

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

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2014 VOTERS GUIDE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER LAS CRUCES

LWV

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P.O. Box 8322, Las Cruces, NM 88006. www.lwvlc.org, Tel: (575) 524-VOTE (8683)



Material in the voting Information section was correct as of September 15, 2014. The League is not responsible for any changes made by the Las Cruces City Clerk, Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections or the New Mexico Secretary of State between that date and the election.

VOTING INFORMATION REGISTERING TO VOTE

Anyone who wants to vote in this election must be registered to vote in Doña Ana County AND be a resident within the boundaries of Doña Ana County. The registration books for registering to vote in this general election will be closed by the County Clerk at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7, 2014.

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

The information in this *Voters Guide* was obtained by means of questionnaires sent to all the candidates. Their answers are printed exactly as received by the League. Because of space restrictions, candidates are limited to a specific number of words. Also, lists are converted to paragraphs and responses are converted to normal text. Three dots at the end of a candidate's response indicate the word limit has been exceeded.



EVERY VOTE COUNTS

VOTING BEFORE ELECTION DAY

Absentee Voting

Any person eligible to vote may vote by absentee ballot. You do not need to give a reason to vote absentee. Applications for absentee ballots may be requested in person, from the County Clerk's Office at 845 North Motel Blvd. or by phone (575-647-7421). The County Clerk will verify the application information and mail your absentee ballot to you. You may also print an application from the County website at <https://donaanacounty.org/sites/default/files/pages/absentee_ballot_form.pdf>. **Friday, October 31**, is the last day the County Clerk's Office will mail out absentee ballots. The

ballot contains instructions for completion and return.

If you apply for an absentee ballot and **RECEIVE** it, you must vote that ballot. If you apply for but **DO NOT RECEIVE** the absentee ballot within 5 business days of the date you completed your application, contact the County Clerk's Office. Your completed ballot must be received at the County Clerk's Office no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4. A voter or a member of that voter's immediate family may deliver that voter's absentee ballot in person to the County Clerk's Office, provided that the voter signed the outer envelope

of the absentee ballot, but only the voter may deliver the ballot to the polling location up until 7:00.

Early Voting

The early voting hours at the County Clerk's office begin Tuesday, October 7, M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and end Saturday, November 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Voting at alternate locations begins on October 18, 2014 and ends November 1, 2014. These locations will be open each day except Sundays and Mondays. The hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Alternate Voting Locations

Anthony Elementary 600 N. 4th St. Anthony, NM 88021	Branigan Library 200 E. Picacho Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88001	Gadsden School Admin 4950 McNutt Rd. Santa Teresa, NM 88008	Sonoma Elementary 4201 Northrise Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88001
Betty McKnight Multi-Purpose Center 190 S. County Line Dr. Chaparral, NM 88081	DACC Hatch Learning Center 219 E. Hill St. Hatch, NM 87937	Government Center 845 N. Motel Blvd. Las Cruces, NM 88007	

VOTING OFFENSES

Voters are obligated to report voting offenses to the County Clerk or the District Attorney.

Voting offenses are:

- Using, possessing, or carrying alcoholic beverages within 200 feet of a polling place.
- Any form of campaigning within 100 feet of a building containing a polling place.
- False voting, such as, voting or offering to vote although not qualified, voting in another's name, voting more than once during a single election, or assisting another person in committing a voting offense.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

The membership year for the LWV/GLC is May 1 to April 30. Join anytime. With membership in LWV/GLC, you also belong to LWVNM and LWVUS.

___YES! I want to join LWV/GLC. After November 1 - \$30 for Individual; \$15 for each additional household member. Annually: \$60 Individual; \$30 Second Household; \$30 Students. (all mail goes to the same address).

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-Mail _____

Please make your membership check payable to: LWV/GLC
Mail to: LWV/GLC, P.O. Box B322, Las Cruces, NM 88006

___ I do not want to join the League, but I would like to contribute to the LWV/GLC Education Fund. Make your check payable to LWV/GLC Education Fund. Contributions to the LWV/GLC Education Fund are tax deductible.

You may also join, pay dues and make contributions using PayPal at the LWV/GLC website www.lwvlc.org

ELECTION DAY

On Tuesday, November 4, the voting convenience centers will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ANY QUALIFIED VOTER MAY VOTE IN ANY ONE OF THE VOTING CONVENIENCE CENTERS IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES FOR THE REGULAR GENERAL ELECTION AS FOLLOWS:

1. Anthony Elementary School - 600 N. Fourth St. Anthony, NM 88021
2. Berino Elementary School - 92 Shrode Rd. Berino, NM 88021
3. Branigan Library - 200 E. Picacho Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88001
4. Camino Real Middle School - 2961 Roadrunner Pkwy. Las Cruces, NM 88011
5. Chaparral Middle School - 290 Lisa Dr. Chaparral, NM 88081
6. Corbett Center Student Union - Las Cruces, NM 88003
7. DAC Government Center - 845 N. Motel Blvd. Las Cruces, NM 88007
8. DACC Hatch Learning Center - 219 E. Hill St. Hatch, NM 87937
9. Del Cerro Community Center - 180 La Fe Ave. Vado, NM 88048
10. Desert Hills Elementary School - 280 Roadrunner Pkwy. Las Cruces, NM 88011
11. Desert View Elementary School - 1105 Valle Vista St. Sunland Park, NM 88063
12. Doña Ana Community Center - 5745 Ledesma Dr. Doña Ana, NM 88007
13. East Picacho Elementary School - 4450 N. Valley Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88007
14. Fairacres Elementary School - 4501 W. Picacho Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88005
15. Gadsden Middle School - 1301 W. Washington St. Anthony, NM 88021
16. Garfield Elementary School - 8820 Highway 187 Garfield, NM 87936
17. Good Samaritan Social Center - 3011 Buena Vida Cir. Las Cruces, NM 88011
18. Jornada Elementary School - 3400 Elks Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88005
19. La Union Elementary School - 875 Mercantile Ave. La Union, NM 88021
20. Las Alturas Fire Station - 4145 Cholla Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88011
21. Las Cruces High School - 1750 El Paseo Rd. Las Cruces, NM 88001
22. Lynn Middle School - 950 S. Walnut St. Las Cruces, NM 88001
23. Mayfield High School - 1955 N. Valley Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88007
24. Mesilla Elementary School - 2363 Calle Del Sur Mesilla, NM 88005
25. Frank O'Brien Papen Center (Mesilla Park Recreation Center) - 304 W. Bell Ave, Mesilla Park, NM 88047
26. NM Farm and Ranch - 4100 Dripping Springs Rd. Las Cruces, NM 88011
27. North Valley Elementary School - 300 Cascade Ave. San Miguel, NM 88058
28. Oñate High School - 5700 Mesa Grande Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88011
29. Organ Fire Station - 5816 3rd St. Organ NM 88012
30. Radium Springs Community Center - 12060 L.B. Lindbeck Rd. Radium Springs, NM 88007
31. Rincon Fire Station - 255 Harlan St. Rincon, NM 87940
32. Santa Teresa Middle School - 4800 McNutt Rd. Santa Teresa, NM 88008
33. Sierra Middle School - 1700 Spruce Las Cruces, NM 88001
34. Sonoma Elementary School - 4201 Northrise Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88011
35. Sunrise Elementary School - 5300 Holman Rd. Las Cruces, NM 88012
36. Tombaugh Elementary School - 226 Carver Rd. Las Cruces, NM 88005
37. University Hills Elementary School - 2005 S. Locust Las Cruces, NM 88001
38. Vista Middle School - 4465 Elks Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88005

There will be someone who speaks Spanish at each of the voting convenience centers and at the County Clerk's Office.



FEDERAL OFFICES

UNITED STATES SENATOR

Two United States Senators are elected by the entire state to represent the state. Candidates must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States at least nine years, and a resident of the state from which elected. The United States Senate has 100 members. One New Mexico Senate seat is up for election this year. Six-year staggered terms. Salary: \$174,000.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR

1. What practical steps would you take to reduce partisan gridlock in Washington D.C.?
2. Do you support any changes in immigration policies and practices? Please explain.
3. What are the top two economic concerns facing the country?
What actions would you take as a U.S. Senator to address these concerns?
4. Do you support any legislation to address recent Supreme Court decisions? Please explain.

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

United States Senator Allen E. Weh - Republican

1. I'd be practical and bring a common-sense perspective to problem solving—2 things desperately missing in Washington, D.C. I've built a successful business and served in the Marines for 38 years. Those experiences taught me that in order to succeed, one must learn to work with different people from different backgrounds often with different goals. In Washington, I'll take that same, common-sense approach to tackle problems and find solutions.

2. The current do-nothing approach by my opponent and the Washington politicians is unacceptable and is the leading cause of the current growing crisis on our borders. I support an aggressive new emphasis on securing our border using fences, boots on the ground, drones, and other high-tech methods. I support a feasible guest

worker program. I will fight to eliminate the roadblocks that are currently hindering law enforcement and the border patrol.

3. The top three concerns are jobs, jobs and jobs! I am a candidate who is an entrepreneur and business owner. I understand what it takes to create, recruit and keep good jobs; to cover a payroll; and to balance a budget. To regain a growing, healthy economy we must have a balanced budget amendment, spend less than we take in, and kill irrational regulations that impede businessmen and women who create jobs.

4. Would need to better understand what recent Supreme Court decisions are being asked about specifically. In summary, we need less Government involved overall.

United States Senator Tom Udall - Democrat

1. Out-of-control campaign spending is one of the biggest reasons for partisanship. I have proposed a constitutional amendment to clarify that the American people can regulate campaign finance, and I support requiring donors to disclose their identity and the amount they spend to influence elections. Reforming the Senate to require true debate on the issues is another step. Reforms I proposed would require senators who oppose legislation to make their argument on the Senate floor.

2. I voted for the bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill that passed the U.S. Senate to secure our borders, bring the 11 million undocumented immigrants out of the shadows, and require employers to follow the law with regard to hiring. I also support passage of the DREAM Act to ensure that the thousands of young people who were brought to the United States through no fault of their own aren't unfairly punished.

3. Corporations are recovering from the recession, but New Mexico families deserve a fair shot at getting ahead. I'm working to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, support Head Start, keep college affordable, and help veterans transition to civilian life. We need to invest in infrastructure to support jobs and commerce. I'm fighting for New Mexico's labs and bases, for funding for roads and water projects, and for homegrown energy – oil and gas and renewables.

