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Email: leaders@lwvnm.org Phone: 505-864-8441
VOTE411.org for more detail

VOTER GUIDE

GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 5, 2024

A General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. If you are a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on Election Day, and registered to vote, you may vote in the General Election.

San Juan County Clerk Tanya Shelby

100 S. Oliver Drive, Suite 200, Aztec, NM 87410

Phone: (505) 334-9471

Website: <http://www.sjcclerk.net>

Election & Registration Inquiries: elections@sjcounty.net

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

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

Absentee Ballots

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

Dates & Times for the General Election

October 8, 2024: First day of absentee/early voting at the County Courthouse, Mon -Fri 8 am to 5 pm

October 19, 2024: Early voting at alternate sites begins Tue - Sat 10 am to 6 pm

October 22, 2024: Last day County Clerk may receive applications and mail absentee ballots

November 2, 2024: Early voting at County Courthouse ends (This is the only Saturday voters may cast their ballot at the Courthouse 8 am to 5 pm)

November 2, 2024 Last day of early voting at alternate sites 10 am to 6 pm

November 5, 2024: Election Day - Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Voter Registration

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

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

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

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico is pleased to offer this Voter Guide for the 2024 General Election. The League believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens. We are nonpartisan -we do not support or oppose any candidate or political party. For a complete Voter Guide with candidates' answers to our questions, go to www.VOTE411.org to see our online Voter Guide

Disclaimer

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

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

BONDS

Early In-Person Voting will not take place on Monday, October 14, 2024

County Offices will be closed in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day.

San Juan County Polling Locations

San Juan County, New Mexico

100 S. Oliver Dr. Suite 200, Aztec, NM 87410

Phone number (505) 334-9471

Email michelle.dominguez@co.cibola.nm.us

Bureau of Elections Phone Number (505) 285-2541

<https://www.sjcounty.net/government/county-clerk/election-department>

Early Voting Sites

San Juan County Clerk's Office 100 S. Oliver Dr., Aztec, NM

Bloomfield Cultural Center 333 S. First St., Bloomfield, NM

CCSD Business Office South of U.S. Highway 64 - Old Shiprock High School, Shiprock, NM

Farmington Museum @ Gateway Park 3041 E. Main St., Farmington, NM

Farmington Public Library 2101 Farmington Ave., Farmington, NM

Newcomb Fire Station MM # 56.5 U.S. Highway 491, Newcomb, NM

Voting Convenience Centers

AZTEC

Aztec Masonic Lodge 1020 NE Aztec Blvd., Aztec

Cedar Hill Fire Station 4 Road 2343, Cedar Hill

SJC Fire Operations Center 209 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec

BLANCO

Blanco Fire Station 7372 U.S. Highway 64, Blanco

BLOOMFIELD

Bloomfield City Hall 915 N. First St., Bloomfield

Bloomfield Cultural Center 333 S. First St., Bloomfield

FARMINGTON

Farmington City Hall 800 Municipal Dr., Farmington

Farmington Civic Center 200 W. Arrington, Farmington

Farmington Museum at Gateway Park 3041 E. Main St. Farmington

Farmington Public Library 2101 Farmington Ave., Farmington

Hills Church 5101 N. Dustin Ave., Farmington

McGee Park 41 Road 5568, Farmington

Pinon Hills Seventh Day Adventist Church 5001 Foothills Dr., Farmington

Sycamore Park Community Center 1051 Sycamore St., Farmington

FLORA VISTA

Flora Vista Fire Station 2 Road 3275, Flora Vista

KIRTLAND

Brooks/Isham Performing Arts Center 540 Road 6100 Kirtland

Kirtland Youth Association 39 Road 6500, Kirtland

LA PLATA

La Plata Community Center 1438 NM Highway 170, La Plata

SHIPROCK

CCSD Business Office South of U.S. Highway 64 - Old Shiprock High School

Phil Thomas Performing Arts Center U.S. Highway 64, Shiprock

OUTLYING AREAS

Beclabito Chapter Facilities Road 9064, Beclabito

Crystal Chapter Facilities 1/3 mile North on N12, from junction N12 and N134, Crystal

