I've taken on some of the biggest battles in the roundhouse and I'm proud to have the endorsement of Representative Gail Chasey and Planned Parenthood Votes NM to be the fearless leader we need.

I'm committed to reducing poverty in our state, having come from a family that has faced it for generations. It's time we raise the minimum wage and pass Paid Family and Medical Leave to ensure families that are facing a crisis have access to economic stability. I plan to join my colleagues in the House to push for universal basic income, which is currently a pilot project for families in some of our lowest income schools where students have some of the highest rates of absenteeism.

First, we must conserve the limited water we have. Since the Supreme Court gutted The Clean Waters Act, we, as a state, must ensure that the Environment Department is supported and funded to temporarily oversee water permitting while we work toward a permanent, coordinated, statewide water permitting system. In addition, we must enforce greater oversight and accountability measures on extractive industries for the harm caused to our community, land, water and wildlife.

I'm proud to have the Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense Distinction and look forward to supporting a ban on assault weapons and raising the age to purchase firearms to 21. Equally important to public safety is addressing homelessness in a practical and compassionate manner that honors the dignity of unsheltered people while working diligently to provide more housing facilities with wrap-around services. Oversight is critical to resolve the safety issues we have within our current shelters.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

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What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 19 - Bernalillo



Janelle I Anyanonu
Democrat

I am excited to continue my work fighting for District 19. In my first term in the legislature, I sponsored bills to codify abortion and gender affirming care for all New Mexicans, increase the minimum wage, curb predatory practices by insurance companies, and provide a tax credit for people buying electric vehicles. I support violence intervention programs, housing access, and access to nutritious food. I proudly serve on the Commerce and Government committees.

Housing, housing, housing! The top issue in our city is the lack of housing at every level; affordable housing, transitional housing, affordable rentals, and the hurdles for families trying to purchase single-family homes. These problems must be addressed creatively in a multi-pronged approach. From funding and expanding down-payment assistance programs, to helping otherwise qualified renters with prior credit problems, my focus in the upcoming session will be a kitchen sink approach to housing.

Water is our most precious resource and I am encouraged that water legislation is being talked about in definite terms. As a state, New Mexico must prioritize conservation and the noncommercial use of water.

Everyone deserves to be safe in their communities, at their businesses and in their homes. In order to achieve that goal, we must focus on the root causes of crime. Much of that revolves around people with mental health and substance abuse problems. Addressing those problems requires rebuilding and expanding behavioral and mental health infrastructure. It also involves amending our trial diversion programs to get people who can be helped into treatment rapidly.



Leanna K Derrick
Republican

As a researcher, I analyze data and compile comprehensive reports. I look for information and detail that tells a story and then create presentations to inform the public on policy and governmental affairs. I read proposed legislation and testify during the legislative session. I have numerous years of experience researching public education policy to understand what systems can be improved to help our youth thrive in the classroom, gas and oil energy policy, and voting and election law.

In my district, I want to see the right kind of economic development for our community. That starts with supporting small business owners to stay in business and create jobs for the community. That means less taxation. It also means that order to thrive, we must increase policing and help homeless off the streets so that we have safe thoroughfares to and from the Kirtland Air Force Base, safety for people to enjoy the State Fair grounds, and auto row in the International District.

In regard to drinking water, we must ensure that water sources for all drinking water are clean, safe, and available especially in rural communities. This means that there must be affordable funding and technical assistance for well testing and more opportunities for water reclamation and water treatment. We must continue to push for fair water rights as a state for our farmer's along the Rio Grande. As a Native American, my culture understands that water is life.

New Mexico must protect our southern border from invasion. Our open border policies have allowed for over a million undocumented aliens to disappear within our own borders. The current policies are allowing for illegal drug trafficking and with that also comes the trafficking of women and children into the sex trade. We must have the resources to lawfully provide immigration services for people who desire to become citizens and strict policies for against criminals from foreign lands.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 20 - Bernalillo



Tracy Major
Republican

My background includes being a wife, a mother, a veteran, a foster parent, and a former small business owner. I understand the importance of fiscal responsibility, the need for effective resource allocation, and the ability to navigate complex regulations. I'm also experienced in managing difficult tasks and working collaboratively with others. I'm committed to leveraging my skills and experience, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and fostering an environment conducive to economic growth.

My district is my number one priority. Immigration, economy, taxation, crime, and education are all important, critical and inter-dependent factors to a thriving community. I plan to address each with a practical, problem solving approach to promote accountability and ensure that any policies I advocate for are fair and equitable for all.

Water is a critical resource in New Mexico. Several studies show we are unable to sustain the current resource use model. We need to fund further studies and characterization of available water sources, including brackish water, and draft responsible plans for appropriate development and use. We cannot afford frivolous or ineffective legislation. It must be sensible and science-based.

Police are often the first responders. We need to equip and empower officers, and expect them to act on crime. Additionally, allocating sufficient resources for mental health professionals to work alongside police officers can provide a more holistic approach to addressing the underlying issues. Lastly, we must enforce existing laws, and stop Catch and Release. We must ensure that those found guilty of a crime are held accountable for their actions.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

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What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?



Meredith A Dixon
Democrat

To be successful in the legislature, one must work together and be collaborative. During the past four years in which I have represented House District 20, I have proven my commitment to progress over partisanship and have demonstrated my ability to work together for change. In addition, I am focused on solving problems, serving my constituents, and making informed policy decisions all of which, I believe, are essential.

My top priorities are increasing public safety, diversifying our economy, and improving child well-being in New Mexico. These, like many issues, are intertwined.

Water security is one of the most critical issues facing New Mexico and our state must continue to invest in opportunities for water conservation, water efficiency, and water reuse. Second, our budget can support the development of water infrastructure and leverage federal funds. Finally, the state should encourage, through our universities, laboratories, and private partners, the research and development of water technologies that will safeguard, manage, and expand our precious water supply.

Improving public safety requires a holistic approach from tackling systemic causes, to ensuring swift and certain justice. I have fought for record investments in housing, behavioral health care, and proven poverty-reduction programs to tackle the root causes of crime. In addition, I have spearheaded efforts to establish the law enforcement recruitment and retention fund. Moving forward, we must continue to invest in these programs, but also evaluate programs' effectiveness and impact.



John Douglas McDivitt
Libertarian
(write-in)

I have experience in both the public and private sectors as a naval officer and defense contractor as well as a career as a financial consultant. I have been able to work with a diverse group of people over the years to help set priorities and accomplish goals accordingly. My time spent in government service has given me a real appreciation for what the government should do and most importantly what it should not do. I am a huge believer in using government as a last resort not the first.

My top priority is to make retiring in New Mexico something most Americans will want to aspire to. We already have nearly unbeatable weather and a more reasonable cost of living. What we now need is better health care infrastructure and improved public safety. Removing taxes on services will help with the first and placing a higher priority on recruiting and training law enforcement officials will help with the second. The courts must be firmer with repeat criminals and incarcerate them.

The politics of water has cost New Mexicans dearly for decades. It's time to let the free market determine the rationing of water resources.

This is a problem that should be dealt with at the city and county level. The legislature should listen to the input from county sheriffs and city police chiefs and fashion legislation appropriately.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 21 - Bernalillo



Debra Marie Sarinana
Democrat

I was a high school & middle schools math school teacher for 20 years, my background helps me with Education issues. I have been on the Energy Committee for 8 years and have learned much about Gas and Oil and water issues. These are areas that I carry bills for. I have been on the Finance & Appropriations committee for 4 years. I have learned much on how money is allocated to the different agencies and how to get money for specific causes. I support military & veterans due to my AF background.

My top priority this year is climate change when it comes to water use and how our land, water and air is being polluted. I will be carrying a setback bill to keep any new extraction sites at least a miles away from schools, a leaks and spills bill to hold the gas & oil industry accountable, and I will have a water bill allowing the gas & oil industry to use only 5 percent fresh water. NM is in a mega drought, 5% times 70,000 wells is a lot of NM fresh water being made unuseable by gas & oil.

We need to moderize our water infrastructure, protect ground water health both in water quality and quantity, and we need to moderize administrative practices for water. Most of all we need the Legislature to FUND and make water issues a priority in the next legislative session. We need to make sure the agencies that deal with all our water have the capacity they need to do their jobs.

We have great leadership in the Public Safety arena, but funding and capacity is where improvement needs to be made. We need to increase community policing efforts and invest in crime prevention programs. We need to enhance and fund access to mental health services addressing socioeconomic factors contributing to crime. We need to implement effective gun control measures & utilize technology for surveillance & crime prevention. We need to foster trust between law enforcement and the communities.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

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What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 22 - Bernalillo, Torrance



Stefani Lord
Republican

In 2024, I funded over 35 projects and invested \$2,500,000 into our community, including road repairs and paving in the East Mountains. I ensured that Bernalillo and Torrance County law enforcement and firefighters received vehicle and facility improvement funding. Other funded projects include drain improvement, stormwater construction, updated water and sewer systems, open spaces, East Mountain Baseball Complex, EM Food Pantry, the Vallecitos Senior Center, and more.

Crime, Border Security, Constitutional Rights/Second Amendment, CYFD. Bills I Presented: HB 44 - Pretrial Detention Presumption to keep the worst of the worst in jail, HB 111 - New Mexico Border Barrier to address human trafficking, drug smuggling, the fentanyl crisis, and guns crossing the border, HJR 3 - Requirements for Bail Denial, and I supported HB 193 for Law Enforcement Retention. My bill, HM 3 - Prenatal Substance Abuse Task Force, was passed and signed.

New Mexico has historically experienced water shortages, some more severe and prolonged than others. There has been a long legislative history of Water Conservation to oversee water rights, ensure new water sources, and explore ways to reduce demand. As elected officials, our top priority should be to protect and conserve our limited water resources.

Retain and recruit law enforcement and ensure they are adequately funded. Hold criminals accountable and keep them off the streets. Address the fentanyl crisis. Secure the border.



Fred Ponzlov
Democrat

The ability to work with others who may have different views than my own. I'm a strong proponent of listening to others and compromising with those I disagree with.

Providing better access to healthcare for everyone, especially those residing in rural areas. There is a worldwide shortage of healthcare professionals, and New Mexico is not exempt from that shortage's impact. HD22 has fewer healthcare facilities, per capita, than most of the state.

We need to expand on the concept of sharing vital water resources through local boards to ensure that every New Mexican has a sufficient supply. Grant assistance for farmers to use less wasteful below-ground irrigation instead of spraying into the air, which results in more evaporation.

Our law enforcement agencies need to be fully funded and supported, but should employ more mental health professionals to reduce the need for armed confrontations.

Zachary P Withers
Declined to Select Party

No Response Received

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 23 - Sandoval



Alan T Martinez
Republican

Before being elected in November 2022, I was the legislative director for the New Mexico Department of Veteran Services for 15 years. I was able to build a consensus of both Democrat and Republican legislators to pursue and pass legislation that provided policies and benefits for veterans and their families that they earned by serving our country.

My top priority is protecting small business and creating an atmosphere that is conducive to establishing and growing small business through common sense policies that encourage entrepreneurs who are willing to sacrifice everything to grow their businesses and provide jobs. The backbone to any thriving economy is small business and I want to make sure that state government rewards that spirit instead of putting up roadblocks that discourage the entrepreneurial minded person.

New Mexico has to protect it's water and work towards an overall policy that allows for population and business growth while balancing the protection of our natural resource.

Criminals must be held accountable. The "Bail Reform" constitutional amendment that was passed a few years ago was extremely vague and what people thought would be a good thing turned out to be a disaster. Supporting law enforcement must be more than words, actions like calling for the defunding of police has caused more harm to recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers. I supported and fought for the a statute that allows for retention bonuses for officers to help retention.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

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**Frank James
Smith, Jr**
Democrat

I am a third generation New Mexican, raised in Albuquerque and a graduate of UNM. I bring the leadership skills that learned while serving honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps. I have used these skills as a small business owner and in over 20 years in business management. I hope to bring those same leadership qualities to the state legislature.

My top priority is to ensure that the needs of military Veterans are fully met. New Mexico has the second highest percentage of Veterans per capita in the US yet we only have a handful of Veterans serving in the state legislature. Even with respect to military Veteran issues, partisan politics can interfere with good legislation. I plan to address these issues by working tirelessly to help bridge divides to promote Veteran and other issues to help build a United New Mexico.

Over 3/4 of New Mexico's fresh water goes to irrigated agriculture. I support working with growers to explore efficient water usage through things such as incentivizing agriculture to adopt efficient use of water like precision irrigation, growing more drought resistant crops and conservation measures such as repairing leaks. We also need to capitalize on available federal infrastructure money.

To address public safety we must work to keep dangerous individuals off the streets, keep guns out of the hands of those who would do harm to others and increase penalties for violent offenders. We must also address some of the root causes of criminal behavior such as substance abuse, mental health, poverty and education. To do so will require the work of legislators, the judiciary, law enforcement and community leaders working together.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 24 - Bernalillo



**Elizabeth L
Thomson**
Democrat

I have served nearly 10 years in the NM House, including as Chair of the Consumer and Public Affairs and as Chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee. I have served on a variety of nonprofit boards, including disability oriented, tech in healthcare, and early childhood. I have over 35 years as a pediatric physical therapist. I have carried, and passed, many Bills to help New Mexicans, including issues such as lowering drug prices, enshrining ACA protections in State law, and more.

Making healthcare, including behavioral health, more accessible, and affordable for all New Mexicans. This will include recruiting and retaining an adequate workforce, using a variety of Strategies, such as loan forgiveness, tax breaks, and allowing all professions to practice to the highest level of their licensure. We also must support healthcare providers so that the decision to practice in NM doesn't bring added bureaucracy and headaches.

Water is not my area of expertise, but I do know, that water is life. We must care for and protect all waters in New Mexico. I would support any measures, that reserve our freshwater for Human and animal use, instead of for fracking or industrial use. I will listen to the water experts, both in the legislature and outside.

We are not going to jail our way out of our current situation. Instead, we need to get to the root of our current state of affairs. These include poverty, untreated behavioral health, and substance use disorders. A recent study shows that NM is only able to meet about 19% of our behavioral health needs, and the national average is right around 26%. We need to vastly improve these numbers. The NM Legislature has taken steps to address these needs, but much more work is needed.



**David J
Daffron**
Republican

I have two business degrees and held a CPA license for 30+ years. I've worked in business management as CFO, VP, and Board member. A career in business left me with well-rounded management, leadership, and pragmatic problem-solving skills. My wife Sandra and I went through public schools in Albuquerque, and we've lived in the district the last 35 years. Sandra taught math and science. A generation of young ladies know her as "Miss Sandy," an instructor at Alwin's School of Dance.

Our education system is rated the worst in the nation. Neither teachers or lack of funding is the problem. Effective school districts abound in the surrounding states. I will call for a task force of professional educators to benchmark nearby states with similar social issues and develop a reasonable fact-based program to address the root causes of our dysfunctional system. I support laws that allow school choice, homeschooling, and the use of public funds for private education.

As CFO for an engineering firm that did water projects, and another that operated wastewater treatment plants, and yet another that treated frack water, I am familiar with the issues. I insist the state do a better job of objectively and transparently prioritizing among water projects. I support water re-use and recycle programs. I do not support a recent proposal to throw \$500 million dollars at the matter. Nor do I support water rationing for business, agricultural or residential use.

The legislature (and the city of Albuquerque) routinely pass laws which make it difficult to arrest, hold, prosecute, and incarcerate criminals. Consequently New Mexico rates among the most crime-ridden and dangerous states in the USA. Passing these laws was legislative malpractice. I will work to overhaul the criminal justice system by repealing every pro-criminal, anti-police law on the books and then pass reasonable common-sense legislation focused on the safety of law-abiding citizens.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 25 - Bernalillo



Denis Litvinenko
Republican

Life experience, leadership experience, experience achieving things, experience fighting for things I believe in, both in war and martial arts. This is my first time running for office, but there is a first time for everything, and somebody has to do it.

This year, CNBC ranked New Mexico as the 43rd best state for doing business. We need to ease business regulations to make our state more competitive. Because if we do not have a good economy, how can we afford to pay for everything else?

Water shortage is caused by weather change. I support Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's 50-year water action plan to reduce water waste.

New Mexico law enforcement agencies are WAY understaffed. We need to provide more benefits for, and a more aggressive recruitment of future cops. We also have to guarantee Qualified Immunity not just for police, but for first responders in general. Our lives may depend on the actions of people who protect us, and these people have to take risks when making split-second decisions. We need to ensure that these people can afford risks and not get scapegoated when mistakes happen.



Cristina S Parajon
Democrat

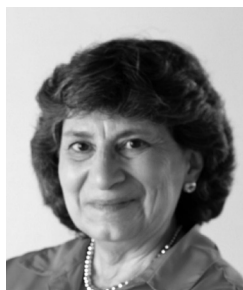
Born in Albuquerque, I love my State deeply. My parents taught me the values they learned as UNM Lobos, working not "on" or "for" but "with" the community. I've brought this value to the work I led at the City and State on some of the largest projects on homelessness and healthcare. I am committed to my community, which is why I came back home after receiving a BA at Harvard and an MA in Economics and Business made possible by scholarships. It would be my honor to continue representing you.

