

FEDERAL OFFICES

UNITED STATES SENATOR

New Mexico has two Senators in the United States Senate. U.S. Senators introduce and vote on proposed laws, serve on legislative committees, and participate in hearings, floor debates, fact-finding and investigations. They also must approve or reject many Presidential appointments, Cabinet members, federal judges and U.S. ambassadors. Senators also may assist constituents with issues and problems constituents have with federal agencies. The Senate also has the sole power to try impeachments charges against non-military federal officers. Term: Six years; no term limits.

	What qualifies you for this office?	How would you address your highest priorities?	What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?	What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?	What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?	What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Larry E Marker (write-in)	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Matt Dodson</p>	<p>I have been active for over twenty years in Democratic Party politics at the San Juan County and State levels. I am a leader and community organizer. I have been elected seven terms to the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of New Mexico. I am a father, grandfather, and veteran. I detest injustice and will always fight for the disadvantaged. I am a Democratic Socialist. Everyone, including myself, is sick of the corruption and do-nothing, spineless, bought-off politicians in Washington, D.C.</p>	<p>I am committed to universal healthcare, getting money out of politics, free college education, and to finally taxing the billionaires. Citizens United must be repealed. As your next senator I will fight for all issues that have over 70% of Americans' support. People are pissed off. I will give them a voice. By taking no bribes, no billionaire's money, no corporate money, and no AIPAC money, I am not beholden to any of them. I'm too pissed off to be bought off. I will only reach across the aisle if it benefits the 99%.</p>	<p>The wealthy stop paying Social Security at \$185,500. I would remove that cap. That alone makes Social Security solvent. The wealthy need to pay 35% on capital gains and other income. The poor pay 15% on every dollar they earn. So should the rich!</p>	<p>In the Senate I will make DREAMERS citizens now and give immigrant citizens the same rights as everyone else. Anyone who has served eighteen months in the US military will be granted citizenship. I will set a pathway to citizenship and eliminate ICE. I will pass a law that codifies what a "speedy and fair trial" (The Constitution of the United States, Amendment VI) means -- to be in front of a judge within two weeks with legal representation. With the current lack of immigration judges and attorneys, this empties the concentration camps of immigrants currently in place.</p>	<p>I will strengthen and enforce environmental regulations as your next senator. Pollution permits need to take into account existing air and water quality. Any relaxed standards must be re-evaluated for human, animal and plant life. In every way possible I will assist the State of New Mexico to protect our waterways and aquifers. Our state's water belongs to the people and must not be squandered on data centers, missile manufacturers and the like. Fracking waste is not water and must never, never be treated as such.</p>	<p>We need Universal Healthcare now; to include vision, dental, mental health and traditional healing for Native Americans and others. We need to build hospitals and clinics in rural areas. Free college means all the way to an M.D. for doctors, B.S. for nurses and medical assistant programs, etc. We need thousands of healthcare workers at all levels in New Mexico alone. Too many rural clinics cannot keep doctors and have closed because they serve so many low-income people and can't get reimbursed for it. With Universal Healthcare, they will have a definite income stream to stay solvent and retain doctors. I look forward to fighting for you to make these things happen as your next U.S. Senator.</p>
 <p>Ben R Luján</p>	<p>I dedicated my career to improving the lives of those in New Mexico, whether fighting to create good-paying jobs for hardworking New Mexican men and women, increasing access to quality, affordable health care, and protecting New Mexico's natural resources. I've proudly represented New Mexico in the U.S. Senate since 2021, where I've worked every day to lower costs, strengthen public safety, protect food assistance and affordable health care, expand broadband, and invest in New Mexico's future. Prior to the U.S. Senate, I was proud to serve as a member of the House of Representatives for over 10 years, including as chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and as the Assistant Speaker of the House.</p>	<p>Across our state, families are feeling the squeeze as the cost of everyday necessities continues to rise. Reckless tariffs are driving up prices and making it harder for hardworking New Mexicans to put food on the table. I will be a relentless advocate for policies that bring down costs and put families first. I also remain steadfast in the fight to ensure that every New Mexican has access to high-quality, affordable health care. And I will continue working to grow our local economy by supporting the diverse industries that create jobs across the state and investing in infrastructure that improves our roads and delivers reliable broadband.</p>	<p>New Mexicans spend their lives paying into Social Security and they deserve to know that the program will be there to support them upon retirement. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, which oversees Social Security programs, I know Social Security benefits are a vital lifeline for retirees and people with disabilities. Social security must be protected from funding cuts and Republican-led efforts to reduce benefits. I'm proud to support the Social Security Fairness Act to fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which currently reduce benefits for certain recipients.</p>	<p>The United States has not significantly updated its immigration laws since the 1980s, which is why I have long championed comprehensive immigration reform to address our broken immigration system and create an earned pathway for legal immigration. I support legislation like the DREAM Act to provide a legal pathway for Dreamers, the SECURE Act, which provides qualified Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) recipients a path to legal permanent residency, and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act to reform and modernize our temporary agricultural worker visa program. I am also a proponent of modern and effective border security that uses technology rather</p>	<p>Growing up on a small family farm in New Mexico, I learned early that water is life. That is why I believe we must ensure our federal laws respect our ways of life and treat water as the life-giving resource it is. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I introduced legislation like the ACEQUIAS Act to ensure farmers and ranchers qualify for drought disaster assistance, and legislation to guarantee greater federal respect for our traditional land grants and acequias. I also believe we have a duty to support responsible, clean energy policies that protect our environment, improve our air quality, and encourage innovation. I'll continue to ensure that New Mexico is a leader in the clean energy economy, benefiting our families.</p>	<p>Health care is a human right, not a privilege for the few. The Affordable Care Act that voted for in 2009 made critical reforms that expanded New Mexicans access to care. I continue to fight against the attempts to rip health care away by repealing the ACA and gutting Medicaid. I am also a co-sponsor of Medicare for All because every single person deserves high-quality health care when they need it, no matter how much money they make. Access to health care means being able to afford it, which is why I voted to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices so seniors and American taxpayers stop being overcharged.</p>

than walls to keep out narcotics and the cartels.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 2

This person represents one of New Mexico's three districts in the United States House of Representatives. U.S. Representatives introduce and vote on proposed laws and serve on legislative committees. Representatives also participate in hearings, floor debates, fact-finding and investigations. They also may help constituents with issues and problems constituents have with federal agencies. Term: Two years; no limits.

<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?</i>	<i>What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?</i>	<i>What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?</i>	<i>What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?</i>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Gregory G
Cunningham**

I served as a United States Marine during the Gulf War. After returning home, I spent over two decades in law enforcement protecting our communities. I then built a small business from the ground up. Each of those experiences required me to solve real problems, be accountable to others, and put service before self. NM-02 needs a representative who knows this district. I know the people here, I know the challenges, and I have spent my entire life earning the trust it takes to lead.

Southern New Mexico has been let down by politicians who talk about fixing things every two years and then do nothing. I have lived and worked in this district. I know what those failures cost real people. On the border, I will fight to restore order, fully resource our agents, and end the chaos communities here have absorbed while Gabe Vasquez looked the other way. On the economy, I will cut regulations strangling small businesses like the one I built and oppose every tax increase that hammers working families. On energy and affordability, Washington has been waging a war on the oil and gas industry that powers this district and every New Mexican is paying for it at the pump and in their utility bills. I will protect Permian Basin jobs and

Social Security is a promise this country made to its workers and I will not let Washington break it. The people of NM-02 have worked hard their entire lives and they have earned every dollar of those benefits. My commitment is simple: I will not vote to cut benefits for anyone who is currently receiving them or who is close to retirement. I will oppose any effort to raid the Trust Fund to pay for other government spending. Sustaining Social Security long-term requires a growing economy, not bigger government. The best thing Congress can do for the future of this program is get out of the way of the workers and businesses that fund it.

NM-02 shares a long stretch of the southern border. I have watched this district bear the consequences of a broken immigration system for years. We need laws that are enforced consistently, a physical and technological border presence that actually deters illegal crossings, and a legal immigration system that is faster, fairer, and workable. I support pathways for workers critical to our economy and reforms that cut the bureaucratic backlog. But security must come first. A border that is not controlled is not a border, and the communities in this district deserve better than the chaos of the last several years.

Water is not an abstract policy issue in southern New Mexico. It is survival. I will fight to ensure federal water policy does not override state and local rights, and secure funding for aging water infrastructure in our communities. Local governments and states are often better positioned than Washington to manage environmental challenges specific to their regions. Top-down federal mandates that ignore the realities of rural western communities do more harm than good. Practical, locally informed solutions are what I will fight for.

As a small business owner, I saw firsthand what healthcare costs do to employers trying to offer coverage and employees trying to afford it. The answer is not a government takeover of the system. The answer is more competition, more transparency, and fewer middlemen driving up costs. I will prioritize funding for rural clinics and incentives to bring providers to underserved areas.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Gabriel
Vasquez**

I am qualified for this office because I have spent my entire career fighting values like helping working families make ends meet, expanding healthcare access, making our communities safer, protecting our public lands, and reforming our immigration system. I have worked with organizations and politicians across the political spectrum on these issues because I know how deep an impact they have in my community. Defending these values can be the difference between a better quality of life and people continuing to struggle to get by.

My highest priorities are always what makes a palpable impact on the lives of everyday working people in my district. That means working to lower the cost of groceries, childcare, and healthcare, and also fighting out-of-state landlords making housing unaffordable. It also means expanding healthcare access and modernizing our immigration system, so the border is secure and people are treated humanely. I am incredibly proud of the ways I have delivered on these issues over the last four years. And I believe that we still have so much more to do.

I believe the tax systems should be fair for working people - including ensuring that corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share. We can make our tax system more fair while protecting the long-term solvency of the trust fund.

As the Congressman that represents 180 miles of border, I have taken the lead in fighting for immigration reform. The New American Immigration Act I have proposed in Congress works to reform our immigration system by investing in new technology that can support our border patrol officers, while also expanding and streamline paths to citizenships. We need a strong, secure border that also treats people humanely and with dignity. That is what I am fighting for in Congress.

Our natural landscapes and air quality are huge parts of who we are as New Mexicans. As Congressman, I have delivered hundreds of millions of dollars to our district to protect these invaluable assets. This includes increased wastewater treatment plant funding and river protection legislation. I have also fought to deliver RECA benefits that are owned to downwinders that have been ignored in this state. I want to return to Congress for a third term so I can continue to bring these critical investments to our state and protect our environment.

We should be doing everything possible to expand healthcare access for all Americans. I believe we must protect Medicaid and Medicare; we should cap the price of life-saving drugs like insulin; and we must always protect and fight for reproductive freedom.

NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICES

GOVERNOR

New Mexico's Governor holds the supreme executive power of the state and sees that the state's laws are faithfully executed. The Governor's responsibilities include preparing the state budget and submitting it to the legislature and overseeing the overall planning for key areas of state government; these areas include economic development, education, human and natural resources, energy and emergency planning. The Governor also appoints people to fill vacancies in a variety of both state and federal offices. Term: Four years, limited to two consecutive terms.

<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>What measures would you propose to improve Pre-K - 12 education?</i>	<i>How would you address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?</i>	<i>What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?</i>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Gregory D
Hull

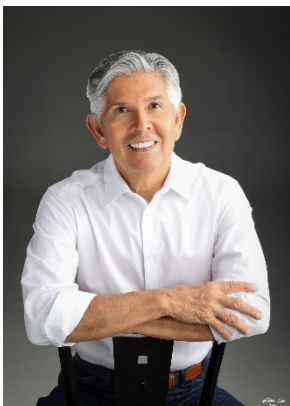
I have been a New Mexico resident for more than 40 years, an entrepreneur, and Rio Rancho's longest-serving mayor, elected three times beginning in 2014. Before entering public service, I built and operated two businesses, gaining direct experience with job creation and regulatory challenges. As mayor, I doubled the police budget, helped Rio Rancho earn recognition as New Mexico's safest city, and attracted more than \$6 billion in investment. In 2024, Rio Rancho was named a Best Place to Live for Families and the state's most affordable city. I am ready to bring that same record of results to all New Mexicans.

My top priorities are public safety, economic growth, education, infrastructure and water security, and protecting children. I will increase police presence and enhance border security to address crime and the fentanyl crisis. I will attract high-paying jobs through targeted business incentives and energy expansion. I will hold schools accountable for outcomes while expanding career training. I will invest in brackish water treatment and aquifer recharge for long-term supply. And I will reform CYFD with clear standards, oversight, and stable caseworker staffing.

New Mexico's reading and math scores rank among the nation's lowest, yet the state has responded by lowering standards rather than raising them. I will reverse that trend by tying a portion of school funding to measurable gains in literacy, math, and graduation rates. I will expand career and technical education, so students graduate with industry-recognized skills, establish accessible tutoring programs, and give parents transparent access to curriculum and progress data. I will also address chronic absenteeism and reform the Public Education Department to focus on results.

Water security is not optional — it is the foundation of economic growth, agriculture, and stable communities. Rio Rancho led the state with the state's first-ever aquifer recharge system. As governor, I will invest in brackish water treatment to create new sources of supply, reducing pressure on rivers and freshwater aquifers. I will upgrade aging infrastructure to cut leaks, expand advanced wastewater treatment for safe reuse, and support modern irrigation systems to protect farmers' livelihoods. I will meet our interstate obligations to deliver water downstream and pursue transparent negotiations to resolve outstanding Tribal water rights. Long-term certainty for every water user starts with planning ahead and acting now.

Projects should be evaluated on the quality and wages of jobs created, their alignment with New Mexico's existing strengths — research, advanced manufacturing, energy, and defense — and whether they support workforce development. Incentives must be tied to measurable results and fiscal accountability. Projects should benefit both rural and urban communities, avoid placing undue burdens on infrastructure or public services, and strengthen long-term economic resilience. My core question: does this investment leave New Mexico more diversified, more self-sufficient, and better positioned to grow?



Duke
Rodriguez

I spent multiple decades managing large systems. I started off at Lovelace, where I rose to become COO. I served as Secretary of the Human Services Department under Governor Gary Johnson. I headed a publicly traded company and built New Mexico's largest legal, licensed medical cannabis company. As a political outsider, I will bring a fresh management approach to New Mexico's problems. Coming from the private sector, I know that New Mexico is not a poor state, but it is absolutely a poorly managed state.

Institute an attitude of stewardship over New Mexico's budget, resources, and people.

Enforce fiscal restraint so that public money actually benefits the people of the state.

Eliminate state personal income tax.

Eliminate gross receipts tax on retail sales.

Manage Medicaid and SNAP sustainably.

Invest in public infrastructure like desalination plants.

Investigate public corruption so that taxpayer money is not wasted.

Allow teachers more latitude to actually teach.

Identify high-risk, high-need students who distract from learning objectives.

Invest in vocational education.

Stabilize the Educational Retirement Board pension fund so that teaching remains an attractive career.

Invest in desalination plants.

Research water re-use, including of produced water.

Take a stronger position in the Colorado River interstate litigation.

Is the project multi-use?
Is the project sustainable?
Does the project create jobs after construction?
Does the project reduce poverty?
Does the project improve quality of life for residents?
Does the project serve families?



Doug W
Turner

I've spent my career in New Mexico building businesses that do work in more than 40 countries, creating jobs and solving complex problems. I've served as Board Chairman of Public Charter Schools of New Mexico for 15 years, 8 years as Chairman of the New Mexico Judicial Standards Commission and also serve on the Village of Taos Ski Valley Village Council and TIDD board. My broad local, state, national and international experience has prepared me to bring accountability back to Santa Fe—whether that's improving educational outcomes, making our communities safe, or standing up for the industries and small businesses that power New Mexico. I bring the kind of disciplined, results-driven leadership that can win across party lines.

My focus as Governor will be on public safety, improving educational outcomes, cutting personal income and gross receipts taxes, cutting red tape for small businesses, developing economic opportunity and creating good paying jobs so families can build bright futures in New Mexico. I believe our state's core issues are deeply connected and must be tackled together. Our economy cannot grow and become competitive regionally unless we provide safe communities, good schools, and a less burdensome tax system. I'll achieve those priorities by providing hands-on leadership in Santa Fe that brings together both parties, restores accountability, and demands that state government work more efficiently for taxpayers.

A strong K-12 system is the most effective long-term strategy we have for workforce readiness and crime prevention. Our schools must equip young people with skills, confidence, and a sense of purpose.

I will fight to ensure that our public schools focus on the fundamentals like literacy and math, along with the real-world skills necessary for tomorrow's workforce. I will implement meaningful parental choice so every parent can find the right educational fit for their child, and I will insist on accountability for outcomes, ensuring our schools are delivering results for students, not just spending taxpayer money on bloated administrative systems.

Water is the lifeblood of New Mexico — for our families, our farmers, and our future. As we face growing demands on limited supplies, we must treat water as a strategic asset and ensure compliance with and enforcement of established water treaties.

At the same time, I will prioritize investing in modern infrastructure, reforming water governance, and promoting responsible stewardship of water resources.

Expanding and protecting our water supply begins with sound science and data-backed planning that includes assessments of the health of our aquifers, evaluates reservoir capacities, and forecasts future needs.

New Mexico must aggressively diversify our economy to create sustainable prosperity. Part of that equation is large scale development projects although these are by no means the answer to long-term job creation of economic diversification. As Governor, I'll promote our state to corporations seeking to leverage our many unique assets to grow. Our weather, scientific talent, geography, traditional and renewable energy resources are key drivers that set New Mexico apart. When evaluating proposed projects, we should focus on return on investment, job creation, and long-term potential. As Governor, I'll support projects when they clearly expand the tax base, create good-paying durable jobs, and don't leave taxpayers holding the bag.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Sam Bregman

I've spent my career delivering results and taking on tough challenges. As District Attorney, I've led the fight against violent crime, held offenders accountable, and worked to make our communities safer. As District Attorney, I've managed the largest "law firm" in the state, worked across agencies, and know how to turn policy into action. I'm running for governor to bring that same results-driven leadership to fix what's not working and deliver for New Mexicans.

