

2018 VOTERS GUIDE



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

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

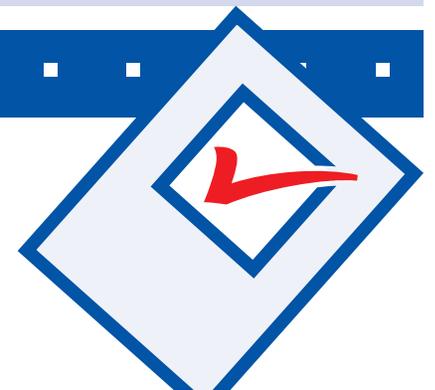
Disclaimers: Material in the voting Information section was correct as of September 19, 2018. The League is not responsible for any changes made by the Las Cruces City Clerk or Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections between that date and the election.



LAS CRUCES GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018

A General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. If you are a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on election day, a resident of the city and have already registered to vote in Doña Ana County, you may vote in this election. If you live in Districts 1, 3, or 5 you are eligible to vote for a County Commissioner candidate from your district. All eligible voters can vote for all of the other offices.

If you have a question concerning the election, please contact the Dona Ana County Clerk's office at (575) 647-7428 or the online website: <http://www.donaanacounty.org/elections>. The Voters Guide is also available online at the League's website www.lwvlc.org



THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin

VOTING INFORMATION

REGISTERING TO VOTE

Anyone who wants to vote in this election must be registered to vote in Doña Ana County AND be a resident within the County. You may register to vote at many locations and online. Visit the Dona Ana County website < <https://donaanacounty.org/> > or in person at the Bureau of Elections in the Government Center to find out how to register. Registration will be closed by the County Clerk at 5:00pm. on Tuesday, October 9, 2018.

VOTING BEFORE ELECTION DAY

Absentee Voting

Any person eligible to vote may vote by absentee ballot. You do not need to give a reason to vote absentee. Applications for absentee ballots may be requested from the Dona Ana County Clerk's Office's Bureau of Elections in the Government Center by calling 575-647-7428.

Anyone interested in receiving an absentee ballot may request an application for an absentee ballot now. Absentee ballots are mailed out by the Clerk's Office October 9, 2018 – November 2, 2018. note that no ballots will be provided over the counter

to visitors to the clerk's office at any time.

You may mail or hand-deliver your completed ballot, but it must be received only at the County Clerk's Office no later than 7:00 pm on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2018. A voter or a member of that voter's immediate family may deliver that voter's absentee ballot in person to the County Clerk's Office, provided the voter signed the outer envelope of the absentee ballot.

Voting Convenience Centers

Dona Ana County uses Voting Convenience Centers (VCCs). This allows voting at any location where voters will receive their own true ballot containing the candidates running in their district. With VCCs there is no wrong place to vote.

Early Voting

Early voting will begin on Tuesday, October 9 from 8am to 5pm. in the Dona Ana County Government Building and end Saturday, November 3 from 10am to 6pm.

At alternate voting locations, voting will begin on Saturday, October 20 and end on Saturday, November 3.

These locations will be open Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 7pm.

Early Voting Locations

1. Anthony Elementary School - 600 N. Fourth St. - Anthony, NM 88021
2. Delores C. Wright Education Center - 400 E. Lisa Dr - Chaparral, NM 88081
3. Hatch High School - 170 E. Herrera Rd. - Hatch, NM 87937
4. Dona Ana Community College - Sunland Park Center - 3365 McNutt Rd. - Sunland Park, NM 88063
5. Dona Ana County Government Center - 845 N. Motel Blvd - Las Cruces, NM 88007
6. Sonoma Elementary School - 4201 Northrise St. - Las Cruces, NM 88011
7. Thomas Branigan Memorial Library - 200 E. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88001

VOTING OFFENSES

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

Voting offenses are:

- Any form of campaigning within 100 feet of a

building containing a polling place.

- Using, possessing, or carrying alcoholic beverages within 200 feet of a polling place.
- False voting, such as, voting or offering to vote although not qualified, voting in another's name, voting more than once during a single election, or assisting another person in committing a voting offense.
- Blocking the entrance to the voting location.
- Creating disorder or disruption at the polling place.

ELECTION DAY

On Tuesday, November 6, the voting convenience centers will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

To find the extensive list of voting convenience centers, go to the Dona Ana County Bureau of Elections website and click Elections, Voting, Where Do I Vote, <https://donaanacounty.org/node/141794>.

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

UNITED STATES SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

UNITED STATES SENATOR

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

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

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

Questions for the Candidates for U.S. Senator and U.S. Representative (65 words each)

1. What immigration policies do you support? Please address issues related to undocumented immigrants.
2. What actions do you advocate to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of health care?
3. What do you see as the major environmental challenge facing our country and how would you address it?
4. Given recent events in New Mexico and across the nation, what would you do to address gun violence?



UNITED STATES SENATOR Martin T. Heinrich DEMOCRAT

1. I support comprehensive immigration reform that provides a fair pathway to citizenship to the undocumented immigrants in our country, meets our economic needs and makes smart investments in border security. We don't need a bigoted and wasteful wall, an immigration system that tears apart families and punishes asylum seekers, or a ban on immigrants and refugees based on how they pray.

2. We should expand programs we know work like Medicare and Medicaid so more people can access affordable care, and I've

supported proposals to do that. I'm working to lower prescription drug costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices and allowing for safe drug reimportation from countries like Canada. What we shouldn't do is gut Medicaid and Medicare funding to pay for tax cuts for corporations.

3. Failure to act on climate change will be catastrophic. We are already seeing its costly effects in New Mexico – larger fires, more destructive floods. I've passed incentives to grow renewable energy use and promote energy efficiency, and I've boosted funding for climate change research at our national labs. New Mexico and the country should seize this opportunity to innovate while rapidly cutting our carbon emissions.

4. I refuse to accept the status quo of mass shootings and daily gun violence. I support universal background checks, fixing NICS, limiting magazine capacity, cracking down on strawman purchases, closing the domestic

violence loophole, and preventing those on the No Fly List from buying guns. I also called for repeal of the Dickey amendment banning research on gun violence, which we finally achieved this year.



UNITED STATES SENATOR Gary Johnson LIBERTARIAN

1. I support immigration reform that allows those that wish to come to this country to be allowed to do so legally instead of forcing people into situations where they enter the country illegally which causes further human suffering. We must control our border without forgetting that we are country of immigrants. Controlling our

border does not require building a wall that we will later tear

2. I am a firm believer in free market solutions. I believe we should have uber everything, that includes healthcare. I support free trade when it comes to medication and allowing insurance to be purchased across state-lines. Federal funding for healthcare can be provided in the form of bloc grants to the state who are better suited to meet the needs of the people needing

3. I think we face a crisis here in New Mexico regarding the use of water. We need to encourage solutions that allow for the responsible use of our resources through best management practices that conserve water. The fundamental responsibility of the federal government is to protect from harm, that includes protecting us from polluters and bad players who fail to provide due care for the

4. I believe that we need to figure out steps to address mental health issues that lead to violence.

Infringing upon law abiding citizens' constitutional rights to take away the implement used for violence is not a solution that will solve the problem.



**UNITED STATES SENATOR
Mick Rich
REPUBLICAN**

1. Secure our borders. Non-Citizens who break our laws and don't work or go to school cannot stay. Illegal immigrants that came

before 2008 can obtain legal status, but they must exit the country and re-enter the country legally. DREAMers will receive legal status and can apply for citizenship with the legal immigrants seeking citizenship. A new legal immigration policy on applicant merit, not family relationships.

2. To reduce cost insurance plans, allow insurance plans to be sold across state lines. Eliminate mandated coverages and allow people to customize health plans based on their needs. Incentivize healthy living through reduced premiums. Protect insurance coverage for those with pre-existing conditions.
3. Policy ideas to solve our environmental challenges

should be based on analysis of all direct and indirect impacts to the environment. Example: Is the Gulf of Mexico algae bloom an indirect result of increased Midwest corn production to produce ethanol? The government performs cost benefit ratios for almost every project; it should do the same for environmental improvement projects.

4. Ensure that individuals who should not have access to firearms don't gain gun access, while also ensuring they receive due process. Background checks on all firearm purchases, no exceptions. Any declared "Gun free zones" become responsible for the safety of their occupants.



**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
Xochitl Torres Small
DEMOCRAT**

1. Our immigration system is broken. I saw this firsthand while clerking for a federal judge with one of the heaviest criminal dockets in the country. We must improve border security by investing in proven methods and by targeting criminals rather than ripping apart families. We must also improve our process for work visas and create a pathway to citizenship for

immigrants without a criminal record

2. We must work to make affordable healthcare accessible to everyone. I will fight to protect and improve the ACA and work across party lines to address the rising cost of prescription drugs. I will work to increase healthcare accessibility in our rural communities by incentivizing healthcare providers to offer services in these underserved areas.

3. New Mexico's public lands are part of its heritage and its character, and they must be protected. Growing up in Las Cruces, some of my fondest memories were of times spent on public lands, and we must protect these lands so that future generations have the same opportunities. This is why

I oppose the transfer of public lands to state control because in many instances

4. One of the first serious conversations I remember having with my grandfather was about gun safety. To improve gun safety, we must implement common sense gun laws to close loopholes. A majority of Americans, as well as a majority of gun owners, support universal background checks, a judicial process to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of dangerous individuals, and "no fly, no buy"

**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
Yvette Herrell
REPUBLICAN**

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICES

GOVERNOR

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

Questions for the Candidates for Governor (65 words each)

1. In the light of continuing changes to the Affordable Care Act, what will you do to ensure that New Mexicans have access to quality health care?
2. What would you do in your role as Governor to support sufficient funding for education, including early childhood education?
3. How do you propose to improve the economy and job prospects in New Mexico?
4. Do you support expanding the use of clean energy, and if so, how?
5. Given recent events in New Mexico and across the nation, what would you do to address gun violence?



**GOVERNOR
Michelle Lujan Grisham
DEMOCRAT**

1. The Affordable Care Act has helped hundreds of thousands of New

Mexicans gain health coverage; unfortunately, Congress and the Trump administration are still trying to weaken and repeal the law. As Governor, I will support maintaining expanded medicaid and strengthening the program with a buy-in option, lower drug prices through coordinated purchasing, and a stronger behavioral health system in every corner of the state.

2. We have a constitutional and moral obligation to give each New Mexico student the opportunity to grow and succeed through public education. This must begin with quality early childhood education, which is why I a prudent permanent fund distribution to help fund universal pre-k. I'll also put more dollars in our classrooms by diversifying revenues, streamlining administration, and giving educators a much-deserved raise.

3. First, I'll invest in our people. I'll strengthen public education and create workforce training opportunities in schools and colleges that targets jobs in key growth sectors like biotechnology and clean energy. Second, I'll work to invest in those sectors with our permanent funds and

expand international trade and investment. Third, I'll raise the minimum wage while creating clear pathways for families to escape poverty.

4. I support making New Mexico the leader in clean energy development and technology. We must provide more clean energy for ourselves and export to neighboring states, creating thousands of good jobs. I'll increase our renewable portfolio standard to 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2040, invest in energy-efficient renovations and technology, and work to eliminate unnecessary and harmful methane emissions from our oil/gas production.

5. There are clear steps we must take to reduce gun violence in our communities. First, we must strengthen our gun laws with truly universal background checks, taking guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, and a ban on military-style assault weapons. Second, I will support school-safety improvements and hiring more police to working with our communities to stop and solve crime.