4. In response to the Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision, I cosponsored the Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act of 2014, to reaffirm that employers can't deny an employee access to certain health care coverage based on their own ideology. In response to the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, I introduced a constitutional amendment to reduce the influence of corporate money in elections.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES

Candidates must be at least 25 years old, a United States citizen of seven years, and must be an inhabitant of New Mexico. The United States House of Representatives has 435 members of which New Mexico is entitled to three. Two-year term. Salary: \$174,000.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

1. What practical steps would you take to reduce partisan gridlock in Washington D.C.?
2. Do you support any changes in immigration policies and practices? Please explain.
3. What are the top two economic concerns facing the country?
What actions would you take as a U.S. Representative to address these concerns?
4. Do you support any legislation to address recent Supreme Court decisions? Please explain.

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

U.S. Representative Steve Pearce - Republican

1. I've taken practical steps to get bipartisan results. I joined with Democrats to pass the Violence Against Women Law, Student loan reform to hold down the rising costs of college education, and recently I helped with major reforms of the Veterans Administration to improve care and access. I work closely with the Democratic Congressman from El Paso on immigration reform to create a more just and fair immigration system. New Mexico always comes first.

2. Our immigration system is broken and needs reform. It is not fair, safe or just. We need a middle ground solution. First, we secure the border with technology and people. Second, fix legal immigration by modernizing it, make it clearer and get answers faster. We need a new noncitizen guest worker program that allows people to work and return home. I do not support amnesty. We need major changes that treat everyone with respect.

3. We do not have economic policies aimed at creating jobs for working families and reckless government spending needs to halt. We need to pull back the heavy hand of special interests and federal regulations that cost manufacturing and small business jobs. We can better manage public land to bring back natural resource jobs. The government needs to spend less and borrow less. This will free up money for local businesses to hire more employees.

4. The upholding of ObamaCare was one I disagree with. President Obama said it would solve most of our health care problems. Now we have health care premiums going up, people losing their doctors and billions of federal dollars have been wasted. Families need good health care, but ObamaCare isn't helping most. It's costing us jobs. I support repealing the law and replacing it with a better system that controls costs and covers pre-existing conditions.

U.S. Representative Roxanne "Rocky" Lara - Democrat

1. As the Chair of the Eddy County Commission, I worked with Republicans and Democrats to produce one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country and balance the budget—all without raising taxes or cutting essential services. That's the approach I will bring to Congress—a willingness to work across party lines to find the solutions that will move southern New Mexico and our country forward.

2. Southern New Mexico feels the impacts of our broken immigration system every day. That is why I support bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform that fixes our legal immigration system, cracks down on employers who don't play by the rules, makes significant investments in border security and provides a pathway to earned citizenship that is tough but fair, including passing background checks, paying back taxes, learning English and going to the back of the immigration line.

3. In southern New Mexico, we need to ensure that everyone who wants to work has access to a job and those working a full-time job are not living at or near the poverty line. In Congress, I will be a strong advocate for incentives to help small businesses grow and create jobs. And I support raising the minimum wage so southern New Mexico's workers can support a family and save for retirement.

4. In Congress, I will support legislation that reverses the flood of secret, special interest money into campaigns in the wake of the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. We must encourage the participation of southern New Mexico's middle-class families in the political process and prevent single donors from having the ability to determine our elections.

U.S. Representative Jack McGrann - Write-in

1. As an independent candidate I see two major political groups struggling to stay in power. These groups consistently fail to do what is in our best interest. I believe that Americans have misplaced their trust in political parties. As a country we must reject the dominance of the major political parties and the special interests groups that keep them in power with money traded for political influence; at the expense of the American people!

2. Imagine you're invited to someone's house. Once you arrive half of the people there don't want you! On the other hand, suppose you leave your door open and a bunch of people move in when you're not looking and won't leave. Now that they're there you have to take care of them! I recommend: Enforce existing immigration laws. Protect our borders. Support our Border Patrol and ICE. Treat all immigrants with compassion.

3. First concern: National Debt over \$17,600,000,000,000.00 (usdebtclock.org). Problem with our economy is government interference with our economy. The success of our nation has always been derived from the unalienable rights to freedoms that all Americans are entitled to. These God given rights allow individuals to pursue their dreams, invent new products and services, form companies, raise capital and invest without interference. Market forces and the ingenuity of the individual will determine success or failure.

4. Clearly the Supreme Court is influenced by political powers that seek to control the outcome of court decisions to our nation's detriment. The decision to uphold "Obama Care" was wrong. The whole process was corrupt in the first place. It should be repealed. The most destructive decision of the Supreme Court affects every American, every day, in countless horrible ways. The courts decision to remove "Religious Expressions" from the public arena should be repealed!

NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICES

GOVERNOR

The Governor shares the responsibility of administering the state with other elected officials, represents the state nationally and internationally, signs or vetoes statutes enacted by the Legislature, and appoints members of boards and commissions. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$110,000.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR

1. What do you see as New Mexico's greatest challenges and how would you address them?
2. What steps would you take to improve public education in New Mexico?
3. Describe your vision of New Mexico's energy future. What role do fossil fuels (such as natural gas and coal) and renewables (such as wind and solar) play?
4. How do you propose to address the unmet health and mental health needs of New Mexicans?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Governor Susana Martinez - Republican

1. Moving forward with reforms to create jobs and improve education. Our economy relies too heavily on federal dollars; therefore, it is hurt by Washington's dysfunction and federal cuts. We must continue cutting red tape and reducing taxes to help small businesses grow and stay competitive in the region. We must keep moving forward to reform education so every child has a chance to succeed.

2. I'm committed to reform and moving our schools forward. We put more dollars into classrooms than ever before and our graduation rate is improving faster than any other state. We are encouraging more parental involvement, and helping struggling schools and students improve. We still

have work to do and must have the courage to move forward for our kids.

3. New Mexico is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, including oil, gas, wind and sun. I support an all-of-the-above approach that taps into our resources to produce energy and create jobs, while protecting our land. That's why I embraced a balanced approach that has cut burdensome regulations and fined polluters.

4. We have expanded Medicaid coverage, which dropped our uninsured rate by five percent and rooted out waste. We expanded tele-medicine and passed the Health Care Jobs NOW package, which will dramatically increase the number of health practitioners, particularly in rural areas. All of these reforms will help improve access to health care services.

Governor Gary King - Democrat

1. First is the lack of economic growth as the rest of the nation emerges from the recession. We have the largest number of children living in poverty and rank at the bottom of the country in child welfare. We must focus on improving our economy by creating jobs in New Mexico. We can do this by providing infrastructure and incentives to our small business community.

2. I would put greater control of education back in the hands of professional educators and local school boards. I am committed to ending high stakes standardized testing as the primary tool of education and will appoint a qualified Education Secretary who has real New Mexico classroom experience.

We must focus funding on the classroom and allow teachers to teach.

3. We have a bright energy future. It is one of our strengths. We should hold to our promise to produce a significant amount of energy through renewable resources by 2020. We can be a leader in the development of new technologies for energy production and conservation. We should assure that energy production is not done at the expense of our groundwater or environmental quality.

4. We must address the debacle created by the current administration in treating the behavioral health needs of our citizens. We must work with all stakeholders to assess the need and meet it. We also have to reverse cuts to our developmental disabilities programs. I believe we should provide preventive medical and community based health services in all areas of New Mexico.



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

In the general election, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are voted on as a slate. The Lieutenant Governor acts as Governor when the Governor is absent from the state and if, for any reason, the Governor is unable to perform his or her duties. Among other duties are serving as the liaison between the people and state agencies, referring citizen complaints and problems to appropriate agencies, and reporting to the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate and can vote in the event of a tie. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two in succession. Salary: \$85,000.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

1. What qualifications and attributes do you have that make you uniquely qualified to be Lieutenant Governor?
2. The Governor usually assigns specific tasks to the Lieutenant Governor. To which areas of government would you like to be assigned and why?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Lieutenant Governor *John A. Sanchez - Republican*



1. I bring a life of genuine experience as a small business owner meeting a payroll and surviving tough economic challenges. I understand the journey from poverty to prosperity and the problems facing many New Mexicans. As your Lieutenant Governor and President of the State Senate, I am uniquely informed and prepared to champion cooperation between New Mexicans and the agencies that serve them.
2. As Lieutenant Governor, I seek opportunities to protect the promises made to our veterans because our democracy stands on their shoulders. I support programs that strengthen opportunities for all. Every New Mexican deserves a fair chance to succeed free from governmental overreach and burdensome bureaucracy. In order to preserve our critical contribution to America's security, I support a modernized mission drive for our military bases.

Lieutenant Governor *Debra A. Haaland - Democrat*



1. I have a law degree from UNM, am an education advocate, have been a small business owner, and a single parent. I have also traveled the state many times working to involve underrepresented communities in the political process. I am a tribal administrator and have firm knowledge about governmental processes. I know our issues and have a unique perspective about how to help New Mexican families.
2. I plan to steer the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as champion children's issues as chair of the Children's Cabinet. It will be an honor to serve the most underrepresented people in New Mexico, and I pledge to set an aggressive agenda to tackle the issues facing women and children, such as hunger, poverty, and overall well-being.

SECRETARY OF STATE

The Secretary of State is second in line of succession behind the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor. The Secretary of State is the chief election officer and generally supervises statewide elections. S/he attests and affixes the state seal to official documents, maintains the state repository of signed legislation, and required filings. The Secretary of State is responsible for the registration of corporations, partnerships, lobbyists, trade names, trademarks, and notary public commissions. Must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$85,000.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

1. If elected, what are your two highest priorities? What specific actions will you take to accomplish them?
2. Would you make any changes in the operation of the Secretary of State's office and the conduct of our elections? Please explain.
3. As Secretary of State, what actions would you take to increase the numbers of voter registrations among eligible New Mexicans?
4. If elected, what role will you play in increasing voter turnout? Please explain.

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Secretary of State *Dianna J. Duran - Republican*



1. Continue my efforts to ensure the integrity of our electoral system. Protect New Mexico voters from being disenfranchised. We have already developed on-line voter registration for certain voters who are conducting transactions at MVD, and will have a statewide system next year. I will support the adoption of Photo Voter ID to ensure no one is able to steal someone else's vote.
2. We've already made tremendous changes in both operations and elections—replacing obsolescent equipment and software, bringing in modern, up-to-date hardware and software, building a new Integrated Reporting and Integrity System (IRIS) which brought election night reporting under the control of the Secretary of State for the first time. Everything we do is directed at providing a fair, honest, transparent elections system for all New Mexicans.

3. We pioneered the concept of on-line voter registration, urging the legislature to adopt a law allowing it for the Motor Vehicle Division, and leading the effort to make it available statewide for all voters. We've already developed the first program for on-line registration at MVD and we're in the process of developing our innovative statewide on-line system to be completed NLT June 30, 2015.

4. I've worked with county clerks to encourage maximum efforts to ensure that: Everyone who wants to register to vote can do so easily and conveniently; All voters wanting to vote can vote easily and quickly, with unimpeded access to the polls, at convenient voting sites, with full parking and access for handicapped, disabled and able-bodied voters. Supporting development of Mobile Apps for information.

