LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

2026 Nonpartisan Voters' Guide

New Mexico General Election ★ Tuesday, November 3, 2026

YOU CAN VOTE IN DOÑA ANA COUNTY IN THE GENERAL ELECTION IF:

- ★ you are a citizen of the United States,
- ★ you are 18 years of age or older on Election Day,
- ★ you are a resident of Doña Ana County,
- ★ you are registered to vote in Doña Ana County.

If you have a question concerning the election, please contact the Doña Ana County Clerk's office at (575) 647-7428 or visit:

- ★ www.DACelections.com
- ★ www.Vote411.org
- ★ www.nmvote.gov

EARLY VOTING

How voters can cast their vote prior to Nov. 3, 2026:

- Go to the Doña Ana County (DAC) Government Center: 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces.
- The DAC Bureau of Elections is open Oct. 6-30, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and on Saturday, Oct. 31, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **NOTE:** The offices will be closed Monday, Oct. 12 for Indigenous Peoples' Day.

EXPANDED EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Additional locations listed below will also be available for early voting on Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. from Oct. 17-31, 2026.

Expanded Early Voting Locations

- Anthony Public Library (Multipurpose Room), 750 Landers Rd., Anthony, NM
- Corbett Center Student Union, 1600 International Mall, Las Cruces
- Doña Ana Community College - Chaparral, 755 Prescott Anthony Dr., Chaparral
- Doña Ana Community College - East Mesa Campus, 2800 Sonoma Ranch Blvd., Las Cruces
- Doña Ana Community College - Sunland Park, 3365 McNutt Rd., Sunland Park
- Hatch Valley Public Schools Student Services Center, 350 Main St., Hatch
- Las Cruces City Hall, 700 N. Main St., Las Cruces
- Mesilla Town Hall, 2231 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla

Every VOTE COUNTS!

ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico (LWVSNM) is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization that provides information about political issues and candidates for public office to promote greater citizen responsibility and participation in government. The League, established in 1968, has 110 members — women and men — from five southern New Mexico counties: Doña Ana, Otero, Sierra, Grant, and Luna. Our League is committed to "**Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy**."

Because the League is nonpartisan, it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. As a service to our communities, LWVSNM traditionally publishes and distributes reliable information for citizens to use when preparing to vote.

LWVSNM welcomes new members! Contact us at www.lwvsnm.org/join/, or by email lwvsnm@gmail.com, or scan the QR code:

Follow the League on Social Media:

facebook.com/LWVSNM/ @lwvsnm

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Printing the LWVSNM Voter Guide and undertaking our activities to promote voter awareness is not possible without the support of many community members. We thank the following businesses and individuals for their generous contributions: El Paso Electric Charitable Foundation • LWVNM Education Fund • Jennifer Kreie • Jane Asche • Charlotte Lipson • Christina & William Little • Jean and Peter Ossorio • Aleta Wilson • And the 110 members of LWVSNM, whose dues support LWVSNM voter services. All donations are appreciated.

ABOUT THE VOTERS' GUIDE

The League requested that all candidates within each race answer the following questions in English and Spanish for the Voter Guide. Candidates were also informed that answers will not be edited in any way. The statement "No Response Received" means the candidate did not answer the questions. The candidates are printed in the order that follows the ballot order per the NM Secretary of State.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2026
- Regardless of your precinct, you can vote at any of the 42 Voting Convenience Centers throughout Doña Ana County on Election Day.
- On Election Day, the DAC Bureau of Elections, 845 N. Motel Blvd. in Las Cruces is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- All General Election races are available on Vote411.org and the NM Secretary of State website nmvote.org (see QR codes below).
- Eligible voters can register to vote (same-day registration) at any Voting Convenience Center on Election Day, Nov. 3, 2026.

VOTE411.ORG

The candidate information in this Voters' Guide was obtained from the answers provided by candidates to www.Vote411.org, a League-sponsored website that provides candidate and voting information statewide. The candidates' answers in this guide were printed by the League exactly as submitted by the candidates. Because of space restrictions in printed guides, candidates' answers may have been limited in length. All candidates were also requested to provide their answers in Spanish.

• REGISTER TO VOTE
• READ ABOUT THE CANDIDATES

nmvote.gov

VOTE411 is:

An Online Voters' Guide
A One-Stop-Shop for Nonpartisan Election Information
A Reliable Tool to Obtain Voting Information

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 6:	• Mail and Online Voter Registration Ends • Early Voting Begins at Doña Ana County Clerk's Office
OCTOBER 17:	• Expanded Early Voting Begins at 8 locations, Tuesday-Saturday 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m
OCTOBER 20:	• Last Day to request an Absentee Ballot at Doña Ana County Clerk's Office or from www.NMVote.org
OCTOBER 31:	• Early Voting Ends
NOVEMBER 3:	• ELECTION DAY • Last Day for Same Day Registration • All Absentee Ballots Must Be Received by 7:00 p.m.

All General Election races are available on the NM Secretary of State website: www.sos.nm.gov/

NOV. 3rd ★42 VOTING LOCATIONS

All locations open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Any registered voter in Doña Ana County can vote at any of these Voting Convenience Centers:

Anthony Municipal Complex - 820 Highway 478 Anthony, NM
Berino Elementary School - 92 Shrode Rd., Berino
Camino Real Middle School - 2961 N. Roadrunner Pkwy., Las Cruces
Corbett Center - NMSU - 1600 International Mall, Las Cruces
DACC - Chaparral - 755 Prescott Anthony Dr., Chaparral
DACC - East Mesa Campus - 2800 Sonoma Ranch Blvd, Las Cruces
DACC - Sunland Park - 3365 McNutt Rd., Sunland Park
Del Cerro Community Center - 180 La Fe Ave., Vado
Desert Hills Elementary School - 280 N. Roadrunner Pkwy., Las Cruces
Doña Ana Community Center - 5745 Ledesma Dr., Doña Ana
Doña Ana County Government Ctr. - 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces
East Picacho Elementary School - 4450 N. Valley Dr., Las Cruces
Fairacres Elementary School - 4501 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces
Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum - 4100 Dripping Springs Rd., Las Cruces
Frank O'Brien Papen Ctr. (Mesilla Park Rec. Ctr.) - 304 W. Bell Ave., Mesilla Park
Gadsden High School - 6301 Highway 28, Anthony
Garfield Elementary School - 8820 Highway 187, Garfield
Hatch Valley Schools Student Services Ctr. - 350 Main St., Hatch
Highland Elementary - 4201 Emerald St., Las Cruces
Jornada Elementary School - 3400 Elks Dr., Las Cruces
La Mesa Fire Department - 15765 Highway 28, La Mesa
La Union Elementary School - 875 Mercantil Ave., Anthony, NM
Las Alturas Fire Station - 4145 Cholla Dr., Las Cruces
Las Cruces City Hall - 700 N. Main St., Las Cruces
Las Cruces High School - 1750 El Paseo Rd., Las Cruces
Las Cruces Village Social Ctr. - 3011 Buena Vida Cir., Las Cruces
Loma Heights Elementary - 1600 E. Madrid Ave., Las Cruces
Lynn Middle School - 950 S. Walnut St., Las Cruces
Mayfield High School - 1955 N. Valley Dr., Las Cruces
Mesilla Town Hall - 2231 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla
Mesquite Fire Station 10 - 1 Firehouse Rd., Mesquite NM
North Valley Elementary School - 300 Cascade Ave., San Miguel
Organ Community Center - 5880 2nd St., Organ
Organ Mountain High School - 5700 Mesa Grande Dr., Las Cruces
Radium Springs Community Ctr. - 12060 L.B. Lindbeck Rd.
*Rincon Community Center, 220 Baker St., Rincon
*Riverside Elementary School, 4085 McNutt Rd., Santa Teresa
Sierra Middle School - 1700 Spruce Ave., Las Cruces
Sunrise Elementary School - 5300 Holman Rd., Las Cruces
Tombaugh Elementary - 226 Carver Rd., Las Cruces
University Hills Elementary School - 2005 S. Locust, Las Cruces
Vista Middle School - 4465 Elks Dr., Las Cruces

*New Voting Location

★ ★ ★ THE LAS CRUCES Bulletin ★ ★ ★

Candidates listed in this Voters' Guide are in ballot order, as determined by the NM Secretary of State's Office.
Abbreviations: Democrat (D); Republican (R); Decline-to-State (DTS); Forward Party (FWD)

FEDERAL OFFICES

UNITED STATES SENATOR

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

Ben R. Luján (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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, I know Social Security benefits are a vital lifeline for retirees and people with disabilities. Social Security must be protected from cuts and Republican-led efforts to reduce benefits. I was proud to support the Social Security Fairness Act and see it enacted into law. This bill repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which currently reduce benefits for certain recipients. I'm also proud to support the Social Security 2100 Act, which eliminates the Social Security tax cap.

4. 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 than walls to keep out narcotics and the cartels.

5. 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.

6. 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.

Larry E. Marker (R)

1. Self- employed most of my adult life in multiple industries that include Oil and Gas, agriculture both farming and ranching, construction and some manufacturing. Most of my business ventures required significant knowledge in finance, employee relations and regulatory compliance. I have an extensive knowledge of constitutional law both state and federal. Multiple years of experience in civil and regulatory matters.

2. My highest priorities going into the US Senate will be social security solvency reducing the federal debt and deficit. Reduction in the size of the government and its regulatory stranglehold on business and citizens.

3. We can address this issue with earnings from a windfall sovereign wealth fund. I have a plan to supplement the revenue paid into social security that supplemental income is structured to help offset the imbalance we currently have. This will be a permanent solution that properly administered will prevent the reduction of benefits we are facing in 2032. The goal of this plan is to provide a permanent solution to this issue.

4. My first priority is to remove from the immigration system political advantage for either party. My position on this matter is best communicated with what I would consider as my goals. Provide to the American people an immigration system that brings into our communities the best and brightest from all over the world. Immigrants that will assimilate into the American culture and way of life whose dreams and aspirations when fulfilled benefit not just them but all Americans. Any policy that takes us toward that goal is a policy I will support. That would include temporary visas.

5. First, we establish non-political, science-based standards then establish practical and sensible goals and or benchmarks moving forward with a plan that provides a standard future generations can maintain.

6. Remove political advantage for either side from healthcare. Find a goal, set the goal then go to work. Bumper sticker slogans and press clips will not solve this issue. Healthcare is too important to use as a political pawn.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 2

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

Gregory G. Cunningham (R)

1. 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.

2. 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 ...

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

Gabriel Vasquez (D)

1. 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 of 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.

2. My highest priorities are always what makes a palpable impact on the lives of every day 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 inaffordable. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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

Voting for Governor and Lieutenant

Voters should be aware that although you can read the statements submitted individually by the candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the two candidates in the same party will be voted as a pair (not separately).

GOVERNOR

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. List your top priorities and explain how you will achieve them.
3. What measures would you propose to improve Pre-K – 12 education?
4. How would you address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?
5. What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?

Greggory D. Hull (R)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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?

Deb Haaland (D)

1. I will bring lived experience and a proven record of results to the Governor's office. I am a 35th-generation New Mexican, educated in our public schools, and a first-generation college graduate. I'm also a single mom who owned a small business and understands what it means to rely on Medicaid, SNAP, and WIC to keep a family afloat. I was a member of Congress and the Secretary of the Interior, where I managed an $18 billion budget and

70,000 employees. In both positions, I worked across the aisle to deliver infrastructure and broadband investments, protect public lands, launch the Missing and Murdered Unit, advance major clean energy projects, and lead historic pollution cleanup. I know how to make the government work for working people.

2. New Mexicans deserve to be able to afford groceries and rent in the same month, feel safe in their communities, see a doctor when they are sick, and for kids to have a quality public education.
To put more money in people's pockets, I will raise wages, expand tax relief for working families, pursue paid family and medical leave, aggressively build and grow affordable housing, and support job creation.
To ensure our kids are able to read by third grade, I will prioritize literacy outcomes and expand investment in universal childcare, community schools, and educator recruitment. Finally on public safety and healthcare, I will tackle violent crime, drugs, and gun violence, while overhauling CYFD and expanding behavioral health service.

