VOTER GUIDE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

The League of Women Voters is a non-profit organization that seeks to promote informed citizen participation in government by providing unbiased information about political issues and candidates. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League does adopt positions on policy issues after a process of study and consensus by its members. The candidate information in this Voter Guide consists of the unedited responses of the candidates to a set of questions sent to the candidates by the League. The answers have been printed exactly as submitted (up to the stated word limit for each response). The candidates and their responses are listed in ballot order.

For more information, please visit the League website: www.lwvsfc.org

VOTER REQUIREMENTS - REGISTRATION DEADLINE WAS OCTOBER 11

To vote in the November 8, 2016 General Election, you must be registered to vote in, and a current resident of, the County of Santa Fe as of October 11, 2016. You can check the status of your voter registration at the NM Secretary of State’s “Voter View” at https://voterview.state.nm.us.

QUESTIONS? NEED MORE INFO?

New Mexico Secretary of State: 505-827-3600, http://www.sos.state.nm.us

WHAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT?

You can view your ballot at https://portal.sos.state.nm.us/OVR/WebPages/ SampleBallot.aspx.
You can enter your address to see which candidates and issues will be on the ballot for your precinct.
This Voter Guide contains the unedited answers to questions posed by the League to the candidates who have opponents in the General Election. Unopposed candidates will appear on your ballot, but these offices were decided by the Primary election.

WHEN AND WHERE TO VOTE

On Election Day, November 8, 2016, the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Voters should vote at the polling place for the precinct in which they are registered.
See www.santafecountynm.gov for polling places.

Absentee-In Person Voting
County Clerk’s office (102 Grant Avenue) from Tuesday, October 11 through Saturday, November 5th, during regular days and hours of business (Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) and Saturday, November 5th ONLY for Early Voting from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Early Voting
Saturday, October 22nd through Saturday, November 5th. Hours of voting are from 12:00 Noon until 8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. You can vote at any of these locations, regardless of where in the County you live.

Early Voting Sites are located at:
Santa Fe County Fair Building – 5239 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe
NEW Christian Life Church – 121 Siringo Road, Santa Fe
Eldorado Senior Center (new facility) – 16 Avenida Torreon, El Dorado
NEW Edgewood Fire Station – 1 Municipal Way, Edgewood
Poisajte County Satellite Office – 5 W. Gutierrez – Ste 9, Poisajte Pueblo Plaza

Absentee Voting by Mail
You can request an application for an absentee ballot at any time by calling the County Clerk’s office at 505-986-6280. When you receive the application, you may fill it out and return it to the Clerk’s office. You may also fill out an application in the Clerk’s office at 102 Grant Avenue.

Office of the County Clerk
102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501
P.O. Box 1958, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1958
Phone Number: 505-986-6280

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 2, SECTION 13 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO PROTECT COMMUNITY SAFETY BY GRANTING COURTS NEW AUTHORITY TO DENY RELEASE ON BAIL DURING TRIAL FOR DANGEROUS DEFENDANTS IN FELONY CASES WHILE RETAINING THE RIGHT TO PRETRIAL RELEASE FOR NON-DANGEROUS DEFENDANTS WHO DO NOT POSE A FLIGHT RISK.

Vote “For” or “Against”
Background: This proposed amendment came from a joint resolution of the New Mexico Legislature. It requires a simple majority to be approved.

Approximately 42 percent of defendants incarcerated in New Mexico are awaiting trials to determine their innocence or guilt. Defendants past bail to guarantee their appearance in court. Defendants who fail to appear lose the money they have posted. The proposed amendment would allow bail to be denied for a person charged with a felony who is awaiting trial if the evidence shows that the person poses a threat to the community or that the defendant is at risk of flight. According to the New Mexico Justice Institute, if a defendant is denied release, there is a 60 percent chance that an accepted bond or a flight risk is not held in jail before trial simply because he lacks bail money.