With over 350,000 New Mexicans facing housing instability, the housing crisis affects us all. It is up to us, the community and decision-makers to craft policy with data, humility, and intention. One 2016 study by UNM revealed that for every \$1 our City invests in housing someone, we earn back \$1.78. Plus, once housed, almost 90% stay housed for more than a year. The smartest way to solve homelessness is housing through voucher programs or by building more affordable housing.

I would ask groups like ABCWUA and the Middle Rio Grande Water protection groups to lead on real actionable plans that directly relate to their communities. Additionally, our state agencies, such as the Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission, need resources to get their jobs done- including updated technology to collect the right data. Finally, measures that protect our water no matter what happens at the federal level.

It is our responsibility to foster a safe environment for ALL New Mexicans. There are some successes I've taken part in like CABQ's Violence Intervention Program that works with the individuals most at risk of committing crime and the passage of HB129 that increases the waiting period for a weapon. However, we've begun to criminalize some of our most vulnerable neighbors, failing to see the data-proven policies that improve public safety - a living wage, access to treatment, and stable housing.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 26 - Bernalillo



Eleanor Chavez
Democrat

This is my second time serving as a legislator. I represented HD 13 from 2009 to 2013. I have served on the Public Education Commission and the Bernalillo County Labor Board. I have represented HD 26 since 2023. I am a union and community organizer and understand the needs and issues important to working people. I listen to what my constituents have to say and encourage them to become involved and active in resolving issues in our district.

One of the priorities identified by my constituents is the high cost of healthcare and access to healthcare. As a state, we have provided additional resources so that our Universities can educate more healthcare providers, such as doctors, nurses, social workers, etc. But we must also retain our workers by ensuring they have decent working conditions to keep them in New Mexico. I will continue to support increasing healthcare wages and safe staffing legislation that improves patient care.

We must act urgently to protect our water for present and future generations. We are experiencing the hottest summer ever. Fixing water infrastructure is essential and must be done, but so is understanding how much water we have and where. As a state, we must engage water experts and communities to plan for future needs together. We should look at water planning on a regional level within the state. We must fully fund the staff and necessary resources to implement those plans.

We need to look at the root causes of crime and address the lack of substance abuse, mental health, job training, and housing resources. We must address workforce shortages in the behavioral health. It is crucial to identify at-risk youth and provide immediate intervention and support for them and their families. Providing programs for those in jail while they are still in jail will prepare them to enter the workforce and will reduce recidivism.

Patrick B Sais
Republican

No Response Received

No Response Received

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 27 - Bernalillo



Gregory R Gallegos
Republican

I have experience working as a management analyst for the Office of the New Mexico Secretary of State, the City of Albuquerque, and a small business owner.

My top priority is making New Mexico a safe place for all New Mexicans by addressing crime, homelessness, substance abuse, access to medical care, and or education system. I will be proponent for reformed bail, mental health and addiction treatment facilities, and reduce costs on our medical professionals.

Water is a finite resource and needs to be treated as such.

We need to reform bail to keep repeat and violent offenders incarcerated, and fund treatment facilities for mental health and substance addiction.

Marian Matthews
Democrat

I am focused, willing to challenge the power structure, if needed, on enacting laws to improve the quality of life for New Mexicans in critical areas like public safety, health care, schools, the economy, children and families, and senior concerns. In my 4 years in the House, I have learned we govern best when we listen to diverse input; provide continuity, not silos; identify unintended consequences; and avoid rigid ideologies in favor of workable, sustainable solutions to our problems.

My top priority is to assure our laws in public safety, families and children, and health care deliver positive, sustainable results. To reduce the power of cartels, strengthen our human trafficking law. To reduce juvenile violence, enact real consequences for serious law-breaking. To increase the number of our health care providers, realign NM tort law with other states' laws. To improve family outcomes: adopt realistic paid medical family leave that benefits all New Mexicans and fix CYFD.

I've served on the Agriculture, Acequias & Water Resources Committee for 4 years. The recent Sackett decision by the US Supreme Court threatens NM wetlands. These critical waters need legal protection. By using technology, the efficiency of agricultural irrigation can be improved, reducing the demands on our water. We must continue to work on a state water plan.

Be tougher: Real consequences for serious juvenile crime and human trafficking. Be more vigilant: Monitor ankle-bracelet release system and demand accountability if it doesn't protect the public from repeat offenders. Deterrence: copy effective mental health and drug addiction methods. Provide positive opportunities and activities for our kids: sports, clubs, poetry -- whatever it takes so they see themselves as having a great future. Based on new research: Rethink cellphones for kids?

"The only title in our democracy that is superior to that of President is that of citizen."

- Louis Brandeis, Supreme Court Justice

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

- Thomas Jefferson

"Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." - Winston Churchill

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 28 - Bernalillo



Pamela P Herndon
Democrat

I am an attorney and a certified public accountant. I bring the professional skills and abilities to help find solutions to the difficult issues facing our communities. I have worked in state government in positions ranging from an Assistant Attorney General to a Deputy Cabinet Secretary. I have worked as a successful executive director of a non-profit organization focused on helping women, children, and families with children. I understand the intricacies of working with state agencies.

My top priorities are to help develop a coordinated behavioral health program where state agencies coordinate with behavioral health programs in counties and cities to provide an elevated level of mental health and behavior health services for people when they need this level of care. I have prioritized the mental health and behavioral health of our children by focusing on having mental health and wellness rooms in our middle and high schools. Behavioral health programs help reduce crime.

We must address the aging infrastructure in our state to fix breaks and leaks in underground distribution pipes. Our water policies must focus on conservation, re-use, watershed management, and storm-water capture. Our policies must include education for the public about conserving water and a process for providing incentives, such as rebates, and tax credits for those who engage in xeriscaping and utilizing water-efficient appliances.

We must make sure that our law enforcement officers are trained to recognize people with mental health issues to protect the safety of these individuals when they engage law enforcement officers. We must continue to develop and enhance more community-based intervention programs like the Albuquerque Community Safety Program where people with lived experiences help others navigate through problems that lead to public safety problems. We must clean up vacant lots and improve street lighting.



Marcie M May
Republican

I'm a former public school teacher. I've been an active participant in the democratic process, including studying bills, giving testimony, and educating the public on various legislative agendas for the past 2 decades. I served on a Student Advisory Committee at APS from 2010 - 2013. I have served my community volunteering for my children's sports teams, church ministries, homeschool groups, as well as my daughter's high school activities. I've also volunteered as a paralegal.

As a former public school teacher, I understand the absolute importance of giving the tools for life long learning. Lately we have groups that have decided for New Mexicans what they can or cannot think, while neglecting the basics. Foolish sayings such as, "Math or Reading is racist," not only pigeon-holes students into draconian thinking, it cripples them from succeeding in life. Every child deserves proper tools to help them fulfill their potential in life.

Water is life. Generations of New Mexicans have known how to use, conserve, & respect our water supply. People should be cautious about external groups deciding about how or who gets to use our water. These same groups disregard private property and land grants. As a legislator, I will be committed to protecting and defending New Mexican's sovereignty and our livelihoods from outsiders with a pen and an agenda, who think they can determine who gets to thrive and who doesn't.

Support our men & women in blue. Stop catch and release. Close the border. This humanitarian crisis has left 80K+ children unaccounted for; many were used as decoys to deter attention from cartels smuggling fentanyl across the border. Over 1/3 of those women and children have been raped, some murdered. That is NOT compassionate. Woke legislation ties the hands of law enforcement, and then leaves those most affected by high crime vulnerable. Who gets blamed? The Blue. That has to stop.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 29 - Bernalillo



Joy I Garratt
Democrat

I have a comprehensive understanding of the diverse policies, issues and budgeting realities we need to address in order to tackle public safety and crime; improve education outcomes; expand our economic opportunities; prepare the necessary workforce; build up our infrastructure (including roads, airports, EV charging stations, bridges and dams); and urban, rural and frontier needs. I seek to hear the concerns of my district through town halls, phone conversations and face to face meetings.

Two priorities: community safety & education. Engaging students in hands-on career pathways by middle school will prevent so many from choosing criminal activities. We must fully fund the criminal justice system--courts, prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement and corrections--and establish processes to address criminal & civil competency; ensure there are adequate facilities & staffing to address mental/behavioral health referrals for the incarcerated; and fully support crime victims.

We must reduce water usage & protect the quality of water we have. We must fully fund & staff state/local agencies & their projects to track, measure, monitor and regulate our water resources. Advancing precision agriculture will reduce water usage. Supporting regional collaboration and technical assistance and ensuring robust drinking water and wastewater systems are vital. Forest management to prevent and respond to fires is essential in order to protect the watershed.

We need to continue funding the recruitment & retention of law enforcement officers. We need to develop effective data sharing & integration systems so judges & officers can instantly retrieve information about dangerous repeat offenders & treat them accordingly. Fully funding & staffing the entire criminal justice system from law enforcement to the courts to corrections is vital as is the expansion of alternative settings for individuals with mental/behavioral health conditions.

Gregory G Cunningham
Republican

No Response Received

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 30 - Bernalillo



Lori Lee Robertson
Republican

For the past 30 years, I have successfully co-operated a commercial real estate business with my husband and our business partner. As an independent contractor, I have spearheaded numerous high-profile projects, demonstrating strong leadership, strategic planning, and financial management skills. I believe that my real estate experience coupled with my decade plus of non-profit work with youth experiencing homelessness give me a well-rounded approach in dealing with issues; business and social.

Crime is my top priority. We need to work together (across local and state agencies) to ensure that violent, repeat offenders stay off the street, and impose harsher penalties on fentanyl dealers. We must listen to our community providers and local leaders who are on the ground, and we must ensure when passing legislation, all voices are included.

Water is the lifeblood of New Mexico. We are facing mounting challenges, including limited water supplies and overuse. The state could consider a range of additional water policies: improved water management and infrastructure, supporting sustainable agriculture, supporting our farmers and ranchers' water rights and enhancing data and research. By implementing a combination of these policies, New Mexico can better manage its water resources and ensure a more sustainable and resilient future.

Improving public safety in New Mexico requires a comprehensive approach that addresses public health, strengthens law enforcement, and enhances community trust. We must strengthen our laws and start adhering to the laws in place, enhance the criminal justice system, reform the child welfare system, improve public health and safety services, leverage technology and data, and strengthen community partnerships. People must be held accountable for their actions!



Elizabeth Diane Torres-Velasquez
Democrat

As a lifelong educator deeply committed to social justice and equity, I bring a wealth of experience in addressing the complex challenges facing our communities. My extensive background in education, research, and advocacy equips me with the skills needed to effectively represent the diverse needs of our district. My leadership roles in university governance and community initiatives demonstrate my ability to collaborate and enact positive change.

Nothing is more fundamental to building and maintaining our democracy than ensuring equitable and high-quality education for all New Mexicans. I plan to advocate for increased funding and implementation of the reforms mandated by Judge Singleton in the landmark Martínez and Yazzie lawsuits to improve educational outcomes and support educators. I will collaborate with stakeholders to develop effective strategies addressing root causes of educational disparities and promote student success.

Additional water policies are needed to address water scarcity and ensure sustainable water management. We need a comprehensive approach that responsibly and effectively integrates water management with conservation, equity, and sustainability principles to address the water challenges facing New Mexico today and in the future. A plan must prioritize equitable distribution and allocation of water resources among various users, including tribal and acequia communities and rural areas.

Our communities tend to be close knit and look out for each other. Yet crime and safety issues are very real. Actions we could take proactively are to invest in evidence-based crime prevention programs that address root causes of crime such as poverty, substance abuse, mental health issues, and lack of educational and economic opportunities; implement common-sense gun safety; and encourage collaboration and coordination between law enforcement, community, social services, and other stakeholders.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 31 - Bernalillo



Vicky G Estrada-Bustillo
Democrat

I worked with the U.S. Forest Service for twenty years, retiring as a District Ranger for the Cibola National Forest. In that role I organized dozens of groups—with conflicting priorities—to both solve day-to-day challenges and prepare for what the future might bring. My ability to solve complex problems for the collective benefit, combined with my experience as a small business owner for 10 years, has trained me to work in a legislative body where consensus-building is key.

My top priority is community safety. Incarcerating violent and repeat offenders is key but we must also address root causes: drug addiction, mental illness, and lack of productive social pathways for our youth. I believe we must all work together—state government, police officers, prosecutors and judges—to close sentencing loopholes. Further, it's unacceptable that New Mexico is ranked the least-safe state to be a pedestrian, and we must crack down on repeat DWI offenders and drag racing.

Many New Mexico communities have outdated systems resulting in insufficient or contaminated water. More investment in water infrastructure throughout the entire state is needed along with additional resources to NMED for oversight. A state-wide assessment is needed to determine the water quantity and quality in our acequias, aquifers and rivers. This should be the basis for determining our current and future community water needs and the industries we support in the present and future.

In addition to community concerns about crime, DWI, road rage and drag racing, I believe there are too many illegal firearms in our city. I believe in increasing gun safety training and common sense interventions to reduce gun violence risks in the home and for children. An increased presence of public safety officers in our communities is needed to reduce property and retail crime. And I am uniquely trained to lead wildfire risk reduction and response in my district and statewide.

Nicole Chavez
Republican

No Response Received

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 43 - Los Alamos, Sandoval, Santa Fe

How can New Mexico improve access to physical and mental health care services?

What legislation would you support to reduce violent crime and improve public safety?

How can we protect New Mexico's economic future considering the reduced availability of water?

What are the biggest problems facing New Mexico? How can they be addressed?



Christine Chandler
Democrat

Long-standing challenges require multi-pronged, coordinated policy initiatives. The legislature is addressing the provider shortage, but more needs to be done. Implementing measures that include: student loan forgiveness programs that encourage providers to locate in areas with the most need; expanded tax credits for critically needed providers; expanded educational programs to increase the number of New Mexicans training for all medical professions. Incentive and retention strategies are key.

Improve Extreme Risk Protection Order law and train police on its effective use. Enact other gun safety laws shown to reduce gun violence. Prioritize incarceration of the truly dangerous and implement alternate sentencing and diversion programs that provide drug and behavioral health treatment, and job training. Focus on programs that are evidence-based and data driven. The data and evidence have shown us that the so-called tough on crime proposals fail us time and time again.

Enact laws that regulate and minimize access to and use of excessively large quantities of fresh water by industrial users by encouraging alternatives. This could include desalination initiatives and produced water reuse in the oil fields. Complete an assessment of water availability and implement regional water plans that address water use on a regional basis and tied to the conditions relevant to the area. The state is acting on inadequate data which hampers its ability to plan effectively.

Poverty is the underlying cause of nearly every challenge facing New Mexico and its citizens. The legislature is addressing it through an array of efforts that include increasing support for low income families, Pre-K, early childhood and child care programs. The state is a leader in implementing changes to the tax code in ways that support working families. This includes the Working Families Tax Credit and the Child Income Tax Credit, measures that have been shown to reduce poverty.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 44 - Bernalillo, Sandoval

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

Ali Ennenga
Republican

No Response Received



Kathleen M Cates
Democrat

I am completing my first term in the Legislature. Several bills I have sponsored have been signed into law, including bills to increase funding for apprenticeship programs, requiring insurance companies to pay for a sports related prosthetic, and removed GRT on Home Modifications for individuals with disabilities. Prior to being elect I was an executive for several nonprofits serving individuals with disabilities. My advocacy for individuals with mental, substance abuse, DD Waiver or disabled

I am supportive of many priorities but I serve on the Health and Human Services Standing Committee as well as the Agricultural, Water and Acequia Standing Committee. I sponsor and promote bills regarding housing, accessibility for individuals with disabilities and government ethics.

The Legislature in the last few years has been able to create a Water Trust, fund many projects that improve the quality and accessibility of water and increase the State investment to record levels. I will be carrying bills that are focused on water conservation efforts for all of New Mexico but are most likely to effect our suburban and urban areas. Increasing Water Catchment systems and reducing nonfunctional turf are two of the bills I plan to sponsor.

We as Legislators should not be working on public safety policies without having Law Enforcement, Judicial and Behavior Health providers at the table to create those policies. We need to provide funding to fulfill the personnel requirements of our law enforcement agencies. I am a big supporter of Community Policing Programs.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 49 - Catron, Sierra, Socorro, Valencia

Gail "Missy" Armstrong
Republican

No Response Received

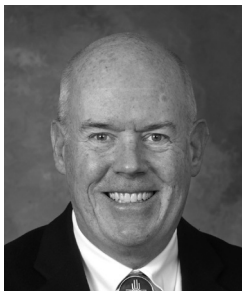
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 50 - Sandoval, Santa Fe

What prior experience and/or education have prepared you for this position?

Why are you running for this position?

What would be your priorities for the next session?

What, if any, changes to New Mexico's tax structure would you support?



Matthew McQueen
Democrat

I have degrees in law, business, and natural resources. I have been an attorney for over 30 years. I run my own business, am married, and have kids in public schools. I'm in my 10th year serving in the Legislature.

