

## SANTA FE COUNTY PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018

**ABSENTEE VOTING: May 8 - June 2, 2018 EARLY VOTING: May 19 - June 2, 2018**

### CANDIDATES FOR JUDGE, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Two judges were appointed to fill unexpired terms by the Governor following recommendations by the Judicial Nominating Commission. If elected in this election, they will serve for 6 years. They must be at least 35 years of age, have at least six years legal practice, be a state resident for at least three years, and be a district resident. Salary is \$126,186.37.

#### The League asked:

1. What specific education and experience qualify you for this position?

2. Is the District Court making sufficient use of specialty courts such as drug court and mental health court, and of alternative dispute resolution? If not, how would you increase use of these specialty courts and mediation/arbitration?

3. Does the Court have adequate support staff, and if not, what changes would you propose?

4. In general, what factors should be considered when the court is deciding whether or not to assign a defendant to pre-trial detention or supervision?

### CANDIDATES FOR JUDGE, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT - DIVISION II



**Gregory S Shaffer (D)**

I am the current Judge. Division II hears civil cases, and I have 20 years of civil experience, as a litigator at a national law firm and a public servant in NM. I graduated from Penn State and NYU law school. The independent, bipartisan Judicial Nominating Commission evaluated all the candidates for Division II at various times on their ability, temperament, etc. I am the only candidate the Commission recommended for district court judge.

Yes, Division II makes sufficient use of mediation/settlement facilitation. The Court recently implemented a mandatory mediation program for new residential foreclosure cases. The goal is to explore settlement – including potential home-saving loan modification – before foreclosure litigation starts in earnest. As Judge, I also require early mediation in most of my other cases. As it hears only civil cases, Division II does not use the drug and mental health courts associated with the Court's criminal divisions.

High vacancy rates and employee turnover have challenged the judiciary for years. To consistently provide the highest level of service to the community, the courts need to focus on filling vacant positions and retaining current team members. Legislative funding for low-income legal services is also critically important. Low-income citizens often find themselves unrepresented in civil law-suits. Providing them with lawyers would both increase their access to justice and help the courts be more efficient.

People are rightly concerned about pretrial detention. Community safety affects us all. Division II does not hear criminal cases, however, so this question is not applicable to it. That said, judges must order pretrial detention when it is proven that no release conditions will reasonably protect another person or the community. Our Supreme Court has ruled that relevant factors to consider include the defendant's history of unlawful, dangerous conduct and previous compliance with release conditions.



**Donna M Bevacqua-Young (D)**

I have had the pleasure of serving as a Magistrate Court judge in Santa Fe since December 2013. During the course of my tenure as a judge, I have presided over thousands of civil and criminal cases. I have also had the unique opportunity to sit as a judge in both Rio Arriba and Los Alamos counties. Learning to recognize the needs of each county makes a successful judge.

The specialty courts are utilized. However, one or two judges supervise the specialty courts. As drug and mental health issues are pervasive in our society, all judges should rotate overseeing the specialty courts. As for alternative dispute resolution and mediation, those options are available. However, it is unclear if the greater community is aware of the programs. Better accessibility to these programs should be provided with links to community and civic organizations.

As with every Court, turnover is an issue as employees can earn more money in the private sector or at other governmental entities. Cross-training employees in all divisions should be utilized. College students should be recruited for internships during the summer or during the school year. New support staff could then be harvested from the pool of college students who were former interns.

There are significant factors to consider when evaluating pre-trial detention or supervision. Some of the factors are 1) past success or failure in previous supervisory programs; 2) type of family or societal support; 3) types of crimes, if any, committed in the past; 4) present charges; 5) attitude towards successful completion; 6) substance abuse issues and/or mental health considerations; 7) flight risk and 8) danger/threat to the community.



**Maria E Sanchez-Gagne (D)**

Born in Santa Fe, I have dedicated my 22-year legal career as a public servant in the District Attorney's and Attorney General's Office and currently as a Hearing Examiner/Alternative Dispute Resolution Officer with the State Engineer. Similar to a judge, I preside at hearings, make rulings and issue orders involving complex water rights issues. I have also served as Director of the Border Violence Division and helped write NM's Human Trafficking law.

