

VOTE 2026

SEMI-OPEN PRIMARY RULES

REGISTERED VOTERS

Voters registered as Democrats or Republicans will see no change.

Voters registered as Decline to State (DTS), Independent (IND) or with a nonofficial party simply request either the Democratic or Republican ballot to vote in the Primary election. This applies to both in-person and absentee voting.

Voters registered as a Green or Libertarian can use same-day voter registration to change their registration to Democrat, Republican, IND or DTS.

UNREGISTERED VOTERS

Unregistered voters can also use same-day voter registration to register and vote in the Primary Election.

When registering they can register as a Democrat, Republican, IND or DTS.

NOTE: Voters registered as Democrats or Republicans cannot use same-day voter registration to switch to the other party.

VOTANTES REGISTRADOS

REGISTERED VOTERS

Los votantes registrados como Demócratas o Republicanos no verán ningún cambio.

Los votantes registrados como Sin Afiliación Partidista (DTS), Independientes (IND) o con un partido no oficial simplemente pueden solicitar la boleta Demócrata o Republicana para votar en la Elección Primaria. Esto aplica tanto para la votación en persona como por correo.

Los votantes registrados como del Partido Verde o Partido Libertario pueden usar el Registro el Mismo Día para cambiar su afiliación a Demócrata, Republicano, Independiente o Sin Afiliación (DTS).

VOTANTES NO REGISTRADOS

Los votantes no registrados también pueden usar el Registro el Mismo Día para registrarse y votar en la Elección Primaria. Al registrarse, pueden hacerlo como Demócratas, Republicanos, Independientes o Sin Afiliación.

NOTA: Los votantes registrados como Demócratas o Republicanos no pueden usar el Registro el Mismo Día para cambiarse al otro partido.

ITU VOTO CUENTA EN TODAS LAS ELECCIONES, ES IMPORTANTE!

El 2 de junio de 2026 en la Elecciones Primarias 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 registrando yendo al sitio web de SantaFe.vote.

Puedes empadronarte y votar hasta el día mismo de las elecciones, el 2 de junio.

PARA VOTAR TEMPRANO (antes del 2 de junio):

Opción 1. Solicita tu boleta para votar por correo antes del 19 de mayo en SantaFe.vote. Las boletas enviadas por correo a partir del 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 241 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) de 5 de mayo a 30 de mayo. 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. 16 de mayo al 30 de mayo.

Por favor cheque la lista de ubicaciones.

PARA VOTAR EL 2 DE JUNIO DÍA DE 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.

EARLY VOTING SITES/SITIOS PARA VOTAR TEMPRANO

(drop boxes at Early Voting Sites)/(buzones especiales para votar en los Sitios de Votación Temprana)

May 16 to May 30 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays

16 de mayo al 30 de mayo de 11 a.m. a 7 p.m. (de martes a viernes) y de 10 a.m. a 6 p.m. (sábados)

Santa Cruz

Abedon Lopez Community Center, 155A Camino De Quintana

Santa Fe

Nancy Rodriguez Community Center, 1 Prairie Dog Loop

Christian Life Church, 121 Siringo Road

Santa Fe County Fair Building, 3229 Rodeo Road

Southside Branch Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive

Eldorado

Max Coll Corridor Community Center, 16 Avenida Torreon

Edgewood

Town of Edgewood Administrative Office Fire station, 70 1 Municipal Way

Pojoaque

Satellite Office, 5 W. Gutierrez, Ste. 9

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

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

Santa Fe

Santa Fe Convention Center, 119 S. Federal Street.

Nancy Rodriguez Center, 1 Prairie Dog Loop

La Cienega Community Center, 136 Camino San Jose

Southside Branch Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive

Santa Fe County Fairgrounds, 3229 Rodeo Road

Edgewood

SFC Edgewood Satellite Office, 114 Quail Trail

Eldorado

Max Coll Community Center, 16 Avenida Torreon

Pojoaque

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

YOUR VOTE MATTERS IN EVERY ELECTION!

The June 2, 2026 Primary Election will decide who represents you. The candidate information in this Voter Guide was obtained by means of a questionnaire sent to all the candidates. Their unedited responses have been printed exactly as submitted — up to the word limit for each response.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan 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 by going to SantaFe.vote.

