

**LWV**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF GREATER LAS CRUCES

2016

VOTERS GUIDE

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

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YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 8, 2016

A general election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at Voting Convenience Centers. If you are a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on election day, and are registered to vote in Doña Ana County, you may vote in this general election in the County. If you have a question concerning the election, please contact the Doña Ana County Clerk's Office at (575) 647-7428 or the online website: <https://donaanacounty.org/elections>. The Voters Guide is also available online at the League's website www.lwvvlc.org

VOTING INFORMATION

Registering to Vote

Anyone who wants to vote in this general election must have already registered to vote in Doña Ana County. If you have not yet registered to vote, you have already missed the deadline, and will be ineligible to vote in this election. The registration books for registering to vote in this general election were closed by the County Clerk at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

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. Absentee ballots will be mailed out starting October 11, 2016. The Doña Ana Bureau of Elections in the County Government Center at 845 N Motel Blvd will accept absentee requests at any time but they must be received no later than Friday, November 4. **Marked ballots in their required envelopes must be received in the County Clerk's Office by November 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

If you apply for an absentee ballot and **RECEIVE** it, you must vote that ballot. If you apply for it but **DO NOT RECEIVE** the absentee ballot, you have the option of requesting a replacement ballot. Contact the County Clerk's office for more information. On election day, your completed ballot can be received at the County Clerk's Office no later than 7:00 p.m. 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. Only the voter may deliver the absentee ballot to any Voting Convenience Center on election day.

For more information go to <https://donaanacounty.org/elections/voting#absenteevoting> or in person to the County Clerk's Office.

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Early Voting

Early voting at the Doña Ana County Government Center (845 N. Motel Blvd. Las Cruces) begins on Tuesday, October 11 and ends on Saturday, November 5, 2016. Voting on October 11 - November 4 will take place during regular office hours. Saturday, November 5 voting is from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Alternate Early Voting Convenience Centers

The hours for Alternate Early Voting Convenience Centers will be Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00am to 7:00pm starting Saturday, October 22. You may vote at any one of these locations.

These locations are:

Anthony Elementary School

600 N. Fourth St | Anthony, NM 88021

Doña Ana Community College: Chaparral Learning Center

755 Prescott Anthony Dr. | Chaparral, NM 88081

Doña Ana Community College: Hatch Learning Center

219 East Hill St. | Hatch, NM 87937

Doña Ana Community College: Sunland Park Center

3365 McNutt Rd. | Sunland Park, NM 88063

Sonoma Elementary School

4201 Northrise St. | Las Cruces, NM 88011

Thomas Branigan Memorial Library

200 E Picacho Ave | Las Cruces, NM 88001

Voting Convenience Centers on Election Day, November 8 from 7:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. (You may vote at any one of these locations.)

1. Anthony Elementary School

600 N. Fourth St | Anthony, NM 88021

2. Berino Elementary School

92 Shrode Rd | Berino, NM 88021

3. Camino Real Middle School - 2961 Roadrunner Pkwy Las Cruces, NM 88011

4. Chaparral Middle School 290 Lisa Dr Chaparral , NM 88081

5. Corbett Center- NMSU Las Cruces, NM 88003

6. Del Cerro Community Center 180 La Fe Ave | Vado, NM 88048

7. Desert Hills Elementary School 280 Roadrunner Pkwy | Las Cruces, NM 88011

8. Desert View Elementary School 1105 Valle Vista St., | Sunland Park NM 88063

9. Doña Ana Community Center 5745 Ledesma Dr., | Dona Ana, NM 88007

10. Doña Ana Community College Hatch Learning Center 219 E Hill St | Hatch, NM 87937

11. Doña Ana County Government Center 845 N Motel Blvd | Las Cruces, NM 88007

12. East Picacho Elementary School 4450 N Valley Dr. | Las Cruces, NM 88007

13. Fairacres Elementary School 4501 W Picacho Ave | Las Cruces, NM 88005

14. Frank O'Brien Papen Center (Mesilla Park Recreation Center) 304 W Bell Ave | Mesilla Park, NM 88047

15. Gadsden Middle School 1301 W. Washington Street | 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 Mesa Fire Station 15765 Highway 28 | La Mesa, NM 88044

20. La Union Elementary School 875 Mercantile Ave | La Union, NM 88021

21. Las Alturas Fire Station 4145 Cholla Dr | Las Cruces, NM 88011

22. Las Cruces High School 1750 El Paseo Rd | Las Cruces, NM 88001

23. Lynn Middle School 950 S Walnut St | Las Cruces, NM 88001

24. Mayfield High School 1955 N Valley Dr | Las Cruces, NM 88007

25. Mesilla Elementary School 2363 Calle Del Sur | Mesilla, NM 88005

26. Mesquite Elementary School 205 NM Hwy 228 | Mesquite, NM 88048

27. New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum 4100 Dripping Springs Rd Las Cruces, NM 88011

28. North Valley Elementary School 300 Cascade Ave | San Miguel, NM 88058

29. Oñate High School 5700 Mesa Grande Dr | Las Cruces, NM 88011

30. Organ Fire Station 5816 3rd St | Organ, NM 88012

31. Radium Springs Community Center 12060 L.B. Lindbeck Rd | Radium Springs, NM 88007

32. Rincon Fire Station 255 Harlan St | Rincon, NM 87940

33. Santa Teresa Middle School 4800 McNutt Rd | Santa Teresa, NM 88008

34. Sierra Middle School 1700 Spruce | Las Cruces, NM 88001

35. Sonoma Elementary School 4201 Northrise Dr | Las Cruces, NM 88011

36. Sunrise Elementary School 5300 Holman Rd | Las Cruces, NM 88012

37. Thomas Branigan Memorial Library 200 E Picacho Ave | Las Cruces, NM 88001

38. Tombaugh Elementary School 226 Carver Rd | Las Cruces, NM 88005

39. University Hills Elementary School 2005 S Locust | Las Cruces, NM 88001

40. Vista Middle School 4465 Elks Drive | Las Cruces, NM 88005

There will be someone who speaks Spanish at each of the polling places and at the County Clerk's Office.

Voting Offenses

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

Voting offenses are:

* Any form of campaigning within 100 feet of a building containing a polling place. Campaigning includes display of signs or literature, buttons, t-shirts, hats, pins, or any such items, and includes verbal or electronic solicitation of votes for any candidate or question on the ballot.

* Disturbing the voting location. Disturbing the voting location occurs when anyone creates disorder or disruption at the polling place. Anyone who disturbs the voting location is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

* Obstructing the voting location. Obstruction occurs when anyone creates disorder or disruption at the polling place. If obstructing occurs at the voting location, that person is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

Using, possessing, or carrying alcoholic beverages within 200 feet of 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.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW MEXICO

Questions for the Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives (5 questions, 65 words each question)

1. Does Congress have a responsibility to address the impact of economic insecurity/poverty and racial/ethnic inequities? If so, what action would you support? Please explain.
2. What changes, if any, would you support in US immigration policy? Please address treatment of undocumented immigrants.
3. What actions, if any, should Congress take to address the influence of money in politics?
4. What would you do to ensure that every eligible American's right to vote is protected?
5. What would you do to improve health insurance coverage in the U.S.?

