

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR POWER!

The November General Election will decide who represents you at the federal, state, county and local levels. You will also get to vote on proposed changes to the New Mexico Constitution as well as on state and local bond measures. Please remember that regardless of which Primary Election you participated in, you can vote for the candidates of your choice regardless of party in this General Election.

The candidate information in this Voter Guide was obtained from a questionnaire sent to all candidates who qualified for this election. Their unedited responses have been printed exactly as submitted.

An online, interactive version of the Voter Guide is at VOTE411.org. By entering your address, you can view races and candidates on your ballot, compare candidate responses and create a print out of your choices to take to the polls.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization for men and women that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League provides unbiased, factual information so that voters may be well informed.

HOW TO VOTE IN SANTA FE COUNTY

REGISTER to vote or confirm you are already registered at NMVote.org. Also, same day voter registration is available at all Early Voting and Election Day locations through Election Day!

VOTE EARLY (before Nov. 3):

Option 1. Request an Absentee Ballot before Oct. 20 at SantaFe.vote. Ballots are mailed starting Oct. 6; return your ballot in drop boxes (see list of locations below) or mail to the County Clerk's Office at 240 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe 87501.

Option 2. Early in-person voting at the County Clerk's Office, 240 Grant Avenue, from Oct. 6 to Oct. 31. For hours, go to SantaFe.vote.

Option 3. Expanded early in-person voting at various polling sites from Oct. 17 to Oct. 31. See locations and hours below.

VOTE ON ELECTION DAY:

Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sample ballot and polling places can be found at SantaFe.vote.

ITU VOTO CUENTA EN TODAS LAS ELECCIONES, ES IMPORTANTE!

El 3 de noviembre de 2026 en las Elecciones Generales se decidirá quién nos va a representar. La información dada por los candidatos fue obtenida mediante un cuestionario enviado a todos ellos. Sus respuestas fueron impresas, sin editarlas, exactamente como las enviaron, hasta el límite de palabras para cada respuesta.

La Liga de las Mujeres Votantes es una organización política no partidista de hombres y mujeres que ni apoya ni se opone a ningún candidato o partido político en específico. La liga proporciona información imparcial y veraz para que los votantes puedan estar bien informados.

CÓMO VOTAR EN EL CONDADO DE SANTA FE

REGÍSTRATE para votar, O confirma si estás registrado yendo al sitio web de NMVote.org.

Puedes empadronarse y votar hasta el día mismo de las elecciones, el 3 de noviembre.

PARA VOTAR TEMPRANO (antes del 3 de noviembre):

Opción 1. Solicita tu boleta para votar por correo

antes del 20 de octubre en SantaFe.vote. Las boletas enviadas por correo a partir de la segunda semana de mayo después de llenarse se pueden, o depositar en los buzones especiales para la elección o mandar por correo a la oficina del secretario del condado (County Clerk's Office) en 240 Grant Avenue 87501.

Opción 2. Para registrarse y votar temprano el mismo día y en persona, en la oficina del secretario del condado (County Clerk 's Office) del 6 de octubre al 31 de octubre. Para los horarios de la oficina, visita el sitio web: SantaFe.vote.

Opción 3. Sitios de votación alternativos: registro del mismo día y votación temprana. 17 de octubre al 31 de octubre. Por favor cheque la lista de ubicaciones.

PARA VOTAR EL 3 DE NOVIEMBRE, DÍA LAS ELECCIONES:

Las boletas de muestra y los lugares de votación se pueden encontrar en SantaFe.vote.

Horarios: de 7 a.m. a 7 p.m.

EXPANDED EARLY VOTING SITES/ SITIOS PARA VOTAR TEMPRANO

(Drop boxes at Early Voting Sites)/(Buzones especiales para votar en los Sitios de Votación Temprana) Oct. 17 to Oct. 31, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays/17 de octubre al 31 de octubre de 11 a.m. a 7 p.m. (de martes a viernes) y de 10 a.m. a 6 p.m. (sábados)

Santa Fe

Santa Fe County Clerk's Office, 240 Grant Ave.

Nancy Rodriguez Community, Center, 1 Prairie Dog Loop

Greer Garson Performance Theater Midtown, 1600 St. Michael's Drive

Santa Fe County Fair Building, 3229 Rodeo Road

Southside Branch Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive

Edgewood

Fire Station #70, 1 Municipal Way

Eldorado

Max Coll Corridor Community Center, 16 Avenida Torreon

Pojoaque

Pojoaque Satellite Office, 5 W. Gutierrez, Ste. 9, Pojoaque Pueblo Plaza

Santa Cruz

Abedon Lopez Community Center, 155 Camino de Quintana

24-HR DROP BOXES/BUZONES ESPECIALES PARA VOTAR LAS 24 HR

(available day and night)/(disponibles día y noche):

Santa Fe

Santa Fe County Clerk's Office, 240 Grant Avenue

Santa Fe Convention Center, 119 S. Federal Street.

Nancy Rodriguez Center, 1 Prairie Dog Loop

La Ciénega Community Center, 136 Camino San Jose

Southside Branch Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive

Santa Fe County Fairgrounds, 3229 Rodeo Road

Edgewood

SFC Satellite Office, 114 Quail Trail

Eldorado

Max Coll Community Center, 16 Avenida Torreon

Pojoaque

Pojoaque Satellite Office, 5 W. Gutierrez, Ste. 9, Pojoaque Pueblo Plaza



UNITED STATES SENATOR

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

The League asked:

What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?



BEN R. LUJÁN
Democrat
benraylujan.com

The United States has not significantly updated its immigration laws since the 1980s, which is why I have long championed comprehensive immigration reform to address our broken immigration system and create an earned pathway for legal immigration. I support legislation like the DREAM Act to provide a legal pathway for Dreamers, the SECURE Act, which provides qualified Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) recipients a path to legal permanent residency, and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act to reform and modernize our temporary agricultural worker visa program. I am also a proponent of modern and effective border security that uses technology rather than walls to keep out narcotics and the cartels.

What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?

Health care is a human right, not a privilege for the few. The Affordable Care Act that voted for in 2009 made critical reforms that expanded New Mexicans access to care. I continue to fight against the attempts to rip health care away by repealing the ACA and gutting Medicaid. I am also a co-sponsor of Medicare for All because every single person deserves high-quality health care when they need it, no matter how much money they make. Access to health care means being able to afford it, which is why I voted to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices so seniors and American taxpayers stop being overcharged.

What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?

New Mexicans spend their lives paying into Social Security, and they deserve to know that the program will be there to support them upon retirement. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I know Social Security benefits are a vital lifeline for retirees and people with disabilities. Social Security must be protected from cuts and Republican-led efforts to reduce benefits. I was proud to support the Social Security Fairness Act and see it enacted into law. This bill repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which currently reduce benefits for certain recipients. I'm also proud to support the Social Security 2100 Act, which eliminates the Social Security tax cap.

What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?

Growing up on a small family farm in New Mexico, I learned early that water is life. That is why I believe we must ensure our federal laws respect our ways of life and treat water as the life-giving resource it is. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I introduced legislation like the ACEQUIAS Act to ensure farmers and ranchers qualify for drought disaster assistance, and legislation to guarantee greater federal respect for our traditional land grants and acequias. I also believe we have a duty to support responsible, clean energy policies that protect our environment, improve our air quality, and encourage innovation. I'll continue to ensure that New Mexico is a leader in the clean energy economy, benefiting our families.



LARRY E. MARKER
Republican
larrymarker.com

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

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

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

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

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 3

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

The League asked:

What changes to immigration laws, if any, would you recommend or support?



TERESA LEGER FERNÁNDEZ
Democrat
teresaforall.com

We must fix our broken immigration system with a balanced, humane approach. I support a roadmap to citizenship for those who work hard and play by the rules, including Dreamers and farmworkers. We must provide visas and recognize the important role immigrants play in our health and care economy and other key industries in New Mexico. Simultaneously, I support cost-effective border security using advanced technology and funding for border patrol to detect cartel activity and illegal drugs like fentanyl. I've opposed the cruelty and brutality of the ICE and CBP raids, the arrests and killing of citizens and the mistreatment of people in detention centers, especially pregnant women and children. I oppose family separation.

What, if anything, should Congress do to ensure quality healthcare at an affordable cost?

Healthcare is a basic human right, but big insurers and private equity profits means we pay more, wait more and get less health care here. I understand the urgency of making care affordable and accessible everywhere, especially in rural areas. Congress must: Lower Drug Costs. We must build on the Inflation Reduction Act to negotiate lower drug prices for everyone and cap out-of-pocket costs. Expand and Improve Medicare. Moving toward a single-payer system like Medicare for All will save money and expand benefits to include dental, vision, and hearing coverage. Protect Access. We must codify reproductive rights through the Women's Health Protection Act and defend the Affordable Care Act & Medicaid against Republican bills to eliminate them.

What measures do you propose to sustain the Social Security Trust Fund?

I believe Social Security is a sacred trust and the foundation of retirement security for our families and those disabled. To sustain it, I am a cosponsor of Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act, which would make the wealthy pay social security tax on their income above \$400,000. This fair share tax will allow us to increase benefits and provide solvency to the Fund into the next century. I oppose Republican proposals to reduce guaranteed benefits, raise the retirement age, or replace Social Security with risky individual investment accounts. I've opposed Trump's cuts to staff at Social Security and the DOGE release of your private social security data. I will fight to keep Social Security strong - a Democratic legacy of the New Deal.

What actions, if any, would you take to address water and air quality issues facing the United States?

Environmental health is non-negotiable for our survival & our economy. Keeping our fragile landscape healthy feeds our sense of awe & wonder in these beautiful lands. I delivered over \$1 billion to keep clean water flowing in New Mexico & am sponsoring 7 water settlement bills. I funded cleaning up abandoned oil & gas wells & the contamination plumes at LANL & Canon. The clean up also creates good paying union jobs & supports businesses. I've funded renewable energy projects that, sadly, Trump gutted, but Democrats will bring back because it's the cheapest electricity at a time when everything costs so much. Doing good by our planet also helps our pocketbook. I will reinstate & improve the clean air & water programs Trump destroyed.

MARTIN ZAMORA Republican	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
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GOVERNOR