Specialty Courts are critical to the District Court's success. While the Adult Drug Court and Mental Health Courts are serving clients at 85-90% capacity, more resources can always be dedicated to these resources. More in-patient treatment facilities would avoid the 2-3 month waiting list. As a certified ADR officer, I am aware of the benefits of alternative dispute resolution. New civil cases filed should be assessed for ADR referral to initiate the process earlier.

A high number of vacancies exist due to budget restrictions. 76% of new cases are civil cases, with an increasing number of self-represented litigants. Utilizing more resources to help self-represented clients will speed up the entire judicial process so that litigants don't have to wait so long for their cases to be decided. The courts would operate more efficiently by filling vacant positions and law school interns/externs should be utilized.

(1) the nature and circumstances of the offense, including whether it involves violence, alcohol or drugs; (2) weight of the evidence; (3) history and characteristics of the defendant, including the defendant's, physical and mental condition, family ties, employment, past and present residences, community ties, history relating to drug or alcohol abuse, criminal history, record concerning appearance at court proceedings; and whether the defendant was on probation, parole, pending trial, sentencing, or appeal.



**Jerry A Archuleta (D)**

Pertaining specifically to civil law education I obtained a Masters in Business Administration and I took courses in law school pertaining to civil law such as: contract drafting, entertainment law and land use. My experience with civil law includes entertainment law, real estate, probate, breach of contract, estate, and security exchange cases. I have also handled civil cases as an Alternative Dispute Resolution Mediator for First Judicial District Court for three years.

The Court makes sufficient use of the specialty courts. The Court uses four drug courts that curtail to the needs of the case and mental health court recognizes and makes adjustments to the needs of the individual in the case. ADR is used efficiently and is staffed with very well qualified and experienced attorneys. I would add a Veteran's Specialty Court added that is able to deal with the unique struggles of veterans.

The Court currently operates at a sufficient level but there is always a need for more clerks to process the paperwork so that judges and litigants are not waiting for paperwork. E-filing has helped the process but with an increasing case-load in the Court, there will be a need for more staff to meet this increase. I would get more training for current staff to improve the efficiency of production.

Rule 5-401 states: the type of offense charged (violent/alcohol/drug related/drug history), weight of evidence, criminal history and characteristics (character, physical, mental condition, family/community ties, employment, all residences, length of residency, past conduct), and previous failure to appear, will defendant appear for pending case and during current offense, was the defendant on any type of release pending trial, sentencing, or appeal for any crime, danger by the defendant's release and will defendant commit another crime.

### CANDIDATES FOR JUDGE, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT - DIVISION V



**Jason C Lidyard (D)**

As a Deputy District Attorney in Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, and Santa Fe County for the last seven years, I not only possess the courtroom and litigation skills to sit as a trial judge presiding over the criminal cases of this District but also the experience working on societal issues, such as sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, alcohol and drug addiction, and mental health, to preside as a fair, considerate, and compassionate judge.

As the sitting District Judge for Division 5, I am responsible for the Espanola Adult and Juvenile Drug Court Programs. These programs are consistently operating at maximum participant capacity. As an effective alternative to incarceration for persons tangled in the criminal justice system due to substance use or misuse, these specialty court programs need greater funding to increase staff and resources and to expand participant capacity.

In light of the recent amendment to the bail provisions of the New Mexico Constitution, many criminal defendants are released prior to adjudication of their charges. To ensure the safety of our communities, the First Judicial District Court is in need of greater pretrial services staff and resources in order to conduct comprehensive risk assessments of defendants and to provide any supervision deemed necessary. At bottom, this is an issue of funding.

