

VOTE 2020

Voter Guide to the 2020 General Election

PREPARED BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY AND THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization for men and women, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

Essential dates

All are subject to change or revision based on the effects of the pandemic. Access to the County Clerk's Office is by appointment only, but the office can be reached at (505) 986 6280.

Monday, September 14: The County Clerk mailed a paper application for an absentee ballot to every registered voter.

Tuesday, October 6: Online voter registration closes.

Wednesday, October 7-Saturday, October 31: In-person same day voter registration and early voting begin and must be done in person at the Santa Fe County Clerk's office. Call (505) 986 6280.

Now through October 20: Absentee Ballot applications can be printed out and dropped off or mailed to the Santa Fe County Clerk, 100 Catron Street, Santa Fe, NM, 87501. An application can be requested by calling the County Clerk, (505) 986 6280. An online application can be completed at www.nmvote.org.

Tuesday, October 6: Absentee Ballots will begin to be mailed to all registered voters who successfully applied. Fill in your absentee ballot right away, mail it to the County Clerk's Office or drop it off at the Clerk's office. Drop-off boxes will be located at all Early Voting Sites and are more efficient than mail. Your ballot status can be tracked at www.nmvote.org.

Tuesday, October 6- Saturday, October 31: Absentee-In-Person Voting at the Santa

Fe County Clerk's office, 100 Catron Street, Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm. The office is closed Monday, October 12. The only Saturday the County Clerk's Office will be open is October 31, 10:00 am-6:00 pm.

Saturday, October 17-Saturday, October 31: Alternate Sites Early Voting at the following Early Vote Centers. Hours of voting are from 12:00 noon until 8:00 pm. Tuesday through Friday and from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm on Saturdays.

Early Vote Centers are located at:

- **Abedon Lopez Community Center - 155A Camino De Quintana, Santa Cruz**

- **Christian Life Church - 121 Siringo Road, Santa Fe**

- **Town of Edgewood Administrative Office - 171A State Road 344, Edgewood**

- **Max Coll Corridor Community Center - 16 Avenida Torreon, Eldorado**

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

- **Santa Fe County Fair Building - 3229 Ro-deo Road, Santa Fe**

- **Southside Library - 6599 Jaguar Dr., Santa Fe**

Monday, November 2: Early voting is closed.

Tuesday, November 3: General Election. Vote Centers are open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. All Absentee Ballots are physically due back to the County Clerk's Office no later than 7:00 pm. (Mail your absentee ballot back to the County Clerk as soon as you can, but no later than Oc-

tober 27 to ensure it arrives before 7:00 pm on Election Day.)

Voting Information

If you have changed your address or your party affiliation, you should re-register to vote. Apply in person at the County Clerk's Office, by mail, or online. An appointment is necessary for voter registration at the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office. Call (505) 986 6280.

When voting at the Voting Center, you will be asked for your name, address as registered, and year of birth. If you cannot provide this information orally, or if you registered by mail or online, you will be asked for one of these forms of identification: 1) a current and valid photo identification; or (2) a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, student identification card or other government document, including identification issued by an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo that shows your name and current address. With the exceptions noted here, no physical voter identification is required at the polling place.

Since electioneering within 100 feet of polling places is prohibited and since displaying buttons, T-shirts, hats, or other such items are considered electioneering, voters are reminded not to display these items when voting at any Early Voting site or Vote Center.

Voter Information Online

The LWVSFC Voter Guide 2020 is available at

www.lwvsfc.org. You can also visit the website www.Vote411.org for an interactive look at your ballot and all the candidates. Local voting information and sample ballots are available on the Santa Fe County Clerk's website at www.santafecountynm.gov/clerk.

Candidate Responses to Questions from the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico and the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County sent questionnaires to candidates for the 2020 General Election. The names and parties of all candidates who will appear on the ballot are listed in the guide.

Candidate responses are printed exactly as received by the League within the prescribed space limits. We do not edit them. The League assumes no responsibility for the content of any candidate's reply.