Secretary of State *Maggie Toulouse Oliver - Democrat*



1. Protecting the right to vote and making voting easier and more accessible. I will oppose any actions restricting voting rights, such as photo Voter ID, or the rolling back of current laws that facilitate voter participation, such as fewer early voting hours/locations. I will seek to implement online voter registration, same-day registration and the expansion of early voting, especially in rural areas.
2. I will emphasize hiring in vacant entry-level positions that facilitate customer service to voters, lobbyists and candidates, and eliminate high-level positions for political cronies. I will also re-focus the office's efforts away from policies that restrict voter participation. Working together with county clerks, I will help develop plans and secure resources to ensure each county has the tools it needs to effectively implement

its elections.

3. I will immediately work to implement simultaneous, automated registration at the MVD as required by state and federal law. I will also strongly advocate for full online and same-day voter registration. Last, I will push for NM to join the Electronic Registration Information Project – a multi-state database – that provides states with information about unregistered voters who may be eligible to register to vote.

4. I will create a department of voter outreach and participation, whose main purpose would be encourage citizens to register and vote. The department will use a variety of tools, such as community outreach, broadcast media, social networking, and other methods to educate voters about the importance of voting, and provide registration information as well as details regarding how, where and when to cast a ballot.

STATE AUDITOR

The Auditor conducts and oversees audits of the activities of state government officials and entities receiving money from state tax revenue. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$85,000.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR STATE AUDITOR

1. Describe your qualifications and pertinent experiences that have prepared you to be the State Auditor.
2. What are the most important responsibilities of the State Auditor? How will you carry out these responsibilities?
3. Which policies of the office would you like to see changed?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

State Auditor *Robert J. Aragon - Republican*



No Reply Received

State Auditor *Tim Keller - Democrat*



1. As Senate Majority Whip, I have proposed hundreds of bills to fix broken government, put taxpayer dollars to work and level the playing field for working families. Adding qualifications to the PRC, restructuring the State Investment Council and strengthening the local contracting preference are examples of legislation I've sponsored into law. I also have a finance degree from Notre Dame and an MBA from Harvard.

2. Auditor is the only independently-elected watchdog for accountability and effectiveness of public programs and plays a critical "think tank" role for policy evaluation and government reform. I will help government make better choices at all levels whenever public money is at stake and advocate to prevent waste and corruption while safeguarding tax dollars to ensure spending occurs in the most effective manner.

3. I will proactively uncover the estimated \$900 million of unspent money "sitting on the sidelines" that our government has access to. Let's use it for critical services, infrastructure projects, education changes and economic development. I also hope to shine a light on the billions we give away in tax breaks to gauge effectiveness and allocate resources to those that truly create New Mexican jobs.

STATE TREASURER

The Treasurer receives, pays out, and accounts for receipts and expenditures of all state monies, and invests the balances. Among other duties are providing reports to the State Auditor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Finances. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$85,000.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR STATE TREASURER

1. What experience do you have that qualifies you to manage billions of dollars in short-term investment funds?
2. What are your highest priorities for this office and how do you intend to accomplish them?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

State Treasurer *Rick Lopez - Republican*



1. I have over 27 years of successful leadership and management experience in State and Federal Government. I have primarily held high level positions which have allowed me to grow as a productive public servant. My educational background includes: Bachelors of Business Administration Degree, a Masters of Public Administration Degree, and a Masters of Business Administration Degree, from the University of New Mexico. I have managed budgets over 8 million dollars with staffs of over 345 employees.

2. I will protect and strengthen the state's financial resources through wise investment strategies following the principal of safety, liquidity and yield. Aggressively market the Local Government Investment Pool to allow local governments to take advantage of economies of scale to earn higher revenues. Promote a micro-lending and venture capital program that would stimulate the economy and job growth by providing loans to entrepreneurs and small business owners—especially women and minorities. Protect our Permanent Funds.

State Treasurer *Tim Eichenberg - Democrat*



1. I have served in positions of public trust in New Mexico for over 40 years, as a former State Senator, two-term Bernalillo County Treasurer and former State Property Tax Director, which uniquely qualifies me to serve as State Treasurer. I have the experience and proven leadership necessary to oversee the investment program of the State Treasurer's Office, Investment Division, which includes a team of qualified and proven professionals with decades of combined investment experience.

2. I am committed to maintaining an accessible and transparent office, adhering to best management practices, and investing the taxpayers money prudently; Safety, Liquidity and Yield - with safety and liquidity being paramount in our investment program. I will invest New Mexico's money in New Mexico for a stronger economy. I pledge to be a full-time State Treasurer, a good steward of the taxpayer's money, and to make sound choices that benefit all New Mexicans.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

The Attorney General is the state's legal officer, legal counsel to state government, consumer advocate, and guardian of the public interest. Duties include representing the state before courts or agencies when required by the public interest or requested by the Governor, and providing legal opinions upon request of the Legislature, state officials, or district attorneys. Must be a licensed attorney of the Supreme Court of New Mexico in good standing. Must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$95,000.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

1. What are your highest priorities for this office and how do you intend to accomplish them?
2. What policies and procedures of the State Attorney General's office would you change?
3. What more can the Attorney General do to protect New Mexicans from consumer fraud?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES**Attorney General Susan Riedel - Republican**

1. My highest priority is tackling the corruption that is plaguing our great state. For too long politicians have been afraid to take on the corrupt influences here in New Mexico. I've never been afraid to prosecute a criminal. As Attorney General, I'll use the skills learned during my 20+ years as a prosecutor to put an end to the cycle of corruption in our state.

2. One of the simplest changes is to make the Attorney General's Office more open and transparent. Now it is commonplace for regulations

to be announced without consulting the people they affect. This has caused a rash of unintended consequences. Simply creating an open environment by requesting and listening to the input of the community will make a big difference in the effectiveness of the office.

3. The most important step is to tirelessly prosecute people that are committing consumer fraud. There are some additional commonsense regulations that could be enacted but it's important to remember that 99.9% of business owners would never try to defraud their customers. New regulations need to solely target fraud and shouldn't harm all of the reputable businesses in the state as well.

Attorney General Hector Balderas - Democrat

1. My number one priority as Attorney General is to protect the people of New Mexico against all threats—a street corner thug or an unscrupulous con-man undermining our economy. As State Auditor, I have made a career of cleaning up waste, fraud and abuse. As Attorney General, I will have the will and experience to prosecute criminals, scammers, and businesses who break the law.

2. Proactive efforts have been made by state and law enforcement officials to decrease sexual offenses; however, online sex predators

weren't even required to register with the state until 2012. We need an Attorney General with the experience and professionalism to catch those mistakes. As Attorney General I will work with local, state and federal agencies to protect our children and families.

3. As Attorney General, I will prosecute fraudsters and scammers. I will ramp up our outreach to communities, schools, military bases, and other institutions that can help educate and protect our families and neighbors. Most businesses operate legally and professionally, but some take advantage of New Mexicans with corrupt deals and illegal advertising. As chief law enforcement officer, I will stand up for all New Mexicans.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Commissioner of Public Lands takes control, has jurisdiction, care, and custody of all trust lands. He/she administers state trust land to generate the highest possible level of sustainable revenue for New Mexico's public schools, public institutions of higher learning, and other public institutions. Income from these lands supports state institutions. Must be at least 30 years of age, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$90,000.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

1. If elected, what are your two highest priorities? What specific actions will you take to accomplish them?
2. As Land Commissioner, how will you evaluate possible land swaps that involve trust lands?
3. The State Land Commissioner's mandate is to produce as much revenue as possible from the state trust lands. How can the commissioner assure that the lands will continue to be productive for future generations?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES**Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn - Republican**

1. Land Commissioner should be a conservationist who recognizes that responsible management carries with it two fiduciary duties. The first being the ability to make responsible decisions that increase revenues and create job opportunities in a timely fashion. Second, that person needs to recognize that the lands must be protected and cared for in a way that balances current use against sustainability for future State generations.

2. Land trades will be evaluated in the most transparent manner possible, and ensure that the trade optimizes the benefits to the recipients of the trust land revenues both short term and long term.

3. As a lifelong conservationist, I believe just as President Teddy Roosevelt did in 1910 that "Conservation means development as much as it does protection. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful means, the generations that come after us."

Land Commissioner Ray Bennett Powell - Democrat

1. Generating Revenues. In the last three years we have generated a record \$2.3 billion dollars, a tax savings of \$850 a year per family. I will continue these sound business decisions. Creating Jobs. Leasing Trust Lands. Three of our projects are now home to over 5,000 good paying jobs including science and tech parks, renewable energy projects, and oil and gas and agricultural activities.

2. I will continue my open and transparent process by working with local communities and our Trust beneficiaries to evaluate the merits

of possible exchanges. All exchanges must result in an exchange of like-for-like value and in increased opportunities for the Land Trust. I have rebuilt a badly compromised and dysfunctional office and have turned it into one of the best land management agencies.

3. Healthy productive lands mean sustainable revenues. I am investing in New Mexico's future by cleaning up illegal dumps, thinning our forests to reduce fire risk, replacing non-native plants with native species, providing drinkers for wildlife, improving overall watershed health, protecting important cultural sites, and enhancing habitat for native, migratory and endangered species. When we take care of our lands, our lands takes care of us!

JUDICIAL OFFICES

Vacancies for courts in New Mexico are filled through gubernatorial appointment from a slate of potential nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. The newly appointed judge must then run in a contested, partisan election at the next general election. Thereafter, the judge runs in nonpartisan retention elections for set terms. To be retained a judge must receive at least 57% "Yes" votes of those cast in the retention election.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE (NON-PARTISAN RETENTION)

The Supreme Court consists of five justices and is located in Santa Fe. This is the court of last resort and has superintending control over all lower courts and attorneys licensed in the state and jurisdiction over criminal matters in which the sentence imposed is life in prison or the death penalty, appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, appeals from the granting of writs of habeas corpus, appeals in actions challenging nominations, and removal of public officials. Salary: \$131,174.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a New Mexico Supreme Court Justice?
2. Given your experience as a Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, what programs or changes would you like to support to improve the Supreme Court system?
3. From your perspective as a Justice, what ethical practices are critical to keep the judiciary independent?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES**Supreme Court Justice Edward L. Chavez**

1. I have been a Justice on the New Mexico Supreme Court since March 7, 2003. I received consistently high ratings in my evaluation by the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission for conducting myself free from impropriety, being fair and impartial, demonstrating knowledge of the law and a strong work ethic. My performance evaluation is available at www.nmjpec.org.

2. In addition to being the court of last resort for the laws and Constitution of New Mexico, Justices also have many administrative

responsibilities, including superintending control over the entire judiciary. Although guidelines, oversight and accountability are key to an efficient and economical justice system, we must strive to improve the overall funding of the courts and improve alternative dispute resolution methods.