**GOVERNOR
Steve Pearce
REPUBLICAN**

1. The Act has failed in several areas. Insurance companies are exiting the state, health insurance costs more, covers less and has higher deductibles. I will rebuild the private insurance market and implement measures such as shopping across state lines, covering preventive medicine with insurance and incentivizing healthy lifestyles. I will hold pharmaceuticals and physicians accountable to not over prescribe or send excessive prescriptions by mail.

2. Our schools are broken, badly managed and falling short. I propose shifting money from administrative costs into classrooms, letting teachers focus on teaching and holding administrators to account for better management. Simply

spending more alone won't work unless we change the system to allow teachers to focus on students. I fully support current early childhood programs, but funding needs to be within our state budget.

3. I will put my business experience to work growing and diversifying the economy. We need high tech jobs for the PhD's and researchers. We will have apprenticeship programs to train for the skilled jobs that are waiting for workers (plumbers, truck drivers, electricians etc.) We need a rural economy like hydroponic organic greenhouses to make NM food self-sufficient with fresh, pesticide free, year-round food.

4. I've long supported clean energy and will support its expansion. I'll recruit companies to NM who've committed to using 100% renewable energy. Solar and wind power are natural areas for NM to excel in but we also have biomass and geothermal energy that can be tapped. We'll link our labs and universities with this natural skill set to become a national leader in clean energy.

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Serves as Acting Governor when the Governor is out of the state, provides constituent services, presides over the New Mexico Senate and can vote in the event of a tie. In a general election the Lieutenant Governor is elected jointly with the Governor. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for the five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$85,000.

Questions for the candidates for Lieutenant Governor (65 words each)

1. What qualifications and attributes do you have that prepare you to succeed as Lieutenant Governor?
2. The Governor usually assigns tasks to the Lieutenant Governor. What issues would you like to work on to improve the lives of New Mexicans?

SECRETARY OF STATE

New Mexico's chief elections officer, overseeing the entire election process. Regulates lobbyist activity and reporting of campaign finances, and maintains records vital to commerce and industry in New Mexico. Must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$85,000.

Questions for the Candidates for Secretary of State (65 words each)

1. Describe both the specific experience and abilities you have that prepare you for this office.
2. What actions would you take to increase voter registration and voter turnout?
3. Do you support any changes in New Mexico's voting procedures, such as online voting, mail-in voting, or requiring picture/photo IDs at the polls?
4. What changes, if any, would you support in campaign finance regulation and reporting?
5. Do you support open primaries? Explain.

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

5. The question of gun control has several components including repeal of the Second Amendment which I do not support doing. I do support holding federal agencies accountable for failing to heed warning signs and reports of violent tendencies. To protect students, schools can take preventive measures without gun control including 100% controlled access, metal detectors, remote locking of corridors and expanded mental/behavioral health counseling.



SECRETARY OF STATE Maggie Toulouse Oliver DEMOCRAT

1. Having served as Secretary of State for nearly two years and Bernalillo County Clerk for 10 years, I have experience running open, transparent elections; making voting accessible; and



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Howie C. Morales DEMOCRAT

1. As a father, an educator, a coach and a Senator, I've been on the front lines, fighting for our families and ensuring the next generation has every opportunity to succeed. I have fought for increased funding for our classrooms, public safety,

ensuring our elections systems are secure. Further, as Secretary of State, I have shined a light on dark money in politics, made elected officials' financial dealings public and made it easier for people with disabilities to vote.

2. Increased registration and turnout are key to ensuring government reflects the will of the people. As Secretary of State, I have worked with the Motor Vehicle Department to make it easier for eligible voters to register or update their registration. I also created nmvote.org so voters can easily check their registration, find polling places, review sample ballots and request an absentee ballot online.

3. I support policies that enhance the security and integrity of elections. Mail-in voting is a possible option that I am considering. While I'm open to exploring block-chain and technologies that could create secure online voting, we aren't there yet. Finally, voter ID laws don't make elections safer; they make it harder for elderly voters, the poor and people of color to cast a ballot.

4. As Secretary of State, I enacted rules to shine a light on dark money in politics. I also made elected officials' financial disclosure forms available online. Transparency

and job training programs. As a key voice on the Senate Finance Committee, I've worked tirelessly to make state's budget more reflective of our

2. I look forward to working with Michelle Lujan Grisham to make bold investments into our classrooms as well as apprenticeships and skills training so that every New Mexican has a chance at a good paying job here at home. I'll use my experience in the classroom to help fix our public education system and ensure we are spending more time teaching our children and less



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Michelle Garcia Holmes REPUBLICAN

1. New Mexico is my home. I was educated here (Bachelor of Science) and 30 years as a commissioned police woman (Detective, & Chief of Staff.) I am a wife, mother, and grandmother and my passion is

is key. Additionally, we will soon update and streamline the technology that candidates use for their reports to make it easier for campaigns to follow the rules and for the public to follow the money.

5. I support open primaries. Our current primary system excludes too many voters. I would like to see a primary system in which voters who are not registered with a major party can choose the primary in which they would like to vote. When voters know that their voices are heard, they are more likely to trust and participate in our election process.



SECRETARY OF STATE Ginger Grider LIBERTARIAN

1. Firstly, I am a citizen of the State of New Mexico. I have co-owned and operated a small business in New Mexico for the past 24 years with my husband. I have served the citizens of New Mexico as an advocate for special needs families around

the State with Parents Reaching Out as a Families as Faculty volunteer for 5 years

2. Education, education, education. I believe that a better-informed electorate is what is needed to revitalize our state, county, and local elections and bring its citizens out of voter apathy. A clear understanding of what the Offices being voted on do and how they intersect with the average New Mexican's life, is critical to increasing both voter registration and turnout.

3. I wholeheartedly support any measure that would increase voter participation. I am excited about "Blockchain" capabilities as it applies to voting and have been following the development of it as such. Any measure that aides the New Mexico citizen in being able to participate in their representative government is a good thing.

4. I feel that the law is sufficient and adequate and that it only need be applied fairly and equitably to all New Mexicans regardless of their party affiliation to work the way it was intended to ensure transparency to the electorate.

5. I support open primaries over closed ones but ultimately, they are simply first draft team picking subsidized by the New Mexican tax payer. If a political party chooses to have a primary, then it is my opinion that the

to serve. I have made a career of standing up for New Mexicans and I will work to make New Mexico prosperous and safe for all. Website: Ltgov2018.com

2. Public safety is the backbone of any prosperous community. I will utilize my experience to pull together our state's resources to tackle crime. Safe cities help our businesses grow and attract new businesses to New Mexico. Child abuse, drug trafficking, violent and property crimes are holding us back, we can provide a brighter future for our children and families through experienced leadership and hard work.

party pay for that themselves and not hoist the bill off on the tax payer who may or may not be invested in the process.



SECRETARY OF STATE Gavin Clarkson REPUBLICAN

1. Proven job creator. Brought \$3/4 billion to rural and tribal areas in New Mexico. Law degree and three business degrees. Wrote software for state ethics law compliance. Taught corporate law and computer science for decades, including secured transactions and corporate formation matters that became the responsibility of the Secretary of State in 2013. Cybersecurity experience. Enrolled tribal member. Veteran.

2. I would stop the weaponization of the Secretary of State's office that has left many New Mexicans feeling disenfranchised, including independents and non-progressive Democrats. I will work to ensure that every vote counts, but also ensure that

STATE AUDITOR

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

Questions for the Candidates for State Auditor (65 words each)

1. What experience, education and other qualifications do you have for the State Auditor position?
2. Which areas require the immediate attention of this office?
3. The State Auditor contracts with independent public accounting firms to audit state agencies. Should these firms be prohibited from making campaign contributions to candidates for State Auditor? Why or why not?

STATE TREASURER

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

Questions for the Candidates for State Treasurer (65 words each)

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

Zombies, Aliens, and Canines do not vote. I would increase active military and tribal participation in elections, including the translation of ballots into Native languages.

3. When a non-citizen votes, a citizen's vote is diminished. Our ancestors including my father, the first American Indian jet pilot, fought against tyranny to protect our freedoms. Allowing those who cheated the system to vote is an insult to both our veterans and to all the legal immigrants who followed the rules. I will implement Voter ID, which is supported by 70% of New Mexicans.

4. The Secretary of State is not supposed to make laws. Legislators make laws. Yet when the legislative process did not produce a result that my opponent wanted, she

unilaterally decided to violate the First Amendment rights of anyone who donated to a cause that she opposes. I will rescind that illegal policy, protect First Amendment freedoms, and keep Antifa away from you and your family.

5. I believe that members of political parties have constitutionally protected freedoms, including the freedom to associate. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that parties, as private organizations, have a constitutional right to manage their own affairs without undue state interference. There are other mechanisms that have the potential to increase voter choice, particularly for independents, but that is a matter for the legislature to consider.



STATE AUDITOR Brian S. Colon DEMOCRAT

1. My finance degree (New Mexico State University) and law degree (University of New Mexico) are a perfect fit for this office. I also have 25+ years as an entrepreneur and work with business/government transactions along with philanthropic endeavors as I built a legal career will make me an effective State Auditor. I will fight corruption, waste, fraud and abuse while addressing public policy issues.
2. Fighting corruption, waste, fraud and abuse demand immediate attention. I will

expand OSA's capacity and engage voters in all 33 counties to identify areas of fraud/abuse needing investigation. Taxpayers know best where there are areas of concern and utilizing taxpayers is the most effective way to fight corruption. I will build on momentum created by previous auditors, AG Hector Balderas and Mayor Tim Keller.

3. Independent accounting firms that contract with the Office of State Auditor should be prohibited from making campaign contributions to candidates for State Auditor due to potential conflicts of interest. We should also consider whether similar contributions to gubernatorial candidates should be prohibited for the same reason. Our system of campaign finance needs to be changed. Public financing discussions and solutions should continue.



STATE TREASURER Tim Eichenberg DEMOCRAT

1. Four years' experience as New Mexico State Treasurer. Elected two terms Bernalillo County Treasurer. Worked in private sector for over 30 years as Property Tax Consultant, General Contractor and Real Estate Broker. Appointed by the Governor as New Mexico State Property Tax Director (2004). Elected to New Mexico Senate (2008); Chaired Restructuring Committee and Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee.
2. The Safety of New Mexico's money is the first priority, followed by ensuring required

liquidity and then maximizing yield. Manage New Mexico's cash with integrity and transparency. Improving the quality of life for all New Mexicans through promoting ABLE NM so people with disabilities establish tax-free savings without losing public-assistance eligibility and Help New Mexico's private-sector employees to retire financially secure.

3. We have recently implemented the State SHARE System (accounting program) in the State Treasurer's office. All other State agencies currently utilize this system. I initiated legislation regarding transparency in investment fees that passed the legislature but was vetoed by the Governor, but will try again in 2019. Other changes that I believed needed to be implemented have been accomplished over the last three years.



STATE AUDITOR Wayne A. Johnson REPUBLICAN

1. My experience as State Auditor, successful owner of a media business, and two-term Bernalillo County Commissioner come together to achieve the primary objectives of my office – transparency and accountability. As Auditor, I uncover facts and report back to the public without regard to politics or partisanship. I am a strong, independent voice for New Mexico families and answer only to the public.
2. First, to expose and bring into compliance taxpayer-funded organizations that

have heretofore hidden from public scrutiny -like the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities and the High Risk Pool. I've already uncovered hundreds of thousands of public dollars used for everything from \$8,000 parties to WhistlePig whiskey. Also, provide accountability for seniors and their conservators and improve financial practices of entities subject to State Auditor's review.