Gadii'ahi Chapter Facilities 11 miles Northwest on Road 9100, Gadii'ahi

Huerfano Chapter Facilities 536 Road 7150, Huerfano

Lake Valley School 13 Road 7750, Lake Valley

Nageezi Chapter Facilities 1153 NM, Hwy 550, Nageezi

Naschitti Chapter Facilities US Hwy 491 Mile Marker 42, on the West side of the highway, Naschitti

Nenahnezad Between Road 6675 & N36, Nenahnezad

Newcomb Fire Station Mile Marker #56.5 Highway 491, on the West side of the highway, Newcomb

Sheep Springs Chapter Facilities Just to the West of Mile Marker 47 on U.S. Highway 491, Sheep Springs

Tiis Tsoh Sikaad (Burnham) Chapter Facilities 12 miles East of US Hwy 491 on Navajo Route 5 and 1/2 mile South on Navajo Route 5080, Burnham

Tse alnaozi't'i'i (Sanostee) Chapter Facilities 9 miles W of US Hwy 491 on Indian Service Route 34,

Two Grey Hills Chapter Facilities Junction of N-19 and N-5000 - 3 miles south, Toadlena (Two Grey Hills)

FEDERAL OFFICES

Questions:

- Q1. Why do you want to run for this seat?
- Q2. What are the most important issues facing Congress in the next two years?
- Q3. How would you address them?
- Q4. What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding immigration?
- Q5. What, if anything, would you do to improve the functioning of Congress?

United States 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.

Martin Heinrich

Democratic

A1: 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.

A2: 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.

A3: 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.

A4: 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.

A5: Congress should pass legislation to get dark money out of our elections and give the American people transparency into who is attempting to influence their

votes. Additionally, the Senate should end the filibuster to prevent a single Senator from disrupting the Democratic process and ensure working people in America have a real seat at the table in Washington.

Nella Louise Domenici

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

United States Representative District 3

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.

Sharon E. Clahchischilliage

Republican

A1: There is a lack of representation in preserving the voice and livelihood of New Mexico constituents from out of touch politicians and failed leadership,

A2: 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.

A3: 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.

A4: Address the laws regarding the border and enforce them.

A5: Win the Congressional District 3 election! Encourage congressional members to minimize their obsessions with personal agendas and concentrate on addressing the needs of their constituents.

Teresa Leger Fernandez

Democratic

A1: 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.

A2: 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.

A3: 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.

A4: 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.

A5: I was trained as a rebellious lawyer. Which means, I was trained to listen. I have taken this with me to Congress - where I both bring the voices and learnings of our NM communities and do the work to listen to my colleagues and find common ground where possible. The more we listen to each other, the more I believe we can get done. The vast majority of the legislation I have introduced and passed in the House and into law was bipartisan. Fundamentally, though - we also must recognize that the functioning of our Congress is tied to our access to democracy. We must protect and reform our democracy and ensure that every single eligible voter can access the ballot box. That is how we ensure that our democracy works for all of us.

NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE

Questions: (SD 1, 2, 3, 4 and HD 1, 2, 3, 4)

- Q1. Why do you want to run for this seat?
- Q2. How have your experience and education prepared you for this position?
- Q3. What will be your highest priorities?
- Q4. How can the legislature address water issues in an increasingly arid state?
- Q5. What should the legislature do to improve public safety in New Mexico?
- Q6. What, if any, changes to NM's tax structure do you support?

Questions: (SD 22 and HD 65, 69)

- Q1: What abilities do you have that qualify you for this office?
- Q2: What is your top priority, and how do you plan to address it?
- Q3: What additional water policies and actions, if any, are needed in New Mexico?
- Q4: What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety?
- Q5: What programs or actions, if any, would you support to provide more affordable housing?

Q6: How can New Mexico diversify its economy?