Our Supreme Court recently clarified that, when ruling on pretrial detention, judges shall consider whether a defendant poses a threat to the safety of others if released and whether any release conditions will protect against that threat. Some factors relevant to these considerations are the facts and circumstances of the charges; the defendant's prior conduct, including criminal history and history on release; and available conditions, including pretrial supervision, GPS monitoring, treatment and counseling services, etc.



**Matthew E Jackson (D)**

The breadth of my education and experience qualifies me for this position. Judges should be generalists, and since 2008, I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide variety of courts and administrative tribunals, with differing procedural rules and substantive law. I have represented individuals, small and large businesses, and government entities. Finally, I was born and raised in New Mexico and am familiar with the issues that face its people.

The specialty courts are generally well-used – and obtain positive outcomes – but they are not always at capacity. I would endeavor to keep the programs at full capacity and to advocate for additional funding to increase program capacity. I would encourage mediation, which is a valuable and widely-used tool. Arbitration is appropriate for some cases, but courts should not offload their duty to hear cases simply because of docket pressure.

Staffing and funding for the problem-solving courts should be increased so that they can serve more people. As to other staffing needs, there should be a court reporter at every hearing. Reviewing an audio recording is not as efficient as reviewing a transcript. Relying on recordings instead of transcripts is ultimately self-defeating as a cost-saving measure because of the additional time required to review audio recordings.

The factors to be considered in determining conditions of release or pretrial detention are those set forth in Rule 5-401, as recently construed by our Supreme Court. Every case is different, but in each case, the Court must determine the least restrictive conditions that reasonably ensure the defendant's appearance and the safety of others.

# CANDIDATES FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

State Representatives serve a two-year term. Their compensation is \$183/day plus mileage per diem payment during the Legislative session.

## The League asked:

1. What specific education and experience qualify you for this position?

2. What education policy changes will you promote to improve education/academic achievement/graduation rates?

3. What changes should be made to NM's tax system?

4. How will you work to reduce gun violence?

## CANDIDATES FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 22



**Merritt Hamilton Allen (R)**

I have a B.A. in Economics from the University of Notre Dame and served as a naval officer for eight years. I started the global PR firm, Vox Optima, in 2005. I served on the East Mountain High School governing council, and am currently a director for Adelante Development Center.

Manage school funding so teachers' raises don't hit individual schools' bottom line. Support K-3 investment, including longer K-3 school years for at-risk schools. For graduation rates, we have to respond to early indicators like Fs and truancy among freshmen, and map curricula to requirements for trade industry and higher education.

We have to stabilize our current tax base first: broaden the base, including internet sales, in order to lower GRT rates. We can't keep punishing our brick-and-mortar stores by giving Amazon a better tax rate. With that reform in place, we must develop a modern tax system and disestablish GRT.

New Mexico's gun laws are sensible and enforceable. We have to ensure our entire legal system – enforcement, prosecution, defense and judiciary – are properly staffed and resourced.



**Gregg Wm Schmedes (R)**

My experience as a physician and engineer has taught me how to listen to people and solve problems. As an academic researcher, I have learned to make decisions based on evidence, which I will do as a legislator.

We need to empower our teachers and unleash the creative potential in our students. Common core should be abolished in New Mexico. We must place more value in education. Teachers should be allowed to collaborate more, have more favorable student-to-teacher ratios, and have better pay.

Free market principles should lead our local economy, not government overregulation. New Mexico should welcome economic activity and treat businesses fairly. I would reduce tax rates and simplify the tax code, allowing businesses to create more jobs for New Mexicans.

As a physician, I will work hard to address mental health issues in our state and treat the root cause of gun violence. The root cause of violence in our society is our loss of value for human life, lack of respect for authority, and broken families.

## CANDIDATES FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 41



**Susan K. Herrera (D)**

Served as Director of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Founding Director of Northern New Mexico College Foundation and the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation. This work created endowments of over \$90 million while distributing \$50 million to schools, non-profits and student scholarships in Northern NM over a twenty-year period.

I support increased funding for cradle-to-college education in NM including the First Born home visiting program, high quality pre-K programs in all elementary schools, tutoring programs for all struggling students K-12, dual credit high school/college classes, the lottery scholarship and college programs that ready students for 21st century jobs.