You can do same day registration and vote up to and including Election Day, June 2.

TO VOTE EARLY (before June 2):

Option 1. Request an Absentee Ballot before May 19 at SantaFe.vote. Ballots mailed starting the second week in May; return in drop boxes (See list of locations) or mail to County Clerk's Office at 240 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe 87501.

Option 2. Same-day registration and early in-person voting at the County Clerk's Office (240 Grant Avenue) May 5 to May 30. For hours go to SantaFe.vote.

Option 3. Alternative Voting Sites — same-day registration and early voting May 16 to May 30. For list of locations go to SantaFe.vote.

TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY, June 2:

Sample ballot and polling places can be found at SantaFe.vote.

Hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

UNITED STATES SENATOR

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

The League asked:

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

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

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

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



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.

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.

New Mexicans spend their lives paying into Social Security and they deserve to know that the program will be there to support them upon retirement. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, which oversees Social Security programs, I know Social Security benefits are a vital lifeline for retirees and people with disabilities. Social security must be protected from funding cuts and Republican-led efforts to reduce benefits. I'm proud to support the Social Security Fairness Act to fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which currently reduce benefits for certain recipients.

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.



MATT DODSON
Democrat
mattdodsonform.com

In the Senate I will make DREAMERS citizens now and give immigrant citizens the same rights as everyone else. Anyone who has served eighteen months in the US military will be granted citizenship. I will set a pathway to citizenship and eliminate ICE. I will pass a law that codifies what a "speedy and fair trial" (The Constitution of the United States, Amendment VI) means -- to be in front of a judge within two weeks with legal representation. With the current lack of immigration judges and attorneys, this empties the concentration camps of immigrants currently in place.

We need Universal Healthcare now; to include vision, dental, mental health and traditional healing for Native Americans and others. We need to build hospitals and clinics in rural areas. Free college means all the way to an M.D. for doctors, B.S. for nurses and medical assistant programs, etc. We need thousands of healthcare workers at all levels in New Mexico alone. Too many rural clinics cannot keep doctors and have closed because they serve so many low-income people and can't get reimbursed for it. With Universal Healthcare, they will have a definite income stream to stay solvent and retain doctors. I look forward to fighting for you to make these things happen as your next U.S. Senator.

The wealthy stop paying Social Security at \$185,500. I would remove that cap. That alone makes Social Security solvent. The wealthy need to pay 35% on capital gains and other income. The poor pay 15% on every dollar they earn. So should the rich!

I will strengthen and enforce environmental regulations as your next senator. Pollution permits need to take into account existing air and water quality. Any relaxed standards must be re-evaluated for human, animal and plant life. In every way possible I will assist the State of New Mexico to protect our waterways and aquifers. Our State's water belongs to the people and must not be squandered on data centers, missile manufacturers and the like. Fracking waste is not water and must never, never be treated as such.

LARRY E MARKER
(write-in)
Republican

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

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?

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

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

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



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.

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.

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.

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

GOVERNOR

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

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?



DEB HAALAND
Democrat
debhaaland.com

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

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

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

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



SAM BREGMAN
Democrat
bregmanform.com

My top priorities are public safety, education, healthcare, economic opportunity and affordability. On public safety, I'll strengthen our juvenile justice system, hold violent offenders accountable, and invest in treatment and prevention for those who are addicted to drugs. In education, I'll focus on early literacy, set clear standards, and hold schools, parents, teachers and students accountable for results. On healthcare, I'll expand access by recruiting and retaining more doctors and allowing qualified providers to practice in New Mexico, especially in underserved areas. To grow our economy, I'll invest in workforce training, strengthen partnerships between education and employers, and create more opportunities in our burgeoning energy

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

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

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



GREGGORY D. HULL
Republican

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED



DOUG W. TURNER
Republican

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

Water is the lifeblood of New Mexico — for our families, our farmers, and our future. As we face growing demands on limited supplies, we must treat water as a strategic asset and ensure compliance with and enforcement of established water treaties. At the same time, I will prioritize investing in modern infrastructure, reforming water governance, and promoting responsible stewardship of water resources. Expanding and protecting our water supply begins with sound science and data-backed planning that includes assessments on the health of our aquifers, evaluates reservoir capacities, and forecasts future needs.

