

# 2022 VOTERS GUIDE



**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

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The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico (LWVSNM) 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 reliable information for citizens to use when preparing to vote.

The information in this Voters Guide was obtained from the candidates who posted answers to questions asked of them in Vote411.org. Their answers were downloaded and printed by the League exactly as the candidates answered them. Because of space restrictions in printed guides, candidates' answers were limited in length.

*Disclaimer: Material in the Voting Information section was correct as of September 23, 2022. The League is not responsible for any changes made by the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections between that date and the election. Check for up-to-date local information at: <https://www.donaanacountyelections.com/>*

*You may also call the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections at (575) 647-7428*

## LAS CRUCES GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022

A Regular Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

If you are a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on election day, a resident of the city and/or school district and are registered to vote in Doña Ana County, you may vote in this election.

**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://www.DACelections.com>. The Voters Guide is linked to the LWVSNM website [www.lwvsnm.org](http://www.lwvsnm.org) You can find more Voter Information on the next page.**

**The League of Women  
Voters of Southern  
New Mexico**

<https://www.lwvsnm.org/>

**LWV**



**Thank you El Paso Electric for  
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El Paso Electric

**Thanks also to members and friends  
of the League who have supported the  
publication of our Guides.**

THE LAS CRUCES  
**Bulletin**

# 2022 GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8



**REGISTER TO VOTE.  
REQUEST AN  
ABSENTEE BALLOT.**

**VIEW A SAMPLE  
BALLOT.**

**@ VOTE411.ORG**

## **FEDERAL (UOCAVA) ABSENTEE VOTING**

Ballot requests must be received by:

**NOVEMBER 3, 2022**

Ballot requests must be returned by:

**NOVEMBER 8, 2022, BY 7 P.M.**

**FVAP.GOV**

## ★ **NOVEMBER 8** ★ **ELECTION DAY** **42 VOTING CONVENIENCE CENTERS**

**OPEN FROM 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

**Visit [dacelections.com](http://dacelections.com)**

for additional information  
and a complete list of Voting  
Convenience Centers.



## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**OCTOBER 11** • Mail and Online Voter Registration ends.  
• Same Day Registration begins.  
• Absentee Voting begins.  
• Early Voting begins at Doña Ana County Government Center.

**OCTOBER 22** • Expanded Early Voting begins.

**NOVEMBER 3** • Last day to submit application for absentee ballot.

**NOVEMBER 5** • Early Voting ends.

**NOVEMBER 8** • **ELECTION DAY.**  
• Last day for Same Day Registration.  
• All absentee ballots must be received by 7:00 PM.

## **EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS**

• **Anthony** Anthony City Hall  
**850 Hwy 478**

• **Chaparral** Dolores C. Wright Education Center  
**3365 McNutt Rd.**

• **Hatch** Hatch High School  
**170 E. Herrera Rd.**

• **Mesilla** Mesilla Town Hall  
**2231 Avenida de Mesilla**

• **Sunland Park** Doña Ana Community College  
**3365 McNutt Rd.**

• **Las Cruces** Doña Ana County Government Center  
**845 N. Motel Blvd.**

Las Cruces City Hall  
**700 N. Main**

NMSU Corbett Center (On NMSU Campus)  
**1600 International Mall**

Sonoma Elementary School  
**4201 Northrise Dr.**

# U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## **QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR NEW MEXICO U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 2**

(500 characters each)

- 1. Do you believe the right to abortion should be codified by the Legislature?**
- 2. What gun safety laws, if any, would you support?**
- 3. What are the three most important issues you plan to work on?**
- 4. What election and voting reforms would you support, if any?**
- 5. How could our immigration system be improved?**
- 6. Please identify what you see as the major environmental challenge facing our country, and how you would address it.**



### **Gabriel Vasquez (D) U.S. Representative candidate District 2**

1. The decision to have an abortion should be between a woman and her doctor and we should codify that right into law to ensure that politicians never come between a woman and her healthcare decisions.

2. As a hunter and responsible firearm owner there are several common-sense laws we can pass to keep our families and communities safer. These include expanding background checks, closing the gun-show loophole, instituting red flag laws, protecting victims of domestic

violence and banning ghost guns and bump stocks.

3. Economy: We must put New Mexico's workers and small businesses first. Starting by raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and increasing support for small businesses. Healthcare: Every New Mexican deserves access to quality, affordable healthcare. I'll work to lower healthcare costs for New Mexicans by fighting for a public option and ensuring that Medicare can negotiate for lower prescription drug costs. Immigration: We must reform our immigration system to protect DREAMERS and provide hard-working families with a permanent path to citizenship, while ensuring we have a safe and secure border

4. Ensuring safe, secure, and fair elections is important to all of us – every eligible American deserves to have their voice heard and their vote counted, regardless of their political party. I'll fight to protect every eligible American's right to cast a ballot and have their votes counted and to make sure that, when the votes are counted, the will of the people prevails. Keeping election administration away from partisan interference, automatic voter registration, and expanding access to voting by mail are steps we can take to help voters access the ballot and know their votes will be counted.

5. Politicians must stop treating immigration as a political prop & commit to enacting real reforms so that we can provide permanent solutions to our DREAMers, allow those who come to our country to seek asylum to have a timely & humane opportunity to have their cases heard, & give people who are here, or want to come here, the opportunity to become citizens. We should invest in better technology that will help secure our border from those using it to smuggle drugs into our country. We must also address the causes of migration from Central America which include climate change, economic instability, crime, and political corruption. We can, & must, find a balance between treating

people humanely and keeping our border communities safe.

6. It's climate change. We can address this challenge by beginning our transition to a clean energy economy. This transition will create good paying jobs right here in New Mexico with the investments that would be made in infrastructure, manufacturing, and maintenance of both. New Mexico can become a clean energy exporter, not just an exporter of oil and gas, which would benefit workers and communities across southern New Mexico, including the Permian Basin. My top priority during this transition is to protect our workers and communities and to give them prosperous futures.



### **Yvette Herrell (R) U.S. Representative candidate District 2**

1. Individual states should have the final say over how abortion is regulated. I do not agree with the NM statute that permits abortion up to birth - I am pro-life and believe there should be limits.

2. There are enough laws on the books today to take illegal guns off the streets, hold criminals accountable, and dramatically reduce gun violence. This starts with electing the prosecutors who will try these crimes and uphold their oath to keeping Americans safe.

3. Because of out-of-control spending in Washington, costs have risen for hard working Americans, making it hard for many to get ahead. As prices rise, job creators face difficult decisions, slowing the economy and making every aspect of life tougher. Congress needs to rein in spending to stop inflation. Second, crime is out of control. We must stand with law enforcement and get them the tools they need to keep our

families safe and allow them to focus on what they do best. Third, securing the southern border is critical and far overdue.

4. We must restore confidence in our elections, and that starts with transparency and accountability at every level. I support voter ID requirements, more accountability for the elected officials who run our elections, and making it easier for people to vote in-person. This is a fundamental part of our democracy and it's time to end the partisan rhetoric and work together to find common sense solutions and restore faith in the process.

5. We all know the system is broken. The border is open for illegal immigration, yet it is too costly for those wanting to become citizens, confusing, and unnecessarily complicated. We can reform immigration to make it work for all, but Republicans and Democrats must stop playing political games. I am ready to work across party lines to develop a process that solves the problem, not continue to kick the can down the road. Real people and families are suffering because Washington can't get past the talking points and get to work.

6. Right now, it's the fact that this administration sees foreign oil as the solution to our current energy crisis. Americans produce the cleanest barrel of oil anywhere in the world, so buying dirty and potentially compromised oil from overseas is ridiculous. Common sense says we should produce right here in America, cleaner and more sustainably than those we buy from. We need to find viable, long-term solutions to the energy needs of this nation, but we must also remain realistic to the needs of the America we live in today.

## GOVERNOR

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR

(500 characters each)

1. Do you believe the right to abortion should be codified by the Legislature?
2. What gun safety laws, if any, would you support?
3. What actions if any, should be taken at the state level to reduce our use of fossil fuels?
4. What tax reforms would you support?
5. What qualifies you to be governor?
6. What are your three top priorities?
7. How would you improve the election laws?



#### Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) candidate Governor

1. I will always defend every New Mexican's right to make their own decision about reproductive health care with their family and their doctor. As Governor, I repealed New Mexico's outdated anti-abortion law, in order to ensure abortion remains legal in our state regardless of the Supreme Court. I have expanded access to abortion in our state, including protecting New Mexico women and doctors from other states' extremist bans. As governor I will continue to ensure that New Mexico remains a safe haven from extremist attacks, protecting access to abortion in our state.

2. Keeping New Mexicans safe also means keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. That's why my administration took action to require universal background checks for gun purchases, enact critical red flag laws, and pass bipartisan legislation that increased the penalties for gun crimes. I support common-sense gun safety laws like banning assault weapons, and keeping guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them, including children. We can take steps to keep New Mexicans safe from the scourge of gun violence, while also respecting the rights of responsible gun owners.

3. My administration has been leading efforts to make New Mexico a worldwide leader in clean energy production. We put in place policies that will expand clean energy, lower energy costs, and go after polluters. Earlier this year, New Mexico became home to the largest single-phase wind farm in the country, creating hundreds of good paying jobs. The ambitious goals we've set to reduce our emissions mean that New Mexico is leading the way in fighting climate change

and preserving our state's beautiful air, land, and water for future generations.

4. One of my responsibilities as governor is making sure New Mexicans have what they need to thrive. Earlier this year, I signed legislation that eliminated taxes on Social Security benefits. I also signed legislation that cut the state's gross receipts tax for the first time in 40 years, saving money for small businesses. Last year, I signed legislation that cut taxes for more than half a million families. As we grow our economy, we should continue to look at ways to save New Mexicans money and foster business and industry in our state.

5. Serving as New Mexico's 32nd Governor has been my greatest honor. I'm proud of what we've delivered for New Mexico and excited about what the future holds for our great state. Prior to serving as New Mexico's Governor, I served three terms in the United State House of Representatives and served the people of New Mexico in a variety of roles at the local and state levels. I'm running for re-election to build on the progress we've made so that New Mexico can thrive for years to come.