With thanks

We would like to thank the League of Women Voters of New Mexico Voter Guide editor Diane Goldfarb. Thank you also to the League of Women Voters of the United States. The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office and the Secretary of State's office provided necessary and helpful information for this guide.

We also thank the *Santa Fe New Mexican* for printing and distributing the Voter Guide.

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

The President is: the head of state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and, the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to Congress. Base Salary: \$400,000 per year

Note: All candidates who will appear on your state's ballot are listed below but only those that meet the following criteria were invited to respond to the League's questions in this guide.

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President

2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the Federal Elections Commission website

3. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes

Howie Hawkins and Angela Nicole Walker (Green)

Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy "Spike" Cohen (Libertarian)

Joseph R. Biden and Kamala D. Harris (Democrat)

Sheila "Samm" Tittle and David Carl Sandige (Constitution)

Donald J. Trump and Mike Pence (Republican)

Gloria La Riva and Sunil Freeman (Socialist and Liberation)

The League asked:



Joseph R. Biden (Democrat)

1. What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and for the long term?

It's a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they're linked. On Day One, I'll implement the COVID strategy I've laid out since March - surging testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I'll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I'll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I'll revitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost caregiving - easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.

2. What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?

Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We're facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I'll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we're never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I'll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I'll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I'll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do. That's a president's job: to represent us all. To take responsibility. To protect the nation. To unite and to heal.

3. How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?

America is at an inflection point. It's past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation's promise to too many for too long. I'll fight to end the health inequities that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same strong start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I'll make racial equity central to our recovery, closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color - building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I'll work for real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.

4. What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?

My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It's past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I'll reverse Trump's assault on our values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers' arms. I'll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our laws, but in a way that's humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

5. What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?

This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That's why I'll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I'll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I'll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.

Donald J. Trump (Republican)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

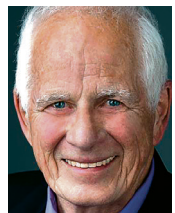


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UNITED STATES SENATE

This person represents New Mexico in the United States Senate. The Senate has 100 members, two from each state. Candidates must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States for at least nine years, and a resident of the state from which elected. Senators are elected statewide for staggered six-year terms. One New Mexico seat is up for election in 2020.