3. There are serious First Amendment issues when restricting legal contributions from specific groups. However, I do not solicit contributions from firms who go through the OSA firm profile process. Also, all but a few of the over 1,300 audits performed annually are procured by the organization being audited. It's a good process that protects the IPA from unscrupulous candidates while helping to guarantee high-quality audits.



STATE TREASURER Arthur L. Castillo REPUBLICAN

1. Bachelor's degree Business Administration; Chief Finance Officer, NM State Treasurers office; Paymaster, grant accountant, writer, administrator, City of Albuquerque; Grant accountant, writer, administrator, transportation planner, NM Department of Transportation; Physical Plant Director, University of Albuquerque; Accounting manager, Bernalillo County Treasurers office; plus entry level positions as a property control and payroll clerk; 4 year veteran of the U.S. Navy.

2. Evaluate policies and procedures before making changes as necessary to comply with federal regulations, state of NM statutes, and other mandates required by GAAP and GAAFR. Hire the most qualified executive staff within the area of expertise. Review staff functions and set or adjust internal audit procedures for all functions of the STO.

3. I was not able to find the STO's policies and procedures, the STO does not publish their Policies and Procedures on their website. The prior administration's Policies and Procedures were sufficient for that time. Changes will be made to insure legal mandates are adhered to. I do not intend to waste money to make unnecessary changes.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

Questions for the Candidates for Attorney General (65 words each)

1. Describe both the specific experiences and abilities you have that prepare you for this office.
2. What are your highest priorities for this office and how do you intend to accomplish them?
3. What will you do to make public officials more accountable to the general public?
4. What will you do to protect New Mexicans from consumer fraud?
5. What is the Attorney General's role in fighting the opioid crisis in New Mexico?

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

Leads the State Land Office, which manages 9 million acres of land and 13 million acres of mineral rights held in trust to support public schools, universities, hospitals, charitable purposes and penitentiaries. Must be at least 30 years of age, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$90,000.

Questions for the Candidates for Commissioner of Public Lands (65 words each)

1. Describe both the specific experience and abilities you have that prepare you for this office.
2. How will you balance responsible stewardship of state trust lands while maximizing the revenues necessary for the support of the beneficiaries?
3. How can the Land Commissioner improve enforcement of environmental regulations on state trust lands?
4. How would you generate additional revenue for the beneficiaries of the trust?



ATTORNEY GENERAL Hector Balderas DEMOCRAT

1. Growing up in poverty has made me an aggressive street fighter. This personal experience created the conviction that everyone – no matter their background – deserve opportunities to succeed. As a prosecutor

and certified fraud examiner I uncovered the largest public school embezzlement in state history. As AG, I will continue to tirelessly pursue those who exploit the vulnerable and ensure the safety and prosperity of families.

2. My top priorities are to protect vulnerable children who fall through the cracks through systemic failures, protect hard working consumers by combatting political corruption and unfair trade practices by corporations, and continue partnering with local, state and federal authorities to fight against crimes such as human trafficking, money laundering, and violent crimes.

3. I will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute public officials regardless of party affiliation. I will continue to fight for pension forfeiture for public officials who violate the law and continue to partner with NM citizens who courageously step forward to report public corruption. I will continue to fight for tougher penalties against government agencies that are not transparent to the public.

4. I will continue to aggressively litigate against powerful out of state corporations who don't pay taxes or scam consumers for hard earned wages. As AG, I have recovered over 20 million dollars and have made substantial reinvestments for consumer training and prevention tools to make smarter, more informed consumers who are empowered to protect themselves from fraud.

5. New Mexicans are dying at an alarming rate. I have

filed suit against opioid distributors and manufacturers in order to secure funding to be reinvested in education, treatment, and law enforcement. I have launched Project OPEN: Opioid Prevention & Education Network, a public opioid abuse training program aimed to educate advocates, law enforcement, healthcare professionals and policy makers on the impact of opioid abuse.



ATTORNEY GENERAL A. Blair Dunn LIBERTARIAN

1. A major function of the Attorney General's office is to enforce laws regarding accountability and transparency. I have a proven track record in court of fighting for the public on public records laws for which I received a Dixon Award from the Foundation for Open Government and against the government trampling the civil rights of citizens.

2. My highest priorities are 1) prosecuting corruption of all government officials that break the law regardless of party affiliation, 2) fixing a broken family law system by addressing the violations of civil rights by the judiciary and providing opinion to the legislature, and 3) protecting our water resources by requiring both government and private individuals to follow

the law regarding the use of our water.

3. I believe that AG should set an example by being the most transparent government official. As top lawyer for the state my client is the public and I believe they deserve to know what their lawyer is doing for them. Transparency promotes accountability and that is the number one job for the AG. I will start a whistleblower hotline to report government waste and abuse.

4. I believe that increased responsiveness to the public and prosecution of consumer fraud case will decrease the occurrence of consumer fraud in New Mexico.

5. The Attorney General will play a major role in drug policy and criminal justice reform in New Mexico. We need to stop treating drug use as a crime and treat it as mental health issue. I believe that the opioid crisis would be reduced by the decriminalization of marijuana use and protecting the medicinal cannabis patients' rights.



ATTORNEY GENERAL Michael Eugene Hendricks REPUBLICAN

1. I have 15+ years in Business Management and the OAG is a crime fighting and protection

business for the people of NM and our children. I am a lawyer with experience in various areas of law. I have a passion for justice and safety.

2. Work with local law enforcement to quell crime. Crime is what has hampered our business development. Investigating to root out corruption in government. Use parental and personal education to reduce opioid/drug abuse; and, work to have facilities for proper treatment of those caught in the throes of drug addiction. Resolve the water rights issue (Texas v. NM).

3. Many of our public officials believe that they are above the law; I believe that we should be servants of the people, held to an even higher standard. Investigate even the slightest perception of corruption. Also, I will work to increase transparency by actually enforcing IPRA regulations.

4. I will work to revamp the processes for enforcement of the current consumer fraud laws. I will not farm out large lawsuits to outside counsel unless absolutely necessary; and, if necessary, then after a competitive bidding and evaluation process.

5. All drug abuse is a blight on a civil society. The AG is tasked with working with local law enforcement to deter and prosecute abusers. However, education for children and families as well as the pressure for and use of treatment facilities with after treatment planning is a huge tool that is not currently being utilized.



LAND COMMISSIONER Stephanie Garcia Richard DEMOCRAT

1. Chair of the House Education Committee, 3-term State Representative and awarded "Spirit of Bipartisanship" by NM First, I have represented all land office issues and users; on both sides of the aisle. I'm excited to leverage the mandate by ensuring we increase funding

for early childhood education, schools, and hospitals. I've championed renewable energy and job training to assist in diversification away from extractive industries.

2. The land office needs to make decisions with the recognition that the health of

the environment, the economy, the public, and the animals are inextricably intertwined; ensuring optimal revenue generation while preserving the land for future generations. With that said, oil and gas will continue to be a mainstay in our state and we must ensure

we're maximizing our financial returns while guaranteeing environmental safeguards.

3. First, we must mandate that lease agreements include requirements to adhere to clean air and water standards. Second, we must partner with other agencies on oversight,

encouraging them to report when they witness a violation occurring. Finally, we must increase our field capacity in the office, so we have more eyes on state trust land.

4. I will restore the \$700 million in renewable energy projects abandoned by the current

office holder and implement a program that would establish transmission lines that allow for New Mexico to make royalties from selling renewable energy to vast markets in the West, like we do with oil and gas.



LAND COMMISSIONER
Michael G. Lucero
LIBERTARIAN
NO REPLY RECEIVED

LAND COMMISSIONER
Patrick Lyons
REPUBLICAN
1. I served as the Commissioner of Public Lands from 2003-

2010, and have the experience to provide the leadership the Land Office needs to move New Mexico forward and raise revenue in a sustainable way for education and the 22 beneficiaries. During my tenure, I raised a record \$4Billion in revenue with a flat budget for 8 years and every dollar accounted for.

2. Stewardship of State Trust Land is very important and I want to ensure that our

future generations can enjoy the benefits from State Trust Land. I will ask the Legislature to fund a restoration program to keep State Trust Land clean and our forests healthy. While Land Commissioner, I initiated a program called "Don't Trash the Trust," which worked with communities and lessees to care

3. The Land Office needs to work closely with the NM Environment Department

and the NM Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, Oil Conservation Division. They need to bring on an environmental engineer to interpret and enforce regulations on State Trust Land. The Land Office also needs to establish an environmental advisory board with professionals that have the knowledge and experience to make recommendations on ...

4. I will diversify the energy portfolio by continuing to create

renewable energy projects like wind and solar leases on State Trust Lands. I will expand opportunities for commercial leases in urban areas, such as the projects I supported as Land Commissioner, including UNM West, Presbyterian Rust and Cleveland High School. I would expand outdoor recreational access and opportunities on State Trust Land.

PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSIONER

The NM PRC regulates public utilities, telecommunications companies and motor carriers operating in the state. It also administers the State Fire Marshal, the NM Firefighters Training Academy and the Pipeline Safety Bureau. (See <http://www.nmprc.state.nm.us/>) Five commissioners are elected on a partisan basis by district for staggered 4 year terms. Salary: \$90,000 per year.

Questions for the candidates for Public Regulation Commissioner District 5 (75 words each)

1. What are your qualifications for Public Regulation Commissioner?
2. When evaluating requests for insurance and utility rate increases, what factors should be taken into account to ensure fairness to both the public and the companies involved?
3. What should the PRC do to help ensure access to high quality broadband and internet service to underserved areas of the state?
4. What is your position regarding increased renewable energy production and transmission?



PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5
Stephen H. Fischmann
DEMOCRAT

1. I have extensive policy experience in Energy Issues from serving in the New Mexico State Senate on the Conservation Committee and as chair of the legislative Science and Technology committee. I also have experience as an intervenor and researcher on various PRC dockets and as co-founder of the Southwest Energy Alliance.

2. The current rate-making process does not adequately protect consumers. Utilities have historically been given a guaranteed 10% return on assets.

This gives them an incentive to overbuild if unchecked. The PRC does not require full need and cost studies on most capital projects. At about \$1.8 billion in new projects annually, that can cost consumers lots of money.

3. Recent legislation has stripped the PRC of most of its authority over broadband. The PRC does have authority to spend up to \$30 million annually to help provide affordable broadband infrastructure to underserved areas annually. This is not enough to make a meaningful impact. The PRC needs to coordinate with the governor and the legislature on improved programs to provide this critical service.

4. Recent proposals in Arizona and Colorado show that wind and solar energy, combined with battery storage are substantially cheaper than new fossil fuel plants in the Southwest. Arizona recently declared a temporary moratorium on large new gas plants for fear they will become obsolete in just a few years.

Increased renewables will save consumers money and protect the environment in the years.



PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5
Ben L. Hall
REPUBLICAN

1. I have served in the following elected offices: Lincoln county commissioner -2 terms, New Mexico House of Representatives -3 terms, NM Public Regulation Commissioner -1 Term as well as 39 plus years as a licensed Building Contractor.