District 2

Candidate: Steve Pearce, Republican

1. Part of the problems of inequality and poverty can be traced to a lack of jobs. Good-paying jobs help everyone to succeed. Congress should support a growing economy and programs to reduce poverty. One-size-fits-all and government-knows-best programs have failed. We need programs to aid hard-to-hire employees, combat drug addiction, make housing affordable and improve education.
2. I try to pull both sides together for a complete overhaul of our immigration system. First, secure the border and then reform the laws to ensure all people are treated with respect. I have worked with Democrats to increase Border Patrol training to do exactly this. I oppose amnesty. We need a fair guest worker program that does not hand out entitlements.
3. I oppose Hillary Clinton's plan to amend the Constitution to allow politicians to regulate free speech. People are too eager to use the power of government to punish people they disagree with. We should engage in a healthy, strong and respectful discussion of the issues. Government limiting what can be said will not strengthen democracy.
4. The right to vote is one of the most scared and cherished liberties in our country. Every citizen should be encouraged to register and cast their legal vote. Every election I encourage all citizens to take advantage of New Mexico's early and absentee voting laws to increase participation. Recent cyber-attacks on voting computers that may be designed to disrupt the right to vote are concerning.
5. Coverage is only part of the problem with health care. Costs and access are important considerations as well. ObamaCare has been a fiasco with people losing their doctors, health plans leaving states and bureaucracy has spiraled. It needs to be repealed and we need a patient-centered approach that controls costs, covers pre-existing conditions and ensures widespread access and coverage for medical care.

Candidate: Merrie Lee Soules, Democrat

1. Our nation was formed partly to "promote the general Welfare." Government has a role in assuring that all people have the opportunity to lead healthy productive lives. I support a living wage, the right to organize and form Unions, uniform bankruptcy protections, color-blind law enforcement and a progressive tax system. I support available and accessible health care and public education for all.
2. It's time for Congress to approve a pathway to citizenship for law-abiding immigrants who over years have contributed positively to their communities, and for U.S.-raised children of undocumented immigrants. It's time to stop holding immigration reform hostage to unrealistic border security objectives. We should provide guaranteed legal counsel to unaccompanied children whose cases are heard in immigration courts.
3. I support Congressional passage of a Constitutional amendment to overturn the harmful effects of the outrageous Citizens United Supreme Court decision. We must restore the ability to establish campaign spending limits and require full disclosure of funding sources. Our challenge is to restore peoples' confidence that their government is not for sale.
4. I support nationally standardized voter registration protocols and automatic voter registration when someone turns 18 or otherwise becomes eligible to vote. I support increased access to voting through voter convenience centers, early voting, longer voting hours, and absentee ballots. I oppose initiatives like voter ID requirements that seek to restrict access to voting and tend to disproportionately disenfranchise communities of color and communities of poverty.
5. I believe health care, like education, should be a right, and therefore available and accessible to all. I would support a public option for health insurance. I would increase the number of doctors and trained health care providers and I would take on the issue of availability and cost of pharmaceuticals as steps to affordable health care coverage.

Candidate: Jack A. McGrann, Write-in (Republican)

1. Over the past several years the size of the U.S. Federal Government has continued to grow without limits while the Federal debt has nearly doubled. The cost of Federal programs over the next ten years can't be supported by future tax increases. A plan is needed that will, balance the budget, reduce burdensome regulations, on businesses and repeal laws like Obama care and the Dodd-Frank.
2. The Department of Homeland Security under the supervision of the Obama Administration has failed to enforce the requirements of the U.S. Immigration laws. As it appears that the U.S. Immigration and border security system has failed there are now calls for granting amnesty to millions of unlawful immigrants. This is not the solution to the problem. Enforcing the laws is the solution.
3. The Federal Election Commission Chairman, David Mason, addressed the House Rules Committee in 2001 when he stated that Congress had approved "Vague Standards" and passed laws that were unenforceable. Subsequently, Congress passed the Campaign Reform Act of 2002. Better accountability and transparency has been established and fundraising activities can be viewed at the Campaign Finance Disclosure Portal online at: www.fec.gov/pindex/shtml.
4. The right-to-vote issue was raised by the socialist-democrats as if it was a plot to prevent minorities from voting. To the contrary, there has been an increase in the voter turn out in states like Indiana and Georgia with the strictest voter ID Laws. All states should require proof of citizenship to register to vote and government issued ID should be required to vote.
5. The Affordable Care Act (ACA or Obama-care) has failed to reduce costs, improve the level of care, or win the approval of a majority of Americans. Since its implementation, individuals and families have had to suffer with rising costs, loss of existing coverage and a growing bureaucracy that is out of control. Obama-care was barely passed in the first place. It should be repealed!

SECRETARY OF STATE

Questions for the Candidates for the New Mexico Secretary of State (4 questions, 65 words each question)

1. Would you support any changes to New Mexico's voting procedures, such as Same Day Voter Registration, mail-in voting, or requiring photo IDs at the polls? Please explain.
2. What actions would you take to increase voter registrations? Would you favor an "opt out" system at motor vehicle departments where eligible citizens are automatically registered to vote? If not, why not?
3. What changes, if any, would you support in campaign finance reporting?
4. How have your abilities and experience prepared you for the duties of this office?

Candidate: Nora Espinoza, Republican

1. Support Voter ID, with free IDs to those who don't have one. Albuquerque has had it for ten years, with zero complaints. The US is about the only country in the world without Voter ID. I oppose Same-Day Voter Registration. It allows non-New Mexicans to pass through on Election Day, register, vote, and leave the state. Once that vote is cast it cannot be un-counted.
2. Registration is extremely easy and can be done on-line at anytime. The only thing preventing someone from registering to vote is not wanting to register. I oppose automatic registration because legal non-citizens, temporary visa holders, and certain felons are all eligible to apply for driver's licenses, but are ineligible to vote. Registering them "automatically," combined with the lack of Voter ID, decreases electoral integrity.
3. Our law is unenforceable due to three key federal court decisions in 2009, 2010 and 2012. We must have bright-line provisions that clearly define who must report and what has to be disclosed—including the dark money participants, such as George Soros, who funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to candidates like my opponent, using multiple "shell" PACs. I support legislation to address these deficiencies.
4. My background as a businesswoman and legislator taught me the distinction between legislative discretion and administrative duties. My opponent, who's a professional political consultant, indicates she'll use the SOS position to impose her ideas. That's wrong. The office is administrative. The SOS must follow the law—not attempt to create law. The SOS must ensure elections integrity without favoring any one group over any other.

Candidate: Maggie Toulouse Oliver, Democrat

1. I support same-day registration as long as ballots are verified for eligibility before they are officially counted. I would also like to expand mail-in voting in New Mexico. I support our current voter identification laws and any legislation that improves the security and integrity of our elections, but not at the expense of diminishing access to the polls or restricting the right to vote.
2. I fully support an easier, more accessible registration process including Automatic Voter Registration linked to the MVD/online voter registration system. I support this concept whether the opt-out option is available at the time of registration or afterward. Once the majority of citizens are automatically registered, other resources can be dedicated to helping those who do not have contact with the MVD register to vote.
3. There are too many gaps in current systems. I will write rules that are easy to comply with so that information is reported in a way that the public can easily understand, and see the relationships between candidates and donors. I will work with legislators to make changes that require the highest levels of disclosure for every dollar spent in support or opposition of candidates.
4. As Bernalillo Clerk since 2007, I've made protecting the right to vote, improving the integrity of elections and ensuring accountable leadership top priorities. My 9.5+ years of experience running elections in the largest county in the state, combined with my work toward ensuring accountability and transparency in my office, and elections, have prepared me to make much-needed changes in the Secretary of State's office.

CANDIDATES

Questions for the Candidates for the New Mexico Justice of the Supreme Court and the Judge of the Court of Appeals (4 questions, 65 words each question)

1. How have your training, professional experience, and interests prepared you to serve on this court?
2. What programs or changes would improve the New Mexico Supreme Court?
3. What is your judicial philosophy?
4. What has been your greatest achievement as a judge?