My top priorities are public safety, education, healthcare, economic opportunity and affordability.

On public safety, I'll strengthen our juvenile justice system, hold violent offenders accountable, and invest in treatment and prevention for those who are addicted to drugs.

In education, I'll focus on early literacy, set clear standards, and hold schools, parents, teachers and students accountable for results.

On healthcare, I'll expand access by recruiting and retaining more doctors and allowing qualified providers to practice in New Mexico, especially in underserved areas.

To grow our economy, I'll invest in workforce training, strengthen partnerships between education and employers, and create more opportunities in our burgeoning energy

I'll focus on accountability, early literacy, and giving parents more choices. That means making sure every child can read by third grade, setting clear performance standards, and stepping in when schools are failing students. I will also address the chronic truancy problem that our state has been dealing with for years now. I support expanding public-school options so families have access to the best options for their kids, including high-quality public charter schools. I'll also grow career and technical education, so students graduate with real skills and pathways to good-paying jobs, while supporting teachers with the salaries and training they deserve and ensuring classrooms have the resources they need to succeed.

We have to be proactive and realistic about our water future. I'll focus on better management of the water we have by investing in conservation, improving infrastructure, and reducing waste. That includes supporting agriculture with more efficient irrigation, promoting water reuse and recycling, and using data-driven planning to prepare for long-term drought. I will create a cabinet level agency called the Water Resources Department which will focus on assuring there is enough water by looking at all the impacts to our acequias, tribal interests, agriculture, and economic development. This is about protecting our communities, our economy, and our way of life in an increasingly arid state.

We should evaluate every major project based on whether it delivers real benefits for New Mexicans. That means good-paying jobs with proper benefits, long-term economic impact, and alignment with our workforce and education systems. Projects should be financially responsible, transparent, and protect our natural resources, especially water. If a project doesn't create lasting opportunity and strengthen our communities, it's not the right investment.



Deb Haaland

I am qualified to serve as Governor because I bring both lived experience and a proven record of results. I am a lifelong New Mexican, educated in our public schools, a first-generation college graduate, a single mom, and a small business owner who understands what it means to rely on Medicaid and WIC and fight to keep a family afloat. In Congress and as Secretary of the Interior, I delivered infrastructure and broadband investments, protected public lands, launched the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Unit, advanced major clean energy projects, led historic pollution cleanup, and managed an \$18 billion budget and 70,000 employees. I know how to make government work for working people.

My top priorities are making New Mexico more affordable, strengthening education, improving public safety, and protecting healthcare. I want New Mexicans to afford groceries and rent, feel safe in their communities, see a doctor when they are sick, and ensure kids learn to read earlier. I will raise wages, expand tax relief for working families, pursue paid family and medical leave, grow affordable housing, and support job creation. I will invest in childcare, literacy, math, community schools, and educator recruitment. I will tackle violent crime, drugs, gun violence, and overhaul CYFD, while expanding behavioral health, crisis response, Medicaid, rural and Tribal access, and the healthcare workforce.

My goal is for every child's education to open doors. My top priority is helping kids read by third grade, because early literacy sets them up to succeed in every subject. I will invest in literacy support, coaches, summer learning, math screening and intervention, and stronger instruction. I will protect and expand universal childcare, make early education easier to access, and grow quality childcare options. I will bring the trades into middle and more high schools, expand teacher residencies, improve pay and benefits, help with housing in rural communities, and expand community schools plus Native language and culture programs for rural and Tribal students.

I will protect New Mexico's water, air, and land. I know water is precious—I carried it as a child from the community spigot to my grandmother's house. Our water future must be built on conservation, infrastructure, accountability, and partnership. I will help Tribal nations, rural towns, acequia communities, and colonias repair aging systems, reduce leaks, and grow the workforce needed to keep water flowing. I will strengthen the Water Trust Board, prioritize communities with unsafe drinking water, hold polluters accountable, and require high-water-use industries to conserve so economic growth does not come at the expense of our limited water supply.

We need to ensure new developments are mutually beneficial. They must: create good-paying jobs for New Mexicans, use local workers and contractors, protect families from higher utility costs, and leave communities better off. Projects should include strong community benefits agreements, accountability, and claw back provisions, so the public is protected if promises are broken. They must also safeguard water, air, land, and public health, accurately report water use, and ensure high-demand industries provide clean energy and support grid stability. I want New Mexico to lead in energy, tech, film, and outdoor recreation with long-term value for our communities, not short-term gains for outside corporations that exploit New Mexicans.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

New Mexico's Lieutenant Governor is the president of the New Mexico Senate (and can vote on a Senate issue in the event of a tie), and is the acting governor when the Governor is out of the state. The Lieutenant Governor also assists New Mexicans in their dealings with state agencies, and refers complaints or special problems of New Mexicans to the proper agency. The Lieutenant Governor sits on several state boards and commissions, and performs any other duties assigned by the Governor. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

What qualifies you for this office?

List your top priorities, and explain how you will you achieve them.

How can you help the Senate operate more effectively and efficiently?

How will you facilitate communication and ensure transparency between government agencies and constituents?

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Aubrey Blair Dunn

I have worked my entire professional career to hold government accountable to the laws and constitutions, I will continue to do so using that experience to preside over the Senate, and to advocate for the citizens as their voice directly in the executive branch.

My top priorities are to work with the Legislature to pass real and drastic reforms to education, criminal justice and to make living here more affordable for New Mexicans by making sure they keep more of their hard earned money.

By providing guidance working on cross the aisle to make sure that the laws that are passed not only represent sound policy benefiting all New Mexicans and to call out laws that are likely unconstitutional early so that time is not wasted on Legislation that attempts to strip New Mexicans of their rights, for instance to lawfully keep and bear arms.

By being a direct advocate for citizens with the Governor's office and all state agencies to make sure that the laws are being followed and people are being treated fairly by the government including federal agencies.

David M


No response received.

No response received.


No response received.


No response received.

Gallegos

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will you achieve them.</i>	<i>How can you help the Senate operate more effectively and efficiently?</i>	<i>How will you facilitate communication and ensure transparency between government agencies and constituents?</i>
 <p>Manuel (Manny) Lardizabal</p>	<p>I hold studies in Criminal Justice from Western New Mexico University, grounding me in the principles of justice, public safety, and ethical leadership. I also completed specialized training through The New Mexico Corrections Department (Penal Law, Juvenile Delinquency, Forensic Science), The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (Corrections Officer and Administrative Training), Leadership and Ministry Programs focusing on Business Leadership, Biblical Studies, and Financial Stewardship. As a private investor and entrepreneur, I understand fiscal responsibility, economic growth, and what it takes to create jobs and opportunity for working families. I also served on the Bernalillo/Albuquerque Retired & Senior Volunteer Program Advisory Council.</p>	<p>1 Public Safety: We face rampant crime, drugs, and violence that threaten our communities. I will achieve this by supporting law enforcement with resources and reforms, cracking down on cartel influence at the border, and implementing tough-on-crime policies like mandatory minimums for repeat offenders. 2 Economic Growth: My plan includes tax cuts for working families and businesses, streamlining permits to attract energy and tech sectors, and promoting entrepreneurship rooted in New Mexico's natural resources. 3 Quality Education: I'll push for school choice, parental rights in curriculum, and accountability measures like performance-based funding, while eliminating radical ideologies to refocus on reading, math, and practical skills.</p>	<p>I will preside over Senate sessions fairly, professionally, and in a nonpartisan manner, maintaining decorum while keeping proceedings moving smoothly. I will collaborate closely with the Senate President Pro Tempore to ensure bills move efficiently through committees, reach the floor promptly, and avoid bottlenecks that delay critical legislation. I will maximize our 30-day regular session by ensuring bills are pre-filed, introduced before deadlines, and prioritized appropriately. We must use interim time productively, so senators arrive prepared when session begins. I will foster bipartisan cooperation, focusing senators on shared goals—improving education, strengthening our economy, and keeping communities safe.</p>	<p>As Lieutenant Governor, I will make open government and two-way communication a top priority. My approach rests on three core principles: 1. Launch a centralized, user-friendly online portal where New Mexicans can track agency actions, budget allocations, and policy decisions in real time.</p> <p>2. Hold monthly town halls across all regions of New Mexico—in person and via Zoom—to listen directly to residents' concerns and answer questions about government actions.</p> <p>3. Ensure all agency advisory board meetings are publicly announced and streamed, with opportunities for public comment. Government should not operate behind closed doors—it should serve with the people, not over them.</p>

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Harold James Pope Jr</p>	<p>I've spent almost the entirety of my adult life in service, first in the U.S. Air Force for over 20 years, rising from enlisted to officer, leading teams and managing complex programs. Today, as a State Senator, I am fighting for working families, seniors, veterans, students, and our communities, passing legislation to expand education, provide tax relief, support veterans, protect our environment, and strengthen public safety. I serve as Vice Chair of the Education Committee and key committees shaping our state's future. I also bring a strong academic background and am pursuing a Doctorate in Education. Most importantly, I show up, listen, and put people first—answering only to the people of New Mexico, not corporate or special interests.</p>	<p>My top priorities are affordability, education, jobs, & healthcare. I will lower costs by expanding housing & down payment assistance, capping prescription drugs, & targeted tax relief. I will strengthen public education by supporting families, investing in educators, STEAM, trades, and culturally relevant learning. I will grow living-wage jobs through workforce training, apprenticeships, economic incentives, and tech & clean energy investments. I will expand healthcare access through a public option, including behavioral health, & address provider shortages. We must also improve public safety, protect our environment, & invest in infrastructure. As Lt. Governor, I will partner with communities to deliver localized solutions and real results.</p>	<p>As Vice Chair of the Education Committee, I've learned that an effective Senate depends on preparation, collaboration, and accountability. I come to hearings ready, work across the aisle to resolve issues early, and help keep meetings focused, transparent, and productive. As Lieutenant Governor, I will bring that same approach to presiding over the Senate. I will ensure sessions run efficiently, respect members' time, and uphold a fair and consistent process. I'll work with leadership from both parties to prioritize legislation, reduce bottlenecks, and create space for thoughtful debate without unnecessary delays. Most importantly, I'll lead in a way that is accessible, transparent, and focused on delivering results for the people of NM.</p>	<p>As Lieutenant Governor, I will serve as the people's ombudsman. Someone who shows up, listens, and helps New Mexicans navigate their government. I will create a clear, accessible constituent services process so individuals and small businesses can raise concerns and receive timely responses. My office will track issues, follow up, and ensure accountability. I will also expand communication through community forums, digital outreach, coordination with local leaders, and weekly walk-in office hours. Transparency will be a priority by making agency information more accessible and elevating concerns when they arise. This role is about being a bridge between the people and their government, ensuring every New Mexican is heard and served.</p>
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 <p>Maggie Toulouse Oliver</p>	<p>I am New Mexico's 26th and longest-serving Secretary of State. I have nearly 20 years of experience in county and state-level government, serving as Bernalillo County Clerk for 10 years before being elected to my current role. I have been involved in New Mexico politics since 1994, working for Senator Jeff Bingaman, serving as President of a New Mexico chapter of EMILYs List, and as director of the New Mexico chapter of the League of Conservation Voters. I will be ready on day one to serve with the next Democratic governor of New Mexico as both a trusted advisor and a fighter for bold legislation as President of the Senate in the Roundhouse.</p>	<p>My top priority is lowering the cost of living for our families. Skyrocketing prices are making life even harder for New Mexicans. The current Administration is ripping health care, food assistance, housing security, and energy security away from working people. I will work with the next Democratic governor and the Senate to support legislation that protects earned benefits, closes gaps in federal funding, and taps into New Mexico's wealth to invest in our people. I will support growing universal free childcare and improving public education, protecting women's reproductive freedom, preserving our environment, and combating climate change.</p>	<p>I have cultivated positive working relationships with senators from across New Mexico over decades of work in politics. I will be a Lt. Governor who listens to legislators and keeps an open door. I also support modernizing the Legislature with paid salaries at the median earning level for New Mexicans. This will allow legislators to focus on their work without worrying about financial insecurity and open the door to serving for more young and working-class New Mexicans. Modernizing the legislature should also allow for more professional staff to assist our legislators with the deluge of bills they receive each session.</p>	<p>The Legislature and the Executive Branch should have an open and positive working relationship, and it is clear that better transparency and trust between them are needed. Throughout my career, I have implemented transparency reforms and focused on good governance in my offices as County Clerk and Secretary of State. We have seen the results in speedier election reporting, more access to voting sites and information, and consistent efforts to communicate clearly with the public. I believe these principles are applicable everywhere, and I plan to utilize them as Lt. Governor.</p>
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SECRETARY OF STATE

As New Mexico's chief elections officer, the Secretary of State oversees the entire election process and regulates lobbyist activity and reporting of campaign finances. The Secretary of State also maintains official records about business entities as required by state law. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>What actions, if any, would you take to increase and protect voter participation in elections?</i>	<i>How would you help the public navigate election information in this era of AI and social media?</i>	<i>What is the Secretary of State's role in safeguarding the integrity of voter information and ensuring safe and fair elections?</i>	<i>Should the Secretary of State be a partisan or nonpartisan position, and why?</i>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Ramona L Goolsby

I am a veteran, healthcare professional, rancher, and advocate with a proven record of service and problem-solving. My experience has instilled the discipline, leadership, and accountability needed to manage complex systems and deliver results. I have been actively engaged in election-related issues, working to promote transparency, accuracy, and public confidence. I understand the Secretary of State's role is not political, but administrative, ensuring fair, secure, and accessible elections for all eligible voters. I bring a practical, solutions-oriented approach focused on efficiency, integrity, and serving all New Mexicans.

My top priorities are strengthening election integrity, improving transparency, and increasing voter accessibility. I will work to ensure accurate voter rolls, secure systems, and consistent procedures across all counties. I will expand public access to clear, timely election information so voters understand how the process works and can have confidence in the results. I also support practical improvements that make voting more accessible for eligible voters, including efficient processes and strong communication with local election officials. My approach is focused on accountability, clarity, and ensuring every eligible vote is counted accurately and securely.

To increase voter participation, we must focus on the two pillars of access and trust. I will move away from an activist model toward a professional, rule-based administration where the Secretary of State acts as a fair referee. By advocating for common-sense voter ID and performing rigorous maintenance of voter rolls, we protect the value of every legal vote and prevent administrative errors. When the public has absolute confidence that rules are followed transparently, they are more likely to engage. My goal is to make voting secure and straightforward, providing a reliable path for all eligible citizens to participate in our democracy.

In this era of rapid change, the Secretary of State must be a definitive, nonpartisan source of truth. I will modernize office communications by ensuring our website is a user-friendly hub for verifying registration and polling data. To address challenges from AI and social media, I will prioritize professional oversight and consistent, fact-based communication. My focus is on providing transparent, real-time data that renders misinformation obsolete while ensuring state offices do not collaborate with platforms to censor speech. By maintaining an open, accessible record of truth, I will give every New Mexican the tools to navigate election information with absolute confidence.

The Secretary of State must be a nonpartisan position, serving as a fair referee rather than a political operator. The role is to ensure that election and campaign finance laws are enforced evenly and without favoritism. Using the office for a political agenda erodes public trust and discourages participation. By operating as a professional administrative body instead of an activist platform, the office can focus on transparent oversight, protecting access for every eligible voter, and ensuring secure, straightforward processes for everyone.

The Secretary of State should be a nonpartisan position because the office must serve as a fair referee for all New Mexicans, not a partisan operator. The role is to ensure that the rules of democracy, from election administration to campaign finance laws, are enforced evenly, professionally, and without favoritism. When the office is used to advance a specific political agenda, it erodes public trust and discourages participation. By operating as a professional administrative body rather than an activist platform, the office can focus on providing transparent oversight, protecting the access of every eligible voter, and ensuring that our election processes are secure and straightforward for everyone in our state.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Katharine E Clark

With 25 years of experience in elections and public service, I am the two-term Santa Fe County Clerk in New Mexico's complex third-largest jurisdiction. I have modernized operations, built a high-performing election system with high turnout, 100% election-night reporting, while designing systems and policies adopted statewide by the SOS. I passed a national policy to block Trump's election interference and helped beat him in court. I led an overhaul of county clerk training to protect elections. I am the only person in NM with national and state election administration certifications, and my office earned 13 national awards for election performance. I will bring that same experience, toughness, and vision to the Secretary of State's office.


As Secretary of State, I will defend democracy by protecting voters from chaos, doubt, and intimidation, and I will be tough on Trump and his allies who undermine trust. I will expand ballot access by bringing youth civic education statewide, improving ballot language, expanding jailhouse voting, and strengthening Native voting rights and transparency. I will run trusted elections by working with county clerks, ensuring 100% election-night reporting, providing tools to prevent errors, and offering real-time turnout dashboards. I will reduce the influence of dark money by expanding public financing and increasing campaign finance transparency. I will continue modernizing the office with better technology and a clear, user-friendly website.

I will increase participation by making voting easier, clearer, and safer. That means expanding civic education programs we built in Santa Fe, clear ballot language, improving absentee voting through ballot curing, overhauling the voter registration agent program, improving language access, streamlining voter registration systems, and using voter tools like apps, ballot tracking, and turnout dashboards. I will protect participation by fighting misinformation, stopping intimidation, and ensuring voters know their rights. Confusion and delays suppress turnout. Trump's politics depend on confusion and fear. I believe the Secretary of State's job is to ensure every eligible voter can cast a ballot and have it count.

We need to move faster than the lies. I will make the Secretary of State's office the most trusted source of election information in NM by improving the website, expanding real-time updates, building tools like real-time results and turnout dashboards, and responding quickly to misinformation, including AI-generated fakes. As a panel expert on AI in elections, I understand how these threats evolve and how to counter them. I believe in prebunking falsehoods before they spread by educating voters early and making election information easy to understand. I have already built real-time election tools voters use today. MAGA's movement thrives on confusion. I want voters to have clear facts, trusted information, and confidence in the system.