ARGUMENTS FOR THIS AMENDMENT:
1. Allows judges to keep dangerous defendants off the streets. Judges could deny release to dangerous defendants who pose a threat to public safety. The proposed amendment would give judges the power to keep those who need to remain behind bars away from the community.
2. Allows release of people who do not pose a threat. Many defendants incarcerated in New Mexico jails who do not pose a danger to the community or a flight risk are held simply because they cannot afford bail. Being held in jail has significant negative impacts on defendants who have not yet been found guilty of any crime and on their families. Moreover, in states that have enacted reforms similar to the proposed amendment, there has been no corresponding negative impact on public safety.
3. Cost savings to counties. Holding large numbers of people pending trials imposes substantial costs on the counties, which bear the vast majority of these defendants. Some counties have spent up to half of their budgets on jails and correctional officers.
4. Protection of basic constitutional rights. It is a fundamental right since the founding of this nation that people are innocent until proven guilty, and thus the state should have to prove why a defendant should remain incarcerated before any finding of guilt.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST
2. Has possible negative impact on the bail bonding industry. The proposed amendment could reduce fees collected by bail bondsmen from defendants.
3. May lead to the pre-trial release of more defendants. Any defendant who is released before trial could still commit additional crimes.

For more background information and more complete analyses, or to read the Spanish language version, see lwvsfc.org.

WITH THANKS
The 2016 General Election Voter Guide was produced and distributed by The Santa Fe New Mexican, in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County and the League of Women Voters of New Mexico. The League appreciates the New Mexican’s generous support of this project and commitment to educating the public.

Tax-deductible donations to the League’s Education Fund are gratefully accepted to support voter service projects such as Voter View and Voter Guides, and to increase voter registration efforts.
If you would like to contribute to the LWVSFC to support voter services, please make your check payable to the LWVSFC Education Fund.
League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County
1472 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505
505-982-9766, www.lwvsfc.org

JOIN THE LEAGUE

Democracy is not a spectator sport.

Annual Membership:
$25 per member, for families, $50 per household. $10 per student.
(We want to join the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County)
(We contribute to the LWVSFC Education Fund)

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LEARN MORE 505-982-9766 WWW.LWVSFC.ORG
The League asked:

1. Do you currently have a child in school? If so, how do you address the influence of money in politics?

2. What actions, if any, would you support to change the political ad Buy Back system in New Mexico?

3. What would you do to ensure the security of this State?

SECRETARY OF STATE

The League asked:

1. Would you support any changes to the current political ad Buy Back system, perhaps as a way of keeping state records?

2. What actions would you take to reduce the timeframes in which the Secretary of State has to collect all mail-in ballots?

3. What changes, if any, would you propose to improve voter registration?

4. How will you order your priorities, and who will be responsible for carrying them out?

5. What would you do to ensure that the State will be able to provide a quality education in the future?

CANDIDATES FOR NEW MEXICO SENATE

N.M. STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 19

The League asked:

1. What is your top priority and how do you propose to accomplish it?

2. What is your top priority and how do you propose to accomplish it?

3. What is your top priority and how do you propose to accomplish it?

4. What is your top priority and how do you propose to accomplish it?

5. What is your top priority and how do you propose to accomplish it?

CANDIDATES FOR NEW MEXICO STATE HOUSE

N.M. STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 22

The League asked:

1. What actions, if any, would you take to address the influence of money in politics?

2. What actions, if any, would you take to address the influence of money in politics?

3. What actions, if any, would you take to address the influence of money in politics?

4. What actions, if any, would you take to address the influence of money in politics?

5. What actions, if any, would you take to address the influence of money in politics?

CANDIDATES FOR NEW MEXICO SENATE

N.M. STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 39

The League asked:

1. Should the legislature fund increased education funding in New Mexico? If so, how?

2. What actions, if any, would you take to address the influence of money in politics?

3. What actions, if any, would you take to address the influence of money in politics?

4. What actions, if any, would you take to address the influence of money in politics?

5. What actions, if any, would you take to address the influence of money in politics?
**2016 GENERAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE**

**CANDIDATES FOR N. M. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**N.M. STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 47 2-year term per diem only**

**The League asked:**

1. Should the legislature promote renewable energy in New Mexico? If so, what specific legislation do you propose?
2. What changes in the law, if any, do you support to reduce violent crime and improve public safety in New Mexico?
3. What changes in law, if any, do you support to improve New Mexico’s economy?
4. What is your top policy priority if you are elected, and how do you propose to accomplish it?