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

The League asked:	List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.	How would you address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?	What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?	What measures would you propose to improve Pre-K-12 education?
 GREGGORY D. HULL Republican gregghull.com	My top priorities are public safety, economic growth, education, infrastructure and water security, and protecting children. I will increase police presence and enhance border security to address crime and the fentanyl crisis. I will attract high-paying jobs through targeted business incentives and energy expansion. I will hold schools accountable for outcomes while expanding career training. I will invest in brackish water treatment and aquifer recharge for long-term supply. And I will reform CYFD with clear standards, oversight, and stable caseworker staffing.	Water security is not optional — it is the foundation of economic growth, agriculture, and stable communities. Rio Rancho led the state with the state's first-ever aquifer recharge system. As governor, I will invest in brackish water treatment to create new sources of supply, reducing pressure on rivers and freshwater aquifers. I will upgrade aging infrastructure to cut leaks, expand advanced wastewater treatment for safe reuse, and support modern irrigation systems to protect farmers' livelihoods. I will meet our interstate obligations to deliver water downstream and pursue transparent negotiations to resolve outstanding Tribal water rights. Long-term certainty for every water user starts with planning ahead and acting now.	Projects should be evaluated on the quality and wages of jobs created, their alignment with New Mexico's existing strengths — research, advanced manufacturing, energy, and defense — and whether they support workforce development. Incentives must be tied to measurable results and fiscal accountability. Projects should benefit both rural and urban communities, avoid placing undue burdens on infrastructure or public services, and strengthen long-term economic resilience. My core question: does this investment leave New Mexico more diversified, more self-sufficient, and better positioned to grow?	New Mexico's reading and math scores rank among the nation's lowest, yet the state has responded by lowering standards rather than raising them. I will reverse that trend by tying a portion of school funding to measurable gains in literacy, math, and graduation rates. I will expand career and technical education so students graduate with industry-recognized skills, establish accessible tutoring programs, and give parents transparent access to curriculum and progress data. I will also address chronic absenteeism and reform the Public Education Department to focus on results.
 DEB HAALAND Democrat debhaaland.com	New Mexicans deserve to be able to afford groceries and rent in the same month, feel safe in their communities, see a doctor when they are sick, and for kids to have a quality public education. To put more money in people's pockets, I will raise wages, expand tax relief for working families, pursue paid family and medical leave, aggressively build and grow affordable housing, and support job creation. To ensure our kids are able to read by third grade, I will prioritize literacy outcomes and expand investment in universal childcare, community schools, and educator recruitment. Finally on public safety and healthcare, I will tackle violent crime, drugs, and gun violence, while overhauling CYFD and expanding behavioral health service.	I will always protect New Mexico's water, air, and land. Water is precious—I carried it as a child from the community spigot to my grandmother's house. Our water future must be built on conservation, infrastructure, accountability, and partnership. I will help Tribal nations, rural towns, acequia communities, and colonias repair aging systems, reduce leaks, and grow the workforce needed to keep water flowing. I will strengthen the Water Trust Board, prioritize communities with unsafe drinking water, hold polluters accountable, and require high-water-use industries to conserve so economic growth does not come at the expense of our limited water supply.	New developments must be mutually beneficial, creating good-paying jobs for New Mexicans using local labor while protecting families from cost increases. Projects must prioritize community well-being, utilizing transparency, community benefit agreements, accountability, and clawback provisions to ensure promises are kept. Investment must safeguard water, air, land, and public health, require accurate water reporting, and ensure industries support clean energy and grid stability. I aim for New Mexico to lead in energy, tech, film, and outdoor recreation with long-term value for our communities, preventing exploitation by outside corporations seeking short-term gains.	My goal is for every step of a child's education to open doors. My top priority is helping kids read by third grade, because reading sets them up to succeed in every subject. I will invest in literacy support, coaches, summer learning, math screening and intervention, and stronger instruction. I will protect and expand universal childcare with quality childcare options, and make early education easier to access. To support kids who might not want to go to college, I will bring the trades into middle school and more high schools. For educators, I plan to expand teacher residencies, improve pay and benefits, help with housing in rural communities, and expand community schools plus Native language and culture programs for Tribal students.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this office?	List your top priorities, and explain how you will you achieve them.	How can you help the Senate operate more effectively and efficiently?	How will you facilitate communication and ensure transparency between government agencies and constituents?
 DAVID M. GALLEGOS Republican gallegosformn.com	The Lt. Governor's primary constitutional role is presiding over the State Senate, and I've spent 14 years serving in that body. I already know the rules, the relationships, the pressure points, and the personalities. I know the difference between a bill that moves and one that dies in committee, and why. Beyond the Legislature, I bring 30 years with Gas Company of New Mexico and 16 years with Ramirez and Sons Construction--real-world experience in the industries the Senate's work directly affects. As a rural Hispanic 14th generation New Mexican, I bring a perspective that reflects communities too often unheard in Santa Fe.	Accountability: New Mexico has a spending problem masquerading as a revenue problem. I'll push for rigorous auditing of waste, fraud, and abuse--and make findings public. Public safety: I'll advance sentencing reform, oppose catch-and-release policies, and ensure officers have the resources and legal protections they need. Education: I'll champion accountability-based reform, value-added assessment, and expanded school choice for every family regardless of zip code. Affordability: I'll fight for policies that let small businesses breathe, grow our energy sector responsibly, and reduce the regulatory burden crushing working families.	Presiding over the Senate is a leadership role, and I intend to treat it that way. Fourteen years in the Legislature means I understand the procedural rules, have relationships throughout the chamber, and know how to move a body through its work without sacrificing deliberation. I will preside with fairness and consistency, apply the rules evenly regardless of party or personality, and ensure every member--majority and minority alike--has a full and fair opportunity to be heard. A Senate built on procedural integrity gets more done. That is the standard I will hold.	Transparency is a structural commitment. I'll use the Lt. Governor's office as an active conduit between state agencies and the New Mexicans they serve, particularly rural communities that feel like an afterthought in Santa Fe. That means statewide outreach every year, not just election years. It means pushing agencies to communicate plainly and responsively. And it means publicly naming failures when agencies aren't meeting expectations, because sunlight is the most powerful accountability tool we have.
 STEPHANIE GARCIA RICHARD Democrat stephaniegarcia richard.com	I was a public school teacher for 19 years, a three-term State Representative, and Chair of the House Education Committee. As Commissioner of Public Lands for the last eight years, I've generated record-breaking revenue – over \$16 billion for our public schools – while holding oil and gas accountable. I also expanded renewable energy projects sevenfold, launched affordable housing initiatives, and reformed agency accountability to plug hundreds of abandoned wells. When Donald Trump attacks New Mexico, I know how to fight back—because I already have, creating protections for New Mexico's precious and historical places, including Mount Taylor and Chaco Canyon.	Deb Haaland and I will lower the cost of living, expand access to affordable healthcare, stop price gouging, make our communities safer, protect our environment and water, and improve public education so our kids read at or above grade level. As Lt. Governor, I will move that agenda through the legislature and hold agencies accountable for delivering it.	I know the legislative process from the inside and out, having served three terms in the House and chaired the House Education Committee. As Lt. Governor, I will make sure the Senate operates with transparency and consistent application of its rules so the public understands what is happening every step of the way. With short, 30- and 60-day sessions, it will be my job to keep the Senate moving efficiently so we can address New Mexico's most pressing challenges.	State government has to go to where New Mexicans actually live, rather than waiting for residents to come to Santa Fe. As Land Commissioner, I broke down agency silos and brought the Land Commissioner's office to every part of New Mexico to meet directly with communities, ranchers, educators, and tribal nations, ensuring that policy wasn't built in a vacuum. I'll continue that practice as Lt. Governor by bringing the Roundhouse to local communities and hearing directly from New Mexicans about the challenges they face where they live.

SECRETARY OF STATE

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

The League asked:	List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.	How would you help the public navigate election information in this era of AI and social media?	What is the Secretary of State's role in safeguarding the integrity of voter information and ensuring safe and fair elections?	What actions, if any, would you take to increase and protect voter participation in elections?
 AMANDA LÓPEZ ASKIN Democrat amandaformn.com	My top priorities are protecting voting rights, modernizing election administration, and restoring trust through transparency. I will work to expand voter access by improving voter education, strengthening language access, supporting county clerks, and making election information easier to understand and access. I will also focus on protecting election systems and voter data through strong cybersecurity practices, regular training, and close coordination with local election officials. Just as important, I will make the office more responsive and transparent so voters, candidates, and administrators can get clear answers and timely support.	The Secretary of State's office must become a trusted, easy-to-find source of accurate information. In an era of AI, misinformation, and viral falsehoods, the public needs timely facts in plain language. I would prioritize rapid-response voter education, consistent myth-versus-fact messaging, multilingual outreach, and strong partnerships with county clerks, community organizations, and media outlets. The office should meet voters where they are while also making sure official information is easy to verify. We cannot allow confusion and disinformation to discourage participation or undermine trust.	The Secretary of State has a central responsibility to protect voter information, support secure election administration, and uphold fair access to the ballot. That means maintaining strong standards for cybersecurity, data privacy, training, and election procedures while working closely with county clerks and election staff across the state. It also means ensuring that elections are both secure and accessible because those values are not in conflict. A safe and fair election is one where voters know their information is protected, the rules are applied equally, and every lawful vote is counted accurately.	I would take every lawful action available to increase and protect voter participation. That includes improving public education around registration, absentee voting, early voting, and new election laws; expanding outreach to historically underrepresented communities; and working to remove barriers that discourage participation. I also believe voters should be able to cast a ballot free from fear and intimidation. That is why I supported SB 264 to prevent ICE presence at voting locations. Protecting voter participation means protecting access, dignity, and confidence in the process. I am the only candidate in this race who supported this bill.
 RAMONA L. GOOLSBY Republican ramonanm.com	Priorities: election integrity and public confidence; accurate, user-friendly business filings; transparent, fair enforcement of campaign finance and lobbying laws; professional office operations. I will maintain accurate voter rolls, support common-sense safeguards, modernize business registration to reduce red tape, apply statutes evenly without favoritism, provide clear public information, and work consistently with county clerks so every eligible vote counts and New Mexico businesses operate efficiently.	The office must be the neutral, authoritative source of clear facts. I will prioritize plain-language resources explaining registration, voting methods, deadlines, and results; provide rapid transparent responses to questions and circulating claims. A transparency portal for election records accessible by the public will be top priority. Partnering with county clerks and using secure channels helps voters obtain reliable information directly from the elections administrator.	As chief elections officer, the Secretary helps administers elections, maintains official records including voter data, supports county clerks, enforces statutes, and ensures consistent transparent procedures. Integrity requires accurate voter rolls, protected data, secure systems, clear public information, and neutral refereeing so every eligible voter can participate and every legal vote is counted accurately. The role is administrative: apply the law evenly and build confidence through competence.	Participation grows when eligible citizens trust the system is fair and accurate. I will protect access through accurate voter rolls (removing outdated registrations while safeguarding lawful voters), clear education on options, efficient processes with county clerks, and neutral administration as a fair referee. Restoring trust via transparency and consistent rules encourages more eligible New Mexicans to participate while protecting integrity.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

The League asked:	List your top priorities, and explain how you will achieve them.	How would you protect the rights of New Mexicans?	What actions would you support to make citizens safer?	How would you protect states' rights as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?
 RAÚL TORREZ Democrat torrezfornewmexico.com	As Attorney General, I have used my nearly two decades of experience as a prosecutor to strengthen our criminal justice system by implementing common sense policies to keep violent, repeat offenders off our streets. Additionally, the office has aggressively fought for consumers and workers, safeguarded the environment, took on corruption and special interests, and protected our democracy and women's rights.	I've protected the rights of New Mexicans by taking direct legal action when people are harmed. I've sued Meta Platforms to address the exploitation of children online.I have also challenged federal action; joining litigation against changes to asylum and immigration policies, birthright citizenship and opposing federal restrictions that threaten access to health care and essential resources for our communities. I've enforce consumer protection laws to hold companies accountable for fraud and abuse. Protecting rights means using the law aggressively to defend safety, dignity, and justice for every New Mexican.	As a prosecutor, I prioritize public safety, I launched a statewide Crime Gun Intelligence Center and have always focused on curbing repeat violent offenders, combat organized retail crime, fentanyl trafficking, and gun violence. As the former Bernalillo County District Attorney, I have been a national leader for innovative “smart on crime” policies. I was sworn in during a crime crisis and brought new ideas, and energy to the office, while working across the political spectrum to help protect New Mexico families and businesses.	I protect states' rights by enforcing the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and pushing back when federal decisions harm New Mexico's authority. I have joined multi-state litigation opposing Donald Trump's executive actions on elections that threatened to interfere with how states administer their own voting systems, as well as efforts to undermine birthright citizenship guaranteed under the Constitution. I have also worked with other states to challenge federal over-reach in environmental and administrative rule-making. Protecting states' rights means ensuring New Mexico retains the power to make its own decisions and is not sidelined by unlawful federal action.
 SAMUEL ISIAIAH KANE SR. Republican samfornewmexico.org	While my platform includes many priorities and proposed solutions, there is no greater priority than community safety. I will first work to ensure that criminals who are taken off the streets stay off the streets. Our law enforcement officers work too hard only to have some criminal courts fail to effectively prosecute or sentence the offender. I will ensure that the courts no longer act as a revolving door for those who threaten our safety. And as the courts work harder to process and house criminals, our law enforcement can better direct their resources towards combating the specific crimes causing the most harm to our communities such as the influx of drugs. Protecting the people from harm, by whatever means, is my top priority.	As the “chief legal officer,” the Attorney General has substantial power to protect the rights and interests of the people. In a very real sense, the AG is “the people's lawyer;” but with the added ability to enforce the law for the people's protection. When we talk about “the rights of New Mexicans,” we're really talking about the rights we value most as a community. Safety, security, access to public resources, environmental preservation, constitutional freedoms—these are examples of the rights we value most because without access to these, we lose access to the rest. I will protect all the rights of New Mexicans by first fighting for and defending the rights that matter most—through whatever powers are available to my office.	There is no excuse why New Mexico ranks at the very top of almost all national rankings when it comes to crime. Our crime rate is a product of decades of governmental neglect and meaningful change will take time. But when we prioritize success, we achieve success. First, we attack crime from the top down. Our law enforcement is already working hard to catch criminals, but the courts aren't prosecuting. This will change. At the same time, we will work with communities and schools to create and implement comprehensive programs to identify and work with at-risk youth to take them off the streets before the police do. My office will fight anyone who seeks to harm our communities, from drug dealers to the government itself.	The Attorney General is sworn to uphold and defend the law and protect the interests of the people. It is a privilege of that office to represent the people in court when the federal government tries to overstep its power and infringe upon rights guaranteed us by the U.S. Constitution. When the interests of the people demand, and should our guaranteed rights be threatened, I will not hesitate to hold the federal government to account. I will also defend our own State's legislation against federal government attack in defense of our citizens' guaranteed rights. While I cannot rewrite the laws, I can, and will, prosecute and defend them with the full force of the New Mexico department of justice.

STATE AUDITOR

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

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this office?	What is your highest responsibility as State Auditor?	What actions can you take when audits are not submitted in a timely manner?	What are the top three issues you will investigate as State Auditor?
 JOSHUA JAMES RYAN LAWRENCE Republican	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
 JOSEPH M. MAESTAS Democrat maestas4NM.net	As the current State Auditor, I hold public entities and officials accountable for managing taxpayer funds and protecting taxpayer money from fraud, waste, and abuse. For example, my office has ensured that opioid settlement funds are being used properly and protected funding intended for mitigating natural disasters. Our office assisted small local public bodies like our acequias to become financially compliant and unlocked nearly \$15 million in withheld capital outlay. I've spent my life in public service, both in Federal civil service and in elected public service. I served as Chairman of the Public Regulation Commission, Mayor of Espanola and city councilor in both Espanola and Santa Fe. I'm also a licensed professional engineer.	The New Mexico Office of the State Auditor (OSA) is a constitutionally established executive office independent and accountable only to the people of New Mexico. The OSA has two primary statutory (Audit Act) purposes: (1) to ensure that the financial affairs of every agency shall be thoroughly examined and audited each year and (2) require the financial affairs and transactions of an agency to be audited in whole or in part. These purposes grant the State Auditor the authority to conduct both annual financial and special audits. The OSA is the State financial watchdog that protects taxpayer money from fraud, waste, and abuse. It also helps to hold court-appointed conservators accountable for managing financial assets of protected persons.	When public entity audit reports are submitted late, the public entity does receive a formal audit finding for a late report. I use my professional judgement to determine the underlying causes of the late report and determine the best course of action to address the issues. This includes referring the entity to other agencies for additional actions and informing policy makers. When audit reports are chronically late, the OSA can step in as the auditor of last resort and directly assist the troubled entity to become financially compliant as was done for Mesalands Community College through annual and special audits.	The top three issues that we will investigate and/or examine: 1) Incoming, anonymous, and credible fraud, waste, and abuse complaints. We currently have over 300 active cases; 2) High-risk public entities that are chronically late in audit report submittals and have a severe lack of internal controls, resulting in adverse and repeat findings; and 3) In partnership with the District Court system, we also investigate conservatorships, based on a risk screening of annual financial reports. These conservatorships manage the financial assets of our most vulnerable.