2. The PRC does not regulate Insurance anymore. Utilities requesting rate increases must file a formal written request, Hearing Examiners as well as Lawyers review and questions

the companies requesting the increase, there findings and recommendations are then presented to the PRC for a ruling. The PRC then will accept or deny the request based on fairness and affordability to the public as well as fairness

3. The PRC does not regulate transmission lines, such as broadband and internet. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) does this. Government funding is available upon request to qualifying entities. Same rules apply to a co-op, there are co-op's that are already using these grants and installing the services.

4. I am an advocate for renewable energy so long as the rate payers are not harmed by increasing Their utility bills, nothing is free. I will advocate for as much renewable energy as rate payers can afford, at the present time the PRC must be careful with the percentage of renewable energy allowed or we may all be in the dark.

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

This commission consists of ten commissioners elected by district and who serve nonpartisan, staggered 4-year terms. Their role is advisory to the NM Secretary of Education. No salary. \$95 plus mileage per diem.

Questions for the Candidate for Public Education Commissioner (75 words each)

1. How can the Public Education Commission help New Mexico schools and colleges provide public education that prepares our children for the opportunities, responsibilities and challenges of the next 20 years?
2. How will you ensure that state charter schools are meeting performance frameworks and achieving better outcomes than traditional public schools?
3. Explain your position on funding for early childhood education.



PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 7
Patricia Gipson
DEMOCRAT

1. The Public Education Commission establishes policies

and procedures for all the state authorized charter schools. The PEC does not have a role in Public Education Department rule or policy making. I would request a rewording of this question to change accredited to authorized and agency to commission. We are an independently elected commission statutorily charged with authorizing, monitoring and renewing/revoking charters. We do not accredit schools.

2. The PEC has established a series of rigorous monitoring tools through its performance framework and accountability system integrated into the schools contract with the PEC. The performance framework allows the PEC to continually monitor the academic and financial well being of a school. Corrective Action plans may be required through the accountability system and a revocation of the Charter

could result if the CAP is not completed successfully.

3. Fully fund early childhood education for all New Mexicans. Put money into funding a system which gives school districts more autonomy to make the decisions on what to teach, how to evaluate teachers and assess students. Eliminate PARCC, increase teacher pay, don't tie the test performance of students to teacher evaluation.

NEW MEXICO STATE JUDICIAL OFFICES

Judicial vacancies are filled through appointment by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. At the next regular election the judicial position is filled in a partisan election in which the appointed judge must participate and win the most votes to retain the seat. Judges serve for terms of a set number of years, after which they must win a 57% "yes" vote in retention elections to keep their seats.

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT- PARTISAN

Serves as one of five justices on the highest court in New Mexico. It is the court of last resort and has supervisory control over all lesser courts and attorneys licensed in the state. Required to hear appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, election challenges and criminal cases when a defendant is sentenced to life imprisonment. Has discretionary authority to review rulings of the Court of Appeals and questions of law certified to it by the Court of Appeals or federal court. Must be 35 years old, have practiced law for 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Elected statewide for eight-year term. Salary: Chief Justice, \$141,818; Associate Justice, \$139,818.

Questions for candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court and Judge of the Court of Appeals (65 words each)

1. How have your training, professional experiences and interests prepared you to serve on this court?
2. What policies are critical to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
3. What improvements in the Supreme Court would you seek to make if elected?
4. How would you generate additional revenue for the beneficiaries of the trust?

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

Serves as one of ten judges on the intermediate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court. Judges sit in panels of three. Court reviews appeals in all cases, except criminal cases involving life imprisonment, appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, and cases involving habeas corpus. Must be 35 years old, have practiced law for 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Elected statewide for eight-year term. Salary: Chief Judge, \$134,727; Judge, \$132,827.



SUPREME COURT JUSTICE Michael Vigil DEMOCRAT

1. I have been a lawyer for over 42 years and a Judge on the Court of Appeals for over 15 years. I was a trial attorney for over 27 years in civil and criminal cases and over 50 appeals. As Judge, I have decided over 3,000 cases and written over 1,000 opinions in every aspect of the law, protecting the rights of all New Mexicans.
2. A judge must put ethics and impartiality first in deciding cases, and it is critical that judges not take money from special interests, corporations, or oil and gas companies. I am the only candidate for Supreme Court who is publicly financed. I am committed to insuring that all parties coming to court are treated equally, regardless of gender, race, economic status, background, or sexual preference.
3. I will bring my decades of experience in the criminal law to improve the rules for keeping people in jail who are dangerous pending their trial. In addition, I will explore whether the State can appeal from a sentence it deems to be too light.



SUPREME COURT JUSTICE Gary L. Clingman REPUBLICAN

1. I prepared through hard

work. I attended college at night while working as a police officer. I earned a Master of Judicial Studies degree, joined the faculty of the National Judicial College, and am a published author. A Judge for 21 years, I've tried over 650 jury trials, including complex civil and criminal litigation, children's court matters, divorces, torts, and contract disputes.

2. Soundly reasoned, clearly written opinions that are based upon precedent safeguard judicial independence. When this principle is observed, critics must attack the law upon which the opinion rests and not the judiciary itself. However, if this principle is ignored and non-precedential considerations become the basis for decisions, the judiciary abandons its safe haven above the political fray and its claim for judicial independence rings hollow.
3. The Supreme Court administers the entire judiciary. It has established internal deadlines to accelerate the resolution of cases before it. I would establish resolution deadlines for all state courts and increase the judiciary's use of technology to better serve New Mexicans. We must develop faster and less expensive ways to resolve civil and domestic relations disputes while honoring due process requirements.



COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE (Position 1) Kristina Bogardus DEMOCRAT

1. I have 27 years of legal experience, working with my colleagues to reach consensus

on difficult legal issues. I have focused on legal writing throughout my career and believe that my writing skills will be an asset to the Court. I am a person who treats everyone with equal respect and fairness. I want to take these qualities to the Court of Appeals.

2. I have always held myself to the highest ethical standards required by my profession, and, as a judge, I will continue to do so. Judicial Code of Ethics provides strict rules to insulate the judiciary from politics. The public finance option is another way to keep political influence out of the courts, and I qualified for such financing for my campaign.
3. Lawyers rely on our appellate courts to guide their practice and to advise their clients. I will keep the existing law in sight and not stray too far from it. Court must provide timely opinions that provide clarity and guidance to lawyers and their clients and I intend to meet that goal. I expect to work hard to help relieve the Court's heavy caseload.



COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE (Position 1) Stephen G. French REPUBLICAN

1. Prior to joining the Court, I was a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and civil trial attorney in State and Federal courts. I litigated over 110 appeals in State and Federal court. Since being appointed to the Court of Appeals, I have authored or participated in over 70 opinions. In the last two years, I have cleared the learning curve regarding the

craft of authoring opinions.

2. Our Code of Judicial Ethics generally serves to protect the independence of the courts. We need to keep partisan politics out of all judicial races. Public funding of Court of Appeals' races was a great start. However, we must amend the New Mexico Constitution, Article VI, Section 33, to require non-partisan elections for judges in order to keep the judiciary independent from political influence.
3. The modernization of the Court should continue to be our primary focus. Currently, we are transitioning the entire structure of the Court in order to address efficiency. This is an ongoing and time intensive process. Our goal is to provide quick resolution of disputes and justice for everybody who comes become the Court.



COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE (Position 2) Jacqueline R. Medina DEMOCRAT

1. I have practiced law for 27 years. As a former Children's Court Attorney, Prosecutor, and Assistant Attorney General I tried several cases and handled over 160 appellate cases. I serve on the New Mexico Supreme Court Appellate Rules Committee, mentor law students, new attorneys, and I am a former Family Selection Committee member for the Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity. I bring experience and integrity.
2. Judges are required to perform their work in a fair, impartial, and diligent manner. Judges must remain faithful to the law and not allow themselves to be

swayed by partisan interests, fear of criticism, or public outcry. A judge must ensure that her extra-judicial activities not conflict with or give the appearance of conflicting with her judicial obligations.

3. I have 16 1/2 years of appellate work and will hit the ground running. Criminal appeals make up the largest category of cases. As a former prosecutor I know that the lives of victims, the accused, and their families are on hold while their cases await review. I will seek to ensure that all cases are resolved in a timely and accurate manner.



**COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE
(Position 2)
Hank Bohnhoff
REPUBLICAN**

1. An appellate judge must have integrity, a strong work ethic, broad legal experience, and demonstrated legal ability. My parents taught me to work hard and be honest, fair, and respectful. I worked my way through Stanford University and Columbia University Law School. For 34 years I litigated a wide variety of cases across New Mexico, earning our legal community's respect. See www.KeepJudgeHankBohnhoff.com for more information.

2. Voters that I have met across New Mexico are dismayed to learn that our judges must run in partisan elections. Partisan elections for judges increase the risk that they will rule based on political considerations. The surest way to keep politics out of the courtroom is for New Mexico to join the many other states that have abandoned partisan, contested elections for judges.

3. Our Court must decide appeals expeditiously, yet give

each case careful consideration. We currently face a significant backlog. My colleagues and I recently have streamlined our procedures to process our docket more efficiently. These reforms are working, but do not sacrifice our commitment to give each party who comes before us his or her day in court. Upon election, I will continue implementing these improvements.



**COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE
(Position 3)
Briana H. Zamora
DEMOCRAT**

1. My professional experience includes nearly a decade as a Judge in New Mexico. I have presided over thousands of cases and well over a hundred jury trials. I have earned a reputation for being fair but tough. New Mexicans deserve experienced judges who are independent and have integrity. The New Mexico Court of Appeals will benefit from my experience and reputation of integrity and fairness.

2. Judicial independence requires that New Mexico courts be free from improper influence from the legislative or executive branches of government. Judges must also set aside partisan or private-party interests when making decisions. Judicial ethics rules mandate judges make decisions independently and free from other influences. As a judge, I adhere to the Judicial Code of Conduct, which is an important tool for ensuring judicial independence.

3. New Mexico Courts, including the Court of Appeals, are extremely busy. When courts are overburdened, cases can be unreasonably delayed. Litigants have a right to timely decisions. To cure this problem,

our courts could benefit from additional resources, possible restructuring and increased use of alternative dispute resolution programs. As a judge, I have and will continue to, work to improve our courts system.



**COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE
(Position 3)
Emil J. Kiehne
REPUBLICAN**

1. The most important qualification that voters should look for in a Court of Appeals judge is experience in doing appeals work, which requires very different skills from being a district court judge. With over 17 years' experience handling appeals in both civil and criminal cases, I'm the only candidate for Position 3 whose career has been dedicated to this area of the law.

2. I am participating in New Mexico's system of public financing for statewide judicial elections, which means that I am not beholden to campaign contributors or special interests. Our Code of Judicial Conduct also places strict limits on the political activities of judges. Another good idea would be to move away from the partisan judicial races that we currently have in New Mexico.

3. When I became a judge on the Court of Appeals over 10 months ago, I discovered that the Court was behind on its work, and had inefficient practices that slow cases down. My fellow judges and I are now making significant changes to help the Court decide cases more quickly, including hiring more law clerks and using more modern software, to name a few.



**COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE
(Position 4)
Megan P. Duffy
DEMOCRAT**

1. I began my career clerking for Justice Bosson at the NM Supreme Court. Since then, I've spent my career at a small civil firm in Albuquerque, mastering my field and representing real people all over New Mexico. I understand how our courts affect every person in our state and I have the ability, experience, and perspective to serve New Mexico with integrity.