Public service.

I will continue to try to reform our State Game Commission and Department of Game and Fish into a modern wildlife agency. I will continue to pursue, as I have in the past, legislative reform, ethics, and transparency. And, as always, education and economic development are always priorities in the Legislature.

Our tax structure should be simple, fair, and progressive. I will continue to support legislation that enhances those characteristics.



Kenneth Donald Brennan
Republican

Retired US Navy Chief Petty Officer. 17 Years management in the Wind industry. 2 years Town of Edgewood Commissioner, 7 months as Edgewood NM Mayor

Current representation in the house does not represent or support all residents of the district, especially those in the districts southern communities like Edgewood. Our current Rep lacks respect and empathy for not only those that have opposing views but people in general. No elected official should use thier office to threaten and degrade a community. This is not how government should work and I plan on brining back understanding and respect to the office by working with all people on both sides. It is Ok to disagree but we all need to work together and find the middle ground for the betterment of our state.

Supporting displaced Veterans. Helping those that protected us get off the streets and back to being productive members of our communities. Address crime by supporting law enforcement & increasing the penalties that the courts can impose, especially when a weapon is used. Work with communities to reduce the number of families living on the streets by assisting in lodging and job placements and reducing drugs and other criminal activity that prey on those in a displaced status. Refocusing on education so tax monies go to the teachers and students and not administrations. Improving Rural communities access to proper medical facilities. Reversing the damage done to the medical providers by making it worthwhile to practice in New Mexico.

Reduce income tax on Military and first responders, both active and those receiving retirement pension. Reduce fuel taxes.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 57 - Sandoval



Catherine Jeanette Cullen
Republican

During my time on the Rio Rancho School Board from 2013 to 2021, I gained valuable skills directly applicable to a state representative role. I have an understanding of education policies, funding, curriculum, school administration, budgeting and capital outlay. Engaging with parents and the community to build relationships and represent constituents effectively. My advocacy, negotiation, decision-making, collaboration, policy analysis, and communication skills further qualify me.

My top priority is to reduce crime rates in New Mexico by implementing strong legislation. This involves creating and enforcing laws that specifically tackle key concerns such as reducing repeat offenses, strengthening law enforcement capabilities, and improving community safety. I support measures that increase penalties for violent crimes.

New Mexicans are confronting escalating water scarcity and emerging threats to our existing resources. The goal of providing sustainable, clean water to communities hinges on a multifaceted approach. This includes strategic investments from federal and state funding sources, the widespread adoption of advanced technology, and collaboration with community members and leaders at all levels of government.

New Mexicans expect us to stop the "revolving door" for career criminals. We must provide law enforcement resources through increased funding and support, ensuring officers receive adequate training and equipment to prevent and investigate crimes effectively. We also need to provide additional resources for mental health and substance abuse.



Michelle Eleanor Sandoval
Democrat

As a native New Mexican with a diverse educational background, extensive volunteer experience, and a successful track record in both the private and public sectors, I bring a unique set of qualifications to this role. From collaborating with top executives at Bank of the West to shaping public policy at Sandoval County's Treasurer's Office, I've consistently made meaningful contributions. Currently, I contribute to The Los Alamos National Laboratory's crucial mission.

My top priority is expanding access to affordable healthcare for all New Mexicans. To achieve this, I plan to strengthen and expand our Medicaid program, increase funding for rural healthcare facilities, and enhance mental health services. Additionally, I will work on legislation to lower prescription drug costs and improve preventive care. By addressing these key areas, we can reduce health disparities, support our rural communities, and ensure that every resident has access to the essential he

I believe we should increase our investment in ground water conservation, ensuring we measure it protect it and use it as needed.

To improve public safety, we need a holistic approach. This includes strengthening community-police relationships, providing better resources and training for law enforcement, and investing in education and job training programs to prevent crime. Expanding mental health and substance abuse services is also crucial, alongside judicial reforms focused on rehabilitation and reducing repeat offenses. By tackling these areas together, we can create a safer and more supportive community for everyone.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 60 - Sandoval

Joshua N Hernandez
Republican

No Response Received



Luke Nicholas Jungmann
Democrat

As an engineer, I excel at defining an end-goal and planning methods and objectives to efficiently achieve that goal.

Protecting the Right To Choose further in our state, and I will do that by enshrining it in our State Constitution and adding further protections for New Mexicans and out-of-state people coming to the state for any right protected within New Mexico.

We must analyze our water usage and ensure that we and the surrounding states are not using more water than can be replenished naturally, and potentially cut back on the extreme water-using agriculture.

I want to focus on the base cause of crime in our state, which is more often than not drug addiction and desperation. This can be done by providing more affordable housing to help people get on their feet, providing more addiction help centers and addiction recovery as an alternative to prison, focus on drug dealers over users, and to focus on rehabilitation and reintegration into society over punishment.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?

What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 65 - Rio Arriba, Sandoval, San Juan

Derrick J Lente
Democrat

No Response Received

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 68 - Bernalillo



Charlotte L Little
Democrat

For 15 years, I have owned my own small business; served as a Tribal Administrator; and worked as an Administrative Officer for the United States Department of Health and Human Services. I served on the boards of New Mexico Voices for Children, Emerge New Mexico, and San Felipe Pueblo Health Board. I have served House District 68 since 2023 and championed legislation like reproductive health, tax credits for families, public safety improvements, and investments directly into the district.

I prioritized public safety in my last campaign, but when my brother was fatally shot last year in Albuquerque, public safety became my most important priority. I have worked alongside my fellow legislators to champion common sense gun violence prevention legislation: age requirements for the possession of certain weapons, universal background checks, minimizing weapons of war on our streets, and increasing penalties for crimes committed with guns.

Water is top-of-mind in New Mexico, for good reason. We must work to protect our water supply, both in quality and quantity, by utilizing traditional water conservation efforts, prioritizing a clean water supply and tightening regulations on water quality, and ensuring we are on the cutting edge of water conservation efforts in agriculture.

We need to address the root causes of some crime, including mental health and substance abuse, by investing heavily in these areas, especially in increasing the number of treatment facilities and beds available at existing facilities. We must ensure our law enforcement partners are fully staffed and fully trained. We must also pass common sense gun violence prevention efforts as mentioned above.



Nathan T Brooks
Republican

As an executive director of a non-profit organization and a seasoned businessman in Albuquerque, I possess a unique blend of leadership, strategic planning, and community engagement skills. My experience has honed my ability to navigate complex regulatory environments and foster collaborations across various sectors. This role has not only deepened my understanding of the challenges faced by our community but also enabled me to effectively advocate for change and implement solutions.

My top priority is to enhance our district's infrastructure to support economic growth and improve the quality of life for all residents. I plan to address this by advocating for the widening of Paseo del Norte and Unser. Also, I will work to secure funding and support for local infrastructure projects, ensuring they meet the current and future needs of our community. My approach includes collaborating with state and local agencies to streamline processes and reduce unnecessary expenditures.

In New Mexico, water scarcity is a pressing issue that requires innovative and sustainable management strategies. To address this, I support the development of more comprehensive water conservation policies that include incentives for water-efficient practices in both agricultural and urban settings. Enhancing our infrastructure to prevent water loss, promoting the reuse of wastewater, and investing in modern technologies for water management are crucial.

Improving public safety is imperative. I plan to address this by supporting increased funding for law enforcement to ensure that our police departments are well-equipped and adequately staffed. This includes investing in training programs that emphasize de-escalation techniques and community policing. Enhancing public safety also involves expanding mental health services and substance abuse programs to address some of the root causes of crime. Tougher sentencing for offenders is also needed.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 69 - Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, San Juan, Socorro, Valencia



Michelle P Abeyta
Democrat

I grew up in my grandmother's home where I was taught the value of my identity, culture, and the importance of earning a western education. My K-12 education journey is a combination of schooling at a rural tribally controlled school and an urban public school. I've earned an associate degree in Hospitality & Tourism, dual bachelor's degrees in Native American Studies and Communication, and a Juris Doctor degree. My legal experience includes natural resources, domestic violence & family law.

Supporting the current and upcoming workforce is my top priority! I plan to do this by ensuring the delivery of resources for all working families to earn livable wages and by preparing students for a variety of opportunities post high school which are essential to creating a qualified workforce in all career fields.

We need all shareholders at the table including representatives for those who do not have a voice (land and animals), listen to one another, and work together to find solutions for better New Mexico water policies and actions.

We need to ensure that we have adequate funding and training for public safety professionals and their industry.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (Continued)

What prior experience and/or education have prepared you for this position?

Why are you running for this position?

What would be your priorities for the next session?

What, if any, changes to New Mexico's tax structure would you support?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 70 - San Miguel, Torrance



**Anita Amalia
Gonzales**
Democrat

I am a mom, an education professional, an Acequia Commissioner, and a proud, multigenerational Norteña. For over 20 years, I have worked with STEM leaders, students, teachers, administrators, public school, industry partners, and higher education institutions to improve and change the lives of students from rural and small-town communities. I have committed my professional career to promoting educational equity and building meaningful collaborations throughout the state. I have always been involved in our community as a volunteer and board member. I completed most of my undergraduate degree at Texas A&M University and completed both my bachelor's degree and MBA at NM Highlands University in Las Vegas, NM.

I am running because we need real change. We need the kind of change that can be counted on to be there for our rural, small-town communities and everyday families struggling to make ends meet. The rising costs of groceries, gas, and housing coupled with the stagnation of wages are felt by all of us. With times as tough as they are, we need someone who helps our financial security. Instead, the incumbent has a record of voting against providing medical debt, against capping pay-day lending, and against reproductive rights. Right now, the well connected are taken care of, lobbyists with corporate clients have a trusted friend, and decisions are being made that hurt us. Northern New Mexico families need someone representing OUR interests.

My priorities are our families priorities. I will go to Santa Fe to support our working families to make ends meet—so it's easier for us to afford the necessities and have the security of Paid Family Medical Leave when they need it, as one example. I will work to fully invest in education and stand with our local small businesses so they have the tools they need to create new jobs, which we desperately need. Our communities need better healthcare and social services including mental health and addiction treatment programs. And finally, I will champion rural community needs like improved broadband and other infrastructure, and protect our natural resources like water for drinking and agricultural uses.

We should work towards a more progressive system which prioritizes families, small businesses, and our working class. We need to lessen our reliance on changing severance taxes from oil and gas; close corporate loopholes that do not directly relate to job growth; eliminate the many deductions and exemptions for special interests; and increase our capital gains tax. It is important to have a personal income tax system that ensures the wealthy pay their fair share, easing the burden on middle and lower income earners.

“Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.”

– John F. Kennedy

“Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights and privileges of free people and who would preserve what is good and fruitful in our national heritage.”

– Dwight D. Eisenhower

“The moral test of a government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life – the children; the twilight of life – the elderly; and the shadows of life – the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”

– Hubert Humphrey

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

Member of a ten-person commission that advises the Secretary of Public Education. Commission authorizes and monitors all state-chartered charter schools. Positions are unpaid, except for limited per diem expenses. Elected for a four-year term.

What experience qualifies you for this position?

What would be your three highest priorities?

Should there be a cap on the total number of state charter schools?

How should the PEC assess the financial stability of schools before authorizing or renewing a charter?

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

**Sam S
Obenshain**
Democrat

No Response Received



**Michael Allen
Schuetze**
Republican

Commissions need people with varied experiences and understanding, I have 13 years as an engineer and 23 yrs in public service, two years as a school board member, 20 yrs of volunteer work.

Providing students and parents in New Mexico with quality, innovative options with in Public Education. Supporting Charter Schools with their mission. Driving Quality education across the spectrum of Public Education.

Why should we limit high performing options for education when we live in the cellar in national education ratings.

The PEC has a rigorous application process for new school that requires the appropriate financial plan and renewing schools are graded on their ability to manage their approved plans within the performance framework review.

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4

Why are charter schools necessary?

What experience do you have that gives you insight into whether to charter a new school or renew a charter school?

What criteria are most important in evaluating new or existing charter schools?



**Rebekka Kay
Burt**
Democrat

Charter schools offer families and students the freedom to choose the educational environment that best suits their needs, regardless of financial status or residential location. In New Mexico, all charters are tuition-free and public, ensuring accessibility to diverse educational programs not typically found in traditional neighborhood schools. This expands opportunities for students and promotes equity in education.

With experience as a middle school English teacher and working in the Public Education Department, I've gained firsthand insight into the positive impact of high expectations on student achievement. I've visited numerous schools across NM, distinguishing between successful and struggling institutions. This background equips me to assess whether to charter a new school or renew an existing one based on their potential to meet student needs and deliver quality education.

The most important criteria in evaluating new or existing charter schools include academic performance, student growth and achievement, adherence to educational standards, curriculum quality, teacher qualifications and retention, parent and community satisfaction, financial stability, and overall organizational effectiveness. These factors collectively ensure that charter schools are providing high-quality education and effectively serving their students and communities.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The District Attorney oversees the office that prosecutes and defends for the state in county courts, including civil and criminal cases in which the state or county has an interest, represents the county before the county commissioners, advises county and state officers upon request, and represents the county in civil cases in higher courts, except in suits brought in the name of the state. Elected for a four-year term.

Describe the experience and abilities that qualify you for this position.

What is your top priority, if elected, and how do you intend to accomplish it?

When dealing with cases involving repeat offenders, how do you balance the interests of rehabilitation and public safety?

How will you attract and hire assistant district attorneys who are the best fit for the DA's office?

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT - Bernalillo



Sam Bregman
Democrat

I have practiced law in New Mexico for more than 30 years at the local and federal level, and have been involved in thousands of cases, trying cases in front of more than 100 juries. I proudly began my career as an Assistant District Attorney in Bernalillo County, where I advocated for victims of crime and held offenders accountable. Currently, I have served as District Attorney for over 15 months, managing a staff of nearly 300 professionals who dedicate their lives to fighting for justice.

The safety of Bernalillo County is and always will be my top priority. Since becoming District Attorney, my office has tried more cases and has held more violent criminals accountable than this office has in the last five years. If elected, I will continue focusing on keeping violent people detained as their cases progress through the justice system. We also need to address the fentanyl crisis plaguing our community by working with community partners and securing more resources for treatment.

In Bernalillo County, we receive over 14,000 new cases a year, many of them involving repeat offenders. Those cases that involve non-violent crimes stemming from drug addiction, we try to divert into treatment programs. In 2023, we diverted over 2,500 people into treatment programs; most in the history of the office. For violent criminals - since becoming District Attorney - the pretrial detention rate in Bernalillo County has increased by 10%, keeping more violent offenders in jail.

In the 16 months that I have been District Attorney, my office has hired over 50 attorneys, who come from both in and out of state. Our tactics to attract attorneys who are best-suited for our office include providing incentives, competitive salary, regular employee appreciation, and providing extensive trial experience. Attorneys who begin a career at my office receive one-on-one training that is strategic and unmatched, compared to any other training for new attorneys in the state.

What experience and education qualifies you to be District Attorney?

What are your highest priorities for this office?

How do you intend to accomplish them?

What, if any, alternatives to incarceration do you support for nonviolent crimes

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Clint Wellborn
Republican

No Response Received

Describe the experience and abilities that qualify you for this position.

What is your top priority, if elected, and how do you intend to accomplish it?

When dealing with cases involving repeat offenders, how do you balance the interests of rehabilitation and public safety?

How will you attract and hire assistant district attorneys who are the best fit for the DA's office?

THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Barbara A Romo
Democrat

No Response Received

BERNALILLO COUNTY OFFICES

METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGE - PARTISAN

Metropolitan Court has jurisdiction over civil actions under \$10,000, felony first appearances, misdemeanors, misdemeanor DWI/DUI; misdemeanor domestic violence, and traffic violations. Elected for a four-year term.

Describe the experience and abilities that qualify you for this position.

Do you support an expanded role for specialty courts, e.g., DWI, drug, domestic violence early intervention program, etc.?

What changes in training and support for metropolitan court judges would you like to see implemented?

What other information would you like the voters to know about you?

DIVISION 11



Shonnetta

Raquette Estrada

Democrat

Appointed Metro Court Judge by Governor after being recommended by the Bipartisan Judicial Nominating Commission. I am a former prosecutor with vast trial experience including complex and high profile cases. As the appointee I am doing the work daily. I covet, honor, and respect my role as a public servant.

Specialty Courts at Metro Court are doing important work for the community as a whole. Some of the Specialty Courts have served as models for others. The impact seen daily is immense. It is a privilege to preside over the Courts to Schools Specialty Court. I support and look forward to contributing to expanding the wonderful work being done across all the Specialty Courts.

There are many opportunities for training both locally and nationally. The variety and range of topics is expansive and I hope that continues.

No Response Received

BERNALILLO COUNTY CLERK

The County Clerk is the ex-officio recorder for the county and may legally record any document that is certified. The office issues marriage and occupational licenses. The clerk's bureau of elections administers all elections in the county. Elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

Can the Clerk's office do more to encourage voter turnout?

Should the County Clerk position continue to be an elected position? Why or why not?