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

A strong K-12 system is the most effective long-term strategy we have for workforce readiness and crime prevention. Our schools must equip young people with skills, confidence, and a sense of purpose. I will fight to ensure that our public schools focus on the fundamentals like literacy and math, along with the real-world skills necessary for tomorrow's workforce. I will implement meaningful parental choice so every parent can find the right educational fit for their child, and I will insist on accountability for outcomes, ensuring our schools are delivering results for students, not just spending taxpayer money on bloated administrative systems.



DUKE RODRIGUEZ
Republican
runwithduke.com

Institute an attitude of stewardship over New Mexico's budget, resources, and people. Enforce fiscal restraint so that public money actually benefits the people of the state. Eliminate state personal income tax. Eliminate gross receipts tax on retail sales. Manage Medicaid and SNAP sustainably. Invest in public infrastructure like desalination plants. Investigate public corruption so that taxpayer money is not wasted.

Invest in desalination plants. Research water re-use, including of produced water. Take a stronger position in the Colorado River interstate litigation.

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

Allow teachers more latitude to actually teach. Identify high-risk, high-need students who distract from learning objectives. Invest in vocational education. Stabilize the Educational Retirement Board pension fund so that teaching remains an attractive career.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

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?



MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
Democrat
maggietoulouseoliver.com

I am New Mexico's 26th and longest-serving Secretary of State. I have nearly 20 years of experience in county and state-level government, serving as Bernalillo County Clerk for 10 years before being elected to my current role. I have been involved in New Mexico politics since 1994, working for Senator Jeff Bingaman, serving as President of a New Mexico chapter of EMILYs List, and as director of the New Mexico chapter of the League of Conservation Voters. I will be ready on day one to serve with the next Democratic governor of New Mexico as both a trusted advisor and a fighter for bold legislation as President of the Senate in the Roundhouse.

My top priority is lowering the cost of living for our families. Skyrocketing prices are making life even harder for New Mexicans. The current Administration is ripping health care, food assistance, housing security, and energy security away from working people. I will work with the next Democratic governor and the Senate to support legislation that protects earned benefits, closes gaps in federal funding, and taps into New Mexico's wealth to invest in our people. I will support growing universal free childcare and improving public education, protecting women's reproductive freedom, preserving our environment, and combating climate change.

I have cultivated positive working relationships with senators from across New Mexico over decades of work in politics. I will be a Lt. Governor who listens to legislators and keeps an open door. I also support modernizing the Legislature with paid salaries at the median earning level for New Mexicans. This will allow legislators to focus on their work without worrying about financial insecurity, and open the door to serving for more young and working-class New Mexicans. Modernizing the legislature should also allow for more professional staff to assist our legislators with the deluge of bills they receive each session.

The Legislature and the Executive Branch should have an open and positive working relationship, and it is clear that better transparency and trust between them are needed. Throughout my career, I have implemented transparency reforms and focused on good governance in my offices as County Clerk and Secretary of State. We have seen the results in speedier election reporting, more access to voting sites and information, and consistent efforts to communicate clearly with the public. I believe these principles are applicable everywhere, and I plan to utilize them as Lt. Governor.



HAROLD JAMES POPE JR.
Democrat
haroldpope.com

I've spent almost the entirety of my adult life in service, first in the U.S. Air Force for over 20 years, rising from enlisted to officer, leading teams and managing complex programs. Today, as a State Senator, I am fighting for working families, seniors, veterans, students, and our communities, passing legislation to expand education, provide tax relief, support veterans, protect our environment, and strengthen public safety. I serve as Vice Chair of the Education Committee and key committees shaping our state's future. I also bring a strong academic background and am pursuing a Doctorate in Education. Most importantly, I show up, listen, and put people first—answering only to the people of New Mexico, not corporate or special interests.