2. Public financing is critical to the courts' independence because the campaigns do not accept any money from donors and special interests, which eliminates conflicts of interest. In addition to adhering to our strict Judicial Code, I commit to always put ethics and impartiality first, and to treat all parties equally. I am proud to be publicly financed and committed to maintaining judicial integrity and independence.

3. The Court is facing a backlog of cases as a result of having 5 judges retire in the last two years. My commitment is to work hard to bring the Court's docket current so that parties receive timely decisions in their cases, and to draft clear opinions that litigants, attorneys, and courts can use and apply in future cases.



**COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE
(Position 4)
Daniel Jose Gallegos
REPUBLICAN**

1. By necessity, an appellate judge must be a generalist. Throughout my varied career, I have served as a prosecutor in the Navy and in NM; a legal advisor to military commanders at sea and in Iraq; a COA staff attorney, where I handled more than 250 appeals; and following a recommendation by the bipartisan judicial nominating commission, I am currently a sitting COA judge.

2. No one wants to appear before a judge perceived to be beholden to someone or something other than the law itself. Public financing of judicial elections is a start, but in this constitutionally mandated partisan election, I have also chosen to utilize campaign materials that do not denote political party affiliation. In this way, I can guarantee that I render decisions without fear or favor.

3. The Court must not only issue fair, just, and well-reasoned opinions, but it must also ensure that its opinions are timely. As a sitting COA judge and member of the Judicial Information Systems Council, I have been on the forefront of internal and technological improvements aimed at increasing judicial efficiency. With my continued efforts, I believe opinions will be issued in a timelier fashion.

**COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE
(Position 5)
Jennifer L. Attrep
DEMOCRAT UNOPPOSED**



**COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE
RETENTION
J. Miles Hanisee**

1. My twenty-four years of legal experience include being a Judge on the Court of Appeals since 2011, a federal prosecutor, and a lawyer representing New Mexicans. Since my family moved to Taos in 1986, my love of our state's outdoors, culture, people, diversity, and cuisine have contributed to my understanding of public service and the need for a fair, efficient, and independent judiciary.

2. Most voters agree that politics and judicial service are functionally incompatible. Yet except in retention elections such as mine this year, our state still opts to identify judicial candidates by political party affiliation. That should change, as it has in most other states. During my seven years as an appellate judge, I have advocated loudly for non-partisan judicial elections, as yet to no avail.

3. Six of our ten appellate judges have retired in the past four years. Afterward, my senior colleagues and I noticed an accompanying opportunity to modernize court processes. I hope to continue my contribution to this effort, which combines staffing revisions, technology upgrades, improved training, and changes to our use of limited financial resources to attain speedier, correct, and more publicly accessible rulings.

NEW MEXICO STATE DISTRICT OFFICES

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, the person in this legislative office, together with other representatives, enacts "reasonable and appropriate laws," represents the constituents of his or her district, and serves on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Must be at least twenty-one years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. Two-year term. No salary. Per diem is \$165 per day plus mileage reimbursement at the federal rate while in session or at interim meetings.

Questions for the Candidates for State Representative (75 words each)

1. What is the biggest problem facing New Mexico in the next two years? How can it be addressed legislatively?
2. How will you diversify the economy of New Mexico?
3. How will you improve health care for New Mexicans?
4. How will you address the issues of child poverty and education in New Mexico?



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 33
Micaela Lara
Cadena
DEMOCRAT**

1. In the short-term, the legislature must take concrete steps to prevent gun violence. We must craft common sense gun laws to protect our children and grandchildren, including requiring background checks for all gun sales and pushing for legislation that keeps guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. In the long-run, we must make smart investments toward building an educational system that equitably provides opportunities for all students to grow into their inherent potential.

2. Overall, we must grow the New Mexico economy, increase the stability of New Mexico's revenue streams and reform our tax system. For District 33,

we need to do more to support home-grown businesses through economic development efforts informed by local entrepreneurs and job creators.

3. As a policy researcher and advocate, I've increased access to healthcare that New Mexicans need across our rural and urban communities. In the legislature, I'm ready to be part of building a strong foundation for the mental and behavioral health care systems important for many of our families. Additionally, I'm ready to address looming provider shortages and grow our healthcare workforce by supporting strategies to train, teach, and prepare New Mexicans for crucial healthcare jobs.

4. Too many families are living in generational cycles of trauma, substance use, incarceration and poverty. We must invest in programs that disrupt harmful cycles so that young people have opportunities to be safe and thrive. I support increasing funding for early childhood programs, and will vote in favor of a constitutional amendment that sends this proposal to voters of NM. I will also be open to exploring other mechanisms of funding early childhood



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 33
Charles R. Wendler
REPUBLICAN**

1. I believe the biggest problem facing NM the next two years is education, especially for our youth. There is a serious need to rethink how and what we are doing with preparing them for success in a changing world. Research suggests that existing money could be redistributed to direct classroom instruction. That is, legislatively a percentage of budgets could be earmarked for such a purpose.

2. It seems the emphasis for our youth is on college. Let's not forget that a large, well-trained, skilled work force created this exceptional Country. Businesses are looking for opportunities to locate where there is a large pool of "rank and file" workers, who are eager to obtain gainful employment. Let's continue to support NMSU and federal government installations in their research and development. They have produced much in the way of commercial value.

3. Improving health care is about education. Do we really do an adequate job of instructing our youth on developing a healthy life style, which will provide quality living on into their senior years? We all are inundated with various temptations that impact our decisions on proper health maintenance. Opening up a true free market for all health insurance companies across state lines would provide competition and impact pricing.

4. Poverty, logically, would be overcome by job opportunities. If a person obtained the necessary skills (education) and work ethic commensurate with the job

requirements, there would be a connect for exiting families (with their children) from poverty.

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 34
Raymundo Lara
DEMOCRAT
NO REPLY RECEIVED**



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 35
Angelica Rubio
DEMOCRAT**

1. The infrastructure to govern. Not only is NM the only legislature not paying its legislators, but our legislative branch lacks the time necessary to work on, and pass good public policy that addresses a number of issues. We need to modernize in order to meet the needs of the 21st century, and to solve 21st century problems. This conversation can begin now.

2. New Mexico's dependence on oil and gas is unsustainable. Although it will be a mainstay for many years to come, I enthusiastically support a road map that prioritizes investments in renewable energy, the legalization of marijuana, and investing in responsible outdoor recreation.

3. I am a strong supporter of providing healthcare for all New Mexican's. I support efforts that are in the works, that will provide access to all New Mexicans, such as the Health Security Act and Medicaid Buy-in.

4. The issue of child poverty and education is extremely important as we look towards the future. By investing in children, through initiatives being considered

at the state level such as early childhood development and public schools, we can begin to change the course of the state in more ways than one.

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 35
Jonathan Kyle
Allen
REPUBLICAN
NO REPLY RECEIVED**



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 36
Nathan P. Small
DEMOCRAT**

1. Diversifying our economy and strengthening public education pose our biggest combined challenge. The stronger budget outlook, thanks largely to an innovative energy industry, is a welcome opportunity. We must invest wisely, focusing on education at all levels, including work force development. Strengthening public education will help New Mexicans to thrive in the jobs of today and to create the jobs of tomorrow. We must also address infrastructure, including broadband and cell phone service.

2. My top priority is to create the conditions for real economic development and grow opportunities in New Mexico. That means making real investments at all levels of education from early childhood to job training and apprenticeships. I continue to focus on expanding clean renewable energy, value added agriculture, and foreign trade related economic opportunity. We must use the coming budget surplus wisely, investing in

education, infrastructure, and economic opportunity.

3. First, we must fully fund Medicaid to better serve currently eligible New Mexicans and leverage additional federal resources. Second, we need to address healthcare provider shortages across multiple disciplines through creative incentives and community partnerships with health care institutions. Third, we need to continue making progress on innovative efforts like creating a Medicaid buy-in program for New Mexicans and the New Mexico Health Security Act.

4. Education is the key to reversing the cycle of poverty that impacts too many New Mexican families. We should properly fund our public schools so that all New Mexicans can see increased opportunity, safety, and quality of life. Paying appropriate wages to our educational personnel, reducing testing while supporting teaching, and growing the community school approach that serves entire families with combined services should all be priorities in the upcoming legislative session.



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 36
David H. Tofsted
REPUBLICAN**

1. Education. Legislation is needed to ensure students learn English in Kindergarten, and can read, spell, and write in English by the end of first grade. Full-time full-classroom teachers should receive increased pay based on their greater responsibilities. The STEM-Ready Science Standards need to be adjusted to ensure students are proficient in reading,

writing, and mathematics prior to studying such science topics. The STEM-Ready standards must be amended to include missing technology and engineering subjects.

2. New Mexico has historically based its economy on mining, farming, ranching, oil and gas, forestry, and government research. Of these, forestry and mining have been virtually destroyed.

In Dona Ana country new restrictions on activities within the OMDP further threaten long-established ranches. And permitting and licensing fees are a constant drain on businesses. We can diversify our economy naturally by simplifying and streamlining policies toward businesses and industry.

3. New Mexico needs enabling legislation to adapt and adopt healthcare insurance programs to the new Association Health Plans that will allow small businesses to band together to provide their employees more affordable coverage options. New Mexico will also need to address upcoming funding problems with respect to the expanded Medicaid program under ACA. This will require attention to avoid extraneous unnecessary burdens to New Mexico's economy due to other funding wish lists.

4. Children suffer heavily from our 47th-place economy. Fix the economy. Repair our schools. Pay full-classroom teachers what they deserve. Let teachers teach to the students, not the test. Replace PARCC with a focused written test. Also, the solution isn't more government-run Pre-K daycare. Advocates arguing children's childhoods should be spent in government classrooms are mistaken. Learning to "get in line" and "wait your turn" (Social-Emotional Learning Pre-K concepts) are more indoctrination than valuable life lessons.



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 37
Joanne J. Ferrary
DEMOCRAT**

1. One of our biggest challenges is reforming our educational system and to support early childhood education, by increasing a small investment from the Land Grant Permanent Fund. Working on the Interim Legislative Education Study Committee, we have studied best practices of other countries and States with best outcomes. Early Childhood Education is key part to making sure that children have the social, emotional and critical thinking skills necessary to be successful in their learning career.

2. We can build an economy that works for everyone: We should reduce our dependence on the fluctuating income of oil and gas and take advantage of our natural resources by incentivizing solar and wind tax credits. We need to invest in infrastructure, in small entrepreneurial businesses, such as at the NMSU Arrowhead Center, and expand tourism opportunities that includes outdoor recreation and ecotourism that has a 7 to 1 return.

3. As a member of the Legislative and interim Health and Human Services Committee, I support the Health Securities Act that will work to reduce drug and healthcare costs for all New Mexicans with co-op like purchasing power. I am working on the Rural Healthcare Plan team that is addressing the challenges to expand access to healthcare in rural communities. One solution is to increase incentives to attract healthcare providers to those area.

4. We should start by incrementally increasing the State minimum wage to a level

that will support our hard-working families. We also need to reform our educational system to support kids from cradle to career. This means increasing teacher and childcare worker's certifications and salaries, after-school programs, dual credit and vocational education options. Community schools will help provide the resources needed for the entire family to be successful and healthy by giving support and needed referrals.