**Matthew McQueen**

Democratic

- Yes, I believe renewable energy is the source of clean, sustainable power and growth for the future.
- I support legislation to enact our Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and to increase the participation of renewable energy in our state’s energy mix. I have authored many legislative proposals to enhance New Mexico’s RPS and have continued to support renewable energy policies centered on clean energy and job creation.
- Yes, I believe in the importance of reducing violent crime and improving public safety in New Mexico. I support increased funding for law enforcement agencies, including investing in training and equipment, and supporting initiatives that aim to reduce recidivism and address underlying causes of crime.
- Education and economic development. The two go hand-in-hand.

**Roger Andrew Gonzales**

Republican

- Yes, I believe in promoting renewable energy and I support legislation to increase the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS).
- I support changes in law that would reduce violent crime and improve public safety in New Mexico. Specifically, I believe in supporting measures to enhance law enforcement and resource allocation.
- Yes, I believe in promoting economic development and supporting initiatives that aim to boost New Mexico’s economy. I support policies that encourage job creation and attract businesses to the state.
- My top policy priority would be to pass legislation that addresses the high cost of insurance for New Mexicans.

**Per Diem Information:** Each member of the N.M. Legislature shall receive:

- Per diem expense and mileage at the same rates as provided in Subsection A of this section.
- A per diem expense of $163/day; local legislators received per diem in 2015 ranging from $130 to $180/day.
- Note: Actual mileage is reimbursed at the average of the IRS mileage rate.

**The League asked:**

1. 1. I earned the M.A. in 1971 in Sociology with an emphasis in Social Policy. How has this education prepared you for this position?
2. 1. What are the most important programs and policies you would support that would increase funding for charter schools?
3. 1. How will you ensure that state charter school programs are meeting high standards of quality and performance?
4. 1. List the primary elements of legislation you think NM needs to enact to ensure high levels of quality in charter schools.

**Brenda F. Estrada**

Democratic

- Yes, I believe in promoting renewable energy and I support legislation to increase the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS).
- Yes, I believe in promoting economic development and supporting initiatives that aim to boost New Mexico’s economy. I support policies that encourage job creation and attract businesses to the state.
- My top policy priority would be to pass legislation that addresses the high cost of insurance for New Mexicans.

**Stephen G French**

Republican

- Yes, I believe in promoting renewable energy and I support legislation to increase the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS).
- Yes, I believe in promoting economic development and supporting initiatives that aim to boost New Mexico’s economy. I support policies that encourage job creation and attract businesses to the state.
- My top policy priority would be to pass legislation that addresses the high cost of insurance for New Mexicans.

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 50 2-year term per diem only**

**The League asked:**

1. Should the legislature promote renewable energy in New Mexico? If so, what specific legislation do you propose?
2. What changes in the law, if any, do you support to reduce violent crime and improve public safety in New Mexico?
3. What changes in law, if any, do you support to improve New Mexico’s economy?
4. What is your top policy priority if you are elected, and how do you propose to accomplish it?

**Matthew McQueen**

Democratic

- Yes, I believe in promoting renewable energy and I support legislation to increase the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and to increase the participation of renewable energy in our state’s energy mix. I have authored many legislative proposals to enhance New Mexico’s RPS and have continued to support renewable energy policies centered on clean energy and job creation.
- Yes, I believe in the importance of reducing violent crime and improving public safety in New Mexico. I support increased funding for law enforcement agencies, including investing in training and equipment, and supporting initiatives that aim to reduce recidivism and address underlying causes of crime.
- Yes, I believe in promoting economic development and supporting initiatives that aim to boost New Mexico’s economy. I support policies that encourage job creation and attract businesses to the state.
- Education and economic development. The two go hand-in-hand.

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- Yes, I believe in promoting economic development and supporting initiatives that aim to boost New Mexico’s economy. I support policies that encourage job creation and attract businesses to the state.
- My top policy priority would be to pass legislation that addresses the high cost of insurance for New Mexicans.

**Justice of the Supreme Court**

The five justices on the Supreme Court are elected by all the voters in the state and serve eight-year terms. The Supreme Court serves as the highest court of the state of New Mexico judicial branch of government and is the highest court. It is required to hear appeals from the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, election challenges, and criminal cases when a defendant was sentenced to the death penalty. It has the discretionary authority to review rulings of the state Court of Appeals and questions of law certified to it by the Court of Appeals or a federal court.

**The League asked:**

1. What are your qualifications for this position?
2. How would you deal with repeat DWI offenders?
3. How should non-violent drug offenders be treated?