6. Education, economic prosperity, and public safety. We invested over \$1 billion in New Mexico's schools, increased teacher salaries, achieved universal pre-k, and made tuition-free college a reality. We made New Mexico one of the best states for job growth in the country and cut taxes for every New Mexican. For the past four years we've worked to make our communities safer by raising officer pay, investing in law enforcement recruitment and training, and working to address the root causes of crime like poverty and behavioral health. We will continue this progress in a second term.

7. New Mexico already has some of the best run and most secure elections in the country. I championed same-day voter registration in New Mexico and I support changes to our election system that would make it easier for every New Mexican to cast their ballot and exercise their right to vote, while continuing to ensure our elections are safe and secure. I will always fight to protect the right of every New Mexican to vote and will always defend our democracy.



#### Mark V Ronchetti (R) candidate Governor

1. No response
2. No response

3. I am a strong supporter of our oil and natural gas industry and pursue an "all-of-the-above" energy policy. I support the development of renewable energy and other energy sources, like small modular nuclear reactors. But New Mexico oil and gas must continue to play a key role in our energy economy. The governor

passed her own Green New Deal in New Mexico and it's led to higher energy costs for New Mexicans and now we are being threatened with rolling blackouts this summer. We are far better off drilling for oil in New Mexico than we are importing it from Iran, Russia, or Saudi Arabia.

4. Our complicated and nonsensical tax system hammers small businesses, and punishes working families. MLG inherited the largest budget surplus in history and raised taxes anyways. She has grown government spending by more than TWO BILLION dollars and what do we have to show for it? New Mexico is last in education, #2 in violent crime, and we now have the highest unemployment rate in the country. I will reform our tax system first and foremost by cutting taxes. We will get rid of the double and triple taxing facing our small businesses and allow families to keep more of what they earn.

5. I'm an outsider who will always be on the side of hard-working New Mexicans. If political and government experience made for great leaders, we'd have two of the best in Joe Biden and Michelle Lujan Grisham. That's clearly not the case. New Mexico is an amazing state, but the politicians have let us down. We don't need more political elites – we need leaders with character and integrity who will listen to people, understand their concerns, and fight tirelessly on their behalf for the change we need. That's what I will do.

6. My top three priorities are securing the border, fighting crime, and improving our schools. I will secure the border by deploying the National Guard and creating a Border Strike Force to target and disrupt the drug and human trafficking cartels. I will fight crime by ending "catch and release," supporting our men and women in law enforcement, and ending the current state of lawlessness by putting real teeth in our laws. To improve schools, we will get money directly to the classroom, empower parents, and help catch kids from up the learning losses they suffered from the COVID shutdown.

7. We need to make it easy to vote and hard to cheat. It's critical that to any democracy citizens have faith in their elections. That's why I strongly support a Voter ID law that requires voters to show photo identification to cast a ballot. I support early and absentee voting, however I will oppose the practice of automatically sending live ballots to homes without a voter request, as has been proposed by Governor Lujan Grisham. This opens the door to fraud, since 20% of the population moves every election cycle. I will also fight against any effort to legalize ballot-harvesting.

#### Karen Evette Bedonie (L) candidate Governor

Candidate did not respond in time for publication.

# LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR NEW MEXICO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

(500 characters each)

1. Do you believe the right to abortion should be codified by the Legislature?
2. What gun safety laws, if any, would you support?
3. What issues would you like to work on to improve the lives of New Mexicans?
4. What qualifies you to be Lieutenant Governor?
5. How do you see your role as president of the Senate?



### Howie C Morales (D) candidate Lieutenant Governor

1. No response
2. No response

3. My top priorities are supporting public education, more economic prosperity, and strong public safety. Over the last 3-plus years under Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's administration, we invested more than \$1 billion in New Mexico's classrooms, increased educators' salaries, established universal Pre-K, and made tuition-free college a reality. We made New Mexico one of the top states for job growth, and we cut taxes for every New Mexican. We've worked to make communities safer by raising officer pay, and improving mental health care access.

4. It has been a huge honor for me to serve as New Mexico's Lt. Governor since 2019, and I look forward to continuing that service. During my term in office so far, I have devoted much of my time to visiting with constituents in every county throughout of state to hear their concerns and ideas directly, and to help find solutions. Prior to becoming Lt. Governor, I served in the New Mexico Legislature on the Legislative Finance Committee for 11 years, gaining a broad knowledge of our communities' needs. I am running for re-election to build on the substantial progress we've made for New Mexico.

5. As President of the Senate, the Lt. Governor has the authority to cast a deciding vote when the body is equally divided on an issue. It is a place I know well from serving there for 11 years as a senator, and I respect its processes and traditions of cooperation. I have many friends in the Senate, and I am comfortable there. In my role as President, I seek to contribute to its running smoothly, to calm tempers when they rise, and to support positive legislation for our state.

Picture not available

### Ant L Thornton (R) candidate Lieutenant Governor

1. No response

2. No response

3. As Lt. Governor, I will focus on four things: Education - focus on universal school choice & vouchers for parents. Enforcing the Border- support building the wall and National Guard supplementing federal border control agents Election. Integrity - prototype Block Chain voting in local elections. Support Law Enforcement- regain Qualified Immunity for law enforcement and advocate for bail reform to stop repeat offenders.

4. Two of the constitutional roles of the Lt Governor is to serve as the President of the Senate and as the state Ombudsman. In 2021, I served as a Senate Analyst for the 60 day state legislative session. I know how legislation is made. The key role is to work across the aisle and to trap bad legislation from ever reaching the floor. The second role is to serve as the Ombudsman for the State. The Ombuds serves as a liaison between the public and state agencies. I am a certified member of the IOA (International Ombudsman Association) trained in alternative dispute resolution since 2016.

5. The key role is to monitor and trap bad legislation before the legislators convene by working in the sub-committees to improve the language to ensure legislation is Constitutional and doesn't violate individual rights. In addition, I have managed complex, multi-million dollar programs over the course of my career in aerospace engineering at Sandia National Laboratories and Lockheed Martin. I will be the "Go To" person for the Governor to

hand off initiatives. If I can handle the development of complex nuclear weapon testing and aircraft systems, I can handle the New Mexico state bureaucracy.



### Travis Steven Sanchez (L) candidate Lieutenant Governor

1. No Response
2. No Response

3. New Mexicans are frustrated with a failing economy, a failing educational system, and a failing healthcare system. Symptoms of these issues abound in the form of crime and families living below the poverty line. Our citizens and families have solutions to these problems, but government has stymied their ability to act in their communities. State government has overstepped its boundaries in deciding it should intervene where families have not instead of empowering families and communities to solve their own problems. I will fight to restore power to individuals and families in New Mexico.

4. According to Table 4.13 in the Book of the States published by the Council of State Governments, I meet all requirements outlined for qualification to run for the office of Lieutenant Governor including age, citizenship, and residency requirements. Further, I am a 13th generation New Mexican with a passion for preserving New Mexicans' culture, independence, liberty, and family values. I am the only candidate for Lieutenant Governor in New Mexico who is not controlled by a party agenda or divisive party rhetoric - I am running to represent YOU, not a political party.

5. As president of the Senate, I am tasked with bringing efficiency and integrity to the Round House in Santa Fe. New Mexico's congress has historically played political games in order to squash legislation sponsored by opposing parties or to maintain control of finances. Many of these games are played at the behest of special interest groups to detriment of our citizens. As an outsider with no ties to any interest or lobbying groups, I am the only candidate who could enter this role uncompromised and in a position to oversee the Senate from a fair, untainted, and unbiased position.

# SECRETARY OF STATE

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

(500 characters each)

1. What qualifies you to be Secretary of State?
2. What would be your top three priorities?
3. What actions, if any, would you take to increase voter participation?
4. What changes in New Mexico's voting procedures would you support?



### Maggie Toulouse Oliver (D) candidate Secretary of State

1. Experience. I've been an election administrator for over 16 years, serving first as a County Clerk in

Bernalillo County and then Secretary of State. As New Mexico's Secretary of State, I served as President of NASS (National Association of Secretaries of State) during the 2020 election, and led a bipartisan campaign combating election disinformation. My record includes overseeing an election during a pandemic and the state's largest wildfire, modernizing New Mexico's registration processes,

expanding ballot access, and creating and implementing a more transparent campaign finance system.

2. My top priorities include expanding ballot access, combating election disinformation, and continuing to shine a light on dark money by making our campaign finance system more transparent. I believe we should make it easier - not harder - for New Mexicans to vote. Election disinformation promotes voter apathy and undermines confidence and participation. As such, I believe my role as Secretary of State includes providing citizens with accurate and widely available information. Lastly, I want to continue making our campaign finance system more transparent so we know who is funding our politics.

3. While so many states across the country continue to pursue legislation that restricts access to the ballot, I support legislation and initiatives that do the opposite – it's a false dichotomy to suggest increased access comes at the expense of election integrity. This past session, I was in the Legislature providing expert testimony for a number of Bills that would expand ballot access and modernize New Mexico's elections. A critical part to this is also providing people with reliable sources of election information so they feel confident in our elections and voting procedures.

4. I would support changes to New Mexico's voting procedures that address issues related to accessibility, both when registering and casting a ballot. For instance, New Mexico is a rural state, and therefore we should do our best to accommodate the unique needs of our rural voters – whether that is expanding vote by mail periods or opening voting

convenience centers. I implemented same day registration so that, for the first time in our state's history, Independent and DTS voters had a chance to vote in our primary election – those are the types of initiatives I support.



### **Audrey Trujillo (R) candidate Secretary of State**

1. I have bachelor degrees in Criminology, Spanish and Portuguese as well as a Master in Public Administration from the University of NM. I also have worked and volunteered at numerous jobs in the public, private and nonprofit sector, holding titles of Executive Director, President, Treasurer and Coordinator. In addition I have run my own state licenced businesses. I am also heavily

involved in voter integrity efforts in NM including working with Rio Rancho commissioners and county clerks on sensible ways to secure our elections and build confidence in the voters.

2. Bringing back election integrity. Bringing back transparency to the SOS office. Making sure every eligible NM citizen is able to vote.

3. We must first bring back trust and confidence into our elections and increase access to voter registration by making it simple and secure.

4. Voter ID. Secure Access to ballot and voting polls.

### **Mayna Erika Meyers(L) candidate Secretary of State**

Candidate did not respond in time for publication.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

(500 characters each)

1. Do you believe the right to abortion should be codified by the Legislature?
2. What gun safety laws, if any, would you support?
3. How do you intend to accomplish them?
4. What will you do to make public officials more accountable to the general public?
5. What will you do to protect New Mexicans from consumer fraud?
6. What qualifies you to be Attorney General?