3. My goal is for every step of a child's education to open doors. My top priority is helping kids read by third grade, because reading 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 with quality childcare options, and make early education easier to access. To support kids who might not want to go to college, I will bring the trades into middle school and more high schools. For educators, I plan to expand teacher residencies, improve pay and benefits, help with housing in rural communities, and expand community schools plus Native language and culture programs for Tribal students.

4. I will always protect New Mexico's water, air, and land. 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.

5. New developments must be mutually beneficial, creating good-paying jobs for New Mexicans using local labor while protecting families from cost increases. Projects must prioritize community well-being, utilizing transparency, community benefit agreements, accountability, and clawback provisions to ensure promises are kept. Investment must safeguard water, air, land, and public health, require accurate water reporting, and ensure industries support clean energy and grid stability. I aim for New Mexico to lead in energy, tech, film, and outdoor recreation with long-term value for our communities, preventing exploitation by outside corporations seeking short-term gains.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. List your top priorities and explain how you will achieve them.
3. How can you help the Senate operate more effectively and efficiently?
4. How will you facilitate communication and ensure transparency between government agencies and constituents?

David M. Gallegos (R)

1. The Lt. Governor's primary constitutional role is presiding over the State Senate, and I've spent 14 years serving in that body. I already know the rules, the relationships, the pressure points, and the personalities. I know the difference between a bill that moves and one that dies in committee, and why. Beyond the Legislature, I bring 30 years with Gas Company of New Mexico and 16 years with Ramirez and Sons Construction--real-world experience in the industries the Senate's work directly affects. As a rural Hispanic 14th generation New Mexican, I bring a perspective that reflects communities too often unheard in Santa Fe.

2. Accountability: New Mexico has a spending problem masquerading as a revenue problem. I'll push for rigorous auditing of waste, fraud, and abuse--and make findings public. Public safety: I'll advance sentencing reform, oppose catch-and-release policies, and ensure officers have the resources and legal protections they need. Education: I'll champion accountability-based reform, value-added assessment, and expanded school choice for every family regardless of zip code. Affordability: I'll fight for policies that let small businesses breathe, grow our energy sector responsibly, and reduce the regulatory burden crushing working families.

3. Presiding over the Senate is a leadership role, and I intend to treat it that way. Fourteen years in the Legislature means I understand the procedural rules, have relationships throughout the chamber, and know how to move a body through its work without sacrificing deliberation. I will preside with fairness and consistency, apply the rules evenly regardless of party or personality, and ensure every member--majority and minority alike--has a full and fair opportunity to be heard. A Senate built on procedural integrity gets more done. That is the standard I will hold.

4. Transparency is a structural commitment. I'll use the Lt. Governor's office as an active conduit between state agencies and the New Mexicans they serve, particularly rural communities that feel like an afterthought in Santa Fe. That means statewide outreach every year, not just election years. It means pushing agencies to communicate plainly and responsively. And it means publicly naming failures when agencies aren't meeting expectations, because sunlight is the most powerful accountability tool we have.

Stephanie Garcia Richard (D)

1. I was a public school teacher for 19 years, a three-term State Representative, and Chair of the House Education Committee. As Commissioner of Public Lands for the last eight years, I've generated record-breaking revenue – over $16 billion for our public schools – while holding oil and gas accountable. I also expanded renewable energy projects sevenfold, launched affordable housing initiatives, and reformed agency accountability to plug hundreds of abandoned wells. When Donald Trump attacks New Mexico, I know how to fight back—because I already have, creating protections for New Mexico's precious and historical places, including Mount Taylor and Chaco Canyon.

2. Deb Haaland and I will lower the cost of living, expand access to affordable healthcare, stop price gouging, make our communities safer, protect our environment and water, and improve public education so our kids read at or above grade level. As Lt. Governor, I will move that agenda through the legislature and hold agencies accountable for delivering it.

3. I know the legislative process from the inside and out, having served three terms in the House and chaired the House Education Committee. As Lt. Governor, I will make sure the Senate operates with transparency and consistent application of its rules so the public understands what is happening every step of the way. With short, 30- and 60-day sessions, it will be my job to keep the Senate moving efficiently so we can address New Mexico's most pressing challenges.

4. State government has to go to where New Mexicans actually live, rather than waiting for residents to come to Santa Fe. As Land Commissioner, I broke down agency silos and brought the Land Commissioner's office to every part of New Mexico to meet directly with communities, ranchers, educators, and tribal nations, ensuring that policy wasn't built in a vacuum. I'll continue that practice as Lt. Governor by bringing the Roundhouse to local communities and hearing directly from New Mexicans about the challenges they face where they live.

SECRETARY OF STATE

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

Amanda López Askin (D)

1. As a public servant for 25 years, I bring extensive experience in both government and corporate organizations. I am in my eighth year serving as Doña Ana County Clerk, where I have administered 12 elections in New Mexico's second most populous county. My experience gives me firsthand knowledge of what it takes to conduct accurate, secure, and accessible elections. I have worked directly within the systems that make our democracy function and understand the challenges election officials and workers face. I am prepared to bring that experience, commitment, and knowledge to the Office of Secretary of State and continue strengthening public trust, transparency, and access for voters across New Mexico.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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Ramona L. Goolsby (R)

1. I am a U.S. Army Reserve veteran, retired family nurse practitioner (including VA service), longtime small-business owner, retired rancher, and elected Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District supervisor. Running a business and completing complex missions taught me precision, accountability, and efficient systems management. I have served as a poll clerk and sponsored transparency referendums. The Secretary of State role is administrative: managing elections, business entity records, and fair statute enforcement for all New Mexicans. I bring practical, results-focused leadership.

2. Priorities: election integrity and public confidence; accurate, user-friendly business filings; transparent, fair enforcement of campaign finance and lobbying laws; professional office operations. I will maintain accurate voter rolls, support common-sense safeguards, modernize business registration to reduce red tape, apply statutes evenly without favoritism, provide clear public information, and work consistently with county clerks so every eligible vote counts and New Mexico businesses operate efficiently.

3. Participation grows when eligible citizens trust the system is fair and accurate. I will protect access through accurate voter rolls (removing outdated registrations while safeguarding lawful voters), clear education on options, efficient processes with county clerks, and neutral administration as a fair referee. Restoring trust via transparency and consistent rules encourages more eligible New Mexicans to participate while protecting integrity.

4. The office must be the neutral, authoritative source of clear facts. I will prioritize plain-language resources explaining registration, voting methods, deadlines, and results; provide rapid transparent responses to questions and circulating claims. A transparency portal for election records accessible by the public will be top priority. Partnering with county clerks and using secure channels helps voters obtain reliable information directly from the elections administrator.

5. As chief elections officer, the Secretary helps administers elections, maintains official records including voter data, supports county clerks, enforces statutes, and ensures consistent transparent procedures. Integrity requires accurate voter rolls, protected data, secure systems, clear public information, and neutral refereeing so every eligible voter can participate and every legal vote is counted accurately. The role is administrative: apply the law evenly and build confidence through competence.

6. The office must be administered in a nonpartisan manner regardless of the officeholder's party. Elections and records require neutral management so every eligible New Mexican trusts that rules are applied fairly and consistently. Core duties- running elections, maintaining voter and business records, and enforcing disclosure- are strictly administrative, not advocacy. A professional, rule-based approach focused on accuracy, transparency, and equal treatment best serves the public and protects process integrity.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. List your top priorities and explain how you will achieve them.
3. How would you protect the rights of New Mexicans?
4. What actions would you support to make citizens safer?
5. How would you protect states' rights as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?

Raúl Torrez (D)

1. 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, take on corruption.

2. 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.

3. 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 enforce 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.

4. 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. 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.

5. 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 rule-making. Protecting states' rights means ensuring New Mexico retains the power to make its own decisions and is not sidelined by unlawful federal action.

Samuel Isaiah Kane (R)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

STATE AUDITOR

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. What is your highest responsibility as State Auditor?
3. What actions can you take when audits are not submitted in a timely manner?
4. What are the top three issues you will investigate as State Auditor?

Joshua James Ryan Lawrence (R)

No Response Received

Joseph M. Maestas (D)

1. As the current 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 nearly $15 million in withheld capital outlay. I've spent my life in public service, both in Federal civil service and in elected public service. I served as Chairman of the Public Regulation Commission, Mayor of Espanola and city councilor in both Espanola and Santa Fe. I'm also a licensed professional engineer.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. The top three issues that we will investigate and/or examine: 1) Incoming, anonymous, and credible fraud, waste, and abuse complaints. We currently have over 300 active cases; 2) High-risk public entities that are chronically late in audit report submittals and have a severe lack of internal controls, resulting in adverse and repeat findings; and 3) In partnership with the District Court system, we also investigate conservatorships, based on a risk screening of annual financial reports. These conservatorships manage the financial assets of our most vulnerable.

STATE TREASURER

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. What is your highest responsibility as State Treasurer?
3. How would you address your top priorities?
4. Explain your position on whether the Treasurer should recommend increasing investments in NM-based companies.

James F. Ellison (R)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

Laura M. Montoya (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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. We are collaborating efforts with several partners to support financial fitness to open access to more opportunity, baby bonds to build generational wealth, and NM STABLE to assist our disability community. We are working with our legislative partners to provide the resources that are needed for the amount of growth that we are seeing.

4. 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. As important as it is to invest in New Mexico based companies, even more important is to invest in our own young people.

MORE CANDIDATE RESPONSES!

Due to space limitations, some questions and answers for several candidates were not able to be printed in the Voters' Guide. However, all questions that were sent to the candidates are available at www.Vote411.org. Additional candidate answers are also available at this website.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. What are your top three priorities for the State Land Office (SLO)?
3. What are the greatest challenges facing the SLO?
4. 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.)?

Michael Jack Perry (R)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

Juan De Jesus Sanchez, III (D)

1. 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.

2. • 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. • Protect and preserve our state trust lands for future generations. • 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

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NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT, COURT OF APPEALS AND DISTRICT COURTS

Understanding the Difference Between Retention and Non-Retention Races

Initially, District Court judges in New Mexico are either appointed by the Governor or win in a General Election. Appointed judges must run in the next General Election so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a General Election, all District Court judges face a nonpartisan, retention election every six years. Therefore, retention candidates in this guide do not list their party affiliation. To remain on the Court, they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Voters will select either "Yes" or "No" for Retention Judges.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE (RETENTION)

1. What qualifies you for this position?
2. What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Supreme Court practices and why?
3. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?

David K. Thomson

1. I have served eight years as Justice on the New Mexico Supreme Court. I just finished a two year term as Chief Justice. I am honored to receive a "Retain" recommendation from the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. I started my judicial career as a trial court judge in the 1st Judicial Court. I served in the House of Delegates for the American Bar Association. I am a member of the American Law Institute. I have developed a rule of law initiative where we travel around the state to conduct oral argument and visit local schools. I have been recognized for my work in judicial education and I teach legal education on a number of topics. I am a native of Santa Fe, NM.

2. As Chief Justice, I developed on on line portal where the public can see what cases we are considering and how our work compares to our performance measures. Transparency and professionalism were the themes of my tenure. The judiciary should continue to advocate for its independence from the other political branches. The Supreme Court should continue to advance the rule of law and get out to the community to ensure that the citizens of this State understand our role in the democratic system.

3. Our main job is to decide cases in a timely manner and write decisions that lawyers and non-lawyers can understand. We should continue to make efforts to expand our rule of law program and to make legal assistance affordable and accessible for all New Mexicans. For citizens to trust their government they must trust that the Supreme Court is an independent and unbiased institution.