3. Judicial independence requires judges to be fair and impartial. This means that judges must faithfully uphold the Constitution and laws unconstrained by political fear, fear for physical safety or other undue pressures, and without being influenced by the status of the parties or what is popular. In short, judges must decide the merits of a case without fear or favor.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS- PARTISAN

The ten judges on the Court of Appeals are elected by all voters in the state and serve eight-year terms. As the intermediate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals reviews appeals in all cases, except criminal cases involving sentences of death or life imprisonment, appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, and cases involving habeas corpus. The judges sit in panels of three judges to decide cases. Must be 35 years old, have practiced law for at least 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last 3 years. Salaries: Chief Judge, \$126,515.59; Judge, \$124,615.59.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS- PARTISAN

1. How have your training, professional experience, and interests prepared you to serve on the New Mexico Court of Appeals?
2. What improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented?
3. What ethical practices are critical to keep the judiciary independent?



CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Court of Appeals Judge- Partisan *J. Miles Hanisee - Republican*

1. Now in my fourth year as a Court of Appeals Judge, I've authored over 100 appellate opinions and participated in over 600 decisions. Extensive judicial experience is rare for a candidate and critically boosts any court's composition. Preceding judicial service, I represented the United States in appellate litigation for a decade, and served as a writer on the staffs of three federal appeals judges.

2. Budgetary constraints remain the overarching issue for all New Mexico courts. My nine colleagues and I, in panels of three, are on pace

to resolve about 900 appeals this year from district courts throughout our state. Staff turnover, decreased access to indigent services, and delays to justice are the adverse consequences of overly scant resources. Legislation increasing funding to the judiciary is the solution.

3. Independence of the judiciary suffers primarily due to New Mexico's adherence to partisan affiliations in judicial elections. Most states have abandoned this model of judicial selection, thereby markedly reducing the capacity of political parties to influence judicial races. Ethically, judges and candidates should strive to avoid party labels whenever possible, certainly in campaign literature and advertisements.

Court of Appeals Judge- Partisan *Kerry C. Kiernan - Democrat*

1. I have spent 32 years of intensive practice preparing to be an appellate judge, handling all types of cases, civil and criminal, all over New Mexico for individuals, businesses, and government agencies. I am a Board certified Appellate Specialist, one of only 8 in the state. I care deeply about the people of NM, and getting the law right on their behalf.

2. My extensive experience will permit me to contribute immediately to swift and fair decision-making. Critical cases which will inevitably end up before the New Mexico Supreme Court should be sent there right away to

save time and money and allow the Court of Appeals to focus on cases it must decide.

3. Judges must be immune from political pressure, so I chose to accept public financing for my campaign. This program should be expanded for all judicial races. Judges should avoid any conduct suggesting they have prejudged any issue. And while they should be moderate in all their comments, judges should be active in educating the public about the importance of the judicial system and judicial independence.

COURT OF APPEALS- RETENTION

Voters at a retention election may vote either "yes" or "no" for each individual judge for retention.

To retain the office, a judge standing for retention must receive 57% "yes" votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS- RETENTION

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a Judge of the Court of Appeals?
2. Given your experience as a Judge of the Court of Appeals, what improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented?
3. What ethical practices are critical to keep the judiciary independent?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Court of Appeals Judge- Retention *Cynthia A. Fry*

1. Before I became a judge, I practiced law as a State Bar-recognized appellate specialist, and I have been a judge on the Court of Appeals since December 2000. My extensive practice experience and my nearly 14 years of judicial experience have helped me balance my judicial caseload with an eye to fairness, expediency, and accuracy.

2. The Court of Appeals has a large caseload because it hears all appeals in the state except those involving first degree murder, elections, appeals from the Public Regulatory Commission, and a handful of other

appeals. Our challenge as judges is to continue managing those appeals in a timely manner.

3. Judges are bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct, which means that they must act independently of personal or political bias and with integrity. In addition, they must avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Compliance with these criteria is critical to keeping the judiciary independent.

Court of Appeals Judge- Retention *Linda M. Vanzi*

1. Prior to being appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2008, I served with distinction as a district court judge. That experience combined with my broad legal background as a lawyer, working for large corporations, owning my own business, and being actively involved as a volunteer all contribute to continuing the tradition of fairness, equality and intellectual rigor on the appellate court.

2. As the only intermediate appellate court serving the entire state, the Court of Appeals reviews appeals in almost all cases. The court

effectively manages a caseload of over 900 cases a year. We continually strives to decide cases expeditiously; however, there is always room to improve the timely disposition of cases.

3. Judicial independence is critical to our system of democracy and necessary to provide balance in our government. Judicial candidates must promote public confidence by demonstrating that they are free from political influence. This is done by scrupulously following the code of judicial conduct, and by never compromising ethics or integrity for any reason.

Court of Appeals Judge- Retention *Jim Wechsler*

1. I have had the honor to serve the people of our state as a judge for nearly twenty years. I have handled hundreds of cases of all types. Each case is important. I learn from each case and continue to improve my judicial skills. I am a hard worker, and I continually strive to decide each case in a fair, impartial, and timely manner.

2. Resources are always important. The Court is presently in a good position to ensure that all cases are timely decided due to increased staffing. Careful scrutiny of each case will assist us in reaching this goal.

We will also be able to increase our efficiency and be more accessible to the public when filings can be made electronically.

3. Judicial independence is essential to the public's confidence in our judicial system. Judges must decide cases based on the law and the facts, not other factors. They must avoid the influence of public opinion or fear of criticism and must not allow their personal interests to affect their judgment. To ensure public confidence, judges must respect and honor their position and the public trust.

NEW MEXICO STATE DISTRICT OFFICES

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, the person in this legislative office, together with other representatives, enacts "reasonable and appropriate laws," represents the constituents of his or her district, and serves 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. Must be at least twenty-one years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. Two-year term. No salary. Per diem is \$165 per day plus mileage reimbursement at the federal rate while in session or at interim meetings

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

1. Given that all New Mexicans are not covered by the current health delivery systems, do you support a State-administered health care system? Explain.
2. Do you support tax payer dollars being transferred to for-profit virtual charter schools? Why or why not?
3. What are your views on water plan development and parity between agriculture and municipalities?
4. What is your position on capping interest rates charged by payday lenders for short-term loans?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

State Representative District 33 *Neal L. Hooks - Republican*

1. Any State-administered system will rely on unsustainable government subsidies while masking the true problems: high medical costs and inadequate consumer wealth. We must reduce costs through tort reform, requiring insurance companies to compete across state lines, and tax credits that will incentivize policy-mobility by switching from the current employer-provided system to the individual. Lastly, we must increase consumer wealth through a focus on private sector job creation.

2. Government-funded virtual charter schools would create a little public school in your home; complete with bureaucratic and politically-correct requirements that currently hinder our government-monopolized education system. Since private homeschooling has proven government funding and regulation are not required to achieve academic excellence, this effort would be counter-productive. This is one of the reasons why my

wife and I homeschooled our children, and why all four are remarkably successful today.

3. We need a plan to provide water for agriculture and municipalities since both will continue to grow. Since we have plenty of brackish water, we should invest in desalination plants. Also, we must revive our saw-mill industry to not only create jobs, but to thin our over-maturing forests and allow more rain to reach the rivers. We should also think long-term and tap into the annual floodwaters of the Mississippi River.

4. The interest rates are high due to the increased risk and nature of the loans. Competition in the industry will keep the interest rates as low as possible. But if we take away the loaning institution's chance to recoup their money then we risk killing an industry that provides a service to low-income families. However, the real problem is the lack of jobs and opportunities...it always comes back to jobs.

State Representative District 33 *Bill McCamley - Democrat*

1. New Mexico's uninsured population has dropped from 20% to 15% in the last year because of ObamaCare. Though it has had problems, 100,000 additional insured people means more families can lead better, healthier lives and the public bears less of an economic burden for health care. We should give this system time to see how it continues to work, possibly make changes within it, before discussing a new, complicated state system.

2. Absolutely not. Every kid deserves an education that will give them a chance to make it. I don't trust large corporations to put students' best interests before their profit, and privatization increases resources for the wealthy but takes away from everyone else. This uneven playing field leaves disadvantaged kids in worse shape, which isn't what this country is about. Schools can be improved with comprehensive teacher accountability, nurturing interest in the sciences, and decreased testing

3. New Mexico's current situation is not a temporary "drought"; experts see a 20-30 year future with less water. So all users (agriculture, residential/commercial, and oil/gas) have to work together and find more efficient ways of using what we do have. Ideas include drip irrigation and water banking for farmers, water budgets for cities, and desalination of brackish water. Otherwise we will end up like California, with high water penalties and dwindling farmers

4. Currently, active duty soldiers cannot be charged more than 36% on a payday loan because of the Military Lending Act. This was passed because commanders and financial counselors were extremely worried about the effects of 100%+ interest rates on military readiness, and has resulted in servicemen and women being safer from predatory lending. If this policy works for our soldiers, it is good for everyone else.

State Representative District 34 *Bealquin "Bill" Gomez - Democrat*

1. I support the Health Security for New Mexicans cooperative effort to provide freedom of choice of doctors and a comprehensive benefit package for many New Mexicans who do not have health coverage.
2. I do not support the use of State Funds for any For Profit Organization.
3. Farmers should have as much right to their water as municipalities and municipalities should purchase needed water rights from sources as they are needed.
4. I strongly believe they should be capped at a reasonable rate.



2014 VOTERS GUIDE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER LAS CRUCES

State Representative District 35 *Betty J. Bishop - Republican*

1. I don't support State-administered healthcare. The healthcare in our country became worse with Obamacare, with a few exceptions. Despite promises to the contrary, we were not able to keep our insurance plans or our doctors. Healthcare is best in the free market. Government programs can assist fragile citizens without forcing everyone to give up the system they like. We should be free to manage our healthcare without government interference.

2. I am not opposed to the concept of for-profit in education. I support all options which are researched and work. Do what works and leave fads alone. Our public schools work well for students who come to school willing to learn. Our efforts must go to improving the conditions that help students be ready for school, rather than experimenting with the latest fads.

3. New Mexico cannot conserve its way to having plenty of water. We live in a desert. We need a big water project such as the 1968 Colorado River Basin Project, commonly known as the Central Arizona Project. It solved Arizona's water needs. We need enough water to support our agricultural products. Only a large water project will allow N.M. Agriculture and our communities to grow and thrive.

4. I oppose this. Capping what short-term loans can produce for the maker of the loans, will eliminate them for this borrowing population. There are risk costs for these loans far beyond normal loans.

Rather, I am in favor of making certain everyone getting short-term loans, gets full disclosure as to the loan consequences. We should not force people to make certain choices in their methods of borrowing.