The Secretary of State must protect voter data, support county clerks, enforce election law, and ensure elections are secure, transparent, and fair. I'm elected to the national election security board to monitor threats and share real-time information across states. That means strong cybersecurity, accurate voter rolls, secure polling places, and rapid response to threats or misinformation. My office has implemented first-in-nation election security innovations and is nationally recognized. I will defend New Mexico's elections from political interference, including federal overreach. This requires coordination across every county. Democracy cannot be taken for granted. The Secretary of State must protect voting and public trust.

I come from a hardworking military family where service and the defense of democracy were paramount. This office is elected in a partisan system, but the work must be grounded in defending the right to vote. The SOS serves all New Mexicans and must follow the law and the facts, not political pressure. I am a fifth-generation union member, am LGBTQ, and have a bilingual family, and I believe the government must work for all communities, particularly rural and tribal. As Trump tries to turn election administration into a partisan weapon, it is more important than ever to have leadership that is independent, transparent, and fair. I lead with professionalism and integrity so every New Mexican can trust the outcome, no matter who wins.


	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>What actions, if any, would you take to increase and protect voter participation in elections?</i>	<i>How would you help the public navigate election information in this era of AI and social media?</i>	<i>What is the Secretary of State's role in safeguarding the integrity of voter information and ensuring safe and fair elections?</i>	<i>Should the Secretary of State be a partisan or nonpartisan position, and why?</i>
 <p>Amanda López Askin</p>	<p>As a public servant for 25 years, I have a diverse background in corporate and governmental organizations. By any measure I am the most qualified and experienced candidate to be Secretary of State. I am in my eighth year of serving as the Doña Ana County Clerk, administering twelve elections in the second most populous county with arguably the most contentious elections. I am qualified for this office because I bring both hands-on election administration experience and a deep commitment to public service. I have worked directly in the systems that make our democracy function. I understand what it takes to run accurate, secure, and accessible elections because I have done that work on the ground. I know the pressure election workers face, t</p>	<p>My top priorities are protecting voting rights, modernizing election administration, and restoring trust through transparency. I will work to expand voter access by improving voter education, strengthening language access, supporting county clerks, and making election information easier to understand and access. I will also focus on protecting election systems and voter data through strong cybersecurity practices, regular training, and close coordination with local election officials. Just as important, I will make the office more responsive and transparent so voters, candidates, and administrators can get clear answers and timely support.</p>	<p>I would take every lawful action available to increase and protect voter participation. That includes improving public education around registration, absentee voting, early voting, and new election laws; expanding outreach to historically underrepresented communities; and working to remove barriers that discourage participation. I also believe voters should be able to cast a ballot free from fear and intimidation. That is why I supported SB 264 to prevent ICE presence at voting locations. Protecting voter participation means protecting access, dignity, and confidence in the process. I am the only candidate in this race who supported this bill.</p>	<p>The Secretary of State's office must become a trusted, easy-to-find source of accurate information. In an era of AI, misinformation, and viral falsehoods, the public needs timely facts in plain language. I would prioritize rapid-response voter education, consistent myth-versus-fact messaging, multilingual outreach, and strong partnerships with county clerks, community organizations, and media outlets. The office should meet voters where they are while also making sure official information is easy to verify. We cannot allow confusion and disinformation to discourage participation or undermine trust.</p>	<p>The Secretary of State has a central responsibility to protect voter information, support secure election administration, and uphold fair access to the ballot. That means maintaining strong standards for cybersecurity, data privacy, training, and election procedures while working closely with county clerks and election staff across the state. It also means ensuring that elections are both secure and accessible because those values are not in conflict. A safe and fair election is one where voters know their information is protected, the rules are applied equally, and every lawful vote is counted accurately.</p>	<p>The work of the Secretary of State should be carried out in a strictly nonpartisan way, no matter how the office appears on the ballot. I do think the Secretary of State's position should include party affiliation as voters want to know what party you're affiliated with and what platform your worldview and belief system is. Voters want to know and will ask and the most transparent thing to do is to include the party affiliation. The responsibility of this office is not to serve a party, it is to serve the public, protect democracy, and administer the law fairly. Voters deserve to know that election decisions are being made based on facts, law, and fairness, not politics. Public trust depends on that. The office must operate with independence</p>

ATTORNEY GENERAL

New Mexico's Attorney General heads New Mexico's Department of Justice, which represents the interests of the state, state officers, state employees and New Mexico's residents in a wide variety of courts and types of civil and criminal cases. The Attorney General issues opinions on questions of law from other state agencies or officials, and drafts contracts, bonds and other instruments for state agencies. The Attorney General also has primary authority for enforcement of consumer protection and antitrust laws, prosecution of criminal appeals and some complex white-collar crimes, training and certification of peace officers, and most natural resource and environmental matters. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.


	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>How would you protect the rights of New Mexicans?</i>	<i>What actions would you support to make citizens safer?</i>	<i>How would you protect states' rights as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?</i>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Samuel Isaiah Kane Sr</p>	<p>I know how the law works, and I know why it's not working for the people of New Mexico. Throughout my career, I have tirelessly advocated for the legal rights of my clients. I have seen first-hand how the justice system places politics over people. The office of Attorney General was created by the legislature to represent and protect the people's interests. But that's not happening. Our state has some of the poorest nationwide rankings when it comes to the most basic aspects of safety and security. Helping families, protecting communities, and preserving our resources matter more than grabbing headlines. New Mexico needs an Attorney General that will advocate for the people on things that matter most. I am qualified because that's all I do.</p>	<p>While my platform includes many priorities and proposed solutions, there is no greater priority than community safety. I will first work to ensure that criminals who are taken off the streets stay off the streets. Our law enforcement officers work too hard only to have some criminal courts fail to effectively prosecute or sentence the offender. I will ensure that the courts no longer act as a revolving door for those who threaten our safety. And as the courts work harder to process and house criminals, our law enforcement can better direct their resources towards combating the specific crimes causing the most harm to our communities such as the influx of drugs. Protecting the people from harm, by whatever means, is my top priority.</p>	<p>As the "chief legal officer," the Attorney General has substantial power to protect the rights and interests of the people. In a very real sense, the AG is "the people's lawyer," but with the added ability to enforce the law for the people's protection. When we talk about "the rights of New Mexicans," we're really talking about the rights we value most as a community. Safety, security, access to public resources, environmental preservation, constitutional freedoms—these are examples of the rights we value most because without access to these, we lose access to the rest. I will protect all the rights of New Mexicans by first fighting for and defending the rights that matter most—through whatever powers are available to my office.</p>	<p>There is no excuse why New Mexico ranks at the very top of almost all national rankings when it comes to crime. Our crime rate is a product of decades of governmental neglect and meaningful change will take time. But when we prioritize success, we achieve success. First, we attack crime from the top down. Our law enforcement is already working hard to catch criminals, but the courts aren't prosecuting. This will change. At the same time, we will work with communities and schools to create and implement comprehensive programs to identify and work with at-risk youth to take them off the streets before the police do. My office will fight anyone who seeks to harm our communities, from drug dealers to the government itself.</p>	<p>The Attorney General is sworn to uphold and defend the law and protect the interests of the people. It is a privilege of that office to represent the people in court when the federal government tries to overstep its power and infringe upon rights guaranteed us by the U.S. Constitution. When the interests of the people demand, and should our guaranteed rights be threatened, I will not hesitate to hold the federal government to account. I will also defend our own State's legislation against federal government attack in defense of our citizens' guaranteed rights. While I cannot rewrite the laws, I can, and will, prosecute and defend them with the full force of the New Mexico department of justice.</p>
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What qualifies you for this office?	List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.	How would you protect the rights of New Mexicans?	What actions would you support to make citizens safer?	How would you protect states' rights as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Raúl Torrez</p>	<p>I've served as New Mexico's Attorney General, an assistant District Attorney, assistant Attorney General, assistant US Attorney, and as a White House Fellow and senior advisor in President Obama's Department of Justice and have spent my career fighting to protect families. I have also served as District Attorney, managing the largest law office in the state, where we used smart-on-crime approach to solve decades-old rape cases. I've taken on extreme, right-wing militias and big corporations like Facebook, and I know how to fight and advocate for the policies we need to make our communities safer. I will continue to fight to strengthen our criminal justice system, fight for consumers, safeguard the environment, and take on corruption.</p>	<p>As Attorney General, I have used 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 has aggressively fought for consumers and workers, safeguarded the environment, took on corruption and special interests, and protected our democracy and women's rights.</p>	<p>I've protected the rights of New Mexicans by taking direct legal action when people are harmed. I've sued Meta Platforms to address the exploitation of children online. I have also challenged federal action; joining litigation against changes to asylum and immigration policies, birthright citizenship and opposing federal restrictions that threaten access to health care and essential resources for our communities. I've enforced consumer protection laws to hold companies accountable for fraud and abuse. Protecting rights means using the law aggressively to defend safety, dignity, and justice for every New Mexican.</p>	<p>As a prosecutor, I prioritize public safety, I launched a statewide Crime Gun Intelligence Center and have always focused on curbing repeat violent offenders, combat organized retail crime, fentanyl trafficking, and gun violence.</p> <p>As the former Bernalillo County District Attorney, I have been a national leader for innovative "smart on crime" policies. I was sworn in during a crime crisis and brought new ideas, and energy to the office, while working across the political spectrum to help protect New Mexico families and businesses.</p>	<p>I protect states' rights by enforcing the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and pushing back when federal decisions harm New Mexico's authority. I have joined multi-state litigation opposing Donald Trump's executive actions on elections that threatened to interfere with how states administer their own voting systems, as well as efforts to undermine birthright citizenship guaranteed under the Constitution. I have also worked with other states to challenge federal overreach in environmental and administrative rulemaking. Protecting states' rights means ensuring New Mexico retains the power to make its own decisions and is not sidelined by unlawful federal action.</p>
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STATE AUDITOR


The State Auditor heads an office that ensures the financial affairs of every state and local governmental entity are thoroughly examined and competently audited each year. The State Auditor also ensures the comprehensive annual financial report for the state is thoroughly examined and audited each year. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

What qualifies you for this office?	What is your highest responsibility as State Auditor?	What actions can you take when audits are not submitted in a timely manner?	What are the top three issues you will investigate as State Auditor?
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

<p>Joshua James Ryan Lawrence (write-in)</p>	<p>No response received.</p>	<p>No response received.</p>	<p>No response received.</p>	<p>No response received.</p>
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Joseph M Maestas</p>	<p>I've devoted my entire life to public service: over 30 years in Federal civil service and over 20 years in elected public service. I served as Chairman of the Public Regulation Commission, Mayor of Espanola and councilman in Espanola and Santa Fe. I'm also a licensed professional engineer. As State Auditor, I hold public entities and officials accountable for managing taxpayer funds and protecting taxpayer money from fraud, waste, and abuse. For example, my office has ensured that opioid settlement funds are being used properly and protected funding intended for mitigating natural disasters. Our office assisted small local public bodies like our acequias to become financially compliant and unlocked over \$10 million in withheld capital outlay.</p>	<p>The New Mexico Office of the State Auditor (OSA) is a constitutionally established executive office independent and accountable only to the people of New Mexico. The OSA has two primary statutory (Audit Act) purposes: (1) to ensure that the financial affairs of every agency shall be thoroughly examined and audited each year and (2) require the financial affairs and transactions of an agency to be audited in whole or in part. These purposes grant the State Auditor the authority to conduct both annual financial and special audits. The OSA is the State financial watchdog that protects taxpayer money from fraud, waste, and abuse. It also helps to hold court-appointed conservators accountable for managing financial assets of protected persons.</p>	<p>When public entity audit reports are submitted late, the public entity does receive a formal audit finding for a late report. As State Auditor, I work with the entity to get the audit report eventually submitted within 90 days of the submittal deadline. I use my professional judgement to determine the underlying causes of the late report and determine the best course of action to address the issues. This includes referring the entity to other agencies for additional actions and informing policy makers. When audit reports are chronically late, the OSA can step in as the auditor of last resort and directly assist the troubled entity to become financially compliant as was done for Mesalands Community College through annual and special audits.</p>	<p>The primary role of the State Auditor is to inform and notify. We do not investigate, with the exception of our Special Investigations Division which investigates and manages fraud, waste, and abuse (FWA) cases. My top three issues are to investigate and/or examine: 1) Incoming, anonymous, and credible FWA cases as we average one complaint per day with almost 300 currently active cases; 2) Public entities that are chronically late in audit report submittals and have a severe lack of internal controls resulting in an adverse audit opinion and findings; and 3) Annual financial reports considered high-risk from conservators managing financial assets for protected persons in coordination with the District court system often leading to an audit.</p>	<p>The primary role of the State Auditor is to inform and notify. We do not investigate, with the exception of our Special Investigations Division which investigates and manages fraud, waste, and abuse (FWA) cases. My top three issues are to investigate and/or examine: 1) Incoming, anonymous, and credible FWA cases as we average one complaint per day with almost 300 currently active cases; 2) Public entities that are chronically late in audit report submittals and have a severe lack of internal controls resulting in an adverse audit opinion and findings; and 3) Annual financial reports considered high-risk from conservators managing financial assets for protected persons in coordination with the District court system often leading to an audit.</p>
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STATE TREASURER

The State Treasurer heads an office with a wide range of financial responsibilities, including acting as the central bank for state agencies, managing the investment of many state funds, and issuing state bonds. The Treasurer also provides a detailed statement of the condition of the state treasury to the New Mexico Legislature. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What is your highest responsibility as State Treasurer?</i>	<i>How would you address your top priorities?</i>	<i>What criteria would you recommend for selecting financial institutions in which to invest state funds?</i>	<i>Explain your position on whether the Treasurer should recommend increasing investments in NM-based companies.</i>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



**James F
Ellison**

(write-in)

I hold the Chartered Financial Analysts designation, which is the gold standard of investment credentials. It signifies a strong foundation in securities analysis and portfolio management, and a commitment to ethics and professionalism in the investment industry.

This is not a job for a career politician — it's one for someone with proven investment credentials.

The highest responsibility of the State Treasurer is to safeguard and to responsibly grow the public funds entrusted to the state treasury office. The State Treasurer directly manages the \$20 billion state treasury portfolio, and serves on 13 boards, councils, and commissions which oversee \$160 in state funds.

I will advocate for putting unclaimed property administration with the State Treasury Office. The Taxation & Revenue Department is the wrong office, and it shows: we're holding \$390 million that belong to New Mexican families and businesses and returning less than 5 cents on every dollar. As your Treasurer, I'll fix that.

New Mexicans deserve to know how their money is performing. I will publish a clear, plain-English quarterly investment performance report on the Treasurer's website. Transparency isn't optional when managing \$20 billion of public funds.

I will use my seat on the board of the State Investment Council, as well as on other boards, to advocate for the responsible stewardship of state funds — not for political agendas.

To be clear, the state treasurer's office directly manages the state treasury's \$20 billion portfolio.

The question, then, is really what criteria I would recommend to other boards, such as the State Investment Council for selecting outside investment advisors. The SIC has a solid framework for selecting external advisors. There are some ways this can be improved, such as doing a better job of considering total costs rather than just headline management fees.

However, the bigger question is whether the ESG (environmental, social, and governance) policies that it requires managers to adhere to is a drag on investment returns. I would advocate for an implementation of this policy that does not result in a drag on returns.

In the state treasury's \$20 billion portfolio, there simply is no statutory authority to invest directly in New Mexico-based private companies. These investments are limited to high-quality, liquid fixed-income securities. Investing in New Mexico municipal and state-issued bonds, however, is something that the Treasurer can and does do.

The State Investment Council is where investing in New Mexico businesses can and does happen. There are statutory requirements for how much the SIC must invest in the NM Small Business Investment Corp. The key tension is that of fiduciary duty. I would advocate for in-state investment above and beyond what is required by statute only if these investments would not depress returns.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



**Laura M
Montoya**

I am qualified to continue serving as State Treasurer because I bring more than two decades of direct experience in public finance, treasury operations, and government leadership — and because I am already successfully performing the responsibilities of this office. My career has been built around safeguarding public funds, strengthening financial systems, and ensuring that New Mexicans can trust their government to manage their money responsibly.

As State Treasurer, I oversee the state's investment portfolio, cash flow, banking services, and financial compliance functions. My background uniquely prepared me for this work while also pushing financial fitness as a graduation requirement, baby bonds, and UNM/NMSU financial certification.

I swore an oath to be the state's fiduciary. A fiduciary must always act in the best interest of the funds. This is the highest ethical and legal obligation. My job is to provide safety, liquidity, and yield in that order. I pride myself in being accessible to the people and my job is to serve New Mexicans to the best of my ability even if it is not the most favored decisions I am required to make.

I have been addressing them, and we are ready to continue the work with your support. We are building a strong team to achieve our goals. We have made more money for the state and have the largest portfolio the state treasurer's office has ever had. We are holding the Trump administration accountable, especially when his orders negatively affect New Mexico.

If you are referring to working with banks to manage our cash deposits, we base the relationship on risk and compliance as well as their reporting, collateral requirements, and the rate they can provide. We are developing a new program that will allow me to work with our local banks at a lower rate, with the commitment that the local banks will do more to contribute to our communities in small business loans, mortgages, and small loans for community members.

My portfolio does not "invest in any companies." The State Treasurer's Office is the liquidity for the state and invests per 6-10-10 NMSA. I am on 13 boards, councils and commissions including the SIC, which is the second largest sovereign wealth fund in the country. We just updated our NM portfolio to make it more successful where we focus on rate of return and now encourage and hold fund managers accountable to work in or with NM when appropriate. There are a lot of amazing investments occurring in NM whether through SBIC, economic development, Housing NM, NMFA or our investment decisions.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Commissioner of Public Lands heads the State Land Office, which oversees the use, including the collection of rent, on 9 million acres of land and 13 million acres of mineral rights. New Mexico holds these lands in trust to support public schools, universities, hospitals, charitable purposes, and penitentiaries. Term: Four years limited to two consecutive terms.