Justice of the Supreme Court

Candidate: Judith K. Nakamura, Republican

1. As one of five Supreme Court Justices, I help resolve a wide spectrum of complex legal issues and supervise state courts. My extensive civil law experience—private, corporate and governmental—and my past service as a former Metropolitan Court and District Court criminal trial judge, is unique on our Court. My four terms as the Metropolitan Court's Chief Judge provide invaluable court managerial skills.
2. Difficult economic times have led to a stark diminution of judicial resources, without a corresponding decrease in cases. Improved resource availability, along with better allocation to need areas and core support staffing, can best facilitate the most important objective: improving the timely disposition of court cases. People's lives hang in the balance when justice is delayed; my goal is to speed the process up.
3. My philosophy is to correctly resolve the cases that come before the Supreme Court. To do so, the Constitution is to be followed, as are laws written by our Legislators. Jurists must non-creatively and faithfully honor precedent. Fairness, punctuality, evenhandedness and respect for litigants are the philosophic hallmarks of judicial service.
4. My greatest achievement is the unprecedented privilege of serving at every level of our Court system, currently as a Supreme Court Justice. Along the way, I was honored by MADD as its national judge of the year for combatting DWI, I sped up and tried dozens of delayed criminal cases at District Court. I have now authored or participated in dozens of Supreme Court decisions.

Candidate: Michael E. Vigil, Democrat

1. I am Chief Judge of the New Mexico Court of Appeals, on which I have served since 2003. I have sat on over 3,000 appellate cases and written over 1,000 appellate opinions. I appeared as counsel in every NM judicial district and was appellate counsel in over 50 precedent-setting cases as a practicing attorney for 27 years before serving on the Court of Appeals.
2. The Supreme Court can provide for the safety of our children and communities by implementing practical rules for district attorneys and courts and by creating tools that laboratories and police officers need to do their jobs.
3. My judicial philosophy is that everyone, regardless of their race, religion, sex, national origin, social class, or sexual orientation should have their day in court and be heard because justice isn't only about laws, it's about lives.
4. My greatest achievement has been working hard for the last 13 years on the Court of Appeals for all the people of New Mexico to enforce the laws and protect their rights: their personal rights, their property rights, their constitutional rights. I have twice been recommended as qualified for the NM Supreme Court by the bi-partisan Appellate Judges Nominating Commission.

Justice of the Supreme Court (Retention)

Candidate: Barbara J. Vigil, Yes or No

Judge of the Court of Appeals

Candidate: Stephen G. French, Republican

1. For 35 years, I had the pleasure of meeting the legal needs of New Mexicans, as a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and a civil attorney. I handled over 110 appeals. I have been as a mediator and successfully resolved hundreds of complex cases. Now as a sitting Judge, I am familiar with the process and I have already decided several important matters before the Court.
2. We need to continue to focus on the efficient administration of justice. I would like to see the Court of Appeals implement an electronic filing system. This would bring efficiency to the Court and the litigants.
3. Fairness must always come before politics. Every person, regardless of who they are, where they come from, or their political party is entitled to a full and fair hearing before the Court. That is the kind of Judge I am and that's the kind of Judge I will continue to be.
4. In the short time I have been on the Court of Appeals, I have demonstrated my clear commitment to the fair and equal administration of justice, to resolving cases expeditiously, and to fostering the collegiality and dignity of the Court.

Candidate: Julie J. Vargas, Democrat

1. I was born and raised in Old Town, Albuquerque, where I still live. For 23 years, I've protected the rights of New Mexican families and New Mexico small businesses. I've dedicated my career to improving the legal profession, especially in the area of legal ethics. I've volunteered my time and services for NM Museum of Natural History Foundation, Children's Cancer Fund and Special Olympics.
2. The Court of Appeals lags behind other New Mexico courts in the area of technology. While other courts are equipped for electronic filing and allow online access to court documents, the Court of Appeals does not have those capabilities. Budget constraints over the past several years have prevented the much-needed technological upgrades that would modernize the Court and make it more accessible to the public.
3. Know the law, understand the facts, and apply the law fairly and equally to everyone who comes before you, without exception.
4. My greatest professional achievement is my work on lawyer ethics. I am a member of the Disciplinary Board, making disciplinary recommendations to the Supreme Court about lawyers who violate ethical rules. I am an 18-year member of the Bar's Ethics Advisory Committee, advising lawyers on ethical dilemmas. I have chaired that committee since 2008. I have also taught legal ethics at the UNM Law School.

Judge of the Court of Appeals (Retention)

Candidate: Jonathan B. Sutin, Yes or No

Candidate: Tim L. Garcia, Yes or No

Candidate: M. Monica Zamora, Yes or No

CANDIDATES

STATE SENATOR

Questions for the Candidates for the New Mexico Senate and House (4 questions, 75 words each question)

1. Given the current State financial crisis, what would you do to increase our revenue?
2. How can New Mexico more effectively take advantage of our abundant wind, solar and biofuel resources?
3. Given the critical underfunding of education in our State from preschool through university, how and at what levels would you direct scarce resources?
4. Are you for or against an independent redistricting commission? Explain.

District 31

**Candidate: Joseph Cervantes,
Democrat**



No reply received.

District 36

**Candidate: Lee S. Cotter,
Republican**



No reply received.

District 37

**Candidate: Cecelia H. Levatino,
Republican**



No reply received.

District 34

**Candidate: Ron Griggs,
Republican**



No reply received.

**Candidate: Jeff Steinborn,
Democrat**



1. Addressing New Mexico's budget deficit will require hard decisions and shared sacrifice. It is critical that we fully fund our top priorities including education, healthcare, and programs and initiatives that best serve our people and our state.
2. One of New Mexico's best economic resources is our sun, wind, and

renewable energy. We can become a leader of exporting renewable energy while expanding its use in our state. This will create jobs and save New Mexicans money on their utility bills. State government can and should strengthen policies that expand our renewable energy development and usage.

3. Education funding must remain a top priority for our state budget, including higher education and early childhood and higher education. I support evaluating all necessary options to ensure full funding of our schools. New Mexico's future and our economic well-being depend on our success at educating our kids. We should also expand our vocational training and develop better strategies for keeping our college students in New Mexico after graduating.

4. I support creating an independent redistricting commission. The first goal in creating electoral districts should be to better represent local communities, and communities of shared interest. Our government is best served by elected officials who work to earn the support of their constituents through achieving meaningful results.

**Candidate: William P. Soules,
Democrat**



1. In the long-run we need to diversify the economy away from a reliance on oil and gas. For the short-term we need to address the almost \$1 billion dollars in tax exemptions, credits, and incentives that have not resulted in economic growth. In addition we need to invest in K-12 education and higher education, and look at the entire tax code.

2. I think State government can play a significant role. State government can incentivize renewable energy development through LEDA grants for industry moving here, through renewing the renewable tax credits that have been effective in New Mexico, and by enacting laws that allow renewable energy to compete on an equal footing with fossil fuels. New Mexico has abundant renewable energy potential and we need to take advantage of it.

3. Education in New Mexico is underfunded at all levels and we will never improve our competitiveness until we start to fund education as a priority in the state. However, given the current funding, we need to spend more at the lower levels where the return on investment is greater. Funding at the early childhood level is a long-term strategy but is a better investment in our future.

4. I am for an independent re districting commission. The current system, where the party in power gets to redraw the district lines, serves the party's interests but not the people's. An independent commission could redraw lines that balance the size of districts and disregard political make-up. Gerrymandering contributes to the public's distrust of politics and politicians.