STATE TREASURER

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

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this office?	Explain your position on whether the Treasurer should recommend increasing investments in NM-based companies.	What criteria would you recommend for selecting financial institutions in which to invest state funds?	What is your highest responsibility as State Treasurer?
 JAMES F. ELLISON Republican ellisonformm.com	The Treasurer's job is to oversee the professionals who invest about \$20 billion, judge their results, and explain them to the public. My training fits that job. I am a CFA charterholder, a credential that requires passing three levels of examination in securities analysis, portfolio management, and ethics. I served on the Public Regulation Commission, deciding complex financial cases on utility rates and capital costs, on the record and subject to court review. I hold a master's degree in management from Stanford. I am a professional, not a politician, and I would hold the office to professional standards: in my first year I will publish an assessment of what it would take to meet the Global Investment Performance Standards.	The Treasurer's office has no legal authority to invest the public funds it manages in company stock, in-state or not. By statute it holds high-quality, liquid fixed-income securities, including bonds of New Mexico and its local governments. In-state business investment happens at the State Investment Council, where the Treasurer is a voting member, within limits set by the Legislature. As a fiduciary, I would not recommend expanding in-state equity investments unless the added investments can earn market returns. Within those limits, my role would be to see that the in-state portfolio meets the same standard as the rest: professional managers, benchmarks, and returns reported separately.	The Treasurer's staff manage about \$20 billion directly, so the key selections are the banks holding state deposits, the governments and corporations whose securities the state buys, and the custodian safeguarding them. For banks: sound capital and regulatory standing, compliance with state collateral requirements, reliable reporting and operations, and a competitive rate—in that order. For securities: strong credit quality. For the custodian: segregated, independently verified holdings. Each relationship should be reviewed regularly against these criteria, with results disclosed. When a lower return is accepted to support local lending, it must stay within the limits set by law, and the yield forgone should be reported.	The State Treasurer's highest responsibility is to safeguard the public money entrusted to the office: about \$20 billion belonging to the state and local governments, invested with safety first, liquidity second, and yield third. The Treasurer does not trade that portfolio personally. The job is to hire professionals, set the policy they work within, and hold them accountable for results. The Treasurer owes the public a clear account: New Mexicans should be able to see how their money is invested and how it performed, on time and against benchmarks. The Treasurer also sits on the State Investment Council and 12 other boards, councils, and commissions overseeing about \$160 billion, and has a fiduciary duty to each of those funds.
 LAURA M. MONTOKYA Democrat LauraMontoya4NM.com	I am qualified to continue serving as State Treasurer because I bring more than two decades of direct experience in public finance, treasury operations, and government leadership — and because I am already successfully performing the responsibilities of this office. My career has been built around safeguarding public funds, strengthening financial systems, and ensuring that New Mexicans can trust their government to manage their money responsibly. As State Treasurer, I oversee the state's investment portfolio, cash flow, banking services, and financial compliance functions. My background uniquely prepared me for this work while also pushing financial fitness as a graduation requirement, baby bonds, and UNM/NMSU financial certification.	My portfolio does not “invest in any companies.” The State Treasurer's Office is the liquidity for the state and invests per 6-10-10 NMSA. I am on 13 boards, councils and commissions including the SIC, which is the second largest sovereign wealth fund in the country. We just updated our NM portfolio to make it more successful where we focus on rate of return and now encourage and hold fund managers accountable to work in or with NM when appropriate. There are a lot of amazing investments occurring in NM whether through SBIC, ED, Housing NM, NMFA, RETA, or our two pension funds, ERB and PERA. As important as it is to invest in New Mexico based companies, it is equally important to invest in our own young people, hence baby bonds.	If you are referring to working with banks to manage our cash deposits, we base the relationship on risk and compliance as well as their reporting, collateral requirements, and the rate they can provide. We are developing a new program that will allow me to work with our local banks at a lower rate, with the commitment that the local banks will do more to contribute to our communities in small business loans, mortgages, or small loans for community members. This is a great partnership with our local banks. We love our bank partners and what they do for our communities across New Mexico and how they support financial education.	I swore an oath to be the state's fiduciary. A fiduciary must always act in the best interest of the funds. This is the highest ethical and legal obligation. My job is to provide safety, liquidity, and yield, in that order. I pride myself in being accessible to the people and my job is to serve New Mexicans to the best of my ability even when making tough decisions. In 2023, the portfolio I managed was \$14 billion. Today, it is \$24 billion. That is a significant increase in a very short period of time. The workload within STO has dramatically increased, and the team that I have built are doing an amazing job that New Mexican should be proud of and feel confident in. We provide not only banking but outreach that promotes financial education.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

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

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this office?	What are the greatest challenges facing the State Land Office?	How would you balance the oversight and protection of state trust lands with the need to generate revenue for the support of the beneficiaries (e.g., public schools, universities, etc.)?	What actions, if any, should the State Land Office take to facilitate the expansion of transmission infrastructure to allow further development of New Mexico's energy resources?
 MICHAEL JACK PERRY Republican perry4nmland.com	I've spent my career working on the ground in New Mexico, managing and stewarding the very lands this office oversees. I served over 20 years with the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, rising to Major of Southern Field Operations, and later as Assistant Commissioner of State Lands, where I helped manage millions of acres of trust land. I also run a wildlife and habitat consulting business, working directly with ranchers and landowners. I understand how land, water, and resources support our communities, and I bring practical, real-world experience, not theory to this job.	The biggest challenge is balancing increasing demand for revenue with responsible stewardship of the land. New Mexico relies heavily on trust land income to fund education, but we must also protect the long-term health of those lands. Other challenges include water scarcity, wildfire risk, access limitations, and ensuring fair and consistent policies across energy sectors. The SLO must also improve coordination with federal and local partners to better manage land, resources, and infrastructure.	The mission of the State Land Office is clear: generate revenue while protecting the long-term value of the land. Those goals are not in conflict when done right. Responsible energy development, well-managed grazing, and active land stewardship all contribute to both revenue and sustainability. I believe in a balanced, science-based approach that supports economic activity while ensuring proper reclamation, fair leasing practices, and long-term land health. If we manage the land well today, it will continue to provide for our schools and communities for generations.	The State Land Office should play a proactive role by ensuring leasing and permitting processes for transmission corridors are clear, efficient, and consistent. Transmission is critical to fully develop both traditional and renewable energy resources in New Mexico. I support coordinated planning with industry, utilities, and regulators to identify strategic corridors that minimize land impacts while maximizing access to markets. At the same time, we must ensure fair compensation to trust beneficiaries and maintain strong environmental and reclamation standards.
 JUAN DE JESUS SANCHEZ III Democrat juanfornewmexico.com	I'm a 13th-generation New Mexican who grew up working in a ranching family in Valencia and Socorro counties, where I learned firsthand the importance of land and water stewardship. Professionally, I've worked as a Natural Resource Specialist and Ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and as a technical assistant for the New Mexico Acequia Commission, supporting conservation and traditional water systems. I also served as Political Director for U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich, working on land, energy, and public policy. I bring lived experience, professional expertise, and a deep commitment to protecting our lands while delivering for our schools and communities.	The greatest challenge is balancing revenue generation with long-term stewardship. State trust lands fund our public schools and institutions, but they must also be protected for future generations. That balance is becoming more difficult as we face increasing pressure from climate change, prolonged drought, and water scarcity, alongside growing demand for development on public lands. The State Land Office must take a long-term approach that ensures responsible use today while sustaining the health, productivity, and cultural value of these lands for generations to come.	These goals go hand in hand. Responsible stewardship ensures our lands remain productive over the long term. I would prioritize diversified revenue streams, including renewable energy, conservation leasing, and recreation, alongside responsible traditional development. Strong oversight, clear standards, and accountability are key. By taking a long-term approach, we can protect our lands, respect cultural values, and generate stable funding for schools and other beneficiaries.	The State Land Office should play a proactive role in facilitating responsible transmission development by leasing appropriate state lands and coordinating with federal, local, and tribal partners. Expanding transmission is critical to unlocking New Mexico's renewable energy potential and growing revenue for our schools. At the same time, projects must be carefully sited to avoid impacts to sensitive landscapes, wildlife, and cultural resources. We also need to focus on community benefit funds for these projects, so communities impacted are benefiting as well. Done right, transmission can strengthen our economy while protecting what makes our state unique.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 22

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

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this office?	How would you address your highest priorities?	How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?	What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?
 STEFANI LORD Republican lord22.com	I am qualified to serve because I have consistently delivered real results for District 22 while staying grounded in our communities' needs. My work has focused on the issues that matter most to everyday New Mexicans, such as healthcare access, infrastructure, public safety, water resources, responsible growth, and investing millions directly into our communities for roads, facilities, and critical services. One of my top priorities has been addressing New Mexico's doctor shortage. I cosponsored HB 99, a bipartisan reform to our medical malpractice system, helping make our state more competitive for physicians and improving access to care, especially in rural communities.	My top priorities are improving access to healthcare, protecting our water resources, maintaining public safety, and ensuring responsible growth in our communities. New Mexico continues to face a serious doctor shortage, and I will keep working on solutions that attract and retain providers, especially in rural areas. Water is also critical. I have worked with state agencies and local leaders to address PFAS contamination concerns and will continue pushing for long-term solutions that protect our drinking water. I am also committed to investing in infrastructure, roads, emergency services, and community facilities, while ensuring development reflects the needs and values of local residents.	New Mexico must take a long-term, practical approach to water management that protects our communities and future. We need to invest in infrastructure, repair aging systems, reduce water loss, and improve delivery. I've supported water system improvements in Carnuel, Tranquillo Pines, and throughout Torrance County. We must also protect water quality. I've worked with state agencies and local leaders to address PFAS contamination in the East Mountains and will continue advocating for safe drinking water. Finally, planning must be responsible. Development should reflect limited water resources, and we must support conservation, reuse, and innovation.	Large economic development projects should be evaluated based on their long-term impact on infrastructure, water availability, public safety, and the character of the surrounding community. Projects must demonstrate that roads, water systems, and emergency services can support the added demand without burdening existing residents. Water availability must be carefully considered in an arid state like New Mexico. Community input is essential, and economic benefits should be real and sustainable, not short-term gains that create long-term strain. I oppose bad development and support responsible, community-first growth.
 ZACHARY P. WITHERS No party/ declined to select withers4nm.org	I was born and raised in this community and have a depth of perspective on the challenges we face that comes only with time. I operate a regenerative farm and a local food business, and am intimately familiar with the challenges facing agriculture, as well as barriers to economic development more generally. I co-manage the Cedar Crest Farmers Market, and sit on the Bernalillo County Planning and Zoning Commission. I have done extensive policy work at the local, state and national level, and successfully lobbied to change laws to support local agriculture, and stop unsustainable development. I have I have a bachelors degree from Middlebury College in International Studies with a focus on Political Science, and a passion for water.	Decisive action to address the water is crisis is my main priority. Solutions have to address the underlying reality that the state has allocated roughly twice the amount of private use rights to water that our communities water resources can sustain. There is no 'new' water resource that we can tap into to sustain that demand. We must balance the states water budget by balancing the demand with sustainable supply. There are no silver bullets but there are solutions: Conservation, water reuse and recycling, direct catchment, large scale investment in regenerating our soils, restoring ecological healthy to our water sheds, stopping water waste and contamination, and ensuring equitable access to clean water as a right.	We should build on the Water Planning Security Act to develop water management districts based around hydrological basins, ban inter-basin transfers, create democratic institutions to oversee those districts, and provide them with the resources and funding to monitor and manage available local water resources to meet the needs of the local communities. We should be investing billions into repairing and replacing aging water infrastructure and transitioning municipal water systems to water recycling, providing tax incentives and grant funds to pay for rain catchment infrastructure, modifying public land grazing prescriptions support regenerative grazing practices, and working to heal our water sheds from the head waters to the rivers.	I support developing equitable regulatory frameworks to support locally owned small businesses, local circular economies, and prevent big industries from externalizing their costs onto the public. Too often 'economic development' just funnels money to corporations, or fails to consider the local context where that investment is going. All development in the state should be contingent on identifying a sustainable water resource to support that development, the impact it will have on existing residents, the availability of supporting public infrastructure or the capacity to make necessary improvement to public infrastructure to support that development. I support driving economic development through supporting local independent businesses.
 WILLIAM (BILL) SCOTT Democrat	I had spent over twenty-two years in the military as both an Army officer specializing in Latin America foreign relations, military intelligence, and an enlisted cavalry scout. I'm a jack-of-all-trades that came out of New Mexico. In the military, I served in the Pentagon and embassies abroad providing indepth analysis and political-military implementation advice. I know the work that is done to make policy a reality. This has made me attunely aware of unintended side-effects of ill-planned decisions. I had attended both UNM and NMSU (studying computers and mathematics respectively) before getting a master's degree at Vanderbilt University in Latin American Studies.	I will restore dignified communication by prioritizing constituent service, respectful bipartisan problem-solving, and clear public outreach. I'll hold regular town halls and office hours, require plain-language summaries of bills, and set a code of conduct for legislative debate that emphasizes facts over personal attacks. I'll join and promote bipartisan working groups with shared goals and reward collaboration in committee assignments and budgeting, so solving problems, not scoring points, drives our work.	I would like to see implementation of building codes that require rainwater harvesting and graywater usage to flush toilets. Toilets account for 1/3 of water use. This is a non-trivial amount of fresh drinking water used to dump sewage. Additionally, New Mexico regulations should encourage the agriculture of drought-resistant crops.	When evaluating large economic development projects, require a clear economic-impact analysis (quality jobs, wages, tax revenue) and transparent cost-benefit and fiscal-risk assessments with contingency plans and clawbacks; ensure community fit with local hiring, small-business support, zoning alignment, and affordable-housing protections; evaluate infrastructure and water usage demands; require environmental and health impact studies with mitigation and climate resilience; prioritize equity for underserved communities; and mandate open procurement, independent review, performance milestones, oversight, and strict legal/ethical compliance.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 41