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What are your top three priorities for the State Land Office (SLO)?</i>	<i>What are the greatest challenges facing the SLO?</i>	<i>How would you balance the oversight and protection of state trust lands with the need to generate revenue for the support of the beneficiaries (e.g., public schools, universities, etc.)?</i>	<i>What actions, if any, should the State Land Office take to facilitate the expansion of transmission infrastructure to allow further development of New Mexico's energy resources?</i>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Michael Jack Perry

I've spent my career working on the ground in New Mexico, managing and stewarding the very lands this office oversees. I served over 20 years with the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, rising to Major of Southern Field Operations, and later as Assistant Commissioner of State Lands, where I helped manage millions of acres of trust land. I also run a wildlife and habitat consulting business, working directly with ranchers and landowners. I understand how land, water, and resources support our communities, and I bring practical, real-world experience, not theory to this job.

First, maximize revenue for our beneficiaries, especially public schools through responsible energy development and sound land management.

Second, support working lands by improving communication with lessees, expanding responsible access, and protecting traditional uses like grazing, hunting, and firewood gathering.

Third, strengthen stewardship by improving forest and watershed management to reduce wildfire risk, protect water resources, and ensure long-term sustainability of our trust lands.

The biggest challenge is balancing increasing demand for revenue with responsible stewardship of the land. New Mexico relies heavily on trust land income to fund education, but we must also protect the long-term health of those lands. Other challenges include water scarcity, wildfire risk, access limitations, and ensuring fair and consistent policies across energy sectors. The SLO must also improve coordination with federal and local partners to better manage land, resources, and infrastructure.

The mission of the State Land Office is clear: generate revenue while protecting the long-term value of the land. Those goals are not in conflict when done right. Responsible energy development, well-managed grazing, and active land stewardship all contribute to both revenue and sustainability. I believe in a balanced, science-based approach that supports economic activity while ensuring proper reclamation, fair leasing practices, and long-term land health. If we manage the land well today, it will continue to provide for our schools and communities for generations.

The State Land Office should play a proactive role by ensuring leasing and permitting processes for transmission corridors are clear, efficient, and consistent. Transmission is critical to fully develop both traditional and renewable energy resources in New Mexico. I support coordinated planning with industry, utilities, and regulators to identify strategic corridors that minimize land impacts while maximizing access to markets. At the same time, we must ensure fair compensation to trust beneficiaries and maintain strong environmental and reclamation standards.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Matthew McQueen

My entire career has been dedicated to the type of work that the State Land Office does. I've been a real property attorney for over 30 years, specializing in land conservation but experienced in commercial development, affordable housing, mineral rights, water rights, you name it. I've served in the New Mexico Legislature for 12 years, and for the past 10 years I have chaired the House Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee. And I have a track record of success in the Legislature, including working to raise the royalty rate in the Permian Basin, protect the Gila River, block the importation and storage of high-level nuclear waste in New Mexico, and reform the Department of Game & Fish into a modern Department of Wildlife.

We need to diversify the revenue of the Land Office by pursuing more renewable projects (wind, solar, geothermal), commercial projects (on appropriate parcels), and affordable and workforce housing (again, on appropriate parcels). We can do all of that while protecting agricultural lands, conservation and cultural areas, and outdoor recreation. I will continue to hold the oil and gas industry accountable, as the current administration has done and as I have done in the Legislature. And I want to establish an in-house education advocate to work with the Public Education Department, the Legislature (including LESC and LFC), unions, and others in supporting, promoting, and protecting public education.

I plan to build the capacity of the Land Office. Even though the Land Office earns over \$2 Billion per year, it relies on the Legislature for its \$27 Million budget. My legislative experience will be integral to working with the House Appropriations Committee, Senate Finance Committee, and our next governor to invest in New Mexico by investing in the State Land Office. Additional in-house technical, legal, and environmental professionals will allow the State Land Office to produce more revenue for New Mexico's schools while protecting our treasured outdoor places. Nationally, our public lands, our public institutions, and our public schools are under attack. As Land Commissioner, I will fight to protect them.

The State Land Office holds 9 million surface acres (13 million mineral estate) in trust for all New Mexicans. There are areas that are appropriate for commercial or residential development; there are many other areas that are not. With so much land to work with (12% of the state), the Land Office can effectively earn money for the Land Grant Permanent Fund (which supports public schools, universities, and hospitals) while protecting agricultural lands, conservation and cultural areas, and outdoor recreation. I have expertise in all of these areas. Finally, in the Legislature I was a staunch advocate for ethics, transparency, and public process, and I will bring that advocacy with me to the Land Office.

In order to further develop renewable resources, we must also improve our transmission capacity, and that's why this year I sponsored and passed House Memorial 20 to create a "Renewable Energy Infrastructure Study Group" with public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders. The Study Group is tasked with developing ideas to create an approval process that is "swift, certain and fair; reasonably safeguards land, water, wildlife and scenic resources; and ensures meaningful public participation and appropriate judicial oversight." That will be a challenging task, but, pursuant to the memorial, the State Land Office will have a seat at the table.



Jonas Moya

I'm running for Commissioner of Public Lands because I've spent my life working on the land and my career managing programs that support farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

Our state trust lands fund our public schools and institutions, and they deserve steady, experienced leadership. I bring both real-world land experience as a rancher and management experience from leading the USDA Farm Service Agency in New Mexico.

This office is all about responsible stewardship. I aim to balance conservation efforts with economic opportunities, ensuring our lands remain vibrant and supportive for future generations.

My top priorities are strengthening revenue for our schools, supporting responsible energy development, and protecting the long-term health of our land.

That means continuing to generate strong returns from oil and gas while also expanding opportunities in renewable energy, conservation leasing, and outdoor recreation.

I also want to ensure that rural communities benefit from the lands around them through jobs, access, and economic development.


The State Land Office faces the challenge of balancing strong revenue generation for our schools with responsible stewardship of our land. Oil and gas revenues remain critical to funding education, but markets are volatile, and we need to ensure long-term stability.

Another major challenge is diversifying revenue by expanding renewable energy, conservation leasing, and other opportunities, while maintaining working lands for ranchers and rural communities.

We also face increasing pressure from drought, wildfire risk, and climate impacts, which require proactive land management and strong partnerships with local stakeholders.

The State Land Office must do both: protect our land and generate strong, consistent revenue for our schools and institutions. Those goals work together when managed well. I would ensure all development. Oil and gas, renewable energy, and other uses are done responsibly, with clear standards that protect the long-term health of the land. At the same time, we must maximize returns through competitive leasing, strong oversight, and accountability. Diversifying revenue is key. By expanding renewable energy, conservation leasing, and recreation, we can reduce risk and build more stable, long-term funding. My focus is on delivering for today's beneficiaries while protecting our lands for future generations.

The State Land Office should play a proactive role in facilitating responsible transmission development. That means streamlining permitting on state trust lands, coordinating with utilities and developers, and ensuring projects are sited in a way that minimizes impacts to working lands and natural resources. Expanding transmission is essential to unlocking both renewable energy and continued responsible oil and gas development, which support our schools and economy. At the same time, we must ensure fair returns for trust beneficiaries through well-structured easements and leases. With the right balance, we can modernize our infrastructure, strengthen our energy economy, and protect the long-term value of our lands.

	What qualifies you for this office?	What are your top three priorities for the State Land Office (SLO)?	What are the greatest challenges facing the SLO?	How would you balance the oversight and protection of state trust lands with the need to generate revenue for the support of the beneficiaries (e.g., public schools, universities, etc.)?	What actions, if any, should the State Land Office take to facilitate the expansion of transmission infrastructure to allow further development of New Mexico's energy resources?
 <p>Juan De Jesus Sanchez III</p>	<p>I'm a 13th-generation New Mexican who grew up working in a ranching family in Valencia and Socorro counties, where I learned firsthand the importance of land and water stewardship. Professionally, I've worked as a Natural Resource Specialist and Ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and as a technical assistant for the New Mexico Acequia Commission, supporting conservation and traditional water systems. I also served as Political Director for U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich, working on land, energy, and public policy. I bring lived experience, professional expertise, and a deep commitment to protecting our lands while delivering for our schools and communities.</p>	<p>-Growing and diversifying revenue for public schools and institutions by expanding renewable energy, the outdoor economy, and long-term tools like conservation leases. While holding Oil and Gas; and all those who use our lands to the high standards.</p> <p>- Protect and preserve our state trust lands for future generations.</p> <p>- Increasing access to our lands, including expanding responsible recreation opportunities, while respecting cultural sites and traditional uses. We can generate revenue and protect what makes New Mexico special at the same time.</p>	<p>The greatest challenge is balancing revenue generation with long-term stewardship. State trust lands fund our public schools and institutions, but they must also be protected for future generations. That balance is becoming more difficult as we face increasing pressure from climate change, prolonged drought, and water scarcity, alongside growing demand for development on public lands. The State Land Office must take a long-term approach that ensures responsible use today while sustaining the health, productivity, and cultural value of these lands for generations to come.</p>	<p>These goals go hand in hand. Responsible stewardship ensures our lands remain productive over the long term. I would prioritize diversified revenue streams, including renewable energy, conservation leasing, and recreation, alongside responsible traditional development. Strong oversight, clear standards, and accountability are key. By taking a long-term approach, we can protect our lands, respect cultural values, and generate stable funding for schools and other beneficiaries.</p>	<p>The State Land Office should play a proactive role in facilitating responsible transmission development by leasing appropriate state lands and coordinating with federal, local, and tribal partners. Expanding transmission is critical to unlocking New Mexico's renewable energy potential and growing revenue for our schools. At the same time, projects must be carefully sited to avoid impacts to sensitive landscapes, wildlife, and cultural resources. Done right, transmission can strengthen our economy while protecting what makes our state unique.</p>



NEW MEXICO STATE DISTRICT OFFICES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

State Representatives sit in the New Mexico House of Representatives, which is the lower house of New Mexico. Representatives introduce and vote on proposed laws, serve on legislative committees, and participate in hearings, floor debates, fact-finding and investigations. They also may assist constituents with issues and problems the constituents may have with government agencies within New Mexico. Term: Two years; no term limits.

What qualifies you for this office?	How would you address your highest priorities?	How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?	What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?	What more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 32

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Jenifer Marie Jones	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Laura Mairel Parra</p>	<p>I bring lived experience, professional expertise, and public service leadership to this role. I currently serve as Mayor Pro Tem and City Councilor for District 2 in Deming, where I work on infrastructure, economic development, and community needs at the local level. I am a social worker supporting individuals facing addiction, trauma, and systemic barriers, and a longtime community organizer advocating for farmworkers, youth, and rural families. As a former educator and first-generation Latina raised in a working-class immigrant family, I understand the challenges many residents face and am prepared to advocate for practical, community-driven solutions at the state level.</p>	<p>My priorities are strengthening public education, expanding economic opportunity, improving healthcare access, and protecting working families. I will work collaboratively across local governments, labor, educators, and small businesses to pass policies that invest in schools, support workforce development, and diversify rural economies. I believe effective leadership means listening first, using data and community input to guide decisions, and ensuring state resources reach rural communities like ours. I will focus on solutions that improve quality of life while keeping families in District 32 able to live, work, and thrive locally.</p>	<p>Water security is one of New Mexico's most urgent challenges. The Legislature must invest in long-term water planning, conservation infrastructure, and modernization of aging systems, particularly in rural communities. We must support agricultural sustainability through efficient irrigation, groundwater protection, and regional collaboration while encouraging responsible economic development that respects water limitations. State policy should prioritize conservation, reuse technologies, watershed protection, and science-based planning to ensure future generations have reliable water access while protecting our agricultural heritage and environment.</p>	<p>Economic development projects should create sustainable, high-quality jobs, respect local infrastructure capacity, and provide long-term benefits to communities. Projects must demonstrate responsible water use, environmental stewardship, workforce development opportunities, and fair wages. Transparency, community input, and measurable local economic impact should guide decision-making. Incentives should prioritize projects that diversify rural economies, support small businesses, and build lasting economic stability rather than short-term gains that strain local resources.</p>	<p>Rural communities face significant barriers to healthcare access, including provider shortages, transportation challenges, and behavioral health gaps. The Legislature should expand rural workforce incentives, support telehealth infrastructure, and invest in community-based behavioral health and substance use treatment services. Strengthening Medicaid access, supporting local clinics, and integrating mental health services into primary care are critical steps. As a social worker, I have seen the impact of limited access firsthand, and I will advocate for solutions that ensure residents can receive care close to home.</p>
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What qualifies you for this office?

How would you address your highest priorities?

How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?

What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?

What more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 33

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Enrique Kiki Vigil

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Micaela Lara Cadena

Since 2018, it's been an honor to serve as a State Representative. Before running for office, I was an organizer, an advocate, and a state employee; I showed up in the Capitol to bring meaningful change in educational access, healthcare, and criminal legal reform. I was an effective change maker from the outside, and those lessons deeply inform how I get things done as a legislator. As the Vice-Chair of the House Tax committee, I know that the money we raise and the budgets we build are moral documents. Since first elected, I've been a working parent and one of a few legislators with kids in our public schools. It's incredibly important that our body includes people who will both understand and feel the impacts of the decisions we make.

I look forward to working with the State Ethics Commission in addressing gaps in New Mexico law that allow legislators to take votes in their own direct financial interests. Based on the New Mexico Governmental Conduct Act, when elected officials in every other elected body (i.e., county commissioners, school board members, etc) take the same kinds of votes, they can be criminally charged. New Mexicans deserve a legislature that shows up for constituents, not for their own bank accounts.

I'm proud to be a longstanding member of the House Water, Agriculture and Acequias Committee. In this space, I singularly speak to the dire water realities of the Lower Rio Grande Basin and the Elephant Butte Irrigation District. Over years, I'm proud to continue leveraging important and influential relationships with the Interstate Stream Commission and the Office of State Engineer to ensure our southern NM voices have a say in our state's shared water futures. As we await a decision by the US Supreme Court on the Texas v. New Mexico case, it will be essential for the state legislature to oversee New Mexico's implementation of the settlement (including the permanent retirement of 6-7% of groundwater use).

We should always consider: economic development at what cost? Too often, New Mexico communities are treated as sacrifice zones. Our people hold the harms of heavy emissions and environmental degradation to generate wealth for corporations and their shareholders.

In this race, the contested Democratic primary is about Project Jupiter (proposed AI Data Center). From the beginning, I've shown up with questions and demanded answers. Yet, the more we learn about Project Jupiter, the dirtier it gets. From backroom deals to dishonest statewide propaganda campaigns to funding an opponent to run against me, it would seem that the cards are stacked against us. Yet, I believe in the power of the people; I know this fight is far from over.

Trust providers. Follow their lead in creating a landscape where they, their families and their practices can thrive.



Ramona Jean Martinez

I've lived the challenges people in this community are facing—as a single mom, a small business owner, and someone who understands what it takes to work hard and make tough decisions. Professionally, I've spent my career helping people navigate the justice system and working within government, so I understand how policies impact real people. I've worked at every level—from private practice to senior leadership—advising on policy and improving how government serves people. I was raised in rural New Mexico in a family of ranchers and educators, and those values—hard work, community, and remembering where you come from—are what drive me. I want people to have the same fair shot I was given.

Families in Doña Ana County are feeling the pressure of rising costs, and too many still struggle to access healthcare and behavioral health services close to home. I would focus on practical solutions—bringing down the cost of housing, utilities, and healthcare, expanding access to local providers, and investing in behavioral health services, including treatment and early intervention. We also have incredible assets like DACC and NMSU and real opportunities to build a strong workforce. We need to invest in apprenticeships, trades, and STEM pathways—and make sure good, stable jobs exist when that training is complete.

Water is critical to our future, especially in southern New Mexico where our farmers, ranchers, and communities depend on it. The Legislature must take a practical, long-term approach—protecting our acequias and water rights, investing in infrastructure to reduce waste, and supporting conservation and reuse efforts. We also need to plan for responsible growth, making sure development does not outpace our water supply. That means using data, working with local stakeholders, and respecting the unique needs of regions like Doña Ana County. Protecting our water is about preserving our way of life while making smart decisions for the future.

Large economic development projects should be evaluated based on whether they deliver real, long-term benefits to the communities they serve. That includes creating good-paying jobs, strengthening the local workforce, and supporting sustainable economic growth.

We also need to consider water use, infrastructure impact, and whether the project aligns with our long-term resources—especially in an arid state like New Mexico. Transparency and accountability are critical, particularly when public funds or incentives are involved. Projects should reflect the needs and values of local communities, including places like Doña Ana County, and contribute to a stronger, more resilient economy.


In Doña Ana County, access isn't just about primary care—it's about timely access to specialists and behavioral health services. Too many residents still face long wait times or have to travel outside the area for specialized care. We should focus on recruiting and retaining specialists, and strengthening local programs at DACC, NMSU, and the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine that train and keep providers in our community. We also need to expand behavioral health services and improve coordination between providers so care is easier to navigate. Access means making sure people can get the right care, at the right time, close to home.


STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 34

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?</i>	<i>What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?</i>	<i>What more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?</i>
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Juan A Fuentes</p>	<p>I bring 27 years in local government, serving communities across southern New Mexico, including as a City Manager, where I worked on addressing real challenges, improving infrastructure, managing public budgets, and ensuring our communities have the resources they need to grow and succeed.</p>	<p>One of my priority issues is affordability. Rising healthcare costs, higher fuel prices, inflation on everyday essentials, and stagnant wages are placing real financial pressure on families, businesses, and communities across our state. Families are having to make difficult choices, businesses are adjusting prices to keep up with costs, and even the state is facing higher expenses for infrastructure and capital projects.</p> <p>Addressing affordability requires both immediate relief and long-term solutions. If elected, one of my top priorities will be to work with the Governor's Office and legislative leadership to provide financial relief to New Mexicans—through targeted rebates or reducing the state income tax.</p>	<p>Addressing future water needs in an increasingly arid state requires both sound science and strategic investment. The Legislature should prioritize funding for comprehensive hydrology studies to better understand water availability, usage, and long-term sustainability across New Mexico. These studies will provide the data needed to make informed, responsible decisions.</p> <p>At the same time, we must invest in practical solutions. This includes supporting local governments and communities in developing infrastructure to treat non-potable water and expand wastewater reuse for non-consumptive purposes such as agriculture, landscaping, and industrial use.</p>	<p>When considering large economic development projects, the Legislature should apply clear, practical criteria to ensure long-term benefits for our communities. First, projects should create good-paying jobs and provide real economic opportunity for local residents. Second, they must be supported by adequate infrastructure, including safe roads, reliable water and wastewater systems, and other essential services needed to sustain growth.</p> <p>In a rapidly growing, tri-state region like District 34, we must remain competitive in attracting businesses while ensuring that growth is responsible and sustainable. Economic development should strengthen our local economy and deliver benefits to the community.</p>	<p>Ensuring access to healthcare in District 34 requires a practical, regional approach. While our district is near major medical facilities in El Paso, access within New Mexico remains limited, with the nearest in-state hospital located in Las Cruces—over 30 miles away for many residents.</p> <p>We should focus on strengthening local access by supporting existing providers and creating incentives for Las Cruces-based healthcare systems to expand into our region through satellite clinics or regional care facilities. This would bring services closer to residents and reduce travel barriers.</p> <p>Additionally, we should invest in dedicated medical transportation services to connect residents with healthcare providers in Las Cruces for scheduled care.</p>
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 <p>Raymundo Lara</p>	<p>I've served as State Representative for House District 34 since being elected in 2018 and bring nearly two decades of experience in public education with Gadsden ISD. I currently serve in a House leadership role and on committees focused on education, infrastructure, and economic development. I'm deeply rooted in this region and understand the needs of our border and rural communities. My approach is collaborative and focused on delivering real results that improve quality of life for families across southern Doña Ana County.</p>	<p>My priorities are improving quality of life, strengthening infrastructure, supporting education, and growing our economy. I focus on securing funding for critical projects like water, roads, and quality of life projects, while supporting teachers and expanding educational opportunities for our students. I work to align workforce development with industry needs to attract good-paying jobs. Collaboration is key, I partner with local, state, and federal entities to maximize resources and ensure long-term, sustainable growth.</p>	<p>We are already in a severe drought, with declining snowpack and limited rainfall, making this a current crisis. The Legislature must prioritize conservation, modernize infrastructure, and invest in solutions like aquifer recharge, reuse, and stormwater capture. We must also account for legal obligations under Texas v. New Mexico, which place additional pressure on our limited supply. That makes long-term planning and regional coordination even more critical. Every policy decision must reflect that our water is scarce and legally constrained.</p>	<p>The state and local governments have different roles, but local governments are the primary decision-makers because companies typically approach them first. Counties and municipalities evaluate land use, zoning, infrastructure capacity, and community fit. They are closest to residents and best positioned to determine if a project aligns with local priorities. The state's role is broader, setting policy, offering incentives, and ensuring accountability. Successful projects require alignment with local decisions.</p>	<p>Access to health care in our district is shaped by our proximity to Texas, where many residents already seek care across state lines. We should strengthen coordination with regional providers while continuing to expand services on our side of the border. That means recruiting and retaining providers, investing in local urgent care, primary care, and diagnostic services, and improving affordability. Telehealth can also help bridge gaps. A regional approach is key to improving outcomes in border communities.</p>
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 35


THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

<p>Angelica Rubio</p>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 36

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Julia E Ruiz</p>	<p>I'm qualified to represent District 36 because I live (work and play) the same life as the people I'm asking to represent. I'm a working parent, a neighbor, and someone who understands the challenges families in Las Cruces face every day—from rising costs to access to healthcare.</p> <p>I'm also a naturalized citizen, and my family's journey taught me the value of hard work, responsibility, and opportunity. I'm not a career politician—I'm someone who believes government should be accountable, transparent, and focused on the people.</p> <p>What qualifies me most is that I will listen, I will show up, and I will fight for the community—not special interests.</p>	<p>The highest priorities in District 36 are clear: healthcare, cost of living, education, and public safety. I plan to address them by focusing on real, practical solutions—not politics as usual.</p> <p>That means expanding access to healthcare so families can actually see a doctor when they need one. It means easing the cost of living by supporting local jobs and cutting wasteful spending. It means putting parents back at the center of education and making sure our schools are focused on results. And it means safer communities by supporting law enforcement and addressing issues like addiction and mental health. I'll bring accountability to government—because if we're not spending wisely and</p>	<p>Water is one of the most urgent challenges facing New Mexico. In an increasingly arid state, we have to treat water like the limited resource it is—protect it, manage it wisely, and plan for the future now.</p>	<p>Economic development is important, but not every project is a good deal. We have a responsibility to make sure any major project truly benefits the people of District 36—not just outside investors or special interests.</p>	<p>Too many families are waiting too long or traveling too far just to see a doctor. We need to bring more providers into southern New Mexico by expanding incentives and building partnerships that encourage doctors and nurses to practice here.</p> <p>We need to invest more in mental health and addiction treatment.</p> <p>Finally, we have to reduce bureaucracy and make healthcare more affordable. My goal is to make healthcare more accessible, more efficient, and more responsive to the people who need it.</p>
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<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?</i>	<i>What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?</i>	<i>What more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?</i>
	listening to the people, none of these problems get solved			

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Nathan P Small

It's been an honor to represent you in the NM State House serving District 36. I want to work with each and every one of you to continue bringing more jobs to our district, conserving our natural resources, and investing in our future together.

I'm a lifelong outdoorsman and I have a passion for public service. I was elected to the Las Cruces City Council in 2007, where I led the effort to create the City of Las Cruces Sustainability Officer and to focus on economic development and care for existing neighborhoods. I have served Las Cruces in the State Legislature since 2016.

Now I serve as Chair of the House Budget Committee, where I'm focused on making our state budget work for our working families.

As Chair of the House Budget Committee, my highest priority is ensuring our state budget acts as a bridge to a more resilient and prosperous future for every New Mexican. A budget is more than just numbers, it's a moral document that outlines our state's commitment to education, opportunity, conservation, & healthcare. Here are some of the priorities I've championed: -Provided over \$100 million for public safety - Added \$500 million for public schools -Cut gross receipts tax - Eliminated tax on Social Security -Dedicated \$70 million for public lands -Increased working families and child tax credits -Provided millions to first-time homebuyers for down payments -Invested over \$500 million for clean water -Record clean energy investments

We need to increase drought response measures that conserve water for farms and families while tapping new water sources through treatment and innovation. I have led the largest funding investments for wetlands protection, river stewardship, watershed restoration and nature based solutions while also supporting large scale agricultural water savings efforts and water reuse and treatment research.

I evaluate large-scale economic development projects based on long-term sustainability and return on investment for New Mexico's working families. Projects must guarantee high-quality job creation with competitive wages and benefits. We must ensure strict resource stewardship, verifying that a project's water footprint does not compromise our future. I have led development of our clean energy resources. Large economic development projects should utilize clean energy resources and pay for their power. Ultimately, I look for a net positive fiscal impact where long-term tax revenue outweighs public investment, alongside deep community integration through local hiring and partnerships with our community colleges.

It's a priority to reduce healthcare premiums and prescription drug prices; protect individuals with pre-existing conditions; and recruit new doctors, nurses, and dentists to Southern New Mexico. Last session we did a lot to address barriers to healthcare services in NM by creating incentives for Doctors to stay and practice in NM. We addressed medical malpractice and we passed state compacts. We should see the benefit of these legislative interventions soon.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 37

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Isabella Solis

I am a US citizen and over 18 years of age. I am a graduate of NSU, a former FEMA employee, a former Dona Ana County Commissioner, a community leader, and a lifelong advocate for working families in southern New Mexico. On the county commission, I spearheaded major infrastructure improvements and helped establish the region's Crisis Triage Center.

I would actively sponsor and champion legislation to fight for public safety, better roads, expanded healthcare access, and an education system that actually puts students first. Las Cruces deserves leadership that's accountable to the people, not to Santa Fe politics. I believe I can meaningfully engage with my fellow legislators in the committee process to move legislation forward, since that is where the real shaping of legislation happens.

To secure our future water needs in an arid state, we must advocate for legislation that embraces a comprehensive strategy focused on robust infrastructure development and effective groundwater management. This proactive approach is essential to ensuring the sustainability and resilience of our water resources.

Economic development projects must be evaluated for their effectiveness. It is essential to demonstrate fiscal accountability to show that the project or its associated incentives are necessary. We should assess the long-term impacts and risks to the community. Furthermore, we need to determine whether the project aligns with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and the community or county's local infrastructure plans. Securing adequate funding, especially for rural communities, is crucial, and it is important to hold regular community input meetings.

One of the biggest problems in New Mexico is the Medical Malpractice laws, pushed by the trial lawyer lobby, that have strangled medical professionals in NM and forced them to leave the state. We are facing a crisis of healthcare access due to a lack of providers. We need to advocate for reforms to the medical malpractice system to create a more affordable practice environment to help retain physicians who might otherwise leave for states with lower insurance premiums, and we need to find ways to bring back the doctors who have left. New Mexico has the highest per capita medical malpractice payout rate of any state in the United States. The medical malpractice insurance premiums are about twice as high in New Mexico as in other states,

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Lori A Martinez

As a social worker with 23 years experience serving my community, I understand the needs of Las Cruces. I have a wealth of experience from working in early childhood, with individuals who have developmental disabilities, mental health counseling, case management, program development, hunger/food insecurity, inpatient psychiatric services, and suicide prevention/intervention.

I've done legislative advocacy & policy work for years, fighting for fair wages for early childhood educators, paid family medical leave, & internship opportunities for high school students. I've done much of this work in coalitions, which included restoring half a billion dollars in transformative education funding following the

My priorities are:
 1) Healthcare for all through a single payer system
 2) Continue being a champion for working families through advocacy and policy work for fair wages, safe working conditions, & paid family medical leave
 3) A high quality & effective education system, starting in early childhood. With universal child care, we must address the shortage of infant/toddler educators through funding & implementation of an early childhood educator wage & career ladder. New Mexico loses over \$586 million/year in economic impact due to the shortage. We need to make large investments in high school internship opportunities, which include mentorship & are highly

1) New Mexico needs to develop a comprehensive strategy around reducing demand, increasing supply, & developing technologies (such as desalination). Requiring agricultural upgrades such as drip irrigation & precision soil-water sensors that reduce use by 70-80%. Economic incentives to encourage xeriscaping, use of water-efficient appliances, & responsible practices will also help reduce use.
 2) AI data centers like Project Jupiter need intensive scrutiny with clear guardrails to protect community resources before being approved. I would support a moratorium on AI data centers until the federal and state guardrails to protect communities are put in place, along with clarity regarding


1) The projected economic impact & specificity regarding what the numbers are based on. For projected job growth, how many short-term/long-term jobs, & how many jobs will go to New Mexicans?
 2) Environmental impact on land, air, water. Project emissions need to be held to the greenhouse gas reduction targets set forth in state law.
 3) Community engagement that captures the concerns and desires of the people most affected by the project
 4) Meaningful community benefit agreements with specific benchmarks that projects are held to, & enforceable clawback provisions if the project developers don't keep their promises.

1) We have options for addressing provider shortages: funding residencies, housing stipends & loan forgiveness programs.
 2) We need serious investments in "grow your own" initiatives that have clear career pathways demonstrating the education & hands-on experiences necessary to succeed in various healthcare fields, and then make sure students have access to those, along with mentorship and enough support to be successful.
 3) In the legislature, we need to finish the interstate compact work that was started in 2026 so that providers from other states can practice in New Mexico.
 4) We need to address the lapse in quality of care that occurs when our largest healthcare


	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>How would you address your highest priorities?</i>	<i>How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?</i>	<i>What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?</i>	<i>What more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?</i>
	Martinez Yazzie education lawsuit.	effective experiences. Student engagement & graduation rates soar when we do this.	environmental impact, job creation & electricity costs.	5) Transparency standards, including what information communities & lawmakers must have access to before decisions are made.	systems are owned by private equity. NM needs universal healthcare.
 <p data-bbox="109 709 338 795">Matilda McCarthy Villalobos</p>	<p data-bbox="424 352 716 997">I am qualified because my life and career are defined by stepping up and fighting back to protect people when it matters most. I became a mom at 17 and relied on public assistance, which allowed me to college and law school and to build a stable future. I spent most of my career as a federal prosecutor in Las Cruces, taking on child exploitation, sexual abuse, civil rights, and abuse of power cases. After Trump took office, I left the U.S. Attorney's Office and now fight his policies in federal court every day, representing people who cannot afford an attorney, most charged in immigration cases. I have stood up to Trump's agenda and won. I have the experience, grit, and record to protect New Mexicans and deliver results.</p>	<p data-bbox="745 352 1037 970">My top priority is tackling the affordability crisis with real solutions that put money back in people's pockets. I will expand the Child Tax Credit to support working families and ensure far more affordable housing exists for New Mexicans. I will also work to end taxes on Social Security distributions so seniors can keep the benefits they rely on, which do not keep up with rising costs. As energy costs rise, I will return excess state revenues from higher gas prices directly to New Mexicans. I will take on corporate price gouging, including predatory algorithmic pricing, pass strong consumer protections, stand with unions to raise wages, and invest in small businesses and workforce development.</p>	<p data-bbox="1066 352 1358 970">Water is foundational in New Mexico, and in an increasingly arid state we must protect it for the long term. I will work to make New Mexico a leader in water technology by investing in research and partnering with our universities and labs. We must pair innovation with strong protections. Large industries cannot be allowed to deplete our water without accountability. I will support enforceable standards to ensure responsible, sustainable use. We also need science-based planning that accounts for drought and aquifer stress, stronger conservation, and infrastructure upgrades. Access to safe, reliable water must be protected for all communities, especially those already facing water insecurity.</p>	<p data-bbox="1388 352 1680 943">Large economic projects must be evaluated on whether they truly benefit New Mexicans, not just out-of-state corporations. We need enforceable standards that protect our water, environment, and long-term sustainability. Any project must create good-paying, union jobs for New Mexicans with strong labor protections and real accountability if promises are not met. But we cannot build our economy around outside corporations alone. Small businesses are the backbone of our communities, and we must aggressively invest in them by expanding access to capital and supporting local workforce development. Economic growth should be rooted in our communities and built to last.</p>	<p data-bbox="1709 352 2001 997">We must expand access by lowering costs and strengthening the workforce. I support a public option health insurance plan for all New Mexicans with higher reimbursement rates for medical providers, fewer denials, and faster payments. We must expand state-run facilities, including a UNM Health presence in Las Cruces. We must pass remaining health compacts, create centralized credentialing, expand loan forgiveness, increase rural tax credits, and grow residency slots. We must build a pipeline through education and work-based learning. I support removing GRT on medical services. I also support unionizing nurses and residents to improve pay, staffing, and retention.</p>

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 38

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p data-bbox="109 1513 224 1599">Rebecca Dow</p>	<p data-bbox="424 1145 716 1319">My qualifications are rooted in my experience working directly with the communities I represent & understanding how decisions made in Santa Fe affect daily life across our region.</p> <p data-bbox="424 1333 716 1696">Before serving in the NM House of Representatives, I led nonprofit organizations that worked with vulnerable families, individuals, and people navigating the gaps in our early childhood, healthcare and social service systems. That experience gave me a ground-level view of how policy either helps or fails real people—especially in rural communities where resources are limited.</p> <p data-bbox="424 1709 716 1860">This district requires practical leadership. I've worked across communities, navigated minority-party dynamics, and stayed focused on results that reflect local needs.</p>	<p data-bbox="745 1145 1037 1507">Water security and agriculture are critical for rural areas, while cost of living, healthcare access, and housing affect families and retirees district-wide. Economic development and job opportunities remain key, especially for those commuting or working locally. Public safety and education also consistently rank high. Voters expect practical solutions that reflect both rural and growing community needs.</p>	<p data-bbox="1066 1145 1358 1655">NM must take a comprehensive approach to water. That means protecting and maximizing traditional sources like the Rio Grande, while investing in conservation and infrastructure. It also requires forest thinning, watershed restoration, and vegetation management to improve runoff and long-term supply. At the same time, we must not leave our largest untapped sources off the table—nontraditional water like brackish groundwater and produced water. With proper treatment and safeguards, these can expand supply and reduce pressure on freshwater resources.</p>	<p data-bbox="1388 1145 1680 1481">Regarding large economic development projects, the legislature should apply clear, consistent criteria: long-term return on investment, quality job creation, impact on local communities, infrastructure demands, & alignment with our water & natural resource constraints. Projects should be transparent, accountable, and deliver broad public benefit, not just short-term wins.</p> <p data-bbox="1388 1494 1680 1830">I'm skeptical of an RFP process where a limited few decide winners & losers. Instead, with NM holding over \$55 billion in reserves, we should focus on structural reform—modernizing the tax code to support small businesses, encourage startups, & drive organic growth. That approach reaches all 33 counties, not just select projects, & builds a more durable, statewide economy</p>	<p data-bbox="1709 1145 2001 1561">NM needs to focus on lowering costs and increasing real choice. Overregulation has contributed to a system where care is often unaffordable without heavy subsidies. We should push for clear, transparent pricing, reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers that limit providers, and expand options that encourage competition and cost control. The goal should be a system where residents can actually afford care without relying solely on subsidized programs.</p>
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p data-bbox="109 2265 247 2352">David L. Mooney (write-in)</p>	<p data-bbox="424 1951 716 2314">I bring over eight years of experience as an Organizer, Activist, and Field Director, including work within New Mexico's state legislature. I've worked directly with communities across the state, helping turn their concerns into action and policy. That experience has given me a clear understanding of how to navigate the legislative process and build coalitions to get results.</p>	<p data-bbox="745 1951 1037 2341">My priorities are water security, lobbying transparency, and access to healthcare because they directly impact families in our district. I will address these by working with lawmakers, stakeholders, and community leaders who share these goals. That means advancing responsible water policy, strengthening transparency so the public knows who is influencing decisions, and expanding access to affordable healthcare.</p>	<p data-bbox="1066 1951 1358 2341">New Mexico must take a responsible, long-term approach to water management. Any new water use should be offset by at least 100% so we do not deplete our limited resources. We must also protect critical areas like our bosque, which play an important role in our ecosystem and water health. Sustainable growth depends on balancing economic needs with protecting our water for future generations.</p>	<p data-bbox="1388 1951 1680 2368">Projects should be evaluated based on whether they protect our water, land, and air. Economic development must create real opportunities for local residents, not just create profits for out-of-state shareholders. That means prioritizing good-paying local jobs, our health and wellness, and long-term community benefit. Growth is important, but it must be responsible, transparent, and focused on strengthening our local economy.</p>	<p data-bbox="1709 1951 2001 2489">Access to healthcare, especially in rural areas, is one of our biggest challenges. With ongoing attacks at the federal level threatening rural healthcare, I will fight to ensure New Mexico continues to prioritize access in our communities. The New Mexico Legislature has made real progress, delivering billions in Medicaid funding, investing in rural healthcare expansion, strengthening oversight of hospital ownership, and improving maternal care. But there's more to do. I will work to expand our healthcare workforce, lower costs, and ensure every family can access timely, affordable care.</p>
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What qualifies you for this office?