District 35

**Candidate: John Arthur Smith,
Democrat**



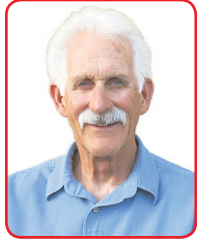
No reply received.

CANDIDATES

STATE SENATOR continued

District 38

Candidate: Charles R. Wendler, Republican



1. The short term answer consists of the typical reactionary measures: employing budget cuts for certain departments/agencies or of all entities across the board, and searching for additional revenue sources. I prefer a proactive approach that requires: sincerely analyzing how the crisis was created, distinguishing between needs and wants and implementing common sense budget-making strategies that will avoid crises management and establish a more stable fiscal environment.

2. We have been blessed with a variety of energy-producing resources, with oil and natural gas being large revenue sources. After the Energy Policy Act of 2005, New Mexico began passing legislation incorporating renewables such as solar and wind into its energy plan. This shift involved new technologies with associated incentivizing subsidies challenging our State government with costly ventures and choosing winners. Constitutional principles of limited government and entrepreneurship have historically provided effective solutions.

3. Currently New Mexico allocates 57% of its budget for education, indicating its priority. Unacceptable social/economic indicators and our current budget crisis exacerbates the challenge of providing quality teaching/learning. Being a father and grandfather, and having served as a professional educator at various age groups (elementary, middle school, high school and adult basic education), I believe it is easier to raise a child (starting at day one) in the way you would have her/him go.

4. I would be for an independent redistricting commission. Currently a legislative committee is assigned by the governor following the ten year Census to redistrict various legislative geographical boundaries. To help avoid political influence and partisanship, it speaks of common sense to establish an independent commission to carry out such a critical task. It is imperative that the integrity of our political system(s) be safeguarded as much as humanly possible. Public trust requires it.

Candidate: Mary Kay Papen, Democrat



1. We need to create jobs in New Mexico and diversify our economy. As co-creator of the Jobs Council I am already working toward that goal. Two things that will help is to a) review our tax structure, re-evaluate all of the tax credits and incentives to ensure our tax structure works for New Mexico, work with colleges to provide workers with the skills that today's employers are seeking.

2. We are an energy producing state. Energy production is very important to our economic viability. State government has already played a role in developing solar, wind, geothermal and biomass through tax credits, and incentives. During my tenure, I have supported initiatives to encourage biomass, biofuel, wind, solar and geothermal development.

3. In the past we have had a one size fits all approach to funding education. We must realize that each child will have a different path to success and our education system must be prepared for that. We need to re-evaluate our system as a whole and allocate our resources in ways that take into account varying pathways to success.

4. I would support an independent redistricting commission if we could ensure the commission is truly independent and not vulnerable to political pressure.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 33

Candidate: Neal L. Hooks, Republican



No reply received.

Candidate: Bill McCamley, Democrat



1. Trickle down economics doesn't create jobs, and hurts our ability to educate workers and build infrastructure... which do. So we should immediately stop tax give-aways that don't work and legalize recreational cannabis for adults. The resulting millions would ease the crisis and help us invest in job creation projects that stop our over-reliance on oil/gas and the Federal government. A healthy, diverse economy is our only real way out of this mess.

2. We should find ways of making large-scale energy transmission work. New Mexico can produce a lot of wind, solar, and geothermal power, but the biggest market for it is in other states. So if we cannot get the power to them then the incentive to build more is lower. We can also continue our support for the Renewable Energy Portfolio, which has been very effective in creating more power from clean energy sources.

3. New Mexico is currently ranked as the worst state to be a child, so I support more of our state's permanent fund being used for proven Pre-K education. We should stop PARCC testing, which costs the state millions and hasn't been shown to help students. And New Mexico should re-structure our higher education administrations to combine resources, increase cooperation between universities, and allow community colleges to be more effective.

4. I support this process as strongly as possible, and once led an independent redistricting committee for the City of Las Cruces. I also support limiting money in elections and allowing independents to vote in primaries. The more we can get special interests out of controlling how public officials are chosen, and put that power back in the hands of the people, the better a government we are going to have.

CANDIDATES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE continued

District 34

Candidate: Bealquin Bill Gomez, Republican



1. State's financial crisis: We are going to have to cut funds in several areas. This include Capital outlay funds that have not been used, we need to seriously look at our many tax exemptions and do away with those that are not working. We will need to sweep any funds that are laying around and not being used. We need

to take a serious look at our tax structure and make it fair to all New Mexicans.

2. Renewable Energy: With the current financial situation there is not much that can be done other than work to keep the Federal Rebates working to support the use of Solar and Wind energy in the state. We should encourage everyone to look at the possibility of using solar for their homes if it is economically feasible.

3. We currently support our schools at both the K-12 and University level at some of the highest financial levels in the Western United States. We need to shift more of the financial resources in our schools to the teaching side of education and reduce the administrative side considerably. We should shift more resources to pre-school programs and follow through with better training for our teachers and support for those students having difficulty in school.

4. Independent Redistricting Commission: I am against this idea as it would put a lot of power to a group outside the Legislative process and give the power to the Governor as I am sure they would be involved in selecting the members of the commission. The courts have the final say in determining that districts are fair.

District 35

Candidate: Joseph E. Bishop, Republican

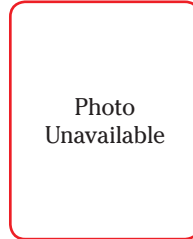


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No reply received.

Candidate: Angelica Rubio, Democrat



1. I'll work to end counterproductive trickle-down policies that favor cutting taxes for the few, while cutting benefits for the many. Specifically, freezing or delaying corporate tax cuts at current levels, adding sunset clauses moving forward, and requiring out-of-state corporations to pay income tax on their profits.

Moreover, I'll work to right-size personal income tax brackets and repeal capital gains deduction. I am also willing to consider an increase on tobacco and alcohol taxes, including e-cigarettes.

2. I'd work to support policies that develop, enact and sustain tax policies that incentivize renewable energy investments like NM Solar Market Dev. tax credit.

I'd work to enact/enforce innovation-driven policies (net metering/Renewable Portfolio Standard) More importantly, as a woman of color-who's also known poverty first hand and feels strongly about conservation/environment, I'll challenge industry so renewable energy resources are not only accessible, but affordable to low-income people, renters, and communities of color.

3. As a legislator, I'll act to uphold the NM constitution of providing all children with an education. In doing so, I'll advocate for investing 1.5% of Land Grant Permanent fund to fully fund early childhood education (ECE), convening a gap assessment of existing ECE providers/agencies to look for duplication/ opportunities for economies of scale, and enacting policy that curbs below the line funding/ maximizing the benefits available through the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act.

4. As a legislator in the New Mexico House of Representatives, I am for an independent redistricting commission. Recent history has shown that leaving this vital process in the hands of the legislature results in partisan bickering, gerrymandering and court costs. In short, I strongly believe that voters should choose their public servants, not the other way around.

District 36

Candidate: Andy Nuñez, Republican



No reply received.

Candidate: Nathan P. Small, Democrat



1. Families in my district are struggling with the deep cuts recently made to core services like healthcare and education. Additional across the board cuts will create more harm. Instead, we must stop corporate tax give-aways and close tax loopholes that have not created jobs but have drained the state budget. We need

tax reform and a more fair and transparent tax code. We can diversify our economy through smart infrastructure investment and fully funding education.

2. NM has been an energy rich state and a fossil fuel energy exporter, but with the right state leadership and with our natural strengths in wind, solar and geothermal, NM can be a leader in clean energy. The potential to more create jobs and grow business is proven. The Renewable Portfolio Standard should be updated and large-scale transmission allows our solar and wind energy resources to reach larger markets but requires state support.