My top priorities are affordability, education, jobs, & healthcare. I will lower costs by expanding housing & down payment assistance, capping prescription drugs, & targeted tax relief. I will strengthen public education by supporting families, investing in educators, STEAM, trades, & culturally relevant learning. I will grow living-wage jobs through workforce training, apprenticeships, economic incentives, and tech & clean energy investments. I will expand healthcare access thru a public option, including behavioral health, & address provider shortages. We must also improve public safety, protect our environment, & invest in infrastructure. As Lt. Governor, I will partner with communities to deliver localized solutions and real results.

As Vice Chair of the Education Committee, I've learned that an effective Senate depends on preparation, collaboration, and accountability. I come to hearings ready, work across the aisle to resolve issues early, and help keep meetings focused, transparent, and productive. As Lieutenant Governor, I will bring that same approach to presiding over the Senate. I will ensure sessions run efficiently, respect members' time, and uphold a fair and consistent process. I'll work with leadership from both parties to prioritize legislation, reduce bottlenecks, and create space for thoughtful debate without unnecessary delays. Most importantly, I'll lead in a way that is accessible, transparent, and focused on delivering results for the people of NM.

As Lieutenant Governor, I will serve as the people's ombudsman. Someone who shows up, listens, and helps New Mexicans navigate their government. I will create a clear, accessible constituent services process so individuals and small businesses can raise concerns and receive timely responses. My office will track issues, follow up, and ensure accountability. I will also expand communication through community forums, digital outreach, coordination with local leaders, and weekly walk-in office hours. Transparency will be a priority by making agency information more accessible and elevating concerns when they arise. This role is about being a bridge between the people and their government, ensuring every New Mexican is heard and served.

DAVID M. GALLEGOS
Republican

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (CONTINUED)

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?



MANUEL (MANNY) LARDIZABAL
Republican

I hold studies in Criminal Justice from Western New Mexico University, grounding me in the principles of justice, public safety, and ethical leadership. I also completed specialized training through The New Mexico Corrections Department (Penal Law, Juvenile Delinquency, Forensic Science), The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (Corrections Officer and Administrative Training), Leadership and Ministry Programs focusing on Business Leadership, Biblical Studies, and Financial Stewardship. As a private investor and entrepreneur, I understand fiscal responsibility, economic growth, and what it takes to create jobs and opportunity for working families. I also served on the Bernalillo/Albuquerque Retired & Senior Volunteer Program Advisory Council.

1 Public Safety: We face rampant crime, drugs, and violence that threaten our communities. I will achieve this by supporting law enforcement with resources and reforms, cracking down on cartel influence at the border, and implementing tough-on-crime policies like mandatory minimums for repeat offenders. 2 Economic Growth: My plan includes tax cuts for working families and businesses, streamlining permits to attract energy and tech sectors, and promoting entrepreneurship rooted in New Mexico's natural resources. 3 Quality Education: I'll push for school choice, parental rights in curriculum, and accountability measures like performance-based funding, while eliminating radical ideologies to refocus on reading, math, and practical skills.

I will preside over Senate sessions fairly, professionally, and in a nonpartisan manner, maintaining decorum while keeping proceedings moving smoothly. I will collaborate closely with the Senate President Pro Tempore to ensure bills move efficiently through committees, reach the floor promptly, and avoid bottlenecks that delay critical legislation. I will maximize our 30-day regular session by ensuring bills are prefiled, introduced before deadlines, and prioritized appropriately. We must use interim time productively so senators arrive prepared when session begins. I will foster bipartisan cooperation, focusing senators on shared goals—improving education, strengthening our economy, and keeping communities safe.

As Lieutenant Governor, I will make open government and two-way communication a top priority. My approach rests on three core principles: 1. Launch a centralized, user-friendly online portal where New Mexicans can track agency actions, budget allocations, and policy decisions in real time. 2. Hold monthly town halls across all real time of New Mexico—in person and via Zoom—to listen directly to residents' concerns and answer questions about government actions. 3. Ensure all agency advisory board meetings are publicly announced and streamed, with opportunities for public comment. Government should not operate behind closed doors—it should serve with the people, not over them.



AUBREY BLAIR DUNN
Republican
abd4nm.com

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

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

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

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

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?



KATHARINE E. CLARK
Democrat
katharineclark.com

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

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

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

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



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.