Q7: Should legislators be paid a salary? Why or why not?

State Senator

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, senators enact "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 25 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a four-year term. Senators do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem.

State Senator District 1

William E Sharer

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

State Senator District 2

Steve D Lanier

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

Songtree L Pioche

Democratic

The candidate has not yet responded.

A1: I'm running for the New Mexico Senate District 2 seat to ensure Indigenous voices are heard at the decision-making table. Our communities have been underserved for too long, and I'm driven to address the systemic inequalities that have marginalized us. With a background in education, advocacy, and leadership, I'm ready to fight for justice, equity, and representation. My campaign focuses on healthcare, education, housing, and environmental protection, ensuring policies reflect our values. I'm committed to bringing community-centered and grassroots leadership to create a future where all our people can thrive.

A2: My education in Native American Studies, focused on leadership and building Native Nations, has provided me with a deep understanding of the issues facing Indigenous communities and essential skills like research, communication, and problem-solving. In my career, I've worked in Human Resources, education, and advocacy, which has allowed me to navigate complex systems, support employee development, and advocate for underrepresented voices. These experiences, combined with a strong network of Native and non-native colleagues, have prepared me to bring informed, compassionate leadership to the New Mexico Senate District 2 seat.

A3: My highest priorities will be advancing healthcare access, ensuring educational equity, improving housing security, and protecting our environment. I will focus on making healthcare affordable for all, advocating for equitable resources in education, increasing affordable housing options, and supporting sustainable practices to safeguard natural resources. These

priorities reflect my commitment to justice and equity, aiming to address systemic inequalities and build a thriving community for everyone.

A4: The legislature can address water issues in New Mexico by strengthening water conservation policies, promoting efficient use in agriculture, urban areas, and industry. Investing in infrastructure to prevent water loss and improve storage is crucial. Recognizing Indigenous water rights and integrating traditional ecological knowledge can enhance sustainable management. Addressing climate change by promoting renewable energy and reducing emissions is vital to securing long-term water resources. Additionally, regional cooperation with neighboring states can ensure fair and sustainable use of shared water resources.

A5: The legislature should improve public safety in New Mexico by investing in community-based programs that address root causes of crime, such as poverty and lack of access to mental health services. Increasing support for law enforcement with training focused on de-escalation and cultural competency is essential. Strengthening partnerships between law enforcement and communities can foster trust. Additionally, the legislature should focus on reforming the criminal justice system to ensure fairness, reduce recidivism, and provide rehabilitation opportunities for those reentering society.

A6: I support progressive changes to New Mexico's tax structure to ensure a fairer distribution of the tax burden. This includes implementing a more progressive income tax system where higher earners contribute a larger share. Additionally, expanding and enhancing tax credits for low- and middle-income families can alleviate financial strain. I also advocate for closing tax loopholes and ensuring that large corporations pay their fair share. These changes aim to create a more equitable tax system that supports public services and reduces economic disparities.

State Senator District 3

Shannon Dawn Pinto

Democratic

The candidate has not yet responded.

State Senator District 4

George K Munoz

Democratic

The candidate has not yet responded.

State Senator District 22

Benny Shendo Jr

Democratic

The candidate has not yet responded.

State Representative

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, representatives enact "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years,

it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 21 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a two-year term. Representatives do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem and mileage; there is also a pension program for legislators serving a minimum period.

State Representative District 1

Rodney D Montoya

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

State Representative District 2

P Mark Duncan

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

State Representative District 3

William A Hall II

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

State Representative District 4

Joseph Franklin Hernandez

Democratic

The candidate has not yet responded.

Lincoln Mark

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

State Representative District 65

Derrick J Lente

Democratic

The candidate has not yet responded.

State Representative District 69

Michelle P Abeyta

Democratic

A1: 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.

A2: 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.

A3: 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.

A4: We need to ensure that we have adequate funding and training for public safety professionals and their industry.