### **Raul Torrez (D) candidate Attorney General**

1. New Mexico must continue to be a safe harbor for women seeking to access reproductive healthcare. We also need comprehensive legislation to prevent bordering states from imposing civil and criminal liability on women and healthcare providers. I will work with the New Mexico Legislature to help craft such legislation and to provide the Attorney General's Office with the maximum authority required to prevent other states from utilizing state and local law enforcement or our courts to issue subpoenas, request discovery or assist in any civil or criminal matter targeting anyone who travels to our state to access reproductive healthcare.

2. As a prosecutor of nearly twenty years and District Attorney, I have seen the havoc gun violence has wreaked

on our community. As Attorney General, I will continue to advocate for common-sense gun control legislation that would implement stiffer penalties for threats of mass violence, particularly at schools, and for the use of guns in the commission of a crime. I have and will continue to support legislation that creates penalties for parents that negligently store firearms.

3. As a career prosecutor, District Attorney, and as Attorney General, I can use my experience in both the state and federal criminal justice system to work with the Legislature to craft common-sense gun legislation that is practical and reflects the needs of our community.

4. As Attorney General, I will enforce the rule of law against anyone, regardless of who they are, their party, or the office they hold. In addition to prosecuting public officials for corruption or abuses of power, I will also commit to ensuring timely compliance with the Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records Acts.

5. I will work to rebuild the inhouse litigation capabilities of the office and work to end the extensive use of out-of-state law firms, particularly for consumer protection cases. The Office will aggressively investigate and prosecute claims of consumer fraud including price gouging, wage theft and worker misclassification, and abusive landlord and debt collection practices.

6. As Attorney General, I will use my nearly two decades of experience as a prosecutor to strengthen our criminal justice system by implementing common sense policies to keep violent, repeat offenders off our streets. Additionally, the Office will aggressively fight for consumers and workers, safeguard the environment, take on corruption and special interests, and protect our democracy and women's rights.



### **Jeremy Michael Gay (R) candidate Attorney General**

1. No response
2. No response
3. I will accomplish my priorities through

education, transparency, and prosecution. I will invest in educating New Mexicans on their rights as citizens so they will be less vulnerable and more empowered to identify and report scams, fraud, and corruption. I will maintain a policy of transparency by exposing those who are engaging in illicit activity and recognizing those who are examples of integrity and public service. I will prosecute criminal activity, fraud, and abuse to deliver results and real consequences for those who choose to victimize and illegally profit off honest citizens.

4. As Attorney General, I will act as a real watchdog for the people of New Mexico instead of as a political insider covering up for corrupt politicians. It will be clear in Santa Fe and across the state that the Attorney General's office will no longer turn a blind eye to misconduct. When political fraud, waste, or abuse is uncovered it will be exposed and uprooted.

5. I will educate consumers so they know their rights and are less likely to fall victim to fraudulent schemes. I will highlight and recognize businesses that play by the rules, serve the community, and deal honestly with their customers. I will disrupt, expose, and bring businesses and individuals who engage in consumer fraud to court to make sure New Mexico is a safer place to live and a level playing field for honest businesses.

6. I am a man of honor, integrity, and principle. As a man of faith, as a father and husband, as a United States Marine Corps Captain, as a seasoned trial attorney, and as an honest legal advocate, I believe I have what it takes to execute the mission of the Attorney General's Office.



# STATE AUDITOR

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR STATE AUDITOR

(500 characters each)

1. What qualifies you to be State Auditor?
2. What would be your top three priorities?
3. The State Auditor contracts with independent public accounting firms to audit state agencies. Should these firms be prohibited from making campaign contributions to candidates for State Auditor? Explain why or why not.



### Joseph M Maestas (D) candidate State Auditor

1. I have 30+ years of experience working for the federal government as a licensed engineer and 14 years as local elected official. As a City Councilor

and Mayor of Espanola and a City Councilor in Santa Fe, I carried a fiduciary responsibility to protect taxpayer dollars. I serve as Vice Chair of the Public Regulation Commission representing 400,000+ New Mexicans ensuring

utility rates are fair and reasonable, and fighting for access to solar energy and broadband for all New Mexicans. I bring proven leadership and a consistent track record of accomplishments. Ready to govern & lead on day one!

2. Be the independent watchdog that New Mexicans deserve to protect all public funding by: Creating a score card of key indicators that will surface irregularities quickly to cut down on fraud, waste, and abuse. Auditing Federal infrastructure, education, and capital outlay spending to ensure that funds are spent in an accountable and transparent manner. Cracking down on exploitative adult guardianships by broadening the investigatory authority of the office and providing greater protection of vital public information and critical infrastructure by auditing cyber security funding.

3. These pre-approved, independent public accountants (IPAs) also audit all other public entities in addition to State agencies. Candidates for State Auditor (SA) should not receive contributions from IPAs as the SA regulates IPAs and approves them to engage in audits & imposes restrictions, including disqualification, depending on their performance. The SA also provides oversight of audit contracts in addition to determining, by rule, how often IPAs must rotate out of existing contracts. This prohibition

of campaign contributions to SA candidates protects the integrity of the Office of SA.



### Robert Jason Vaillancourt (L) candidate State Auditor

1. I was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I am the former General Manager of several NM Businesses. I am the former State Grassroots Director for a national Nonprofit organization. I am willing to serve New Mexico and my fellow New Mexicans.

2. Waste. Fraud. Abuse of NM taxpayer dollars. To manage a nonpartisan office, that executes and performs its responsibilities and duties for the State of New Mexico and its residents.

3. I don't disagree that these firms should not be donating to candidates that could ultimately be offering them state contracts. I'm just a Libertarian, and the idea that we need another law to hold elected officials, and "principled businesses" to a modicum of integrity, disappoints me. I would try to figure out a different course than creating policy for something we all probably agree should not be happening.

# STATE TREASURER

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR STATE TREASURER

(500 characters each)

1. What financial training and experience qualifies you for this office?
2. What are your highest priorities for this office and how do you intend to accomplish them?
3. What, if any, changes would you recommend in the policies and operations of the State Treasurer's office?



### Laura M Montoya (D) candidate State Treasurer

1. NM Tax Policy Committee 2 terms, (8 yrs) as the Elected Sandoval County Treasurer, 23 years of federal, state, tribal and local government, 600+ hours

of finance, investment, taxes, economics, pension and management, Certified Public Official (CPO), Certified Public Manager (CPM), Certified Treasury Official (CTO), Vice - Chair Finance, Pension and Intergovernmental Affairs (7 years), Chair Next Generation Young Elected Officials (7 years), BA in Political Science and Psychology with a minor in Sociology; MA in Public Affairs, Rotary Scholar - University of Costa Rica.

2. Strengthen transparency and integrity within the State Treasurer's Office. Do a complete internal audit of all processes, contracts and portfolios. Increase outreach in our rural, county, city and tribal communities especially

with the Local Government Investment Pool and financial literacy. Review politically appointed positions and see if they have value in the office. Review the internal budget and determine where we can save taxpayer dollars. Meet with the State Treasurer's Office team and see what ideas they have to increase efficiency, transparency, outreach and integrity.

3. An annual review of internal processes with the State Treasurer's Office team to refresh core responsibilities, determine any edits, amendments, and additions based on the current environment (pandemic, cyber security issues, safety standards, new IT systems, etc). Analysis on salaries so that those STO team members' job descriptions reflect their daily duties and the pay they should be earning. I will use the \$94,000 from the newly created Chief of Staff position to assist with bringing these salaries to the 21st century. Work with state agencies and partners on improving communications.



### Harry B Montoya (R) candidate State Treasurer

1. As a two-term Pojoaque School Board member and two-term Santa Fe County Commissioner, in addition to founding two non-profit organizations,

I have spent the majority of my professional and elected official life ensuring financial responsibility is of first and foremost importance. As a County Commissioner, we function as the Board of Finance and while serving on the Commission, I initiated this obligation to ensure the County was maximizing the investments and return on investments,

which allowed us to complete many capital projects during my tenure on the Commission.

2. The highest priorities for this office is to ensure the safety of the investments, the liquidity of our investments, and maximizing yield for our investments. This includes transparency and accountability in the Treasurers Office and all monies are spent according to the Constitution of the State of NM. I plan to accomplish this by listening to the Citizens of the State of NM. There may be ideas as to how we can accomplish all of the above with the safety, liquidity and yield as the major goal. Citizen participation is important, as well as keeping them informed. I am opposed to a public bank

3. Changes in the policies and operations of the State Treasurers office may or may not be needed. It is important that I hire individuals who will be able to competently and judicially, perform an analysis of the policies and operations of the Office. If there is a need for change, we will implement those changes. If there is no need for change, as they say, if it isn't broken, don't break it. It is imperative that the analysis be completed prior to making any recommendations for change.



# COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

(500 characters each)

1. What qualifies you to be Commissioner of Public Lands?
2. What are the greatest challenges facing the State Land Office?
3. How would you balance responsible stewardship of state trust lands with the need to generate revenues for the support of the beneficiaries?
4. Should the Land Commissioner improve enforcement of environmental regulations on state trust lands? If you answered yes, how would you do it? If you answered no, please explain why not.



### Stephanie Garcia Richard (D) candidate Commissioner of Public Lands

1. Thanks to the trust the voters have placed in me, for the last 4 years, I am proud to say I've raised the MOST

money, closed the most wells & protected more acres than any previous land commissioner. We made renewable energy and economic development top priorities. I've issued executive orders on water and the Greater Chaco Region, saving 100 million of gallons of freshwater and protecting over 70,000 acres from future development. I've established programs to hold bad actors accountable and ensure remediation and removal of abandoned wells, saving New Mexicans millions in cleanup costs.

2. Diversification is the biggest challenge we face. The billions we raise from oil & gas will not always be here and we need to look to protect our environment and raise money from other sources like: renewable energy, economic development and border commerce. This summer, I signed a lease for the largest wind farm in the western hemisphere to be developed on state trust land ensuring that we tripled renewable energy production in less than four years.