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.

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.



RAMONA L. GOOLSBY
Republican
ramonanm.com

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

In this era of rapid technological change, the Secretary of State must be the definitive, non-partisan source of truth. I will modernize the office's communication by ensuring our official website is a user-friendly hub where voters can instantly verify registration and polling data. To address the challenges of AI and social media, I will prioritize professional oversight and clear, consistent communication that empowers voters with facts. I will focus on providing transparent, real-time data that renders misinformation obsolete and work to ensure that state offices do not collaborate with platforms to censor speech. By maintaining an open and accessible record of truth, I will give every New Mexican the tools they need to navigate election (answer exceeded the word limit).

The Secretary of State serves as the "fair referee" and chief elections officer, responsible for ensuring the rules are followed consistently and transparently. To safeguard voter information, the office must maintain clean and accurate voter rolls, removing outdated registrations for those who have moved, died, or become ineligible. This protects the integrity of the system and prevents administrative errors from disenfranchising lawful voters. Ensuring safe and fair elections also requires professional oversight of campaign finance and lobbying laws, enforcing them without political favoritism or activist influence. By prioritizing professionalism over partisanship, the office gives every New Mexican confidence that the election (answer exceeded the word limit).

To increase and protect voter participation, we must focus on access for eligible citizens and restoring confidence in our system. Participation is tied to trust. I will transition from an activist model to a professional, rule-based administration where the Secretary of State acts as a fair referee. I will restore trust by implementing common-sense voter ID and performing regular maintenance of voter rolls. Removing outdated registrations protects the value of every legal vote and prevents administrative errors. When the public has confidence that rules are followed transparently, they are more likely to engage. My goal is to make voting secure and straightforward, ensuring the office serves the people and provides a clear path for every (answer exceeded the word limit).

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



SAMUEL ISAIAH KANE 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?



JOSEPH M. MAESTAS
Democrat
maestas4NM.net

I've devoted my entire life to public service: over 30 years in Federal civil service and over 20 years in elected public service. I served as Chairman of the Public Regulation Commission, Mayor of Espanola and councilman in Espanola and Santa Fe. I'm also a licensed professional engineer. As State Auditor, I hold public entities and officials accountable for managing taxpayer funds and protect taxpayer money from fraud, waste, and abuse. For example, my office has ensured that opioid settlement funds are being used properly and protected funding intended for mitigating natural disasters. Our office assisted small local public bodies like our acequias to become financially compliant and unlocked over \$10 million in withheld capital outlay.

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. As State Auditor, I work with the entity to get the audit report eventually submitted within 90 days of the submittal deadline. I use my professional judgement to determine the underlying causes of the late report and determine the best course of action to address the issues. This includes referring the entity to other agencies for additional actions and informing policy makers. When audit reports are chronically late, the OSA can step in as the auditor of last resort and directly assist the troubled entity to become financially compliant as was done for Mesalands Community College through annual and special audits.

The primary role of the State Auditor is to inform and notify. We do not investigate with the exception of our Special Investigations Division which investigates and manages fraud, waste, and abuse (FWA) cases. My top three issues are to investigate and/or examine: 1) Incoming, anonymous, and credible FWA cases as we average one complaint per day with almost 300 currently active cases; 2) Public entities that are chronically late in audit report submittals and have a severe lack of internal controls resulting in an adverse audit opinion and findings; and 3) Annual financial reports considered high-risk from conservators managing financial assets for protected persons in coordination with the District court system often leading to an audit.



JOSHUA JAMES RYAN LAWRENCE
(write-in)
Republican

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

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?



LAURA M. MONTOYA
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, economic development, Housing NM, NMFA or our investment decisions.

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

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



JAMES F. ELLISON
(write-in)
Republican
ellisonformm.com

I hold the Chartered Financial Analysts designation, which is the gold standard of investment credentials. It signifies a strong foundation in securities analysis and portfolio management, and a commitment to ethics and professionalism in the investment industry. This is not a job for a career politician — it's one for someone with proven investment credentials.