3. I support expanding Early Childhood Education programs using a small portion of the \$14 Billion Permanent Land Grant Fund, because early childhood education is critical to long-term learning and success. Once in primary and secondary school, I support reducing the time and money spent testing in favor of more time teaching. Making higher education more affordable for those seeking two or four year degrees can happen with streamlining and coordinating services between state university systems.

4. I support creating an independent redistricting commission that is non-partisan or bi-partisan, as is already in place in 21 states. Redistricting re-draws legislative boundaries after each census to reflect population changes. It's a highly political process and when not done fairly, can lead to "gerrymandering" or diluting minority representation. As has been the case, redistricting becomes so contentious that it ends up in court. The public would benefit if redistricting were less politically driven

CANDIDATES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE continued

District 37

Candidate: Terry H. McMillan, Republican



1. Our state budget is subject to the cyclical “boom and bust” nature of the oil and gas industry. In addition to thoughtful cuts to state government spending, I think we should consider a tax on gasoline (currently priced at historic lows) to help bridge the lean times of these “bust” cycles. The tax could be tied to the price of a barrel of oil, so that when oil prices recover, the tax goes away.
2. We have already done what we can, and perhaps more than is appropriate. We have offered a tax credit for solar installation, which only persons of significant means can qualify for. We have required power companies to derive a certain percentage of electricity from renewable sources, which has placed the financial burden to develop the industry on rate payers; many of whom cannot afford increases to their utility bills.
3. Funding for preschool through 12th grade should be prioritized. Funding for teacher retention and salaries should be emphasized over that of administration and other public school employees. Priority should be given to resources that go directly into the classroom.
4. Redistricting should be done every 10 years with the interests of the voters as the primary priority. In New Mexico, like many other states, redistricting is done by the legislature. This creates a conflict of interest, whereby individual legislators and the political parties can pursue their own interests rather than those of voters. I would support creation of an independent redistricting commission, so long as it would be truly independent.

Candidate: Joanne J. Ferrary, Democrat



1. The budget crisis gives us an opportunity to readjust taxes, so that it's not just the wage earner who supports our state's services. We must be able to pay for what matters: a great education system, rebuilding our infrastructure, quality health care, public safety and workforce development. We don't need across the board cuts like the Governor is suggesting! That is a poor management practice. Our tax code is overrun with unwise loopholes and giveaways.
2. State government should continue tax credits for investing in renewable energy to encourage future investors and reduce our use of fossil fuels. We have unlimited potential for solar energy production and to expand job growth in this industry. For too long, we have depended on the fluctuating oil and gas market, and it is time to diversify our economy as well as incentivize businesses, municipalities and the State to invest in renewable energy production.
3. I support a community-based, cradle to career investment in the education of our children, one that starts even before birth with prenatal health and wellness programs and continues through a student's successful completion of a college or career program. Specifically we need to invest in Early Childhood Education, emphasize teaching over testing, reduce class sizes and increase teacher salaries with a three tiered salary base and adjust for University level salaries.
4. I fully support the formation of an independent redistricting commission. For too long, our state government has not been transparent enough on issues such as this. We need to build trust between government and citizens while making sure that everyone in our state has an equal voice. Partisan politics should be eliminated as much as possible.

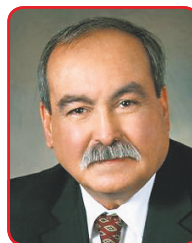
District 39

Candidate: John L. Zimmerman, Republican



No reply received.

Candidate: Rodolpho S. Martinez, Democrat



1. I would look to cut down on redundancy and explore all options to address our budget crisis. I would also take a hard look at the tax code and vote to cut unfair tax breaks to make sure that the middle class is getting a fair shake. Slashing all programs is not the answer, as we need to create a system that works for everyone. Overall, the tax code needs a major overhaul.
2. State government should create an environment that welcomes renewable energy for its tremendous potential as a provider of good jobs and economic diversification. The cost/benefit of providing tax breaks needs to be examined to determine where and in what forms renewable energy makes the most sense, but economic diversification alone is enough of a reason to develop the vast renewable energy potential in District 39.
3. Early childhood education programs result in short and long term benefits and should be a priority. Resources can come from our State's Permanent Fund, but we need to move away from excessive high-stakes tests and advocate for teaching over testing. I would consider looking into “paying it forward” programs or needs based Lottery Scholarship fund distribution to keep New Mexico college affordable while making sure we invest in early childhood education.
4. I support the formation of an independent redistricting commission as well as an independent ethics commission. This would take the power of redistricting out of the hands of legislators and reduce gerrymandering. Currently, many constituents are not being fairly represented and do not have an equal voice. I will make it a priority to see that everyone in our state has a voice in our system.

District 52

Candidate: Doreen Ybarra Gallegos, Democrat



1. Hopefully, we will have had a Special Session to address our budget shortfall. We must expand our tax base beyond oil and gas. We need to create a vibrant manufacturing sector and expand our intellectual resources housed at our national labs and research universities like NMSU to spin off small business. We must improve the Santa Teresa border crossing because it will be a vital economic driver in this area.
2. The market will drive the renewable energy business. Entrepreneurs will create new products and if the public likes them and the price is right then they will be successful. One reason we are in trouble with our budget is because of tax breaks and credits. Let the market work. However, government should not be in the way.
3. As a member of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, I do this each year as we create the budget. Pre K is definitely a priority for me but we also need to examine the budget closely and put funding where we know it's working. We need to use a scalpel rather than a hatchet as we cut budgets over the next few years. Education pulls people out of poverty, let's fund what works.
4. There have been no serious efforts for this while I've been in the Legislature. You can't take the politics out of redistricting. The Courts have ultimately settled redistricting issues in the last 20 years. I believe people should be represented by those who most closely resemble them in terms of community, economics and the like.

District 53

Candidate: Ricky L. Little, Republican



1. Limited government and free market enterprise is what made our country great for over 200 years. With oversized government, we need to prioritize our spending and make government accountable. We need to look at sweeping many agency fund balances and capital outlay projects, authorizing use of all the tobacco settlement permanent fund, combine associated departments, cut back some agencies, close or cap loopholes in credits and rebates and investigate privatization possibilities.

2. The State is playing a role in renewable energy resources by giving solar and wind and other renewable energy incentives, mandating NM electrical generating companies have at least 20% renewable energy on their lines by 2020, and paying customers for excess electricity produced. But, free energy is not free, the higher cost of renewable energy is driving up costs for those who can least afford it.
3. The current level of education funding is just over 60% of the general budget. We spend over \$9,000 per child per year in the public school system, which is higher than Texas, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma and Utah. I believe more revenue should be directed to the classroom and children instead of facilities and administration. We should also concentrate less on testing and more on learning.
4. An independent redistricting commission may be a better way to settle redistricting. The devil may be in the details.