3. As a former teacher, I know firsthand how important our revenue is for education. My office has focused on expanding

and creating revenue sources like the new Netflix facility, tripling renewable energy and helping solve challenges like access to affordable housing. However, using our natural resources to generate revenue CANNOT come at the expense of the long-term health of the land. We've prioritized working with current lease holders to restore the health of our public lands, clean up spills, properly plug oil wells, and remediate environmental damage, all while maximizing revenue.

4. Support. We have gone above & beyond any previous land commissioner to enforce environmental regulations. In addition to closing more wells, demanding stricter methane and produced water regulations and protecting more acres, we have saved New Mexico taxpayers over \$15 million dollars in cleanup costs by taking companies to court when they're not willing to clean up their messes.



### Jefferson L Byrd (R) candidate Commissioner of Public Lands

1. Jeff's work experience is broad, working as an environmental engineer on a Geoprobe rig installing micro-monitoring wells at a depth of 18 to 20 feet as a geologist and completing site delineation plans of numerous industrial sites from New York to California. He has installed and completed site remediation systems at various sites around the Southwest. Jeff is also a cattle rancher and works as a wind-miller on his own and neighboring ranchers' wells. Jeff understands the importance of managing land while balancing our State's resources and protecting the environment.

2. As a steward of the land I have a responsibility to protect and manage our State's land resources for the betterment of our citizens, our environment, and future. We must use our State's resources in an environmentally responsible way.

3. I would recognize their needs to be a balance between protecting the environment, creating revenue for the State, and ensuring that citizens are best served.

4. Support. As a PRC commissioner, we have moved to enforce the ETA Environmental Transition Act. I have worked in a bipartisan manner and will continue to do so. My record speaks for itself.

Picture not available

### Larry Marker (L) candidate Commissioner of Public Lands

1. As an entrepreneur and businessman for the majority of my life I have

extensive experience in management of all aspects of various small business. I have years of experience in oil and gas production, ranching, farming with previous experience in construction manufacturing, service and installation. Experience directly related to the duties of the Commissioner of Public Lands include knowledge of leases for oil and gas production, state grazing leases and right of way leasing. I have a deep working knowledge of the regulations related to State Trust Land. I have an all-around business acumen.

2. The past few years have shown me the biggest challenge facing the SLO is to stay focused on the job of the SLO. The mandated job of the SLO is to generate as much revenue as possible on state trust land while protecting the value of the public asset (land). The SLO must be independent and free from ALL outside special interests and free from partisan politics. The SLO and its Commissioner should not be beholden to any political party. As an Independent candidate I owe no allegiance to anyone except Jesus Christ and the citizens of the state of NM.

3. The balance between responsible stewardship and max revenue generation should be the only focus of the Commissioner and the SLO. That balance can only be maintained with an educated, common-sense, practical and realistic approach to the management of State trust land. Special interests and politics have no place in responsible management of state trust land. Special interest and politics are inherently detrimental to proper management of public assets. The SLO and Commissioner should always be a separate independent state agency.

4. The job of the Commissioner of Public Lands is to generate revenue while preserving the value of the public assets. Obviously, any activity that degrades the value of the public lands will be a serious issue to be dealt with in a fair and impartial but stern manner. The NMOCD and environmental regulatory agencies are charged with the enforcement of environmental regulations and cooperation between those entities and the SLO are critical but an expansion or conversion of the duties of the SLO is contrary to the lawfully mandated mission of the Commissioner and the SLO.

# PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

(500 characters each)

1. What qualifies you to sit on the Public Education Commission?
2. If elected, what are your two highest priorities?
3. Should there be a cap on the total number of state charter schools?
4. How should the PEC assess the financial stability of schools before authorizing or renewing a charter?



### Patricia E Gipson (D) candidate Public Education Commissioner District 7

1. I am a career educator with 29 years experience. I am a lifetime member of NEA and have over 20 years of

experience doing contract enforcement, mediation and negotiations. I have served two terms on the PEC and have chaired the PEC for four years.

2. Continue to assure that the policies and procedures of the PEC are fair and equitable and that all state authorized

schools maintain fair and equitable practices.

3. There already is a CAP in statute on the total number of schools that can be authorized per year and in a five year period.

4. The PEC utilizes the state audit as a primary resource for assessing the stability of finances of a school. In addition, information is obtained from PED budget bureau as well as information from the financial framework data that is inputted every year of the contract term. It is difficult to assess the financial stability of a school that has not been in operation, however, prior to a vote for commencement of operation of a new school, the budget submit is reviewed by the PEC.

# JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

(500 characters each)

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission? Yes or No
2. What qualifies you for this position?
3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?



### Julie J Vargas (D) candidate Justice of the Supreme Court

1. Yes. I was endorsed by the Bi-Partisan Judicial Nominating

Commission in November 2020 for the position I currently hold and appointed by the Governor

2. Serving on New Mexico's two highest courts, along with my over two decades in private practice helping New Mexican families and small businesses. As a judge, I have authored more than 125 opinions and decided hundreds of other cases in all areas of the law. While in private practice, I co-chaired the State Bar's Ethics Advisory Committee and now serve as the Supreme Court's liaison to the Disciplinary Board. I previously served as Co-Chair of the Advisory Opinions Committee, dedicated to advising judges on their responsibilities under the Code of Judicial Conduct.

3. Public financing of judicial races is the most important policy necessary to retain judicial independence and deter political influence. In 2021, the Legislature expanded public financing to all district court races. NM is the only state that provides public financing for both statewide and district court judicial races. Public financing alleviates concerns that a judge's decision was influenced by a large campaign contribution and promotes public trust in our judicial system. For that reason, I've applied for and secured public financing in my efforts to retain my seat on the Supreme Court.

4. Access and transparency. Expanding virtual hearings is cost effective, increases access, saves money for citizens, and increases legal service options to underrepresented communities. Virtual hearings reduce the time parties have to take off work to attend and eliminate transportation and childcare issues. Allowing unrepresented parties to e-file pleadings also expands access. Live-streaming Supreme Court oral arguments increases transparency, as the public can see our work. Expanding our outreach to NM's schools teaches students about the role of the courts and the rule of law in our society.



### Thomas C Montoya (R) candidate Justice of the Supreme Court

1. I have been endorsed three (3) times by the Judicial Nominating Commission for District Court Judge. I did not apply to the Commission this time.

2. 40 years of practice in all NM trial and appellate courts.

J.D. U.S.C. "A" preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings. Cited as authority in 3 appellate cases. 20+ years member prestigious American Law Institute. Co-Chair of Child Support Guidelines Commission which promulgated New Mexico's statutory Child Support Guidelines. Chair of Rules Committee of the N.M. Supreme Court, which promulgated statewide rules of procedure for domestic relations and domestic violence cases. Selected as qualified to be District Court Judge by Judicial Nominating Commission. NM native.

3. A judge must place the law above any other consideration in deciding a case. A judge cannot, in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct, manifest bias or prejudice, or engage in harassment, including but not limited to bias, prejudice, or harassment based upon race, religion, color, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, spousal affiliation, socioeconomic status, political affiliation, age, physical or mental handicap or serious medical condition, nor permit others subject to the judge's direction or control to do so.

4. Because the Supreme Court is the rule-making body governing all courts, attention must be paid to adherence to the Constitution and the rule of law throughout the state. Cases cannot be decided because of a desired outcome, but only on the law and facts of the case. Judges must decide on what the law is, and not what the law should be, in the opinion of the judge. There can be no respect of persons before the law, resulting in a different decision based upon the person or company which appears before the court. All persons are required to be equal before the law, regardless of rich or poor.

# JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT POSITION 2

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT POSITION 2

(500 characters each)

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission? Yes or No
2. What qualifies you for this position?
3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?



### Briana H Zamora (D) candidate Justice of the Supreme Court Position 2

1. Yes, I was recommended by the Bi-Partisan Judicial Nominating

Commission for this position and appointed by the Governor.

2. I serve as a Supreme Court Justice, in this position, with well-rounded legal experience having litigated civil, criminal and children's court cases throughout the State of New Mexico. More significantly, the experience I gained as a trial and appellate court judge is invaluable. I have served at every level of the judiciary and presided in thousands of cases, over 100 jury trials and every type of criminal proceeding. I have in-depth knowledge of our criminal justice system. Additionally, as an appellate court judge I issued opinions in every area of the law.

3. As Judges, we must adhere to our oath of office and strict ethical rules, which requires judges to decide cases without regard to political or private interests and regardless of public opinion. We are required to follow the law and Constitution. Ethical rules also require that we not state our opinions on political issues. It is also critical that our state has public financing for our appellate and district judicial races to ensure that our campaigns are not funded with large contributions from private sources. That is why I've applied for and received public financing to run my campaign.

4. The Supreme Court is a respected and well-oiled machine that has been following well-established protocols for decades. However, I do believe upgraded technology,

including an updated case management system would result in more efficiencies. Increasing access to justice for our rural communities, continuing our efforts to better collaborate with our justice partners to improve our criminal justice system, and efforts such as our new Statewide Judicial Commission on Mental Health will ensure we continue to meet the needs of our residents who come into contact with the judicial system.

Picture not available

### Kerry J Morris (R) candidate Justice of the Supreme Court Position 2

1. No.

2. I've been practicing law for over 40 years. I am a problem solver, not a part of the elite legal establishment with vested interests in furthering progressive political agendas. I represent the working people of New Mexico; they include families who've experienced tragedy, people who've been treated unfairly, and people who are victims of crime. I understand the problems of working people and small business owners who have lost

jobs, their businesses due to government shutdowns. I will bring to the Supreme Court the balance of an outsider, a constitutionalist who strictly interprets the law.

3. Increase judicial pay and make funding of the courts independent of the politics of legislature and the governor by indexing them to the pay rate for federal judges. The governor just vetoed a pay raise for the judges that would have done this. She did this without explanation leaving us to speculate as

to her reasons. She vetoed the pay raise even though the court ruled in her favor on all of her Covid decrees. Perhaps the Governor was unhappy with the recent ruling by the court on who gets to spend the federal money. Clearly, she was sending a political message to the Supreme Court.

4. The Supreme Court will be improved with my election to the Court through a better balance of judicial philosophies. As the Albuquerque Journal stated when

it endorsed me for the Supreme Court in 2020, "Morris, as a Republican, offers the Supreme Court some needed diversity in philosophy and thinking. The political balance of the court has historically been to the left, and the pending retirement of the Supreme Court's only Republican, Judith Nakamura, makes balancing the court with a new Republican that much more important." Albuquerque Journal October 15, 2020.

## JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS POSITION 1

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR COURT OF APPEALS

(500 characters each)

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Standards Commission? Yes or No
2. What qualifies you for this position?
3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?



#### Gerald Edward Baca (D) candidate Justice of the Court of Appeals Position 1

1. I was recommended by the Bi-Partisan Judicial Nominating

Commission and interviewed, vetted, and appointed by the Governor for this position on the NM Court of Appeals.

2. I have over 34 years of experience as a practicing attorney and judge in my home state of New Mexico. My experience is in nearly every area of law that comes before the courts of New Mexico. I served as a district judge for over 9 years and I currently serve as a judge on the Court of Appeals, having been appointed in April 2021. Before becoming a judge, I served as a prosecutor in the First and Fourth Judicial Districts. In my practice, I was a criminal defense attorney and I handled a wide variety of civil cases from divorces and auto accident cases to complex wrongful death cases.

3. First and foremost, the judiciary must remain independent from any influence, political or otherwise. I believe the current Canons of Judicial Conduct sufficiently set forth the expected conduct of a judicial candidate in a partisan election. However, I think the requirements to qualify for public financing for judicial campaigns should be adjusted. Instead of having our committees collect over 1,300 \$5 contributions, a different threshold should be required in

order to take money completely out of the process.

4. In New Mexico, every litigant is entitled to one appeal. The great majority of those appeals are heard by the Court of Appeals (COA). As a result, the COA has hundreds of cases on its docket. Each of these cases takes time to review and decide. Thus, the COA is a very busy court. The COA is working hard to resolve these appeals in a timely manner. However, the judges at the COA are acutely aware of the need to get these appeals resolved more quickly. Thus, the COA, myself included, is constantly looking at ways to more efficiently and expeditiously decide these appeals.



#### Barbara V Johnson (R) candidate Justice of the Court of Appeals Position 1

1. Yes, for a District Court Judgeship. However, I was not appointed by the

Governor.

2. I have been a Family Lawyer since 1988. Family law involves everything that touches the lives of our citizens. Some of those kinds of cases are divorces, custody and time sharing, child support, peoples' houses and personal belongings, at times domestic violence, crimes, business matters, estate planning and retirement plans. Family law can be very challenging, but is also very rewarding. The Court of Appeals hears cases that someone believes a trial judge decided incorrectly. Being a Family Lawyer both in and out of the Courtroom on a variety of cases is a great background/foundation.

3. The Judiciary is an equal branch of our government. Each branch has different responsibilities. Our Courts are responsible for following the law when deciding a dispute. Every case has facts relating to that case. Judges must not make those decisions based on outside influences. Judges should not create law as the legislative branch of government is responsible for that. Judges are to apply and follow the rule of law. When the voters learn about candidates, they should vote for the one that fills the job description.

4. Our citizens deserve more expedient decisions from the

Court. The litigants' lives are often on hold for years while their case in the Court winds its way through the complicated system of an appeal. The job is to determine whether a case was decided correctly and if not to reverse it, and send it back with instructions and explanations that give citizens and judges guidance. If the case was decided correctly, it should be affirmed quickly so that the litigants can move forward with their lives. Hopefully, I can assist with streamlining the process and working for all our citizens.



#### Sophie I Cooper (L) candidate Justice of the Court of Appeals Position 1

1. no

2. Strong academic and legal

background: 1973 BA economics, University of Chicago; 1989, JD, Washington College of Law (American University), 4th highest in class. Employed as a Public Defender for 30 years. Employed as a Public Defender for 30 years. Strong person: morally, spiritually, mentally, and physically. Good understanding of the cultures and values of New Mexicans. I've lived here 45 years; participated in Native American ceremonies; traveled extensively through Navajo-land; currently employed at the Pueblo of Isleta.; and Jewish. A good mix of cultures.

3. Mainly, the judiciary needs to do its job and protect our constitutional rights from government. How quickly we, the people, lost our freedom to a virus. I don't understand "emergency powers" that continued over two years. The Governor used a Riot Control Act designed to control riots to lock-down Gallup; she closed the churches entirely the night before Easter 2020; she told us what to wear and how many people we can have in our homes, and the Courts did nothing. Our rights are embodied in our federal and state constitution and the Court needs to protect the people from abuse of power.

4. Speedier resolution of cases. More backbone to stand up and enforce the constitution against the other branches of government.



# JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS POSITION 2

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR COURT OF APPEALS

(500 characters each)

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Standards Commission? Yes or No
2. What qualifies you for this position?
3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?



### Katherine Anne Wray (D) candidate Justice of the Court of Appeals Position 2

1. Yes, the Bi-Partisan Judicial Nominating Commission determined I was qualified and recommended me to

the Governor for an extensive interview, and she appointed me to this position.

2. I have worked and practiced in the district and appellate courts for nearly fifteen years. I first served as a law clerk for an appellate and a district court judge. In private practice, I worked simultaneously as a criminal staff attorney, trial counsel in complex civil cases, and an appellate attorney. My practice focused on legal writing and analysis, as well as civil and appellate procedure. I served multiple terms on the New Mexico Supreme Court's Appellate Rules Committee and the Code of Professional Conduct Committee, and I was privileged to teach legal

writing at UNM School of Law.

3. Many policies protect judicial independence. The Code of Judicial Conduct requires judges to maintain independence, integrity, and impartiality, whether campaigning or applying the law. District court judges' decisions are subject to one automatic review and the Court of Appeals' decisions may also be further evaluated by the New Mexico Supreme Court. The Judicial Standards Commission reviews a judge's professional conduct and assists the public to decide whether to retain the judge. The judge, though, must recognize her own biases, adhere to the law, and disregard political influences.

4. The Court of Appeals is responsible for reviewing almost all cases appealed in New Mexico, involving nearly every area of the law. Because we are a such a busy, the biggest need is to move cases through the system so that appeals are timely heard and parties get the resolution they need. Since joining the Court, I've utilized my appellate, trial, civil, and criminal experience to work with my colleagues to be an active and productive addition to the Court. I have focused on learning quickly, carefully reviewing cases, and keeping in mind the parties who are waiting for decisions.



### Gertrude Lee (R) candidate Justice of the Court of Appeals Position 2

1. No, I have not. I have been endorsed by the Albuquerque Police Officers'

Association. When I ran for Court of Appeals in 2020 I was endorsed by the Albuquerque Journal.

2. My experience as a manager and trial attorney has prepared me to serve on the Court of Appeals. For twelve years I have worked as a trial attorney and prosecutor. In Gallup, I represented the State in numerous jury and bench trials in the Magistrate and District Courts. I also filed several appeals on behalf of the State. I continue my work as a prosecutor in Farmington. I also served as the Chief Prosecutor of the Navajo Nation where I managed ten prosecutor offices and several dozen staff across the reservation in addition to practicing in the tribal courts.

3. It is absolutely essential for a judge to be impartial and to maintain the rule of law. This means judges should be open minded, unbiased, remain impartial and non-partisan when rendering decisions.

4. I believe bringing balance to the Court would be an improvement. The Court could use an addition who has significant experience practicing in rural New Mexico and tribal courts. My addition to the bench would add a completely different voice to the Court of Appeals. I was born in Shiprock and grew up outside Farmington. I am a member of the Navajo Nation (my clan is Near to Water born for Big Water). I have practiced law in rural New Mexico my entire career and I have experience in tribal court. Because of my work in public safety, I also appreciate the criminal law issues New Mexicans face.

### Stephen P Curtis (L) candidate Justice of the Court of Appeals Position 2

Candidate did not respond in time for publication.

# NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVES

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVES

(500 characters each)

1. What qualifies you to be a State Representative?
2. What actions, if any, should the Legislature take in regard to climate issues?
3. What are your top priorities as a State Representative?
4. Additional funds have been earmarked for education. What are the next steps needed to improve student outcomes in New Mexico?
5. What changes, if any, need to be made in the revenue structure of the State?
6. Do you support codifying a woman's right to an abortion? Explain.
7. What gun laws, if any, would you support?

### Micaela Lara Cadena (D) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 33

Candidate did not respond in time for publication.

### Charles Richard Wendler (R) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 33

Candidate did not respond in time for publication.



### Raymundo Lara (D) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 34

1. Any citizen of New Mexico can be a representative, there are no special qualifications or metrics that one must meet. All it takes is a willingness to make your community better.

2. Work with all partners involved.

3. Infrastructure, economic development, jobs, and parks/community centers.

4. We need to consider looking at classroom sizes and attendance issues. Students cannot learn if they aren't in the classroom.

5. We need to look at diversifying our state economy to be inclusive of all potential funding sources. I believe that we need to work on multiple fronts to identify solid revenue streams that will benefit all New Mexicans.

6. Yes, an individual has the right to choose their own medical care without government interference.

7. Background checks for certain, any other proposals would have to be weighed individually.

## Mark Vieth (R) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 34

Candidate did not respond in time for publication.



## Angelica Rubio (D) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 35

1. This is my sixth year serving in the New Mexico State Legislature, and not only have I learned so much as to better serve my constituency, but I have also done so with racial and social justice at the center of my work. I work towards passing policies that work for the majority of my community, without compromising my democratic values.

2. The first step is that the state of New Mexico, particularly our leaders must commit to and begin the process of implementing a multigenerational road map to end our dependence on oil and gas and other extractive industries. Under my leadership, and the support of the work of Senate Pro Tem Mimi Stewart, not only was a Sustainable Economy Taskforce created but within it, an advisory council that appoints those on the frontlines, with just transition language, should be prioritized.

3. My top priorities are to address climate by centering on frontline communities, working toward economic justice for oil and gas workers, and making sure that they have a future outside of this industry. Overall, I work towards addressing and supporting workers in the private sector and making sure that they have what they need to not only have a dignified wage but also be provided with the support that they need to live an excellent quality of life.

4. The supreme court of New Mexico has ruled that not only must we provide our students with the funding that they need, but this instruction needs to be done so appropriately and accordingly. Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color should not be educated nor informed from a colonized perspective, but instead, education that is rooted in where they come from and the languages that they understand. Public schools across the state have worked to prioritize this, and we must too.