In the state treasury's \$20 billion portfolio, there simply is no statutory authority to invest directly in New Mexico-based private companies. These investments are limited to high-quality, liquid fixed-income securities. Investing in New Mexico municipal and state-issued bonds, however, is something that the Treasurer can and does do. The State Investment Council is where investing in New Mexico businesses can and does happen. There are statutory requirements for how much the SIC must invest in the NM Small Business Investment Corp. The key tension is that of fiduciary duty. I would advocate for in-state investment above and beyond what is required by statute only if these investments would not depress returns.

To be clear, the state treasurer's office directly manages the state treasury's \$20 billion portfolio. The question, then, is really what criteria I would recommend to other boards, such as the State Investment Council for selecting outside investment advisors. The SIC has a solid framework for selecting external advisors. There are some ways this can be improved, such as doing a better job of considering total costs rather than just headline management fees. However, the bigger question is whether the ESG (environmental, social, and governance) policies that it requires managers to adhere to is a drag on investment returns. I would advocate for an implementation of this policy that does not result in a drag on returns.

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

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?



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. Done right, transmission can strengthen our economy while protecting what makes our state unique.



MATTHEW MCQUEEN
Democrat
mcqueenformm.com

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

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

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

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



JONAS MOYA
Democrat
jonasmoya.com

I'm running for Commissioner of Public Lands because I've spent my life working on the land and my career managing programs that support farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. Our state trust lands fund our public schools and institutions, and they deserve steady, experienced leadership. I bring both real-world land experience as a rancher and management experience from leading the USDA Farm Service Agency in New Mexico. This office is all about responsible stewardship. I aim to balance conservation efforts with economic opportunities, ensuring our lands remain vibrant and supportive for future generations.

The State Land Office faces the challenge of balancing strong revenue generation for our schools with responsible stewardship of our land. Oil and gas revenues remain critical to funding education, but markets are volatile, and we need to ensure long-term stability. Another major challenge is diversifying revenue by expanding renewable energy, conservation leasing, and other opportunities, while maintaining working lands for ranchers and rural communities. We also face increasing pressure from drought, wildfire risk, and climate impacts, which require proactive land management and strong partnerships with local stakeholders.

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

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

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS (CONTINUED)

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
Michael@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.

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 limit.

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 last year, 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 decision 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 10 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. I look forward to building 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 in and stay busy with their track, football, soccer, basketball, and piano activities. I earned my law degree from the University of New Mexico 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 04

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

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 08

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.

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.

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.

WILLIAM (BILL) SCOTT
Democrat

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

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.



DEBBIE A. RODELLA
Democrat
debbierodella.fornm.com

Quality, high-paying jobs, education opportunities, access to water, affordable health care and prescriptions, rebuilding infrastructure and mental health programs to provide compassionate solutions that decrease crime.

We must do all we can to protect our traditions and invest in practical solutions. I would support the following: Investments in infrastructure to reduce water loss; protect our acequias and support local control; regionalization of water systems; implement conservation and education efforts; invest in developing technology that introduce new water supplies and help grow local economies and support farming jobs.

State funding for local public projects are essential especially in rural, unincorporated communities that have no tax base, no local match or cost-sharing ability. These critical infrastructure projects enhance our quality of life. I would support changes so that NMFA can provide assistance to rural, unincorporated communities who currently rely on volunteers to maneuver through the necessary compliance requirements and regulations to access their allocated funding. Requests always exceed available funding and many projects receive piecemeal funding that contribute to increased costs and completion delays. I will work directly with agencies to ensure projects are completed in a timely and cost-effective manner.

New Mexico has a law that adds disclaimer requirements for advertisements containing materially deceptive media and creating the crime of distributing or entering into an agreement with another person to distribute materially deceptive media. Our attorney general successfully sued Meta Platforms, Inc. for misleading consumers about the safety of its platforms and endangering children over child safety and a jury awarded \$375 million in civil penalties. Artificial intelligence legislation has been proposed and attempts to establish a working group or interim committee have also been proposed. I support practical steps to protect our children and families, and demand accountability, while not overreaching or violating free speech.

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?



CHRISTINE CHANDLER
Democrat
christine4.statehouse.com

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 environment 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?

LINDA MICHELLE SERRATO
Democrat

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?