Candidate: Willie Madrid, Democrat



1. Our State is in a long-term financial decline. New Mexico must find reliable sources of revenue which are not dependent on oil and gas production. We must close corporate tax loopholes and giveaways that have failed to produce jobs and income for our state. We need to support other non-traditional sources of revenue, including renewables to fund our state's future.
2. Our state needs to invest in renewable energy, and our universities need to lead the way in renewable research. New Mexico is well positioned to take full advantage of renewable energy, especially solar. By investing in renewables, and opening our universities to research on clean technology we will reduce our dependence on oil, and create stable high-paying jobs right here in New Mexico.
3. Education and infrastructure are the most important priorities of government. Without a strong education system from pre-school to the university level our state's economic future will remain in a state of crisis. Our state must prioritize education spending and the legislature must ensure that funding is targeted at the classroom. We need less standardized testing and more teacher input. I support parent participation and strong community oversight of our schools.
4. I strongly support an independent non-partisan redistricting commission. Under the present system district lines have been drawn to either protect incumbents or gain partisan advantage without regard to the communities being represented. Too often these districts have separated neighborhoods and diluted the common interests of our communities in Santa Fe.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Questions for the candidates for County Commissioner (4 questions - 75 words each question)

1. Prioritize the County's infrastructure needs.
2. What measures would you recommend to prepare for extended drought and extreme weather events?
3. How can the County realize the most benefit from the industrial developments of Santa Theresa and Spaceport New Mexico?
4. Should the provisions of the Unified Development Code override the established codes of the Home Owners Associations?

District 2

Candidate: Ramon S. Gonzalez,
Democrat



1. We need to improve the quality of life by providing and maintaining infrastructure within Dona Ana County. We also make sure that we take care of our parks and community centers. Making sure that our infrastructure stays in tacked and not let anybody try to eliminate it by bringing in new programs or

departments. We need to attract businesses so we can provide jobs to our residents. I will carefully listen to my constituents needs and concerns and try to find solutions rather than excuses.

2. Work with the County and develop an emergency plan. Participate in meetings about water conservation. Campaign the local government to practice water conservation. Patronize businesses that practice water conservation.

3. I know that the county is participating and engaging with the Industrial park. We need to see more jobs offered to the people of New Mexico. They are developing relationships to move forward and developing working conditions with other countries. Spaceport America, I need to look at their pros and cons to that industrial development?

4. I would like to sit down and talk with some of these planning and zoning commission to see the pros and cons. That is a document in a half. Are we being business and community friendly with this document?

District 4

Candidate: William Jarod Webb,
Republican



1. Our roads, especially Industrial Drive and Airport Road near our port-of-entry should be our top concern. They are crucial to our continued economic growth. We cannot attract major industry and ensure future jobs without proper roads to transport goods. Additionally, our county roads must be maintained to support our agricultural industry. According to the Border Economic Development Strategy, 2014, Farm Employment is our county's number one employer other than state and federal employment.

2. The Office of the State Engineers already monitors our irrigation wells. Farmers submit quarterly irrigation well reports that show allotted and excessive water use. Instead of increasing excessive water use fees, I would support an updated pipe system that would allow for a captured water flow from Elephant Butte or the Rio Grande. Currently, we are using outdated open ditch canals that loose a large percentage of water through evaporation and ground absorption.

3. The role of the county commission in the development of the Santa Teresa industrial development and Spaceport America is to collaborate with federal, state, and local agencies to ensure its economic growth. As one of very few counties in the United States to be situated on an International border and possess a terrain conducive to space flight, we have limitless opportunities to foster domestic and international relationships and provide good-paying jobs for our citizens.

4. The Unified Development Code is a 400+ page document that covers a myriad of standards, codes and permitting related to zoning. It's restrictive to the point of oppressive. It limits individual land ownership and drowns small business in a sea of unrealistic and unattainable permits. Yet, it opens the door for a select few to have free reign under the protection of various corporate entities and so called non-profit organizations. I am vehemently against it.

Candidate: Isabella Solis,
Democrat



1. Proceed with the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) to carry out County priorities. Implement an immediate recovery that includes flood control and wastewater drainage measures. Prioritize the plan that includes county road construction, repair, and maintenance. Find ways to maximize funds and begin immediate work.

2. We live in a desert. Access all long term drought forecasts for the next 10 years. With anticipations of droughts in this period commit to building resources and funding allocation markers for future use to alleviate drought suffering. Employ new technology on water conservation particularly for agriculture and home use.

3. The county approves construction and building permits for new projects. There is a process that mandates that the state has to pass Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) funds to county and eventually pass them to the client. Maintain roads within Santa Teresa industrial base. As for the Spaceport America the county must maintain the southern road to the Spaceport. This road needs to be paved.

4. The UDC may bring disruption to our residents and land owners. This idea needs to be further evaluated. The 10 acre Community types come from other areas which may be great in the big cities but our county may not be the right fit for such changes. The UDC is difficult to understand. It is well over 500 pages of reading we need more community involvement before Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopts such plan. The UDC brings major changes to Dona Ana County.

District 5

Candidate: Kimberly Clayton Hakes, Republican



1. The county already has an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) full of worthy and needed projects like roads and drainage. The bigger issue here is that we could be doing more projects on the ICIP if we were more wise with our money. For instance, I am not against buses, but I am against our empty buses. We could save money on buses, lawsuits, and other places I could enumerate if we were better stewards of our money.

2. Extended drought leads to water rationing measures we have seen in the past such as certain days to water or water saving fixtures.

Extreme weather is most likely a threat in the form of storm cell bursts on nearby slopes which flood our valley and homes. This threat needs more attention. Individuals cannot be helped by the government due to the anti donation clause, but forming Water Shed Districts allows governments to help vulnerable neighborhoods.

3. Spaceport America is a disappointing example of government sponsored development. Millions of dollars of tax payer money were spent without a road planned to connect the Spaceport to our county. As a result, it is more convenient to Albuquerque's airport than ours, which gives them the financial benefits, not us. The recently announced road is great news, but late. Better planning and public input are needed to reach wiser more successful decisions.

4. I will not vote for the UDC as presently constituted. It is unfair to the private property owners, particularly the many multi-generational farm families that pioneered the infrastructure of this county, and now the county wants to thank them by denying them the right to develop their property in the most advantageous way. At a recent public meeting, the public in attendance would have voted 100-0 against it.

Candidate: John L. Vasquez, Democrat



1. Dona Ana county infrastructure needs are quite extensive however I would prioritize roads as the highest priority. Fixing county roads and making them useful to emergency services i.e. fire hydrants and basic utility services. County roads to developed areas need to be brought into compliance, currently many roads are substandard and because of this many residents are at risk to not receiving adequate emergency services. Many roads are substandard and need to become standard roads. Standard roads are designed to be two lane roads with easements and basic utility's, to include fire hydrants.

2. Our local economy depends on the success of our agricultural industry. Living in the desert, water is obviously a precious resource. We must do more to continue to educate our county residents on water use and preservation. I think its time to initiate rainwater collection and storm water management through the development of community cisterns based on the expected growth of Dona Ana county. I am committed to working w local, state and federal agencies to create sound water policy.

3. Santa Teresa has proven to be an important part of our local economy as county commissioner I would ask to reevaluate our role as stakeholders in Santa Teresa. I am concerned about job creation not benefiting New Mexicans and jobs being filled by people not living in our state. We must do more to grow and cultivate more jobs for New Mexicans in Dona Ana county. As a Retired Military Veteran I always appreciate thinking about the future and how technology will play a part in everyone's future. Spaceport is innovative thinking and if successful can provide the same role and benefit to our community as White Sands Missile range did nearly 70 years ago. At the same time a return on investment needs to be seen before the county continues past the already committed millions.

4. I Oppose!

COUNTY CLERK

Questions for the candidates for Doña Ana County Clerk (3 questions - 75 words each question)

1. What strategies will you use to increase registration and voting?
2. If elected, what changes, if any, would you make to the procedures and policies of the County Clerk's office?
3. What are your highest priorities and how do you propose to accomplish them?

Candidate: Maria E. Rodriguez, Republican



1. I will work to create or enhance voter education programs for schools and organizations in Doña Ana County, in order to raise voting awareness. I will utilize county social media, print and mailing resources as well as public event venues as needed to consistently educate the public about the importance of voting, especially before and during elections in Doña Ana County. I am confident that utilizing these resources alone will increase voter turnout.