State Representative District 35 *Jeff Steinborn - Democrat*

1. I support finding improvements to our healthcare system to ensure all New Mexicans have access to quality affordable healthcare. One proposed solution is the Health Security Act which would have the state work with private providers and largely eliminate the role and costs of insurance company middle men. In any health reform, we must ensure provider choice, and protect earned healthcare benefits.

2. I do not support taking money out of our public education system for private online charter schools. Our first priority must be fully funding our public school system. Kids across New Mexico need quality schools, smaller class sizes, dynamic learning environments, and great teachers. These investments require adequate funding, and we simply cannot afford to syphon money out of public education for private schools that benefit only the few.

3. I support water planning as an effective tool for communities to comprehensively

manage this scarce resource. While water rights are based on historical usage, it's critical that New Mexico develop balanced policies to meet the diversity of needs that depend on it. Our state's many important water users include communities, industry, and the environment. Given our persistent draught, it is also vital that we maximize opportunities for water conservation.

4. I support capping interest rates that are charged by payday lenders for short term loans. The high interest rates and fees being charged to many of our economically distressed citizens become endless spirals of debt that cannot be climbed out of. While it is beneficial for citizens to have access to capital in emergencies, we should take reasonable measures to ensure that these finance mechanisms are not exploitative and confusing to our most vulnerable citizens.

State Representative District 36 *Andrew "Andy" Nunez - Republican*

1. No, I feel private Insurance Companies will come together to supply Health Care.

2. No, we cannot use State Money for profit corporations of any kind.

3. I am a strong opponent of Water Plan and introduced Legislation to fund the State Water Plan which is needed. Parity between Agriculture and Municipalities should be brought forth but I do not feel municipalities should take Agriculture water. Water is a Private Property Right and should not be infringed upon.

4. I cannot support capping interest rates but we need to encourage lenders to be more prudent in setting interest rates.

State Representative District 36 *Phillip M. Archuleta - Democrat*

1. Yes I do support this, but right now there is no money and this administration is not asking for any more money in the upcoming budget. We had a meeting in the Health and Human Resources Interim Committee and what we discussed was there are many people out there that need help and this administration is refusing to let go of the money to help. As I listen to people's struggles I feel the pain...

2. No I do not support the taxpayer dollars being transferred to for-profit charter schools. I believe charter schools can be good as long as it doesn't take money away from public schools. I think what we need to do is help our public schools. We need to cut their classroom sizes and taking money away from them will not do that. And this administration is cutting the budget for public schools. I think charter schools...

3. First, we are in a bad situation regarding water in New Mexico to begin with. The farmers need to have access to the water so they can continue to grow their crops and there are restrictions on how they can use their water. And the developers do not have any restrictions regarding water use which is something that may need to be addressed to help solve some problems. The city is growing and we were...

4. I believe the payday lending companies should have a cap on their interest rates. The present administration has just agreed to sign a bill that would cap the interest rate at 36%. Personally I think it should be 15% or less. The last survey shows that Native Americans are hurting the most with these payday loans. This is an economic problem for the Las Cruces area because many people are getting the payday loans and...

State Representative District 37 *Terry H. McMillan - Republican*

1. I do not accept the proposition that New Mexicans have no access to health care. The Affordable Care Act through the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange, provides federal government subsidization of premium payments. Medicaid in New Mexico has been greatly expanded as well. New Mexicans have access to health care. I would not support further transfer of health care delivery to government.

2. I support parental control as to where their children attend school, whether public or private, charter or classic mainstream public school. I think tax dollars should follow the parent's choice of institution. I do not see how profit versus non-profit status of an institution has relevancy to the effectiveness of educating children. On line

resources will provide an increasing contribution to the process but such resources must be scrutinized.

3. I am puzzled by the use of the word "parity". Inevitably, as water becomes a more limited resource, more aggressive conservation methods will need to be deployed, and users will have to pay more for access. I do not favor a change in our current method of allocating those resources; that is, "first in time, first in line", and users must demonstrate "beneficial use". That places Native Americans first, agriculture second, and municipalities third.

4. I favor capping interest rates for short term "pay-day" loans.

State Representative District 37 *Joanne J. Ferrary - Democrat*

1. Yes, I believe that New Mexico should ask for a waiver under the ACA to set up a Health Security Plan by Jan. 1, 2017. This would shift private insurance to a supplemental role and provide comprehensive coverage for most New Mexicans. Studies have concluded that self-insuring all or most residents is the least expensive approach, provides coverage for everyone and an opportunity to better control health care costs.

2. I do not believe that for-profit virtual charter schools should receive taxpayer dollars! This takes away the much needed funding for the public schools that must provide an education for all students, not just a select group. It undermines the basis of our free educational system for all New Mexicans.

3. There are communities like Albuquerque that have adopted and supported the

reduction of water use by businesses and residences to less than half of what it was in recent years. With careful analysis, supporting good practices, and monitoring water use rates, other municipalities can have the same success. Agricultural water conservation is possible too! Research is developing different types of drip and watering systems that work with certain crops. These new practices should be supported.

4. This is a vicious cycle for many people working paycheck to paycheck and the interest rate on short-term loans that spiral into great debt and long lengths of time, need to be capped. Currently the proposal is to cap at 35% down from an egregious 250-400%. Easy profits are being made at the expense of those who can least afford it! I support a change to the law.

State Representative District 39 *John L Zimmerman - Republican*

1. All US citizens are required to have Health Insurance under the recently passed Federal Health Care Law. Therefore, I'm not sure what New Mexicans would not be covered. That being said, I would not oppose a State-administered health care system as long as it was competitive with existing health care plans and it complied with the federally mandated Health Care Law.

2. I could support taxpayer dollars being transferred to cover some expenses relating to fund purchase of or furnishing approved text books and instructional materials. That being said, attendance at a for-profit virtual charter school is a choice, and anti-donation laws would prevent direct transfer of taxpayer dollars to a for-profit school.

3. Water resources in our arid southwest must be used judiciously by both agriculture and municipalities. Agriculture supports municipalities and the converse of this is true. A balance between the two is vital to a healthy environment and livelihood.

4. I fully support capping interest rates that can be charged by payday lenders for short-term loans. A fair rate of interest can be had without gouging those least able to make ends meet when un-expected emergencies arise.

State Representative District 39 *Rudolpho S. Martinez - Democrat*

1. I support state administered health care system. New Mexico moved forward with expanded Medicaid coverage for low-income adults authorized by ACA. Two ways to provide coverage under the ACA is the expansion of Medicaid eligibility to adults with incomes under the FLP and the other is a subsidy for those with incomes between 133 and 400 percent of FPL through the New Mexico Health Exchange. 170 thousand New Mexicans will be covered under this method.

2. I am not in support of tax dollars being provided to private schools. Funding of for-profit virtual charter schools is a violation of the state equalization guarantee

3. I am full support of developing a state wide water plan. Working with the Water

Resource Research Institute in developing legislation to appropriate funding for this project has been a priority not only last session but this upcoming session. The study will involve collecting data that is currently available and provide new data on the water available within our aquifers. This information will provide a means to find a balance between all users.

4. Providing a cap on interest rates charged by payday lenders will provide a reasonable means of protection for those individuals using this type of service. We must also be open to provide input from the industry which provides a service to the public. I do support a reasonable cap on the interest rates.

State Representative District 52 *Doreen Y. Gallegos - Democrat*

1. The Affordable Care Act is not yet fully implemented. We need to let the ACA work for a time before we overhaul it again. I do believe that we have indicators of what is not working and that we can work to improve the system. As a member of House Appropriations Committee I am aware that more money is being put into the Medicaid and Medicare in order to help New Mexicans get continued care.

2. No. I believe there needs to be teacher student contact and a check and balance system and it is my opinion that Virtual Charter Schools do not provide this. There are barriers to learning and little support systems.

3. We need to create a plan that continues to allow our farmers to water their crops

in a smart way. Our cities provide water for 70% of the citizens in New Mexico so balance is the key. We are all in this together. Water is the key to our existence and we need to work together as New Mexicans to conserve and make wise choices for our children's future.

4. I do believe there needs to be a reasonable cap and regulation. The real problem is working families qualifying for a loan or ability to establish credit. Banks have high qualifications that low income families can't meet. A desperate mother trying to get medication for her baby or pay the light bill in the middle of winter is a reality. I would like to explore more safety nets for the industry.

State Representative District 53 *Ricky L. Little - Republican*

1. First, I take issue with the premise that all New Mexicans are not covered. A state administered health care system is not needed. The more layers of bureaucracy between the patient and the healthcare provider the poorer the care for the patient.

2. I support the dollars that New Mexico taxpayers are spending on education being spent on programs that educate students! The question of whether it is nonprofit or for profit is a side issue. The main focus should be on a system that produces educated young people who will be able to lead this state into the greatness that we have the potential for.

3. The importance of NM agriculture is indisputable. Municipalities need water. We need wise management of the resources that we have and development of the technology that brings it. Those are facts that cannot be challenged. There will be many studies looking for answers. I will review and consider all that are presented, and take each piece of legislation that comes before me on its own merit, with the needs of all New Mexicans.

4. I wish our schools taught fiscal principals so that this wouldn't be an issue. There was a time when that was the norm. No one should pay usury rates to borrow money, but thieves will find ways to steal from the poor no matter what laws you put into effect.

State Representative District 53 *Mariaelena Johnson - Democrat*

1. Basic, quality health care should be available to all New Mexicans, just as public education is available to us all. People who don't get basic health care, are less productive, have a higher tendency to experience health emergencies, and have a lower ability to support themselves and their families than those who do have access to health care. A comprehensive state administered health care system would be an investment in New Mexico and its people.

2. I support developing the capacity and resources for quality public education and finding sustainable funding for public schools. I don't support tax payer dollars becoming a target for profit minded virtual schools. Public education is a fundamental responsibility of the state. We cannot justify sub-contracting education and paying the profit "tax". That 10%, 20% or more profit amounts to huge amounts of real dollars not going directly towards our children's education. That's just not right.

3. We must have a comprehensive water use plan to protect our future. It is time to work out the many issues associated with water. We will have to be brutally realistic in describing the future we can expect, and creative about our options. Nobody will get everything they want and, everybody will have to compromise. Ensuring that our water sources and systems are protected will be a top priority for me when elected State Representative.

4. I support families and communities who work hard earning a living and providing for their families. Un-regulated predatory loan lenders running rampant in our communities do not nurture the fabric of the community. Borrowers end up deeper in debt and families are left without options due to climbing bills and liens. Capping the interest rate will help those who do seek out short term loans, and provide them with a reasonable and attainable rate.



PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSIONER

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSIONER

1. The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) regulates the utilities, communications and motor carrier industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public as provided by law. What specific experience have you had in these areas that qualifies you for this office?
2. To ensure fairness to both the public and the companies involved, what factors should be considered when evaluating requests for utility rate increases?
3. As a member of the Public Regulation Commission, how will you support the development of alternative energy?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Public Regulation Commissioner District 5 *Ben L. Hall - Republican*

1. During my 4 years as Commissioner, I have worked tirelessly to streamline PRC operations so that the New Mexico ratepayer will enjoy adequate utility and transportation service at reasonable rates. I voted to not approve a rate case request by PNM when the public interest was not served. I voted to maintain Tri-State generation under the PRC's jurisdiction because their rates are paid for by New Mexico cooperatives that purchase their power.

2. The Commission authorizes a rate increase only when it is truly justified by the regulated entity after judging the following factors: Affordability of a rate for the consumer. Reasonableness of expenditures made by the entity. Efficiency of utility leadership to appropriately manage the customer revenue. The need of the regulated

entity to fund capital projects and maintenance projects which will allow for continued reliable service to the public.

3. The Renewable Energy Act mandated that renewal energy portfolios are to be gradually increased while maintaining a reasonable cost threshold for the ratepayer. As technology advances, renewable energy projects costs such as El Paso Electric's Macho Springs solar installation are becoming more competitive to traditional energy sources. As long as the effects on consumer rates and system reliability from the renewable sources are considered, renewables can be an important part of the energy portfolio.

Public Regulation Commissioner District 5 *Sandy R. Jones - Democrat*

1. I served as Chairman of the PRC and have experience presiding over hearings. During my time on the commission I was a member of National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and attended the NARUC rate school as well as the National Judicial College. I have over 30 years of business experience having owned and operated a construction business in New Mexico. I am the only candidate for PRC endorsed by industry and labor.

2. State statute defines what cost utilities are allowed to recover and pass on to consumers. While I was a the Commission I insured a portion of the rate hearings were conducted in the communities which were affected. That practice will be reinstated when I return to the commission to ensure consumers access and a voice.

Utilities are entitle to recoup 100 percent of their expenses, but I will ensure they don't get one penny more.

3. When I served on the commission I helped write the most aggressive renewable-energy standards in the nation, meaning 15% of our energy has to come from renewables by 2015 and 20% from 2020. I will ensure that the commission will follow the state and federal legislation for renewable standards. I will wok hard to keep renewable energy projects to southern New Mexico and ensure we keep rates affordable to all consumers

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

1. Do you support tax payer dollars being transferred to for-profit virtual charter schools? Why or why not?
2. Explain your position on funding for early childhood education.

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Public Education Commissioner District 7 *Patricia E. Gipson - Democrat*

1. I do not support the use of public funds for private for-profit virtual schools. The national franchises are the beneficiaries of public tax dollars, profiting off public schools. Private companies operating the virtual schools have no accountability to the public. Regulations are near impossible to enforce for private or home-based virtual schools. The NM Legislature has created a sub committee on Charter Schools and ares currently reviewing the "Charter Schools Act" and The Statewide Cyber Academy Act of 2007 to address this and a number of other issues related to charter schools.

2. I support any efforts to close the achievement gap in NM. Numerous studies

have concluded that at at risk children who do not have access to early childhood education are more likely to drop out, be placed in special education and less likely to attend college. Investing public funds in quality early learning programs is one of the most effective investments we can make. Public schools should be the primary provider of these programs and additional funding is needed. Funding these programs might include increasing the distribution from the permanent school fund as wells closing some tax loop holes for big businesses.

MAGISTRATE JUDGES

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR MAGISTRATE JUDGE

1. What in your education and experience qualifies you to be a Magistrate Judge?
2. What is your philosophy of sentencing?
3. Given that current DWI laws deal with repeat offenders, how would you balance the interests of rehabilitation and safety?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Magistrate Judge Division 1 *Nelson J. Goodin - Republican*

1. As an attorney for over 22 years, I have they experience need to handle the type of cases filed in Magistrate Court. I have over 10 years of experience in criminal law and over 10 years of experience handling a wide variety of civil cases. Additionally, I have been Magistrate Judge since December 2013 and have been doing the work that a Magistrate Judge does. I have the experience to continue serving as Magistrate Judge.

2. Each case has to be evaluated independently taking into consideration the circumstances of the crime committed and the history of the defendant. The goal

should be rehabilitation of the defendant but at the same time consequences for action and the effect upon the victims must also be considered. There is no "cookie cutter" answer to sentencing. Each case must be considered on its own.

3. Each case must be considered individually to determine what sentence will serve to provide reduce recidivism. The number one goal should be to address the underlying cause of the drinking so that a person will not get behind the wheel of a car after drinking. If we are able to truly rehabilitate an offender the issue of safety is also addressed otherwise the offender must be prohibited from driving.

Magistrate Judge Division 1 *Samantha Madrid - Democrat*

1. I have a Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico. I was also an educator. Teachers must first have the patience to deal with high stress levels, and secondly the ability to render fair, impartial decisions with grace and respect. A Magistrate Judge must do the same. I have owned my own business and respect the value of other's time. I have experience in domestic violence, landlord tenant law, criminal defense and prosecution.

2. The role of a magistrate judge is to sentence in accordance with the framework of the statutory and procedural law. I will strictly comply with that directive. In tailoring the exact sentence, all judges are required to consider mitigating and extenuating

circumstance, balanced with aggravating circumstances. I will follow that process as all judges are required to do.

3. DWI is a significant issue in our community and safety concerns are paramount to the public. Rehabilitation is always a desirable goal and I will promote participation in such programs at all times. The law gives the appropriate minimum and maximum sentencing and I will work within that legal framework to protect the public and encourage rehabilitation

Magistrate Judge Division 2 *Conrad F. Perea - Democrat*

1. I am a graduate of New Mexico State University with undergraduate degrees in Arts and Sciences and Government. I received my Juris Doctor from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law. I have served as a Magistrate Court Judge from 1999 until 2001 and again from October 2010 until present. I served as a Magistrate Pro-Tempore during the time I was a student in law school and was not a full-time Magistrate.

2. My philosophy of sentencing includes fines, imprisonment, and the release on probation of an individual. I determine a sentence by applying the facts of a case to the law. I listen to and consider what a victim or victims have to say since they are an important part of a criminal case. When placing an individual on probation it

is important to consider treatment as part of probation so that behaviors will not be repeated.

3. Rehabilitation and the safety of the community are substantial interests when dealing with repeat offenders. Rehabilitation can be addressed by firmly applying the requirements of treatment of a repeat offender to include in and out-patient treatment and treatment drug courts. Both rehabilitation and safety should be addressed with strict probation requirements, monitoring and immediate response to violations. Frequent monitoring of an individual on probation will address safety concerns immediately and will bring about rehabilitation responses.

Magistrate Judge Division 3 *Beverly Jean Singleman - Democrat*

1. Received law degree from University of Arizona in 1976; practiced law in Las Cruces/Dona Ana County for 40 years; in 2000 was a Judge on the New Mexico Court of Appeals; elected in 2012 to serve as Magistrate Judge, Division 3. I have lived in and served the Dona Ana County/ Las Cruces community in my professional life. I am presently seeking re-election to my second term as Magistrate Judge, Division 3.

2. The discretion of a magistrate judge in sentencing is fairly limited. We hear only traffic and misdemeanor criminal cases. As a magistrate judge it is my professional as well as ethical duty to follow the law. All cases are dealt with even-handedly so that sentences are impartial and are commensurate with the nature of the crime, to

assure defendants are punished equally based on the degree of harm caused by their conduct.

3. My caseload in Division 3 consists solely of traffic cases, including misdemeanors, and civil cases with damages under \$10,000. As such I do not decide guilt or sentence cases involving DWI laws. The Dona Ana Magistrate Court, however, does operate a Drug and DWI Court, one of the oldest in the country, where first time offenders can be ordered into programs aimed at rehabilitation rather than just jail time.



Magistrate Judge Division 4 *Norman E. Osborne - Democrat*

1. I moved to New Mexico in 1981 and graduated from The University of New Mexico School of Law in 1986. Since then, I have pursued my legal career in the public sector. I have worked in criminal, civil, and administrative law and have tried many cases in State Courts. After eleven years with the District Court, I am ready to take the next step.

2. The Legislature sets the sentencing ranges for all criminal offenses. Within those guidelines, a Judge has the obligation to treat each case on its own merits. A sentence should take into account the need to protect society from repeat offenses which means using the rehabilitation resources available to the Court along with such

restrictions on the defendant's liberty as are necessary.

3. My previous answer applies to all kinds of criminal offenses from shoplifting to DWI and Domestic Violence. Naturally, public safety is a greater concern for some offenses than for others and that will influence my sentencing decisions.

Magistrate Judge Division 5 *Kent L. Wingenroth - Democrat*

1. I have had the privilege of dealing with the court system for the past 30 years. As a retired NMSF Officer, Military Police, two years of college studying Criminal Justice and a Magistrate Judge for the past seven years, handling 50,000 cases I believe I have brought knowledge of law and experience to the bench. I continue with yearly trainings through the National Judicial College and the Judicial Education Center.

2. To apply the law in a fair and just manner, in each case that comes before me. Many factors need to be dissected and considered; the severity of the violation, the history of each defendant, the facts presented and recommendations from all parties

of each case. Listening to all the factors and communicating my decision in a manner to which all parties understand.

3. I will deal with each case, one at a time, to serve both the safety of Dona Ana County and the offender's rights. Penalties are increased with each violation, years of probation, treatment programs, incarceration and monetarily. The court will provide treatment, guidance and the opportunity for rehabilitation. With the assistance of the Court and Probation Office any issues or problems the defendant faces will be addressed, bottom line the defendant's participation is required.

Magistrate Judge Division 6 *Joel Cano - Democrat*

1. 12th grade education, graduated from Las Cruces High School in 1975. Amassed over 1,580 hours of advanced training in many disciplines over the 20 years that I served as Law Enforcement. Over the last 3 years and 8 months, I have attended all required trainings through the Administrative Office of the Courts and have taken several courses through the National Judicial College. I am always engaged in plenty of self-applied learning opportunities.

2. With regard to sentencing's? My philosophy is that; not everyone is a criminal. In-fact, very few are. More often than not, the defendant's coming through the court just had a lapse of proper judgment and clearly made nothing more than a mistake.

When sentencing, I always consider the totality of the circumstances and I make sure that the punishment fits the crime. Without exception, I strive for fairness in everything that I do.