Michelle S

Kavanaugh

Democrat


I'm currently the Deputy County Clerk. I'm involved in all aspects of election administration in addition to overseeing our Recording & Filing department. I have extensive knowledge of the election process and statutory requirements ensuring transparent, ethical, and honest elections. In 2024, MIT named New Mexico as the state with the best run elections in the country. As the largest county in NM, Bernalillo County was a critical component of that ranking.

My top priorities are expanding information and access about/to the ballot box. Engaging our underserved and underrepresented communities will ensure that all voices are heard. As your next County Clerk, I will expand educational partnerships with the school system, and partner with community organizations to reach as many eligible voters as possible.

Absolutely! Right now, our office issues a series of Public Service Announcements related to election FAQ's, before every election. Expanding our tv, radio, and social media presence will capture the attention of additional voters, especially when tailored toward specific demographics, ensuring potential voters have a true understanding of the issues. I will also expand our presence at community events and hope to partner with other government agencies, UNM and CNM to engage voters.


The County Clerk is a completely non-partisan position, highly administrative in function. Thorough knowledge of the NM State Election Code is necessary. Hypothetically, electing a new Clerk every four years has the potential to disrupt office functionality. If the Clerk continues to be an elected position, at the very least, term lengths and term limits should be reviewed.

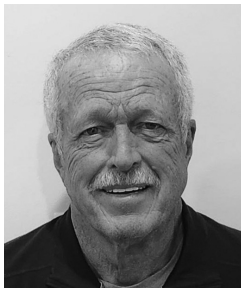
BERNALILLO COUNTY CLERK (Continued)

| | <i>What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?</i> | <i>What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?</i> | <i>Can the Clerk's office do more to encourage voter turnout?</i> | <i>Should the County Clerk position continue to be an elected position? Why or why not?</i> |
|--|---|--|---|--|
|  <p>Clayton J Pryor Republican</p> | <p>My wife of 45 years and I are Albuquerque natives who have spent our entire lives (except for one year) here. I graduated from Valley High School and earned my degrees from UNM. I have worked for the State of NM and Sandia Labs. I have extensive experience in business systems development, process optimization and automation that will enable me to understand and suggest improvements to the County Clerk's business systems including the Recording and Filing systems and the Election systems.</p> | <p>As a software developer for several decades, I know that I can write code to implement just about any algorithm you can think of so I have always had my doubts about our voting systems. By NM State Law, processes are in place to ensure that any faulty tabulators will be detected. However, in my opinion, the implementation at the State level, is currently flawed. I will do all I can as County Clerk to correct this issue and ensure confidence in our elections through transparency.</p> | <p>Yes. We can, and we should, reach out to registered voters who have not voted in recent elections to understand why they have not voted and take measures to resolve any issues identified. If change is needed, after analysis, we can follow established processes within the law to make those changes. One of the issues that seems to be prevalent is a lack of confidence in our election systems. We can build greater confidence in our election systems through education and greater transparency.</p> | <p>Yes, absolutely. Although I have wondered why it is an elected position in the past, I am confident that it should continue to be an elected position in order to retain greater control over the office by the public. We need to continue to give the public a strong say in who is responsible for the essential functions that the County Clerk performs. I believe the public should have more control over our government not less.</p> |

BERNALILLO COUNTY TREASURER

The County Treasurer is responsible for collecting property taxes in the county and distributing them to different government agencies. The Treasurer is also responsible for the supervision and investment of funds. Elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.

| | <i>What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?</i> | <i>What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?</i> | <i>What investment strategies do you think would benefit the county most?</i> | <i>Should the County Treasurer position continue to be an elected position? Why or why not?</i> |
|---|--|--|---|---|
|  <p>Tim Eichenberg Democrat</p> | <p>As a former Bernalillo County Treasurer and former NM State Treasurer, my financial management experience is the cornerstone of my qualifications. Over 30 years of creating tax policy and implementing financial rules and regulations allows me to achieve results from day one. My ability to retain and recruit qualified personnel will enable the treasurers office to improve processes and leverage technology to meet the needs of our taxpayers.</p> | <p>My top priority is to ensure financial integrity for the residents of Bernalillo County. As the banker for the County, I will safeguard essential services, property tax collection and debt payments insuring timely distribution of those taxes. It's all about the work, getting to know the existing staff and supporting their contributions to the Treasurer's office will help our team be successful.</p> | <p>The Prudent Investment Rule of Safety, Liquidity and then Yield will be the foundation of my investment strategy. Investing with our local banking institutions keeps our money working for our residents in Bernalillo County. Following our current investment policy will protect funds and secure essential services and programs. Its been my experience that collaboration and partnering with the financial team of the County maintains diversification, statutory compliance and performance.</p> | <p>This is a question for the State Legislature and the voters of New Mexico. The change would require a constitutional amendment. Every opportunity for the Bernalillo County residents to exercise their voice by voting for their County officials is a positive choice. "Elections belong to the people." Abraham Lincoln</p> |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  <p>Lelan G Morrison Republican</p> | <p>I have a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration. However that was 40 years ago and is not what qualifies me for County Treasurer. I have 41 years of experience owning my own business. I understand the pain of paying a multitude of taxes and seeing much of it wasted. I will do whatever is within my authority to make sure the taxpayers money is allocated and spent wisely. I understand business and financial instruments and am capable of investing in sound financial instruments.</p> | <p>My top priority is to help improve the reputation of New Mexico. New Mexico is ranked dead last in education, first in crime - both property and violent - and known as a corrupt state throughout the union. With all the authority granted to the County Treasurer's office I plan to improve accountability as to how tax payer funds are spent and invested.</p> | <p>The County Treasurer's office has to work within certain guidelines as to what financial instruments can be invested in. The financial world is ever changing as to which instrument yields the most and fits the different time needs of different departments and programs. I will address which strategy is best in 2025 when I get into office.</p> | <p>YES. Any position of authority that involves fiduciary responsibility to New Mexican's needs to be an elected position. If the people don't like the way things are going they need to be able to kick you out. We've had Democrat leadership for over 40 yrs and look where we are. It's time most get kicked out and vote in new leadership.</p> |
|---|---|---|--|---|

BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Member of a five-person commission that is responsible for the county government budget, county ordinances and resolutions, and zoning and business regulation in unincorporated areas, and sets policy for the operations of county government. Elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What more can the County government do to improve public safety?

Should County government do more to address water availability and quality? If so, what would you support?

DISTRICT 2



Mary Kay Ingham
Republican

I rely on my Biblical worldview and faith in Jesus Christ to make informed decisions and to relate to people. I worked as a Pediatric Physical Therapist for 46 years and learned so much from NM children with disabilities and their families. We walked and often swam through their great challenges together. I have provided kindness, compassion, and encouragement. I know how to work with others to solve complex problems and improve the quality of people's lives.

Decrease government regulations, impositions, burdens, and taxes to allow all businesses and their employees to thrive. A prosperous, productive middle class drives economic progress for everyone in the county.

Push to close the Southern Border and stop the overwhelming flow of illegal drugs, human trafficking, and cartel activities that are increasing in NM due to greater control in our neighboring states. Support the dismantling of the large scale, well-organized movement of illegal drugs through ports of entry. End the Sanctuary County and City status that is a magnet for criminals and enable the Sheriff's dept. to focus on crime prevention, justice for victims and safety for law abiding citizens.

Yes. Southwest Bernco. has many small farms and provides much-needed, healthy food for people and animals. A consistent watering system must be established to support and encourage this valuable resource. Continue to support the planning, creative and proactive stance that the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority is just beginning. Encourage collaboration between all entities that protect and reuse our water resources.



Frank A Baca
Democrat

I am a life-long resident of the district. I have been active in the community all of my adult life. I am the founding board president of the Rio Grande Development Corp/ South Valley Economic Development Center. I have been involved in many initiatives related to education and infrastructure over my entire career. I am a retired attorney with the time and energy to do the job!

Substance abuse is rampant and is the cause of a great deal of the crime and homelessness we encounter daily in this community. The County receives approximately 30 million per year from the 1/8 of one percent gross receipts tax which needs to be applied and spent efficiently. Recipients of the funds need to be held accountable. I am a proponent of utilization of trained social workers to connect the resources to the need.

Utilize the available funding in an efficient manner as well as fully fund the Sheriff's Dept and continue to encourage the use of licensed social workers.

Clean water is a basic right. It is also a finite resource. Smart planning for utilization is important to ensure access to an adequate supply for generations to come. It is always a matter of collaboration and dialogue-I would encourage dialogue among the respective governments and the Water Authority.

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

“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

BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSIONER (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What more can the County government do to improve public safety?

Should County government do more to address water availability and quality? If so, what would you support?

DISTRICT 3



Adriann Barboa
Democrat

As a lifelong resident of District 3, I have been at the forefront of championing the health, safety, and prosperity of our community. Raised in a union home and shaped by my experiences as a single mother, I know the challenges our community faces and I have the proven leadership to drive meaningful change. I have led the wins for our state to have access to abortion care despite the Dobbs decision, as a Commissioner I have already made institutional change in our Behavioral Health services

Public health and safety are my number one priority, Since taking office in 2021 I have been working hard to create a coordinated system of care that meets the needs of our community, increases access to resources, and appropriately shifts the work of behavioral and mental health away from law enforcement and into services, as well as out of our streets. I am endorsed by firefighters IAFF and Sheriff Allen because of the work to find real time solutions to meet the needs of our neighborhoods

Bernalillo County is home to the bulk of resources for behavioral health and substance use services, that is OUR ROLE in the public safety puzzle. I have passed a budget with a new Deputy County Manager of Behavioral health, Spearheaded the overhaul of the Behavioral Health system, increasing accessibility and reducing stigma. Ensured Opioid Settlement Funding is distributed effectively. Increased funding for first responders, focusing on mental health and community safety measures, and more.

Water is life and our most precious resource. I live adjacent to the KAFB and have been actively engaged in supporting water monitoring wells and clean up accountability. I am honored to serve on the Water Utility Authority (WUA) ensuring that our plans for water conservation and clean water are in place to benefit us now and for next generations.



Rene Coronado
Republican

I successfully solve problems so I may serve people. Albuquerque has been home since I separated from the US Air Force in 1990. My wife and I have been self-employed in Albuquerque for over 25 years. We own and operate Pollito Con Papas just outside the Gibson Gate. Every day, I live and work in the "retail space," interacting with people and facing the daily challenges of owning a business. That practical experience has prepared me to serve as a County Commissioner.

Addressing the issues that keep us from living in a safe, inviting community is my top priority. Enabling law enforcement to enforce our laws consistently; providing for basic infrastructure in District 3 and digging into the root causes of homelessness, vagrancy, and drug addiction to find real solutions will be my focus. We can no longer afford "feel good" actions. Bernalillo County resources must be directed to support actions that make our lives better.

Increasing the budget going to BSCO to make salaries attractive and competitive is the easy first step. Setting high expectations for our community and talking about those expectations regularly will be the long-term work. To build a safe, inviting community, I expect us to do the little things and the hard things: respect driving laws, law enforcement, and property - private and government. Take care of our families. Go to school. This is our community.

In recent years, household consumption of water has dropped. I believe District 3 values water and conscientiously conserves it. Government, especially the City of Albuquerque, must be more frugal in its water use. Currently, the ABCWUA meets and exceeds the required EPA CCR'S. New threats, such as the impact of PFAS in all things, especially water, will require thoughtful effort and resources.

DISTRICT 4



Walt Benson
Republican

I am a native New Mexican who grew up here, have raised my family here, and have built several businesses here. I have an MBA and approach local issues with an eye for how we can increase employment, improve education, and reduce crime. All three of these are related.

My top priority is to increase jobs, making Bernalillo County more attractive to potential employers - as well as reducing the loss of employers who leave for other locations.

Bernalillo County can and should do the following:

- Provide the Sheriff's Department with the budget they need to enforce the law and keep residents safe.
- Write county ordinances that help keep the public safe.
- Manage the County Jail to reduce recidivism.
- Lobby the state legislature to create laws that help keep the public safe.

The Bernalillo County Commission has 3 seats on the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority. We help create policy to address water availability. The ABCWUA currently has a 100 year plan to manage one of our most precious resources and the Albuquerque area has one of the most comprehensive and sustainable plans in the Southwestern US. I just voted to help extend the ABCUAW to Carnuel.

SANDOVAL COUNTY OFFICES

SANDOVAL COUNTY CLERK

The County Clerk is the ex-officio recorder for the county and may legally record any document that is certified. The office issues marriage and occupational licenses. The clerk's bureau of elections administers all elections in the county. Elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.

| | <i>What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?</i> | <i>What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?</i> | <i>Can the Clerk's office do more to encourage voter turnout?</i> | <i>Should the County Clerk position continue to be an elected position? Why or why not?</i> |
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**Anne S
Brady-Romero**
Democrat

No Response Received



**Tanya Renee
Watkins**
Republican

My qualifications for this office include extensive experience in Document Control, as well as having gained pertinent skills as an Office Manager. Additionally, being a certified Educator by profession, I bring a broad range of supervisory abilities, from having managed employees in an office to successfully teaching classrooms full of young people. My aptitude for meticulous attention to detail, along with a servant's heart, are traits to, also, be strongly encouraged and expected in my staff.

My top priority is to make sure residents know that each voice matters, through creating a more open, accessible, and transparent atmosphere within this office. I experience great fulfillment by serving my community and striving for improvements for the people within it. Because every vote counts, I view this campaign as belonging to the citizens of Sandoval, whom I will represent. I will make a concerted effort to promote voter registration, validating the importance of this democratic process.

Success with voter turnout hinges on presentation; therefore, by increasing advertisement and focusing more on educating and actively engaging current and prospective electorates, we can greatly improve results. Also, involving our children is key, since they embody the future of our great nation. All citizens should be reminded that voting is a hard-fought-for privilege, not an inalienable right, so in order to maintain such freedoms, we need to be intentional about practicing our civic duties.

The Clerk seat should absolutely remain an elected position. While an assistant to the Commission, as well as a steward of residents' legal affairs, and the overseer of elections, the individual holding this position is accountable to all, so it stands to reason that his or her selection be made by every citizen, as opposed to a handful of individuals, or even one hiring manager, who may not hold the majority opinion of electors. In this way, I remain a true representative of the people I serve.

SANDOVAL COUNTY TREASURER

The County Treasurer is responsible for collecting property taxes in the county and distributing them to different government agencies. The Treasurer is also responsible for the supervision and investment of funds. Elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.

| | <i>What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?</i> | <i>What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?</i> | <i>What investment strategies do you think would benefit the county most?</i> | <i>Should the County Treasurer position continue to be an elected position? Why or why not?</i> |
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|--|---|--|---|---|

**Richard
Shanks**
Republican

No Response Received



**Jennifer A
Taylor**
Democrat

I have worked in the Sandoval County Treasurer's Office for almost seven years. I started off as the Administrative Assistant and was appointed Chief Deputy Treasurer in February 2019. I was then elected County Treasurer in 2020 and have served in that role since January 2021. I have been trained in every area of the office and have successfully managed it. Historic record collection, a record investment portfolio and no audit findings are the tenants of my qualifications for this office.

As Treasurer, my top priority will be fair, consistent, and equitable protection to all Sandoval County Taxpayers, constituents and residents. I will provide 100% transparency when it comes to county money and tax collections by making our reporting available on our website and welcoming anyone who raises questions or concerns about their tax dollars to come into our office. I will ensure that the Treasurer's Office is providing the best customer care to all those who utilize our services.

The formula I have followed and will continue to follow is Safety, Liquidity and then Yield (in that order). It is best practice to ensure that safety is first and foremost to avoid any loss to the county. That is why I work hand in hand with our county Portfolio Manager to monitor trends in the market that may impact how and what we are investing in. We meet on a quarterly basis with the Sandoval County Investment Committee to discuss the County's investment portfolio and request feedback.

That is a very hard question to answer because I believe in the importance of democracy and having the ability to choose who holds an office based on merit and trust of the people. However, this particular office is non-partisan and does not dictate or create policy, other than supporting bills relevant to tax policy. I can honestly say I don't have a yes or no answer to this question because I can see benefits to having it either an elected or a hired/appointed position.

SANDOVAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Member of a five-person commission that is responsible for the county government budget, county ordinances and resolutions, and zoning and business regulation in unincorporated areas, and sets policy for the operations of county government. Elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What more can the County government do to improve public safety?

Should County government do more to address water availability and quality? If so, what would you support?

DISTRICT 2

Jon Richard

Herr

Republican

No Response Received

Beau T

Sandoval

Democrat

No Response Received

DISTRICT 4



Madigan Diana

Ray

Democrat

I bring an outside, working class perspective to local government. My career has been everything from food service and retail to accounting and payroll. In every job I've held, I've improved efficiency and been commended for my attention to detail and fresh ideas.

My top priority is housing. New Mexico is in the top 10 states in the country for single-family homes owned by corporations. I want homes to be owned by people who want to live in them. Or, if they are going to be purchased for the purpose of renting, I want to know that those landlords are members of our community and that the rental profits are strengthening our state, not going to some out-of-state hedge fund or foreign corporation.