A5: We need creative solutions! We should be working with partners and stakeholders to repurpose old and abandoned hotels and homes to revitalize them and turn them into affordable housing communities. In rural communities, there are opportunities to establish micro communities where infrastructure is needed. I would also support emergency rental assistance programs and create incentives for rental properties willing to work with rental assistance programs.

A6: One way New Mexico can diversify its economy is by investing in renewable energy. We have plenty of sunshine and wind in the state, let's use it!

A7: Yes, I believe legislators should be paid a salary because that would cast a more diverse group of people in office. We also need to ensure that our legislators are compensated so that they can afford to care for themselves and their families while they serve the people of New Mexico.

Public Education Commissioner District 10

The Public Education Commission is a ten-person commission that is advisory to the Secretary of Education. The Commission authorizes and monitors all state-chartered charter schools. Commissioners must be 18 years of age, a United States citizen, and reside in the district he/she represents. There are four-year staggered terms. Districts 1, 4, 8, 9 and 10 are up for election in 2024.

Questions:

Q1. What experience would you bring to this position?

Q2. What would be your two highest priorities?

Q3. What programs or approaches, if any, should be developed to raise the graduation rate in the state?

Q4. Should there be a cap on the number of charter schools in New Mexico? Please explain.

Steven J Carrillo

Democratic

A1: Nine years on the Santa Fe Public Schools Board of Education - Proven success in leadership and the development and implementation of public school programs targeted at increasing student achievement. In the middle of my first term on the Public Education Commission - Completion of numerous education professional development programs. Collaborated with commissioners in increasing accountability standards for state authorized charter schools, updating policies and procedures, and making the PEC more transparent and accountable to all stakeholders. Santa Fe resident for 33 years. Son who attended public school and graduated from Santa Fe High.

A2: Increasing student achievement in the core subjects Holding the adults accountable that have failed our kids by allowing them to skate by with Ds and get their diploma. Providing increased school choice - Opportunities for

students and families to find their best fit for program and school culture. In doing so, ensuring that the process to open a state authorized charter school remains very rigorous. As well, providing the oversight to make sure schools are performing at their highest level and keeping their commitments to families, kids, and taxpayers. And where a school demonstrates consistent underperformance, be willing to revoke their charter.

A3: It's NOT about graduation rates, It's about academic proficiency!

A4: No. The market determines the cap. As long as there is the need for schools that better meet the demands of kids and families, there should be charters that meet these needs. The education landscape includes district schools, local and state authorized charters, privates, parochial schools, home schooling, and virtual schools. There is immense competition in the education marketplace to attract and retain both students and staff. Those entities that continue to live in the real world and meet these needs will continue to grow and achieve success.

JUDICIAL DISTRICT

District Attorney 11th Judicial District Division 1

The District Attorney represents the government in the prosecution of criminal offenses. New Mexico has 13 judicial districts for which there is an elected District Attorney. DAs typically handle the following tasks: conduct grand jury investigations, review police reports and the criminal charges, handle preliminary hearings and all other courtroom-contested matters, offer plea bargains, conduct bench or jury trials, and litigate appeals. Four-year term.

Questions:

Q: 1. What experience and education qualifies you to be District Attorney?

Q: 2. What are your highest priorities for this office?

Q: 3. How do you intend to accomplish them?

Q: 4. What, if any, alternatives to incarceration do you support for nonviolent crimes?

Jack L Fortner

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

District Court Judge, Eleventh Judicial District Division 7

New Mexico's 33 counties are divided into 13 judicial districts. These are courts of general jurisdiction that hold jury trials in the following types of civil cases: tort, contract, real property rights, and estate contests. District courts generally have exclusive jurisdiction over domestic relations, mental health, appeals for administrative agencies and lower courts, criminal appeals, and juvenile cases. To be eligible a person must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for at least six years preceding assumption of office, and reside in the district for which he/she is elected. Judges serve six-year terms. Judges initially stand for election in a partisan election and thereafter stand for retention.

Questions:

Q1. Have you been recommended by the Judicial Nominating Commission?

Q2. What qualifies you for this position?