Shannon Bacon

1. I have been serving New Mexico as a judge for over 16 years. I bring that experience and my passion for the rule of law to my work everyday. I am also a leader locally and nationally on issues that state courts must address: access to the courts, rural justice, artificial intelligence, and legal education and licensing reform.

2. The Court has moved to a new calendar system that requires the justices to file all opinions heard in a term (September to July) by July 15. Continuing to refine and expand this process is important because timely deciding our cases provides stability and predictability for the judicial system and the community.

3. The continuing challenge for the Supreme Court and the judiciary as a whole is addressing access to justice -- providing legal representation for those who cannot afford it. Improving how New Mexicans can effectively and affordably access the courts is a constant need.

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE POSITION 1 (NON-RETENTION)

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. What are the major challenges for an Appeals Court Judge?
3. What would be the most effective methods to improve Appeals Court procedures and efficiency?
4. What other information would you like voters to know about you?

Kris Houghton (D)

1. I believe wholeheartedly that due process is for everyone and that no one is above or beneath the law. I vow to uphold the US and NM Constitutions. I have served in this office since Gov. Lujan Grisham appointed me in 2025, after I was recommended to her by a bi-partisan nominating commission. I have since authored opinions for the Court in both criminal and civil law. I served most of my 18-year legal career in the Dep't of Justice at the US Attorney's Office in ABQ. As an Assistant US Attorney, I handled criminal, civil, and appellate cases. I served overseas as DOJ's Judicial Attaché in Colombia, and then returned to ABQ as Chief of the Criminal Division. Previously, I clerked for both the NM Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

2. The breadth of law is staggering; an appellate judge must accurately decide cases in every area of law (criminal, negligence, family, probate, property, to name but a few). But it is impossible to know all the law. A great judge humbly seeks input from other chambers, staff, and clerks to ensure each case reaches the right result for the right reasons. The work demands rigorous legal analysis and clear writing. I follow the example of my mentors by carefully parsing applicable rules, statutes, and case law. I then work tirelessly with fellow judges, clerks, and staff to ensure we draft an opinion that is understandable by the public. Finally, with ~800 cases filed in the court each year, the work load demands discipline and diligence.

3. With just ten judges on the Court of Appeals serving the entire State, there is a great need for efficiency. Toward that goal, the Court has developed a number of strategies over the years. For example, the Court manages a team of experienced staff attorneys who use a calendaring system to filter cases by degree of difficulty. The Court recently piloted a successful mediation program that facilitates settlement for appropriate cases. Those strategies have reduced the number of cases awaiting a decision. But the Court should (and does) strive toward continual improvement. To that end, the judges meet monthly to discuss and employ new methods. We are working to build more efficiency in the way we write and participate on our opinions.

4. I am married to María Montoya who is an OB/Gyn and attending physician at the University of New Mexico Hospital. My wife and I are raising three children and stay busy with their football, soccer, basketball, and track activities. I earned my law degree from UNM School of Law, where I received the Dean's Award for Significant Contribution to the Law School Community and was on the Dean's List and Honor Roll. I also previously served as a Captain in the US Air Forces Reserves. I was commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force JAG Corps and was assigned to the 27th Special Operations Wing at Cannon Air Force Base and the 377th Air Base Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base.

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE (RETENTION)

1. What qualifies you for this position?
2. What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Court of Appeals practices and why?
3. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?

J. Miles Hanisee

1. It has been my honor to serve New Mexicans as one of ten judges on the Court of Appeals for more than 15 years. In that time, I've been elected twice, authored over 1000 cases on behalf of our court, and served as a judge on thousands more. I am grateful that the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission recommends that I be retained for another term, and strive every day to efficiently and swiftly resolve disputes of critical importance to people, families, and businesses throughout our state. Upholding individual rights, ensuring adherence to the constitution and laws of New Mexico, and resolving appeals without preference or bias are the hallmarks of judicial service, to which I faithfully adhere.

2. The New Mexico Court of Appeals resolves nearly 1000 cases a year, ranging from criminal to civil to administrative, affecting numerous people, communities, the environment and our state's precious natural resources. Finding a way to speed up complicated appellate processes, while providing litigants an appropriate amount of time to develop and present their cases, is always a challenge. I support modernizing rules related to notices of appeal, docketing statements (preliminarily identifying issues on appeal), and the provision of trial court records to appellate courts in order to more quickly render cases capable of resolution by our court.

3. Simplifying court processes to emphasize access to justice, providing an environment that is even more open and transparent and explanatory, adjusting to changes in technology and the use of artificial intelligence, supplying answers that are readable and able to be understood by any member of the public, and not just lawyers, are areas in which all courts--including ours--can improve. We as a court of

ten judges, assisted by our staff attorneys and law clerks and paralegals and administrative professionals, are committed to bettering ourselves and our court in the months and years to come, recognizing the critical and evolving role of the judiciary in New Mexico.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, 3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT, DIVISION 4 (DOÑA ANA) (NON-RETENTION)

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. What in your background would serve you best as a District Court judge?
3. What changes, if any, should be made to improve the operations of the District Courts?
4. Are changes needed to current statutes, codes or rules to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

Isabel D. Jerabek (D)

1. 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.

2. I have 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.

3. 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.

4. 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 themself free from public influence. Once elected as the next Third Judicial District Judge, I will strive to continue to be ethical, fair, and impartial.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE (RETENTION) 3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. Why should voters retain you for this office?
3. If retained, how do you intend to ensure court cases are addressed in a fair and timely manner?
4. In addition to presiding over trials and issuing legal rulings, how would you improve the operations of the District Court?

DIVISION 1 (RETENTION)

Manuel Isaac Arrieta

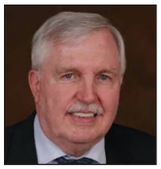
1. My experience and contributions to the community. I am a native of southern New Mexico and a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Law. I spent 24 years in private practice and 16 years as a judge in the area of civil law. I've been a water law judge for the last 14 years and have several papers published in this area. Most importantly, I spent 4 seasons as the soccer coach for my granddaughters and I continue to be an ardent supporter in all things granddaughters.

2. I have the most experience in civil law (complex cases, contracts, personal injury, employment law, probate, etc) at the district court. My experience, work ethic and knowledge are directed each day towards meeting the legal needs of the community.

3. With my experience, I will continue to try and increase the efficiencies of my office and prioritizing cases where necessary. In a time of limited budgets and facilities, it is important to not only be efficient, but to give each matter the attention that it merits.

4. I continue to contribute my experience and ideas for the continued growth of the court, and also for the improvement of legal services that are available to the public. Our office is bilingual and as a result, we are able to serve the public with information that meets the specific needs of the public, regardless of language.

DIVISION 7 (RETENTION)



Douglas R. Driggers

1. have been a District Judge for 23 years serving primarily in criminal court but have also served in domestic relations court and civil court. Prior to that, I served as the District Attorney for Dona Ana County for two terms.

2. With my experience as a private attorney, District Attorney, and District Judge, I will continue to provide the public with the benefit of my knowledge of the law and experience I have gained in all the positions I have held. I have always strived for integrity and am committed to a fair and equitable administration of justice.

3. It has always been my priority and will continue to be my priority to ensure that cases are handled in a timely manner but also to make sure that each litigant is treated fairly and justly under the law.

4. I would like for the District Court to implement more eduction and more resources for the general public to better understand what we do here and to better assist them in their legal endeavors. I believe that Dona Ana County would benefit from an expansion of the courthouse to accommodate more judges which would ensure cases would be more expeditiously resolved.

COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGES

COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE, DIVISION 1

1. If elected, what will you do to decrease the backlog of court cases?
2. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Magistrate Courts?
3. What skills and knowledge do you bring to the position?

Nathan William Graff (D)

1. 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. Fortunately, the Magistrate Court Staff has managed the caseload to make sure there is no backlog at this time due to their incredible work.

2. 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.

3. 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.

COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Linda L. Flores (D), Division 2

Rosenda Maria Chavez-Lara (D), Division 3

No Responses Received

COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE, DIVISION 4

Bryan Michael Gelecki (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE, DIVISION 5

Chrystian Julian Gonzalez (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE, DIVISION 6

Jannette Alicia Mondragon (D)

1. There is currently no backlog of cases in our Magistrate Court. I will continue working efficiently and responsibly to ensure cases are resolved promptly while protecting every person's right to a fair hearing.

2. Additional interpreters and staff would help cases move more efficiently, improve access to justice, and reduce unnecessary delays for litigants.

3. I bring extensive courtroom and legal experience as a Magistrate Judge, former Senior Assistant District Attorney, immigration attorney, and Child Support Enforcement Attorney. As the first Native American judge to serve in the Third Judicial District, I understand the law, the courtroom, and the importance of treating every person with fairness and respect.

COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE, DIVISION 7

Gian Alexander Rossario (D)

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

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

3. 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.

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 7
(DOÑA ANA)

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. What are your top three priorities for the Public Education Commission?
3. Should there be a cap on the total number of state charter schools? Please explain.
4. What is the purpose and need for state charter schools?
5. How should the Public Education Commission assess the financial stability of schools before authorizing or renewing a charter?
6. How will you evaluate the educational performance of state charter schools?

Frederick Walton Parker (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

John Foreman (R)

1. - 35 years teaching / admin experience in public and private schools.- Ph.D. in Educational Leadership- 30+ years of successful school leadership with quantified results.

2. - Protect the ability of charters to function independently and capitalize upon their success based the needs of their student community.- Expand vocational / skill based learning for high school students. -Continue to provide parents a choice for their child's education.

3. - I believe so. Like anything else, uncontrolled growth (too many new schools too quickly) usually leads to problems.

4. - Provide parents a choice for their child's education.- Provide alternative approaches to education to better meet the needs of their student community. (Examples - vocational training, fine arts, STEM/STEAM, etc.

5. Schools that can demonstrate results demonstrate their ability to meet their mission. Higher graduation rates as an example.

6. - A clearly defined mission, providing an needed and unique educational option. - Ability to use good financial principles in budgeting. Those who are successful with smaller amounts should be considered for larger amounts. And, vice-versa.

MORE CANDIDATE RESPONSES!

Due to space limitations, some questions and answers for several candidates were not able to be printed in the Voters' Guide. However, all questions that were sent to the candidates are available at www.Vote411.org. Additional candidate answers are also available at this website.

NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Representative Races that Extend Beyond Doña Ana County

Voters should be aware that a few of the State Representative races are included in this Voters' Guide for Doña Ana County even though the candidates may or may not reside within Doña Ana County. Three races have district boundaries that include portions of other counties; therefore, those legislative offices represent constituents in more than one county. LWVSNM has included three of these state races: District 32, District 38, and District 53.

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

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 32

(District represents Doña Ana, Luna & Hidalgo counties)

Jenifer Marie Jones (R)
No Response Received

Laura Mairel Parra (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 33

Micaela Lara Cadena (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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).

4. 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.

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

Enrique Kiki Vigil (R)
No Response Received

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 34

Raymundo Lara (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 35

Angelica Rubio (D)
No Response Received

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 36

Julia E. Ruiz (R)

1. 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. 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. What qualifies me most is that I will listen, I will show up, and I will fight for the community—not special interests.

2. 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.

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 listening to the people, none of these problems get solved

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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. We need to invest more in mental health and addiction treatment. 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.

Nathan P. Small (D)

1. 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.

2. 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

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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

Lori A. Martinez (D)

1. 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 Martinez Yazzie education lawsuit.

2. 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 effective experiences. Student engagement & graduation rates soar when we do this.

3. 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 environmental impact, job creation & electricity costs.

4. 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. 5) Transparency standards, including what information communities & lawmakers must have access to before decisions are made.

5. 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 systems are owned by private equity. NM needs universal healthcare.

Isabella Solis (R)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 38

(District represents Doña Ana, Sierra, Socorro counties)

David L. Mooney (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

Rebecca Dow (R)

1. 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. 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. This district requires practical leadership. I've worked across communities, navigated minority-party dynamics, and stayed focused on results that reflect local needs.