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

The League asked:	What are the policy priorities that made you want to run for state representative?	What strategies would you support to manage New Mexico's water supply in light of growing water demand?	What changes would you make to the process of state funding for local public projects and why?	What role should the state government play in the regulation of social media and artificial intelligence?
 YOLANDA R. JARAMILLO Democrat electyolanda jaramillo.com	I'm running because I'm an advocate for others and deeply care about our community. What drives me is expanding opportunity for New Mexico's children and families—especially in our rural, small, and Native communities across Northern New Mexico. I'm from Dixon and come from a long line of farmers and acequeros who taught me to protect our land, water, and way of life. As an educator, acequia leader, and advocate, I've spent my career supporting students, families, and communities. My experience—as a teacher, youth suicide prevention advocate, and caregiver—has shaped my focus on education, mental and behavioral health, healthcare access, protecting our natural resources, and creating economic opportunity for rural communities.	We must protect our acequias, watersheds, and drinking water while investing in rural water infrastructure. That means safeguarding our natural resources and preserving traditional and agricultural water uses that are central to our communities. I will continue the work of Rep. Susan Herrera by supporting Mutual Domestic Water Associations and advancing efforts like the Rio Chama aquifer mapping project to protect our long-term water supply. I also have serious concerns about the use of produced water and will not support uses that risk our drinking water or agricultural systems. Finally, we need modern, science-based water planning to manage growing demand and ensure a sustainable future for New Mexico.	New Mexico funds local projects through capital outlay, but too often funding is spread too thin, projects are delayed, and priorities aren't aligned with long-term needs. We need a more strategic, transparent, and equitable approach—prioritizing ready projects, aligning with local plans, and directing resources to underinvested rural and Native communities. That means fully funding critical infrastructure like water systems, acequias, housing, and broadband, and ensuring projects are completed and deliver real results.	New Mexico has a responsibility to protect our children and communities as social media and AI evolve—especially without strong federal laws. I support efforts like those led by Attorney General Raúl Torrez and State Rep. Linda Serrato to require transparency for AI content, protect victims of deepfakes, and crack down on scams and misinformation. We must also hold platforms accountable for impacts on youth mental health and invest in prevention and support services. New Mexico should lead in protecting our communities while ensuring innovation doesn't come at the expense of our kids and our democracy.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 43

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

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this office??	How would you address your highest priorities?	How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?	What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?
	My experience in public service is broad. In addition to my service as District 43 Representative for nearly 8 years, I was elected as a Los Alamos County Councilor twice and also served as Los Alamos Probate Judge. I chaired the House Taxation & Revenue Committee prior to my current chairmanship of the House Judiciary Committee. I have an established a track record of carrying legislation that is well-researched, balanced and consistently focused on advancing the interests of New Mexico working families. For example, I successfully led House efforts to enact meaningful medical malpractice reform and supported other legislation that will improve healthcare access.	To lay the ground work for my legislative priorities, I consult constituents, various stake holder groups and colleagues in both chambers as well as executive branch staff to understand state needs and gaps. I study the underlying policies and often look at successful legislative approaches in other states. My current legislative priorities continue to be health care access and quality, data privacy, AI consumer protection regimes, and the protection of the civil rights of all New Mexico residents. I will continue to work to support initiatives that improve our educational system and the welfare of our children and families.	Efforts that the state should advance are supporting technologies to mine and clean brackish water and encouraging more effective use of surface and ground water, especially in agriculture. The legislature should develop a regulatory frame work for deep water mining and for industries that rely heavily on water use such as resource extraction and data centers.	In addition to thinking strategically about what projects “fit” the state's natural resource and labor skill sets, the state and/or local governments should develop and apply environmental impact criteria that evaluate and inform the public as to the environmental and societal implications of a proposal. Mitigation measures should be required as appropriate based on the impact assessment.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 45

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

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this office??	How would you address your highest priorities?	How should the legislature address future water needs in an increasingly arid state?	What criteria should be applied when considering proposed large economic development projects?
	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 46

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

The League asked:	What are the policy priorities that made you want to run for state representative?	What strategies would you support to manage New Mexico's water supply in light of growing water demand?	What changes would you make to the process of state funding for local public projects and why?	What role should the state government play in the regulation of social media and artificial intelligence?
	My policy priorities are, first, centered on pushing back on harmful policies sent from the Trump Administration that would seek to do damage to our state and local communities — and we've done just that — protecting healthcare, LGBTQ+ rights; making childcare, early childhood education, and college tuition free; and so much more. I am committed to strong environmental protections, ensuring clean air, land, and water, and holding polluters accountable. My focus has been on human rights and safety including gun safety, reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ protections, and immigrant safety. Finally, I aim to diversify New Mexico's economy by supporting culturally rooted, environmentally responsible businesses that fit our state's unique character.	I support stronger conservation, the Water Data Act, and collective action across communities and government. Smart data, responsible use, and collaboration will keep our rivers and aquifers healthy for generations. We must safeguard our watersheds and aquifers, and hold high-consumption industries (including data centers) accountable, as water is life. New Mexico recognizes water as a public trust; no corporate interest should override that. We must embrace a whole-systems approach: protecting our climate means protecting our water. Healthy forests, wetlands, and soils are our best drought insurance, so defending our ecosystems defends water for every New Mexican.	I would prioritize expanding state funding for local public projects to invest directly in our communities. We need to support locally driven initiatives that build the workforce of the future: integrating climate technology, quantum, biosciences, and emerging technologies that create great paying jobs and solve our problems. I'd focus investments in industries solving local challenges first, while making our biggest commitments to teachers, unions, grid buildout, clean energy electrification, and critically understaffed fields like healthcare. We should compensate people more to do the essential work we desperately need filled. Innovation and investment together ensure New Mexicans thrive in a rapidly changing economy and world.	Our state government should prioritize protecting New Mexicans from the harms of social media and AI, while ensuring these tools are used responsibly. I've sponsored chatbot safety (HB174 in 2026) and co-sponsored an AI safety plan (HB80 in 2025) to provide frameworks of protection and responsibility, but we must continue evaluating how regulation can promote safety, accountability, and innovation, thereby making these technologies work for our communities, not against them. Additionally, we can move our content to places where we agree with their values and policies. In doing so, I have taken direct action by no longer posting on X or Meta platforms, focusing instead on platforms like LinkedIn and Bluesky. Find us there!

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 47

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

The League asked:	What are the policy priorities that made you want to run for state representative?	What strategies would you support to manage New Mexico's water supply in light of growing water demand?	What changes would you make to the process of state funding for local public projects and why?	What role should the state government play in the regulation of social media and artificial intelligence?
	Supporting healthier communities underpins so much of the progress we want to make in New Mexico. I am proud of the work we have done to protect and expand insurance coverage, protect reproductive healthcare, support rural healthcare, and to recruit and retain providers. There is much more to do. I am eager to continue this work and advance towards high-quality universal healthcare. I've also championed the creative industries, renewable energy, and policies to improve the lives of our workers. I'm raising my children in Santa Fe, and hope that they will raise their own children here too. I know that building a state with great job opportunities, affordable housing, and clean air, land and water are priorities for families.	Water is precious in our state, and we need to take an all-of-the above approach to addressing water demand and scarcity. We need to rehabilitate our watersheds; continue regional infrastructure investments that improve efficient delivery; continue safe water re-use; explore ways to increase supply and preserve fresh water; bolster conservation work across all sectors; appropriately fund aquifer mapping; and support the Office of the State Engineer and the Attorney General to ensure we are navigating legal challenges and obligations appropriately.	I support reforms that lead to greater transparency, efficacy, and equity in the funding of public projects. Capital outlay and local project funding are critical resources for communities across our state. We passed reforms in the last session to allow the state to more quickly and easily reallocate unused funds and rein in the project backlog. I'm open to continuing this work to ensure funds are deployed quickly and without waste, and I believe we should consider changes that ensure rural districts are treated equitably and have what they need to support thriving communities, especially with the basics like water, wastewater, energy, community space, and broadband.	We have a critical role to play in protecting New Mexican's privacy and safety and addressing features that have clear mental health impacts on children. I support data privacy reforms that crack down on unauthorized data collection and sharing, limit geotargeting, and create real safety features for minors. I also support initiatives for smartphone-free schools. With artificial intelligence, policymakers must learn quickly and provide guardrails that reflect our state's values. For example, I support efforts to regulate AI's use in high-stakes decision-making environments, especially in housing, health care, finance, and government.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 48

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

The League asked:	What are the policy priorities that made you want to run for state representative?	What strategies would you support to manage New Mexico's water supply in light of growing water demand?	What changes would you make to the process of state funding for local public projects and why?	What role should the state government play in the regulation of social media and artificial intelligence?
	I am running for office because the crises of the 21st-century climate change, systemic inequality, and a fractured healthcare system cannot be solved with 20th-century thinking. We are standing at a crossroads where the old maps no longer work. Taking on the challenges of this new era requires leadership that is determined to set new paths forward, moving beyond incremental changes toward a future where our environment and our health are treated as one. I have worked to implement policies that will diversify our extraction industry-dependent economy to a renewable, clean energy economy and hold the line to protect our natural resources.	Addressing the 21st century requires a Water Resilience Strategy that will: Modernized Science & Enforcement: fully fund the mapping of our aquifers and empower the State Engineer to enforce water use. We cannot manage or protect what we do not measure. A “Strategic Water Reserve”: advocate for aggressive funding to purchase and lease water rights specifically to keep our rivers flowing and protect our riparian ecosystems. Infrastructure for Reuse: treating brackish water for industrial use; ensuring that any recycled water meets the highest safety standards before it enters our environment. I will ensure that our water policy protects our Acequias, respects Tribal sovereignty, and secures a water future for our generations to come.	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	State government must move to legislate enforceable digital integrity. I believe New Mexico could lead the nation in ensuring that technology serves our people by providing legal protections, transparency, and accountability. The state must protect our most vulnerable. I support the recent efforts by our Attorney General to hold tech giants accountable. When companies knowingly design addictive features or fail to protect minors from exploitation, the state must step in with civil liability and significant penalties. As AI technology has grown, I have sponsored regulation bills that would create penalties to predatory unauthorized use of personal proprietary information. I will reintroduce such legislation.
	Elderly Care: Expand affordable healthcare, in-home support, and preventive services for seniors. Child Safety: Ensure safe environments, quality healthcare, and strong protection systems for all children. Women's Health: Improve maternal care, support expecting mothers, and protect women and the unborn. Mental Health: Increase access to care, integrate services, and promote awareness and prevention.	Reduce demand (conservation), Stretch supply (reuse, new sources), Protect reserves (groundwater management), Adapt systems (policy + climate resilience)	Allocate funds based on measurable results (e.g., improved road safety, higher graduation rates, reduced water loss). Right now, funding is often tied to proposals or political priorities rather than actual results. Outcome-based funding ensures money goes to projects that prove they work, not just those that sound good on paper.	States can act as a frontline defense for citizens by: Requiring transparency about how platforms use data and algorithms, Protecting users (especially minors) from harmful content or additive design, Enforcing rules against scams, deepfakes, and misinformation.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 50