The county government can devote more funding to the causes of crime, such as homelessness, drug addiction, and mental illness. We also need to take measures to improve public trust in law enforcement. Citizens who don't trust the police won't call them, crimes will remain unaddressed, and criminals will be enabled. We need better training, more accountability, and to ensure good cops are well paid and bad cops are removed from service.

We need to have regulations in place to ensure water quality for our citizens and availability for generations to come. We cannot make the same mistake Valencia County has in allowing a bottled water company to take millions of gallons of water for profit. Rio Rancho has a very impressive water conservation and reclamation system that I would like to see rolled out in other cities and throughout the state.



Jordan

Conner Juarez

Republican

I'm a native New Mexican with and New Mexico graduate with a degree in Political Science and experience as an operations manager for an Avionics company. My qualifications aide in the understanding of community needs and county challenges. I have a special connection with my community. My skills and expertise align well with the requirements for serving in this office and being a voice for my fellow residents in Sandoval County.

I am committed to improving our infrastructure and roads for the safety and prosperity of families. By working closely with local authorities and community leaders, we'll prioritize projects and put safety measures in place during construction. I will explore funding options to ensure timely completion and keep county taxes low for residents. My goal is a thriving community with modern infrastructure that meets our families needs throughout the community.

I seek to improve public safety in the county, we need to support our first responders with better equipment, resources, and training. We must also address the fentanyl and DWI epidemic harming families in our community by allocating more resources towards task forces that will address this ongoing crisis. I will take action and make a positive difference by introducing the necessary measures to keep our residents safe as well as our first responders.

Addressing the water availability and quality issue, the County government should offer better access to clean water for rural and Native American communities. I want this to be achieved by building new water treatment plants or upgrading existing ones, drilling new wells, and installing water treatment systems. Proactive conservation methods such as water harvesting, rainwater collection, and greywater reuse can be implemented to conserve water. We must protect our most precious resource.

SANDOVAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What more can the County government do to improve public safety?

Should County government do more to address water availability and quality? If so, what would you support?

DISTRICT 5

Joshua Antonio

Jones

Democrat

No Response Received

Justin L

Garcia

Republican

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.

“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

“Democracy cannot be forced upon a society, neither is it a gift that can be held forever. It has to be struggled hard for and defended everyday anew.”

– Heinz Galinski

TORRANCE COUNTY OFFICES

TORRANCE COUNTY CLERK

The County Clerk is the ex-officio recorder for the county and may legally record any document that is certified. The office issues marriage and occupational licenses. The clerk's bureau of elections administers all elections in the county. Elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.

| | <i>What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?</i> | <i>What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?</i> | <i>Can the Clerk's office do more to encourage voter turnout?</i> | <i>Should the County Clerk position continue to be an elected position? Why or why not?</i> |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Sylvia Chavez Republican | No Response Received | | | |

TORRANCE COUNTY TREASURER

The County Treasurer is responsible for collecting property taxes in the county and distributing them to different government agencies. The Treasurer is also responsible for the supervision and investment of funds. Elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.

| | <i>What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?</i> | <i>What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?</i> | <i>What investment strategies do you think would benefit the county most?</i> | <i>Should the County Treasurer position continue to be an elected position? Why or why not?</i> |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Kathryn Hernandez Republican | No Response Received | | | |

TORRANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Member of a three-person commission that is responsible for the county government budget, county ordinances and resolutions, and zoning and business regulation in unincorporated areas, and sets policy for the operations of county government. Elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.

| | <i>What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?</i> | <i>What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?</i> | <i>What more can the County government do to improve public safety?</i> | <i>Should County government do more to address water availability and quality? If so, what would you support?</i> |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | |


DISTRICT 3


| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Linda Jaramillo Republican | I am a lifelong resident of Torrance County Commission Dist. 3. I ran for the office of Torrance County Clerk and won in 1997. My Deputy and I held the office for 25 years. As County Clerk I am ex-officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners and keep all records of proceedings of the Commission. I receive the same packet as the Commissioners. In the 25 years as County Clerk, we attended over 600 Meetings. This gives me firsthand knowledge of the duties of County Commissioner. | My top priority are the needs of my constituents in Torrance County. I am a people person. I plan on attending meetings throughout the county to keep up with issues and also one on one with constituents to hear their concerns. | We have our Sheriff's Department, Fire Departments, Emergency Manager Department and 911 Dispatch, all who work diligently to ensure public safety for all our county citizens. They are in constant training as per their presentations to the Commission. | Most definitely! Water is life. We must protect it at all costs. I will work closely with our soil and water conservation districts in the preservation of our water resources. I will keep a very close eye on who is attempting to export water out of our water basin. |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|

VALENCIA COUNTY OFFICES

VALENCIA COUNTY CLERK

The County Clerk is the ex-officio recorder for the county and may legally record any document that is certified. The office issues marriage and occupational licenses. The clerk's bureau of elections administers all elections in the county. Elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.

| | <i>What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?</i> | <i>What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?</i> | <i>Can the Clerk's office do more to encourage voter turnout?</i> | <i>Should the County Clerk position continue to be an elected position? Why or why not?</i> |
|--|--|---|--|---|
|  <p>Michael E Milam Republican</p> | <p>During my first term as Valencia County Clerk, I completed studies and received certification as a New Mexico Certified County Clerk, Certified Public Official, and Certified Advocate of Public Ethics. I have been very involved in the legislative process, working to ensure our elections continue to be safe and secure, and passing legislation that enables better functionality in all areas of the Clerk's Office.</p> | <p>Election integrity is very important to me, and my goal is to educate the public on how safe and secure our elections are in New Mexico. I have an open door policy in my office, and I invite the public to observe how our ballot tabulators are tested and certified before every election, or get involved by becoming a poll worker at one of our voting sites.</p> | <p>Yes, by increasing voter outreach through all available sources, especially social media.</p> | <p>In my opinion, the County Clerk should be an elected position, but non-partisan, like school board positions for instance. The public still votes for the best person for the job, but removes the political aspect.</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
|  <p>Rustin T Porter Democrat</p> | <p>My experiences in local government over the past 11 years has helped me gain knowledge in dealing with the public and their needs. As the County Procurement Officer I have worked closely with the Clerks office in regards to funding and ensuring all their resources are met to accomplish a successful and fair election. I also have experience working with the overall County budget and financial needs of all departments including the County Clerk's office.</p> | <p>My top priority is to ensure fair and transparent elections. I will do this by enacting more voting convenience centers to allow more accessibility for voters.</p> | <p>There is always room for growth in voter turnout. I would do this by reaching out to potential non-registered and registered voters through resources such as social media, local newspapers, mailers and our high schools and secondary education institutes.</p> | <p>Yes, as a County Clerk the voters trust in you to run fair and transparent elections. The best way for voters to be confident in those elections would be by having a County Clerk elected by those voters.</p> |
|--|---|--|---|--|

VALENCIA COUNTY TREASURER

The County Treasurer is responsible for collecting property taxes in the county and distributing them to different government agencies. The Treasurer is also responsible for the supervision and investment of funds. Elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.

| | <i>What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?</i> | <i>What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?</i> | <i>What investment strategies do you think would benefit the county most?</i> | <i>Should the County Treasurer position continue to be an elected position? Why or why not?</i> |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Ronald D Saiz Republican</p> | <p>No Response Received</p> | | | |

VALENCIA COUNTY TREASURER (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What investment strategies do you think would benefit the county most?

Should the County Treasurer position continue to be an elected position? Why or why not?



Michelle D Tafoya
Democrat

Having worked at mostly government institutions throughout my life, I recognize the value of team-building, the challenges of meeting deadlines and following rules, and the importance of participation and buy-in for each and every coworker in a safe, nurturing environment, free of drama. All my mentors had one thing in common and that was to let people do their jobs without micromanaging them. Best practices will be encouraged as well as respectful communications of listening and learning.

My top priority is to learn the boundaries of my position, the reporting requirements including records management & to learn our internal processes, specifically our interface with the public. I will need & will ask for help; as an essential part of the governance of my county, I plan on attending all training/workshops available to me & I plan on holding short, weekly staff meetings to assess how we are doing & to manage and build team unity to continue trustworthy service to the public.

We all see that parts of Valencia County are growing while other parts are stagnant. A good investment strategy is always going to include smart stewardship of our resources & our infrastructure while assuring our right to safety & security no matter where we live in the county. We must support expanded services for the whole county, more law enforcement positions throughout, school resource officers in every school & we must push for the 2nd exit for LL to stay on track w/o further delays.

Most definitely, I think it should continue to be an elected position to keep the bar high and maintain the trust of the people who elected you to uphold your oath of office. The swearing in ceremony of myself & people I've been privileged to know & love has always triggered both pride & a sense of duty to carry on. I wouldn't want to see our ability to elect people to office be compromised or ever replaced. In a democracy, voting, aka the people's voices must always be protected & heeded.

VALENCIA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Member of a five-person commission that is responsible for the county government budget, county ordinances and resolutions, and zoning and business regulation in unincorporated areas, and sets policy for the operations of county government. Elected for a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What more can the County government do to improve public safety?

Should County government do more to address water availability and quality? If so, what would you support?

DISTRICT 2



Troy Dean Richardson
Republican

I have been the County Commissioner for district 2 for the last 3-1/2 years and my background in business has been helpful during contract negotiations like the hospital construction. I am level headed and solutions oriented, which I believe is an asset to local government. I always look to do the right thing for my constituents at large, not just the most vocal ones.

My top priority moving forward is to ensure that the hospital is completed on time. The state appropriation must be spent before the end of 2025 or it reverts back to the State. We will maintain our focus on the project and be proactive in solving any problems that arise during construction.

We can continue to work with the Sheriffs department on creative solutions for recruitment and retention. We seem to be able to recruit new deputies now but as soon as the new deputy gets some experience, larger departments lure them away with high wages that we just can't compete with. The Sherrif and undersheriff have worked tirelessly over the last few years and have made significant progress with longevity bonuses and other non monetary benefits.

As a farmer and a water well driller, I am very aware of the water related challenges faced not only by Valencia County residents but all New Mexicans. The County government however has no jurisdiction over water resources. Groundwater is administered by The State Engineer and NMED and surface water is the realm of The Interstate Stream Commission and MRGCD.



Duana M Draskiewicz
Democrat

I've served on Valencia County's Planning and Zoning Commission for three years until 2019. Before that I worked as a Real Estate Agent in Valencia County.

My top priority is to bring a representative to the board that will speak for the average resident of Valencia County. I want to bring balance to the board and serve the community by providing a voice that will bring forward the concerns of those that speak at meetings and address issues about how to balance growth with the well being and future of our community. I'm interested in resolving ongoing issues like progress towards our hospital.

We can start by enforcing the laws that are already in place. The County needs to ask for support from the State to help our law enforcement officers work with our growing population. Reckless driving is hurting people daily and we need law enforcement support to address it, and safer roads for both drivers and pedestrians.

The County should do more. We need to be involved in a discussion about how the aquifer serves the entire county, and how there needs to be a balance between growth, development, and our current community.

VALENCIA COUNTY COMMISSIONER (Continued)

What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?

What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?

What more can the County government do to improve public safety?

Should County government do more to address water availability and quality? If so, what would you support?

DISTRICT 4



Charles Daniel Eaton
Democrat

Over 25 years of experience in County Government as an Elected Official & Employee. Probate Judge (1) term. County Commissioner (3) terms. County Fire Chief. (Retired)

Illegal dumping of the east and west Mesa. A comprehensive review of the solid waste management program.

Work closely with our sheriff and Fire Chief and thoroughly fund their needs to protect the community. Aggressively seek federal and state grants.

Yes ! I would work closely with both the state engineers office and the Middle Rio Grade Conservancy Board, To assure the residents have adequate drinking water and irrigation water.

Joseph Aaron Bizzell
Republican

As a successful businessman, I understand the nuance of finances, balancing a budge, making payroll, use of tools and personnel, and integration of all skills to insure proper completion of projects and task set firth. As a sitting commissioner I have been instrumental in keeping a balanced budget while pushing through the appropriation of the new hospital and other projects.

I have learned that many situations change from one day to the next. In times of crisis or emergency, I adapt to the situation at hand but throughout all daily changes- my concerns and thought are for the well being of my constituents.

I am currently working with the Valencia County Fire Chief to get the VCFD state certified for transport (both medical and trauma) to decrease any delay of transport for our citizens.

Yes. We have updated the Valencia County Comprehensive Plan. This protects our green belt, and we are in constant communication with all other agencies- from local to federal - to ensure that proper rights and usage are in conjunction with the plan.

DISTRICT 5

Dante Estefan Berry
Republican

No Response Received

“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

JUDICIAL RETENTION

THE NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT

The New Mexico Supreme Court is the highest court in the State, and most of its work involves the final appeal of cases decided by lower courts. The Supreme Court also has supervisory control over all lesser courts and attorneys licensed in the state.

Most Supreme Court vacancies are filled through appointment by the governor. Once appointed, that justice must run in the next general election, where others can run against the incumbent for the same office. After winning in a general election, a justice faces a retention election every eight years. To stay in office, the “yes” votes in favor of retention must make up at least 57% of all the votes cast on the question of retention for that justice.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| | <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> |
|--|--|---|--|

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT



**Briana H
Zamora**
Nonpartisan

As a judge, I have served at all levels of the judiciary from the Metropolitan Court to the Supreme Court. I have presided in thousands of cases and well over a hundred jury trials. New Mexicans deserve experienced judges who are independent and have integrity. I have a wealth of judicial experience and a reputation of integrity and fairness. I hope to continue my service to New Mexico as a Supreme Court Justice.

The Supreme Court oversees every court and judicial program in New Mexico. Overall, the judiciary in New Mexico is first rate. However, there are two areas I hope to improve. First, improving the efficacy and efficiency in how the judiciary implements its behavioral health programs would benefit the entire state. Second, working to ensure there is access to legal representation for all New Mexicans, particularly individuals in our rural communities.

The Supreme Court and its employees work tirelessly to issue opinions that are accurate, fair and timely. Lack of resources is our greatest challenge. The Court needs additional attorneys and paralegals to assist the Court in more efficiently issuing the Court’s opinions, orders and Supreme Court Rules.

THE NEW MEXICO COURT OF APPEALS

The New Mexico Court of Appeals is an intermediate court, sitting between the district courts and the Supreme Court. The great majority of its cases are appeals from the lower court. Most Court of Appeals vacancies are filled through appointment by the governor. Once appointed, these judges must run in the next general election, where others may run against the incumbent for the same office. After winning in a general election, a judge faces a retention election every eight years. To stay in office, the “yes” votes in favor of retention must make up at least 57% of all the votes cast on the question of retention for that judge.

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | <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> |
|--|--|--|---|

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS- POSITION 1



**Jennifer L
Attrep**
Nonpartisan

I have nearly two decades of experience on the bench and in private practice. I have served as a Court of Appeals Judge since 2018 and currently serve as the Chief Judge. As an appellate judge, I have resolved hundreds of appeals in all areas of the law and assisted with Court administration. I previously was a trial judge in Northern New Mexico where I managed a varied docket, presided over thousands of cases, and held over 50 trials. Prior to joining the bench, I served as an appellate attorney and litigator in a variety of civil and criminal cases and clerked for a federal trial judge.

The Court of Appeals is responsible for resolving the vast majority of appeals in New Mexico and, as a result, has a busy and heavy docket. The Court has made significant progress in resolving cases more quickly. Through the tireless efforts of staff and judges, the Court has cleared its backlog that had previously been amassed due to judicial turnover. The Court is dedicated to building on this progress and has adopted programs to increase efficiencies. The Court piloted a program that streamlines the appeal process, and recently implemented a program that provides free mediation services to more expeditiously resolve appeals. We are working to expand these programs and continue to explore other ways to better serve New Mexicans.

The Court of Appeals is focused on expanding public access and improving Court administration. During the pandemic, the Court began allowing unrepresented parties to electronically file court documents; and we are working to expand electronic access for unrepresented parties. The Court will be publishing self-help materials that explain the appellate process and assist unrepresented parties and attorneys in meeting their obligations on appeal. We will be rolling out live-streaming to increase access to our proceedings. The Court of Appeals also is working to obtain needed funding to build its administrative team, so the Court is more efficiently and effectively run. The current lack of staffing greatly overburdens our staff and judges.

THE NEW MEXICO COURT OF APPEALS (Continued)

What qualifies you for this position?

What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Court of Appeals practices and why?

What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS- POSITION 2



**Shammara H
Henderson**
Nonpartisan

I have been a judge on the NM Court of Appeals since my appointment by the Governor in 2020. In that time, I have gained valuable experience as an appellate judge. Prior to becoming a judge, I had a diverse career practicing in both criminal and civil law. I practiced in both state and federal court at the trial and appellate level. I have dedicated my career to ensuring diversity and equity in the judicial system.

We have worked hard the last several years to reduce the time it takes for us to rule on cases before our court. We currently have two pilot projects that have dramatically decreased the time to file opinions in our cases. One impacts our criminal cases, and we have seen our turnaround time dramatically improve. The other is our mediation program, which while new, has already helped with our civil cases. I am dedicated to continuing our efforts to reduce our caseload and find ways to ensure we are ruling on cases in a timely manner.