2. 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.

3. NM's water crisis is urgent. Elephant Butte is at 1% capacity, showing how little cushion remains on the Rio Grande and why demand on groundwater is rising. The answer is not buying ag land and taking it out of production. NM needs a comprehensive approach: protect and maximize traditional supplies, improve conservation and infrastructure, and restore watersheds through forest thinning, erosion control, and removal of noxious/invasive species like salt cedar and Russian olive. We must also develop nontraditional water—brackish groundwater and produced water—with strong treatment, testing, and safeguards to reduce pressure on rivers and aquifers.

4. For major economic development projects, NM should use clear, consistent criteria: long-term ROI, quality jobs, local impact, infrastructure needs, and alignment with water and natural resource limits. Projects must be transparent, accountable, and deliver broad public benefit—not just short-term wins. I'm skeptical of an RFP process where a limited few pick winners and losers. With NM holding over 75 billion in funds and reserves, we should focus on structural reform: modernize the tax code, eliminate the state income tax, support small businesses, encourage startups, and drive organic growth. That reaches all 33 counties, not just select projects, and builds a stronger, more durable statewide economy.

5. 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.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 52

Doreen Yvonne Gallegos (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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

(District represents Doña Ana and Otero counties)

Ben Luna, Jr. (R)

1. 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 communi-ties, as your new State Representative of House District 53.

2. 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.

3. 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.

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

5. 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.

Sarah Angelina Silva (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY OFFICES

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. What are the biggest challenges facing your county?
3. How would you address these challenges?
4. How would you share information with the public about matters coming before the commission?
5. How would you propose to balance growth with water scarcity in an increasingly arid state?

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

Samantha R. Barncastle Salopek (R)

1. County Government focuses on a variety of things I, 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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 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.

5. 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.

Daisy Ann Maldonado (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Water is not a commodity. It is a birthright. Families in the southern most 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.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

Willie D. Madrid (D)

No Response Received

Patricia Susan Kimble (DTS)

1. I was appointed to the District 3 County Commission seat by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham in February of 2026 to fill the remainder of the term of the previous Commissioner who resigned. I was not on the Commission when the vote was made to approve Project Jupiter, but I have been actively involved in working to hold Oracle and Project Jupiter companies accountable in any way I possibly can. I listen to constituents so that I understand their position on issues affecting Dona Ana County. I have worked with Community Development to bring dilapidated property issues to the table, resulting in successful remediation of properties that have been neglected for far too long. I will continue to meet with residents to hear their concerns.

2. Currently, the most discussed issue is Project Jupiter. Many residents are enraged by the lack of information shared with residents about the project, and the speed at which it was approved. There are many questions still to be answered about the project. Other challenges in the County include flood damage (actual and potential), codes enforcement, and animal control activities among others.

3. Open and honest dialog is needed with county residents about what is expected in the development of Project Jupiter; questions need to be asked and answered of the companies involved. The County needs to ensure that all commitments made by the developers are in writing, are measured, and are upheld. If the commitments made are not upheld, the County needs to step up and utilize legal, financial and regulatory avenues to enforce compliance, or to stop the project. The other challenges are ongoing in a County of our size; departments need to be given the support and resources they need to serve the residents and provide a safe place to live and work.

4. I will host community meetings in my district to connect with residents and business owners about issues coming to the Commission. In reality, the public generally brings information to me about issues. I learn more about an issue by listening to those who are most affected by it. I respond to calls, emails and texts from residents as quickly as I can, even if I don't have the answers they are looking for. I will continue to work to find information when I am asked for it; and I will continue to listen to ideas, concerns and questions brought to my attention.

5. I have been reading and hearing so much about water scarcity, not just in Dona Ana County, or just New Mexico, but all over the Country. I would like to know more about desalination programs: I see examples of where the plants work efficiently, then I hear that they are not scalable for general use. I understand the cost to develop a plant is very high, and the water to be treated is not without limits. Energy costs to treat the water can also be very high. All technologies for improving access to water need to be explored and evaluated to find the most cost-effective way to provide the water needed to serve communities; residents should not have to sacrifice their water for the wants of corporate interests.

Julia Tondaleah Brown (write-in) (D)

1. My education, work and life experiences are major assets for the Commission, and make me the most qualified candidate. My education includes law, public administration & public policy. Worked at all levels of government-city, county, state, federal and served in the Military. Former Doña Ana County Manager, Sunland Park City Manager, and Regional Rep for State of NM Economic Development Dept. Other expertise includes Legal Aid Attorney; Community organizer; Advocate for community and grassroots empowerment; forming non-profit entities; served on non-profit boards, and obtained funding & technical assistance for non-profits and small businesses. Overall, I'm skilled at finding collaborative & creative solutions to solve difficult problems!

2. Some of the challenges facing the County include complaints of lack of transparency. Other challenges include funding infrastructure projects, water issues, number of Colonias, the May 2026 state special audit report highlighting operational and financial oversight flaws, resulting in the State curtailing the County's ability to manage certain fiscal affairs and stating the requirement for a Fiscal Agent to manage grants. This action will have enormous financial implications for the County for an uncertain length of time into the future. Additionally, the issue of affordability is a major challenge, incorporating such sub issues as food deserts, fuel and grocery costs plus unemployment (22 of 33 counties have lower unemployment).

3. I've said many times, transparency and accountability in government is critical. We need to work with appropriate State agencies, community, business and institutional partners to find solutions on affordability, infrastructure, business growth and job creation. Interaction and cooperation among Commissioners, other elected officials, County Management and staff are key as we go beyond 'lip service' and really dig into the necessary change in organizational culture and practice that elevates fiscal responsibility to the level where it should be. We can't operate with a "business as usual" approach, look the other way or ignore compliance standards and the law. The citizens of this County deserve steadfast, ethical and committed leadership!

4. I believe transparency in government is critical. I will have an on line presence to post information about BOCC actions, county and District Three (3) events, programs, initiatives, etc. Additionally, I will host regularly scheduled outreach meetings throughout the District to provide information and updates and to visit with residents, businesses and institutions to obtain input and feedback. I plan to attend events, meetings and other gatherings in the district or other venues which concern the district or might otherwise impact it. I expect to establish relationships with media and other communication vehicles to aid in getting information to constituents. I will stay aware of resources for constituents, businesses, institutions, etc.

5. As climate trend points toward increasing aridity, the way is clear: new thinking and innovative solutions are needed to sustain water supplies, support agriculture, and protect ecosystems. With agriculture consuming the lion's share, long-term solutions are needed that continue effective use of water for agriculture while increasing efficiency, allocating water for competing uses, and reducing depletion of water supplies. I support an expanded role of research to aid understanding and map new approaches to reach the critical balance between supporting water uses and sustaining supplies for the long term. Dona Ana County is utilizing designated funds from Project Jupiter to explore the potential of desalination; I urge expanded exploration.

COUNTY SHERIFF

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. What changes, if any, would you make to the administration of the Sheriff's office?
3. What do you see as the most critical issues facing the Sheriff's office?
4. How would you address these issues?
5. What training, if any, should be provided to officers for dealing with mental health issues?
6. Explain how the County Sheriff should interact with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, if at all.

Todd J. Garrison (R)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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 servre as professionals.

5. 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.

6. 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.

Vanessa Ordoñez (D)

1. I bring a proven record of chief executive-level leadership, backed by more than two decades of combined law enforcement and military service. As a combat veteran and former Police Chief, I led a department to become the #1 Safest City in New Mexico and #4 Safest Border City in the nation (2025). I've managed multi-million-dollar budgets, revised policies and procedures, and improved accountability across organizations. I serve on key criminal justice boards, bringing a collaborative, system-wide approach to public safety. As a domestic violence and mental health instructor, I've trained others to respond with both professionalism and compassion, ensuring our approach to public safety reflects the realities and trends our communities face.

2. 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. We need to continuously ensure deputies and staff have the tools and training they need to succeed and so they can provide quality services to our community.

3. Communities expect transparency, professionalism, and fair, consistent policing. That means strong policies, and clear oversight. We're seeing an increase in complex calls for service, especially involving mental health crisis and juvenile crime. These situations require more than a traditional law enforcement response. I know the importance of training deputies to respond with both skill and compassion, while also strengthening partnerships with community-based services. Interagency collaboration is also essential. Public safety doesn't happen in a silo. We need strong partnerships with local law enforcement, legislators, courts, behavioral health providers, and community organizations to create real, lasting solutions.

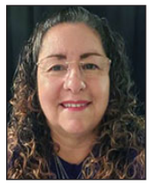
4. We address this by turning priorities into action and strengthen transparency through clear policies, consistent supervision, and accessible public data. Accountability must be built into the culture. We expand training and partnerships to better respond to mental health and other complex calls, including co-responder models and stronger coordination with service providers. We also formalize interagency collaboration by regularly bringing together all stakeholders to align efforts and close gaps. Investing in our deputies, ensuring they are trained, supported, and equipped to serve effectively is also critical. This is how we deliver real, lasting public safety solutions for our community.

5. 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.

6. 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 crime or cooperate with investigations. That can undermine overall public safety.

COUNTY ASSESSOR

1. What qualifies you for this office?
2. List your top priorities for the office.
3. How do you plan to ensure fairness and transparency in property valuations?
4 What training will you provide for your staff in the technical, legal, and administrative aspects of property valuation and taxation?



Eugenia Gina Montoya Ortega (D)

1. I am the current DAC Assessor and have been serving in this role for three years, eight months, and ten days. 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. 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. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

1. Describe the specific legal training and knowledge that have prepared you for the office of Probate Judge.
2. What changes, if any, would you make to the functioning of the Probate Court?
3. How can you educate the public about the court's processes?
4. What other information would you like voters to know about you?

Judith Ann Baca (D)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

ON THE BALLOT'S BACKSIDE

Constitutional Amendments

Constitutional Amendment 1:

Proposing an amendment to Article 4, Section 22 of the Constitution of New Mexico to require the governor to provide veto messages on all bills vetoed in whole or in part and to provide that all bills passed by the legislature and not acted on by the governor will become law.

Constitutional Amendment 2:

Proposing to amend Article 7, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico to remove the requirement that school elections be separate from partisan elections.

Constitutional Amendment 3:

Proposing an amendment to Article 12, Section 13 of the Constitution of New Mexico to establish nominating committees to provide lists of nominees to the governor for appointment of nonstudent members to the boards of regents of state educational institutions; providing that student members of boards of regents shall be appointed from a list provided by an elected student governing body of the institution; providing that, except for a student member, members of the boards of regents shall not have changed their political party registration in the twelve months preceding appointment.

Constitutional Amendment 4:

Proposing to amend Article 4, Section 10 of the Constitution of New Mexico to allow legislative compensation that is limited to the median household income for New Mexico, to require legislative compensation to be reduced if the median household income for New Mexico falls, to allow legislative compensation to be increased only if the median household income for New Mexico rises and to provide for delayed implementation.

STATEWIDE BOND QUESTIONS

Bond Question 1:

The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed twenty-one million five hundred eighty-two thousand two hundred thirteen dollars ($21,582,213) to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition projects and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

FOR AGAINST

Bond Question 2:

The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of library acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed nineteen million three hundred twenty-four thousand one hundred eighty-eight dollars ($19,324,188) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, public and tribal library resource acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

FOR AGAINST

Bond Question 3:

The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed three hundred fifty-two million two hundred twenty five thousand three hundred seventy-nine dollars ($352,225,379) to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

FOR AGAINST

LOCAL TAX QUESTIONS

Las Cruces G.O. Library Bond:

Shall the City of Las Cruces be authorized to issue general obligation bonds, payable from property taxes, in an amount up to $26,000,000 to acquire, plan, design, develop, construct, improve, renovate, modernize, automate, furnish and equip the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library?