30% of our annual budget is subject to gas and oil prices creating an unreliable revenue base. I would support revamping the personal income tax, the gross receipts tax, and the corporate income tax to create a stable funding stream to support needed services for all New Mexicans.

I would support common sense gun legislation including universal background checks, banning assault weapons, and temporarily banning weapons for individuals under restraining orders.

**Debbie A Rodella (D)**

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

## CANDIDATES FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 43



**Christine Chandler (D)**

Two-term Los Alamos County Councilor, past Chair and currently Vice Chair; Legislative analyst for the NM Senate Judiciary Committee (four sessions). Served on numerous civic boards, presently Vice Chair of the Los Alamos First Born Board. Former LANL attorney; Boston College and Georgetown Law Schools; Smith College, A.B. Economics.

I support implementation of early childhood programs including PreK, as these programs have been shown to improve student achievement/graduation rates. We should enhance support for struggling schools and fully fund our public schools. We should support teacher mentoring programs and eliminate punitive and ineffective measures like PED's school grading program.

We should implement an internet sales tax, add a new income tax bracket for high income earners, close loopholes that allow out-of-state companies to avoid taxes and review the myriad of deductions and exemptions with the aim of establishing fair tax policy and stable revenue sources.

We should require universal background checks on all gun purchases as an important first step to strengthening our gun laws. We also need greater availability of and funding for behavioral and mental health resources in schools and in communities across the state.



**Peter T Sheehy (D)**

Los Alamos County Councilor, 2013-present (elected 2012, re-elected 2016); NCRTD, NCNEMEDD, NMAC Boards of Directors; Los Alamos Planning and Zoning Commission Vice Chairman, 2008-2012; "Certified County Commissioner" and "Certified Public Official" training, NM State University; 20 years advocacy for progressive policies; LANL Scientist, 1986-2012; PhD Physics, UCLA; USAF veteran.

I support: the amendment allowing 1% of the Permanent Fund to be spent each year for early childhood education, including pre-K educational and home visiting programs; increased funding for teacher and educational staff salaries; less required testing; innovations such as project-based learning; "community schools" including healthcare, counseling, and other services.

The exemption from GRT for internet sales should be eliminated, all exemptions and deductions re-evaluated, and GRT reformed to minimize "pyramiding" in business transactions. I do not favor increasing GRT on most non-profit organizations. GRT reform must not be used as an ex-cuse to cut funding for needed programs.

I support: background checks on all sales of guns, with improved national instant criminal background check system; firearms restrictions on domestic violence offenders; expanded behavioral health programs (including in-school health care offices), focused on early treatment of mental health problems that lead to violence. Reduced poverty will reduce violence.

## CANDIDATES FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 46



**Carl Trujillo (D)**

I've served as a citizen legislator for three terms. My focus is on representing the people, not on personal ambition or partisan agenda. I'm a scientist — I believe that truth and facts matter. I'm also a sustainable home builder, a volunteer youth coach and an animal welfare advocate.

I've always supported the Constitutional Amendment to support more investment in early childhood education, which is key to giving our kids a strong start. And while money is only part of the answer, I have always advocated to get more money into the classroom to treat our teachers as professionals.

One is the "remote sellers" tax bill, which I've sponsored/passed twice (vetoed both times). It would keep an additional 50-60 million dollars in New Mexico, while helping to level the playing field for New Mexico businesses against the tax breaks given to humongous online retailers like Amazon.

We have common sense limits on every other amendment in the Bill of Rights — we need common sense limits on firearms. No one needs to own an assault weapon. Stronger background checks and better mental health services — most gun deaths are from suicide or drug-related crime.



**Andrea D Romero (D)**

I am a 17th generation New Mexican with deep roots throughout northern New Mexico. A graduate of Santa Fe High School and Stanford University, I studied economic and community development and have spent my career in public service, entrepreneurship, and advocacy, internationally and in New Mexico.