5. The budget is developed by just a small group of legislators--mostly handpicked by the chair, who historically is too fiscally conservative, with staff at the Legislative

Finance Council setting agendas based on what they think should be prioritized. While I have a lot of respect for the individuals themselves, this process must be modernized to make it not only more accessible but that it reflects individuals that represent those in our communities who are in need of revenue and investment.

6. Absolutely yes, but those policies must be led by the marginalized that are directly impacted first and foremost. The US Supreme Court decision is deeply disappointing and already has had devastating consequences for so many across the country. I am proud that New Mexico remains safe and legal here in the state, and I will work to continue to protect this right. Every New Mexican should have the right to make their own choices about if, when, and how they want to start a family

7. While I support a full-on ban of AR15s and any other similar gun that is as deadly, I will support legislation that raises the age of purchasing an AR-15 from 18 to 21. I also support legislation that makes it a crime if a person does not safely secure firearms from children.

## Richelle A Peugh-Swofford (R) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 35

Candidate did not respond in time for publication.



## Nathan Small (D) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 36

1. I am a third-generation New Mexican from a family of teachers and ranchers. Since 2016, I have served Las Cruces in the State Legislature. I am the Vice-Chair of House Appropriations where I have led the fight to reduce the burden of inflation by cutting the gross receipts tax, eliminating the tax on Social Security income, passing \$500 to \$1K rebates, expanding the working families & child tax credits, & bringing millions of dollars to southern New Mexico for critical infrastructure.

2. I was proud to champion the Energy Transition Act, including millions for economic diversification projects. I sponsored legislation making it harder to pollute & easier to treat and reuse water. B/c of this bill, more recycled produced water will be used in oil & gas operations &

NMSU is leading research in this area. We need to develop a drought resilience plan, make the tax credit for solar permanent, add other renewable energy sources, & provide a tax credit to purchase plug-in electric cars

3. Healthcare. Lower the cost of prescription drugs; expand quality, affordable healthcare; & attract more drs & nurses to southern NM. Education. Recruit & retain the best teachers & ensure that the education system is fully funded.

4. We can make New Mexico the best education system in the southwest. We invested an additional \$500 million in public education, raising teacher pay to a minimum of \$50,000 per year, and made college and vocational school free for all New Mexicans who work hard. But there's more to do. We must pass Constitutional Amendment 1 that will fund early childhood education and k-12 without raising taxes.

5. With record revenue, we can afford generational investments in education, infrastructure, healthcare, & public safety, alongside diversification efforts like film, water conservation & reuse, value-added agriculture, low & zero carbon energy, ecotourism, trade, & high tech manufacturing. We must build a fairer tax system for New Mexicans. I support eliminating existing loopholes & was proud to reduce the GRT as New Mexicans weathered some tough times.

6. I believe in and support a women's right to access reproductive healthcare, including safe and legal abortion. The government shouldn't be inserting itself into people's doctor's offices. It was a horrible day the Supreme Court struck down Roe Vs. Wade. I voted to ensure that abortion in NM remain safe and legal. I oppose any attempts to restrict the rights of New Mexicans to make healthcare decisions for themselves.

7. I am a gun owner and I support common sense gun violence prevention legislation. I voted for universal background check legislation, extreme risk protection order legislation, and secure storage. I support making 21 the minimum age for purchasing certain types of firearms, improving ERPO effectiveness, and banning 3-D printed so called ghost guns.

## Kimberly A Skaggs (R) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 36

Candidate did not respond in time for publication.



## Joanne J Ferrary (D) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 37

1. I have legislative experience from working at DOT's Traffic Safety Bureau in the 90's and volunteer and lobbying experience. As a 3 term Legislator I have sponsored and supported issues that include: equitable education from cradle to career, health care for all, food security programs and funding, increased minimum wage, elimination of Sub-minimum wage for people with disabilities, and environmental protections as the NM Green Amendment for clean air, water and land for the generations.

2. Move to better regulate and enforce methane pollution from oil and gas production, encourage greater clean energy production with solar, wind and geothermal heating and cooling refundable tax credits and to adopt the NM Green Amendment where every level of government must consider the environmental impacts of projects they approve. I've supported Community Solar so that more low income households can benefit with lower utility bills.

3. To expand the funding and projects for the Food, Hunger and Farm Initiative; equalize the Tobacco tax on Other Tobacco Products such as vaping; passing the NM Green Amendment; passing increased clean energy rebates and passing Guardianship statutes for better protections of seniors and those with disabilities.

4. Expand Early Childhood Education programs, increase number of Community Schools throughout the State, increase cultural awareness and inclusion in curriculum, include outdoor learning, and increase technical education as well as dual credit opportunities. Experiential learning helps students succeed and increased funding for field trips would improve learning.

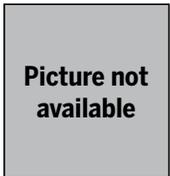
5. Less reliance on oil and gas severance taxes and replace with increased taxes on high income and corporate tax payers.

6. No response

7. No response



SEE REPRESENTATIVE, PAGE 12



**Rene Ezequiel Rodriguez (R) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 37**

1. My veteran and small business owner status. As well as my education from NMSU with two associate degrees and a bachelor's in Philosophy with a Supplementary major in Law and Society.
2. We need to educate the public on what exactly the climate issues are and how carbon dioxide is actually low relative to the history of our planet. We have access to clean energy technology that has already proven to mitigate carbon footprints. All we need to do is turn then back on and make America energy independent again.
3. My priorities are the border wall, abortion, and education.
4. We need to remove as much power from the public education department and allow local communities as much autonomy as possible.
5. Way less taxes and regulation so we can bring more businesses and boost the economy.
6. No response
7. No response



**Tara Jaramillo (D) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 38**

1. I am a speech language pathologist and a graduate from NMSU. I bring professional experience as a healthcare provider, job creator, and family advocate to this position. As the founder of Positive Outcomes, I built a company that is focused to meet the healthcare and educational needs of rural NM. I currently serve on the Socorro School Board and am the Board Chair of the NM Next Generation Council that helps communities develop innovative approaches to supporting families.
2. This past year was one of the most devastating years for our vineyard and alfalfa fields. The lack of water placed many farmers and ranchers in peril—we watched friends and neighbors lose generations of hard worked land and expected crops. It's apparent that we cannot last even another generation with the same old strategies. It's

imperative we acknowledge the impact of climate change and find new ways. We need to update the water code to deal with our new water reality.

3. As an educator and the daughter of educators my priority will be supporting families to live better lives through supportive early childhood programs, family supports such as housing and economic development and access to healthcare.

4. I am a proponent of wrap-around community schools that support a family with access to family healthcare, substance abuse and mental health needs, housing support, employment and healthcare supportive programming.

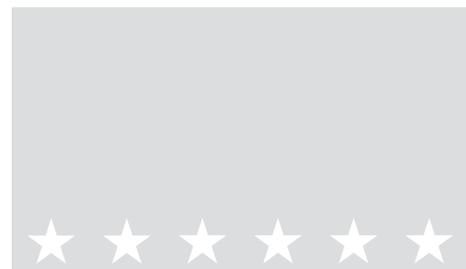
5. We need to lower the gross receipts tax (GRT), get rid of loopholes, and return fairness to the tax code by repealing the tax cut for the wealthiest New Mexicans who have benefited from it for over a decade. I support exempting income tax on military retirement.

6. Women should have the freedom to make decisions about their own bodies. I support a women's right to access full reproductive healthcare, including safe and legal abortion. I oppose any attempts by the government or politicians to restrict the rights of New Mexicans to make healthcare decisions for themselves.

7. I am a gun owner and I hunt. I am also outraged to see children lose their lives by firearms-related violence. I support background checks on guns, which are proven to reduce violent crime. I believe gun owners should be responsible for how they safeguard their firearms to keep out of the reach of children. I support Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) or "red flag" laws, making 21 the minimum age for purchasing certain types of firearms, and banning ghost guns.

**Sandra Kay Hammack(R) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 38**

Candidate did not respond in time for publication.



**Rodolfo Martinez (D) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 39**

1. My experience as an elected official in local government, eight years serving on the City of Bayard and 8 years serving as Mayor for the City of Bayard. Served as Chairman on the Grant County Commission. Was appointed to serve as State Representative District 39 for 11 years. While serving as a representative I was appointed to HAFC and the Legislative Finance Committee. I was recently appointed to the Aging and Long-Term Services Policy Advisory Committee by Governor Michell Lujan Grisham.

2. The legislature should enact stronger legislation which will reduce methane and natural gas that is released from oil drilling. Expand opportunities for wind, solar and geothermal processes. Utility corporations need to be required by law to invest in use of up-to-date technology for modernizing power plants to minimize CO2 gases being released.

3. My top priorities are: Education - supporting our teachers and systems to ensure success. Jobs - protecting our current jobs while investing in ways to grow new jobs. Healthcare - supporting systems to ensure access to quality healthcare including behavioral health services. Environment - supporting efforts to protect our water and access to public lands.

4. The next steps that are needed to improve student outcomes are to recognize and appreciate teachers as professionals not as daycare workers. The success of students hinges on the quality of their teacher. The increase of an additional 1% taken from the interest going to the permeant fund for education will provide the necessary tools that will assist in our children's education while supporting our educators.

5. With the record high revenues and budget dependencies coming from the gas and oil industry, we cannot continue to depend on one industry. We must diversify our economy by attracting other types of industry. New Mexico has the potential to bring such industries by investing and expanding our agricultural and manufacturing and clean industry.

6. No response
7. No response



**Luis Terrazas (R) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 39**

Candidate did not respond in time for publication.



**Doreen Yvonne Gallegos (D) candidate New Mexico State Representative District 52**

1. My family has been in southern New Mexico for seven generations, with roots in Berino, Anthony, and Las Alturas. Today, I serve as the only southern New Mexico legislator in Democratic House leadership. For close to 15 years, I have served as the Executive Director of Mesilla Valley CASA, a local nonprofit that advocates for abused and neglected children.

2. We need to hasten our efforts to slow down climate change. I strongly support our renewable energy targets and making sure we help communities whose economies have been dependent on fossil fuel extraction.

3. Two years ago, sponsored and passed the landmark Early Childhood Trust Fund, the first of its kind fund in the nation. This bill created a trust fund, seeded with \$300 million, to fund critical programs like PreK, childcare, and home visitation for New Mexico's children, in perpetuity. I will continue to prioritize early childhood education for all New Mexican families. I will also continue to advance legislation that will incentivize new businesses and job creation.