How would you address your highest priorities?

How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?

What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?

What more can be done to ensure that residents have adequate access to health care in your district?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 52

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Doreen Yvonne Gallegos

I have had the honor of serving the people of my district in the New Mexico Legislature, where I've built a track record of delivering real results for working families. My experience includes advancing policies that expand access to healthcare, support small businesses, and strengthen our workforce. I am most proud of the work I've led to make New Mexico a national leader in access to early childhood education. We now have an Early Childhood Trust Fund that can pay for childcare and early education in perpetuity. My commitment has always been to listen to constituents and ensure their voices are reflected in the decisions made at the Roundhouse.

My highest priorities are to educate families about our new free childcare program, increase economic stability and access to healthcare, and strengthen our public school system. To address these, I focus on passing targeted legislation, securing funding for critical programs, and working in partnership with local leaders and stakeholders.

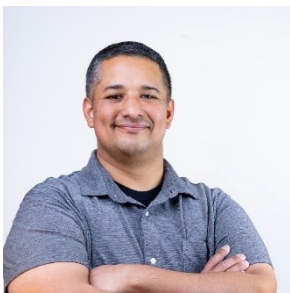
Water is one of the most critical issues facing New Mexico, and we must take a proactive, long-term approach. This includes investing in water infrastructure, promoting conservation and reuse, and supporting regional collaboration to manage limited resources more effectively. We also need to ensure that our policies protect both agricultural users and growing communities, while incorporating science-based planning to address the impacts of climate change. Sustainable water management will require coordination across state agencies, local governments, and stakeholders to ensure we are protecting this resource for future generations.

When evaluating large economic development projects, we must ensure they provide clear and lasting benefits to our communities. This includes good-paying jobs, opportunities for local hiring, long-term economic sustainability, and protection of our climate and water.

We need to continue investing in healthcare workforce development to address provider shortages, particularly in rural and underserved areas. I was proud to support several telehealth bills, opening up doctors from out of state to help New Mexico patients, and a compromise on the state's controversial Medical Malpractice bill, finally resolving a years-old impasse. Additionally, we must strengthen partnerships between the state, healthcare providers, and educational institutions to build a pipeline of local professionals who can serve their communities. Everyone deserves access to quality, affordable healthcare, and I remain committed to advancing policies that make that a reality.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 53

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:



Ben Luna Jr

I've Represented my state and many industry owners before having a state representative role. I will gladly continue to represent business owners, working families, retirees, veterans and students within our communities, as your new State Representative of House District 53.

Bail reform passed in 2016 by the majority and HJR2 was dismissed in 2026 in committee, which would have ended catch and release.

Medical Malpractice was forced by the majority in 2019 and wasn't reformed until 2026 after damage was already done.

Stopping bad policy before it's passed in committee or legislative sessions is a must.

It shouldn't take years of damage to New Mexico families and businesses to get a response from the Majority Party to fix what they broke.

Rio Rancho is a great model of recycling water back into the water supply allowing for natural filtration and sustainable water strategies. I would push for the same strategy to help with water needs.

The concerns of our constituents who live in the area should be priority and how the community will benefit from the project.

Now that Medical Malpractice Reform has been passed, the state needs to win back the trust of doctors and healthcare professionals. 7 years of Medical Malpractice hurting our state doesn't fix overnight.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Sarah Angelina Silva

I have 20 years of experience working to protect and expand the ability for people to live full lives. In my first term I successfully passed legislation to reform medical malpractice, hold lobbyists more accountable and invest millions in critical infrastructure for our communities. I've demonstrated thoughtful, responsive and effective leadership both locally and in Santa Fe.

I've chosen to make my life in Las Cruces. I was born and raised in the colonia of Vado. Read more about me at www.newmexicansforsarah.com and follow me on social media.

I address the issues and priorities of House District 53 by building relationships with both the people directly impacted and those with the greatest influence. My policy work is grounded in the stories, needs, and experiences of the communities I represent. I focus on building the kind of collective power that can negotiate with — and compel — other power holders to move our priorities forward and resolve community concerns.

I consult formal and informal experts to understand the challenges we face and identify possible solutions. Throughout this process, I am committed to bringing people along so that constituents are active participants in finding those solutions, not just the subjects of them.

There are no easy fixes. We need leaders who help communities make hard decisions about water allocation and have honest conversations about the future of farming, growing cities, and economic development. The upcoming Lower Rio Grande settlement with Texas, if accepted by the Supreme Court, will require the state to retire 18,240 acre feet of water. I'm encouraged that our State Engineer is prioritizing community input on purchasing and retiring water rights in our region. Our investments in aquifer mapping are critical to understanding what we have underground so we can plan accordingly. Investing in public infrastructure: desalination plants, rebuilt water systems in places like Sunland Park will also be necessary.

I assess policy recommendations through three lenses: Does it boost per capita income? Does it increase access to healthcare? Does it improve quality of life for New Mexicans and surrounding communities? From there, we can examine how well a given policy or project actually meets these measures and to what degree. These metrics are also broad enough to capture environmental considerations like water use, air pollution, and other key factors.

Corporations continue to raise premiums on people across the country, and we need a federal response to this corporate greed. In the meantime, New Mexico has made tremendous strides in protecting healthcare access. I was a main sponsor of our medical malpractice reform legislation (HB99), and Democrats made subsidies permanent for people purchasing insurance through the healthcare exchange and shield New Mexico from harmful Medicaid cuts. We can build on this progress by passing more interstate compacts that allow out-of-state providers to practice in New Mexico and by encouraging more businesses to offer health insurance as a benefit. I also support sustainable policies that make healthcare universal and free for all New Mexicans.

<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What are your top three priorities for the Public Education Commission?</i>	<i>Should there be a cap on the total number of state charter schools? Please explain.</i>	<i>What is the purpose and need for state charter schools?</i>	<i>How should the Public Education Commission assess the financial stability of schools before authorizing or renewing a charter?</i>	<i>How will you evaluate the educational performance of state charter schools?</i>
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Frederick Walton Parker

I bring nearly 30 years of public education experience serving students, families, and schools in roles ranging from teacher and instructional coach to principal, chief academic officer, and deputy superintendent. My work has included academics, operations, finance, policy, and strategic planning. I have supported district-authorized and state-authorized charter schools, including in Las Cruces. I understand both traditional public schools and charter schools, and I know how strong governance, accountability, and sound systems help schools succeed for students.

My top priorities are: first, ensuring charter schools deliver strong academic results and meet their commitments to students, families, and taxpayers. Second, supporting effective leadership, sound governance, and responsible operations so schools can improve and sustain success. Third, expanding access to high quality public school options where communities demonstrate a clear need. Every decision should focus on student opportunity, transparency, and long-term success.

I do not support an arbitrary statewide cap. Decisions about new charter schools should be based on quality, community need, financial viability, and the ability to deliver results for students. If a proposed school offers a strong plan, fills an unmet need, and can operate responsibly, it deserves fair consideration. At the same time, schools that fail to meet expectations should be held accountable. The focus should be excellence and need—not an artificial number.

State charter schools expand public education options for families and students whose needs may not be fully met in traditional settings. They can offer specialized missions, innovative programs, flexible approaches, and unique learning environments while remaining public schools open to all eligible students. When done well, charter schools create opportunity, encourage innovation, and provide families with meaningful choices that align with their child's goals and learning needs.

Financial stability is essential to protecting students and ensuring schools can meet their commitments. The Commission should review realistic budgets, enrollment projections, cash reserves, internal controls, audit history, debt obligations, governance capacity, and long-term sustainability. Schools must demonstrate they can responsibly manage public funds while investing in student success. Strong academics require strong operations, and financial warning signs should be addressed early through monitoring and accountability.

I would evaluate schools using the state performance framework and multiple measures of student success. This includes academic growth, proficiency, graduation rates, attendance, readiness for college or careers, and progress toward the school's charter mission. Data should be reviewed over time, not based on one snapshot. I also value safe school culture, student engagement, and service to diverse learners. Strong schools should be recognized, and struggling schools should be expected to improve.



STATE AND DISTRICT JUDICIAL OFFICES

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DIVISION 04

State district court judges hear many types of cases, both civil and criminal. Their civil cases include private injury lawsuits, contracts, real estate, family law, and some mental health and election-related issues. The criminal cases they hear include felony and more serious misdemeanor matters.

<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What in your background would serve you best as a District Court judge?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, should be made to improve the operations of the District Courts?</i>	<i>Are changes needed to current statutes, codes or rules to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?</i>
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THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Dania R Gardea

I have practiced law across New Mexico for over 21 years, including criminal defense at the State Public Defender's Office, Federal Public Defender's Office and as a CJA panel attorney. I also served as a court-appointed attorney for vulnerable children in juvenile cases involving serious offenses. For the past 15+ years, I have dedicated my practice exclusively to family law. As a mother of five, I bring deep compassion and real-life understanding of the challenges families face. I am committed to serving as a fair, efficient, and caring District Court Judge who helps families find stability and resolution during some of their most difficult times.


My extensive experience in handling cases for both adults and juveniles, combined with deep expertise in civil litigation and family law, gives me a well-rounded understanding of the issues that come before District Court. As a mother of five, I approach every case with compassion, patience, and a strong commitment to fairness. I believe this combination of courtroom experience and personal dedication to family will allow me to serve the people of Dona Ana County with both wisdom and humanity.

Throughout my career, I have seen how delays in our courts create unnecessary stress and financial hardship for families and individuals. My top priority is efficiency with compassion -implementing proven case management strategies to move case forward without sacrificing fairness. Reducing unnecessary delays means families can resolve important issues faster, lower their costs, and move forward with their lives. As a mother and experienced attorney, I am passionate about creating a court system that treats every person with dignity and delivers timely justice.

No new rules are needed. We already have strong safeguards in place to protect judicial independence. What matters most is strictly enforcing those rules so that justice is decided by facts and law - never by politics or outside pressure.

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	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What in your background would serve you best as a District Court judge?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, should be made to improve the operations of the District Courts?</i>	<i>Are changes needed to current statutes, codes or rules to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?</i>
 <p>Isabel D Jerabek</p>	<p>I have the required judicial temperament and work ethic for this family law judgeship, demonstrated in my over 16 years' of on-the-bench experience as a Hearing Officer for the Third Judicial District Court – where I already hear many cases I will still handle as the next District Judge. I understand internal court operations and case management systems, without a learning curve, so I will hit the ground running my first day in office. I have over 20 years' experience as an attorney in family law and am well-trained in domestic violence-related issues as applied to family cases. I have multi-generational, real Hispanic roots in and grew up in Doña Ana County; thus, I understand the unique needs of the many communities in this vast County.</p>	<p>I am the only Third Judicial District Judge candidate on the ballot with over 16 years' judicial experience as a Hearing Officer. From 2022 to 2023, I simultaneously served the Third Judicial District Court for 15 months as its Staff Attorney Supervisor and a Hearing Officer. Thus, I am intricately aware of both the rewards and challenges awaiting me when I am elected for this office. I have a career-long history of providing pro bono legal services in Doña Ana County and statewide, and I remain dedicated to ensuring access to justice by serving on the Third Judicial District Court's Pro Bono Committee. Finally, since high school, I have done volunteer work in Doña Ana County.</p>	<p>District Courts need more financial resources. More funds would allow District Courts to pay current employees higher salaries, boosting morale and promoting retention. More staff would help timely set hearings, assist in generating post-hearing orders, and ensure delivery of those orders to the people that need their directives. Family courts need money allocated to guarantee mental health care is readily available for all members of broken families to help them learn to cope with their new "normal" and move forward as co-parents. All family members need access to treatment for the underlying barriers that prevent resolution of their cases in the best interests of their children like domestic violence, mental illness, and substance abuse.</p>	<p>The existing statutes, codes, and rules do not need any changes to keep the judiciary independent from public influence. Each member of the judiciary has a duty to follow the existing statutes, codes, and rules, and to ensure they continuously and consciously make the efforts to strive to keep themselves free from public influence. Once elected as the next Third Judicial District Judge, I will strive to continue to be ethical, fair, and impartial.</p>



DOÑA ANA COUNTY OFFICES

DONA ANA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Magistrates are judges in limited jurisdiction courts. They hold the initial hearings in many types of serious criminal cases, and try criminal cases, including many first-time DUI/DWI and other misdemeanor cases which carry relatively less serious penalties. They also have jurisdiction over some types of civil cases (e.g., landlord/tenant and contracts) in which the amount sought is less than \$10,000. Term: Four years; no term limits.

If elected, what will you do to decrease the backlog of court cases?


What improvements, if any, are needed in the Magistrate Courts?

What skills and knowledge do you bring to the position?

DONA ANA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 1

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p>Nathan William Graff</p>	<p>I manage my docket efficiently and proactively. No case goes unattended. I work closely with all parties to move matters forward and ensure each case reaches a just result as quickly as the circumstances allow.</p>	<p>Access to case information needs improvement. Too many parties can't quickly access details about cases they're involved in or interested in. Litigants should be able to view documents without waiting on mail, visiting the courthouse, or filing formal records requests. Our court should modernize and function more like a metropolitan court than current magistrate model, specifically for our State's second most populous county.</p>	<p>I've worked in the criminal justice system since 2011, serving in roles from intern to judge. As an attorney, I practiced with energy and precision. As a judge, I manage my docket efficiently while ensuring fairness. I hold high standards in my courtroom, while treating everyone with the respect and attention to detail our County's residents deserve.</p>
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DONA ANA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 2

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

Linda L Flores	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
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DONA ANA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 3

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

Rosenda Maria Chávez-Lara	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
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DONA ANA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 4

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.


DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

Bryan Michael Gelecki	Most Magistrate cases are resolved in less than 6 months. We have strict timelines we have to adhere to which helps minimize any backlog or delay in resolving cases.	We are the largest Magistrate Court in the State by a considerable margin. While there are always areas in which we can improve our service to the community, changes are difficult to implement because they would have to be made at the State level, and most of the other Magistrate Courts lack the resources and staff to implement major changes.	I strive to treat everyone who appears in front of me with respect. I never want anyone to leave my courtroom feeling like they were unheard or feeling like they have unanswered questions.
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DONA ANA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 5

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 Chrystian Julian Gonzalez	Once elected, I will address the backlog with urgency and fairness by quickly learning court procedures and identifying bottlenecks. I will keep an organized and consistent docket, set clear timelines, and reduce delays through effective use of pretrial conferences and timely handling of routine matters. However, efficiency cannot outweigh justice; each case deserves fairness and due process. My goal is to be proactive, prepared, and consistent in moving cases forward.	Magistrate Court is often the public's first contact with the justice system, so improvements, where necessary, matter. I prioritize access to justice through clear processes, consistent scheduling, and ideas like Justice Stations. Transparency builds trust. People should understand procedures, decisions, and their rights. Education for both the public, and within the system, can reduce confusion and delays. These steps make the court more accessible, understandable, and effective.	I bring courtroom experience, practical legal knowledge, and a commitment to fairness. Early on, military service instilled discipline and accountability. As a former Assistant District Attorney, I handled criminal cases start-to-finish, building a solid grasp of procedure and evidence. In private practice, I managed civil cases, strengthening my ability to evaluate facts and resolve disputes. As a mediator, I developed neutrality and conflict management.
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DONA ANA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 6

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

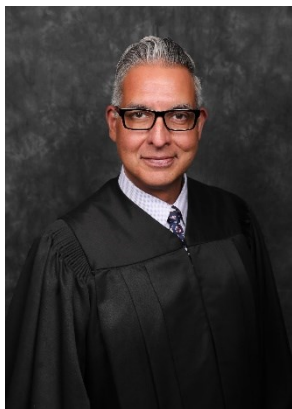
DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

Jannette Alicia Mondragon	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
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DONA ANA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 7

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Gian Alexander
Rossario

Fortunately, in the Magistrate Court, there is no backlog of cases. This is a credit to our Court Manager and our outstanding staff.

I believe our Magistrate Court does an excellent job of adjudicating cases expeditiously, and treating our citizens fairly.


It has been my utmost privilege to serve in this role for eight years. During that time, I have served as the Presiding Judge for our DWI Treatment Court, where we help those convicted of all levels of DWI enter and remain in a life in recovery through treatment. I am also honored to be the Lead Judge of the first Competency Diversion Program Court in the state, where we use treatment to divert individuals living with mental illness or co-occurring disorders out of the criminal justice system.