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

The League asked:	What are the policy priorities that made you want to run for state representative?	What strategies would you support to manage New Mexico's water supply in light of growing water demand?	What changes would you make to the process of state funding for local public projects and why?	What role should the state government play in the regulation of social media and artificial intelligence?
 KENNETH DONALD BRENNAN Republican kenformm.com	I feel New Mexico can be a top state in education, medical services, safety, the economy and more. Right now, we are failing in all these areas. Legislation needs to be balanced, reflecting every constituent. I do not believe this is the case in HD50. I want to bring a fresh look and voice to the legislature. Additionally, I feel that our citizens are not being properly represented or heard. I will listen and communicate with the people, working to make legislation that reflects the majority but keeping in mind the wants of the minority.	Water is our most precious natural resource and should not be wasted. I will work on improving water conservation methods and promote recycling technology to utilize every drop. Increase water exploration to include the desalinization of our plentiful brackish water that lies deep in the ground in many areas of the state. Support legislation that will incentivize the implementation of water efficiency and recycling technology in new construction of commercial and residential developments and retrofitting of existing properties. This legislation could also include tax credits for the retrofit, rain harvesting, residential wastewater recycling system for septic systems among others.	It appears that there have been projects in the past that should never have been approved. For example, the El Camino Real Heritage Center south of Socorro. Projects like this must show how it will benefit the public. The vetting process needs to be improved. It should include more public and private sector comments and concerns. This should also be included in the funding application. There needs to be full accountability in every phase of the project regarding monies spent from conception to completion. Millions were wasted because there wasn't proper policy oversight in place. I will work with my fellow legislators to ensure that the people's money is well utilized.	Social media is great for connecting people and as a source of information. Unfortunately, all too often it is abused and misused for nefarious activities, especially with minors. I am pleased to see the recent court victories holding social media responsible for their lack of safeguards. Legislation needs to be passed that will make social media accountable and set standards to be followed. AI is a great tool, but it also can be misused. When AI is used to create content, it must be clearly stated. The use of AI in schools needs to be strictly regulated and should never be used to replace original thought. Students must learn how to use their minds first and AI second. The state must also work with federal agencies to achieve these goals.
 SARAH BOSES Democrat sarahfornewmexico.com	Our healthcare system may work great for insurance companies but it's failing us. I've seen this firsthand working as a nurse. If you have cancer, every ounce of your being should be focused on your treatment and recovery. Instead, patients and their families spend countless hours fighting with insurance companies, even though they've paid premiums for years on end. As a two-term school board member, education is a big priority. I know that our public schools are a lot like our healthcare system. The best way to improve our schools is more competitive pay, safe schools, professional development that educators actually want, and increased access to healthcare, housing, counseling and treatment programs for all New Mexicans in need.	Water is our most precious resource, and we must manage it with common sense and innovation. My strategy focuses on fixing our aging rural infrastructure to stop hidden water loss from leaks before it ever reaches your tap. I support using modern technology like satellite leak detection and protecting our Strategic Water Reserve to keep our rivers flowing. We must balance our deep agricultural heritage with water-smart development and new solutions like desalination. We have to protect our water today so our grandkids can thrive here tomorrow.	The Capital Outlay process is a vital tool for our district, and I will ensure every dollar is spent on our specific, urgent needs, like road repairs, senior centers, and water upgrades. I will work directly with our local leaders to ensure these projects are community-driven, not politically motivated. Most importantly, I'll advocate for total transparency so you know exactly where your tax dollars are going. My goal is to be a bridge between the Roundhouse and our backyard, making sure projects don't just get funded, but actually get finished.	Technology should help us, not harm us. We need firm guardrails on AI to prevent discrimination in housing and jobs. When it comes to social media, I am focused on the mental health of our children. The research on the negative effects of social media on developing brains is clear. I support efforts to remove phones from schools and limit screen time to protect our students' well-being. The state must hold big tech platforms accountable for protecting our children's data and privacy. We must prioritize our kids over tech industry profits.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 70

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

The League asked:	What are the policy priorities that made you want to run for state representative?	What strategies would you support to manage New Mexico's water supply in light of growing water demand?	What changes would you make to the process of state funding for local public projects and why?	What role should the state government play in the regulation of social media and artificial intelligence?
 ANITA AMALIA GONZALES Democrat anita4newmexico.com	Education: I support investments, from early childhood through higher ed, raising educator pay, expanding student services, improving STEM and career pathways, and connecting schools to workforce needs. Healthcare: I will expand rural access, grow the workforce, fund mental health and addiction programs, expand Telehealth, and defend reproductive rights. Jobs/Small Businesses: Support job training, internships, and broadband for education, telehealth, and commerce. Infrastructure: Fund broadband and water, repair acequias, and invest in public safety. Environment: Invest in renewable energy, mitigate wildfire risk, restore land, and protect water. Affordability: Support working families, local businesses, and affordable rural housing.	To manage New Mexico's water supply, I support investing in rural water and wastewater infrastructure, modernizing aging systems, and expanding emergency response capacity for communities facing shortages. Protecting and restoring watersheds is critical for clean water and post-fire recovery. We must promote groundwater management, conservation, and sustainable use, while supporting community driven solutions that reflect local needs in Torrance and San Miguel Counties. These strategies ensure safe, reliable water for families, agriculture, and future generations.	I would make state funding for local projects more transparent, equitable, and responsive to community needs. Funding decisions should prioritize rural and underserved areas, support critical infrastructure like water, broadband, and public safety, and include input from local governments, tribal nations, and community organizations. Streamlining application processes and ensuring timely disbursement of funds would prevent delays that hurt communities. By aligning state resources with local priorities, we can ensure projects are completed efficiently and benefit residents where they live.	The state should ensure that social media and AI are safe, transparent, and accountable. This includes protecting users from misinformation, harassment, and data misuse while promoting privacy and equity. Regulations should support ethical AI development and provide oversight without stifling innovation. The state should also invest in computer science and digital literacy education so all New Mexicans can navigate technology responsibly.

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE POSITION 1

The great majority of cases heard by judges of the Court of Appeals are appeals from lower courts, since the New Mexico Court of Appeals sits between the state district courts and the New Mexico Supreme Court. Term: Eight years; no term limits.

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this office?	What are the major challenges for an Appeals Court Judge?	What would be the most effective methods to improve Appeals Court procedures and efficiency?	What other information would you like voters to know about you?
 KRIS HOUGHTON Democrat keepjudgehoughton.com	I believe wholeheartedly that due process is for everyone and that no one is above or beneath the law. I vow to uphold the US and NM Constitutions. I have served in this office since Gov. Lujan Grisham appointed me in 2025, after I was recommended to her by a bi-partisan nominating commission. I have since authored opinions for the Court in both criminal and civil law. I served most of my 18-year legal career in the Dep't of Justice at the US Attorney's Office in ABQ. As an Assistant US Attorney, I handled criminal, civil, and appellate cases. I served overseas as DOJ's Judicial Attaché in Colombia, and then returned to ABQ as Chief of the Criminal Division. Previously, I clerked for both the NM Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.	The breadth of law is staggering; an appellate judge must accurately decide cases in every area of law (criminal, negligence, family, probate, property, to name but a few). But it is impossible to know all the law. A great judge humbly seeks input from other chambers, staff, and clerks to ensure each case reaches the right result for the right reasons. The work demands rigorous legal analysis and clear writing. I follow the example of my mentors by carefully parsing applicable rules, statutes, and case law. I then work tirelessly with fellow judges, clerks, and staff to ensure we draft an opinion that is understandable by the public. Finally, with ~800 cases filed in the court each year, the work load demands discipline and diligence.	With just ten judges on the Court of Appeals serving the entire State, there is a great need for efficiency. Toward that goal, the Court has developed a number of strategies over the years. For example, the Court manages a team of experienced staff attorneys who use a calendaring system to filter cases by degree of difficulty. The Court recently piloted a successful mediation program that facilitates settlement for appropriate cases. Those strategies have reduced the number of cases awaiting a decision. But the Court should (and does) strive toward continual improvement. To that end, the judges meet monthly to discuss and employ new methods. We are working to build more efficiency in the way we write and participate on our opinions.	I am married to María Montoya who is an OB/Gyn and attending physician at the University of New Mexico Hospital. My wife and I are raising three children and stay busy with their football, soccer, basketball, and track activities. I earned my law degree from UNM School of Law, where I received the Dean's Award for Significant Contribution to the Law School Community and was on the Dean's List and Honor Roll. I also previously served as a Captain in the US Air Forces Reserves. I was commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force JAG Corps and was assigned to the 27th Special Operations Wing at Cannon Air Force Base and the 377th Air Base Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT DIVISION 4

State district court judges hear many types of cases, both civil and criminal. Their civil cases include private injury lawsuits, contracts, real estate, family law, and some mental health and election-related issues. The criminal cases they hear include felony and more serious misdemeanor matters. Term: Six years; no term limits.

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this office?	What in your background would serve you best as a District Court judge?	In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how can you help improve the operations of District Court?	What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
 DENISE MARIE THOMAS Democrat keepjudgethomas.com	I worked as an attorney for 26 years before being recommended by the bi-partisan Judicial Nominating Committee and appointed to serve as a District Judge by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham in March of 2024. I have served Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos Counties as the Family Court Judge since that time. I worked as a family law attorney for 10 years before being appointed as a judge. I had the privilege of assisting families through some of the most difficult times in their lives, with the goal of helping them get through these experiences with dignity, compassion and understanding. The work I do as a judge is an extension of my work as an attorney; only now, I am able to reach and help even more people.	Before being appointed as a District Judge, I had a broad range of legal experience in civil, criminal and family law matters. I am able to draw on each of these areas of law in making decisions and assisting individuals who appear in court. Specifically, the eight years I worked with U.S. District Court Judge Martha Vazquez for the District of New Mexico, gave me invaluable experience in legal writing, analysis and in the courtroom that serves me now in my work as a judge.	The District Court serves a large number of individuals who are unfamiliar with the court system, the law and are unable to afford to hire an attorney. As such, it can be a highly stressful and intimidating place for many people, especially when they have so much at stake. Education is critical to helping people understand their rights and the court process. Taking time to help people understand how to bring a case without counsel, what to expect during their case, and answer their questions best serves the individual parties and the court as a whole to arrive at more fair and just outcomes.	In New Mexico, all judges are bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct, which serves to maintain the independence and integrity of the judiciary. There are strict limitations on what a judge can and cannot do to avoid conflicts of interest and inappropriate political influence. Every judge should strive to adhere to the Code of Judicial Conduct and set aside their personal ideology when deciding a case. As a society, we should seek to have judges who make decisions based upon the applicable law and facts of a case, and nothing more. Electing judges with the strength of character to make difficult and, at times, unpopular decisions is imperative to judicial independence and our democracy.



DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT DIVISION 8

State district court judges hear many types of cases, both civil and criminal. Their civil cases include private injury lawsuits, contracts, real estate, family law, and some mental health and election-related issues. The criminal cases they hear include felony and more serious misdemeanor matters. Term: Six years; no term limits.

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this office?	What in your background would serve you best as a District Court Judge?	In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how can you help improve the operations of District Court?	What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
 ANASTASIA ROSE MARTIN Democrat Keepjudgemartin.com	I am qualified for this position because my education, experience and connection to the community ensure equity, equality and justice. I started my legal career at the First Judicial District Attorney's Office in Santa Fe and stayed with the office for approximately ten years. I practiced in Rio Arriba County for roughly six of those years and conducted approximately 75-100 jury trials. I was appointed by a non-partisan judicial nominating commission and the Governor to serve as a District Court Judge for Division 8 in July 2025. Therefore, my trial experience, connection to the community and experience on the bench make me uniquely qualified for this position.	The experience, knowledge and relationships that I have gained throughout the duration of my career as well as my commitment to the community serve me best as a current District Court Judge. Given my extensive trial experience I am very comfortable with courtroom procedure, the rules of evidence and trial practice. I believe that these skills are invaluable on the bench. Additionally, given the experience that I had practicing in Rio Arriba I am very aware of gaps in services as well as systemic community issues such as deficient community transportation. This knowledge is extremely important to ensure that I can help direct individuals to services that are needed and ensure that they can comply with court orders.	Prior to being appointed to the bench I was the Adult Protective Services Attorney for the New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department and was General Counsel for the agency for approximately three and half years. During my time as General Counsel, I learned the intricacy and importance of administration and I brought that understanding to the bench. Some of the operations that I have been working to improve is the modernization of warrant service with the courts and law enforcement to ensure that warrants and warrant returns are entered electronically which significantly reduces the risk of an improper arrest as well creates real time notification to the courts when a warrant returned is filed.	It is imperative that the judiciary maintain independence from political influence to ensure that justice is served for all regardless of their socioeconomic, cultural or political differences. I went through a non-partisan judicial nominating commission and believe that process is very important to ensure judicial independence. Further, public perception of the judicial process shapes the confidence individuals have in the judiciary. Therefore, it is very important that there is equal access to courts as well as a robust judicial standards commission.