4. I believe strongly in the importance of early childhood education programs, like home visitation and PreK. Study after study shows the positive impact these programs have on student and career outcomes later in life. I was so proud to sponsor and pass the Early Childhood Trust Fund in 2020, which now creates over \$30 million a year for early childhood education. We must all do our part to encourage more families to take advantage of early childhood programs in their neighborhoods.

5. It is time to take a deep dive and evaluate and update the tax code so we have sustainable revenue for schools, healthcare, roads, and other critical needs. We need to see where the most need is and make adjustments for hard working New Mexicans.

6. I am a strong supporter of codifying abortion protections in state law. We have

fought so hard in New Mexico to protect access to women's reproductive health, including abortion, and we will not go back. I will oppose any attempts to restrict the rights of women to make decisions for themselves.

7. I do not support weapons of war for public purchase. I support raising the age of purchasing some firearms. These laws, along with red flag laws, a ban on ghost guns, and preventing domestic abusers from owning a gun are common sense reforms that will make our community safer.



**John Foreman (R)  
candidate  
New Mexico State  
Representative  
District 52**

1. I have a long history of being a successful educational leader, a small business owner and involvement in my community. I've represented over 20,000 students around our state on various educational issues, and have advocated for quality education for all children, safer communities, a controlled

border, and to make New Mexico an economic leader in the Southwest.

2. As a conservationist, I believe that we should be good stewards of what God has given us. Although in doing so, I would not support extreme positions.

3. Building a robust economy, controlling and making our borders safe, reforming education in a real way that takes us from last to one of the best. Other issues include curbing high school dropout rates as we are number one in the country. I am a strong supporter of vocational training as well as college preparatory education, also school choice so that all parents have a stronger voice in their child's education.

4. We need to start with greater accountability and bringing control of educational policy back to parents and schools boards at the local level. We need to stop the social engineering (including CRT) of our children and get back to the basics of solid educational standards. If we do so, our educational scores will go up and we will no longer be last in the nation.

5. Like public other issues of public policy. We need to empower our local communities,

not a small group in Santa Fe to make important decisions whether be it be tax revenue, infrastructure, our economy, ect.

6. No response

7. No response



**Willie D Madrid (D)  
candidate  
New Mexico State  
Representative  
District 53**

1. I have lived and grown with the community of Chaparral for 40+ years. From the time when I was a child, to a young adult, father, educator and coach, I have been a part of the community I proudly represent. And in my last two terms, I have become a voice in Santa Fe that speaks for the voiceless in my district.

2. I believe we as a state need to become self sufficient in renewable energies.

3. My top priorities are Family (in the way of making sure families have access to resources that help with food, paying

utilities, etc.), Education and Infrastructure.

4. I think the next steps would be creating an equal funding for CTE programs by integration of regular education with CTE. Along with structuring the last two years of education (be it high school or college) to be more conducive towards the work force students are wanting to join.

5. I think the structure of operating with a balanced budget (we are one of the few states that finishes our session with a balanced budget) is what makes our funding very secure because we are dealing with the actual balances.

6. No response

7. No response

**Elizabeth Lee  
Winterrowd (R)  
candidate  
New Mexico State  
Representative  
District 53**

Candidate did not respond in time for publication.

**DISTRICT JUDGES**

**QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES  
FOR DISTRICT JUDGES**

(500 characters each)

1. What skills and knowledge do you bring to the position?
2. What can the District Court do to ensure fair and equitable guardianships and conservatorships?
3. If elected, what will you do to decrease the backlog of court cases?
4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the District Court?



**Robert Lara, Jr (D)  
District Court Judge  
Third Judicial District  
candidate Division 2**

1. Since 2009 I have been representing children, families, and businesses in family, probate, and civil matters throughout New Mexico. Currently, I work for the Third Judicial District Court as a staff attorney. I provide the Court with research and recommendations relating to the cases before the judges. Judges do not work alone to help litigants; I have experience working with therapists, agencies, and non-profits that help solve legal and non-legal problems.

2. The Court must ensure that its decisions are based on accurate and unbiased information. Making sure that the needs of the protected individual are accurately reported to the Court

is the only way to ensure these cases can be helpful to the families involved. To ensure fair and equitable outcomes the Court must hold guardians, attorneys, and medical professionals accountable for their actions and the information they provide in guardianship and conservatorship cases.

3. Backlogs happen because litigants are often not aware of the next step in their cases or ignore their duty to move their case forward. As a judge, I will make sure self-represented litigants are aware of case deadlines and hold them accountable to move their cases forward. I will promote settlement facilitation or mediation whenever possible for attorneys to help resolve cases before trial. This will help avoid backlogs and free up Court time to hear other matters.

4. Litigants are self-represented in 80% of family cases. The Court needs to improve by educating families about the court process and the resources available in Doña Ana County. Bilingual outreach is key to ensuring everyone can understand their rights. Further, the Court needs to continue to allow remote appearances for certain hearings as it permits more individuals to participate. Having greater access to the Court and understanding of the law is vital to ensure everyone has access to justice.



**Casey B Fitch (D)  
District Court Judge  
Third Judicial District  
candidate Division 5**

1. Born and raised in rural New Mexico, I have dedicated half my 18-year career in service to the Courts. The other

half I spent litigating cases for local businesses, Dona Ana County, and the City of Las Cruces. I graduated at the top of my law school and clerked on the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, working on critical immigration cases. A former Peace Corps Volunteer firmly rooted in our community, I will continue John F. Kennedy's proud tradition of public service as your Judge.

2. Our legislature recently enacted landmark amendments to the guardianship/conservatorship statute affording greater protections to alleged incapacitated persons. But it takes a District Court that is able to appreciate the heavy loss to fundamental liberty a person in such proceedings faces. As your District Judge, I listen carefully to all parties involved, especially the affected person and their family, before taking the drastic step of granting a guardianship/conservatorship.

3. Justice delayed is justice denied. As your District Judge, I strive to hear cases as quickly and fairly as possible. I firmly believe the only way to get out of a hole is stop digging. In practice, this means suiting up and showing up prepared to decide cases. As your Judge, I will continue to lead the court in closing cases justly and expeditiously.

4. The Third is among the best District Courts. But we serve a large county in challenging times where litigants who are unable to afford lawyers feel the only way to be heard is to scream and yell. As an institution we need to do better to meet the needs of self-represented parties in a system designed for attorneys. As your Judge, I will continue to show great respect to everyone before me as well as look for creative solutions in securing pro-bono legal services for those most in need.

# DOÑA ANA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR DOÑA ANA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

(500 characters each)

1. What skills and knowledge do you bring to the office of County Commissioner?
2. What, if any, additional steps are needed for flood control?
3. Explain why you do or do not support expansion of the County Judicial Complex.
4. Explain why you are or are not satisfied with the current services at the Triage Center.



### Christopher Schaljo-Hernandez (D) County Commissioner candidate District 1

1. A graduate of NMSU in Government

I learned the inner workings of county government. Through my studies I became the independent thinker that I currently am, as well as the new and fresh voice that this county commission truly needs. A small business owner that survived not only a pandemic but also was able to grow and expand to employ over 40 individuals. Being on many nonprofit and community boards I learned that not only does our community have a huge heart, but we also act as one.

2. The County needs to continue the work of updating the flood control plan with an emphasis on safety and security of its residents. Investing in a flood warning system and putting up flood barriers in prone area. Improvement to our Flood Control Projects where we can better work to help our vulnerable areas. With my Children and other Community leaders, we were able to come together to donate necessities for residents that were directly affected by the flooding. Shout out to our first responders.

3. Modernization of the building with an emphasis on technology and space is truly needed. With the help our local state legislatures we can help fund the expansion of the Judicial Complex. The Expansion would include additional court rooms, hearing offices, jury rooms, and

staff areas that will better help with access. We have a duty to the people of Doña Ana County to have a centralized area where constituents can access justice whether it's in the court system or through self-help services.

4. We are blessed to have the Crisis Triage Center here in Doña Ana County. The Center opened to help our vulnerable population with behavioral and/or mental health issues, which our County was in terrible need of. I admit that it appears there are some procedural things that still need to be flushed out, but we need to listen to the community and their needs. Better assess as a county what we need to work on the adapt and prepare ourselves to serve the expanding population needs.



### Shannon Dale Reynolds (D) County Commissioner candidate District 3

1. Four years as a Doña Ana County Commissioner. New Mexico EDGE

Certifications as a County Commissioner, a Public Official and an Advocate for Public Ethics. I am a USAF Vietnam Era Veteran and have an Engineering Degree from the University of Illinois. I currently serve as Chair on the MRVDA (Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch) and the Spaceport Tax District Boards. I sever on the NMAC (New Mexico Association of Counties) insurance board. I am CD2 Vice-Chair of NM Democratic Veterans Caucus.

2. Flood control is complicated. Further expansion of retention ponds, with adequate relief to empty the ponds within the required 48 hours and continue to ensure developers provide neighborhood retention ponds and a long term process to maintain them. Re-evaluate the priorities of our flood risk areas, so that people and property have a higher priority and find a way to provide more assistance to those who suffer from flooding.

3. I agree we need more judges and consolidating facilities is a good idea. The plan to expand the current Court facilities to accommodate additional judges and services is like a band-aid.

4. Do we need a Crisis Triage Center? Yes! Am I satisfied with the current services? No.

A facility that only has 23 hours to address a mental

health crisis is insufficient and inadequate. It's always been a matter of the Contracted Services being insufficient and we (the County) overpaying for those services. I am not satisfied that the Doña Ana Community is receiving the services we paid for, nor the needed services. I am dedicated to a Crisis Triage Center that provides full services.



### Patricia Susan Kimble (R) County Commissioner candidate District 3

1. The primary focus of my work through the years has been healthcare,

including behavioral health. I have worked in health insurance, healthcare marketing, business development, and management. I believe that I have the experience and understanding that will help Dona Ana County thoughtfully and responsibly oversee the financial decisions regarding funding for healthcare. I listen to both sides of issues to gain knowledge that is relevant; I work well with others to build consensus.