FOR AGAINST

Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District Mill Levy for Land, Water, and Natural Resources Conservation:

Shall the duly elected Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors establish a levy of up to 0.25 mills to: protect drinking water sources and the health of rivers and streams by improving stormwater and floodplain management; reduce the risk of flooding by improving the watersheds and range lands above dams; continuing work on lowering the heat index by planting trees (DASWCD NeighborWoods) in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County; restore wildlife habitat, including along the Rio Grande; preserve agricultural land by partnering with local farmers to promote healthy soil practices; restore and conserve natural areas and open spaces to provide equitable access to the outdoors; and provide natural resources education for youth and adults, with all revenues and expenditures subject to an independent annual audit?

YES NO

Disclaimer: Information in 2026 Voters' Guide was correct as of Sept. 16, 2026. The League is not responsible for any changes made by the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections or the NM Secretary of State's Office after that date.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

GUÍA DE VOTACIÓN NO PARTIDARIA 2026

Elecciones generales en Nuevo México ★ Martes, 3 de noviembre, 2026

PUEDE VOTAR EN ESTA ELECCIÓN SI:

- ★ Es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos,
- ★ Tiene 18 años de edad o más el día de la elección,
- ★ Es residente del condado de Doña Ana,
- ★ Está registrado para votar en el condado de Doña Ana

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre la elección, comuníquese con la oficina de la Secretaría del Condado de Doña Ana al (575) 647-7428 o
www.DACelections.com
www.Vote411.org
www.nmvote.gov

VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA

Cómo votar antes del 3 de noviembre, 2026:

- Acercarse al Doña Ana County (DAC) Government Center: 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces.
- El Buró de Elecciones de DAC está abierto del 6 al 30 de octubre, de lunes a viernes, 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m., y el sábado, 31 de octubre, de 10:00 a.m. a 6:00 p.m.
- NOTAR: Las oficinas cerrarán el lunes, 12 de octubre, en honor al Día del Pueblo Indígena.

MÁS LOCALES DE VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA

A continuación se encuentran más locales para la votación anticipada del 17 al 31 de octubre, 2026, de martes a sábado, de 11:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m.

Más locales de votación anticipada

- Anthony Public Library (Multipurpose Room), 750 Landers Rd., Anthony, NM
- Corbett Center Student Union, 1600 International Mall, Las Cruces
- Doña Ana Community College - Chaparral, 755 Prescott Anthony Dr., Chaparral
- Doña Ana Community College - East Mesa Campus, 2800 Sonoma Ranch Blvd., Las Cruces
- Doña Ana Community College - Sunland Park, 3365 McNutt Rd., Sunland Park
- Hatch Valley Public Schools Student Services Center, 350 Main St., Hatch
- Las Cruces City Hall, 700 N. Main St., Las Cruces
- Mesilla Town Hall, 2231 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla

ACERCA DE LA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (LIGA DE MUJERES VOTANTES)

La League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico (LWVSNM, por sus siglas en inglés) es una organización 501(c)3, sin fines de lucro, que brinda información sobre temas políticos y candidatos a cargos públicos para promover una mayor responsabilidad y participación ciudadana en el gobierno. La Liga, establecida en 1968, tiene 110 miembros -- mujeres y hombres -- de cinco condados sureños de Nuevo México: Doña Ana, Otero, Sierra, Grant y Luna. Nuestra Liga está comprometida con **"Empoderar a las votantes y defender la democracia".**

Debido a que la Liga no es partidista, no apoya ni se opone a ningún partido político o candidato. Como servicio a nuestra comunidad, la LWVSNM publica y distribuye información confiable para que los ciudadanos la utilicen al prepararse para votar.

¡LWVSNM invita a todos a hacerse miembros! Contáctenos para obtener información sobre cómo unirse en www.lwvsnm.org/join/, por correo electrónico a lwvsnm@gmail.com o escaneando el código QR.

Siga a la Liga en las redes sociales:

facebook.com/LWVSNM/ @lwvsnm

COLABORADORES DE LA COMUNIDAD

La impresión de la Guía para el Votante de la LWVSNM y la realización de nuestras actividades para fomentar la conciencia cívica no serían posibles sin el apoyo de numerosos miembros de la comunidad. Agradecemos a las siguientes empresas y personas por sus generosas contribuciones: El Paso Electric Charitable Foundation • LWVNM Education Fund • Jennifer Kreie • Jane Asche • Charlotte Lipson • Christina & William Little • Jean y Peter Ossorio • Aleta Wilson • Y a los 110 miembros de la LWVSNM, cuyas cuotas financian los servicios de la organización dirigidos a los votantes. Agradecemos todas las donaciones.

Información de la guía para el votante

La Liga solicitó a todos los candidatos de cada contienda electoral que respondieran a las siguientes preguntas en inglés y español para la Guía del Votante. Asimismo, se informó a los candidatos que sus respuestas no serían editadas de ninguna manera. Los candidatos aparecen listados siguiendo el orden establecido en la boleta electoral por la Secretaría de Estado de Nuevo México.

INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE

- El día de las elecciones es el martes, 3 de noviembre, 2026
- Sin importar en qué distrito electoral vive, puede votar en cualquiera de los Centros para Votar por todo el condado de Doña Ana, el día de las elecciones.
- El día de las elecciones, el Buró DAC de elecciones, ubicado en el 845 N. Motel Blvd, en Las Cruces, abre de las 8 a.m. hasta las 5 p.m.
- Todas las campañas de la elección general se pueden ver en la página web de la Secretaría de Estado de NM en: www.nmvote.gov/

VOTE411.ORG

La información sobre los candidatos en esta guía para votantes se obtuvo de las respuestas proporcionadas por los candidatos a Vote411.org., una página web que patrocina La Liga, y que proporciona información sobre la votación y los candidatos por todo el estado. La Liga imprimió las respuestas exactamente como las respondieron los candidatos. Debido a las restricciones de espacio en las guías impresas, es posible que el largo de las respuestas de los candidatos haya sido reducido. A todos los candidatos también se les pidió entregar sus respuestas en español.

• REGÍSTRESE PARA VOTAR
• REGISTRO EL MISMO DÍA

nmvote.gov

VOTE411 es:

Una guía para votantes en línea
Un solo lugar para la información no partidaria sobre las elecciones
Obtenga información para votar y prepárese para votar

FECHAS IMPORTANTES

OCTUBRE 6:	Se termina la registración para votar por correo y en línea Comienza la votación anticipada en la Secretaría de Doña Ana El registrarse en persona el mismo día está disponible en todos los locales de votación anticipada y el día de las elecciones Salen por correo las boletas para votar en ausencia
OCTUBRE 17:	Comienza la votación anticipada expandida en 8 locales, del martes al sábado, de 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
OCTUBRE 20:	El último día para pedir una boleta en ausencia en la Secretaría de Doña Ana o de www.NMVote.org
OCTUBRE 31:	Termina la votación anticipada
NOVIEMBRE 3:	EL DÍA DE LAS ELECCIONES El último día para registrarse el mismo día Deben ser entregadas todas las boletas en ausencia para las 7:00 p.m.

SU VOTO CUENTA

Todas las campañas y preguntas de las elecciones generales están disponibles en el sitio web del Secretario de Estado de Nuevo México: www.sos.nm.gov/

EL 3 DE NOVIEMBRE★42 LOCALES PARA VOTAR

Todos los locales abren de las 7:00 a.m a las 7:00 p.m.

Cualquier votante registrado en el condado de Doña Ana puede votar en cualquiera de esos Centros de Votación:

Anthony Municipal Complex - 820 Highway 478 Anthony, NM
Berino Elementary School - 92 Shrode Rd., Berino
Camino Real Middle School - 2961 N. Roadrunner Pkwy., Las Cruces
Corbett Center - NMSU - 1600 International Mall, Las Cruces
DACC - Chaparral - 755 Prescott Anthony Dr., Chaparral
DACC - East Mesa Campus - 2800 Sonoma Ranch Blvd, Las Cruces
DACC - Sunland Park - 3365 McNutt Rd., Sunland Park
Del Cerro Community Center - 180 La Fe Ave., Vado
Desert Hills Elementary School - 280 N. Roadrunner Pkwy., Las Cruces
Doña Ana Community Center - 5745 Ledesma Dr., Doña Ana
Doña Ana County Government Ctr. - 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces
East Picacho Elementary School - 4450 N. Valley Dr., Las Cruces
Fairacres Elementary School - 4501 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces
Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum - 4100 Dripping Springs Rd., Las Cruces
Frank O'Brien Papen Ctr. (Mesilla Park Rec. Ctr.) - 304 W. Bell Ave., Mesilla Park
Gadsden High School - 6301 Highway 28, Anthony
Garfield Elementary School - 8820 Highway 187, Garfield
Hatch Valley Schools Student Services Ctr. - 350 Main St., Hatch
Highland Elementary - 4201 Emerald St., Las Cruces
Jornada Elementary School - 3400 Elks Dr., Las Cruces
La Mesa Fire Department - 15765 Highway 28, La Mesa
La Union Elementary School - 875 Mercantil Ave., Anthony, NM
Las Alturas Fire Station - 4145 Cholla Dr., Las Cruces
Las Cruces City Hall - 700 N. Main St., Las Cruces
Las Cruces High School - 1750 El Paseo Rd., Las Cruces
Las Cruces Village Social Ctr. - 3011 Buena Vida Cir., Las Cruces
Loma Heights Elementary - 1600 E. Madrid Ave., Las Cruces
Lynn Middle School - 950 S. Walnut St., Las Cruces
Mayfield High School - 1955 N. Valley Dr., Las Cruces
Mesilla Town Hall - 2231 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla
Mesquite Fire Station 10 - 1 Firehouse Rd., Mesquite NM
North Valley Elementary School - 300 Cascade Ave., San Miguel
Organ Community Center - 5880 2nd St., Organ
Organ Mountain High School - 5700 Mesa Grande Dr., Las Cruces
Radium Springs Community Ctr. - 12060 L.B. Lindbeck Rd.
*Rincon Community Center, 220 Baker St., Rincon
*Riverside Elementary School, 4085 McNutt Rd., Santa Teresa
Sierra Middle School - 1700 Spruce Ave., Las Cruces
Sunrise Elementary School - 5300 Holman Rd., Las Cruces
Tombaugh Elementary - 226 Carver Rd., Las Cruces
University Hills Elementary School - 2005 S. Locust, Las Cruces
Vista Middle School - 4465 Elks Dr., Las Cruces

*Nuevos locales de votación

★ ★ ★ THE LAS CRUCES Bulletin ★ ★ ★

Se solicitó a todos los candidatos que respondieran a las preguntas tanto en inglés como en español. Agradecemos a los siguientes candidatos por haber proporcionado sus respuestas en ambos idiomas.

Abreviaturas: Demócrata (D); Republicano (R); Negarse a declarar (DTS); Partido Forward (FWD)

SECRETARIA DE ESTADO

1. ¿Qué le capacita para este cargo?
2. Enumera tus principales prioridades y explica cómo las alcanzarás.
3. ¿Qué medidas, si las hubiera, tomaría usted para aumentar y proteger la participación de los votantes en las elecciones?
4. ¿Cómo ayudaría al público a navegar por la información electoral en esta era de la IA y las redes sociales?
5. ¿Cuál es el papel del Secretario de Estado en la salvaguardia de la integridad de la información de los votantes y en garantizar unas elecciones seguras y justas?
6. ¿El cargo de Secretario de Estado debería ser partidista o no partidista y por qué?

Ramona L. Goolsby (R)

1. Soy veterana de la Reserva del Ejército de EE. UU., enfermera jubilada de practica avanzada en medicina familiar (incluido el servicio en la VA), dueña de una pequeña empresa con amplía trayectoria, ganadera jubilada y supervisora electa del Distrito de Conservación de Suelos y Aguas de Ciudad. Al dirigir un negocio y completar misiones complejas he aprendido precisión, responsabilidad y gestión eficiente de sistemas. He servido como secretaria de casilla electoral y patrociné referendos de transparencia. El cargo de Secretario de Estado es administrativo: administrar elecciones, registros de entidades comerciales y la aplicación justa de los estatutos para todos la gente de Nuevo México.