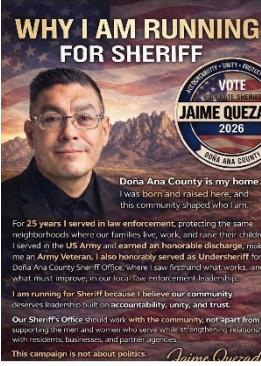
DONA ANA COUNTY SHERIFF

The County Sheriff's duties include policing and preventing crime; apprehending and arresting suspects; preserving public peace; enforcing laws and ordinances; executing court orders and warrants; and cooperating with and assisting other law enforcement agencies. Term: Four years, limited to two consecutive terms.


<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the administration of the Sheriff's office?</i>	<i>What do you see as the most critical issues facing the Sheriff's office?</i>	<i>How would you address these issues?</i>	<i>What training, if any, should be provided to officers for dealing with mental health issues?</i>	<i>Explain how the County Sheriff should interact with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, if at all.</i>
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REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

Gabriel Lee Baisas	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
Todd J Garrison	I graduated from the 17th Las Cruces Police Academy in 1985 and became a certified Law Enforcement Officer for NM. In my 31 plus years of law enforcement, I worked for the City of Las Cruces, The State of NM and the Dona Ana County sheriff's Office. I was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners in 2005 and became the Dona Ana County Sheriff when Sheriff Juan Hernandez stepped down due to illness. After completing his term, I ran for the Office of Sheriff, in Dona Ana County and was elected Sheriff by the county residents for two more terms. I completed, nine years and eleven months as the Dona Ana County Sheriff, retiring in December of 2014.	That is a decision I would have to make after becoming the Sheriff of Dona Ana County. I would evaluate the Office at that time and make changes if required.	I see the need to restore relationship within the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Office and its employees. After working on the restoration and morale within, I would work on restoring relationship with all law enforcement agencies within the county. I believe these to be two very important issues, to ensure the best service and professional working relationship for all the residents of Dona Ana County.	I would address these issues by working with all the employees of the Sheriff's Office to obtain their confidence, better define our goals and objectives, work on professionalism within the Office, to bring the best service to the community and its law enforcement. The Sheriff's Office must be willing to obtain community buy in on what those needs are. Looking for better ways to connect and work with the community and serve as professionals.	As law enforcement learns more about mental health issues, we will train and serve as best we can. As Sheriff, I will work with our state and local law makers regarding mental health issues and look to provide the best up to date training possible for all involved.	As the Sheriff, I would expect the Office to uphold the laws and treat everyone fairly as our constitution provides. I would work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement as I would any other law enforcement agency, professionally.
 Byron Hollister	24 years LCPD and US Marshal experience Supervisor US Marshals 10 years Local business owner 26 years Degree criminal justice NMSU	I would immediately look to work with all local and federal departments to achieve grants and task force positions.	Juvenile crime is at its peak in Dona Ana and I believe a task force with cyber unit and US Marshals would be proactive in knowing ahead of time what our kids are planning	I would bring back the "Wolf Pack" to deal specifically with juvenile crime	I think we should have a chaplain full time with counseling background available 24/7	I believe that honoring the detainees at the jail is the best and safest way to handle this. Putting criminals back in our streets for the feds to pick up again only creates a dangerous situation for our citizens


	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the administration of the Sheriff's office?</i>	<i>What do you see as the most critical issues facing the Sheriff's office?</i>	<i>How would you address these issues?</i>	<i>What training, if any, should be provided to officers for dealing with mental health issues?</i>	<i>Explain how the County Sheriff should interact with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, if at all.</i>
 <p data-bbox="109 682 300 774">Jaime Marquez Quezada</p>	<p data-bbox="380 228 630 330">25 years in law enforcement and prior military and former Undersheriff for Doña Ana.</p>	<p data-bbox="653 228 903 408">You currently have many holding temporary titles. So a review of their qualifications and a formal hiring process within the ranks of DASO would have to take place.</p>	<p data-bbox="926 228 1176 330">Lack of accountability, morality, training, and a higher standard of unity within our public.</p>	<p data-bbox="1199 228 1449 303">Timely and with effective communication with staff and the public.</p>	<p data-bbox="1472 228 1722 696">A great need in true scenario-based training, required higher standard training in understanding the way our brain works when it comes to emotions and logic. This will help them understand not only the public in situations but understand themselves and be aware of their own emotions and processes to where it affects them daily and their family. A healthier mental law enforcement officer is a better deputy for the public to lean in when needed and trust.</p>	<p data-bbox="1745 228 1995 567">We can't enforce Federal laws. Do we need to be aware of them, yes of course. They work within their lanes and we work within ours, but if human life is in jeopardy, whether civilians or law enforcement officers, we will assist in the prevention of loss of life or injury to a person. We are here to protect and serve.</p>

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 <p data-bbox="109 1104 310 1196">Eugene Charles Alvarez</p>	<p data-bbox="380 849 630 1688">I have 21 years in law enforcement with New Mexico State Police and Mesilla Marshall retired. I have a BA in Criminal Justice Administration (2008) Masters in Education (2010) continue Education and training in crisis intervention and active shooter by Las Cruces Police Department and FBI at the Las Cruces Public Schools and Gadsden Independent School District where I have 15 years as a school resource officer and current at Gadsden Middle School in Anthony NM. I held a teacher certification from 2010-2015. I am a former board member on NAMI Alliance of Mental Illness former member Dona ana county advisory detention center. I participated in managing employees and discipline in 2017 with Dona Ana Sheriff Kiki Vigil in San Antonio Texas.</p>	<p data-bbox="653 849 903 1037">I would appoint Julia Armendarez as undersheriff retired LT with NMSP I would keep undersheriff Robert Para in a Administrative role during transition</p>	<p data-bbox="926 849 1176 1037">Establish Mental Crisis response team. Violent crimes task force with focus on the human remains in santa terra desert identify and investigate</p>	<p data-bbox="1199 849 1449 1145">Make mental illness service calls a priority increase training for deputies reach out to nonprofits and other mental health professionals. You need accountability and outcome measurements every 4 months on all programs</p>	<p data-bbox="1472 849 1722 1064">Crisis intervention training and deescalation skills i have 15 years of this training through Las Cruces Public Schools as well as Gadsden Independent School District</p>	<p data-bbox="1745 849 1995 1118">Only emergency assist involving life threats No assist in migration enforcement I will make it clear to Border Patrol and ICE our protocols and do not violate anyone's civil rights we will investigate aggressive with the District Attorney Office.</p>
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 <p data-bbox="109 2163 178 2255">Jon R Day</p>	<p data-bbox="380 1696 630 2454">I have dedicated 24 years to the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Office, beginning to 2001 as a reserve deputy and retiring in 2025 as Major, the highest-ranking employee. Over my career I served as a Patrol Deputy, Criminal Investigator specializing in gangs, Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Lieutenant and Captain of Criminal Investigations, Captain of Administration and Major. I also served 17 years on the Bomb Squad, including four years as commander. I am a certified instructor in multiple law enforcement disciplines and helped lead the completion of the Sheriff's Policy Manual in 2022 and National CALEA Accreditation in 2023-making the office the only Sheriff's Office in New Mexico with that distinction.</p>	<p data-bbox="653 1696 903 2220">As Sheriff I would restructure the administration by reducing the amount of upper command members and increasing the number of first line supervisors. This will provide more direct supervision to Deputies and Detectives in the field as well as an opportunity for Deputies and Detectives to promote into supervisory roles. Within my first year of office, I will conduct merit-based promotions to fill all open law enforcement and civilian staff supervisory positions.</p>	<p data-bbox="926 1696 1176 2381">I see many critical issues facing the Sheriff's Office both outside and inside the Office. First and foremost, people do not feel safe in their homes or communities. In addition, residents are worried about gun violence, especially within juvenile populations. Residents worry about their belongings being stolen and no one seeming to care. Residents are concerned about delayed response times and lack of law enforcement empathy. Within the walls of the Sheriff's Office staff and law enforcement are concerned about wages and benefits, lack of training, lack of merit-based promotion, and morale.</p>	<p data-bbox="1199 1696 1449 2534">Strong leadership will address many internal issues. I will advocate for competitive wages and benefits for both civilian staff and deputies, comparable to other large agencies in New Mexico. I will increase the training budget and expand in-house opportunities by bringing expert instructors to train the full department period. I will establish an independent, merit-based promotional process through a vetted outside organization to eliminate bias and favoritism. Supervisors will be held accountable for supporting their teams. In the community, I will strengthen patrol resources through staffing, technology, and intelligence-led policing, while expanding public awareness and education programs to encourage shared responsibility for safety.</p>	<p data-bbox="1472 1696 1722 2327">Officers should absolutely receive structured, ongoing training for dealing with mental health issues and not just a one-time seminar. In modern policing, mental health response is core public safety work, not a side skill. At a minimum, training should cover four major areas: Crisis recognition and de-escalation, trauma-informed communication, legal and ethical responsibilities, and resource coordination and diversion. Use of a strong model in Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) training and implementation into the community.</p>	<p data-bbox="1745 1696 1995 2354">Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is a federal agency tasked with the enforcement of federal immigration laws. Dona Ana County Sheriff's Office is not tasked with the enforcement of Federal immigration laws. I would not want the Sheriff's Office to become entangled with enforcing Federal Law, it is not our job. On the other hand, it is the authority of the Sheriff's Office under statute 4-41-2 "shall be the conservator of the peace within his county". As Sheriff, I will maintain the peace within this county for both federal law enforcement officers and residents of Dona Ana County.</p>
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	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the administration of the Sheriff's office?</i>	<i>What do you see as the most critical issues facing the Sheriff's office?</i>	<i>How would you address these issues?</i>	<i>What training, if any, should be provided to officers for dealing with mental health issues?</i>	<i>Explain how the County Sheriff should interact with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, if at all.</i>
 <p>James A Frietze</p>	<p>I retired honorably from the NMSP as a District Commander after 25 years of honorable service. I was a member of the Tactical Team (9 yrs) and CNT (5 yrs). I served as a Detective and Patrolman during my career. I was a supervisor for 13 years of my 25 years. Rising through the ranks from Sgt. Lt. and appointed as one of 12 commanders in the State of NM. I assisted with the training NMSP Recruits at the NMSP Academy. I currently serve as a Commissioner for the Dept. of Public Safety appointed by the Governor of NM. I'm currently a P.I., contracting with State Risk Management, Association of Counties, and Municipal League for their insurance investigations. I also assist with LE promotional processes and LE background investigations.</p>	<p>I would like to re-establish the Chaparral Substation and create a Substation in Santa Teresa. Update proper equipment and training. Cooperate with local law enforcement agencies. Assist with the growth and success of the staff of DASO, both with commissioned and civilian personnel. Re-establish a narcotics K-9 unit. Increase direct community contact from patrol deputies. Re-establish the DARE program and implement new youth programs. Implement a firearms knowledge course for the public: merit-based promotions, mental health, and de-escalation training. Continue with advanced education for deputies and civilian staff. Work with non-government agencies and other law enforcement agencies for towards public safety.</p>	<p>Create a safe environment and culture for the deputies, command staff, and civilian staff. This way, they are supported internally and can forward with any concerns and/or suggestions to further the advancement of DASO. Update equipment to meet higher safety standards for the deputies, and provide training for all, not just a select few. Work with other law enforcement and non-law enforcement agencies to better the communities. Work with the union for the betterment of service for the deputies. Work towards recruitment, retention, and pay.</p>	<p>Establish clear goals with clear paths to success for commissioned and non-commissioned personnel. Accountability and transparency of personnel for proper advancement and evaluations. Proper training tailored to personnel needs. Follow up with evaluations and remedial training to reach these goals.</p>	<p>Provide available avenues for the deputies to feel safe and encourage the continued use of services. Have resources available both within and outside the agency. Respect the confidentiality of the deputies and staff who utilize these services. Offer training to deputies so they can identify symptoms of a mental health crisis in themselves.</p>	<p>Immigration is not a duty of local law enforcement, and DASO will not participate with ICE. HB 9, which was passed in the recent legislation. If ICE and/or the community calls 911 it is the duty of DASO to respond to these respective calls to document any emergency action taken. Failure to respond to a 911 call would result in a possible tort claim against the County of Dona Ana.</p>
<p>Gabriela H Lozano</p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>	<p><i>No response received.</i></p>
 <p>Vanessa Ordoñez</p>	<p>What qualifies me to serve as Sheriff is a proven record of leadership, results, and accountability. I am a first-generation American, a combat veteran, and I served as Police Chief for over seven years, leading an agency responsible for public safety and community trust. Under my leadership, we helped achieve a ranking as the number one safest city. I've managed multi-million-dollar budgets, revised policies to strengthen operations, and improved accountability across the organization. I serve on key criminal justice boards, bringing a collaborative, system-wide approach to public safety. I've supported victims through U-Visas and advocated for public safety professionals at every level. I understand what it takes to lead effectively.</p>	<p>If given the opportunity to lead the Sheriff's Office, my focus would be on strengthening accountability, communication, and public trust. I would ensure clear expectations and consistent accountability at every level. Leadership must be responsible for outcomes, not just activity. I would improve communication and coordination within the agency and with partner organizations. Public safety is strongest when law enforcement, the courts, and community partners work together effectively. I would continue strengthening training, policies, and professional development. I have experience revising policies and believe in continuous improvement to ensure deputies and staff have the tools they need to succeed.</p>	<p>The most critical issues facing a Sheriff's Office today are public trust, staffing, communication, and modernization. Public trust is essential because effective law enforcement depends on transparency, accountability, and consistent communication with the community. Staffing and retention are also major challenges, as agencies struggle to recruit and keep qualified deputies and civilian staff, which increases workload and impacts performance. Strong leadership must focus on supporting personnel and building a healthy organizational culture. Communication and coordination between law enforcement, courts, and partner agencies are equally important to ensure effective operations and outcomes. Collaborative initiatives are also key.</p>	<p>I would address these issues through strong leadership, accountability, and support. To build public trust, I would prioritize transparency, consistent communication, and fair enforcement of policies. To improve staffing and retention, I would focus on supporting employees with training, professional development, and a positive work culture where they feel valued. Strengthening communication and coordination between law enforcement, courts, and partner agencies would improve efficiency and outcomes. For modernization, I would update policies, invest in training, and ensure the agency uses current best practices and tools. My approach is to strengthen what works, fix what doesn't, and build trust.</p>	<p>Officers should receive ongoing crisis intervention training (CIT) to recognize and safely respond to mental health crises. This includes de-escalation techniques, active listening, and identifying signs of mental illness or emotional distress. Trauma-informed policing is also important so officers understand how past experiences can influence behavior. Scenario-based training helps officers practice real-world responses in a controlled setting. They should also learn how to connect individuals to appropriate mental health resources instead of relying only on enforcement. Collaboration with mental health professionals and crisis teams should be included. Regular refresher training is essential to ensure skills remain current and effective.</p>	<p>Under a county sheriff's perspective focused on local public safety, the key principle is keeping responsibilities clearly defined at the local level. A sheriff's office is primarily tasked with enforcing state and local laws and maintaining trust with the entire community it serves. From that standpoint, involvement with federal immigration enforcement like ICE should be limited and strictly guided by law, not expanded into routine local policing. When local agencies become involved in immigration enforcement, it can create fear in communities, making victims and witnesses less likely to report crimes or cooperate with investigations. That can undermine overall public safety. In emergency situations; however, we should assist as needed.</p>

	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the administration of the Sheriff's office?</i>	<i>What do you see as the most critical issues facing the Sheriff's office?</i>	<i>How would you address these issues?</i>	<i>What training, if any, should be provided to officers for dealing with mental health issues?</i>	<i>Explain how the County Sheriff should interact with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, if at all.</i>
 Rafael Reyes Jr	<p>A 25-year federal law enforcement veteran, with command experience at every echelon of leadership, from leading taskforces to Agent-in-Charge of stations of over 300 Agents, and as Acting Deputy Chief leading a law enforcement workforce of 3200 employees. I've led complex criminal investigations, coordinated with local, state and federal partners, managed budgets, staffing, training, and critical incidents. I have earned undergraduate degrees in applied science and criminal justice, a master's degree in criminal justice from NMSU, a master's degree in military arts and sciences from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. I'm a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police at Boston University and the FBI National Academy.</p>	<p>Administration speaks to so many things, such as governance, operational management, administrative functions, accountability and oversight, and strategic direction. Too many to be addressed in 750 words. I'll speak to two major themes of my administration if elected. First, as Sheriff, I will build a culture that prioritizes the preservation of life, the life of the deputy and the life of the offender, which means we will not force a lethal encounter, when the only threat is to the offender themselves. Second, I will build community trust through transparency, regular town halls, publish performance metrics, and establish a community advisory council that ensures residents have a real voice in public safety.</p>	<p>Transparency and Accountability and getting dedicated support to our underserved communities.</p>	<p>With respect to transparency and accountability, I commit to frequent engagement with our communities, i.e. regular town hall meetings, publishing metrics such as use of force, crime statistics and establishing a community advisory council comprised of residents. Next, I will work with the Board of County Commissioners to permanently staff sub-stations in the underserved parts of the county such as Chaparral</p>	<p>We've witnessed the tragic outcomes that occur when deputies are placed in the role of counselors without the specialized training needed to assist someone in crisis. For too long, we've admired the problem without truly investing in the crisis-response systems that could prevent these situations. Until we make that investment, I will implement policies that protect both the public and our deputies by giving them the time, space, and options they need, instead of forcing them into rushed encounters that can escalate into preventable tragedies. As Sheriff, I will champion innovation in de-escalation. That includes expanding the less-than-lethal tools available and investing in technologies such as remote monitoring and distance based control</p>	<p>Immigration enforcement is the responsibility of the federal government, and as Sheriff I will not interfere with that mission. New Mexico law makes clear that local deputies do not enforce federal immigration law or question immigration status, and I support that because it keeps our focus on crime. At the same time, federal agencies address drugs, gangs, child exploitation, and human trafficking. In those efforts, cooperation that respects each agency's authority, mission, and limits is essential to protecting our community.</p>
Ricardo Segovia	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>


DONA ANA COUNTY ASSESSOR

The County Assessor determines the taxable value of homes, businesses and other property within the county, as the basis of setting ad valorem (property) taxes, sending notice of assessed values to property owners, and preparing the property tax rolls for the County Treasurer. Term: Four years, limited to two consecutive terms.