Q3. What alternatives to incarceration do you support for nonviolent crimes?

Q4. What can be done to reduce backlogs of court cases?

Douglas W Decker

Democratic

A1: I answer yes as I was nominated to the Governor for appointment and was appointed one year ago. I have not been through the review process at this point in my judgeship.

A2: At a minimum, the Constitutional requirements. Plus my experiences as an attorney and in the last year my experiences serving as a District Court Judge.

A3: I support all forms of alternatives with an eye to the least restrictive pre trial that will assure the accused will show up to court hearings, and will not further other crimes especially crimes that will physically harm others.

A: In our District here in McKinley County, have enough prosecutors and defense Counsel to conduct multiple trial dockets at the same time.

COUNTY OFFICES

San Juan County Clerk

The County Clerk is the chief election officer responsible for administration of elections for the county. The Clerk serves as ex officio to the Board of County Commissioners and maintains the minutes from proceedings and all related material. The Clerk's Office is the repository for public documents including real estate records, marriage records, occupation licenses and informal probate. Four-year term.

Questions:

Q1: What are your qualifications for this position?

Q2: What are the biggest challenges in the county clerk's office?

Q3: How would you address them?

Q4: What steps would you take to increase voter turnout in the county?

Q5: Do you support sending every voter an absentee ballot application for all elections?

Alyssa Kuhn

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

San Juan County Treasurer

The County Treasurer is responsible for keeping accounts of all county funds received and disbursed by the various county departments, keeping regular accounts of all checks and warrants drawn, and keeping the books, papers and money pertaining to the office. Four-year term.

Questions:

Q1: What experience and education qualify you for this office?

Q2: What are the highest priorities of the County Treasurer's office?

Q3: As County Treasurer, what investment strategies would you follow?

Carol B Taulbee

Republican

A1: 28 years governmental accounting experience, includes 10 years in Treasury

A2: Safekeeping, Investment and Cash Flows, Revenue collection,

A3: Safety, Liquidity and Yield

San Juan County Commission

Together with other members of the County Commission, represents the County and its interests in all case not otherwise provided for by law. Appoints elections officials to fill vacancies. The Commission is responsible for the County budget, County ordinances and resolutions, and zoning and business regulation in unincorporated areas, and sets policy for the operations of County government. Must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of district from which elected. Four-year term, no more than two terms in succession. Note: The district map we have available for this race is inexact. You may wish to view your sample ballot at NMVote.org to verify whether or not this race will be on your ballot.

Questions:

Q1: How have your experience and education prepared you for this office?

Q2: What are the biggest challenges facing the county?

Q3: How would you address them?

Q4: What should the county do to support economic development?

Q5: How would you propose to balance growth with water scarcity in an increasingly arid state?

San Juan County Commissioner District 3

Sandra L Lanier

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

San Juan County Commissioner District 4

Terri D Fortner

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

San Juan County Commissioner District 5

Sam Gonzales

Republican

The candidate has not yet responded.

JUDICIAL RETENTION

Judicial Retention Justice of the Supreme Court

There are five justices on the New Mexico Supreme Court, the highest court in the State. It is the court of last resort and has supervisory control over all lesser

courts and attorneys licensed in the state. The Court is required to hear appeals from election challenges and criminal cases when a defendant is sentenced to the death penalty or life imprisonment. The Court has discretionary authority to review rulings of the Court of Appeals and questions of law certified to it by the Court of Appeals or federal court. Candidates must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for ten years and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Justices are elected statewide for eight-year terms. Voters at a retention election may vote either "yes" or "no" for each individual judge for retention. To retain the office a judge standing for retention must receive 57% "yes" votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention.

Questions:

Q1: What qualifies you for this position?

Q2: What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Supreme Court practices and why?

Q3: What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?

Briana H. Zamora

Nonpartisan

A1: 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.

A2: 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.

A3: 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.