3. As the Lead DWI / Drug Court Judge, I have received formal training in these issues. My knowledge in DWI's is vast and growing. As the lead Drug Court Judge, I am on top of the latest information on DWI detection, apprehension, prosecutions and sentencing's. My primary goal is to protect the community from Drunk Drivers.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY OFFICES

DOÑA ANA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

1. Do you support the South Central Regional Transportation System? Why or why not?
2. Do you support a \$10.10 minimum wage in Doña Ana County? Explain.
3. Business development in Santa Teresa has exploded. How can the rest of Dona Ana County benefit?
4. What will you do to protect our watersheds and reduce flooding damage?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

County Commissioner District 1 *Charles R. Wendler - Republican*

1. As a former science/math teacher and school principal, I employ a facts-based, common sense approach to decision-making. Where are the facts supporting a need for this? Costs? Are there alternatives, such as private entrepreneurship? The issue is being put to the voters in the November general election. If passed, the sales tax will increase to 8.2% county-wide. Everyone will pay. I owe it to my constituents to properly research the ramifications of such a proposal.

2. I would urge all to research the real issue: inflation! Inflation causes us to pay more for what we buy, but the value of what we purchase does not increase. Since we can't seem to control prices, a quick answer is to increase income. This can be done several ways: get another job, train for a better paying job or ask the boss for a raise. The question then becomes what choice do you prefer?

3. Mexico's maquila industry is driving Santa Teresa's economic development.

Manufacturing – making things – is what creates jobs. It is foundational to an area's economic prosperity. Service related jobs are subsequently added to the total. Common sense would say that we need to foster conditions conducive to private entrepreneurship. Recently I was told by a neighbor he was not allowed a permit to operate a legitimate business from his home. So much for "conducive conditions!"

4. I voted in April of this year in favor of a mil levy increase to help fund the Dona Ana County Soil and Water Conservation District's efforts at protecting our watersheds and reduce flooding damage. To become more informed, I attended presentations by its Chairman, Joe Delk. Additional research revealed there are several sources engaged in this effort, and I believe coordinating and unifying their resources would help remedy this critical issue.

County Commissioner District 1 *Billy Garrett - Democrat*

1. A regional public transportation system would benefit everyone. Residents with limited incomes and those who do not drive would have better access to jobs, shopping, education, and health care. This should reduce reliance on social services, increase spending at local businesses, and help sustain economic growth. Building ridership will take time but would be expedited by development of housing, businesses, schools, and public facilities near transit routes.

2. A central purpose of government regulation is to ensure fairness. I support a \$10.10 minimum wage in Doña Ana County because full time workers should not live in poverty. As a practical matter, the three-year graduated increase with subsequent indexed changes will provide businesses with predictable labor costs and the time needed to develop competitive business plans. Special measures may be needed for people with fixed incomes and service providers on pre-determined reimbursement schedules.

3. To expand the benefits of Santa Teresa, we must actively engage in workforce development, construction of essential infrastructure, and public-private partnerships. For example, more New Mexicans could land jobs in Santa Teresa if we identify and remove obstacles to their employment; Las Cruces could prosper by positioning itself as a major support hub; and, an interstate spur from Santa Teresa to I-10 above Anthony would improve connectivity with Doña Ana County and points north.

4. Watersheds are natural features that support native vegetation and wildlife, supplement aquifers, and channel the flow of surface water. I favor allowing these systems to function as naturally as possible. Regulations should preclude new development from obstructing flows or increasing flood risk. I also support expansion of federal funding to replace flood control structures that have exceeded their design life, construct new flood control systems where necessary, and provide greater relief for local flood victims.

County Commissioner District 3 *Benjamin L. Rawson - Republican*

1. I supported funding the pilot transportation project. Until the results of the pilot project are released, it would be premature to determine if this is the correct solution to ensure that all residents have adequate access to transportation. During the month of July (the most recent numbers available) there were only 1,061 one-way rides. If that is the true demand then we should expand current programs like Dial-A-Ride instead of spending an additional \$10.3 million.

2. I support a consistent Federal minimum wage. However increasing the rate only in Dona Ana County to \$10.10 would cause challenges in developing areas of our county (Santa Teresa, Anthony, Chaparral). A better approach is to focus on education and job opportunities. By creating a better educated work force and additional jobs in Dona Ana County, a minimum wage employee would have the opportunity to earn more money and advance in a successful career.

3. The county benefits by increased taxes generated from this area. Property that previously generated extremely little property tax is now generating substantially more tax revenue for the county. This money is general fund money that can be used for any purpose. Another benefit for the county is the new Foreign Trade Zone Alternative Framework, allowing companies to locate throughout the entire county, not just Santa Teresa, and still take advantage of the FTZ

4. Dona Ana County has almost 100 dams within our borders. Most of these dams were built over 50 years ago and have had little, if any, maintenance. Keeping our dams in good condition must become a priority for the county. I have recommended that we create a maintenance plan for county owned dams and execute it. The lack of attention to our dams is costing county residents their homes and belongings.

County Commissioner District 3 *Beth Bardwell - Democrat*

1. Yes. A successful county has to invest in itself and its people. Public transit will be a powerful economic engine for the county. For less than 10 cents a day per average household, we can provide more bus service and transportation options within Las Cruces, and connect with the border region and our rural communities. Improved transit increases access and reduces transportation costs to jobs, education, medical care and shopping, benefiting both business and families.

2. The current Las Cruces wage discussion will help inform county decision-making in this area. In general, though, I support building an economy that works for all of us. A living wage can help lift a family out of poverty. Savings in turnover, training and productivity can balance increased payroll. A higher minimum wage can also boost the local economy by putting more money in the pocket of consumers and increasing business sales.

3. Our ability to anticipate and leverage the industrial growth along our southern border is key to the county's economic future and quality of life. The county can provide leadership and support for infrastructure and water. County planning and key initiatives like the forthcoming Comprehensive and Border Economic Development Plans, targeted job training and recruitment, and direct public transit to Santa Teresa can ensure taxpayers get a return on county investments in economic development.

4. Because we live in a desert, the goal is to minimize damage and increase groundwater recharge from large rain events. Repairing traditional flood structures is expensive—an estimated half a billion dollars. We need to adopt common sense and cost-effective, green infrastructure approaches. First, stop building in flood zones. Second, conserve arroyos to transport water from the upper watershed to the river. Third, use low-tech approaches like check dams to slow water and reduce erosion.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY ASSESSOR

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY ASSESSOR

1. Property assessments seem to be rising as real estate values still appear to be dropping. Explain.
2. What will you set as your priorities in your term as County Assessor?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

County Assessor *Andy Segovia - Democrat*

1. Due primarily to a cap law residential properties increase at 3% annually. This limitation doesn't allow property valuation to reach market value annually. In this example property valued in 2006 at \$100,000 increased in value to \$150,000 during peak years and since seen a decrease in value to \$130,000, meantime the assessor increases value at 3% annually trying to reach market. In nine years the property increased \$27,000 still not reaching market value.

2. In my term as County Assessor I will continue to provide excellent customer service, education and community outreach to all residents of Dona Ana County. I will provide fair and equitable assessments and continue to be a leader in refining statewide regulation in property assessments which affect all taxpayers. Lastly, I intend to pursue new resources for the purpose of property research and appraisal techniques for the residents of Dona Ana County.



DOÑA ANA COUNTY SHERIFF

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY SHERIFF

1. What are the responsibilities of the Office of the Sheriff?
2. What do you see as essential training and experience for Officers within the Sheriff's Department?
3. Problems have been identified at the Detention Center. Describe steps you will take to ensure the safety of detainees and prevent any future lawsuits.

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

County Sheriff *Craig Wayne Buckingham - Republican*

1. The Office of Sheriff is to uphold the United States Constitution, New Mexico State Constitution as well as enforce all state & local laws. The Office of Sheriff is also to act as the chief Law Enforcement officer of the County to protect & serve the people of the county. We are also responsible for Animal Control/Codes enforcement operations, the security of The Third Judicial District Court, serving court ordered rites & transporting prisoners.

2. Training starts with successful completion of the Law Enforcement Academy and the completion of the Field Training and Evaluation Program. We also need to ensure we have enough training for our high liability areas like use of force & driving.

Plus having training in areas for Mental Health illnesses like de-escalation techniques. I like to think there is never too much training but we must be efficient and economical about how we chose this training.

3. While I understand the concern with the detention center (DC) the Sheriff does not oversee the DC. It is overseen by an administrator who answers to the County Manager. We can examine the possibility of assuming this roll again, but only after close review and a plan is developed to ensure the protection of the Sheriff's Office. This would include bringing on a second Under Sheriff as allowed by law for a class A county.

County Sheriff *Enrique "Kiki" Vigil - Democrat*

1. The Sheriff is technically the highest ranking law enforcement official in the County. The duties of the Sheriff are to hold the Department accountable to the tax payers of Dona Ana County. This includes, but not limited to, maintaining the level of professionalism in fiscal and operations management that will best address public safety, law and order and maintain best practices in emergency preparedness, community oriented policing and public safety policies and procedures.

2. It is essential for the Department to maintain the highest level of standards in training. To assure this, we will conduct regular quality assurance audits on training and professional standards bureau to assure that each sworn and civilian personnel

maintain the necessary training requirements for certification in their training files and all staff receive mandatory training in the required 40 hours annual training prescribed in best practices and procedures by most law enforcement accreditation associations.

3. At the present time, the Dona Ana County Detention Center is not under the supervision of the Sheriff's Department. Administration should be held accountable. If under DASH, ACA Accreditation is imperative. This identifies custody issues and prevents dilemmas like the Slevin's Case. ACA requires quarterly quality assurance audits. It protects the rights of the confined, maintains a safer environment and helps prevent needless litigation.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR PROBATE JUDGE

1. What in your experience qualifies you for the office of Probate Judge?
2. What are the vital services that a Probate Judge provides?

CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Probate Judge *Diana A. Bustamante - Democrat*

1. I am the best candidate for this office because I have the most extensive formal education and solid professional experience and training needed to carry out the work of the Probate Court. I have 17 years administrative experience as the Executive Director of the Colonias Development Council for which I oversee all fiduciary, legal, operational, and programmatic activities of the organization. I have extensive experience working in both private and public sector institutions.

2. The Probate Court grants a person (Personal Representative) a legal authority to handle legal affairs of a person who has died, when this deceased person dies leaving property (personal and real estate). The Probate Judge needs to provide outreach and education services so that families can be proactive in their end-of-life planning. This can avoid unnecessary costs and conflict. It is also important to provide this information in English and Spanish to the general population.

Information on the Third Judicial District Court Retention of Judges was not available in time to meet our publication deadline.

SUMMARIES OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTION GENERAL ELECTION 2014

Each proposed amendment came from a joint resolution of the New Mexico Legislature. The following summaries are intended to help voters decide whether to vote for or against each amendment. Amendment 1 requires three-fourths of votes cast in its favor in order for it to be adopted. Amendments 2, 3, 4, and 5 require a simple majority of votes cast to approve each amendment. For background information and more complete analyses, please see http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/legislative_publications.aspx.