SANTA FE COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 1

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

The League asked:	What are the qualifications and experience that have prepared you to be a County Magistrate Judge?	Why do you want to serve as a County Magistrate Judge?	What is your view on the balance between the rights of tenants vs. landlords in disputes?	What factors would you consider in making sentencing decisions?
 HARRY B. MONTOYA Forward montoya4nm.org	My education, Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology, as well as having served as Santa Fe County Commissioner and as a member of the Pojoaque School Board and on numerous Boards and Commissions both in New Mexico and Nationally, I worked hard to protect our lands, our cultures and our traditions. As a County Commissioner, I served in a Quasi-Judicial role when hearing cases that came before the Commission. I worked several years for various government and private institutions as an Administrator/Executive Director and substance abuse counselor. I was recruited in 1990 to serve as the founding executive director for the nonprofit; Los Alamos Citizens Against Substance Abuse. In 1995, I founded my own nonprofit, Hands Across Cultures.	I am running for Magistrate Judge because I believe justice should be fair, accessible, respectful, and rooted in the values of our community. Every day, ordinary people walk into Magistrate Court facing some of the hardest moments of their lives. For many people, the courtroom is intimidating. They want to know one thing: will they be treated fairly? I am running to make sure the answer is yes. Our courts should never be about politics, favoritism, or who has the most money. A judge's responsibility is to apply the law equally, protect constitutional rights, and ensure every person who enters the courtroom is treated with dignity and respect. I bring to this campaign a commitment to integrity, accountability, respect and common sense.	Responsible tenants and responsible landlords should be the goal. Availability of affordable housing is the ultimate goal. We have created a system where it makes it difficult for people to buy their own property. If they can't afford to buy and have only the rental properties that are available. The question becomes "Do I favor harsh sentences vs. exercising common sense?" We need to make our community as livable as possible. My thoughts are one has to look at both sides of the story and maintain an objective point of view and determine what is in the best interest of the tenant or landlord. Who is the unreasonable one, is how I would look at the balance, knowing I am not being biased toward either the tenant or the landlord.	I understand that the decisions made in Magistrate Court have real consequences for working families, seniors, veterans, young people, and small business owners throughout Santa Fe County. Public safety matters. Victims deserve protection. Law enforcement deserves professionalism and fairness in the courtroom. But we also know that many people who enter the justice system are struggling with mental health challenges, addiction, poverty, or lack of opportunity. When appropriate, we should support solutions that reduce repeat offenses and help people become productive members of our community again. Santa Fe County is a unique place. We are a community rich in culture, history, tradition, and diversity. Our justice system should reflect them
 MICHAEL R. ROYBAL Democrat	I began my court career in 2014 and have spent over a decade gaining hands-on experience within our judicial system. Through my work, I have developed a strong understanding of court procedures, docket management, and the real-world impact judicial decisions have on individuals and the community. I have worked closely with judges, attorneys, and defendants, which has strengthened my ability to remain fair, impartial, and professional in high-stakes situations. This experience has prepared me for the role of Magistrate Judge with confidence and knowledge, along with a strong commitment to upholding the law. I am dedicated to ensuring that those who enter the courtroom are treated fairly and with respect, while also being held accountable.	I want to serve as your next Santa Fe County Magistrate Judge because I believe in fairness, accountability, and equal access to justice. I have been involved in our judiciary every day for over a decade and am fully immersed in the system; meeting with incarcerated defendants daily, actively participating in court, and working closely with attorneys and judges. This experience has given me firsthand insight into the challenges our community is facing. This role would allow me to give back and ensure every person is treated with respect. I am committed to applying the law fairly and without bias, with a focus on reducing recidivism, addressing repeat offenders, and strengthening trust within our community and local justice system.	Both tenants and landlords have important rights that must be respected. Landlords have the right to protect their property and receive timely payment, while tenants have the right to safe, livable housing and fair treatment. As a judge, my role is to apply the law impartially, listen to testimony, and review all evidence in accordance with the law, while carefully considering the facts of each case, including lease agreements, payment history, and whether both parties acted in good faith. Every case is unique, and my focus would be on reaching fair, consistent outcomes based on the law while maintaining respect for all involved.	Sentencing is one of the most serious responsibilities of a judge and requires careful and thoughtful consideration. I would look at the nature and severity of the offense, the impact on victims, and the specific circumstances of each case. I would also consider the individual's criminal history, their willingness to take responsibility, and whether they pose a risk to public safety. At the same time, I believe it is important to consider opportunities for rehabilitation when appropriate. My goal would be to ensure accountability while also focusing on reducing recidivism and addressing repeat offenders, with the goal of protecting the community and promoting fair and consistent outcomes that hold those who are convicted accountable.

SANTA FE COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 2

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

The League asked:	What are the qualifications and experience that have prepared you to be a County Magistrate Judge?	Why do you want to serve as a County Magistrate Judge?	What is your view on the balance between the rights of tenants vs. landlords in disputes?	What factors would you consider in making sentencing decisions?
 MELISSA Y MASCARENAS Democrat	I was elected to this position in November, 2025. I have continued to work hard in this position attending continuing education classes and keeping up with the new laws that have been passed by the current legislature. I have lived in Santa Fe County my entire life so I know my community. I am currently on the New Mexico Magistrate Association Board where we collaborate with each other to find better solutions to our positions as Judges.	I am passionate about helping people. I want to make this community a better place to live and work. Making a difference is one of my strong points. As a Magistrate Judge I can help make this happen. We face many problems, and I want to continue to bring positive changes to our community.	As Judge I can only tell you that in any case that I preside over is I must follow the law.	As Judge I can only tell you that in any case that I preside over is I must follow the law

SANTA FE COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 3

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

The League asked:	What are the qualifications and experience that have prepared you to be a County Magistrate Judge?	Why do you want to serve as a County Magistrate Judge?	What is your view on the balance between the rights of tenants vs. landlords in disputes?	What factors would you consider in making sentencing decisions?
 MARIA M. SANCHEZ Democrat	In my 15 years with the SF Magistrate Court, I have had the unique opportunity to be able to work within a courtroom setting alongside many Judges and gained experience in courtroom management which will allow me the ability to manage a court docket efficiently. During the time I have been in court management positions, I have developed an intimate knowledge of the Rules of Criminal and Civil Procedure for the Magistrate Court and state statutes. I have also developed knowledge in the processes of moving a case from inception to a final conclusion. In addition, I have also been selected by the AOC to serve on various committees designed to implement best practices/standards and assigned to assist with training and mentoring of other staff	At the beginning of my career with the Judiciary, I aspired to work my way through the levels of supervision and management of the court. It was during this time that I developed an appreciation for the judiciary and its purpose. Serving as a Magistrate Judge will provide me with the ability to grow professionally while using the knowledge that I have obtained to make good fact based decisions while using my best judgment. I will remain fair and impartial to all who appear before me. Serving as a Magistrate Judge will allow me to continue to serve our community in a professional and positive manner.	The Uniform Owner-Resident Relations Act regulates and determines the responsibilities and obligations a landlord has towards a tenant as well as the responsibilities and obligations a tenant has towards a landlord. The Act ensures that each party will be able to present their case in a full and impartial hearing where a decision will be made based on the evidence presented as well as the testimony in support of the evidence. The court's judgment will then be entered in accordance with the requirements of the Act.	As a court of limited jurisdiction, the magistrate courts ability to sentence in misdemeanor cases is, at times, affected by legislative mandates. DUI/DWI and domestic violence cases have specific sentencing requirements that are required by statute and shall be implemented. In cases where more discretion is permitted, the nature of the crime, prior criminal history and the impact on the greater community are all factors that would be considered when imposing penalties as allowed for by law.



SANTA FE COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 4

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

The League asked:	What are the qualifications and experience that have prepared you to be a County Magistrate Judge?	Why do you want to serve as a County Magistrate Judge?	What is your view on the balance between the rights of tenants vs. landlords in disputes?	What factors would you consider in making sentencing decisions?
DONITA O. SENA Democrat	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

RETENTION: SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

The Supreme Court is the highest court in New Mexico. Most of the cases decided by the New Mexico Supreme Court justices are final appeals from lower state courts. The Supreme Court also has supervisory control over all the lower courts and all attorneys licensed in the state. Initially, Supreme Court justices are either appointed by the Governor or win in a general election. Appointed judges must run in the next general election, so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a general election, all justices face a nonpartisan retention election every eight years. To remain on the Court they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Term: Eight years; no term limits.

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this position?	What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Supreme Court practices and why?	What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?
 David K. Thomson	I have served eight years as Justice on the New Mexico Supreme Court. I just finished a two year term as Chief Justice. I am honored to receive a “Retain” recommendation from the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. I started my judicial career as a trial court judge in the 1st Judicial Court. I served in the House of Delegates for the American Bar Association. I am a member of the American Law Institute. I have developed a rule of law initiative where we travel around the state to conduct oral argument and visit local schools. I have been recognized for my work in judicial education and I teach legal education on a number of topics. I am a native of Santa Fe, NM.	As Chief Justice, I developed on on line portal where the public can see what cases we are considering and how our work compares to our performance measures. Transparency and professionalism were the themes of my tenure. The judiciary should continue to advocate for its independence from the other political branches. The Supreme Court should continue to advance the rule of law and get out to the community to ensure that the citizens of this State understand our role in the democratic system.	Our main job is to decide cases in a timely manner and write decisions that lawyers and non-lawyers can understand. We should continue to make efforts to expand our rule of law program and to make legal assistance affordable and accessible for all New Mexicans. For citizens to trust their government they must trust that the Supreme Court is an independent and unbiased institution.

RETENTION: SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

The Supreme Court is the highest court in New Mexico. Most of the cases decided by the New Mexico Supreme Court justices are final appeals from lower state courts. The Supreme Court also has supervisory control over all the lower courts and all attorneys licensed in the state. Initially, Supreme Court justices are either appointed by the Governor or win in a general election. Appointed judges must run in the next general election, so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a general election, all justices face a nonpartisan retention election every eight years. To remain on the Court they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Term: Eight years; no term limits.

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this position?	What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Supreme Court practices and why?	What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?
 Shannon Bacon	I have been serving New Mexico as a judge for over 16 years. I bring that experience and my passion for the rule of law to my work everyday. I am also a leader locally and nationally on issues that state courts must address: access to the courts, rural justice, artificial intelligence, and legal education and licensing reform.	The Court has moved to a new calendar system that requires the justices to file all opinions heard in a term (September to July) by July 15. Continuing to refine and expand this process is important because timely deciding our cases provides stability and predictability for the judicial system and the community.	The continuing challenge for the Supreme Court and the judiciary as a whole is addressing access to justice -- providing legal representation for those who cannot afford it. Improving how New Mexicans can effectively and affordably access the courts is a constant need.

RETENTION: COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE POSITION 1

The great majority of cases heard by Court of Appeals judges are appeals of lower court rulings, since the New Mexico Court of Appeals sits between the state district courts and the New Mexico Supreme Court. Initially, Court of Appeals judges are either appointed by the governor or win in a general election. Appointed judges must run in the next general election, so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a general election, all Court of Appeals judges face a nonpartisan retention election every eight years. To remain on the Court they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Term: Eight years; no term limits.

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this position?	What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Court of Appeals practices and why?	What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?
 J. Miles Hanisee	It has been my honor to serve New Mexicans as one of ten judges on the Court of Appeals for more than 15 years. In that time, I've been elected twice, authored over 1000 cases on behalf of our court, and served as a judge on thousands more. I am grateful that the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission recommends that I be retained for another term, and strive every day to efficiently and swiftly resolve disputes of critical importance to people, families, and businesses throughout our state. Upholding individual rights, ensuring adherence to the constitution and laws of New Mexico, and resolving appeals without preference or bias are the hallmarks of judicial service, to which I faithfully adhere.	The New Mexico Court of Appeals resolves nearly 1000 cases a year, ranging from criminal to civil to administrative, affecting numerous people, communities, the environment and our state's precious natural resources. Finding a way to speed up complicated appellate processes, while providing litigants an appropriate amount of time to develop and present their cases, is always a challenge. I support modernizing rules related to notices of appeal, docketing statements (preliminarily identifying issues on appeal), and the provision of trial court records to appellate courts in order to more quickly render cases capable of resolution by our court.	Simplifying court processes to emphasize access to justice, providing an environment that is even more open and transparent and explanatory, adjusting to changes in technology and the use of artificial intelligence, supplying answers that are readable and able to be understood by any member of the public, and not just lawyers, are areas in which all courts—including ours—can improve. We as a court of ten judges, assisted by our staff attorneys and law clerks and paralegals and administrative professionals, are committed to bettering ourselves and our court in the months and years to come, recognizing the critical and evolving role of the judiciary in New Mexico.

RETENTION: FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGE DIVISION 1

State District Court judges hear many types of cases, both civil and criminal. Their civil cases include private injury lawsuits, contracts, real estate, family law, and some mental health and election-related issues. The criminal cases they hear include felony and more serious misdemeanor matters. Initially, District Court judges are either appointed by the governor or win in a general election. Appointed judges must run in the next general election so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a general election, all District Court judges face a nonpartisan retention election every six years. To remain on the Court they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Term: Six years; no term limits.

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this position?	In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how have you helped improve the operations of the District Court?	What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?	What other information would you like the voters to know about you?
Francis J. Mathew	I have served in this office since February 2013. After being recommended by a bipartisan selection committee, I was appointed to this position by the then Governor and was elected in a general election in 2014. I was retained in this office by a vote for my retention in the general election of 2020. As a lawyer, I represented individuals, local business entities, national companies, banking institutions, debtors, creditors, plaintiffs and defendants. I have experienced litigation as a party as well as a representative attorney. I have participated in the community as a board member on non-profits and advisory school boards. I believe these experiences have given me perspective, empathy, patience needed to serve in this office.	I have served on various statewide committees and in this District, including the Statewide Judicial Budget committees which reviews and analyzes the budgets of every judicial district, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court and then makes recommendations used by the Supreme Court and the Legislature in setting the Statewide Judicial Budget. In addition, I serve as the presiding judge for this Court's Treatment Court program dealing with criminal defendants' mental health and addiction issues.	The Judiciary relies on the Legislature for funding of its operations and programs and the Governor's approval of that funding. As long as the Judiciary has this dependence, it will be susceptible to political influence. In addition, without deciding whether it is a good or bad process, each judge and justice must go through at least one general contested election and then go through general uncontested retention elections. This process is inherently political, and candidates and judges remain susceptible to political influence under this system. Providing the judiciary with funding in a way that is not dependent on a political system by way of legislative grant and subject to a gubernatorial veto would assist this process.	I graduated from law school and commenced practicing in Santa Fe in 1979. I started my law practice in a general practice law firm handling probates, landlord tenant disputes, commercial transactions, commercial disputes, banking issues, property law issues, including property transactions and disputes, domestic relations matters dealing with divorces and custody disputes and a limited amount of criminal law. In 2003, I opened my own law firm and practiced as a sole practitioner handling the same types of matters and cases and in 2006, I served as the Probate Judge for Santa Fe County. I have raised my family in Santa Fe, served on community boards and continuously served the people of this Judicial District.