ANDREA D. ROMERO
Democrat
andrearomero.com

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?



REENA C. SZCZEPANSKI
Democrat
andrearomero.com

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 smart-phone-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?



TARA L. LUJAN
Democrat

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.



VICTORIA MAY GARCIA
Republican

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)

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 addictive 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?



SARAH BOZES
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.



KENNETH DONALD BRENNAN
Republican
kenform.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 desalination 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.

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.

AMBROSE M. CASTELLANO
Democrat

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

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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? |
|---|--|---|--|--|
|  <p>MICHAEL R. ROYBAL Democrat</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |


SANTA FE COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 2

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|  <p>MELISSA Y MASCARENAS Democrat</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>As Judge I can only tell you that in any case that I preside over is I must follow the law.</p> | <p>As Judge I can only tell you that in any case that I preside over is I must follow the law.</p> |

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? |
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|  <p>MARIA M. SANCHEZ Democrat</p> | <p>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</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |

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? |
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| <p>DONITA O. SENA Democrat</p> | <p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> | <p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> | <p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> | <p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> |

SANTA FE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

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? |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  <p>JUSTIN S. GREENE Democrat justingreene.com</p> | <p>30-plus year experience in economic and community development projects including City Planner for Santa Fe Railyard redevelopment, co-founder of Warehouse 21, board member of Pueblo of Tesuque Development Corporation during establishment of Camel Rock Studios, the first indigenous owned film production studio in the world. Small business owner, who understands the struggle to keep a business alive in an environment of national chains taking over. County Commissioner, who understands the workings of our County operations and needs to modernize processes to deliver projects faster, implement policies more effectively and make our customer service experience more efficient and friendly. We are doing this and I will continue leading this.</p> | <p>Santa Fe County has a growth problem. We are growing in the wrong ways. We need to be mindful of our water use, quality of life and affordability so our next generation and workforce are able to live and thrive here. Being architecturally trained, I understand the need to rewrite our general plan and building codes to that we can have development that meets the needs of our working families. Critical details such as walkable communities with parks and recreation amenities, small markets and business spaces are key. Over the last three years, with my advocacy and leadership, Santa Fe County has started the process of updating our codes. I will help make sure that our sustainability, livability and affordability goals are incorporated.</p> | <p>I regularly meet with community groups across the district, listening to concerns about water, roads, senior services, public safety, acequias, economic development, and housing. I bring these concerns, ideas and solutions to our team to find ways to make these a reality. I'm grateful and supportive of Santa Fe County's planners who support traditional communities in shaping their own growth. Recently passed plans in Tesuque and La Cienega show what's possible, and I support expanding this work to serve more communities. I also advocate for a 'County Architect' to help translate community ideas into thoughtful design—supporting walkable green spaces, better-connected roads, and infrastructure that strengthens quality of life for everyone.</p> | <p>Santa Fe County has been updating its Emergency Management plans that were out of date when I took office three years ago. We are modernizing the organizational leadership structure, updating plans and incorporating new threat preparation procedures to the plan including cybersecurity, of which I am concerned about our preparedness. I have attended National Association of Counties conferences and meetings to make sure I can add vision and leadership to our preparedness for all threats, natural and manmade. I am also an advocate for implementing wildfire detection cameras across the county to help spot and accurately locate wildfires faster than our current systems. This can cut down on detection time and speed to locating fires.</p> |
|  <p>HENRY ROYBAL Democrat Henryroybal.com</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |

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.



DAVID J. WEBB
Democrat
webb-for-sheriff.com

To strengthen relationships with our community, we must first build trust. That trust comes from accountability, professionalism, and delivering top tier policing while treating every person with dignity and respect. Clear policies and transparency are essential to rebuilding public confidence. We must also provide meaningful avenues for community members to share concerns about the issues affecting their neighborhoods. Just as important is connecting with our youth through support, coaching, mentorship, and simply being present at their events and activities. When we follow through with action, communicate honestly, and invest in our youth and families, trust grows and strong partnerships are built across our community.