Constitutional Amendment 1 (requires a three-fourths majority): PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 7, SECTION 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO PROVIDE THAT SCHOOL ELECTIONS SHALL BE HELD AT DIFFERENT TIMES FROM PARTISAN ELECTIONS.

Would replace the prohibition against holding school elections with any other election. If this amendment is adopted, school elections could be held at the same time as nonpartisan elections, including municipal elections, bond elections, and other special district elections.

Arguments For

1. **Separate school elections no longer necessary.** Prior to 1920, women were able to vote only in school elections. They have had the right to vote in all public elections in New Mexico since 1920, so there is no need to hold separate school elections in conjunction with other elections no longer exists.
2. **May increase voter participation.** Reducing the number of elections by allowing school and other nonpartisan elections to be combined might increase overall voter participation. Voter turnout for school elections is very low.
3. **May lower costs for school districts.** School districts could lower their costs by holding their elections with other nonpartisan elections.

Arguments Against

1. **Too limited.** Combined election dates would be limited to municipal and special district elections, so school districts would not benefit from cost savings and increased voter participation in November general elections, which are partisan.
2. **Diluted focus and impact.** Combining school elections with other elections might reduce the influence of knowledgeable voters.
3. **Ballots too long and confusing.** Allowing combined nonpartisan elections will make those ballots longer and potentially confusing to voters.

Constitutional Amendment 2: AMEND ARTICLE 12, SECTION 13 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO CHANGE THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE SCHOOL BY FILLING ONE REGENT POSITION WITH A STUDENT.

Would add Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) to the state educational institutions required to have a member of the student body on the board of regents.

Arguments For

1. **Consistency among institutional boards.** NNMC now offers numerous bachelor's degrees, so its board of regents should be similar to the other six institutions that grant bachelor's degrees. NNMC embraces the concept.
2. **Equal representation.** NNMC students should have a student representative who can vote on issues that affect the student body.

Arguments Against

1. **Duplicative and possibly conflicting representation.** NNMC's student body already has two advisory student regents, elected by students and accountable to them. If this amendment passes, the governor would appoint the student regent, who might not be able to provide independent and nonpartisan representation.
2. **Unfairness.** May leave other groups unrepresented, such as staff and faculty.
3. **Unnecessary and unwarranted change.** The state constitution should not be changed unless there are compelling reasons. Requiring one member of a five-member board of regents to be a student will not greatly impact the decision-making of the board because the NNMC board already has two student regents who serve as advisors.

Constitutional Amendment 3: AMEND ARTICLE 6 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO ALLOW THE LEGISLATURE TO SET THE DATE FOR FILING DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY FOR JUDICIAL RETENTION ELECTIONS.

Would remove the requirement that justices and judges seeking to remain in office declare candidacy at the same time as candidates for the primary election, even though they are not part of the primary election process. If adopted, the legislature will determine the filing date for judicial candidates as it does for all other candidates for state offices.

Arguments For

1. **Removes filing dates from Constitution.** Filing dates for elections are generally set by state statute. The cumbersome process of amending the constitution prohibits the legislature from changing election processes more easily.
2. **Removes a premature deadline for retirement announcements by sitting judges.** The current constitutional requirement forces justices and judges to announce whether they will retire long before it is necessary to do so. Nonpartisan retention elections for justices and judges are not held until November.

Arguments Against

1. **Weakens connection between electorate and judicial office.** The present filing date reminds justices or judges that their retention elections are directly tied to the voters and their expectations of the judiciary.
2. **Increases potential for politics to intrude on judicial elections.** Leaving the filing date for retention elections in the constitution prohibits the legislature from manipulating retention election filing dates for political or partisan advantage.

Constitutional Amendment 4: AMEND ARTICLE 10, SECTION 10 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO ALLOW CERTAIN COUNTIES TO BECOME URBAN COUNTIES AND TO CLARIFY THE MAJORITY VOTE NEEDED TO ADOPT A COUNTY CHARTER.

Would allow Valencia and Curry counties to become urban counties if their populations ever reach 300,000. These counties meet the geographic size requirement but do not have the authority to become urban counties. An urban county charter must be approved by a majority of the voters voting on the charter.

Arguments For

1. **Expands the number of counties eligible to acquire urban county status.** Any county less than 1,500 square miles in area and with a population of at least 300,000 would become eligible for urban county status. Bernalillo County is the only county that currently satisfies the size and population requirements necessary to become an urban county.
2. **Promotes greater self-government and reduces dependency on the state legislature.** Urban county status gives the same "home rule" powers that many municipalities have and permits them to make laws and policies without the need to invest time and resources to sway the legislature.

Arguments Against

1. **Increases expenditure of public resources.** If voters approve the urban county, the county would be required to expend resources to modify the county government to carry out the provisions of the urban county charter.
2. **May result in duplication of services and offices and confusion.** Duplication of services could raise costs in both the county and the city. Confusion about which entity is responsible for certain services could also result. Los Alamos County is the only county with home rule power, but it has that power because it is also a municipality.

2014 VOTERS GUIDE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER LAS CRUCES



Constitutional Amendment 5: AMEND ARTICLE 12, SECTION 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO PRESERVE THE LAND GRANT PERMANENT FUNDS BY INCREASING THE DUTY OF CARE, REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE TYPE OF INVESTMENT THAT MAY BE MADE AND INCREASING THE THRESHOLD AMOUNT FOR ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTIONS.

Would allow more than 15 percent of the Land Grant Permanent Fund to be invested in international securities; change the investment standard to the Uniform Prudent Investor Act (UPIA), which is used by the State Investment Council for managing other funds; and raise the reserve in the fund from \$5.8 billion to \$10 billion to continue the yearly distributions of 5.5 percent through fiscal year 2016.

Arguments For

1. **Allows for greater diversification with higher return potential.** The State Investment Council would gain the flexibility it needs to seek appropriate levels of diversified growth investments around the globe, with the potential to make longer-term investments projected to give a higher rate of return. This type of investment could help counterbalance inflation pressures on the Land Grant Permanent Fund. As with any investments there can be short-term fluctuations.
2. **Removes an antiquated investment restriction.** The 15% limitation was originally put in place prior to the emergence and importance of the global economy. The vast majority of similar institutional investment funds around the country, including NM Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and NM Educational Retirement Board (ERB), do not have restrictions on international investment.
3. **Foreign investment reflects the current business market.** Many large corporations operate internationally and many thus have a foreign investment component reflected in U.S. markets.

Arguments Against

1. **Might be viewed as encouraging risky investments.** Over shorter time periods, eliminating the 15 percent cap on foreign investments could potentially cause greater variability of the value of the trust funds.
2. **Foreign markets less stable than U.S. market.** Many U.S. investors are cautious about making significant investments in foreign markets due to concerns about volatile political situations, insecure financial structures or a lack of business diversification in many countries.

2014 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND TAXES

A bond represents a debt for money borrowed by a government to finance capital improvement projects. The government promises to repay the amount borrowed, plus interest, over a period of time. The bonds are called "General Obligation" because payment of the debt service (principal plus interest) is a general obligation of the governmental entity issuing the bond, in this case the state and its property owners. Therefore, the bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the State of New Mexico. General obligation bonds are payable from property taxes levied on all property in the state that is subject to property taxation. According to the Board of Finance Division of the Department of Finance and Administration, the specific amount of property taxes collected in a given year is attributable to a number of factors, including the amount of debt service required for existing general obligation bonds, the projected debt service required for the new bond issue, the latest assessed valuation of net taxable property, cash balances in bond debt service accounts, the date of issuance, and the actual interest rate obtained on the bond sale. **Based on the assumption that all three bond issues will be passed by voters, the property tax year 2014 mill levy has been set at 1.36 mills, which is the same as the 2013 rate. The State Board of Finance estimates that over a ten-year period, the three issues on the ballot would increase annual property tax bills by approximately \$9.91 average per year per \$100,000 of asset value. Of the annual average \$9.91, Bond Issue A accounts for \$1.00, Bond Issue B accounts for \$0.65, and Bond Issue C accounts for \$8.27.**

2014 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act

The New Mexico Legislature passed the 2014 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act detailing projects that would be funded by these bonds. No bonds will be issued or sold under the act until the state's registered voters have voted upon and approved the bonds. Each bond is voted upon separately with a For or Against question.

Summary: The three 2014 bond issues ask for voter approval to issue general obligation bonds as follows: **Bond Issue A**, in an amount not to exceed \$17,000,000 to make capital expenditures for senior citizen facility improvements, construction, and equipment acquisition projects; **Bond Issue B**, in an amount not to exceed \$11,000,000 to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal, and public library acquisitions; and **Bond Issue C**, in an amount not to exceed \$141,000,000, to make capital expenditures for certain higher educational, tribal, and special schools capital improvements and acquisitions.

The total for all three questions, including bond issuance costs, is **\$166,998,790**. A complete breakdown of the designated projects under each bond issue can be found on the New Mexico Legislature's website: <http://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/14%20Regular/final/SB0053.pdf> and in http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/misc/2014_highlights.pdf, pp. 80-85.

Bond Question A – Senior Citizen Facility Improvements

The 2014 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 seventeen million dollars (\$17,000,000) 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 C – Higher Education Facilities

The 2014 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 one hundred forty-one million dollars (\$141,000,000) 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 B – Library Acquisitions

The 2014 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 eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000) 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 _____

The following projects have been specifically designated for funding by the sale of Bond Issue B.

Cultural Affairs Department: \$3,000,000 to acquire library books, equipment, and other resources for public libraries statewide, and \$800,000 for books, equipment, and other resources for tribal libraries statewide.

Public Education Department: \$3,500,000 to acquire library books, equipment, and resources for public school libraries statewide.

Higher Education Department: \$3,500,000 to acquire library books, equipment, and resources for academic libraries statewide.

Indian Affairs Department various schools Total \$5,000,000

Higher Education Department various schools Total \$23,530,000

Eastern New Mexico University Total \$14,325,000

Highlands University Total \$5,000,000

Military Institute Total \$4,800,000

Mining and Technology, NM Institute Total \$15,000,000

New Mexico State University Total \$25,100,000

Northern New Mexico State School Total \$2,000,000

University of New Mexico Total \$39,000

COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT GROSS RECEIPTS TAX QUESTION

Shall there be imposed a County Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax at a Rate of one-quarter of one percent of the gross receipts of a person engaging in business in the County for the privilege of engaging in business, the revenue of which will be dedicated to both of the following purpose: (a) the Operation of expanded bus services throughout Doña Ana County, as determined by the South Central Regional Transit District (SCRTD); and (b) Capital expenditures in support of the operation of expanded bus services throughout Doña Ana County, as determined by the SCRTD? For _____ Against _____



The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

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Thank you also to CAFé for producing the Spanish language edition of the 2014 LWV-GLC Voters Guide.



NM Communities in Action & Faith (CAFé)

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