A strong education develops the necessary learning and skills our children need to lead productive lives. I supports increasing educators' pay, letting teachers teach rather than focus on testing, and increasing funding for 0-5 programs so children enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Our tax system is regressive, burdening those who can least afford it. We need to lower gross receipts taxes and exempt food and medicine; reform the personal and corporate income tax so the rich pay more of their fair share, and hold New Mexican families harmless from Trump's tax scheme.

We must keep guns out of the hands of felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous people. I strongly support closing the background check loophole; passing a gun violence restraining order law to help reduce mass shootings and suicides; and prohibit gun possession by convicted domestic abusers.

# CANDIDATES FOR MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Judges serve four-year terms. They must be a qualified elector of the district and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Salary is \$89,907.79.

## The League asked:

1. What specific knowledge and experience qualifies you for this position?

2. Does the Magistrate Court presently use alternative dispute resolution such as mediation and arbitration? Would you support greater use of it, and if so, how would you accomplish that?

3. What should the Court do to decrease the number of repeat DWI offenses?

4. Does the Court have adequate support staff? If not, how would you recommend dealing with the staffing problems?

## CANDIDATES FOR MAGISTRATE JUDGE, DIVISION 1



David A Segura (D)

Completed Training / National Judicial College, Special Courts Jurisdiction, Enhancing Judicial Bench Skills, Impaired Driving Case Essentials, Handling Small Claims Effectively, Fundamentals of Evidence, Advanced Evidence, Selected Criminal Evidence Issues, Fourth Amendment Training, Drugged Driving Essentials, "Certificate in Judicial Development-Special Court Trial Skills." See my Facebook page for much more.

In February, 2016 I completed the "Theory and Practice of Mediation Course taught at the University of New Mexico, School of Law. Since that time I have worked toward re-implementing the ADR/Mediation program in our court. Effective May 01, 2018 our court will begin our ADR/Mediation program.

In 2008 I started the first DWI Drug Court in the First Judicial District. Drug Courts provide the right mix of treatment and accountability to build a foundation for sobriety, thereby reducing the likelihood of reoffending. Imposition of all mandatory sentence requirements, and verifying completion of all mandatory sentence requirements.

Our Courts support staff level is sufficient based on workload studies. The greater issue is retaining trained and competent staff, and recruiting new staff, given the competition for qualified employees in the Santa Fe area. I will continue to support the efforts of the AOC to attract and retain staff.



Jerry G. Gonzales (D)

I have 26 years working as a bail bondsman and in this role, I gained knowledge of the laws and processes of the Magistrate Court system. As a small business owner, I also acquired skills critical to public service such as project management, problem solving, communication and customer service.

2A. No. 2B. Yes 2C. I would seek additional funding sources for ADR to ensure the program is utilized and can be sustained. I also believe continuous and ongoing education to the court staff and the public about the ADR program is necessary to provide permanent ADR benefits.

I believe it's important to coordinate and participate in multi-component DWI intervention programs to reduce repeat DWI offences. Examples include working with electronic monitoring to ensure compliance in their program, working with law enforcement to increase sobriety checkpoints, educating the public and enforcing stiffer penalties in the courtroom.

4.A. no. 4B. I would work with the Court Manager to ensure staff is cross-trained in the various support functions and review current processes to identify if efficiencies can be accomplished by existing staffing levels. I would also advocate for ongoing education and training opportunities and effective communication amongst all staff.

## CANDIDATES FOR MAGISTRATE JUDGE, DIVISION 3



Samuel B Sena (D)

Magistrate Court has trial jurisdiction for all criminal misdemeanor traffic cases, misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor crimes contained within the county and Ordinances of State statutes. As an officer my training and experience was specific to identifying, establishing reasonable suspicion, probable cause, investigating, charging and prosecuting the case types listed above.

ADR is not currently available, however the program should begin May 2018. I am in favor of mediation as it allows both parties to have ownership of an agreed upon resolution and participate in a settlement. I will fully support and actively work with the other judges to refer cases.