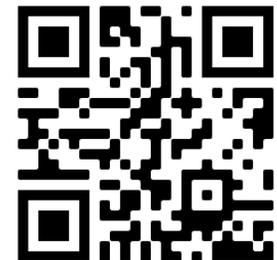
2. Dona Ana County has at least ten flood control projects in the works currently. The issue for projects in the County is most often funding. The County has identified the needs, designs, and cost for projects in every sector of the county. The total projected cost to complete these projects is over \$80 million. The County has been making progress. I believe the work will be complete and in place as quickly as possible given the financial situation.

3. As our population grows, the need for more judicial services grows as well. Currently, the Judicial Complex is at capacity; no further services or judges can be added. This shortage of services could potentially delay cases and could lead to dismissals due to time restrictions.

4. The current services offered by the CTC are evidence-based effective services for the clients that do present there. In speaking with providers and clients, I have heard no complaints about the services or the connection to providers in the County. The Center follows the National best-practice standards for crisis receiving centers. I am not satisfied with the fact that the CTC cannot accept involuntary clients for assessment. I believe the CTC staff/RI staff will work to change that soon.

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS\*  
OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO  
**2022 VOTERS GUIDE**

**VOTE 411**



# DOÑA ANA COUNTY SHERIFF

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR DOÑA ANA COUNTY SHERIFF

(500 characters each)

1. What skills and knowledge do you bring to the office of County Sheriff?
2. What actions will you take to recruit more officers to the Department?
3. How do you propose to reduce the crime rate?



### Kim Kristine Stewart (D) Doña Ana County Sheriff

1. I have been the Sheriff for 3 years. When I took Office, this was a poorly organized, structurally inadequate agency bereft of a clear vision. Much of

what was operating in DASO was at about a 1980's level of service. As I had been in law enforcement in a very forward

thinking and wealthy state, I was able to quickly assess our basic needs and moved to update systems and operational practices. Those concerns, while greatly improved, will continue to be my focus next term. To adapt is to thrive.

2. Recruitment has been a challenge to law enforcement for decades. The issue of attracting a diverse workforce remains as significant today as when I was first hired in 1980. DASO has no shortage of deputies but we work everyday to ensure equity of opportunity and treatment. House Bill 68 will also provide us with funds directly aimed at retention of law enforcement officers in our state. It is especially significant in providing financial incentive to those who are at 20 years of service now.

3. We cannot alone reduce the crime rate; those rates rise and fall for various reasons. We do work to strengthen community partnership, which hopefully results in increased reporting and encourages positive interactions. We can deploy our deputies more strategically and flexibly to target hot spots. We can look to non-traditional personnel to fill positions previously held by deputies. The answer is not always more deputies, as some may believe; the research does not support this contention.



### Byron N Hollister (R) Doña Ana County Sheriff

1. I am the only veteran candidate. I am also the only business owner. I have over 24 years of law enforcement experience most of which was at the executive level. I have the ability to bring agencies together to form task forces to fight problems.

2. I was selected as one of the few interviewers for new candidates for the US Marshal Service. I will take recruiting into my own hands. There are an abundance of good local people who would make great deputies. Being here for over 35 years I know a lot of people and would start my recruiting locally.

3. On day one I would put us back into the program/grant Stone Garden. I would also utilize HIDTA again. High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. This is money and resources that are free to the department to help lower the crime rate and boost morale at the same time.

## DOÑA ANA COUNTY ASSESSOR

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR DOÑA ANA COUNTY ASSESSOR

(500 characters each)

1. What skills and knowledge do you bring to the office of County Assessor?
2. What actions will you take to recruit more officers to the Department?
3. How do you propose to reduce the crime rate?



### Eugenia (Gina) Montoya Ortega (D) candidate Doña Ana County Assessor

1. 39 years of work experience starting at age 15, including Bakery Small Business Owner 17 years, Bilingual English/

Spanish), Customer Service 39 years; Human Resources, Associates Degree Micro- Computer bookkeeping/ Accounting Asst., integrity, computer proficiency, leadership experience, communication skills, organization, people skills, active listening, problem-solving abilities, time management, open mindedness, dependability, adaptability, team worker, NM Licensed Cosmetologist.

2. Average. Being that the Assessor is an elected position there is always room for improvement, so I believe it is fair to say average knowing that once elected I would be able to ensure/ guarantee the taxpayers of Doña Ana County that our transparency would be Excellent, if not already so.

3. The website could have more information available to the taxpayers of Doña Ana County, more clarity, more information and bilingual. Also being that many of the taxpayers of Doña Ana County are English as a second language speakers all forms should be available in both English and Spanish.

## DOÑA ANA COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR DOÑA ANA COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

(500 characters each)

1. What skills and knowledge do you bring to the office of Probate Judge?
2. How will you inform the public about the services provided by the Probate Court?
3. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Probate Court?



### Judith Ann Baca (D) candidate Doña Ana County Probate Judge

1. My years of working with the Courts, including Probate and guardianship cases, give me the legal background, and

my work with victims and their families gives me the direct experience with grieving families and how to guide them through the Probate process. I hold a BA in Criminal Justice and Associate's degrees in Criminal Justice and General Business from NMSU.

2. My plan is to conduct outreach clinics with printed information about the Probate process at the County's Community and Senior Centers. As Probate Judge I'll go on various radio shows and issue public announcements to the medias--all to reach out to people about the Probate process, and the importance of having a Will.

3. I will reinstate the free Marriage Ceremony, once a public service from the Probate Judge that was discontinued with the current probate administration. I will be available in the Probate Office week days, as I believe the Probate Judge should be a servant of the public. I want to make the Probate Office and its processes known to the Public through my outreach services.

## MAGISTRATE JUDGES

All seven Magistrate Judge positions are up for election and none is challenged.

Magistrate Courts have limited jurisdiction, hearing cases with claims up to \$10,000 in tort, contract, and landlord/tenant civil cases, plus misdemeanor, DWI/ DUI and other traffic violations. Magistrate Judges also conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases. Minimum qualifications: at least 18 years of age, resident of the district, high school graduation or equivalent.



**VOTE 411**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

**2022 VOTERS GUIDE**

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1:

“PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 12, SECTION 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL ANNUAL DISTRIBUTIONS OF THE PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND FOR ENHANCED INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS AT RISK OF FAILURE, EXTENDING THE SCHOOL YEAR, TEACHER COMPENSATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; REQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR DISTRIBUTIONS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.”

## Arguments for and Against

These arguments were researched and published by The New Mexico Legislative Service. The entire publication can be found online at: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/>

### Arguments For

1. Would provide additional and needed funding for public schools and early childhood education.
2. Early childhood educational programming provides a significant benefit in student outcomes.
3. Increased student outcomes provide direct benefits to taxpayers and the state.

### Arguments Against

1. Other funding is available to accomplish the stated

- goal of the proposed constitutional amendment.
2. The amendment will eventually cause diminishing distributions due to a smaller fund corpus.
3. Congressional approval is required and further legislative changes are likely necessary.
4. May not actually increase funding for public education or early childhood education.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2:

“PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 9, SECTION 14 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO ALLOW PUBLIC INVESTMENT TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD SERVICES, INCLUDING INTERNET, ENERGY,

WATER, WASTE WATER AND OTHER SIMILAR SERVICES AS PROVIDED BY LAW, UPON THE ENACTMENT OF GENERAL LEGISLATION BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE.”

### Arguments For

1. The amendment would increase access to essential utility services.
2. May assist the state with leveraging federal funding.
3. May assist with ensuring that all New Mexicans have access to the internet.
4. The contours of the implementing legislation would be vetted through the public legislative process.

### Arguments Against

1. The proposed amendment lacks clarity and leaves too much discretion for future legislatures in enacting the implementing legislation.
2. Public money may not be adequately safeguarded.
3. The growing exceptions to the anti-donation clause are swallowing the rule.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 3:

“PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 6, SECTION 35 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO PROVIDE THAT AN APPOINTED JUDGE SERVE AT LEAST ONE YEAR BEFORE A GENERAL ELECTION IS HELD FOR THE OFFICE TO WHICH THE JUDGE

WAS APPOINTED.”

### Arguments For

1. Allows the public to evaluate an appointed candidate on the merits prior to election.
2. Enables greater access by judicial candidates to public financing.
3. Helps with recruitment and diversity for judgeships.

### Arguments Against

1. Delaying the election may have unintended consequences.
2. Unclear if the new language applies to judges other than appellate judges.
3. Removes an inherently political decision from the political process for a longer period than the Constitution of New Mexico currently provides.

# NEW MEXICO GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

A general obligation bond is public debt and is paid for through state funds, specifically funds from a statewide property tax in New Mexico. (Emphasis in **blue** on certain existing wording was done by LWVSNM to help with understanding of the bonds.)

1. “The 2022 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and **sale of senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition**

**bonds**. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed twenty-four million four hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$24,470,000) 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 \_\_\_\_\_”;

2. “The 2022 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of library acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed nineteen million two hundred sixty-six thousand dollars (\$19,266,000) 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 \_\_\_\_\_”;

3. “The 2022 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes

the issuance and sale of **higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvement and acquisition** bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed two hundred fifteen million nine hundred eighty-six thousand dollars (\$215,986,000) 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

### These will be titled as follows:

- Bond Question 1
- Bond Question 2
- Bond Question 3

# LAS CRUCES GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

1. Shall the City of Las Cruces issue general obligation bonds, payable from property taxes, in an amount up to \$10,000,000 to acquire, plan, design, construct, and equip a **new fire station** facility (North of US Highway 70 and East of Interstate 25), including acquisition of necessary land? For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

2. Shall the City of Las Cruces issue general obligation bonds, payable from property

taxes, in an amount up to \$5,000,000 to acquire, plan, design, construct, and equip the **regional community recreation facility** known as East Mesa Public Recreation Complex, including acquisition of necessary land? For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

3. Shall the City of Las Cruces issue general obligation bonds, payable from property taxes, in an amount up to \$6,000,000,

and placed into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, to provide resources to plan, **design, construct, acquire, and preserve housing affordable, for low to moderate income households**, including acquisition of necessary land? For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

4. Shall the City of Las Cruces issue general obligation bonds, payable from property taxes, in an amount up to \$2,000,000 to **renovate and improve existing parks and**

### recreational facilities?

For \_\_\_\_\_  
Against \_\_\_\_\_

### These will be titled as follows:

- Bond Question 1
- Bond Question 2
- Bond Question 3
- Bond Question 4