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 37
Bev Courtney
REPUBLICAN**

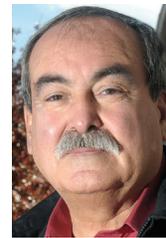
1. Drugs, crime, and mental health. Those who have wrestled with it find a challenge hard to overcome. Crime increased slightly up until 2017 but has been of such a violent nature that negative public perception is dramatic. This year is an upswing. There have been 12 or more shootings and children's deaths. It is a sad day when I hear of another. We should work to protect the hearts and minds of our future generations.

2. Allow timber industries back who managed our forest best. Mining industry too. Becoming a right to work state would open the door to businesses here. Make policies that encourage home grown entrepreneurs such as farm to market and cottage industries to flourish. I like green energy too, but more at the home level where it would benefit all people, not just the wealthy. Everyone is taxed but not everyone can enjoy the benefits.

3. The economy drives the opportunity to purchase healthcare; we can create a thriving economy. People who earn more will see a doctor

sooner. I wouldn't assume that any of us wants to deny healthcare to people. Let's explore solutions for coverage that is fair. Education about healthy lifestyles is paramount. It is reported that 70 percent of disease is caused by diet. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

4. First, create a thriving economy. People who earn their own money have choices and dignity. Those who remain dependent on welfare never leave poverty. Public campaigns should encourage savings and education. Our education system has a bloated bureaucracy and fails our kids! School choice will make educators accountable and empower parents. Parents will choose a safe and secure learning environment and academic success. It will work!



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 39
Rodolpho S. Martinez
DEMOCRAT**

1. The biggest problem New Mexico faces is poverty. With as many New Mexicans receiving Medicaid as there are New Mexicans in the workforce, with almost half of our children under the age of four years receiving food stamps, there is evidence the problem is getting worse. Legislation alone can't fix poverty. Education, access to health care and jobs are crucial component to these issues. Investing in programs that assist in helping people out of poverty.

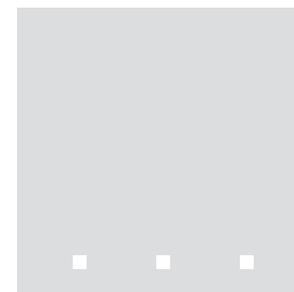
2. Healthcare is one of the fastest growing industries in the state. Investing in healthcare provider initiatives such nursing, occupational therapist, and primary care

residency programs are economic development drivers. Expansion of primary care provider programs across the state will allow for healthcare access to rural communities. Investing in alternative energy like solar power, geothermal and wind will provide clean energy. This industry will provide high paying jobs and potential sale of electricity to other states.

3. To improve health care in New Mexico we must invest in providing primary care residency programs across the state. Medical care must be provided to the most vulnerable and our children. Emphasis needs to be made in the most impoverished communities. Behavioral care services must improve by investing in psychiatric residency programs for those in need. Dental services are non-existing in rural areas of the state, that need must improve by expanding dental residency services.

4. The issue of child poverty is very complex. We must start with the home environment. Educating parents on addressing a child's needs, including healthcare. Making sure there is a safe place for the children. Educating a child is one of the most important phases in a child's life. Providing a proper education is a partnership between a child and their teacher. Teacher must be allowed to teach not to a test but teach to learn.

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 39
Lee S. Cotter
REPUBLICAN
NO REPLY RECEIVED**



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 52
Doreen Y. Gallegos
DEMOCRAT**

1. We have to address our public education funding situation. We are obligated by our State Constitution to fund all schools adequately. We haven't done that and the Legislature must act to it. We have to address poverty in District 52 and throughout New Mexico. We have to rebuild our mental health systems because so many of our social problems have its roots in our lack of a healthy mental health infrastructure.

2. We have been fortunate to have a strong Oil & Gas industry to generate a huge portion of our General Fund. That won't last forever and is cyclical. We need to become much more of a business friendly state and help small businesses grow and prosper. We have to continue to assist the Santa Teresa border crossing and all the activity at the border. Santa Teresa can completely change Southern New Mexico and create many...

3. We must improve our mental and behavioral health systems. There was incredible damage inflicted to these systems over the past eight years and the Legislature and next Governor has to repair the damage. We need to keep providing funding for our Medicaid obligations because so many New Mexicans depend on that program for their healthcare. We also need to do a better job in recruiting doctors and nurses to our rural areas.

4. I have been a social worker in Dona Ana County for over 20 years. I work with abused and neglected children in foster care. I see every day the impact of poverty and hopelessness on our families. We have to provide

PROBATE, MAGISTRATE AND DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

The Third Judicial District Court has supervisory responsibility over these two lower jurisdictions (plus Municipal Courts). Magistrate Judges, must be attorneys (unless they were elected before the rule went into effect), are elected for 4-year terms on a partisan basis. Magistrate Court Judge salary: \$84,344 per year, Probate Judge salary: \$33,143 per year, District Court Judge Salary: \$118,393 per year

Questions for the Candidates for Magistrate Judge (75 words each)

1. What do you see as the primary role of the Magistrate Court?
2. Would you recommend any changes in the administration of the Court? If so, what changes?

Questions for the candidates for Probate Judge (75 words each)

1. What are the most important functions of the Probate Judge?
2. What improvements will you make to the functioning of the Probate Court?
3. What in your experience qualifies you for the office of Probate Judge?

Questions for the candidates for Third District Judge (75 words each)

1. What do you see as the primary role of the District Court?
2. Would you support a system that includes satellite courts in the areas of the county outside of Las Cruces?
3. How would you improve victim services?
4. From your perspective, give details about two issues facing this court system and how you would deal with them?

programs to help families improve their situations with training and assistance.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 52 David L. Cheek REPUBLICAN

1. New Mexico's biggest problem is despair and pessimism. Because we are so used to lack of opportunity and dependency, too many of us have given up on the idea of hope. Although we can't pass a law to change this, we can give the people back more control over their lives and we can prove to ourselves and each other that we can accomplish

anything we put our minds to. 2. Allowing more competition is key to bringing more diversity. Removing barriers such as occupational licensure, prevailing wage mandates, and compulsory unionization will not only create more opportunity for individual workers, it will give an incentive to job-producing industries and manufacturing companies to put factories and stores in New Mexico. Comprehensive tax reform would also encourage more businesses to hire because they will be able to budget more investment into jobs. 3. With health status risk adjustments (re-rating original estimated expenses when estimate was too high or too low) patients would be able to change health plans any time instead of now when you can only enroll in a plan once a year. Also, we need to make it easier for providers to cover people in need of care by allowing

providers to charge premiums that reflects more closely the actual cost of care.

4. New Mexico invests more of its resources in education than most other states, yet we are not getting our money's worth. Teachers must be allowed to teach without interference from bureaucrats and more money must make its way into the classroom. Until there is fiscal accountability, our children will continue to pay the price. Without more competition, our families will continue to be stuck in the vicious cycle of poverty and dependency.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 5 Willie A. Madrid DEMOCRAT

1. The most pressing need in New Mexico, especially here in southern New Mexico is infrastructure. This includes the streets, roads, bridges, access to water and utilities and broadband that makes it possible to both have a quality of life and good paying jobs. 2. We must expand the renewable energy sector and build out our rural broadband, that will make good jobs that stay in New Mexico possible. 3. I support the Health Security Act that will allow New Mexicans to buy into state contracted health plans. We must support Medicare and Medicaid from cuts. Our rural health clinics need support. 4. The first business of state government is education. I am willing to look at funding from the Land Grant Permanent Fund as a temporary solution, but we must address permanent and reliable sources of funding that isn't totally reliant on the oil and gas industry. I support

revenue sharing that will help fund poorer communities.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 53 Ricky L. Little REPUBLICAN

NO REPLY RECEIVED

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 1 Samantha L. Madrid DEMOCRAT

1. The primary role of the Dona Ana Magistrate Court is to provide efficient and helpful access to justice to the citizens of this County. 2. I think the Court could possibly work to sustain longer hours to give the community the opportunity to access our services after work.

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 2 Linda L. Flores DEMOCRAT

1. My name is Linda Flores, and I am running unopposed for Magistrate Judge Division 2 in Dona Ana County. Magistrate Court has limited jurisdiction and hears misdemeanors, DWI, traffic violations, and landlord/tenant disputes. I feel the current candidates to the Dona Ana Magistrate Court, including myself, are all qualified. Furthermore, I hope to treat everyone that comes before the court with dignity

and respect.

2. I have not served as Magistrate Judge before, therefore; I cannot recommend any changes to the current administration of the court.



MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 3 Rebecca C. Duffin DEMOCRAT

1. Magistrate Court serves as the introduction to the judicial system for many of the residents of Dona Ana county. The court handles everything from traffic cases, landlord tenant cases, misdemeanor DWIs and and first felony appearances. The handling of these cases at the Magistrate level allows for an efficient and speedy resolution of cases. 2. Dona Ana County Magistrate Court created a monthly meeting of community partners including local attorneys, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, compliance and court personnel from across the county. Through monthly meetings all involved parties can discuss issues that have arisen and the best way to ensure that the court is meeting the needs of the public. In the future I hope to see greater participation from all of the community partners.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 4 Norman E. Osbourne DEMOCRAT NO REPLY RECEIVED



MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 5 Kent L. Wingenroth DEMOCRAT

1. The role of the Magistrate Court is to make sure that all who come before the Court understand his/her due process rights and are treated in a fair and just manner. Listening and communicating are important qualities in assuring that people understand what is happening which is why Magistrate Court is called the people's court in the state of New Mexico. 2. Magistrate Court is an efficiently ran court system. However, one thing that I have considered for some time now is to introduce a Night Court to better serve those who cannot take time off to address pending issues, which can then turn into more severe or harsh penalties. Second, making the Magistrate Court a Court of Record would save time on appeals and issues instead of a new trial in District Court.



MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 6 Joel Cano DEMOCRAT

1. The primary role of the Dona Ana Magistrate Court is to provide the citizens of Dona Ana County with access to justice following some very simple principles; A.) a just determination of their case. B.) the speedy determination of their

case and C.) the least expensive possible determination of their case. Coupled with a guarantee that everyone's rights and access to fairness are provided without question.

2. To the extent possible, consideration should be given to the possibility of having the court open past 5 pm. a large portion of the population we serve struggles to get time off work to visit the court. Being open till 7 pm would prove ideal for a great many persons needing access to their court. Flexible schedules could be considered, which could lead to less bench warrants for failure to appear?

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**MAGISTRATE JUDGE
DIVISION 7
Gian Alexander
Rossario
DEMOCRAT**

1. The role of any public servant is to do that very thing: serve the public. Each elected official is entrusted with different duties, depending on his or her office. I believe the primary duty of any judge is to be fair and impartial. Regardless of the issue, my primary duty will be to listen to both sides and make a fair determination towards a proper ruling, so I can best serve justice and our community.

2. As I am entering my first term as a magistrate judge, to recommend any changes to the administration of the court would be premature. While I spent over a year prosecuting cases in our Magistrate Court, I would prefer to better familiarize myself with its inner workings to make an educated recommendation. Regardless, the first question we should always ask is: How would any such change best serve the public?



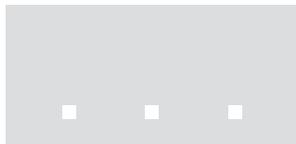
**PROBATE COURT JUDGE
Diana A.
Bustamante
DEMOCRAT**

1. The Probate is the judicial process for transferring the property of the decedent, according to the decedent's will, or, if this is unavailable, according to New Mexico's laws of intestate succession.