2. Prioridades: integridad electoral y confianza pública; presentaciones de negocios precisas y fáciles de usar; aplicación transparente y justa de las leyes de financiamiento de campañas y cabildeo; operaciones profesionales de la oficina. Mantendré listas de votantes precisas, apoyaré salvaguardias de sentido común, modernizaré el registro de negocios para reducir la burocracia, aplicaré los estatutos de manera uniforme sin favoritismos, proporcionaré información pública clara y trabajaré de manera constante con los secretarios de condado para que cada voto elegible cuente y las empresas de Nuevo México operen de manera eficiente.

3. La participación crece cuando los ciudadanos elegibles confían en que el sistema es justo y preciso. Protegeré el acceso mediante listas de votantes precisas (eliminando registros desactualizados mientras se salvaguarda a los votantes legítimos), educación clara sobre las opciones, procesos eficientes con los secretarios de condado y una administración neutral como un árbitro justo. Restaurar la confianza a través de la transparencia y reglas consistentes anima a más Nuevo Mexicanos elegibles a participar mientras se protege la integridad.

4. La oficina debe ser la fuente neutral y autorizada de hechos claros. Priorizaré recursos en lenguaje sencillo que expliquen el registro, los métodos de votación, los plazos y los resultados; proporcionaré respuestas rápidas y transparentes a preguntas y afirmaciones que circulen. Un portal de transparencia para los registros electorales accesible al público será una prioridad principal. Asociarme con los secretarios de condado y usar canales seguros ayuda a que los votantes obtengan información confiable directamente del administrador de elecciones.

5. Como principal funcionario de elecciones, el Secretario ayuda a administrar las elecciones, mantiene los registros oficiales incluyendo los datos de los votantes, apoya a los secretarios de condado, aplica los estatutos y garantiza procedimientos consistentes y transparentes. La integridad requiere listas de votantes precisas, datos protegidos, sistemas seguros, información pública clara y un arbitraje neutral para que cada votante elegible pueda participar y cada voto legal se cuente con precisión. El rol es administrativo: aplicar la ley de manera uniforme y generar confianza a través de la competencia.

6. La oficina debe administrarse de manera no partidista independientemente del partido del titular. Las elecciones y los registros requieren una gestión neutral para que cada participante Nuevo Méxicano elegible confíe en que las reglas se aplican de manera justa y consistente. Las funciones principales —administrar elecciones, mantener registros de votantes y de negocios, hacer cumplir la divulgación— son estrictamente administrativas, no de defensa. Un enfoque profesional basado en reglas, centrado en la precisión, la transparencia y el trato igualitario, sirve mejor al público y protege la integridad del proceso.

JUEZ DEL TRIBUNAL DE APELACIONES, CARGO 1

1. ¿Qué le capacita para este cargo?
2. ¿Cuáles son los principales desafíos para un juez de un tribunal de apelaciones?
3. ¿Cuáles serían los métodos más eficaces para mejorar los procedimientos y la eficiencia de los tribunales de apelación?
4. ¿Qué otra información le gustaría que los votantes supieran sobre usted?

Kris Houghton (D)

1. Creo que el debido proceso es para todos y que nadie está por encima ni por debajo de la ley. Me comprometo a defender las Constituciones de los Estados Unidos y de Nuevo México. He desempeñado este cargo desde que la Gobernadora Lujan Grisham me nombró el año pasado, tras haber sido recomendado por una comisión de nombramiento bipartidista. Desde entonces, he redactado opiniones para la Corte en los ámbitos del derecho penal y civil. Dediqué la mayor parte de mis 18 años de carrera jurídica al Departamento de Justicia. Como fiscal, procesé casos penales, civiles y de apelación. Trabajé como Agregado Judicial del Departamento de Justicia en Colombia y, posteriormente, regresé a Albuquerque para ejercer como Jefe de la División Penal.

2. La amplitud del derecho es asombrosa; un juez de apelaciones debe resolver con precisión casos de todas las áreas jurídicas (penal, negligencia, familia, sucesiones, propiedad, por nombrar solo algunas). Sin embargo, es imposible conocer la totalidad del derecho. Un gran juez consulta otras salas, del personal y de los asistentes judiciales para asegurar que cada caso reciba la decisión correcta por las razones correctas. Sigo el ejemplo de mis mentores al examinar minuciosamente las normas, las leyes y la jurisprudencia aplicables. Posteriormente, trabajo incansablemente junto con mis colegas jueces, secretarios y personal para garantizar la redacción de un dictamen que resulte comprensible para el público.

3. Con tan solo 10 jueces en la Corte de Apelaciones prestando servicio a todo el estado, existe una gran necesidad de eficiencia. Con este objetivo en mente, la Corte ha desarrollado una serie de estrategias. Por ejemplo, la Corte gestiona un equipo de abogados que utilizan un sistema para filtrar los casos según su grado de dificultad. Recientemente, la Corte puso a prueba un exitoso programa de mediación que facilita la resolución de casos. Estas estrategias han reducido el número de casos pendientes. No obstante, la Corte debe continuar con sus esfuerzos en busca de una mejora. Espero con interés contribuir a aumentar la eficiencia en la forma en que redactamos nuestras opiniones y participamos en ellas.

4. Estoy casado con María Montoya, quien es ginecobstetra y médica adjunta en el Hospital de la Universidad de Nuevo México. Mi esposa y yo estamos criando a tres hijos y nos mantenemos muy ocupados con sus actividades de atletismo, fútbol, baloncesto y piano. Obtuve mi título en la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Nuevo México, donde recibí el Premio del Decano por mi contribución significativa a la comunidad de la Facultad, y figuré tanto en la Lista del Decano como en el Cuadro de Honor.

REPRESENTANTES DE NUEVO MÉXICO

1. ¿Qué le califica para ocupar este cargo?
2. ¿Cómo abordaría sus más apremiantes prioridades?
3. La legislatura, ¿cómo debería abordar requerimientos futuros de agua en un estado cada vez más árido?
4. ¿Cuáles son los criterios que habría que aplicar al considerar propuestas de grandes proyectos de desarrollo económico?
5. ¿Qué más se puede hacer para asegurar que los residentes tengan acceso suficiente a la atención médica en su distrito?

REPRESENTANTE ESTATAL, DISTRITO 32

Laura Mairel Parra (D)

1. Aporto experiencia vivida, preparación profesional y liderazgo en el servicio público. Actualmente sirvo como Alcaldesa Pro Témpore y Concejal del Distrito 2 en Deming, donde trabajo en temas de infraestructura, desarrollo económico y necesidades comunitarias a nivel local. Soy trabajadora social y apoyo a personas que enfrentan adicciones, trauma y barreras sistémicas, además de ser organizadora

comunitaria de larga trayectoria trabajando con trabajadores agrícolas, jóvenes y familias rurales. Como ex educadora y primera generación latina criada en una familia trabajadora inmigrante, comprendo los desafíos que enfrentan muchos residentes y estoy preparada para impulsar soluciones prácticas centradas en la comunidad a nivel estatal.

2. Mis prioridades incluyen fortalecer la educación pública, ampliar las oportunidades económicas, mejorar el acceso a la atención médica y proteger a las familias trabajadoras. Trabajaré de manera colaborativa con gobiernos locales, sindicatos, educadores y pequeñas empresas para impulsar políticas que inviertan en nuestras escuelas, apoyen el desarrollo de la fuerza laboral y diversifiquen las economías rurales. Creo que el liderazgo efectivo comienza escuchando a la comunidad, utilizando datos y participación ciudadana para guiar decisiones y asegurando que los recursos estatales lleguen a comunidades rurales como la nuestra. Me enfocaré en soluciones que mejoren la calidad de vida.

3. La seguridad del agua es uno de los desafíos más urgentes de Nuevo México. La Legislatura debe invertir en planificación hídrica a largo plazo, infraestructura de conservación y modernización de sistemas envejecidos, especialmente en comunidades rurales. Debemos apoyar la sostenibilidad agrícola mediante irrigación eficiente, protección de aguas subterráneas y colaboración regional, al mismo tiempo que promovemos un desarrollo económico responsable que respete las limitaciones del agua. La política estatal debe priorizar la conservación, tecnologías de reutilización, protección de cuencas y planificación basada en la ciencia para garantizar acceso confiable al agua para las futuras generaciones mientras protegemos nuestra herencia agrícola.

4. Los proyectos de desarrollo económico deben generar empleos de calidad y sostenibles, respetar la capacidad de infraestructura local y ofrecer beneficios duraderos para la comunidad. Estos proyectos deben demostrar uso responsable del agua, protección ambiental, oportunidades de desarrollo laboral y salarios justos. La transparencia, la participación comunitaria y el impacto económico medible deben guiar la toma de decisiones. Los incentivos deben priorizar iniciativas que diversifiquen las economías rurales, apoyen a los pequeños negocios y construyan estabilidad económica a largo plazo, evitando beneficios temporales que generen costos futuros para la comunidad.

5. Las comunidades rurales enfrentan barreras significativas para acceder a la atención médica, incluyendo escasez de proveedores, desafíos de transporte y falta de servicios de salud conductual. La Legislatura debe ampliar incentivos para atraer y retener profesionales médicos en áreas rurales, fortalecer la infraestructura de telesalud e invertir en servicios comunitarios de salud mental y tratamiento para el uso de sustancias. Fortalecer el acceso a Medicaid, apoyar clínicas locales e integrar servicios de salud mental dentro de la atención primaria son pasos esenciales. Como trabajadora social, he visto de primera mano el impacto de estas limitaciones y trabajaré para garantizar que los residentes puedan recibir atención cerca de sus hogar.

REPRESENTANTE ESTATAL, DISTRITO 37

Lori A. Martinez (D)

1. Como trabajadora social con 23 años sirviendo a mi comunidad, entiendo las necesidades de Las Cruces. Tengo mucha experiencia en la primera infancia, personas discapacitadas, terapia, administración de casos, desarrollo de programas, inseguridad alimenticia, servicios psiquiátricos, y prevención e intervención en casos de suicidio. He trabajado por años en abogacía legislativa y política, luchando por sueldos justos para educadoras de la primera infancia, licencia médica familiar, y oportunidades de internado para estudiantes de preparatoria. Mucho de este trabajo ha sido en coaliciones, incluyendo restaurar medio billón de fondos para educación transformativa a raíz de la demanda educativa Martínez Yazzie.

2. Acceso universal a asistencia médica de calidad, incluyendo iniciativas GYO que aumentan nuestra fuerza laboral médica. 2) Continuar defendiendo a las familias trabajadoras, enfocándome en sueldos justos, condiciones de trabajo seguras, y licencia médica familiar. Priorizar la licencia médica familiar en la sesión legislativa 2027. 3) Un sistema educativo efectivo de alta calidad, desde la primera infancia. Con cuidado infantil universal, hay que resolver la escasez de educadoras aumentando fondos e implementar una escala salarial. Se necesita gran inversión en aprendizaje vocacional y en oportunidades de internados en la prepa, que incluyen mentoría y son muy efectivos. Esto aumenta mucho la participación y graduación estudiantil.

3. 1) NM necesita desarrollar una estrategia completa para reducir demanda, aumentar oferta, y desarrollar tecnologías como la desalinización. Requerir avances agrícolas como riego por goteo y sensores precisos de suelo-agua que reduzcan el uso por 70-80%. Incentivos económicos para xerojardinería, el uso de electrodomésticos que ahorran agua, y prácticas responsables también ayudarán a reducir uso. 2) Centros de datos de IA como el Proyecto Jupiter requieren gran escrutinio y límites claros para proteger a las comunidades antes de ser aprobados. Yo apoyo una moratoria para centros de datos de IA y priorizar la aplicación de limites estatales, así como transparencia en cuanto al impacto ambiental, la creación de empleos, y el uso de energía.