Continue to advocate treatment programs such as DWI Drug Court, which focuses specifically on repeat offenders. Accountability should be sustained and maintained through DWI compliance and mandatory probation requirements.

I believe there is adequate support staff and would further encourage a team-work environment, cross training and continued education for all support staff to ensure employees are knowledgeable and trained in all areas. This could contribute to efficiency for the public and sustain staffing retention.



John A Rysanek (D)

I've been an attorney for nearly seven years, most of that time has been spent working within the Magistrate Court. I have jury trial experience ranging from DWI to second-degree murder. As a Deputy District Attorney, I examine evidence, determine its admissibility and the constitutionality of arrests.

ADR is available in six counties although not in Santa Fe. Mediation has a compliance rate of 92% (8% require further court action) which is significantly higher than the non-mediated rate of 42%. I support its expansion into our county and will order civil litigants to mediate, where appropriate.

Expand the utilization of DWI Court, as it has been proven to substantially reduce repeat DWI's. I would routinely order TAD (alcohol detection) bracelets as a standard condition of probation. A 2015 study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that they nearly eliminated recidivism while being worn.

No, it doesn't. The Santa Fe County Magistrate Court, like the rest of the judicial branch, suffers from a lack of adequate funding and has since 2011. I will advocate for salary increases for support staff and will support the Presiding Magistrate's advocacy towards that end.

## CANDIDATES FOR SHERIFF

The Sheriff serves a four-year term. Salary is \$78,555.

## The League asked:

1. What are your qualifications and experience that qualify you for this position?

2. What are the strengths of the Sheriff's Office under the current administration, and how would you maintain or enhance them?

3. Should there be a citizens oversight committee for the jail?

4. What would your policies be on the use of swift pursuit and deadly force.



Manuel G Anaya, Jr (D)

My 34 years of qualifications/ experiences include retired City of SF Police Officer, SF County Sheriff Deputy, MVD Criminal Investigator, 1st District Court Bailiff, and PRC Criminal Investigator. My extensive public safety knowledge, at the state, city and county level, will enable me to do this job efficiently.

The biggest strength of the current administration is utilizing their patrol deputies with 10 hour work days, 4 days a week. This schedule is cost effective and helps focus on the well-being of the deputies. I plan to maintain this schedule because I believe it enhances their overall job performance.

Yes, I do believe a citizens' oversight committee for the jail will be an advantage not only for The Santa Fe County Jail but also for the Santa Fe County Residents.

Swift pursuit and deadly force are dependent on the officer's training and ability to cope in stressful situations. I plan to enforce a policy in which deputies must complete an annual training with real-time situations to help develop these skills. Furthermore, advanced ethical trainings will also be beneficial to deputies.



Adan Mendoza (D)

I am compassionate and a leader. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Criminology at UNM. I served 18.5 years with the Sheriff's Office. Beginning as a Deputy Cadet and retiring as Major. I have experience ranging from patrol duties to administration. I have overseen every division in the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office has made property crimes and burglary prevention a priority. Burglary rates have decreased over the last few years. I would continue to get our deputies off the highways and into our neighborhoods and communities. Engaging the citizens and communities of Santa Fe County is important.

Although the Jail is run by the Santa Fe County Corrections Department, as Sheriff, I would not oppose reviewing, considering, and possibly endorsing a proposal for a citizen's oversight committee for the Santa Fe County Jail.

Policies and procedures for both pursuit and deadly force need to incorporate requirements set forth by state statute. Policies need to be comprehensive and detail specific situations as to when pursuit and deadly force can be used. Reviewing such incidents is important to ensure that policies and procedures were followed.



Leonard Michael Romero (D)

I have 35 years of law enforcement experience. In these 35 years I have served in a supervisory capacity, in some of the various departments. I also served during my law enforcement time period in the Office of the Medical Investigator as a field investigator.