2. The Court has recently completed the first phase of digitizing Probate cases and the public will have ready access to the dockets. We will continue to provide information--both in the written materials and in person--in English and Spanish, as over half of individuals who come for Probate are Spanish speakers. Our outreach and education activities will continue.

3. Doña Ana County Probate Court has the second highest volume of cases in New Mexico. Judge Bustamante received formal training under the auspices of the NM Supreme Court and in the last four years, she has reviewed and processed over 1,200 cases. To date, Judge Bustamante has had 2,000 face-to-face consultations, and has responded to over 2,000 phone calls. Her formal training and hands-on experience makes her the most qualified candidate for this position.

**PROBATE COURT JUDGE
William Jarod
Webb
REPUBLICAN
NO REPLY RECEIVED**



NO
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AVAILABLE

**THIRD DISTRICT COURT
JUDGE
Conrad Perea
DEMOCRAT**

1. I believe the primary role of the District Court is to adjudicate criminal cases and to resolve disputes between parties. The District Court is a state court of general jurisdiction located in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The Court has jurisdiction over criminal cases, domestic relation), probate cases, children's court and all general civil cases.

The Court must be accurate, impartial, and provide legally correct decisions and judgments to resolve legal disputes.

2. Two issues facing the District Court, particularly in the criminal case dockets, are the lowered number of resources available and the impact that the number of criminal trials has on the Public Defender's Office and on the District Attorney's Office. I will address both constraints with careful planning in the setting and conducting of jury trials. It is important that cases are addressed in a manner that provide justice and procedural fairness to all parties.

3. State law requires adherence to the Victims of Crime Act under Section 30-26-1, NMSA, 1978. I will comply with state law and will require the district attorney's office, and all other parties, to treat victims of violent crimes with dignity respect and sensitivity at all stages of the criminal justice process. Furthermore, I will comply with victim's rights and allow victims to exercise their rights in each case.



DOÑA ANA COUNTY OFFICES

DOÑA ANA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

The Board of Commissioners, elected for partisan 4-year staggered terms by district, sets policy for the governance of Doña Ana County which is administered by an appointed County Manager. Salary: \$29,557 per year.

Questions for the Candidates for County Commissioner (75 words each)

1. How should Doña Ana County support economic development related to our National Monuments and our parks?
2. What can be done to decrease the number of lawsuits against the County?
3. Should the County establish restrictions for residential water use? Explain.
4. What will you do to improve the County roads, especially in the southern sector?



**THIRD DISTRICT COURT
JUDGE
Grace Duran
DEMOCRAT**

1. The District Court is a Court of General Jurisdiction. It has jurisdiction over a wide range of cases. Division 8 will primarily preside over Domestic Relations cases which include divorce, custody, child support and domestic violence. I am qualified to preside over this division because I am a board certified specialist in Family Law. I was previously elected and served as a District Judge from 1997-2005. I was also the first Child Support Hearing Officer...

2. Because a District Judge must adhere to the Code of Judicial Conduct and uphold the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, a detailed response to this question is a sensitive matter. A judge must avoid any inference of impropriety. Although, of course, District Judges have personal opinions, care must be taken for personal opinions not

to influence or affect a decision.

3. I was instrumental in establishing the mediation program in Domestic Relations cases for the Third Judicial District during my first term and this program continues to thrive today. I also served as the first Commissioner for Domestic Violence in Dona Ana County and this program continues to provide essential services for victims of domestic violence. From my vantage point as a private attorney for the last twelve years, both programs are well managed and effective.



**COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 1
Lynn Ellins
DEMOCRAT**

1. Continue to apply for grants from the Federal Land Access Program to improve roadways leading to National Monuments and parks. The county has already received 1.1 million dollars to improve Soledad Canyon Loop and eight hundred thousand dollars to

improve Dripping Springs Road/ Canyon/ Baylor Loop. In addition, the state funds the required 15% required local share.

2. Training, training and training, plus policies concerning what to do and what not to do. While 98% of county employees get it, unfortunately for what ever reason 2% won't get it or don't care. Such is human nature. In addition, there must be strict enforcement of Human Resource Department policies concerning the treatment of county employees and others who come into contact with the county.

3. The county does not operate a water system, so it is not in a position to regulate customer usage. However the county is a significant user of water at county-operated facilities such as the Government Center, community centers and the like. Accordingly, the county is in a position to conserve water through more efficient use of it. Plus, enforcement would be difficult for people on different systems, such as wells and mutual domestics.

4. The county recently approved a "road initiative" using county's reserve funds to improve county roads. In addition, the county must continue to seek Federal Land Access Program grants and colonias grants. I would like to see the state constitution's anti-donation clause - prohibiting the use of public funds for private purposes - amended to allow the county to finance improvements for non-county maintained roads. It's original decades-old purpose was to prohibit free passes to railroad personnel.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 1
John L.
Zimmerman
REPUBLICAN
NO REPLY RECEIVED**

DOÑA ANA COUNTY ASSESSOR

Salary: \$75,324 per year

Questions for the Candidate for County Assessor (75 words each)

1. What will you set as your priorities in your term as County Assessor?
2. How do you plan to maintain fairness and transparency in Doña Ana County?

DOÑA ANA COUNTY SHERIFF

Salary: \$78,555 per year

Question for the Candidates for County Sheriff (75 words each)

1. What improvements will you make to the administration of the Sheriff's Department?
2. Are you in favor of strengthening current gun laws? Explain.
3. How will the County Sheriff's Department relate to Federal authorities who are enforcing immigration laws? Explain.
4. What should be the interaction between the County Sheriff's Department and the City of Las Cruces Police Department?



COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 Shannon D. Reynolds DEMOCRAT

1. One economic model could be based on recreation and tourism. I will establish a brand for Doña Ana County in outdoor recreation, a \$9.9 Billion industry in New Mexico. Having three National Monuments (White Sands, Organ Mountain Desert Peaks and Prehistoric Trackways) in Doña Ana County provides a good base to begin. The visitation to OMDP has doubled since 2014, showing we have already begun the process. The Rio Grande Trail is soon to come.

2. We can't control behavior, but we can manage "risk". In the County as in Industry, employees are required to take training (at least every 2 years) to understand behavior in the workplace that puts both them and the county at risk. I would require it more often (every 6 months). By adequately

maintaining documentation that shows employees and elected officials have received or been offered adequate training, we can minimize the risk to the County.

3. The county can start by offering incentives to conserve water. We could change building and zoning codes to support residential capture and reuse of grey water for gardens and houseplants. The county should encourage capturing rain water in tanks and using drip system irrigation. Lastly, we can continue to educate residents about watering at night to reduce evaporation effects. Then, we publish results of how we are doing to encourage adoption.

4. There are several considerations. Adequate paving and repair; Managing water flow and flooding; Cost of doing things right versus doing them over. We need to have data on what we have done and whether it's working or not. We should have a process to invest more in prevention and long term solutions rather than cures. I would push for a comprehensive strategy for long term road care addressing all of these concerns.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 Benjamin Rawson REPUBLICAN NO REPLY RECEIVED



COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 Karen M. Trujillo DEMOCRAT

1. Dona Ana County must capitalize on ecotourism to draw people to our area. The Organ Mountain Desert Peaks National Monument, White Sands National Monument, the Robledo Mountains, the Rio Grande (when there is water), and the numerous trails for hiking and biking are assets we must protect. The County can work with business and other agencies to advertise outside our region in order to draw people to stay, play and spend their money here.

2. It is the responsibility of the elected officials and the County Manager to lead by example. Respectful communication and high expectations for all employees must become part of the culture. Honoring and rewarding exemplary work can foster this culture of respect and pride in working for the county. In addition, having the protocols in place for reporting and investigating issues immediately must also become a priority so that 'open secrets' are no longer tolerated.

3. Water is a resource that we must protect if we want to thrive. The economic impact of agriculture is often overlooked and they need water. In addition, the projected growth for the County will be limited if we do not protect our water. That being said, it would be difficult to restrict water use county wide because there are numerous entities that distribute water,

unlike Las Cruces where water services fall under one operator.

4. The current roads initiative has benefitted every area of the county, especially the truck lanes in the South. Good roads are needed throughout the county and as a Commissioner for District 5, it is my job to ensure that the needs of the Northern sector are a priority, especially for the farmers. I will also work with the state to update the Upham Exit to take advantage of the newly paved road to the Spaceport.



COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 Kim C. Hakes REPUBLICAN

1. We can help the federal agencies that manage this land, to maximize the attraction of visitors and tourists to our area by encouraging that they provide and maintain: quality hiking trails; educational exhibits about local plants, animals and history; create festivals or celebrations that showcase past events and the local culture of the area.

2. Most lawsuits start when there have been arrests by Sheriff's deputies, or in Detention center encounters. Another set of lawsuits stem from mistakes in administering discipline to employees. Continual training of Public Safety officers and Supervisors have already reduced, and will continue to reduce, the mistakes and lower the lawsuits. I favor cameras on Public Safety officers which should be a deterrent to unprofessional behavior, and provide a powerful witness to their innocence when acting professionally.

3. Not at this time. Water is a scarce resource, and monitoring

usage trends along with local supply levels is important for a sustainable future.

4. The county recently approved an unprecedented \$10 million project to accelerate the paving of several roads throughout the county. This was in addition to the annual paving and maintenance that is done. County Management and the Commission support more paving projects as funding is identified based on good financial management. All sectors should be treated equally, and based on need. Similarly, hiring more full-time fire/emergency response professionals is also planned and funding is being identified.

COUNTY ASSESSOR Leticia Duarte Benavidez DEMOCRAT

NO REPLY RECEIVED



COUNTY ASSESSOR Christopher P. Schoonover REPUBLICAN

1. My top priorities as County Assessor would be: Fair and Equitable Assessments, Use of Modern Technology, Full Transparency, Fiscal Responsibility, and Excellent Customer Service.

2. In my opinion, Assessor should be a non-partisan office. It is extremely important to be fair and transparent with taxpayers. I will utilize state of the art technology and training to ensure fair and accurate assessments. Under my administration all appraisers will receive the same training in modern techniques to ensure all assessments will be consistent and fair. I will

have an open-door policy and provide professional, courteous, and responsive service to our community.



COUNTY SHERIFF Kim Kristine Stewart DEMOCRAT

1. We must restructure the Sheriff's Department to fully support the philosophy of community policing; this type of service must be woven into the fabric of the department. We have to focus our budgetary resources on our front line deputies who interact with the public every day. Success in this model is not measured only on the number of arrests but considers a wide range of problem solving tactics in partnership with our community.

2. Sensible restrictions on the purchase and ownership of guns is not a slippery slope to the overturning of the 2nd Amendment. Background checks, as they now exist, give the public a false sense of security. That system needs to be repaired and improved so that licensed gun dealers all access consistent information. The public's need to own military grade weapons such as the AR-15 is questionable. Weapons of war have little purpose in civilian life.

3. It is illegal in New Mexico for commissioned officers to enforce federal immigration laws. That said, the Sheriff Departments receives an annual FEMA grant focused on drug interdiction. A requirement of this grant is to assist Border Patrol when requested. This grant has provided overtime and equipment for years, but the lack of a specific mission

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

and poor oversight must be addressed going forward to allay concerns and adjudge its value to the county.