4. 1) El impacto económico proyectado y claridad sobre en qué se basan los números. Para proyección de crecimiento de empleos ¿cuántos empleos a corto/largo plazo, y cuántos para nuevomexicanos. 2) Impacto ambiental sobre tierra, agua, aire. Las emisiones deben ajustarse a los objetivos de reducción de gases de efecto invernadero establecidos en la ley estatal. 3) Participación comunitaria que refleje preocupaciones y deseos de los más afectados. 4) Acuerdos de beneficio comunitario significativos con hitos exigibles y provisiones de remuneración ejecutables si los dueños del proyecto no cumplen sus promesas. 5) Estándares de transparencia, incluyendo a que información tienen acceso comunidades y legisladores antes de que se tomen decisiones.

5. 1)Hay opciones para resolver la falta de proveedores: financiar residencias, subvención de alojamiento, y condonación de deudas. 2) Necesitamos seria inversión en iniciativas GYO con trayectos vocacionales claros dando experiencia educativa y prácticas necesarias para el éxito en varias áreas médicas, asegurar que los estudiantes tengan acceso a ellas, junto con mentoría y apoyo suficientes para el éxito. 3) En la legislatura hay que terminar el trabajo de acuerdo interestatal que inició en 2026 para que proveedores de otros estados puedan ejercer en NM. 4)Hay que resolver la falta de calidad de cuidado que ocurre cuando nuestros sistemas de servicio médico más grandes son controlados por corporaciones. NM necesita servicio médico universal.

REPRESENTANTE ESTATAL, DISTRITO 53

Sarah Angelina Silva (D)

1. Evalúo las recomendaciones de políticas a través de tres lentes: ¿Aumentan estas el ingreso per cápita? ¿Aumentan el acceso al cuidado de la salud? ¿Mejoran la calidad de vida de los habitantes de Nuevo México y de las comunidades circundantes? A partir de ahí, podemos examinar en qué medida una determinada política o proyecto cumple realmente con estos criterios y en qué grado. Estas métricas también son lo suficientemente amplias como para abarcar consideraciones ambientales como el uso del agua, la contaminación del aire y otros factores clave.

2. Las corporaciones continúan aumentando las primas a las personas en todo el país, y necesitamos una respuesta federal a esta codicia corporativa. Mientras tanto, Nuevo México ha hecho enormes avances en la protección del acceso al cuidado de la salud. Fui una patrocinadora principal de nuestra legislación de reforma de la negligencia médica, y los demócratas hicieron que los subsidios fueran permanentes para las personas que compran seguros a través del mercado de seguros de salud y protegieron a Nuevo México de los dañinos recortes de Medicaid. También apoyo las políticas sostenibles que hacen que el cuidado de la salud sea universal y gratuito para todos los habitantes de Nuevo México.

3. No hay soluciones fáciles. Necesitamos líderes que ayuden a las comunidades a tomar decisiones difíciles sobre la asignación de agua y que no rehúyan conversaciones honestas sobre el futuro de la agricultura, el crecimiento de las ciudades y el desarrollo económico. El próximo acuerdo del Bajo Río Grande con Texas, si es aceptado por la Corte Suprema, requerirá que el estado retire 18.240 acres-pie de agua. Me anima que nuestra ingeniera estatal esté priorizando la participación de la comunidad sobre la compra y el retiro de derechos de agua en nuestra región para cumplir con el acuerdo. Nuestras inversiones en mapeo de acuíferos son fundamentales para comprender lo que tenemos bajo tierra y poder planificar en consecuencia.

4. Evalúo las recomendaciones de políticas a través de tres lentes: ¿Aumentan estas el ingreso per cápita? ¿Aumentan el acceso al cuidado de la salud? ¿Mejoran la calidad de vida de los habitantes de Nuevo México y de las comunidades circundantes? A partir de ahí, podemos examinar en qué medida una determinada política o proyecto cumple realmente con estos criterios y en qué grado. Estas métricas también son lo suficientemente amplias como para abarcar consideraciones ambientales como el uso del agua, la contaminación del aire y otros factores clave.

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ALGUACIL DEL CONDADO

1. ¿Qué le califica para ocupar este cargo?
2. ¿Qué cambios haría o no, a la administración de la oficina del alguacil?
3. ¿Qué cree son los problemas más críticos que enfrenta la oficina del alguacil?
4. ¿Cómo abordaría estos problemas?
5. ¿Qué tipo de capacitación, si alguna, habría que darles a los policías para tratar temas de salud mental?
6. Explique cómo debería interactuar o no el Alguacil del condado con Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE en inglés).

Vanessa Ordoñez (D)

1. Cuento con más de dos décadas de experiencia combinada en las fuerzas del orden y el servicio militar. Como veterana de combate y exjefa de policía, dirigí un departamento que fue reconocido como la Ciudad Más Segura de Nuevo México #1 y la #4 Ciudad Fronteriza Más Segura de la nación en 2025. He administrado presupuestos de varios millones de dólares, fortalecido políticas y procedimientos y promovido una mayor rendición de cuentas. Como integrante de juntas de justicia penal e instructora en violencia doméstica y salud mental, aporto un enfoque colaborativo, profesional y compasivo a la seguridad pública.

2. Mi enfoque será fortalecer la rendición de cuentas, la comunicación y la confianza de la comunidad. Estableceré expectativas claras y responsabilidad en todos los niveles, asegurando que el liderazgo responda por los resultados. Mejoraré la coordinación dentro de la agencia y con los tribunales y socios comunitarios. La seguridad pública es más efectiva cuando todos trabajamos juntos. También fortaleceré la capacitación, las políticas y el desarrollo profesional, asegurando que nuestros agentes y el personal tengan las herramientas necesarias para brindar servicios profesionales y de calidad a nuestra comunidad.

3. Nuestra comunidad merece transparencia, profesionalismo y una aplicación justa y consistente de la ley. Esto requiere políticas sólidas, supervisión clara y agentes bien capacitados. Las crisis de salud mental y los delitos juveniles requieren respuestas que combinen preparación, profesionalismo y compasión, junto con servicios comunitarios adecuados. La seguridad pública requiere colaboración. Debemos fortalecer las alianzas entre las fuerzas del orden, legisladores, tribunales, proveedores de salud conductual y organizaciones comunitarias para desarrollar soluciones reales y duraderas.

4. Convertiremos nuestras prioridades en acciones concretas y fortaleceremos la transparencia, reglas claras, supervisión constante y datos públicos accesibles. La rendición de cuentas debe ser parte de nuestra cultura. Ampliaremos la capacitación y las alianzas para responder mejor a las crisis de salud mental y otras situaciones complejas, incluyendo modelos de respuesta conjunta y mayor coordinación con proveedores de servicios. También fortaleceremos la colaboración entre agencias y reuniremos periódicamente a las partes involucradas para coordinar esfuerzos y cerrar brechas. Invertir en nuestros agentes, asegurándonos de que estén capacitados, respaldados y equipados, es fundamental para brindar soluciones de seguridad pública.

5. Nuestros agentes deben recibir capacitación continua para responder a crisis de salud mental. Deben saber cómo calmar una situación, escuchar con atención y reconocer cuándo una persona necesita ayuda. También es importante que entiendan cómo las experiencias difíciles pueden afectar el comportamiento de una persona. Los agentes deben estar preparados para conectar a las personas con servicios de salud mental y otros recursos cuando sea apropiado, en lugar de depender solamente de la acción policial. Trabajar con profesionales de salud mental y equipos de crisis también es clave. La capacitación y práctica regular ayudarán a nuestros agentes a responder de manera segura, profesional y con compasión.

6. Como alguaci, mi prioridad será la seguridad de nuestra comunidad y la confianza de todos. La oficina del alguacil debe enfocarse en hacer cumplir las leyes estatales y locales y proteger a las personas de nuestro condado. La participación con agencias federales de inmigración, como ICE, debe ser limitada y siempre seguir la ley. La policía local debe concentrarse en combatir el crimen y mantener segura a nuestra comunidad, no en hacer cumplir las leyes federales de inmigración. Cuando las personas tienen miedo de llamar a la policía, pueden dejar de denunciar delitos o ayudar en las investigaciones. La confianza es una parte importante de la seguridad pública. Todos deben sentirse seguros al denunciar un delito y pedir ayuda.

VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA: 6 AL 31 DE OCTUBRE

COMISIONADO DEL CONDADO, DISTRITO 3

1. ¿Qué le califica para ocupar este cargo?
2. ¿Cuáles son los mayores retos que enfrenta su condado?
3. ¿Cómo abordaría dichos retos?
4. ¿Cómo compartiría información con el público referente a asuntos que debe tratar la comisión?
5. ¿Cómo propondría equilibrar el crecimiento con la escasez del agua en un estado cada vez más árido?

Julia Tondaleah Brown (Escriba el nombre) (D)

1. Mi formación académica y mi experiencia laboral y vital me avalan. Mi trayectoria profesional abarca el ámbito jurídico y la administración pública; he trabajado en todos los niveles de gobierno además de haber prestado servicio militar. Me he desempeñado como administrador del condado de Doña Ana, administrador de la ciudad de Sunland Park y Departamento de Desarrollo Económico de Nuevo México. Asimismo, he fundado organizaciones sin fines de lucro y formado parte de sus juntas directivas, logrando obtener financiación y asistencia técnica tanto para estas entidades como para pequeñas empresas. ¡Ante todo, poseo la capacidad de aportar soluciones creativas y colaborativas a problemas complejos!

2. Entre los desafíos que enfrenta el condado se incluyen las quejas por falta de transparencia, la financiación de infraestructuras, los problemas relacionados con el agua, la situación de las *colonias* y el informe de auditoría estatal especial de mayo de 2026, que puso de relieve deficiencias en la supervisión operativa y financiera. Asimismo, la asequibilidad representa un reto importante, abarcando aspectos como los «desiertos alimentarios», los costos del combustible y los alimentos, y el desempleo (22 de los 33 condados registran tasas de desempleo más bajas).

3. La transparencia y la rendición de cuentas en el gobierno son fundamentales. Debemos colaborar con las agencias estatales, la comunidad, el sector empresarial y nuestros socios institucionales para encontrar soluciones en materia de asequibilidad, infraestructura, crecimiento empresarial y creación de empleo. La interacción y la cooperación entre los comisionados, otros funcionarios electos, la administración del condado son clave a medida que abordamos a fondo los cambios necesarios en la cultura y las prácticas organizacionales, para elevar la responsabilidad fiscal al nivel que le corresponde. No podemos pasar por alto las normas de cumplimiento ni la ley. ¡Los ciudadanos de este condado merecen un liderazgo firme, ético y comprometido!

4. Publicaré información en línea sobre las acciones de la Junta de Comisionados del Condado (BOCC), así como sobre eventos, programas e iniciativas del condado y del Distrito 3. Organizaré reuniones de acercamiento para informar a los residentes, empresas e instituciones, y para recibir sus opiniones y comentarios. Asistiré a eventos y reuniones, y me reuniré con los medios de comunicación para facilitar la difusión de información a los ciudadanos. Me mantendré al tanto de los recursos disponibles para los residentes.

5. El agua es fundamental para todos los sectores. Se requieren soluciones a largo plazo para garantizar una asignación continua y eficaz del agua entre usos que compiten por ella, al tiempo que se aumenta la eficiencia y se reduce el agotamiento de las reservas hídricas. Apoyo un papel más amplio para la investigación y el desarrollo con el fin de fomentar la comprensión y hallar nuevos enfoques que logren un equilibrio esencial entre el apoyo a los usos del agua y el mantenimiento del suministro a largo plazo. El condado de Doña Ana está utilizando fondos asignados para explorar el potencial de la desalinización; insto a que se continúe con esta investigación y se amplíe dicha exploración.

JUEZ MAGISTRADO DEL CONDADO, DIVISIÓN 5

1. Si lo eligen, ¿qué hará para reducir el atraso en los casos frente al tribunal?
2. ¿Qué mejoras, si hubiera, son necesarias en los Tribunales Magistrales?
3. ¿Cuáles son las habilidades y el conocimiento que usted trae a este cargo?