The main issue that our court has faced is a lack of resources. It has been a priority of mine to ensure that we have more resources. We have used these resources to rebuild our administrative staff and building maintenance. Our priority as judges should be to focus on our cases and to do so, we need the proper resources to ensure our court functions at the level expected by the parties who appear before us. We still have some improvements to make, but we have done a lot to rebuild the past several years.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS- POSITION 3



**Megan P
Duffy**
Nonpartisan

I have served as a judge on the Court of Appeals for nearly six years now and gained tremendous experience from working on hundreds of cases involving a broad range of legal issues. I take care with every case to show the parties that we have fully and fairly considered the issues, and to impartially explain what the law says about the issue so the parties understand our decision. Before joining the Court, I had 10 years of experience as an attorney. I began my legal career as a law clerk of Justice Richard Bosson at the New Mexico Supreme Court.

The Court of Appeals experienced tremendous judicial turnover from 2015-2022, which resulted in a backlog of hundreds of cases. My colleagues and I have worked hard for several years to clear that backlog and I'm happy to report that we have done so. Stability on the Court (no turnover in the last 2 years), was important to accomplishing this goal. In addition, we received some additional resources from the Legislature in the last few years, which allowed the Court to restart a mediation program, fill vacant positions, and work with retired appellate judges on a pro tem basis. That was a wonderful experience, and having a robust pro tem program could benefit courts, especially during periods of turnover.

While we are proud of our work in clearing the backlog, the Court still wants to move cases faster through the court. We have set a goal of resolving 95% of all cases within 720 days, or just under two years. We have made tremendous progress in our time-to-disposition, but still have work to do. We have been working to obtain the resources we need (both funding and personnel), and piloting programs that we hope will allow us to resolve cases quicker, including (1) a revamped mediation program, (2) a pilot project for criminal cases that produces briefing earlier in the case, and (3) a speech-to-text program that allows us to review trials and hearings more efficiently.

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

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

State district courts are courts of general jurisdiction that hold jury trials and hear many types of cases, including private injury lawsuits, contract, real estate; domestic relations, mental health, miscellaneous civil jurisdiction; criminal misdemeanor and felony cases; and juvenile matters. Judges are elected for a six-year term after which they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election to remain on the bench.

NM DISTRICT COURT JUDGE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Describe the experience and abilities that qualify you for this position.

What changes in training and support for judges in your court would you like to see implemented?

What other recommendations do you have to improve the operations of the district courts?

What other information would you like the voters to know about you?

DIVISION 3



Brett R Loveless
Nonpartisan

Prior to becoming a judge in 2012, I worked as a prosecutor in the Bernalillo County District Attorney's Office handling complicated cases, including homicide and child abuse cases. I have over two decades of experience in the criminal justice system. As a judge, I have presided over thousands of cases and hundreds of jury trials. In spite of the large volume of cases, I devote my attention to each and every case with care and reverence to ensure that the process is fair and just.

The Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits a judge from making statements that may affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending in any court, as well as making pledges, promises or commitments inconsistent with the impartial performance of judicial duties. Given the scope of this question, it would be inappropriate for me to answer. Adherence to the Code of Judicial Conduct is essential to preserve the impartiality and integrity of the judiciary, which is incredibly important to me.

The Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits a judge from making statements that may affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending in any court, as well as making pledges, promises or commitments inconsistent with the impartial performance of judicial duties. Given the scope of this question, it would be inappropriate for me to answer. Adherence to the Code of Judicial Conduct is essential to preserve the impartiality and integrity of the judiciary, which is incredibly important to me.

Having lived and raised my family in this community for almost forty years, I have devoted my career to serving the public. As a judge, it has been an incredible honor to serve this community. I strive to efficiently and effectively manage the cases assigned to me. I am focused on the prompt resolution of cases to ensure that justice is not delayed, and that the interested parties have certainty as to the outcome of the case.

DIVISION 6



Daniel E Ramczyk
Nonpartisan

I practiced law for twenty years, primarily civil litigation and some criminal matters. I have served as a judge for twenty-one plus years, first as a Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Judge and currently a Second Judicial District Judge. I have adjudicated both criminal and civil cases, and have volunteered for numerous specialty courts and court committees.

New Mexico judges already attend the National Judicial College, which I attended in 2005. We also are required to attend the annual NM Judicial Conclave, where we receive continuing education, as well as support from our colleagues.

None at this time. I sincerely believe that the judges and court staff are doing the best job possible, given the number of cases with which we are assigned and given the resources which are provided to us to do that job.

I take my oath of office very seriously, and I have done so since 2003 when I was first appointed to the New Mexico judiciary.

DIVISION 9



Cindy Leos
Nonpartisan

I received my law degree in 2002 and practiced law until 2016 when I was elected to the bench. I preside over the Young Adult Court diversion program that was created in 2017 which has received numerous accolades and community support as well as Gold Certification from the Administrative Offices of the Court. I serve on numerous committees including chairing the Bernalillo County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and chairing the NM Supreme Court Comm. on Mental Health and Competency.

Pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, judges are prohibited from making "any statement that would reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending or impending in any court" or to "make pledges, promises, or commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of these adjudicative duties of judicial office. Given the Code of Judicial Conduct and out of an abundance of caution, I believe it would be inappropriate to answer this question.

Pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, judges are prohibited from making "any statement that would reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending or impending in any court" or to "make pledges, promises, or commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of these adjudicative duties of judicial office. Given the Code of Judicial Conduct and out of an abundance of caution, I believe it would be inappropriate to answer this question.

I am a voting member of the Uniform Jury Instruction Committee and the NM Supreme Court Performance Measures Committee. I volunteer as a mentor judge for new judges. I am a guest speaker at UNM Law School on Professionalism in the law. I have presided over hundreds of jury trials. I am a native New Mexican and I love our city. Every day, I continue to be honored to serve our community.

NM DISTRICT COURT JUDGE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (Continued)

Describe the experience and abilities that qualify you for this position.

What changes in training and support for judges in your court would you like to see implemented?

What other recommendations do you have to improve the operations of the district courts?

What other information would you like the voters to know about you?

DIVISION 12



Elaine P Lujan
Nonpartisan

I have had the honor and privilege to serve in the role of a District Court Judge for over three years now. With this comes experience in managing a large and busy civil docket. In my time as a judge, I have also presided over numerous civil jury trials, bench trials, evidentiary hearings, and have heard and resolved countless motions and other legal disputes. Prior to becoming a judge, I had over fourteen years experience as an attorney practicing exclusively in civil law.

The Second Judicial District Court is the busiest trial court in the State. I think the judges could benefit from more support staff like staff attorneys or hearing officers.

Resources are key. I think more judgeships would improve the operations and efficiency of the Second Judicial District Court.

It has been an honor to serve my community as a district court judge for the past three years. I have worked hard to manage my docket, to be fully prepared for every hearing and trial, to apply the law in a thoughtful manner, to communicate my decisions clearly, and to listen closely to every participant in my courtroom. I hope I am given the great opportunity to continue to do so.

DIVISION 15



Courtney Bryn Weaks
Nonpartisan

I served in the position of Metropolitan Court Judge Division 4 from 2014-2020. I was retained to keep that position in 2018 after the bi-partisan Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) recommended that I be retained. I have been a District Court Judge presiding over Division 15, felony criminal cases, since January, 2024. JPEC again has recommended that I be retained for this position. I have proudly served the citizens of Bernalillo County for the last ten years.

Pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, judges are prohibited from making "any statement that would reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending or impending in any court" or to "make pledges, promises, or commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of these adjudicative duties of judicial office." Given the Code of Judicial Conduct and out of an abundance of caution, I believe it would be inappropriate to answer this question.

Pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, judges are prohibited from making "any statement that would reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending or impending in any court" or to "make pledges, promises, or commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of these adjudicative duties of judicial office." Given the Code of Judicial Conduct and out of an abundance of caution, I believe it would be inappropriate to answer this question.

In Metro Court, I was the presiding specialty court judge and oversaw the many treatment court programs the Court provides. In District Court, along with Judge David Murphy, I currently preside over the Veteran's Treatment Court which provides critical services to our justice involved veterans. I truly love my job, and very much look forward to continuing my service in the judiciary to best serve the citizens of Bernalillo County.

DIVISION 18



Denise Barela Shepherd
Nonpartisan

Having served as a Trial Court Judge for 25 years, I am uniquely experienced in both Civil and Criminal Law. I have presided over thousands of cases, from simple to complex, and excel at case management and resolving disputes. I combine extensive knowledge of the law with a great deal of common sense to render decisions efficiently, fairly and impartially.

The training and support for judges are satisfactorily provided by the New Mexico Supreme Court. The New Mexico Supreme Court through a yearly Judicial Conclave provides every District Court Judge with continued general jurisdiction education and training, along with updates in judicial ethics and the Judicial Code of Conduct. Judges also have additional opportunities to attend specialized training in their respective areas of interest.

Our community is growing and evolving. Our courts must meet this growing demand. We need to continue to develop user-friendly systems and streamline court procedures. Expanding specialty court services focused on elder neglect/abuse, veterans court, drug and mental health courts and issues involving domestic violence and homelessness are necessary to meet the ever-growing demands of our community.

I would like to personally thank the citizens of Bernalillo County for their continued confidence in allowing me to serve my community as a District Court Judge. I would also like to thank the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission for their thorough and impartial evaluation and recommendation of "Do Retain".

NM DISTRICT COURT JUDGE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (Continued)

Describe the experience and abilities that qualify you for this position.

What changes in training and support for judges in your court would you like to see implemented?

What other recommendations do you have to improve the operations of the district courts?

What other information would you like the voters to know about you?

DIVISION 21



**Emeterio L
Rudolfo**
Nonpartisan

I practiced law for 27 years prior to becoming a judge. I had over 100 jury trials and have had several more as a judge. I served on the San Juan College Labor Relations Board and as a member of the NM Judicial Performance Evaluation Comm'n. I earned a BA degree in criminal justice from the University of New Mexico and a Juris Doctor from the UNM School of Law. I completed the General Jurisdiction Course at the National Judicial College and the Judicial Executive Leadership Program at Harvard.

Pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, judges are prohibited from making "any statement that would reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending or impending in any court" or to "make pledges, promises, or commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of thee adjudicative duties of judicial office. Given the Code of Judicial Conduct and out of an abundance of caution, I believe it would be inappropriate to answer this question.

Pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, judges are prohibited from making "any statement that would reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending or impending in any court" or to "make pledges, promises, or commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of thee adjudicative duties of judicial office. Given the Code of Judicial Conduct and out of an abundance of caution, I believe it would be inappropriate to answer this question.

I am a life long resident of Albuquerque and I care deeply for our community.

DIVISION 27

**Victor S
Lopez**
Nonpartisan

No Response Received

DIVISION 30



**David
Allen Murphy**
Nonpartisan

Judges work hard to serve the community, and that's the spirit I bring to the bench. I've worked as a prosecutor and a defense attorney. I have a firm grasp of the law, rules of evidence and procedure. I run my courtroom with an emphasis on procedural fairness to ensure that all litigants and members of the public understand the law and are treated with respect. Judge Weaks and I preside over the Veterans Treatment Court program, and I'm the Chair of the Court's Equity & Justice Commission.

Pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, judges are prohibited from making "any statement that would reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending or impending in any court" or to "make pledges, promises, or commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of thee adjudicative duties of judicial office. Given the Code of Judicial Conduct and out of an abundance of caution, I believe it would be inappropriate to answer this question.

Pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, judges are prohibited from making "any statement that would reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending or impending in any court" or to "make pledges, promises, or commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of thee adjudicative duties of judicial office. Given the Code of Judicial Conduct and out of an abundance of caution, I believe it would be inappropriate to answer this question.

I'm from Albuquerque and am a proud graduate of APS and UNM, where I also volunteer as Adjunct Faculty to teach trial practice to law students. This is my home, and I work hard to serve our Bernalillo County community. Outside of court, I'm usually biking the trails with my friends and family.

NM DISTRICT COURT JUDGE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DIVISION 3

**Shannon L
Murdock-Poff**
Nonpartisan

No Response Received

NM DISTRICT COURT JUDGE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

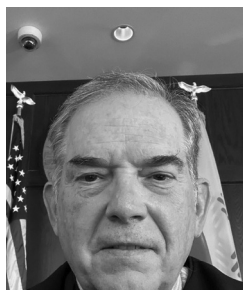
Describe the experience and abilities that qualify you for this position.

What changes in training and support for judges in your court would you like to see implemented?

What other recommendations do you have to improve the operations of the district courts?

What other information would you like the voters to know about you?

DIVISION 3



**Allen R
Smith**
Nonpartisan

Prior to being appointed & then elected as a Judge, I worked as an attorney for sixteen years, I also served as a prosecutor & County Attorney for almost ten more years. Since my appointment & election over 10 years ago, I have served as a Judge in the 13th Judicial District Court, Div. III, primarily in family court. I have presided over thousands of divorces, contested child custody cases and child abuse and neglect cases. I have tried to be patient, fair & decisive.

I would like to see more training and support for judges in learning how to deal with challenging litigants and attorneys. I would also like to see a court clinic implemented that would provide litigants with assistance filling out forms & offering counseling as well as providing parenting evaluations and support.

Self represented persons need more resources and support in how to properly present a case in court. Including resources on how to properly prepare, disclose and present testimony and documents in court.

I have been very happily married to my wife for over 42 years. We have 6 happy and successful children and 16, soon to be 17 grandchildren. I have tried to remain an active member of my community and my Church. I have found great satisfaction in serving in my community and Church.

DIVISION 6

**Cindy M
Mercer**
Nonpartisan

No Response Received

DIVISION 9



**Allison P
Martinez**
Nonpartisan

UNM School of Law graduate, practicing attorney for 18 years (former prosecutor & civil law attorney), elected as District Court Judge in 2022

We do not have enough courtrooms in the District Court in Sandoval County -- five judges and only three courtrooms.

Updating our courthouse with sufficient space and courtrooms

The judicial branch of government is the one branch that provides for direct access by the citizenry. This is why I take extreme precaution to ensure that every party appearing in my courtroom has equal opportunity to be heard and their issues considered fairly and without prejudice.

BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGES

Metropolitan Court has jurisdiction over civil actions under \$10,000, felony first appearances, misdemeanors, misdemeanor DWI/DUI; misdemeanor domestic violence, and traffic violations. Judges are elected for a four-year term, after which they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election to remain on the bench.

Describe the experience and abilities that qualify you for this position.

What changes in training and support for metropolitan court judges would you like to see implemented?

What other recommendations do you have to improve the operations of the metropolitan courts?

What other information would you like the voters to know about you?

DIVISION 1



Asra I Elliott
Nonpartisan

I was appointed to the Court by Governor Lujan Grisham in 2022 after being vetted and recommended by a bipartisan commission. In the twelve years before my appointment, I worked both as a prosecutor and a public defender. I also served as a judicial staff attorney for eight years at the Court of Appeals and the Second Judicial District Court in Albuquerque. I understand both sides of the criminal justice system and have been privileged to learn from some of the best judges in the state.

I have received excellent training and professional support since being appointed to Metropolitan Court. The more senior Judges foster a collegial atmosphere and are always happy to help, and the Court also provides regular additional training sessions on various legal issues and evolving areas of law. I hope this collaborative culture continues and the Court is able to provide more regular legal updates as the law evolves.

Metropolitan Court is continually evaluating and improving its processes and delivery of services. The Court's flexibility and can-do ethos have allowed it to reliably rise to meet any challenge to keep the wheels of justice turning, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. As new challenges arise, the Court will continue to develop new and improved ways to continue serving Bernalillo County.

I am extremely privileged to be entrusted with such an important job and one I also truly enjoy. Although appearing in court is not an enjoyable experience for most people, whatever their role in a case, I strive to leave each person I encounter with confidence in the legal system and the feeling they have been treated with fairness and respect.

DIVISION 3



Renee Torres
Nonpartisan

Associate Judge, Isleta Tribal Court (2013 - 2015) and Chief Judge, Zia Tribal Court (2015 - 2017); heard civil and criminal cases. Public Defender Attorney, NM Public Defender Dept. (2004 -2013); represented indigent clients in cases such as DWI, domestic violence, shoplifting, and other misdemeanor charges. Metro Court Judge: manage a misdemeanor docket; presiding judge of the Urban Native American Healing to Wellness Court. State Co-chair of NM Tribal-State Judicial Consortium since 2019.

Judges need the support of the legislature to fund substance use and mental health programs for defendants who need these services. These services are critical for defendants in the justice system and will ultimately improve the health and safety of the community. Training in substance use disorders will continue to aid judges in understanding addiction issues and result in appropriate sentencing where possible.

The Court should focus on returning to in-person hearings for many cases because the public continues to have difficulty appearing virtually, which is very difficult for court staff to manage while also handling in-person duties. Competitive wages for court staff is also important to keep well-trained individuals working for the court and to attract individuals to fill vacant positions.