As Sheriff, it is my responsibility to provide deputies with clear guidelines and procedures for enforcing Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Deputies must have a defined path for obtaining legal orders from judges, along with a consistent and transparent process to follow. Understanding the legal elements required ensures deputies can act confidently and lawfully. Just as important is treating all parties involved with dignity and respect. These orders must be enforced with compassion and professionalism, taking time to explain why the order is being carried out. Scenario based training for these situations is essential to ensure deputies are prepared to respond safely, effectively, and with sound judgment.

I believe the position of Sheriff should be non-partisan. The law is applied based on facts, not political views. When a violation or criminal act occurs, authorities do not consider a person's political affiliation, they enforce the law as written. Laws are created through legislation by elected officials from both parties, and once enacted, they are meant to be upheld equally and without bias. With this in mind, the role of Sheriff should reflect that same principle of fairness and neutrality. The community deserves the opportunity to evaluate candidates based on merit, experience, and character, and to vote for the person they believe will best serve and protect everyone fairly.

I don't believe policies alone are the only avenue to keep Sheriff's Offices accountable, though they are a critical part of the foundation. True accountability comes from earning the trust of the public. As public officials and servants, our policies, actions, and behavior must reflect integrity and reliability so the community feels confident when calling upon us. Having and employing strong core values among department members is invaluable. Core values provide a foundation for the organization and guide how individuals conduct themselves daily. Questionable actions that damage public confidence cannot be ignored. Strong leadership must enforce standards fairly, address violations swiftly, and keep the public informed to maintain trust.



MICHAEL D. MARTINEZ
Democrat

The Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office will return to using the community policing method. We will have deputies conduct briefings in community restaurants, that way they could meet and have residents address concerns or activities assisting deputies in deterring crime in that portion of the County. The Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office will invest in our youth. We will mend relationships with schools and have threat assessment deputies meet with school officials in the county jurisdiction on a regular basis. We will have deputies attend school functions and build partnerships with at risk youth, hopefully having a positive influence in their future decision making with committing crime or using drugs.

Although I believe ERPO or some type of variation is needed. I don't know that any County has the resources to accommodate the requirements without investing in larger facilities and staffing to manage the issue. As far as enforcing ERPO, once deputies are informed of the ERPO and have in hand the signed ERPO by a Judge, deputies would be sent to the given locations and after speaking to the individuals, all firearms would be collected, tagged and stored at a secure location until the individual is deemed not to be a threat or otherwise by a signed court order. The individual would be given a receipt of all firearms removed and if those firearms are not allowed to be given back to the owner. Those firearms would be destroyed.

It should nonpartisan. The sheriff is elected for all the counties residents, no matter their party affiliation. They are elected to be the protector of the County fairly and justly.

If I were elected to Office, I would implement an "Internal Office of Professionalism". This office would handle all complaints against deputies and staff. The findings of the investigations would be addressed by a board to discuss and address any recommendations of those findings. The Sheriff's Office currently is working with the Association of Counties developing updated Standard Operating Procedures that will be approved by the Counties of New Mexico.

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.



GEORGE DOMINIC ANAYA
Democrat

I have 30 years of experience on the Magistrate Bench, am a graduate of the National Judicial College, and hold certifications in Judicial Development Special Court Trial Skills, Judicial Studies, and Civil Mediation, to name a few. I have also served on the Rules Committee for the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction and the New Mexico Commission on Access to Justice, by appointment of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

I do not know if any changes are necessary currently. If elected, after acquainting myself with the structure of the office and procedures, I would consider any changes, if necessary, to better serve the citizens of Santa Fe County.

It is important to assist during the difficult process of settling a loved one's estate. I would review the current material being provided to the public and consider adding or changing any of that information in order to better educate those needing the services of the Probate Court. It is important to distinguish what assistance can be given, without giving legal advice.

I was born and raised here in Santa Fe. 1982 graduate of Santa Fe High School. Received my Paralegal Certification from UNM. Served on the New Mexico Magistrate Association as member of Board of Directors, Secretary/Treasurer, Vice-President and President. Represented the Magistrate Courts on the Chief Judges Council at the New Mexico Supreme Court.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON VOTING IN THE JUNE 2 PRIMARY 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



IT'S HERE!

VOTER INFORMATION YOU NEED