RETENTION: FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGE DIVISION 7

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this position?	In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how have you helped improve the operations of the District Court?	What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?	What other information would you like the voters to know about you?
T. Glenn Ellington	I have served as a district judge in the first judicial district for 18 years. During that time I have presided over thousands of criminal ,civil ,family, and children's court cases. In addition to my tenure on the district court bench,I have also served as a Judge on the New Mexico Court of Appeals, Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Department of Taxation and Revenue and Chief Public Defender for the state of New Mexico. I also have 14 years of experience as a trial attorney both in the public and private sector.	Over the years I have sat on multiple committees tasked with improving and modernizing daily practices beginning in the 1990s when we worked from paper files to the present day when we conduct multiple remote hearings and have a completely digital filing system.	Recognition that the judiciary is an independent and coequal branch of government.	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

RETENTION: FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGE DIVISION 10

State District Court judges hear many types of cases, both civil and criminal. Their civil cases include private injury lawsuits, contracts, real estate, family law, and some mental health and election-related issues. The criminal cases they hear include felony and more serious misdemeanor matters. Initially, District Court judges are either appointed by the governor or win in a general election. Appointed judges must run in the next general election so that others can run against them for the same office. After winning in a general election, all District Court judges face a nonpartisan retention election every six years. To remain on the Court they must receive at least 57% of the vote in a retention election. Term: Six years; no term limits.

The League asked:	What qualifies you for this position?	In addition to hearing and deciding cases, how have you helped improve the operations of the District Court?	What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?	What other information would you like the voters to know about you?
 Kathleen McGarry Ellenwood	I practiced law for 33 years before I took the bench; in these last 6 years, I have had the opportunity to preside over all types of civil cases and work with litigants, represented or not, and reach resolutions in cases that are important to them and their lives. Those experiences will serve me well going forward, if the citizens of this Judicial District chose to retain me.	I try to encourage the employees to ask questions about cases that are before me to help them understand the issues. We all benefit from having employees feel challenged by their jobs and feeling that they are making a difference in the process. We now have 11 judges in our district and I do what I can to make sure a new judge feels welcome and to answer questions they may have. We are lucky to have many of the resources we have in the First Judicial Court. Our Family Court Services, Pretrial Services and Treatment Court provide options here that many of the courts around the state do not have.	Many policies are all ready in place, there are Judicial Standards that all judges must follow and that guide us in what is appropriate and what is not. In New Mexico, the use of retention elections help to keep political influence at at minimum, letting the people decide whether to keep a judge, or not. Due to restrictions, judges do not do a lot of campaigning which is good and bad. Good, because it helps limit the political influencers, but bad because it is hard for the voting public to find out a lot of information on judicial candidates.	My hope is that any person that comes into my courtroom will feel that they had a fair opportunity to present their case, win or lose. I believe strongly in the rights that the Constitutions of New Mexico and the United States provide and try my best to interpret the laws passed by the Legislature. When not on the bench, or working on cases, I like to ride my bike and play with our two Australian Cattle dogs. We have such diverse communities in the First Judicial District, getting out and enjoying the land and the people help me understand better the people whose cases come before me.

SANTA FE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

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

The League asked:	Describe the qualifications and experience that have prepared you for the office of County Commissioner.	What are the biggest challenges the county faces and how will you address them?	How will you balance community concerns with the demand for new development?	How will you help the county prepare for and respond to natural disasters such as catastrophic flooding and wildfires?
 HENRY ROYBAL Democrat Henryroybal.com	I am a lifelong resident of District 1, I bring proven leadership and deep community roots, with my family in the Pojoaque Valley for 13 generations. I previously served eight years as County Commissioner, including six years as chair and vice chair. Known for being responsive and collaborative, I delivered key projects such as the Pojoaque Valley Sports Complex, senior center renovations, rural fire station upgrades, broadband expansion, and trail development. I have served on regional boards, including the New Mexico Association of Counties and Workforce Development Board. With a background in civil design and capital project management, I combine hands-on expertise with a lifelong commitment to public service.	The biggest challenges facing our community include housing affordability, access to health care and essential services, infrastructure maintenance, public safety, and issues related to homelessness and mental health. The County has made progress through developer assistance programs, new construction, and support for renters and homeowners. Projects such as Nueva Acequia, Turquoise Trail, and Cresta Ranch are positive steps. However, we must also pursue policy reform, better land use, and stronger partnerships. Inclusionary zoning benefits should be increased, and we must expand wraparound, supportive, and integrated care services to address root causes and better serve residents.	First and foremost, we must prioritize clear communication with constituents by engaging communities early and often, ensuring transparency throughout every stage of decision making. Residents should be treated as partners in the process, with their concerns heard and respected, while preserving the unique character of each community. The County must take a proactive approach to outreach, involving the public before and throughout projects. This ensures that decisions reflect community needs, build trust, and identify opportunities that benefit both current residents and future growth.	The County should improve coordination and communication among county, federal, state, and tribal agencies as a top priority for hazard mitigation. We must move from static plans to active preparedness, with regular review, training, and updates. Just as important is involving our communities in the planning process through clear, consistent communication. When residents are informed and engaged, we are better prepared together to respond to emergencies and protect our communities.

SANTA FE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

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

The League asked:	Describe the qualifications and experience that have prepared you for the office of County Commissioner.	What are the biggest challenges the county faces and how will you address them?	How will you balance community concerns with the demand for new development?	How will you help the county prepare for and respond to natural disasters such as catastrophic flooding and wildfires?
 CAMILLA M. BUSTAMANTE Democrat	With 25+ years in education, training, and community advancement, I bring leadership in regional planning, program development, and resilience. My work focuses on improving quality of life in New Mexico through education, public health, and sustainable economic development. I've served as an academic dean, project coordinator, team leader, regulatory manager, and educator, managing academic, state, and federal programs. My environmental health experience includes emergency response roles during the Cerro Grande Fire and Hurricane Katrina, and hazard mitigation at Los Alamos. I hold a Ph.D. in Health Education, an MPH, and advanced training in risk communication, and remain committed to community-based, sustainable solutions.	Santa Fe County faces interconnected challenges: affordable housing and rising wildfire and flood risk. With experience in hazard mitigation, program development, and regional planning, I take a coordinated, practical, community-centered approach. I will advance workforce housing by aligning partners, leveraging funding, and moving projects to completion. At the same time, I will guide growth away from high-risk areas and invest in mitigation, including defensible space, watershed restoration, and flood control. Clear communication and collaboration are essential. By combining smart investment, planning, and engagement, I will help ensure Santa Fe County remains affordable, safe, and resilient.	Balancing growth and overdevelopment in Santa Fe County starts with one principle: growth must follow water. Every development decision is a water decision. I will require verified, long-term water supply using the best data and climate projections. I support exploring an independent unified water authority to align planning and policy. Growth should focus where infrastructure exists, with an emphasis on infill over expansion into uncertain areas. Development must include conservation measures and support watershed protection. By improving transparency and public engagement, we can ensure growth reflects both community values and water limits.	Preparing for disasters like wildfires and floods requires planning, coordination, and trust. With experience in hazard mitigation, program development and regional planning, I take a proactive approach. I will work to align emergency management, land use, and investment to reduce risk, not just respond. I bring expertise in managing public funds and leveraging state and federal resources for mitigation, including forest thinning, watershed restoration, and infrastructure. Using data and local knowledge, I will guide smarter decisions. As an educator, I prioritize clear communication and preparedness. Through collaboration, we can strengthen resilience, improve response, and support recovery.

SANTA FE COUNTY SHERIFF

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

The League asked:	What actions would you take to strengthen the County Sheriff office's relationship with the community?	What would be your approach to enforcing extreme risk protection orders (ERPO) that prevent certain individuals from possessing guns?	Should the race for County Sheriff be partisan (by political party) or nonpartisan? Please explain your position.	What policies can be put in place to hold the County Sheriff's office accountable to the community?
 PAUL MICHAEL JOYE Democrat paulforsheriff.com	As Sheriff, I am accountable in how our agency serves and the results we deliver to the public. During my time as Chief, I participated in numerous townhalls and neighborhood meetings to listen, present data, and discuss ways we could work together with community members to serve our neighborhoods. Also, one of my priorities was to expand our Police Community Relations (PCR) Unit. This allowed us to host more community events, get continuous feedback on what is happening in our neighborhoods, and help with recruitment efforts. We also publicly posted our monthly data, including our overall call volume, proactive activity, arrests, and citations. These are a few of the initiatives that I would bring with me to the Sheriff's Office.	I fully support ERPO and believe it is a positive step for the safety of our citizens as well as responsible gun ownership. As Sheriff, I would ensure the agency's policy regarding ERPO has been updated to include the 2025 updates to the act, and make sure the department's training is up to date and reflects the policy. Part of that training would be to ensure that our deputies are able to recognize situations in which ERPO would apply, and to know what steps to take in order to move the process forward. Next, I would work with our media partners and advocacy groups to inform the public on what ERPO is, how it helps to protect the community, and how it goes hand-in-hand with responsible gun ownership.	As a law enforcement leader, the decisions made and policies created should be based on the needs and expectations of the community and the agency, regardless of political influence. However, political beliefs do have a role in shaping how a sheriff may choose to approach public safety and law enforcement. As an elected official, the Sheriff's political beliefs should be reflective of the community they serve. I support a race open to all political affiliations, but I believe the political leanings of the candidates should be known to the public.	There are several policies related to professionalism, conduct, and behavior that can be implemented to increase accountability, but being truly accountable to the community is more than just having policies in place. Being accountable to the public also means being accessible to the public. As Chief, one of the things we did at SFPD, was put our policies online for everyone to see. We also made the community complaint process easier, by having an online link that the community can access that sends the complaint directly to the Chief and Internal Affairs for investigation. I would bring these initiatives to the County. Accountability and professionalism should be part of the culture of the agency, and that culture begins at the top.

SANTA FE COUNTY ASSESSOR

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

The League asked:	Describe the qualifications and experience that have prepared you to be the County Assessor.	Why do you want to serve as County Assessor?	How do you plan to ensure fairness and transparency in property valuations?	What training will you seek to educate your staff in the technical, legal and administrative aspects of property valuation and taxation?
 IVAN BARRY Democrat ivanforassessor.com	I have over 20 years of experience in local government, including nearly a decade serving in the Santa Fe County Assessor's Office. Currently, I serve as Chief Deputy Assessor, where I've gained extensive, hands-on knowledge of property valuation and the assessment process. I am a New Mexico Certified Appraiser and serve as Chair of the New Mexico Counties Assessors Affiliate. I am also a member of the Professional Recruitment Task Force with the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO). In addition to my administrative and leadership roles, I teach courses within the New Mexico EDGE program, helping train and develop the next generation of assessors in New Mexico.	I want to serve as the next Santa Fe County Assessor because I understand what it takes to do the job effectively. I have a deep passion for this community and I am committed to ensuring the fair and equitable valuation of all property across Santa Fe County. Through my experience, I've learned the importance of listening to the concerns of the public and responding with transparency and integrity. I am dedicated to applying New Mexico state statutes and industry best practices in a way that is both accurate and fair. As someone born and raised in Santa Fe, I care deeply about this community and am committed to doing what's right for the people.	I will ensure fairness and transparency by consistently applying, and overseeing the application of the accepted approaches to value. I am committed to continuing strong investment in staff development by providing ongoing training and educational opportunities so our team stays current with the latest appraisal techniques and standards. Equally important, I will expand public outreach to help build trust in our valuation process. This includes educating taxpayers on New Mexico's available benefits and exemptions, as well as clearly guiding them through the protest process so they feel informed, supported, and heard.	With my experience in the Assessor's Office and involvement at the state and national level, I understand the importance of ongoing training. I will prioritize educational development through IAAO and the New Mexico EDGE program to keep staff current on appraisal methods, legal information and updates, and data analysis. I will also ensure regular training on New Mexico statutes and legal updates so assessments are applied consistently. Administratively, I will focus on leadership, efficiency, and customer service. My goal is a professional team that delivers accurate valuations, and excellent customer service that earns public trust.



SANTA FE COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

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

The League asked:	Describe the specific legal training and experience that have prepared you for the office of Probate Judge.	What changes, if any, would you make to how the Probate Court functions?	How can probate judges be more involved in educating the public about the probate process?	What other information would you like voters to know about you?
 AMI S. JAEGER Democrat bio-law.com	I have a JD and MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, BBA-Finance from the University of Iowa, certificate in Bioethics from Georgetown University, certificate in Mediation from University of New Mexico. I was Chief Analyst for NM House Judiciary Committee and Majority Lead Analyst for the NM Senate. I have 4 decades of experience in law practice, including estate planning, end of life care and planning, and probate. I was Chair of the NM State Bar Elder Law Section Board. In addition to my education and legal experience, I have experience helping people navigate the legal process of legacy planning and probate.	I would modernize the probate process to allow electronic communication and filing in alignment with court rules, and other New Mexico probate courts' procedures. This allows families, including those that do not live close by, greater access and ease interacting with the Probate Court. It also meets expectations of families to have regular communication to keep the probate process moving. Finally, use of e-communication increases access because families are not limited to Probate Court hours, and better supports people as they fit probate steps into their busy lives.	Families look to Probate Judges to show them the steps to complete probate. Organizations assisting individuals and families at end of life need information and education from Probate Judges. That includes attorneys, paralegals, hospice agencies and caregivers, home health care agencies, funeral homes, realtors, financial planners, assisted living and nursing homes. As Probate Judge, I would host regular meet-ups to review the probate process and answer questions, with a goal to provide peace of mind to persons that are anticipating the passing of a loved one. I would also host meet-ups at community venues to discuss how to plan for probate and what to expect during the probate process.	If elected Probate Judge, I will make the probate process more accessible, understandable and responsive. I am deeply attached and committed to Santa Fe community. I will treat people respectfully and fairly, and serve as an ethical and honest Judge. I want people to feel that they are not alone, dealing with a faceless bureaucracy. I will strive to explain the process and outline the steps, to make probate as easy as possible for grieving families. Being Probate Judge is more than just giving them answers on the statutory process: it means giving them a process to express their grief and heal. I will also gladly celebrate with New Mexicans, and be available to officiate at weddings.

NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1

Proposing an amendment to Article 4, Section 22 of the Constitution of New Mexico to require the governor to provide veto messages on all bills vetoed in whole or in part and to provide that all bills passed by the legislature and not acted on by the governor will become law.
Enmienda Constitucional 1: Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 4, Sección 22, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para requerir que el gobernador que presente mensajes de veto sobre todos los proyectos de ley vetados total o parcialmente, y para establecer que todos los proyectos de ley aprobados por la Legislatura sobre los cuales el gobernador no actúe se conviertan en ley.
Explanation: This proposed amendment would remove the “pocket veto.” The pocket veto occurs when the governor does not sign a bill that was passed during the last three days of the legislative session, stopping the bill from becoming law. Under the proposed amendment, a bill sent to the governor during the last three days of the session would automatically become law unless the governor vetoes the bill within 20 days after the legislature’s adjournment. Also, the governor would be required to provide a written, substantive explanation for any veto.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2

Proposing to amend Article 7, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico to remove the requirement that school elections be separate from partisan elections.
Enmienda Constitucional 2: Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 7, Sección 1, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para eliminar el requisito de que las elecciones escolares sean separadas de las elecciones partidistas.

Explanation: This amendment would allow school districts the option to add bond and mill levy questions to ballots in a partisan election, such as the regular general election. It would also give the legislature the authority to allow local school board elections to be held during the same election cycle as partisan elections.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 3

Proposing an amendment to Article 12, section 13 of the Constitution of New Mexico to establish nominating committees to provide lists of nominees to the governor for appointment of nonstudent members to the boards of regents of state educational institutions; providing that student members of boards of regents shall be appointed from a list provided by an elected student governing body of the institution; providing that, except for a student member, members of the boards of regents shall not have changed their political party registration in the twelve months preceding appointment.
Enmienda Constitucional 3: Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 12, Sección 13, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para establecer comités de nominación que proporcionen listas de nominados al gobernador para el nombramiento de miembros no estudiantiles de las juntas de regentes de las instituciones educativas estatales; disponiendo que los miembros estudiantiles de las juntas de regentes serán nombrados de una lista proporcionada por un órgano de gobierno estudiantil electo de la institución; disponiendo que, con excepción de un miembro estudiantil, los miembros de las juntas de regentes no hayan cambiado su registro de partido político durante los seis meses anteriores a su nombramiento.
Explanation: A board of regents governs each of the ten state educational institutions. Currently, the regents for each of these institutions are

appointed by the governor and approved by the Senate. The amendment would require the governor to appoint regents from a list of candidates selected by a nonpartisan nominating committee established by the legislature; and student regents from a list provided by each institution’s student government, not the institution’s president. And disqualify any non-student regents if they changed political party registration in the 12 months before being appointed.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 4

Proposing to amend Article 4, Section 10 of the Constitution of New Mexico to allow legislative compensation that is limited to the median household income for New Mexico, to require legislative compensation to be reduced if the median household income for New Mexico falls, to allow legislative compensation to be increased only if the median household income for New Mexico rises and to provide for delayed implementation.
Enmienda Constitucional 4: Proponiendo una enmienda al Artículo 4, Sección 10, de la Constitución de Nuevo México para permitir una compensación legislativa limitada al ingreso familiar mediano de Nuevo México; requerir que la compensación legislativa se reduzca si el ingreso familiar mediano de Nuevo México disminuye; permitir que la compensación legislativa aumente únicamente si el ingreso familiar mediano de Nuevo México aumenta; y disponiendo una implementación diferida.
Explanation: Currently, New Mexico state senators and representatives only receive daily limited compensation for mileage and per diem for meals and lodging. This amendment would allow legislators to receive a salary equal to the median household income for New Mexico, currently approximately \$68,000. This amount could be adjusted by the legislature in the future. The amendment would go into effect in January 2029.

NEW MEXICO GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Governments issue bonds to finance capital improvement projects. These bonds must be approved by the voters because they are funded by taxes. The bonds must be spent on capital (bricks and mortar) projects or equipment, not on daily operations or maintenance. Because old bonds are usually retired as new bonds are approved, the tax rate remains the same. Taxes may increase however if the property value assessment increases.

BOND QUESTION 1: The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed twenty-one million five hundred eighty-two thousand two hundred thirteen dollars (\$21,582,213) to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition projects and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?
Pregunta de Bono 1: El Acta de Bonos de Obligación General para Proyectos de Capital de 2026 autoriza la emisión y venta de bonos para el mejoramiento, la construcción y la adquisición de equipo para instalaciones para adultos mayores. ¿Deberá autorizarse al estado a emitir bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no exceda de veintún millones quinientos ochenta y dos mil doscientos trece dólares (\$21,582,213) para realizar gastos de capital para ciertos proyectos de mejoramiento, construcción y adquisición de equipo para instalaciones para adultos mayores, y disponer la imposición y recaudación de un impuesto general sobre la propiedad para el pago del capital, los intereses y los gastos incurridos en relación con la emisión de los bonos y la recaudación del impuesto según lo permitido por la ley?

BOND QUESTION 2: The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of library acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed nineteen million three hundred twenty-four thousand one hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$19,324,188) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, public and tribal library resource acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?
Pregunta de Bono 2: El Acta de Bonos de Obligación General para Proyectos de Capital de 2026 autoriza la emisión y venta de bonos para adquisiciones para bibliotecas. ¿Deberá autorizarse al estado a emitir bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no exceda de diecinueve millones trescientos veinticuatro mil ciento ochenta y ocho dólares (\$19,324,188) para realizar gastos de capital para adquisiciones de recursos para bibliotecas académicas, bibliotecas de escuelas públicas, bibliotecas públicas y bibliotecas tribales, y disponer la imposición y recaudación de un impuesto general sobre la propiedad para el pago del capital, los intereses y los gastos incurridos en relación con la emisión de los bonos y la recaudación del impuesto según lo permitido por la ley?

BOND QUESTION 3: The 2026 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed three hundred fifty-two million two hundred twenty five thousand three hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$352,225,379) to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?
Pregunta de Bono 3: El Acta de Bonos de Obligación General para Proyectos de Capital de 2026 autoriza la emisión y venta de bonos para mejoras de capital y adquisiciones para la educación superior, las escuelas especiales y las escuelas tribales. ¿Deberá autorizarse al estado a emitir bonos de obligación general por una cantidad que no exceda de trescientos cincuenta y dos millones doscientos veinticinco mil trescientos setenta y nueve dólares (\$352,225,379) para realizar gastos de capital para ciertas mejoras de capital y adquisiciones para la educación superior, escuelas especiales y escuelas tribales, y disponer la imposición y recaudación de un impuesto general sobre la propiedad para el pago del capital, los intereses y los gastos incurridos en relación con la emisión de los bonos y la recaudación del impuesto según lo permitido por la ley?

SANTA FE COUNTY
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND QUESTION 1: Shall Santa Fe County issue up to \$14,035,000 in general obligation bonds payable from general (ad valorem) taxes to acquire, construct, design, equip, and improve roads within the County?
PREGUNTA SOBRE BONOS DE OBLIGACIÓN GENERAL 1: ¿Deberá el Condado de Santa Fe emitir hasta \$14,035,000 en bonos de obligación general pagaderos con impuestos generales (ad valorem) para adquirir, construir, diseñar, equipar, y mejorar carreteras dentro del Condado?
GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND QUESTION 2: Shall Santa Fe County issue up to \$6,500,000 in general obligation bonds payable from general (ad valorem) taxes to acquire real property and necessary water rights for, and to construct, design, equip, rehabilitate, and improve water and wastewater projects within the County?
PREGUNTA SOBRE BONOS DE OBLIGACIÓN GENERAL 2: ¿Deberá el Condado de Santa Fe emitir hasta \$6,500,000 en bonos de obligación general pagaderos con impuestos generales (ad valorem) para adquirir bienes inmuebles y los derechos de agua necesarios para, y para construir, diseñar, equipar, rehabilitar, y mejorar proyectos de agua y aguas residuales dentro del Condado?

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND QUESTION 3: Shall Santa Fe County issue up to \$7,010,000 in general obligation bonds payable from general (ad valorem) taxes to acquire, design, construct, improve, equip, and restore open space, trails, and parks within the County?
PREGUNTA SOBRE BONOS DE OBLIGACIÓN GENERAL 3: ¿Deberá el Condado de Santa Fe emitir hasta \$7,010,000 en bonos de obligación general pagaderos con impuestos generales (ad valorem) para adquirir, diseñar, construir, mejorar, equipar, y restaurar espacios abiertos, senderos, y parques dentro del Condado?

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND QUESTION 4: Shall Santa Fe County issue up to \$17,455,000 in general obligation bonds payable from general (ad valorem) taxes to acquire real property for, and to construct, design, equip, rehabilitate, and improve fire stations within the County?
PREGUNTA SOBRE BONOS DE OBLIGACIÓN GENERAL 4: Deberá el Condado de Santa Fe emitir hasta \$17,455,000 en bonos de obligación general pagaderos con impuestos generales (ad valorem) para adquirir bienes inmuebles para, y construir, diseñar, equipar, rehabilitar, y mejorar estaciones de bomberos dentro del Condado?

CITY OF SANTA FE
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

GENERAL OBLIGATION STREET, SIDEWALK, AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESSIBILITY BONDS: Shall the City of Santa Fe issue up to \$11,250,000 in general obligation bonds, to be repaid from property taxes, to plan, design, construct, equip, reconstruct, rehabilitate, preserve, repair, replace, and improve streets, sidewalks, curb ramps, pedestrian routes, and related infrastructure within the City?
BONOS DE OBLIGACIÓN GENERAL PARA CALLES, ACERAS Y ACCESIBILIDAD PEATONAL: ¿Deberá la Ciudad de Santa Fe emitir hasta \$11,250,000 en bonos de obligación general, a ser reembolsados con impuestos sobre la propiedad, para planificar, diseñar, construir, equipar, reconstruir, rehabilitar, preservar, reparar, reemplazar y mejorar calles, aceras, rampas de bordillo, rutas peatonales e infraestructura relacionada dentro de la Ciudad? [SÍ/NO]

GENERAL OBLIGATION MUNICIPAL RECREATION COMPLEX SOCCER VALLEY BONDS: Shall the City of Santa Fe issue up to \$4,500,000 in general obligation bonds, to be repaid from property taxes, to plan, design, construct, equip, furnish, improve, and expand athletic fields and related public recreational facilities and infrastructure at the Municipal Recreation Complex Soccer Valley?
BONOS DE OBLIGACIÓN GENERAL PARA EL COMPLEJO RECREATIVO MUNICIPAL SOCCER VALLEY: ¿Deberá la Ciudad de Santa Fe emitir hasta \$4,500,000 en bonos de obligación general, a ser reembolsados con impuestos sobre la propiedad, para planificar, diseñar, preparar, demoler, construir, equipar, amueblar y ampliar campos deportivos e instalaciones e infraestructura pública recreativa relacionada en el Complejo Recreativo Municipal Soccer Valley?

GENERAL OBLIGATION SWAN PARK IMPROVEMENT BONDS: Shall the City of Santa Fe issue up to \$4,250,000 in general obligation bonds, to be repaid from property taxes, to plan, design, construct, equip, furnish, and improve a splash pad and related public recreational facilities and infrastructure at SWAN Park?
BONOS DE OBLIGACIÓN GENERAL PARA MEJORAS DEL PARQUE SWAN (SWAN PARK): ¿Deberá la Ciudad de Santa Fe emitir hasta \$4,250,000 en bonos de obligación general, a ser reembolsados con impuestos sobre la propiedad, para planificar, diseñar, preparar, demoler, construir, reconstruir, renovar, equipar, amueblar, administrar y mejorar instalaciones públicas, infraestructura, espacios públicos y otros bienes propiedad de la Ciudad ubicados en el área de Midtown?

GENERAL OBLIGATION MIDTOWN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS: Shall the City of Santa Fe issue up to \$5,000,000 in general obligation bonds, to be repaid from property taxes, to plan, design, prepare, demolish, construct, reconstruct, renovate, equip, furnish, manage, and improve public facilities, infrastructure, public spaces, and other City-owned assets at the Midtown property?
BONOS DE OBLIGACIÓN GENERAL PARA MEJORAS DE CAPITAL EN MIDTOWN: ¿Deberá la Ciudad de Santa Fe emitir hasta \$5,000,000 en bonos de obligación general, a ser reembolsados con impuestos sobre la propiedad, para planificar, diseñar, preparar, demoler, construir, reconstruir, renovar, equipar, amueblar, administrar y mejorar instalaciones públicas, infraestructura, espacios públicos y otros bienes propiedad de la Ciudad ubicados en el área de Midtown?



FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ON
VOTING IN THE
NOV. 3 GENERAL
ELECTION, GO TO:

Vote411.org: Expanded Voter guide
and general voting information
LWVSFC.org: Link to Voter Guide
and other voting information
LWV Santa Fe County Help Line:
505-982-9766