During the last fifteen years the department has advanced considerably by acquiring newer and more modern equipment, I would continue to obtain the newest training and equipment available. And by implementing new programs. By pursuing federal law enforcement grants.

Yes, I do believe a citizens oversight committee for the jail would be beneficial, especially in the areas of jail deaths and the use of force where there are questions of impropriety and wrongdoing.

Pursuits only in felony cases and / or public safety pursuits such as a wrong way driver. The use of deadly force would only be authorized if the suspect had the means (deadly weapon) and the opportunity (distance) to inflict deadly force upon and officer or citizen.



Linda M Ortiz (D)

I retired in 2013 as a Lieutenant with the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office. I began my career as a Deputy and moved up the ranks to Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. I oversaw the Civil Division, Records, Division, and Patrol Division. I am a good leader which leads by example.

The Sheriff's Office provides advanced training for deputies. I would ensure deputies are up to date on trainings and encourage deputies to attend college which would benefit everyone. A study which conducted by Michigan State University shows that Law Enforcement officers with college degrees are less likely to use force.

Yes, having a citizens' oversight committee would benefit all that are involved. It would show accountability and transparency within the Santa Fe County jail. Having a citizens' oversight committee would be able to assist on deterring corruption in the jail and have jail personnel take responsibility on their actions.

I would follow the current policy for Pursuit Driving. On deadly force, I would update the policy due to Response to Resistance Model presently being taught at the academy. The RCM model has not been updated since less lethal weapons were introduced and being used. More trainings should be provided.

# CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

Members of the Public Regulation Commission serve four-year terms. The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) regulates the utilities, telecommunications, and motor carrier industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public as provided by law. Salary is \$90,000.

## The League asked:

1. What specific experience have you had that qualifies you to handle the regulatory and policy issues before the Public Regulation Commission?

2. Are there aspects of Public Regulation Commission oversight that could be better handled by other offices in state government or that should be deregulated?

3. Should there be tighter regulation of outside attorneys and lobbyists who deal with the Public Regulation Commission?

4. What can be done to make the Public Regulation Commission an organization that is more efficient and responsive to its constituents?

## CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION, DISTRICT 2

Jefferson L Byrd (R)

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.



Jerry W Partin (R)

During my 31-year career as a General Manager of 2 electric cooperatives I have dealt with the NMPRC regularly. I have testified in cases, worked on policy task forces, and given input to proposed rules. I understand in detail the role and duties of the NMPRC and its' commissioners.

What could be better handled or should be handled by other offices in state government is not a responsibility of a NMPRC Commissioner. The role of the NMPRC is to give proper regulation and oversight to all industries and duties assigned to it by statute.

There are sufficient rules and laws to keep the dealings of the PRC fair and transparent. Good government should use proper pathways of communication that lead to a better outcome, and elect people and hire staff with integrity, knowledge, and wisdom while holding them accountable.

The volume of data to be analyzed and put in proper context without proper staff leads to inefficiencies and outcomes based in politics. The NMPRC collects adequate revenue to do its duties efficiently. The general fund receives the revenue and the legislature appropriates to the NMPRC only a fraction.

## CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION, DISTRICT 4

Theresa A Becenti-Aguilar (D)

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.

No response received.



Lynda M Lovejoy (D)

I served on the Commission for nearly 14 years, 6 years in State Senate, 10 years in State House and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, plus coursework in MBA graduate program. I functioned in judicial, legislative and administrative management capacities and have exercised prescribing policies and procedures for effective government.

Insurance Division and Corporations Bureau were already removed from PRC to other appropriate areas. CenturyLink, the state's largest telecom company, has been partially deregulated from Telecommunications Bureau. Under the current chief of staff, the agency has become more stabilized due to his professionalism and is hiring more experienced personnel in key jobs.

Attorneys who practice before the PRC are subject to the New Mexico Rules and Professional Conduct like any other attorneys practicing in New Mexico. The PRC also has a rule for attorneys who practice before the PRC 1.2.2.9 NMAC.