I am from the Pueblo of Isleta and have lived in Albuquerque for 23 years. I care about the safety of the community and providing help to those who want to improve their lives. I take this job seriously and know judges have an important role in the justice system. My role not only involves upholding the rights of defendants but ensuring the safety of the community by holding defendants accountable. I have the years of experience, integrity and work ethic to continue to serve in this position.

DIVISION 7



Rosemary Cosgrove-Aguilar
Nonpartisan

I have been a Criminal Judge at the Metropolitan Court for the last eleven years. Since June 2016, I have been the presiding judge for the Domestic Violence Solutions, Treatment and Education Program for post-conviction high-risk high-needs domestic violence offenders. I am also an adjunct professor at the UNM School of Law.

Judges should have access to the best possible educational and training opportunities. It is also important judges are current on all technical advances.

It is vital that there are sufficient funds for the training and retention of Court employees. The Metropolitan Court is the busiest court in the state and the public deserves the best possible service from the judiciary and staff.

I have been a member of the New Mexico legal community for the last 34 years and I strive everyday to ensure everyone at the Metropolitan Court is treated fairly and justly.

BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGES - Continued

Describe the experience and abilities that qualify you for this position.

What changes in training and support for metropolitan court judges would you like to see implemented?

What other recommendations do you have to improve the operations of the metropolitan courts?

What other information would you like the voters to know about you?

DIVISION 9



**Yvette K
Gonzales**

Nonpartisan

I have been a Metropolitan Court Judge for 14 years. I am currently on the criminal bench. Previous to my appointment to the bench I was a prosecutor with the Bernalillo County District Attorney's office for over 11 years. In my time at the District Attorney's office I prosecuted both felony and misdemeanor cases. These experiences have made me extremely qualified to run a criminal docket.

The judges in our court get yearly training through the Administrative Office of the Courts. I think it is important for judges to not only receive yearly training but also to have opportunities to attend outside training through the National Judicial College for specific areas of the law that we encounter frequently. It is important that judges are continuously updated on the changes to the law.

The metropolitan court is one of a kind in our state. I believe that we are innovative in our practices and that we work hard to keep up with changing trends in the justice system. As long as we continue to review our operations we will continue to improve in providing a system of justice that works for our community.

I have served this community for over 25 years in my capacity as a lawyer and a judge. I was born and raised in New Mexico so I understand the unique needs of our community. As a graduate of the University of New Mexico and the University of New Mexico School of Law, I have been committed to serving my community.

DIVISION 13



**Michelle
Castillo Dowler**

Nonpartisan

I have been an attorney in New Mexico for 26 years, having graduated from UNM School of Law in 1998. I spent my first 14 years as a prosecutor and have now been a Metropolitan Court Judge for almost 12 years. Prior to my time on the bench I had extensive experience in trial work specifically in criminal cases. I currently run a criminal docket and am also the Presiding Judge for our criminal division. I am also the Chairperson for The Rules of Criminal Procedure for State Courts Committee.

I believe that the most helpful training and support for our judges would be with regard to the constantly evolving law in the form of statutes, rules and case law. We run very busy dockets and it would be helpful to have regular educational opportunities throughout the year to update our knowledge on any and all changes in the law.

As always, more resources would be helpful to improve the operations of Metropolitan Court. We are the busiest courthouse in the State and have the opportunity to make a real impact on those that find themselves in court. Resources, such as treatment options for defendants, victims, and their families would be useful and could have a lasting impact on those that come before us and on the community.

I would like the voters to know that I am a lifelong New Mexican, born and raised in Albuquerque. This community is and will always be important to me. If anyone is interested in observing what goes on in the Metropolitan Court, we conduct court six days a week and are happy to have spectators from the public. I believe this is the best way to become educated with regard to Judges and their ability to follow and apply the law.

DIVISION 15



**Felicia R
Blea-Rivera**

Nonpartisan

Prior to my appointment to the bench, I had over 15 years of legal experience serving the citizens of Bernalillo County. I've worked in various capacities in both civil and criminal litigation as a prosecutor, represented Bernalillo County as part of their in-house counsel team, worked for the federal government with the U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration, the New Mexico Association of Counties and the New Mexico Human Services Department.

The Administrative Office of the Courts already provides the judiciary with access to a wide variety of continuing education courses and training in various disciplines and related support services. That said, there is always room for more education and training to keep up to date with the new issues our society faces and to seek creative solutions to implement in the justice system. As times change, it is important that our training and education continue to keep up at the same pace.

Metropolitan Court's Specialty/Treatment Courts provide invaluable benefits to our community. These programs reduce recidivism and improve the safety of our community and quality of life for our citizens. Expanding these programs to more of our population by increasing funding and improving access to services for mental health and substance abuse treatment would tremendously benefit the long term operations of the court by reducing caseloads and thus improving overall judicial efficiency.

It has been a tremendous honor serving the citizens of Bernalillo County as a Metropolitan Court Judge. I have learned a great deal from my constituents and am committed to continue to serve our community as I have done for the past (almost) six years. It is important to me to be an effective and continually contributing member of our judiciary and I will work hard to continue to improve and expand my contributions to our community each and every day.

BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGES (Continued)

Describe the experience and abilities that qualify you for this position.

What changes in training and support for metropolitan court judges would you like to see implemented?

What other recommendations do you have to improve the operations of the metropolitan courts?

What other information would you like the voters to know about you?

DIVISION 17



**Nina
Aviva Safier**
Nonpartisan

In 2022, upon recommendation by the Judicial Selection Nominating Commission, I was appointed to serve as a criminal judge at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court. Before my appointment to the bench, I spent sixteen (16) years practicing criminal law. My extensive experience as an attorney has given me great insight into the crucial role judges play in balancing defendants' due process rights while also holding people accountable and ensuring public safety in our community.

I would like to see increased training and education regarding the most current research on how criminal judges can best set and enforce conditions of release to prevent individuals from continuing to pick up new charges and becoming repeat offenders. That evidence based training would also help Metropolitan Court judges make informed, consistent decisions regarding sentencing to further help reduce recidivism. We all deserve safe spaces to live and work.

I believe in equal and fair access to court. Often times it is hard for citizens to miss work or other obligations to appear in-person for court. Therefore, I believe the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court should continue to allow "virtual" zoom appearances on basic traffic and nonviolent misdemeanor cases for defendants, witnesses, and law enforcement personnel. Continued virtual appearances will help reduce failures to appear and lack of witness participation.

I was born and raised in Albuquerque. I am a proud product of Albuquerque Public Schools. I take my role as a judge seriously. My job is to serve the court and our community as a whole. My even temper, experience, knowledge of the law, and my dedicated work ethic make me qualified to retain this position. I believe good judges take ego out of the equation and make consistent and fair decisions that are based on rules of law and procedure. I ask that you vote yes to retain me.

“Voting is the most precious right of every citizen, and we have a moral obligation to ensure the integrity of our voting process.”

- Hillary Clinton

“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

“By voting, we add our voice to the chorus that forms opinions and the basis for actions.”

-Jens Stoltenberg

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Constitutional Amendment No. 1

"Proposing an amendment to Article 8, Section 15 of the Constitution of New Mexico to extend a property tax exemption, currently only allowed for one hundred percent disabled veterans and their widows and widowers, to veterans with less than a one hundred percent disability and their widows and widowers and basing the amount of the exemption on a veteran's disability rating."

For _____ Against _____

Analysis is based on current information. Constitutional amendments No. 1 and No. 2 both relate to property tax reductions for veterans and their spouses. These amendments are additive. For instance, if both amendments pass, the effect on households in Bernalillo County that are not eligible would be a recurring property tax increase of \$50 - \$100.

Residential property taxes are used to pay a large part of the expenses of New Mexico's schools, public health facilities, and local governments.

The NM Legislative Finance Council's "rough conclusion" in 2023 was that the new exemption would create an annual average property tax reduction of \$767. These savings would be in addition to the standard veteran property tax exemption of \$4,000 available to all veterans who own residential property.

The NM Taxation and Revenue Department has concluded that the new exemption "would represent a significant erosion of the local property tax base, on which most local governments rely for their budgets and operations." It estimates that \$27.2 million in 2026 and \$29.2 million in 2027 will be shifted to non-qualifying property owners.

The proposed amendment also requires an automatic increase in residential property taxes for those not eligible for the new exemption to make up approximately 40 per cent of the revenue lost due to the new exemption. The language of the amendment does not require non-residential or commercial business property owners to pay additional taxes to make up any of the difference.

Local government bodies and schools would bear most of the loss of revenue from passage of the amendment, and the LWVCNM has not located any description of how or when the shortfall in revenue might be recovered by government entities.

| | State of New Mexico | Bernalillo County | Sandoval County | Torrance County | Valencia County |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Number of qualifying veterans with service-connected disability | 35,118 | 10,560 | 2,375 | 291 | 1,658 |
| Shift of property tax from service-connected disability to others | More than \$22.5 million | More than \$10 million | Nearly \$2 million | More than \$100,000 | More than \$900,000 |

ARGUMENTS FOR THE AMENDMENT

- The exemption is intended to provide disabled veterans protection from rising property taxes. Allowing the property tax exemption for veterans with a permanent service-connected disability will support property-owning disabled veterans and their widowed spouses in an amount proportional to the percentage of the veteran's disability rating.
- The new property tax exemption sends the message that anyone who suffers a disability while serving in the armed forces deserves to be taken care of equitably, regardless of the severity of the injury.
- The amendment is intended to express the support of the state for veterans.
- The amendment assumes a decrease in property tax could provide an incentive for veterans of the armed forces to move to and buy property in New Mexico, which might increase the state's population and tax base.
- The amendment assumes the estimated cost of an additional annual per capita tax burden for the general population of the state is low compared to the benefit provided for the service-related disabled veterans with property tax liability.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

- The new exemption could be seen as disproportionately benefiting those who do not need financial assistance. If the purpose is to relieve the financial burden on those who are unable to pay property taxes due to their disability, then the exemption should target those with limited incomes.
- Financial assistance is already available for disabled veterans through a number of programs. Numerous state, federal and nonprofit programs serve veterans, including programs to assist disabled veterans with living expenses.
- Non-disabled-veteran property taxpayers, including seniors and persons who have a non-service related disability, will pay more due to the new exemption.
- A property tax is traditionally based on the value and nature of the property, not the personal characteristics of the owner. Creating an exemption for certain individuals would be a departure from the underlying principles of property taxation and could set a precedent for other groups to seek a similar exemption.
- The federal government should help disabled veterans, not the state. If voters believe that more compensation is due to disabled veterans and their spouses, then they should ask their representatives in Congress to address the issue.
- Property tax benefits for veterans already exist in the Constitution of New Mexico. There is a \$4,000 exemption for all honorably discharged veterans.
- The exemption excludes other property taxpayers who are disabled due to work-related injuries. There are many dangerous but necessary occupations with a high chance of disability from injury, so it is unclear why disabled veterans warrant preferable treatment in comparison to other disabled persons.

[Background information was obtained from the NM Taxation and Revenue Department, the Legislative Finance Committee 2023, the Legislative Council Service 2023, and the Bernalillo County Assessor's office. More detailed financial information is available at the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico website at LWVCNM.org.]

Constitutional Amendment No. 2

"Proposing an amendment to Article 8, Section 5 of the constitution of New Mexico to increase a property tax exemption for honorably discharged members of the armed forces and their widows and widowers."

For _____ Against _____

Analysis: Constitutional amendments No. 1 and No. 2 are additive. For instance, if both amendments pass, the effect on households in Bernalillo County that are not eligible would be a recurring property tax increase of \$50 - \$100.

Residential property taxes are used to pay a large part of the expenses of New Mexico's schools, public health facilities, and local governments.

This amendment would increase the property tax exemption for honorably discharged veterans and their surviving spouses from the current amount of \$4,000 to \$10,000 a year. This amount would be adjusted annually for inflation, although the amendment does not specify the mechanism for that adjustment. If the amendment is approved, it would require additional legislation to become effective.

Local government budgets will bear most of the loss of revenue from passage of this amendment, and the LWVCNM has not located any description of how or when the loss in revenue resulting from passage of the amendment might be recovered by government entities.

The Legislative Finance Committee also concluded in 2023, that "[l]ocal impacts of the legislation proposed in this bill will vary widely across the state depending on the local trends in property values, the per capita population of veterans in the county, as well as the remaining local authority to adjust property tax rates," and "the effect of change would also be highly variable depending on the city, county, and school district property tax rates in effect at the location of the veteran's principal residence..."

| | State of New Mexico | Bernalillo County | Sandoval County | Torrance County | Valencia County |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Veterans qualifying for exemption | 100,624 | 30,353 | 8,918 | 1,291 | 4,950 |
| Shift of property tax from honorably discharged veterans to others | \$18 million | \$7.3 million | \$1.7 million | \$181,000 | \$828,000 |

ARGUMENTS FOR THE AMENDMENT

- This amendment is intended to support property-owning veterans and their widows or widowers and might help them maintain homeownership by reducing the amount of property tax paid by honorably discharged members of the armed forces and their widowed spouses. This exemption, however, is not specific to owner-occupied primary residential property.
- This amendment is intended to express the support of the state for veterans.
- The amendment assumes a decrease in property tax could provide an incentive for veterans of the armed forces to move to or buy property in New Mexico, which may increase the state's population and tax base.
- The amendment assumes that by adjusting the amount of the exemption for inflation, the amount of the exemption for veterans will increase without requiring a future constitutional amendment, which is a challenging, lengthy and costly process.
- The amendment assumes the increased exemption amount is fairer to veterans and their spouses. The current exemption was set in 2002 and, since then, the value of the dollar has increased approximately 72% while property values have increased by approximately 80%.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

- Congress should be responsible for providing veterans' benefits. It is inappropriate for homeowners and other residential property owners and local governments to bear the expense of providing extended benefits to veterans in return for their service in a branch of the United States armed forces. If more generous benefits are due to veterans and their spouses, Congress should provide those benefits.
- The increased exemption could benefit those who chose to enlist. The mandatory United States military draft ended in 1973, and the military has been an all-volunteer force for more than 50 years. Special property tax benefits should not be extended to someone who makes the choice to work in a branch of the United States armed forces.
- The increased exemption could be seen as unfair to other property taxpayers who will pay more property taxes due to passage of the amendment.
- Traditionally, most tax relief measures are based on need. There is no evidence that veterans have lower incomes or a greater need for property tax relief than other taxpayers. It is possible that, with the passage of the proposed constitutional amendment, veterans who are financially stable and who own large, high-value homes will be relieved from contributing their fair property tax share.
- Exemptions for special groups of property taxpayers could set a precedent for other individuals to seek tax relief. Traditionally, property tax is based on the value and nature of the property, not the personal characteristics of the owner. Creating an exemption for certain individuals is a departure from the underlying principle of property taxation and could set a precedent for other groups to seek similar exemptions.
- The exemption amount only benefits a portion of veterans, since it applies only to veterans who are residential property owners and excludes veterans who are renters.
- The inflation provision in the amendment would increase property taxes even more for non-veteran property taxpayers. The proposal to index the amount of exemption for inflation may continue to erode the property tax base and annually increase the property tax bills for those who are not eligible for the property tax exemption.

[Information was provided by the State of New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee 2023 report, State of New Mexico Legislative Council Service 2023, New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department and the Bernalillo County Assessor's Office. Additional information about this amendment can be found at the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico website at LWVCNM.org. Arguments were edited and shortened by the LWVCNM.]

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (Continued)

Constitutional Amendment No. 3

"Proposing to amend Article 6, Section 35 of the Constitution of New Mexico by allowing the dean of the University of New Mexico school of law to appoint a designee to the Judicial Nominating Commission."

For _____ Against _____

ARGUMENTS FOR THE AMENDMENT

1. The role of chair of the Appellate Judges Nominating Commission is primarily administrative. These are not tasks that require the legal mind of the dean of a school of law, but even if they were, this proposed amendment ensures that there will be an esteemed legal scholar serving as chair of the commission. The Rules Governing Judicial Nominating Commissions outline the role of the chair and task the chair with the duties of announcing the existence of a judicial vacancy to the public and members of the commission, scheduling meetings of the commission and providing the media with notice of the meetings, preparing application packets and preparing agendas for meetings.

2. The University of New Mexico School of Law serves a vital interest to the state by educating a vast majority of the attorneys who practice here since it is the only school of law in New Mexico. Beyond the normal duties of being the dean of a school of law, and the current requirement to serve as chair of the Appellate Judges Nominating Commission, the dean is also required by statute to serve as the chair of the Judicial Compensation Commission. Allowing the dean's designee to serve on the Appellate Judges Nominating Commission would relieve the dean of a commitment that could be performed by others.

3. The dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law is already permitted to have a designee for important commissions, including the New Mexico Sentencing Commission and the New Mexico Compilation Commission. The dean is also required to appoint three members to the Public Defender Commission. Each of these commissions has functioned adequately without requiring the dean to attend every meeting. The dean should be allowed to appoint a designee.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

1. The amendment potentially removes a neutral tie-breaking vote from the commission. When the Appellate Judges Nominating Commission was created, there was a desire to have a neutral person who could break any of the commission's tie votes. The legislature, which passed the joint resolution to create the commission, and the people, who voted to pass the constitutional amendment in 1988, believed that the dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law was the best person to put into this neutral tie-breaking role.