**Yvonne M. Huarte**

Republican

- I am a licensed attorney and have tried cases with decades of experience. I presented hundreds of cases before our state Court of Appeals and Court of Civil Appeals. I have an argued diverse cases before our Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. I have been a trial lawyer for over 40 years and have served as a judge for 13 years.
- I believe that repeat DWI offenders are dangerous to the community and should be treated more severely than first-time offenders. We need to focus on preventing repeat DWI offenses, rather than just punishing the offender.
- I believe that non-violent drug offenders should be treated with compassion and understanding. They should be given the opportunity to seek treatment and rehabilitation, rather than just being punished.

**Marcia Peter Simon**

Democratic

- I have experience presenting arguments of criminal cases and I have argued cases in the Supreme Court of New Mexico and the United States Supreme Court. I have tried cases before the trial courts of New Mexico.
- I believe that repeat DWI offenders are dangerous to the community and should be treated more severely than first-time offenders. We need to focus on preventing repeat DWI offenses, rather than just punishing the offender.
- I believe that non-violent drug offenders should be treated with compassion and understanding. They should be given the opportunity to seek treatment and rehabilitation, rather than just being punished.

**JUDICIAL RETENTION**

The public for whom we work have the right to expect our judicial officers to render decisions in a timely manner, to render just results, to do them with integrity and to render those results in a professional manner.

**The League asked:**

1. How would you have your training, professional experience, and interest prepared you to serve on this court?
2. What programs or changes would you propose to improve the NM Supreme Court?
3. What is your judicial philosophy?
4. What has been your greatest achievement as a judge?

**Stephen G French**

Republican

- I am a member of the New Mexico Judicial Branch of government and have served as a Judge in the 20th Judicial District.
- I believe that repeat DWI offenders are dangerous to the community and should be treated more severely than first-time offenders. We need to focus on preventing repeat DWI offenses, rather than just punishing the offender.
- I believe that non-violent drug offenders should be treated with compassion and understanding. They should be given the opportunity to seek treatment and rehabilitation, rather than just being punished.

**The League asked:**

1. What are your qualifications for this position?
2. What is your judicial philosophy?
3. What has been your greatest achievement as a judge?

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The five justices on the Supreme Court are elected by all the voters in the state and serve eight-year terms. The Supreme Court serves as the highest court of the state of New Mexico judicial branch of government and is the highest court. It is required to hear appeals from the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, election challenges, and criminal cases when a defendant was sentenced to the death penalty. It has the discretionary authority to review rulings of the state Court of Appeals and questions of law certified to it by the Court of Appeals or a federal court.

**The League asked:**

1. What are your qualifications for this position?
2. How would you deal with repeat DWI offenders?
3. How should non-violent drug offenders be treated?
General Obligation Bonds and Tax Impacts

The New Mexico Legislature passed the 2016 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act to fund certain projects. The bonds will be listed on the ballot separately, and you will be asked to vote "For" or "Against" each one. Based on the assumption that all four bond issues will be passed by voters, the property tax year 2016 mill levy has been set at 1.91 mils, which is the same as the 2015 rate. The State Board of Finance estimates that over a ten-year period, the four issues on the ballot would cost approximately $34.04 per $100,000 of asset value per year. Of the annual average $9.34, Bond Issue A accounts for $2.78, Bond Issue B accounts for $3.91, Bond Issue C accounts for $2.14 and Bond Issue D accounts for $0.91.

Bond Issue A, in an amount not to exceed $15,400,000 to make capital expenditures for senior citizen facility improvements, construction, and equipment acquisition projects. Here are the Santa Fe County entities that would benefit:

- EDWODWOOD SENIOR CENTER-VEHICLES $97,000
- MARY ESTHER GONZALES SENIOR CENTER-IMPROVE CODE $36,000
- MARY ESTHER GONZALES SENIOR CENTER-RENOVATE $97,000
- MARY ESTHER GONZALES SENIOR CENTER-VEHICLES $488,800
- NAHBE PUEBLO SENIOR CENTER-RENOVATE $38,000
- PASATIEPIO SENIOR CENTER-IMPROVE CODE $198,000
- POJOAQUE PUEBLO SENIOR CENTER-RENOVATE $190,000
- SANTA CRUZ CRUZ CENTER-VEHICLES $160,000
- VILLA CONSUELO SENIOR CENTER-IMPROVE CODE $198,000
- VILLA CONSUELO SENIOR CENTER-VEHICLES $65,900

Bond Issue B, in an amount not to exceed $10,167,000 to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal, and public library resource acquisitions. The Santa Fe Public Library, Santa Fe Public School libraries, tribal libraries in Santa Fe County, and the academic libraries at the Institute of American Indian Arts and Santa Fe Community College are among local institutions that will benefit.