2. I am not privy to in-office procedures and policies separate from the Human Resources Policies and Procedures Amended December 9, 2014. However, changes would be dependent on dialogue with staff. I will respectfully listen to concerns and utilize my experience and understanding of how to adhere to policies and use available resources, all attempting positive changes for in-office morale and efficiency.

3. My highest priority at this moment would be insuring a high level of integrity through a servant-leadership roll. Another priority is to increase public trust in county government by implementing accountability and transparency utilizing my private, federal and state agency experience. Equally as important, is to reach out through awareness programs to voters who have not participated in the past elections, bringing them back into the process of voting.

CANDIDATES

DOÑA ANA COUNTY CLERK *continued*

Candidate: Scott Krahling, Democrat



1. As Chief Deputy Clerk, I implemented programs to encourage voting in every election. Our outreach program takes voter registration to people in our county and we have registered over 900 voters this year including students. Second, this year we opened the polls on Memorial Day for the first time, and we made it easier for people to access information by providing on-line sample ballots, wait times at the polls, and free bus rides to vote.
2. In my three years at the Clerk's office, I have developed best practices in administering elections, professional staff development, and securing private information in our office. I created a strategic plan to close the voting gap in Doña Ana County, and developed the Election Advisory Council creating community partnerships with the Clerk's office to increase voting. The changes I implemented made the office more efficient, professional, secure and successful.
3. My priorities are to administer fair elections for all voters, increase voting, and invest in staff development. First, protecting every vote guides my decisions because a successful election is one where every vote counts. Secondly, I implemented an outreach program that focuses on voter registration, and targets youth so that every student is registered to vote before graduation. Finally, I will continue to invest in staff development to ensure our office is customer focused.

COUNTY TREASURER

Questions for the candidates for Doña Ana County Treasurer (3 questions - 75 words each question)

1. What strategies will you use to increase registration and voting?
2. If elected, what changes, if any, would you make to the procedures and policies of the County Clerk's office?
3. What are your highest priorities and how do you propose to accomplish them?

Candidate: Jill A. Johnson, Republican



1. I have experience as Chief Deputy Treasurer in Dona Ana County. While there I worked with the Information Technology Department to develop reports that improved the efficiency of the department. I also worked to provide the ability to use debit/credit cards to pay property taxes. I was the first Internal Auditor for DAC. Prior to moving to Las Cruces I worked for Caterpillar in Accounting and Auditing. I have a BS in Accounting.
2. The primary responsibility of the Treasurer is to collect property taxes. In addition, the department distributes funds to schools and other government agencies. The Treasurer is also responsible for the investment of funds which must follow state statute restrictions.
3. I will bring ethical behavior to the Treasurer's Office and create a safe working environment that the employees deserve. In addition, I am aware there is new software that still has issues. I will work with the supplier and the county IT department to ensure it is working the way it should and is providing all the information that is necessary to create accurate tax bills in a timely manner.

Candidate: Eric L. Rodriguez, Democrat



1. My educational background includes a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from NMSU, and I am a current MBA candidate with over a 3.5 GPA average. I have ten years of banking experience, taking on roles such as personal and business account manager, senior lending officer, and cash operations supervisor. As current Chief Deputy Treasurer, I am the project manager for the implementation of the new tax collection software system and the Chairman of the Dona Ana County Investment Advisory Board.
2. The fiscal responsibility of the Treasurer is to ensure three primary objectives, the liquidity of funds, the safety of principle, and the maximization of investment. Furthermore, it is the treasurer's responsibility to maintain an effective tax collection process that will safeguard the distribution of funds to the needs of our community. As county treasurer I can provide our community with the peace of mind of sound financial management.
3. My priority is the taxpayer. Under my administration, the office will be one that is strongly rooted on the foundation of customer service. New processes will be put in place to provide better convenience and accessibility to our taxpayer allowing them to save time and money. Also, with an improved transparency plan, such as online and outreach programs, the public will be fully informed about how their money is going back to the community.

CANDIDATES

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Questions for the candidates for Third Judicial District Attorney (2 questions - 75 words each question)

1. What training and experience make you qualified for this job?
2. What do you see as the primary fiscal responsibility of the Treasurer?

Candidate: C. Lane Brad Cates, Republican



1. Aggressive prosecution of violent crimes, putting repeat and violent criminals in prison, and keeping them out of our communities. Our families, children, the elderly, and law enforcement personnel should not have to endure or fear such criminal elements. Creating an Ethics/Anti-corruption Unit where citizens can anonymously report suspected wrongdoing. Treating all citizens and victims with respect and courtesy. Utilizing my extensive managerial, prosecution, and senior enforcement experience to create an efficient, focused prosecution effort.

2. In the State's current fiscal crisis, additional Legislative appropriations are unlikely. That said, I care about the victims of violent crime, will assure that their needs and participation are prioritized, and will fully engage them in the adjudication process. The first duty of the state is to assure an environment wherein honest persons can go about their lives and business unhindered by criminal elements.

3. Yes. This principle is a bedrock of our legal system, of our liberty. The Jewish Mishnah, the Magna Carta, the Constitutional right to speedy trial, and William Penn's admonition: "Our law says well, to delay justice is injustice". However, our legislative process has criminalized hundreds of thousands of activities. We need to create a more efficient model that emphasizes quick resolutions of minor cases and aggressive adjudication of violent crimes.

4. The pride and confidence we all have in our law enforcement agencies has increased. The police are our friends, and our neighbors. They are the bulwark between a civilized, just society, and barbarous elements who would do us harm, such as gangs, violent criminals, human traffickers, or terrorists. I will work with the city police, Border Patrol, Sheriff's Deputies, and State Police to assure that their efforts are rewarded in convictions.

Candidate: Mark D'Antonio, Democrat



1. If elected again, I would continue to seek fair and equitable justice. That means prosecuting violent offenders to the fullest extent of the law and looking for alternative forms of justice for deserving, first-time offenders who might benefit from treatment. Looking ahead, I'd like to work with legislators to create new or stricter laws including a strangulation law. Currently, cases involving strangulation may be treated as misdemeanors when they're really more serious.

2. Victim services in New Mexico are good but they could be better. We need to fill the gaps left by other agencies when investigating domestic violence and child abuse. We also need to expand current services. Unfortunately, there is a huge lack of resources. We do have shelters and groups like La Casa. However, we need to find and secure other types of funding to make sure we can meet the demand.

3. The phrase "justice delayed is justice denied" is a legal saying that should be at the heart of every prosecutor's strategy. State attorneys have a legal obligation to respect the rights of defendants like their right to a speedy trial. If we violate those rights, the case may be dismissed and there'd be no justice. I'm proud to say that my administration has reduced the time it takes to resolve cases, dramatically.

4. We're extremely fortunate in our county to have avoided the national trend of demonizing law enforcement. One of the reasons the public has trust in our officers is because they're trained well. Another reason we should have confidence in them is because my office holds them accountable for their misconduct. That's why I maintain a healthy, working relationship with officers so I can evaluate potential misconduct and investigate officer-involved shootings without any kind of influence.