Chrystian Julian Gonzalez (D)

1. Abordaré el retraso judicial con urgencia y equidad, aprendiendo rápidamente los procedimientos judiciales, mantendré un registro de casos organizado, estableceré plazos claros, y reduciré las demoras con el uso eficaz de las conferencias previas al juicio y la gestión oportuna de los asuntos rutinarios. Sin embargo, la eficiencia no puede prevalecer sobre la justicia; cada caso merece equidad y el debido proceso. Mi objetivo es ser proactivo y estar preparado, y actuar consistentemente.

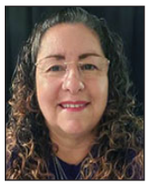
[continúa en la página siguiente]

2. La Corte de Magistrados es el primer contacto del público con la justicia. Por eso, las mejoras, cuando posibles, son fundamentales. Priorizo el acceso a la justicia vía procesos más claros, horarios estables, e iniciativas como "Estaciones de Justicia," diseñadas para ayudar a las personas a accesar las cortes. La transparencia genera confianza. Residentes deben comprender los procedimientos, las decisiones, y sus propios derechos. Estas medidas hacen la corte sea más accesible y comprensible.

3. Aporto experiencia en la corte, conocimiento de la ley, y compromiso a la equidad. El servicio militar me inculcó disciplina y responsabilidad. Como fiscal adjunto de distrito, tramité casos de principio a fin, adquiriendo un dominio de los procedimientos y evidencia. En el ejercicio privado de la abogacía, gestioné casos civiles, fortaleciendo mi capacidad para evaluar los hechos y resolver disputas. Como mediador, desarrollé la neutralidad y las habilidades para resolver conflictos.

TASADOR DEL CONDADO

1. ¿Qué le califica para ocupar este cargo?
2. Haga una lista de sus prioridades mayores.
3. Explique cómo lograría realizarlas.
4. ¿Cómo piensa asegurar ser justo y transparente en valorar las propiedades?
5. ¿Qué tipo de capacitación le ofrecerá a su personal en los aspectos técnicos, legales y administrativos de la valoración y la tributación?



Eugenia Gina Montoya Ortega (D)

1. Soy la actual Tasadoa y he estado desempeñando este función durante tres años, ocho meses, y díez días. Soy la más experimentada, con un entendimiento completo de lo que el trabajo requiere, ya que he estado realizando la labor con dedicación e integridad. Cuando me postulé por primera vez hace cuatro años, como contribuyente antes que nada, quería asegurarme de que todos los impuestos a la propiedad fueran valorados de manera justa y equitativa. Desde entonces, nuestro equipo de la oficina del Tasador ha estado trabajando diligente y profesionalmente para garantizar que eso siga siendo así. Hemos estado colaborando como un equipo fuerte y comprometido para recuperar la confianza de nuestros clientes, demostrando cada día...

2. La Oficina está comprometida con valoraciones justas y uniformes, registros precisos y una comunicación clara que fortalece la confianza pública. Aporto experiencia comprobada y un sólido entendimiento del trabajo requerido para servir a nuestra comunidad de manera efectiva. Nuestro equipo dedicado mantiene datos confiables, completa revaluaciones oportunas, administra exenciones de manera responsable y responde abiertamente a las apelaciones. A través de la colaboración, la transparencia, la innovación y un servicio consistente, trabajamos cada día para garantizar precisión, equidad, confianza y estabilidad a largo plazo en el proceso de evaluación. Mantenemos un enfoque en la mejora continua, un mayor alcance y en ofrecer...

3. Lograré estos objetivos colaborando y guiando de manera constante a un equipo dedicado y capacitado que aplique métodos de tasación consistentes, mantenga datos precisos de propiedad y realice reevaluaciones oportunas basadas en información de mercado confiable. Fortaleceré la confianza pública mediante una comunicación clara, educación accesible y un servicio atento que respalde a cada contribuyente. Al mejorar la tecnología, expandir un proyecto de reavaluación en todo el condado, mejorar la capacitación, incrementar la difusión y garantizar el cumplimiento total de las leyes estatales, la oficina ofrecerá valoraciones justas, registros fiables, procesos transparentes, mayor confianza comunitaria y mejoras significativas a largo plazo que...

4. Aplicando estándares de tasación consistentes, fortaleciendo la precisión de los datos y completando revisiones oportunas respaldadas por información confiable del mercado, guiaré a un equipo capacitado que siga procedimientos claros, documente cada paso y mantenga una comunicación abierta con cada contribuyente. Mejorando la tecnología, ampliando un proyecto de revalorización en todo el condado, mejorando la capacitación del personal, aumentando la divulgación pública y asegurando el pleno cumplimiento de los estatutos estatales, la oficina proporcionará explicaciones claras, registros confiables, resultados equitativos y un proceso de valoración en el que la comunidad pueda confiar.

5. Seguiré proporcionando al personal formación que desarrolle habilidades técnicas, comprensión legal y coherencia administrativa en todo el proceso de valoración. El personal aprenderá métodos precisos de tasación, prácticas fiables de manejo de datos y procedimientos claros para documentar cambios en la propiedad. Continuarán adquiriendo conocimientos sobre los estatutos estatales, los derechos de los contribuyentes y las normas éticas para garantizar el cumplimiento. La capacitación también se centrará en la comunicación, la divulgación y los flujos de trabajo organizados. Todo el personal tomará cursos de la IAAO y programas de McKissock para fortalecer la experiencia de la Oficina de Tasadores, y trabajaremos con nuestro equipo legal del...

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EN EL REVERSO DE LA PAPELETA

ENMIENDAS CONSTITUCIONALES Y PROPUESTAS SOBRE BONOS E IMPUESTOS

Enmienda Constitucional 1:

Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 4, Sección 22, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para requerir que el gobernador que presente mensajes de veto sobre todos los proyectos de ley vetados total o parcialmente, y para establecer que todos los proyectos de ley aprobados por la Legislatura sobre los cuales el gobernador no actúe se conviertan en ley.

Enmienda Constitucional 2:

Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 7, Sección 1, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para eliminar el requisito de que las elecciones escolares sean separadas de las elecciones partidistas.

Enmienda Constitucional 3:

Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 12, Sección 13, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para establecer comités de nominación que proporcionen listas de nominados al gobernador para el nombramiento de miembros no estudiantiles de las juntas de regentes de las instituciones educativas estatales; disponiendo que los miembros estudiantiles de las juntas de regentes serán nombrados de una lista proporcionada por un órgano de gobierno estudiantil electo de la institución; disponiendo que, con excepción de un miembro estudiantil, los miembros de las juntas de regentes no hayan cambiado su registro de partido político durante los doce meses anteriores a su nombramiento.

Enmienda Constitucional 4:

Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 4, Sección 10, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para permitir una compensación legislativa limitada al ingreso familiar mediano de Nuevo México; requerir que la compensación legislativa se reduzca si el ingreso familiar mediano de Nuevo México disminuye; permitir que la compensación legislativa aumente únicamente si el ingreso familiar mediano de Nuevo México aumenta; y disponiendo una implementación diferida.

Pregunta de Bonos 1:

El Acta de Bonos de Obligación General para Proyectos de Capital de 2026 autoriza la emisión y venta de bonos para el mejoramiento, la construcción y la adquisición de equipo para instalaciones para adultos mayores. ¿Deberá autorizarse al estado a emitir bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no exceda de veintiún millones quinientos ochenta y dos mil doscientos trece dólares ($21,582,213) para realizar gastos de capital para ciertos proyectos de mejoramiento, construcción y adquisición de equipo para instalaciones para adultos mayores, y disponer la imposición y recaudación de un impuesto general sobre la propiedad para el pago del capital, los intereses y los gastos incurridos en relación con la emisión de los bonos y la recaudación del impuesto según lo permitido por la ley?

A favor de los bonos En contra de los bonos

Pregunta de Bonos 2:

El Acta de Bonos de Obligación General para Proyectos de Capital de 2026 autoriza la emisión y venta de bonos para adquisiciones para bibliotecas. ¿Deberá autorizarse al estado a emitir bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no exceda de diecinueve millones trescientos veinticuatro mil ciento ochenta y ocho dólares ($19,324,188) para realizar gastos de capital para adquisiciones de recursos para bibliotecas académicas, bibliotecas de escuelas públicas, bibliotecas públicas y bibliotecas tribales, y disponer la imposición y recaudación de un impuesto general sobre la propiedad para el pago del capital, los intereses y los gastos incurridos en relación con la emisión de los bonos y la recaudación del impuesto según lo permitido por la ley?

A favor de los bonos En contra de los bonos

Pregunta de Bonos 3:

El Acta de Bonos de Obligación General para Proyectos de Capital de 2026 autoriza la emisión y venta de bonos para mejoras de capital y adquisiciones para la educación superior, las escuelas especiales y las escuelas tribales. ¿Deberá autorizarse al estado a emitir bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no exceda de trescientos cincuenta y dos millones doscientos veinticinco mil trescientos setenta y nueve dólares ($352,225,379) para realizar gastos de capital para ciertas mejoras de capital y adquisiciones para la educación superior, escuelas especiales y escuelas tribales, y disponer la imposición y recaudación de un impuesto general sobre la propiedad para el pago del capital, los intereses y los gastos incurridos en relación con la emisión de los bonos y la recaudación del impuesto según lo permitido por la ley?

A favor de los bonos En contra de los bonos

Emisión de bonos para la biblioteca de Las Cruces:

Se deberá la Ciudad de Las Cruces a emitir bonos de obligación general, pagaderos con los ingresos provenientes de los impuestos sobre la propiedad, por una cantidad de hasta $26,000,000 de dólares para adquirir, planificar, deseñar, desarrollar, construer, mejorar, renovar, modernizer, automatizar, amueblar y equipar la biblioteca commemorative Thomas Branigan?

A favor de los bonos En contra de los bonos

Gravamen del Distrito de Conservación de Suelo y Agua de Doña Ana para la conservación de la tierra, el agua y los recursos naturales:

¿Debe la Junta de Supervisores del Distrito de Conservación de Suelo y Agua de Doña Ana, debidamente elegida, establecer un gravamen de hasta 0.25 milésimas para: proteger las fuentes de agua potable y la salud de los ríos y arroyos mejorando la gestion de las aguas pluviales y de las llanuras aluviales; reducir el riesgo de inundaciones mejorando las cuencas hidrográficas y los terrenos de pastoreo situados sobre las represas; continuar la labor de reducir el índice de calor mediante la plantación de árboles (NeighborWoods de DASWCD) en Las Cruces y el condado de Doña Ana; restaurar el hábitat de la vida silvestre, incluso a lo largo del Río Grande; preservar las tierras agrícolas mediante alianzas con agricultores locales para promover prácticas saludables del suelo; restaurar y conservar áreas naturales y espacios abiertos para proporcionar acceso equitativo a las áreas al aire libre; y brindar educación sobre recursos naturales para jóvenes y adultos, sujetando todos los ingresos y gastos a una auditoría anual independiente?

SÍ NO

LWVSNM

La Junta de Directores de LWVSNM 2026/2027:

Liz Rodríguez-Johnson, Presidenta; Kathy Brook, Tesorera; Edwina Jaramillo, Secretaria; Kate Mangelsdorf, Directora de Membresía; Nancy Stanton, Editora de The Voter.

El equipo de la guía de votación de LWVSNM: Rose Jacobs (chair), Kathy Brooks, Rebecca Courtney, Laura Dapkus, Leslie Gibson, Randee Greenwald, Stacey Hammer, Edwina Jaramillo, Ruth Jaure, Kate Mangelsdorf, Jo Galván Nash, David Rice, Liz Rodriguez-Johnson, Nancy Stanton, Terri Sugarman, Dale Yeo, y Mark Coomes of LWVNM

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