Bond Issue C, in an amount not to exceed $14,235,000 to make capital expenditures for certain higher educational, tribal, and special schools capital improvements and acquisitions. Here are the Santa Fe County institutions that would benefit:

- IAIA MULTIPURPOSE FITNESS & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER $2,000,000
- SFCC ROOFING & INFRA IMPROVE $1,500,000
- NMSD DELGADO HALL RENOVATE $2,000,000
- IAIA MULTIPURPOSE FITNESS & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER $2,000,000

Here are the State institutions that would benefit:

- Eastern New Mexico University Total $14,760,000
- Community Colleges various schools Total $9,750,000
- HMN School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Total $750,000
- Highlands University Total $3,500,000
- Mining and Technology, NM Institute Total $1,500,000
- Military Institute Total $6,500,000
- NM School for the Deaf Total $250,000
- New Mexico State University Total $1,500,000
- Northern New Mexico State School Total $1,500,000
- University of New Mexico Total $15,400,000
- Western New Mexico University Total $5,000,000

Bond Issue D, in an amount not to exceed $18,196,000 to make capital expenditures for capital improvements and acquisitions for state police, public safety communications and national guard facilities statewide. Here is the Santa Fe County entity that would benefit:

DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY SANTA FE EVIDENCE CTR AND CRIME LAB $7,000,000

The total for all four bond issues, including bond issuance costs, is $185,195,000. A complete breakdown of the designated projects under each bond issue can be found on the New Mexico Legislature's website: https://www.legis.state.nm.us.

General Obligation Bond Projects Chart by County
https://www.legis.state.nm.us.

General Obligation Bond Projects Chart by Agency
https://www.legis.state.nm.us.

For the Spanish language version, see lwvsfc.org.

SANTA FE COUNTY BOND ISSUES

General Obligation Bonds and Tax Impacts

If all five proposed bond issues are passed, the mill rate will rise from the current $1.91 to $2.13. The estimated impact on property taxes, based on projected property values, would be a $10 yearly tax increase on a home valued at $200,000.

Vote "yes" or "no" on each bond issue.

1. Shall Santa Fe County issue up to $13,600,000 in general obligation bonds payable from general (ad valorem) taxes to acquire, construct, design, equip, and improve roads within the County?

2. Shall Santa Fe County issue up to $4,800,000 in general obligation bonds payable from general (ad valorem) taxes to acquire, construct, design, equip, and improve fire and other public safety facilities within the County?

3. Shall Santa Fe County issue up to $5,000,000 in general obligation bonds payable from general (ad valorem) taxes to acquire, construct, design, equip, and improve and improve water and wastewater projects within the County?

4. Shall Santa Fe County issue up to $4,600,000 in general obligation bonds payable from general (ad valorem) taxes to acquire, construct, design, equip, improve and restore open space, trails and parks within the County?

5. Shall Santa Fe County issue up to $5,000,000 in general obligation bonds payable from general (ad valorem) taxes to acquire, construct, design, equip, and improve community health facilities within the County?

Santa Fe County Advisory Question

The Board of County Commissioners on September 13, 2016, approved placing the following advisory question on the ballot:

Should Santa Fe County enact a county-wide gross receipts tax for behavioral health services that would increase the aggregate gross receipts tax rate by up to one-eighth of one percent (0.125%).

This is an advisory question only, and a majority of "yes" votes will not put the tax increase into effect. This ballot item is a sort of opinion poll to determine the sentiment of the voters.

Proponents say that approximately 2,500 Santa Fe County adults have a serious mental illness and that about 30,000 residents abuse drugs and/or alcohol. A tax increase for behavioral health services would enable the County to meet more of the needs for behavioral/mental health services. If this tax were eventually imposed, assuming the gross receipts tax is passed on to consumers, it would add 2½ cents tax to a $20 purchase.

For the Spanish language version, see lwvsfc.org.