<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities for the office.</i>	<i>Explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>How do you plan to ensure fairness and transparency in property valuations?</i>	<i>What training will you provide for your staff in the technical, legal, and administrative aspects of property valuation and taxation?</i>
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THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

 Eugenia Gina Montoya Ortega	<p>I am the current DAC Assessor and have been serving in this role for three years, three months, two weeks, and one day. I am the most experienced, with a full understanding of what the job requires as I have already been doing the work with dedication and integrity.</p> <p>When I first ran four years ago, as a taxpayer before anything else, I wanted to ensure that all property taxes were valued fairly and equitably. Since then, our Assessor's office team has been working diligently and professionally to make sure that remains the case.</p> <p>We have been collaborating as a strong, committed team to regain the trust of our customers, demonstrating every day that we are here to serve, support, and assist our community with transparency and respect.</p>	<p>The Assessor's Office is committed to fair and uniform valuations, accurate records, and clear communication that strengthens public trust. I bring proven experience and a strong understanding of the work required to serve our community effectively. Our dedicated team maintains reliable data, completes timely revaluations, administers exemptions responsibly, and responds openly to appeals. Through collaboration, transparency, innovation, and consistent service, we work every day to ensure accuracy, equity, confidence, and long-term stability in the assessment process. We remain focused on continuous improvement, stronger outreach, and delivering dependable results that support every resident and reflect the growing needs of our county.</p>	<p>I will achieve these goals by continually collaborating and guiding a dedicated, knowledgeable team that applies consistent appraisal methods, maintains accurate property data, and completes timely revaluations grounded in reliable market information. I will strengthen public trust through clear communication, accessible education, and responsive service that supports every taxpayer. By improving technology, expanding a countywide reappraisal project, enhancing training, increasing outreach, and ensuring full compliance with state statutes, the office will deliver fair valuations, dependable records, transparent processes, stronger community confidence, and meaningful long-term improvements that benefit all residents.</p>	<p>By applying consistent appraisal standards, strengthening data accuracy, and completing timely reviews supported by reliable market information. I will guide a knowledgeable team that follows clear procedures, documents each step, and maintains open communication with every taxpayer. By improving technology, expanding a countywide reappraisal project, enhancing staff training, increasing public outreach, and ensuring full compliance with state statutes, the office will provide clear explanations, dependable records, equitable results, and a valuation process the community can trust.</p>	<p>I will continue to provide staff with training that builds technical skill, legal understanding, and administrative consistency across the valuation process. Staff will learn accurate appraisal methods, reliable data practices, and clear procedures for documenting property changes. They continue to gain knowledge of state statutes, taxpayer rights, and ethical standards to ensure compliance. Training will also focus on communication, outreach, and organized workflows. All staff will take IAAO courses and McKissock programs to strengthen Assessors Office expertise, and we will work with our county legal team when situations require attorney guidance.</p>
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	<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>List your top priorities for the office.</i>	<i>Explain how you will achieve them.</i>	<i>How do you plan to ensure fairness and transparency in property valuations?</i>	<i>What training will you provide for your staff in the technical, legal, and administrative aspects of property valuation and taxation?</i>
Ruben Ramon Reyes	<p>I bring over 30 years of experience working in an Assessor's Office, along with a professional certification through the International Association of Assessing Officers. I am a New Mexico Certified Appraiser and a certified GIS Analyst, with an academic background from New Mexico State University and Western New Mexico University.</p> <p>Most importantly, I have real, hands-on field experience. I understand the job from the ground up and am prepared to serve with accuracy, fairness, and accountability.</p>	<p>My first priority is to evaluate the current condition of the Assessor's Office and address any issues that need immediate attention. From there, I will focus on one of our most important responsibilities—reappraisal. Ensuring accurate and fair property values is essential, and I am committed to making this a top priority.</p>	<p>I will achieve this through structured training, continuing education, and clear procedures. By using programs through the International Association of Assessing Officers and providing hands-on learning, I will ensure staff have the tools and knowledge they need to do their jobs effectively.</p>	<p>Fairness starts with consistency. I will follow proven standards, like those from the International Association of Assessing Officers, and make sure every property is valued using the same process. I will also keep the process transparent by clearly explaining valuations and being accessible to the public.</p>	<p>I will provide ongoing training to ensure staff stay up to date on appraisal methods, legal requirements, and office procedures. This includes certification programs and training through organizations like the International Association of Assessing Officers. A well-trained team is essential to delivering accurate, fair, and professional service.</p>

	<p>I have several New Mexico EDGE Public Certifications; County Commissioner, Advocate for Public Ethics, County Supervisor and Public Official. In addition, I have over 30 years of Leadership Experience managing several teams and organizations in multiple disciplines. I spent 4 years in the Air Force in Finance, which requires similar hard and soft skills as the Assessor's Office. Attention to process and details, as well as auditing documents to ensure they are complete and accurate.</p> <p>The current challenge in the Assessor's Office requires someone to implement processes and procedures to bring valuations up to date. The last revaluation was completed in 2008. The State Statute requires that it be done every two years. Task one!</p>	<p>First priority is to ensure we understand the challenge to understand where we do not meet State Statutes and create a plan to achieve them as soon as possible.</p> <p>Second priority is to review and understand the results of the New Mexico State Auditor's Office, which should be completed in May 2026.</p> <p>Third priority is to determine the resources/personnel needed to bring us into compliance and continue to provide excellent service to our customers.</p> <p>Fourth priority is to evaluate current SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) and State Statutes to see where we are compliant and where we are not. Then work with the County Leadership and State Legislators to modify and/or pass legislation that helps us to serve our constituents better.</p>	<p>I have covered most of this in the list of priorities. What I haven't stated is that I have faith that the current staff in the Assessor's office is both knowledgeable and capable of doing the job necessary to get us where we need to be.</p> <p>Obviously, I will need to visit with each of them to determine how to help them be their best and to get the best from them. Mostly, I plan to listen to them and have them help us to develop a plan to accomplish all necessary goals we need to achieve. I am also excited to hear what their recommendations are to make the organization better and to better serve our constituents.</p>	<p>Since revaluations have not been done since 2008, our constituents are faced with an immediate unreasonable increase in property value. I have to determine if we evaluate property to 2026 standards and request our public to go from paying 2008 value taxes on their property or immediately pay 2026 value taxes on their property. How is that going to be fair? My hope is that we can create policy and/or pass legislation which will lessen the shock of the increase in property taxes for everyone. The sad thing is that previous leadership has done a disservice to almost every property and business owner in the county by not timely completing the revaluations as required.</p>	<p>I will encourage employees to explore classes offered by New Mexico EDGE to ensure our staff are trained to do their jobs. I will also reach out to the State Auditor (to review the results of the 2026 audit) and other departments to request assistance in identifying and delivering direction needed to become compliant with State Statutes. In addition to that, I will be reaching out to the New Mexico Counties Assessors' Affiliate (NMCAA) and attending the NMC Annual Conference, Mon, Jun 15, 2026 through Thu, Jun 18, 2026 in, Gallup, NM.</p>
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DONA ANA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

County Commissions are policy-making body that may establish a budget, enact ordinances, approve tax levies, enforce planning and zoning rules, and coordinate with other government agencies to provide for the safety of the county and its inhabitants, to preserve community health, and promote prosperity within the county. Term: Four years, limited to two consecutive terms.

<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What are the biggest challenges facing your county?</i>	<i>How would you address these challenges?</i>	<i>How would you share information with the public about matters coming before the commission?</i>	<i>How would you propose to balance growth with water scarcity in an increasingly arid state?</i>
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DONA ANA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES:

	<p>County Government focuses on a variety of things, through my career as a water and natural resources attorney, have gained significant experience with, including infrastructure and economic development, water and wastewater systems, and land use and development. With the federal administration prioritizing local governance more than ever, combined with an emphasis on energy and public lands development, including the focus on Project Jupiter in southern Dona Ana County - my experience and training provide a unique opportunity to both protect our community from harmful outside interests while also positioning us to succeed in newer local governance setting through more appropriately competing for federal infrastructure dollars.</p>	<p>Water supply and economic development that does not fit the culture of our community. Access to healthcare is also something we're experiencing. Each of these three issues can be alleviated by infrastructure improvements in our local area - if we were doing more to help ourselves on this front, we wouldn't need outside companies like Project Jupiter dangling carrots in front of us. We often jump at opportunities before we fully vet their consequences because we need the money and other 'things' they promise to provide. Like with the recent City of Las Cruces lesson learned with 828Productions, a movie company that offered the world and provided nothing, we know we need to prioritize local business and not be so keen to jump at bad deals.</p>	<p>My experience and expertise in water and natural resources gives me a unique skillset to address challenges such as land grabs by the federal government, economic development, and projects like Project Jupiter. I also have a special needs daughter and am the Chair of the NM Beneficiary Advisory Council, a federally mandated council that advises state government on Medicaid policy in NM. I know how to follow the state's sunshine laws, so our community does not feel outside of the conversation on projects such as Project Jupiter. I also know water - water is the center of our universe in southern NM and something we need to fight to protect and improve for farmers, for cities, and for our natural beauty before it dries up altogether.</p>	<p>In every way possible and practicable. I understand that, as an elected official hired by the people of our community, I would be there to represent the will of the people - not my own will. That cannot be done in secret or behind closed doors. Our community deserves MORE than transparency - it deserves openness and active communication. It is not enough to publish an agenda with an item on it, we must do more to push information on things that are of importance to our community before decisions are made. Facebook, press releases, town hall events, and the like would all be used to ensure I stay connected to my community while I serve.</p>	<p>Infrastructure and planning. This is the sphere I work in on the national level - I am intimately familiar with all of the federal law mechanisms and programs that fund water initiatives, am well versed in their use, and even leveraged those mechanisms while I was counsel for the Elephant Butte Irrigation District to bring in over \$100M in non-reimbursable, non-cost share grants to improve more of the local farmers' irrigation infrastructure. The same is needed at all levels of water systems in our county, and through partnerships and leadership, the County can play a more active and effective role in bringing our infrastructure into a condition that will allow us to survive another 100 years in our area. Real action is needed now.</p>
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**Samantha R
Barncastle
Salopek**

<i>What qualifies you for this office?</i>	<i>What are the biggest challenges facing your county?</i>	<i>How would you address these challenges?</i>	<i>How would you share information with the public about matters coming before the commission?</i>	<i>How would you propose to balance growth with water scarcity in an increasingly arid state?</i>
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Angela Rowe Garcia

I grew up in Albuquerque in a neighborhood that was known as the War Zone. My parents worked so hard to make life as good as possible for my brother and me but the fact is, we grew up poor. We saw a lot of violence, drugs, and gang activity in our neighborhood. We moved to Las Cruces when I was in elementary school. Las Cruces changed everything for our family. With my parents' support, I graduated from Organ Mountain High School and became the first in my family to graduate from college. I am now the CEO of Toy Box Early Learning Centers. We have had the joy of teaching thousands of children over the years. We also provide over 80 jobs for amazing women in our community who share my passion for working with children.

We have an epidemic of violence happening, and kids are being killed. The root causes are clear—poverty, instability at home, lack of healthy activities for young people, addiction—the list goes on and on. Families also are having trouble making ends meet. The cost of living continues to rise, recently exacerbated by rising gas prices caused by Trump's war in Iran. To make matters worse, few can afford healthcare premiums, increasing prescription drug prices, and everyday costs like rent, groceries, and utilities. Home ownership for young couples is a far-off dream for most. We have to do better.

I view everything through the lens of "What's best for New Mexico's children?"

We must ensure law enforcement and first responders are fully funded with modern equipment and training, and treatment services are trained to handle the epidemic of addiction. We should create more activities for children and improve reintegration programs for juveniles leaving the detention center.

We must lower the cost of living through affordable housing, better roads, and more cost-effective utilities. We can bring in more good-paying jobs and support union apprenticeships.

Through our Health and Human Services Department, we should contract with more health care providers to provide accessible and high-quality healthcare to more Doña Ana residents.

I am so proud of the work I have done to build a grassroots, inclusive, and participatory movement for early childhood education in Southern New Mexico. Together, we have created the Early Education Trust Fund, universal childcare, and more. We are now at the table for major state decisions on early childhood policy. I will do the same on the County Commission. Project Jupiter's public participation process was a shame and we must do better, both for continued accountability on Project Jupiter on water, labor and local jobs, and renewable energy, but also for future issues the Commission addresses. Government decisions should always be made with the voices of those who are impacted having a seat at the table.

Our county is growing, and with that comes demand for water. Protecting traditional and agricultural water use is critical, as is maintaining a clean and plentiful water supply for Las Cruces, which has been at risk. We have already done so much in terms of water efficiency. Can we do more? Of course. But the real gains are more complex. Working with the state, I believe we must better map our aquifers and monitor pumping to better understand what our water supply looks like. We must dramatically decrease carbon in our air, which is creating a hotter, more arid climate. We can also recycle more water through advanced desalination and wastewater treatment systems.



Daisy Ann Maldonado

I bring economic expertise, direct government experience, and a decade of on-the-ground organizing alongside community and working families in Doña Ana County that is rare in a local candidate. My training allowed me to identify exactly why using Industrial Revenue Bond financing for private corporations is problematic and how it does not serve the best interest of our community. As the director of small non-profit project with one staff member, I grew the program to twelve employees and a budget of nearly a million dollars, securing public and private funding. In 2021 I was appointed to the Sustainable Economy Advisory Council where I advised the state's strategic plan to transition New Mexico away from dependence on extractive industry.

Doña Ana County faces four urgent challenges: water scarcity and contamination threatening families and farms, inadequate roads and infrastructure in rural and colonia communities, a lack of good-paying local jobs that force young people to leave, and a county government that has made major decisions, including approving \$165 billion in industrial revenue bonds for Project Jupiter, without transparent community participation. These challenges are connected. Addressing any one of them requires the same thing: leadership that is honest, accountable, and genuinely rooted in the communities most impacted and county participation in critical decisions.

On water I would require independent impact assessments before any large development is approved and prioritize infrastructure investment in underserved communities. On infrastructure I would direct county resources based on safety and need, starting with communities that have waited longest. On jobs I would use county contracting power to require local hire and living wage standards, and partner with DACC and NMSU on workforce training. On transparency I would mandate community participation before votes, not after, and ensure all processes are accessible in English and Spanish to every resident.

I would reach residents before votes are taken, not after. That means bilingual newsletters and social media updates on upcoming commission items, community meetings in accessible locations across the district including colonias communities, and direct outreach through trusted community organizations that already have relationships with residents. I would hold weekly office hours in different parts of the district and monthly community forums so constituents have a consistent, accessible way to weigh in and participate in decisions that will directly impact them. Government information should travel to people, not wait for people to come find it.

Water is not a commodity. It is a birthright. Families in the southernmost part of our county received drinking water with arsenic above federal limits for over a year because treatment plants were offline and nobody told them. That cannot happen again. I would require county lead oversight of water systems, independent water impact assessments for all large developments, invest in conservation programs and water reuse systems, and support small rural water systems most at risk. On the Rio Grande Compact dispute, I would ensure Doña Ana County has a seat at the table with state officials and our congressional delegation, fighting for our farmers and families in whatever resolution comes next.

DONA ANA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

THERE ARE NO REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES IN THIS RACE.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:

Willie D Madrid	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>	<i>No response received.</i>
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DONA ANA COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

Judges in probate courts handle the procedures governing the distribution of a decedent's property in less complicated cases. (More complicated cases are handled by state District Court judges.). Term: Four years; no term limits.

<i>Describe the specific legal training and knowledge that have prepared you for the office of Probate Judge.</i>	<i>What changes, if any, would you make to the functioning of the Probate Court?</i>	<i>How can you educate the public about the court's processes?</i>	<i>What other information would you like voters to know about you?</i>
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES:



Judith Ann
Baca

I have a judicial studies certification from CNM (formerly TVI); a bachelor's in criminal justice; and general studies with a minor in business administration from NMSU. Employed for 28 years with the Third Judicial District Court, and the majority of time as a Trial Court Administrative Assistant assisting the Children's Court Division District Judge, which included probates, guardianships, conservatorships and sequestered cases and was familiar with what the probate process and paperwork entailed. I then went to work for the Las Cruces Police Department-Victim Assistance Unit as a Crime Victim Advocate, and later as their Program Coordinator, attending domestic violence court proceedings and until I was elected Probate Judge in 2023.

As the probate workload was increasing, I was able to hire an additional part-time Administrative Assistant position for the probate office. With limited workspace and storage for case files, I'm working with county administration towards an office expansion that will provide our section with additional space for operational efficiency. I also requested that security measures be taken to restrict the carrying of deadly weapons, including firearms, into the government center in which to establish a safe work environment for all employees and as well as the public. Additionally, I am researching the capability of the probate section to bring our services to the southern part of the county at least once a month, if possible.

The Probate Court is an informal or non-jury trial court of limited jurisdiction that handles informal probate cases. Probate Court is designed to help self-represented or pro se litigants with probate cases that do not need to have court proceedings held in front of the judge. The probate judge is prohibited from giving legal advice to the litigants but can give presentations explaining the steps for opening and closing a probate and the probate forms. I've done probate presentations for realtors, at county community centers, and I've attended several of the local Legal Clinics to provide community members with information regarding the probate process.

Since my first day in office on January 1, 2023, through present day, the Probate Court has opened 1,150 cases. I have also officiated 288 weddings to date. As a public servant, I feel honored to be of service to the community members of Dona Ana County and look forward to continuing my service for the next four years.