2. The amendment could remove one of New Mexico's most prominent legal scholars from the judicial appointment process. The Appellate Judges Nominating Commission serves a vital role in New Mexico's judicial system by vetting and nominating candidates for the most prominent judicial positions in the state. The dean is tapped into New Mexico's legal community by virtue of being the head of the state's only law school. The dean's connections in the legal community could provide insight into the careers and backgrounds of the applicants that the commission vets.

[Pro and con arguments were provided by the State of New Mexico Legislative Council Services, and shortened by LWVCNM.]

Constitutional Amendment No. 4

"Proposing an amendment to Article 10, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico to provide that the salaries of county officers shall be established by the Board of County Commissioners, remove references to the first legislative session and clarify that any fees collected by a county official shall be paid into the treasury of the county."

For _____ Against _____

ARGUMENTS FOR THE AMENDMENT

1. While it made sense for the legislature to set county officer salaries when the state was new, the counties are now longstanding, established entities that handle their own affairs without such close state guidance. This amendment is a measure to modernize the system to better reflect the realities of day-to-day governance. The current law only sets maximum salaries for county officers and already allows boards of county commissioners discretion in determining salary increases for their officers within the statutory limitations.

2. County officers manage complex bureaucracies and require executive experience and specialized skills to be effective on behalf of their constituents. To ensure that voters have the opportunity to elect qualified officers, counties need the flexibility to set salaries to attract experienced and skilled candidates. This amendment would allow counties to be more responsive to their own needs and provide for more professional management.

3. Constitutional and statutory safeguards exist to check the power of county commissioners in setting salaries. The constitution and laws of the state have measures that serve as a check on the powers of county commissioners in setting the salaries of county officers.

4. This amendment will give voters more say in how their counties are managed. County officers are locally elected and directly accountable to their constituents. This amendment would localize salary decisions and make county officers more accountable to their constituents.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

1. Without legislative oversight, county official salaries will be wide-ranging and inconsistent across counties. Pursuant to its current obligation to fix the salaries for county officers, the legislature has established a comprehensive classification system based on a combination of a county's population and the total value of real estate within the county. This system helps to ensure that salaries are uniform and proportional across the state. This proposed amendment empowers boards of county commissioners to establish officer salaries without any standards.

2. Removing the legislature's authority could lead to negative consequences for counties. Allowing boards of county commissioners full discretion to determine salaries for their officers takes authority and power away from the legislature. The people of the state have an interest in the legislature retaining the power to set county officer salaries because it serves as a mutual check, is a reasonable limit on counties' powers and requires accountability from the legislature.

3. County commissioners would set their own salaries. Currently, Article 10, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico places the legislature in a neutral third-party role and provides assurances to the people of the state that county officer salaries are determined impartially. This proposed amendment may make these determinations more susceptible to short-term political or personal considerations.

[Pro/and con arguments were provided by the State of New Mexico Legislative Council Service. They were edited and shortened by LWVCNM.]

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND QUESTIONS

A bond represents money borrowed by a government to finance capital improvement projects. The bonds are called general obligation (GO) bonds because payment of the debt (principal plus interest) is a general obligation of the governmental entity issuing the bond.

GO bonds are sold to bond investors, subject to voter approval of separate bond questions, as a way to generate revenue for capital projects. GO bonds must be sold within a specific time after voter approval. They must be fully spent on capital (bricks and mortar) projects or equipment, not on daily operations or maintenance. Bond money cannot be transferred from one category to another.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Bond Question 1 - Aging and Long-Term Services Department

The 2024 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 thirty million seven hundred fifty-eight thousand one hundred dollars (\$30,758,100) to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition projects and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

Bond Question 2 - Library Acquisitions

The 2024 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 five thousand dollars (\$19,305,000) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal and public 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?

For _____ Against _____

Bond Question 3 - Higher Education

The 2024 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 two hundred thirty million two hundred fifty-eight thousand four hundred dollars (\$230,258,400) 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?

For _____ Against _____

Bond Question 4 - Public Safety

The 2024 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of public safety radio communications systems improvement bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed ten million two hundred ninety-seven thousand one hundred dollars (\$10,297,100) to make capital expenditures for public safety radio communications systems stabilization and modernization and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

BERNALILLO COUNTY

Bernalillo County will ask voters to authorize the issuance of GO Bonds for the 2024 bond cycle (years 2025-2026) totaling \$40,500,000. The projects have been grouped according to their general purposes into six ballot questions.

There are separate bond questions on the ballot for roads, drainage, utilities, buildings, public safety, community facilities, and libraries. This allows voters to have the option to approve one purpose and not another. A detailed listing of the projects proposed for these bond issues can be viewed at lvcn.org and on the Bernalillo County website. Passage of the bond issues will not increase property tax rates.

Bond Question 1 - Library Bonds

Shall Bernalillo County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$2,500,000 for the purpose of acquiring property, planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, remodeling, furnishing, equipping, and otherwise improving library facilities within Bernalillo County, New Mexico, and purchasing materials and resources for libraries within Bernalillo County, New Mexico, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

Bond Question 3 - Parks and Recreation Bonds

Shall Bernalillo County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$11,709,000 for the purpose of acquiring property, planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, remodeling, furnishing, equipping repairing and otherwise improving park and recreational facilities within the county including but not limited to parks, aquatic centers, community centers, playgrounds, ball fields, open spaces, cultural and educational facilities, community recreation centers and pools, and necessary redevelopment of facilities, construction and improvements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or time and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

Bond Question 2 - Public Safety Facilities, Fleet and Other County Building Bonds

Shall Bernalillo County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$8,800,000 for the purpose of acquiring property, planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, remodeling, purchasing, furnishing, equipping, repairing and otherwise improving, County facilities and fleet, including but not limited to health and public safety facilities, fire station and law enforcement facilities, jail and detention center facilities, courthouse facilities, youth and family service center and learning facilities visitors center facilities, replacement of heavy equipment, and necessary redevelopment of facilities, construction and improvements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

Bond Question 4- Transportation Bonds

Shall Bernalillo County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$10,691,000 for the purpose of acquiring property, planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, rehabilitating, furnishing, equipping, repairing and otherwise improving transportation facilities within the county, including but not limited to roads, non-motor vehicle pathways, bridges, traffic calming facilities, guardrails, bike lanes, trails, sidewalks, transit improvements, paving, landscaping, traffic signals and other street improvements, and necessary construction and improvements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or time and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

General Obligation Bonds Bernalillo County (Continued)

Bond Question 5 - Storm Drainage and Utilities Bonds

Shall Bernalillo County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$5,100,000 for the purpose of acquiring property, planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, rehabilitating, equipping repairing and otherwise improving drainage and utility infrastructure, including but not limited to storm sewer and drainage, wastewater, water and drainage systems and facilities within Bernalillo County, New Mexico, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

Bond Question 6 - Public Housing Bonds

Shall Bernalillo County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$1,700,000 for the purpose of acquiring property, planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, remodeling, rehabilitating, furnishing, equipping, repairing and otherwise improving housing facilities within the County, including but not limited to energy efficiency and other improvements for multifamily housing units for low-income, homeless, senior and disabled populations, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

SANDOVAL COUNTY

Sandoval County will ask voters to authorize the issuance of General Obligation Bonds for the 2024 bond cycle totaling \$24,407,000. The projects have been grouped according to their general purposes into four ballot questions. This allows voters to have the option to approve one purpose and not another.

Bond Question 1 - Library Bonds

Shall Sandoval County, New Mexico, be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds, in one series or more, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$3,100,000 for the purpose of planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, remodeling, furnishing, equipping, repairing and otherwise improving library facilities within Sandoval County, New Mexico, and purchasing books and other library resources for libraries within Sandoval County, New Mexico, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

Bond Question 3 - Animal Shelter Bonds

Shall Sandoval County be authorized to issue up to \$7,500,000 of general obligation bonds for the purpose of designing, constructing, equipping, and furnishing a County animal shelter, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

Bond Question 2 - Fire Department, Public Safety and Telecommunications Systems Bonds

Shall Sandoval County be authorized to issue up to \$11,200,000 of general obligation bonds for the purpose of planning, designing, engineering, constructing, acquiring, installing and expanding County Fire Department water delivery systems and County public safety and government telecommunication systems equipment and related County buildings, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes, and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

Bond Question 4 - Fleet, Road and County Facilities Bonds

Shall Sandoval County be authorized to issue up to \$2,607,000 of general obligation bonds for the purpose of acquiring vehicles, paving roads, acquiring equipment and making improvements to County facilities, said bonds to be payable from general (ad valorem) taxes and to be issued and sold at such time or times and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of County Commissioners may determine and as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

ALBUQUERQUE METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY (AMAFCA)

Shall the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds in principal amount not exceeding \$25,000,000 for the extension, betterment, alteration, reconstruction, repair and other improvements of the Authority's flood control system?

Yes _____ No _____

UNM VALENCIA BRANCH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Shall the Advisory Board of the University of New Mexico - Valencia Branch Community College District be authorized to issue up to \$15,000,000 of general obligation bonds for the purpose of erecting, furnishing, constructing, purchasing, remodeling and equipping buildings and utility facilities, exclusive of stadiums; making other real property improvements; purchasing grounds; and purchasing and installing computer hardware and software; or any combination of these purposes?

For _____ Against _____

BALLOT QUESTIONS

The mill levy is a property tax applied based on the assessed value of the property, which is set by your county tax assessor, and which is less than the market value. In New Mexico taxable value is calculated as one third of the assessed value minus exemptions. The tax is applied by local governments and other jurisdictions to raise revenue to cover their budgets and to pay for public services such as schools, hospitals, and environmental infrastructure.

University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) - Bernalillo

Shall the County of Bernalillo continue to impose a tax levy of Six and Four-Tenths (6.4) mills each year for a maximum of eight (8) years on each dollar of net taxable value of property in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, for the operation and maintenance of the University of New Mexico Hospital?

For _____ Against _____

Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District - Bernalillo & Sandoval

Shall the duly elected Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors establish a levy of up to 0.25 mills to: protect drinking water sources and the health of rivers and streams by improving stormwater and floodplain management; reduce the risk of wildfire for our communities by improving the health of our forests, including the Sandia and Manzano Forests; restore wildlife habitat, including along the Rio Grande; preserve agricultural land by partnering with local farmers to promote healthy soil practices; restore and conserve natural areas and open spaces to provide equitable access to the outdoors; and provide natural resources education for youth and adults, with all revenues and expenditures subject to an independent annual audit?

For _____ Against _____

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE CHARTER AMENDMENTS

PROPOSING TO AMEND THE ALBUQUERQUE CITY CHARTER REGARDING THE PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE AND FIRE CHIEF

Shall the City of Albuquerque Charter be amended to modify the procedures to appoint city administrative officers and appoint and remove the Chief of Police and Fire Chief?

YES _____ NO _____

Analysis:

The proposed amendment changes the Albuquerque City Charter to modify the procedures to appoint city administrative officers. City administrative officers are defined as any position with supervisory authority over anyone in a department director position. The proposed amendment would require the mayor to reappoint, and the council to approve all city administrative officers, the Chief of Police and the Fire chief at the beginning of each new term. It limits the time city administrative officers may serve without council approval. It would also allow the council to terminate employment agreements of the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief with a two-thirds plus one of the membership of the council.

Arguments for the proposed amendment:

1. Intended to provide greater collaboration between the mayor and the council.
2. Intended to provide more checks and balances for these positions of great importance for the entire citizenry through their elected council representatives.
3. Limits the amount of time the mayor can employ interim administrative officers without council approval.

Arguments against the proposed amendment:

1. Council may terminate the police or fire chief at any time within the terms of the employment contract without giving a reason by a vote of seven councilors.
2. Effect of passage of the amendment would give police and fire chief uncertainty as to who to look towards for leadership amongst a number of people who may have differing priorities.
3. May be difficult to find qualified applicants to accept position with such conditions.

PROPOSING TO AMEND THE ALBUQUERQUE CITY CHARTER REGARDING THE PROCEDURE TO DETERMINE SEPARATION OF POWER ISSUES UNDER THE CITY CHARTER

Shall the City of Albuquerque Charter be amended to modify the procedures for determination of separation of powers issues under the city charter?

YES _____ NO _____

Analysis:

This proposed amendment attempts to clarify the procedure used by the city to resolve differences between the mayor and the council. The current charter establishes a committee of three with one appointment by the mayor, one by the council, and a third member chosen by the two appointees. If either the mayor or the council fails to make an appointment, as has happened in the past, then the negotiation process is stalled. This amendment requires that these committee members be appointed within 60 days and effectively would allow either the mayor or the council to appoint all three committee members if one of the parties fails to make a committee appointment within the set time.

Arguments for the proposed amendment:

1. It is designed to assign responsibility for tracking committee appointments to the city clerk.
2. It should prevent a delay in filling a vacancy from impeding the work of the conference committee.
3. It is meant to provide an incentive for filling conference committee vacancies in a timely manner.

Arguments against the proposed amendment:

1. Allowing 60 days for appointments to the conference committee is helpful because it sets a deadline, but may be too long for the committee to work effectively.
2. The proposed amendment does not provide an option in the event that the council is unable to agree on a replacement other than allowing the mayor to fill two positions.

VALENCIA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY

Shall the Valencia County Arroyo Flood Control District be established for the purpose of mitigating the risks associated with flooding, implementing proactive flood control measures to protect lives, property, and infrastructure, fostering sustainable development and economic growth by reducing flood-related damages, and enhancing public safety and emergency preparedness within both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Valencia County?

For _____ Against _____

VOTER GUIDE 2024

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

This guide represents the efforts of the many LWVCNM members who have worked hard to draft questions, contact candidates, and research information about elections and ballot measures in order to create a nonpartisan educational resource for the community.

The LWVCNM Voter Guide 2024 was prepared and distributed by the following people:

| | | |
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| Jan Bandrofchak | Elene Gusch | Donna Rigano |
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| Anne Galer | Mary Mulvaney | Paul Wolfenbarger |
| Mary Gleason | Peggy Neff | Brenda Wolfenbarger |
| May Goldenberg | Terry Quinn | Helen Wright |

LWVCNM wishes to thank the many individuals in state and local government who assisted us by providing information for this publication.

Information sources: New Mexico Secretary of State's Office, New Mexico Legislative Council Service, New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee, New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, Bernalillo County Clerk's Office, Sandoval County Clerk's Office, Torrance County Clerk's Office, Valencia County Clerk's Office, Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, Bernalillo County Assessor's Office, City of Albuquerque Council Services, the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District and Pete Dinelli.

Most importantly, we wish to thank the candidates who are running for office and who participated by providing information for voters in our community.

Last, but not least, we would like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of Leonard Baca and Business Printing Services in Albuquerque. He worked patiently and tirelessly with us on the graphic design for this publication.

A final note of appreciation to the *Santa Fe New Mexican* for printing this guide.

ABOUT the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico is an educational non-profit organization dedicated primarily to nonpartisan voter education. We are affiliated with the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, which functions as a statewide advocacy organization supported by the four local leagues: Central New Mexico, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Southern New Mexico.

The League provides nonpartisan voter education to citizens on issues and candidates by conducting and/or sponsoring public discussion, forums, lectures, and other similar programs; by producing observer reports of various public councils, boards, and commissions, and by producing online and/or printed information on issues, candidates, and officials. This includes the popular *Voter Guide* and *Who's Who Political Directory*.

ABOUT the Voter Guide

This guide is published to assist voters in learning about candidates, constitutional amendments, bond questions, and other issues on their ballots. The work is done completely by volunteers.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or political parties. This year the Leagues in New Mexico have put together an online statewide Voter Guide called VOTE411. Using software developed by the LWV of the United States, we ask candidates to enter their answers to a series of questions developed by the local Leagues. No one at the League edits or alters their answers. The only restriction we impose is a character limit for answers.

VOTE411 also includes information about what's on the ballot, including constitutional amendments, bond issues, and other local questions.

If this guide helped in making your decisions, please consider donating to and/or joining our organization at lwvcnm.org.

Donating to the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions to LWVCNM are tax deductible.

The League depends on the generosity of individual supporters and members, foundations, and businesses to fund its citizen education and advocacy activities.

You can donate by:

- ◇ **Sending a check** to LWVCNM, 6739 Academy Rd NE Ste 124, Albuquerque NM 87109. Let us know if your donation is for a specific purpose.
- ◇ **Using a credit card** to donate online at lwvcnm.org.
- ◇ **Adding LWVCNM** to your will, trust, or estate plans, or setting aside a portion of a required minimum distribution from an IRA plan for LWVCNM. The JoAnne Ramponi Society was created to recognize these donors. Call our office at (505) 884-8441 for more information.

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico appreciates your support!



In Appreciation – 2024 LWVCNM Voter Guide

**Thank you to the friends of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico.
We appreciate your financial support of our voter education efforts.**

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