Judicial Retention Judge of the Court of Appeals

There are ten judges on the New Mexico Court of Appeals. It is the intermediate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court. Judges sit in panels of three. The Court reviews appeals in all cases, except criminal cases involving sentences of death or life imprisonment, and cases involving habeas corpus. Judges must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for ten years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Judges are elected statewide for eight-year terms. Judicial vacancies are filled through appointment by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. At the next regular election the judicial position is filled in a partisan election in which the appointed judge must participate and win the most votes to retain the seat. Judges serve for terms of a set number of years, after which they must win a retention election. Voters at a retention election may vote either "yes" or "no" for each individual judge for retention. To retain the office a judge standing for

retention must receive 57% "yes" votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention.

Questions:

Q1: What qualifies you for this position?

Q2: What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Court of Appeals practices and why?

Q3: What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?

Judicial Retention Judge of the Court of Appeals Position 1

Jennifer Attrep

Nonpartisan

A1: 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.

A2: 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.

A3: 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.

Judicial Retention Judge of the Court of Appeals Position 2

Shammara Henderson

Nonpartisan

A1: 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.

A2: 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.

A3: 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.

Judicial Retention Judge of the Court of Appeals Position 3

Megan Duffy

Nonpartisan

A1: 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.

A2: 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.

A3: 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.

Judicial Retention District Court Judge Eleventh Judicial District Division 03

New Mexico's 33 counties are divided into 13 judicial districts. These are courts of general jurisdiction that hold jury trials in the following types of civil cases: tort, contract, real property rights and estate contests. District courts generally

have exclusive jurisdiction over domestic relations, mental health, appeals for administrative agencies and lower courts, criminal appeals, and juvenile cases. Must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for at least six years, and reside in the district from which elected. Six-year term. Judicial vacancies are filled through appointment by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. At the next regular election the judicial position is filled in a partisan election in which the appointed judge must participate and win the most votes to retain the seat. Judges serve for terms of a set number of years, after which they must win a retention election. Voters at a retention election may vote either "yes" or "no" for each individual judge for retention. To retain the office, a judge standing for retention must receive 57% "yes" of all the votes cast on the question of retention.

Questions:

Q1: What qualifies you for this position?

Q2: What alternatives to incarceration do you support for nonviolent crimes?

Q3: What can be done to reduce backlogs of court cases?

Sarah V. Weaver

Nonpartisan

The candidate has not yet responded.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Constitutional Amendment 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."

ARGUMENTS FOR

1. Exemption would 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.
2. Expanding the property tax exemption sends the message that anyone who suffers a disability while serving in the armed forces deserves to be taken care of equally, regardless of the severity of the injury.
3. Expresses support of the state for veterans.
4. 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 may increase the state's population and tax base.
5. The estimated cost of an additional annual per capita burden of \$34.00 for the general population of the state is comparatively low to the benefit provided to the nearly 30,000 service-related disabled veterans with property tax liability in the state.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

1. Exemption may benefit those who do not need financial assistance. If the purpose is to relieve the financial burden on those who are unable, due to their

disability, to pay property taxes, then the exemption should target those with limited incomes.

2. Financial assistance is already available for disabled veterans through a number of programs. There are other social programs that disabled veterans may access to assist with living expenses. For instance, there are numerous state, federal and nonprofit programs that serve veterans.

3. Non-disabled-veteran property taxpayers will pay more due to exemption. By expanding eligibility for a property tax exemption, the property tax bills of other state residents will increase

4. 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 is a departure from the underlying principle of property taxation and could set a precedent for other groups to seek a similar exemption.

5. 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.

6. Property tax benefit for veterans already exists in the Constitution of New Mexico.

7. 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.

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.”

ARGUMENTS FOR

1. Reducing the property tax paid by honorably discharged members of the armed forces and their widowed spouses supports property-owning veterans and their widows or widowers and helps them maintain homeownership.

2. Increasing property tax exemptions for honorably discharged veterans demonstrates New Mexico's support for and appreciation of members of the armed forces who risked their lives and served their country honorably.

3. 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 may increase the state's population and tax base.