The PRC is still underfunded, which is causing hiring of needed personnel very challenging. In addition, some long-time career personnel who held key positions have retired. Efforts are being made in reaching out to the Legislative Finance Committee with a proposal authorizing the PRC to assess fees from utility companies.



Janene Natasha Yazzie (D)

I have over ten years of experience working in the energy sector, building community capacity to ensure their human rights are respected in energy regulation and resource development decision-making. This is a necessary aspect of protecting public health, environmental health, and precious water resources in an era of Climate Change.

The PRC can improve in handling its given mandate with competent leadership and staff. I would identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership with other offices in state government when it comes to consumer protection, and advancing a renewable and regenerative economy that respects the rights of all New Mexicans.

The ex-parte communication restrictions need to be upheld and there should be clear consequences when they are violated. This is to ensure the decisions made by the PRC are not manipulated by the influence of outside attorneys and lobbyists that represent special interests to the detriment of the public's interest.

Previous commissioners have not been available for the constituents, improved responsiveness would require consistent office hours, improved work ethic, and rapid response, transparency and accountability. Stronger ethics, technical staff and a commitment to ensure consumer representation in rate cases will improve efficiency in protecting the public's interests.

## CANDIDATES FOR SANTA FE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

County Commissioners serve four year terms. Salary is \$34,005

## The League asked:

1. What particular experience do you have that qualifies you for this position?

2. What are the immediate and long-term concerns regarding water supply, and what specific ideas do you propose for assuring adequate supply?

3. What improvements are needed to the Sustainable Land Development Code, and how can the procedures redevelopment applications be made more efficient?

4. Is coordination between the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County sufficient, or what specific improvements would you propose?



Donald H Reece (D)

Years of experience in running city, county, state and national public health programs.

Formation of a public committee along with scientific community members to explore water availability and usage.

I am not familiar with this Code.

It is my opinion that the coordination appears to be working at the time.

Rudy Nelson Garcia (D)

I have been with Santa Fe County for 25+ years in various positions including Land Use Administrator, Capital Projects Division Director, Intergovernmental Liaison and Legislative Coordinator. These positions have run the gamut of County Government and have exposed me to numerous issues facing the County.

Santa Fe County (including the municipalities, towns and sovereign governments) should continue dialog and planning on providing adequate and safe drinking water to the residents. These efforts include the implementation of the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System, improvements to the Buckmann Direct Diversion System and truly plan (both short and long term) for regionalization of small local water systems into a comprehensive water delivery program.

The Sustainable Land Development Code (SDLC) requires additional technical cleanups to allow for a streamlined process, including both training for County staff and the public that relies on the code for development. The County also needs to complete the DCI/Hard Rock Mining and short term rental sections to insure that those development processes are clearly defined.

This correlates to the answer to question #2. I think the coordination is imperative between all governments within Santa Fe County. This should include the involvement of the public schools to adequately address, water, wastewater, public infrastructure and quality of life issues that plague the County.



Filandro R Anaya (D)

I was Elected as a Board of Education for the Moriarty-Edgewood School District in 1999 and held the office for 12 years. I have had professional training in Finances, Administration, Community Relations, Facilities Maintenance, Legal Issues, Policy Making, Personnel Legislation. Also, I am a Board Member of the CDRC for Santa Fe County since 2011

Immediate concerns are keeping water from going down the drain in older buildings (not keeping up with repairs) where newer types of equipment could save millions of gallons. Sprinklers that don't work in our parks and or owners property. Making sure that Companies that come here are not going to damage the quality of the water by dumping waste. Also look for more zero-scaping, and most important Immediate concerns are making sure that our water stays in their basin of there own community.

I am on the CDRC currently and have made comets that have to change the policy to make it easy for companies to do business here in the county. The SLDC has been in place for just a few years and is a working document that has many areas that could be re-looked at

Much more communication between the City's and County's stakeholders also needed in all communities that are part of Santa Fe County's boundary not just the City of Santa Fe. To spend Tax Payers money more efficient their need to be much better communication.