4. Both DASO and Las Cruces Police Department are too small to operate as islands of enforcement. Recently, the police were cross commissioned by the Sheriff. This action alone ensures a greater partnership with our neighboring agency. This practice must be extended to the other agencies in our county. We are all law enforcement. We cannot let petty grievances and perceived slights inhibit our abilities to service the public any longer.



COUNTY SHERIFF Todd J. Garrison REPUBLICAN

1. As the Sheriff of Dona Ana County, I will work with the administration to lead our employees in a direction that will create a work environment they will all be proud of. I will update policies/procedures making sure best practices are followed. I will work to maintain a professional Office in every way and maintain the professionalism the public we serve deserves.

2. No. I believe we have good laws in place, which if upheld would serve us well. Passing more laws takes rights away from good people and will not fix the problem. I believe holding people accountable for their actions is crucial. Blaming an inanimate object will never work, and criminals will continue to break the law. It would be beneficial for us to sit down and consider better ways to respond to mental health

issues.

3. The Sheriff's Office will continue to respond to calls for service, uphold our laws, both State and Federal as we have sworn to do, making arrests and citing for violations. The Sheriff's Office cannot enforce immigration laws; this is up to Border Patrol and ICE. As a Sheriff's Office we will respond in a professional manner to any law enforcement agency requesting our assistance as we have in the past.

4. The Sheriff's Office and the Las Cruces Police Department both have jobs enforcing laws in their jurisdictions. Our relationship will be one of professionalism, supporting each other in our capacity to do our jobs as best we can. We will, when such time is required, reach out and help one another as we have done for years; and as is the custom of law enforcement, to provide quality public safety.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1:

"PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 6 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO GIVE THE LEGISLATURE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FOR APPELLATE JURISDICTION BY STATUTE."

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2:

"PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT STATE ETHICS COMMISSION WITH JURISDICTION TO INVESTIGATE, ADJUDICATE AND ISSUE ADVISORY OPINIONS CONCERNING CIVIL VIOLATIONS OF LAWS GOVERNING ETHICS, STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED BY LAW."

ANALYSIS

The NM Legislature is asking voters to approve two amendments to the NM Constitution that they passed through joint resolutions this spring. The League has condensed the material provided by the NM Legislative Council Service (LCS) staff, which has no opinion on the proposals. Below are summaries of each proposed amendment and some of the possible arguments for and against. The LCS makes no claim for the validity or consistency of the arguments presented, nor does the League. Find the full LCS analysis here: https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/New_Mexico_State_Government/Constitutional_Amendment/Constitutional_Amendments_2018.pdf Constitutional Amendment 1 proposes to allow the legislature to change the processes of appealing court decisions by enactment of a state statute. Currently the NM Constitution requires appeals of probate, magistrate and metropolitan court rulings to be decided initially by a district court before going to the court of appeals. A constitutional amendment would be needed to currently change that appeals process.

ARGUMENTS FOR

Proposed Constitutional Amendment 1

1. Could save both time and money for parties involved in appeals. Appeals of some lower court decisions would go directly to the court of appeals instead of first going to district courts for intermediate rulings.

2. Could reduce caseloads in district courts. District courts would benefit from having fewer cases. The public could benefit if district courts resolved cases more quickly by having a reduced caseload.

3. Would reduce unnecessary layers of appeal conducted at public expense. Currently, some decisions have up to three levels

of review, while other decisions with more serious penalties have up to two levels of review. Appeals of lower court decisions on traffic violations and other relatively minor offenses have new trials in district courts before they are allowed in the court of appeals and possibly supreme court. In contrast, appeals of felony criminal cases and other serious offenses go from district court to the court of appeals and possibly the supreme court.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

Proposed Constitutional Amendment 1

1. May increase the number of cases in the appellate courts. Adding appeals from lower courts could mean that traditional cases would get less time and fewer resources. Changing the process might not benefit litigants.

2. May not result in greater court efficiencies and related cost-savings. Lawyers, judges, and court staff would have to learn a new process. The courts of appeals may need more money to handle the increased caseloads.

3. District courts may be best suited to establish a record for review. Probate judges and magistrate judges in 31 of 33 counties are not required to be licensed attorneys. A case appealed from one of these courts may benefit from a new trial in a district court presided by a judge with more experience and training. (District court judges must be at least 35 years old and have practiced law for at least six years.)

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2

A JOINT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

WITH JURISDICTION TO INVESTIGATE, ADJUDICATE AND ISSUE ADVISORY OPINIONS CONCERNING CIVIL VIOLATIONS OF LAWS GOVERNING ETHICS, STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 5 of the constitution of New Mexico by adding a new section to read: "A. The "state ethics commission"

is established as an independent state agency under the direction of seven commissioners, no more than three of whom may be members of the same political party, whose terms and qualifications shall be as provided by law. The governor shall appoint one commissioner. One commissioner each shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate, the minority floor leader of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and the minority floor leader of the house of representatives, all as certified by the chief clerks of the respective chambers. Two commissioners, who shall not be members of the same political party, shall be appointed by the four legislatively appointed commissioners.

B. The state ethics commission may initiate, receive, investigate and adjudicate complaints alleging violations of, and issue advisory opinions concerning, standards of ethical conduct and other standards of conduct and reporting requirements, as may be provided by law, for state officers and employees of the executive and legislative branches of government, candidates or other participants in elections, lobbyists or government contractors or seekers of government contracts and have such other jurisdiction

as provided by law.

C. The state ethics commission may require the attendance of witnesses or the production of records and other evidence relevant to an investigation by subpoena as provided by law and shall have such other powers and duties and administer or enforce such other acts as further provided by law."

SECTION 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at the next general election or at any special election prior to that date that may be called for that purpose.

Constitutional Amendment

2 proposes establishing a state ethics commission with authority as provided by law over state officers and employees of the executive and legislative branches; candidates and other participants in elections; lobbyists; government contractors or seekers of government contracts, and possibly other areas. The commission would be empowered to require witnesses to appear or individuals to submit records and relevant evidence. The seven-member commission would also issue advisory opinions concerning standards of ethical conduct.

ARGUMENTS FOR

Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2

1. New Mexico's ethics laws are not coordinated now and are inconsistent across agencies. Establishment of a state ethics commission could result in a review of existing laws governing ethics and help develop more consistent interpretations and more efficient enforcement of those laws.

2. NM is one of only 6 states without a state ethics commission. Voters and legislators in New Mexico and across the nation recognize the need

for a commission dedicated to investigating complaints alleging violations of ethical conduct. The agency could prevent ethical misconduct by providing information and issuing advisory opinions. The legislature would determine how the commission receives and investigates complaints of unethical conduct and the qualifications and duties of the commissioners.

3. Establishing an ethics commission in the Constitution of New Mexico makes it more permanent than if it were created in statute.

Many previous attempts by the legislature to establish a state ethics commission by law have failed because of political differences. Once an ethics commission is approved by voters to be in the Constitution, it would take another constitutional amendment to eliminate it.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2

1. A constitutional amendment is not necessary to create a state ethics commission. Under existing law, multiple state agencies already have oversight over ethics matters affecting their respective branches of government. Broadening or amending those agencies' powers or duties to meet any unmet needs might be more efficient than creating another oversight entity.

2. Before the commission could function, the legislature would first have to pass laws granting the commission its powers and duties and setting the qualifications and terms of the commissioners.

3. A state ethics commission could duplicate efforts to combat unethical behavior already prohibited in law and could be costly. There have been several successful prosecutions of public officers and employees for violating laws governing ethical conduct. Improving current laws and enforcement procedures could be accomplished without

the expense of creating a whole new agency.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND TAXES

A bond represents a debt for money borrowed by a government to finance capital improvement projects. The State of New Mexico promises to repay the amount borrowed, plus interest, over a period of time for each General Obligation bond that is approved by voters. The bonds are called "General Obligation" because payment of the debt service (principal plus interest) is a general obligation of the State and its property owners through property taxation. According to the Board of Finance Division of the NM Department of Finance and Administration, the specific amount of property taxes collected in a given year is attributable to a number of factors, including the amount of debt service required for existing general obligation bonds, the projected debt service required for the new bond issue, the latest assessed valuation of net taxable property, cash balances in bond debt service accounts, the date of issuance, and the actual interest rate obtained on the bond sale. Based on the assumption that all four bond issues will be passed by voters, the property tax year 2018 mil levy has been set at 1.36 mils, which is the same as the 2016 and 2017 rates. The State Board of Finance estimates that over a ten-year period, the four issues on the ballot would cost approximately \$8.91 per \$100,000 of asset value. Of the annual average \$8.91, Bond Issue A accounts for \$0.58, Bond Issue B accounts for \$0.69, Bond Issue C accounts for \$0.33, and Bond Issue D accounts for \$7.31.

2018 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act

The New Mexico Legislature passed the 2018 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act detailing projects that would be funded by these bonds. No bonds will be issued or sold under the act until the

state's registered voters have voted upon and approved the bonds. Each bond is voted upon separately with a "For" or "Against" question.

Summary: The four 2018 bond issues ask for voter approval to issue general obligation bonds as follows:

Bond Issue A, in an amount not to exceed \$10,770,000 to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvements, construction, and equipment acquisition projects; **Bond Issue B**, in an amount not to exceed \$12,876,000 to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal, and public library resource acquisitions;

Bond Issue C, in an amount not to exceed \$6,137,000 to make capital expenditures for the purchase of school buses; and **Bond Issue D**, in an amount not to exceed \$136,230,000 to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions.

The total for all four questions, including bond issuance costs, is \$166,013,000. A complete breakdown of the designated projects under each bond issue can be found on the New Mexico Legislature's website: <https://nmlegis.gov/Sessions/18%20Regular/final/SB0094.pdf>

Bond Question A – Aging and Long-Term Services Department

The 2018 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 ten million seven hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$10,770,000) to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition projects and provide for a general property tax imposition

and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

For _____
Against _____;

Bond Question B – Library Acquisitions

The 2018 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 twelve million eight hundred seventy- six thousand dollars (\$12,876,000) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal and public library resource acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

For _____
Against _____

Bond Question C – School Buses

The 2018 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of bonds for the purchase of school buses. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed six million one hundred thirty- seven thousand dollars (\$6,137,000) to make capital expenditures for the purchase of school buses 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 D – Higher Education Facilities

The 2018 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance

and sale of higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed one hundred thirty- six million two hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$136,230,000) to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

For _____
Against _____

Each question set forth in this section includes a specific work or object to be financed by the bonds. If any such question is not approved by a majority vote of the electorate at the state's 2018 general election, the issuance of bonds for the work or object

specified by the question shall be excluded from and shall not be part of the 2018 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act. The failure of a question to be approved the electorate at the 2018 general election shall not affect those questions that are approved at the election.

General Obligation Bond Projects Chart by County
https://nmlegis.gov/Publications/Capital_Outlay/Projects%20Requested%20by%20County%20w%20Purpose%2018.pdf

General Obligation Bond Projects Chart by Agency
https://nmlegis.gov/Publications/Capital_Outlay/Projects%20Requested%20by%20Agency%20w%20Purpose%2018.pdf

LWVNM, 9/11/18.
Information provided by the NM Department of Finance and Administration.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

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Information Sources: New Mexico Secretary of State's Office, New Mexico Legislative Council Services, Board of Finance Division of the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Administrative Office of the Courts, Common Cause NM

Additional resources for voters

Your ballot: www.lwvnm.civicengine.com

NM Secretary of State voter portal: www.NMVOTE.org

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