4. 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.

5. The increased exemption amount is fairer to veterans and their spouses in 2024. 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

1. Congress should be responsible for providing veterans' benefits. It is inappropriate for state 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.

2. Exemption could benefit those who chose to enlist. 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.

3. Unfair to other property taxpayers who will pay more due to exemption increase. An increase in this property tax exemption will shift the tax burden, and the tax bills of all other New Mexico property owners will increase.

4. Tax relief measures should be 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 property tax share.

5. Exemption for special groups of property taxpayers could set precedent for other individuals to seek tax relief. 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.

6. The exemption amount benefits a portion of veterans as it only applies to owner-occupied residences that are used as a principal place of residency and will exclude veterans who are institutionalized, homeless or renters.

7. Inflation provision 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.

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.”

ARGUMENTS FOR

1. The role of chair of the Appellate Judges Nominating Commission is primarily administrative. 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. 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.

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 have functioned adequately without requiring the dean to attend every meeting. The dean should be allowed to appoint a designee

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

1. 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. 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.

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.”

ARGUMENTS FOR

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. is 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. 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

1. Without legislative oversight, county official salaries will be wide-ranging and inconsistent among 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 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 – it 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.

BONDS

Bond Question 1 – Aging and Long-Term Services Department

Authorizes the state to issue up to \$30,758,100 in bonds to fund senior citizen facilities.

"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

Authorizes the state to issue up to \$19,305,000 in bonds to fund public, tribal, public school and academic libraries.

"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

Authorizes the state to issue up to \$230,258,400 in bonds to fund public institutes of higher education, special schools and tribal schools.

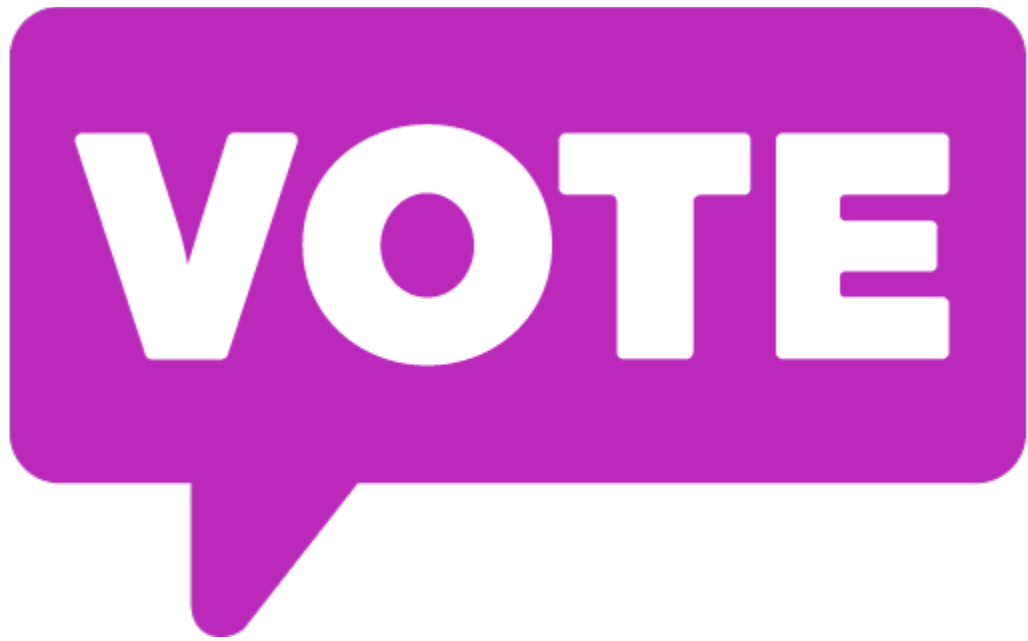
"The 2024 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed two hundred thirty million 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

Authorizes the state to issue up to \$10,297,100 in bonds to fund modernization of public safety radio communications systems.

"The 2024 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of public safety radio system 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____"



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