NEW MEXICO GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND TAXES

General Obligation Bonds and Taxes

A bond represents a debt for money borrowed by a government to finance capital improvement projects. The State of New Mexico promises to repay the amount borrowed, plus interest, over a period of time for each General Obligation bond that is approved by voters. The bonds are called "General Obligation" because payment of the debt service (principal plus interest) is a general obligation of the State and its property owners through property taxation. According to the Board of Finance Division of the NM 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 four bond issues will be passed by voters, the property tax year 2016 mill levy has been set at 1.36 mills, which is the same as the 2015 rate. The State Board of Finance estimates that over a ten-year period, the four issues on the ballot would increase the average annual property tax bill by approximately \$9.34 per \$100,000 of asset value. Of the annual average \$9.34, Bond Issue A accounts for \$0.78, Bond Issue B accounts for \$0.54, Bond Issue**

C accounts for \$7.14, and Bond Issue D accounts for \$0.91.

2016 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act

The New Mexico Legislature passed the 2016 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act detailing projects that would be funded by these bonds. No bonds will be issued or sold under the act until the state's registered voters have voted upon and approved the bonds. Each bond is voted upon separately with a "For" or "Against" question.

Summary: The four 2016 bond issues ask for voter approval to issue general obligation bonds as follows:

NEW MEXICO GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND TAXES

continued from previous page

Passage of Bonds A, B, C and D will NOT result in a tax increase.

Bond Issue A, in an amount not to exceed \$15,440,000 to make capital expenditures for senior citizen facility improvements, construction, and equipment acquisition projects;

Bond Issue B, in an amount not to exceed \$10,167,000 to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal, and public library resource acquisitions;

Bond Issue C, in an amount not to exceed \$142,356,000 to make capital expenditures for certain higher educational, tribal, and special schools capital improvements and acquisitions; and

Bond Issue D, in an amount not to exceed \$18,196,000 to make capital expenditures for capital improvements and acquisitions for state police, public safety communications and national guard facilities statewide.

The total for all four questions, including bond issuance costs, is **\$186,159,000**. A complete breakdown of the designated projects under each bond issue can be found on the New Mexico Legislature's website: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/16%20Regular/final/SB0122.pdf>

Bond Question A – Aging and Long-Term Services Department

The 2016 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 fifteen million four hundred forty thousand dollars (\$15,440,000) 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 B – Library Acquisitions

The 2016 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 ten million one hundred sixty seven thousand dollars (\$10,167,000) 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 for equipment, library furniture, fixtures and supplemental library resource acquisitions, including print, non-print and electronic resources, and for the purchase and installation of broadband internet equipment and infrastructure at nontribal public libraries statewide; and \$750,000 for equipment, library furniture, fixtures and supplemental library resource acquisitions, including print, non-print and electronic resources, and for the purchase and installation of broadband internet equipment and infrastructure at tribal libraries statewide.

Higher Education Department: \$3,250,000 for supplemental library resource acquisitions, including books, equipment, electronic resources and collaborative library resources and information technology projects, for academic libraries statewide.

Public Education Department: \$3,000,000 for supplemental library resource acquisitions, including print, non-print and electronic resources, at public school libraries statewide.

Bond Question C – Higher Education Facilities

The 2016 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 two million three hundred fifty six thousand dollars (\$142,356,000) 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 _____

The following higher education institutions have been specifically designated for funding by the sale of Bond C.

Eastern New Mexico University	Total \$12,700,000
Community Colleges various schools	Total \$32,350,000
NM School for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Total \$1,200,000
Highlands University	Total \$4,500,000
Mining and Technology, NM Institute	Total \$5,500,000
Military Institute	Total \$4,856,200
NM School for the Deaf	Total \$2,000,000
New Mexico State University	Total \$27,500,000

Northern New Mexico State School	Total \$1,000,000
University of New Mexico	Total \$34,500,000
Western New Mexico University	Total \$5,000,000

Bond Question D – Public Safety

The 2016 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of public safety capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed eighteen million one hundred ninety six thousand dollars (\$18,196,000) to make capital expenditures for capital improvement and acquisitions for state police, public safety communications and national guard facilities statewide 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 D.

Department of Public Safety: \$7,000,000 to plan, design and construct a new state police crime laboratory and evidence and records facility, including expansion of the existing crime laboratory, at the department of public safety headquarters in Santa Fe in Santa Fe County.

Department of Information Technology: \$5,000,000 to plan, design, purchase, install and implement infrastructure to stabilize and modernize public safety communications statewide.

Department of Military Affairs: \$4,000,000 to plan, design and construct the Las Cruces national guard readiness center in Dona Ana County, and \$2,000,000 for improvements, repairs and demolition and to purchase and install systems to improve energy efficiency and for staging areas at facilities statewide.

General Obligation Bond Projects Chart by County
https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Capital_Outlay/Chart%20Funded%20Projects%20by%20County%203A%20GOB%202016.pdf

General Obligation Bond Projects Chart by Agency
https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Capital_Outlay/Chart%20Funded%20Projects%20by%20Agency%203A%20GOB%202016.pdf



PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1:

The proposed amendment came from a joint resolution of the New Mexico Legislature. The following summary is intended to help voters decide whether to vote for or against the amendment, which requires a simple majority to be approved. For background information and more complete analyses, please see

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/New_Mexico_State_Government/Constitutional_Amendment/Constitutional_Amendments_2016.pdf

“PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 2, SECTION 13 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO PROTECT COMMUNITY SAFETY BY GRANTING COURTS NEW AUTHORITY TO DENY RELEASE ON BAIL PENDING TRIAL FOR DANGEROUS DEFENDANTS IN FELONY CASES WHILE RETAINING THE RIGHT TO PRETRIAL RELEASE FOR NON-DANGEROUS DEFENDANTS WHO DO NOT POSE A FLIGHT RISK.”

Approximately 40 percent of defendants incarcerated in New Mexico are awaiting trials to determine their innocence or guilt. Defendants post bail to guarantee their appearance in court. Defendants who fail to appear lose the money they have posted. The proposed amendment would allow bail to be denied for a person charged with a felony who is

awaiting trial if the evidence shows that the person poses a threat to the public. It would also guarantee that an accused person who is neither a danger nor a flight risk is not held in jail before trial simply because he lacks bail money.

ARGUMENTS FOR

1. Allows judges to keep dangerous defendants off the streets.

Judges could deny release to dangerous defendants who pose a threat to public safety. The proposed amendment would give judges the power to keep those who need to remain behind bars away from the community.

2. Allows release of people who do not pose a threat.

Many defendants incarcerated in New Mexico jails do not pose a danger to the community or a flight risk, but are held simply because they cannot afford bail. Being held in jail has significant negative impacts on defendants and on their families. Moreover, in states that have enacted reforms similar to the proposed amendment, there has been no corresponding negative impact on public safety.

3. Cost savings to counties.

Holding large numbers of people pending trial imposes substantial costs on the counties, which house the vast majority of these defendants. Some counties have spent up to half of their budgets on jails and correctional officers.

4. Protection of basic constitutional rights.

It is a fundamental right since the founding of this nation that people are innocent until proven guilty, and thus the state should have to prove why a defendant should remain incarcerated before any finding of guilt.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

1. Bond may encourage defendants to appear in court.

A defendant released without a bail bond has less financial incentive to appear in court.

2. Has possible negative impact on the bail bonding industry.

The proposed amendment could reduce fees collected by bail bondsmen from defendants.

3. May lead to the pre-trial release of more defendants.

Any defendant who is released before trial could commit additional crimes.

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.

Disclaimers

Material in the voting Information section was correct as of October 3, 2016. The League is not responsible for any changes made by the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections between that date and the election.

The information in this Voters Guide has been carefully assembled and compiled to ensure maximum accuracy. However, the League assumes no responsibility either for correctness of all the information furnished to the League by candidates or other organizations or for errors or omissions. In instances where there is a question of potentially defamatory content, the League will defer to the opinion of counsel. Furthermore, the League assumes no responsibility for any possible errors in translation for the Spanish edition.

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