The League asked:	1. Should Congress act to mitigate the effects of climate change? If so, how? If not, why not?	2. What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding the accessibility, affordability, and quality of health care?	3. What should the role of the federal government be in planning for public health emergencies? Please explain.	4. What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding our immigration system?	5. Is voter suppression an issue that needs to be addressed by Congress? Please explain.	6. What actions, if any, should be taken to address the allegations of systemic racial injustice?	7. What action, if any, should Congress take to relieve the United States Postal Service of its financial distress?	8. What is the most important issue Congress should focus on in the next two years and how would you address it?
 <p>Bob Walsh (Libertarian)</p>	<p>Congress should defund government departments that fail to report emissions produced and measures taken to reduce emissions. Individuals may take whatever voluntary measures they deem appropriate. Congress should not impose burdens on the private sector to mitigate uncertain effects that are decades away. Instead, Congress should let our economy grow while the technology advances.</p>	<p>Libertarians favor a free market. We should be free to determine our level of health insurance, our level of health care, our providers, our medicines and treatments, and our end-of-life choices. We should be free to purchase insurance and care across state lines. A free market would offer many choices, including competing affordable options with only catastrophic insurance and without the latest interventions. Independent individuals and groups would rate quality.</p>	<p>The current pandemic has reminded us that central planning does not work. Private companies are happy to compete for the fastest response to a new epidemic, encouraged by the potential financial rewards. The government should get out of the way, not impede developments the way the CDC and the FDA have done during the current pandemic.</p>	<p>Although we should encourage immigration as a benefit to our economy, the more important considerations are human rights. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders.</p>	<p>Voting rights are protected under Amendments IV, XV, XIX, and XXIV. Congress must provide adequate funding to the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute any infringement of these rights.</p>	<p>Police department should improve their ability to detect selective law enforcement before it becomes a systemic problem. The doctrine of qualified immunity should be altered or abolished. Most jurisdictions have too many trivial laws. All laws should have an expiration date.</p>	<p>Now that we can communicate by telephone, by email, and by text messaging, the postal service is no longer essential. Congress should stop protecting the USPS from competition. It should ease the financial burden by assuming responsibility for its existing pension obligations, which are unfunded largely because Congress has been micromanaging the system. Then the system should be sold, with the proceeds used to help fund the pension obligations.</p>	<p>Congress fails most egregiously when it infringes on the endowed rights it was instituted to protect. Tens of thousands of immigrants are being deprived of their liberty by enforcement of laws that are both immoral and unconstitutional. Immigration should be encouraged, not restricted. The U.S. thrives on diversity.</p>
 <p>Mark V. Ronchetti (Republican)</p>	<p>While climate change should be addressed, I disagree with those who believe that dismantling our economy is the answer. I strongly oppose the Green New Deal that my opponent is co-sponsoring. The "Green New Deal" would destroy our economy, while the world's largest polluters - India & China - sit idly by. The approach of proponents of the Green New Deal simply won't work. I support an innovative approach relying on natural gas, carbon capture & emerging technologies to address climate change.</p>	<p>Increasing and improving access to healthcare is possible by enacting policies that lower costs while protecting quality and choice. I oppose government-run Medicare for All. I will always protect coverage for those who have pre-existing conditions. In a state like New Mexico, wider availability of telemedicine is critical to accomplishing this goal. Every American should be able to pick the healthcare plan and doctor they want, not one the government picks for them.</p>	<p>The federal government should have a national response ready for a variety of public health emergencies. As we've seen with COVID-19, it is essential for the government to have the ability to identify, monitor, and eventually control health threats. Additionally, the federal government should maintain necessary public health resources in a national stockpile to be prepared to scale up response to any health threat, rapidly.</p>	<p>I oppose amnesty & support efforts to secure the border with physical barriers, technology & an increase in border patrol agents. Illegal drugs pouring over our border is hurting everyone & this drug trade fuels much of our crime epidemic. I oppose sanctuary city laws that allow illegal immigrants who commit crimes to remain in the country. Legal immigration made this country great and we need clear immigration laws where those seeking the American dream can do so lawfully.</p>	<p>Congress should always be monitoring election security and defending free and fair elections. It is important that every American citizen has the ability to vote so their voice can be heard and shape their government. I support early voting, absentee mail voting, and satellite voting locations. Unlike my opponent, I support voter ID laws to prevent voter fraud.</p>	<p>I support common-sense reforms and we have to weed out bad apples. I believe most police officers are good people and I strongly oppose defunding the police. I support Sen. Tim Scott's bill which would ban no-knock warrants, chokeholds, and require body cameras. Additionally, our Albuquerque police officers have already adopted many reforms to better protect the rights and safety for all citizens, and I am proud to be endorsed by the Albuquerque Police Officers Association.</p>	<p>Congress should ensure the Postal Service has the ability to function going into the election. Additionally, Congress should support the recent agreement in principle between Treasury and USPS for \$10 billion in additional funding from the CARES Act, to guarantee the Postal Service can function without experiencing delays.</p>	<p>Creating jobs and economic opportunity for the people of New Mexico that has been lost during the coronavirus pandemic. We need to incentivize people to go back to work, help small businesses to rehire, and create an economic environment favorable to expansion. Additionally, we need to move manufacturing and production of everything from health care technologies and prescription drugs to rare-earth minerals back to the U.S. and New Mexico from China and elsewhere.</p>
 <p>Ben R. Lujan (Democrat)</p>	<p>We cannot wait another generation to act on the climate crisis. In Congress, I introduced the Clean Energy Standard Act to transition electrical utilities to 100% clean energy in the 2050s and authored the IMPACT for Energy Act to expand investments in organizations working to protect our public lands and strengthen regulations to protect our air and water. By making smart investments in clean energy now, we can create good-paying jobs and secure the needed changes to protect our environment.</p>	<p>Health care is a human right and that's why I have fought to expand health care throughout my career. I am the author of the State Public Option Act, which allows people to buy into their state's Medicaid programs. In Congress, I voted for legislation to drive down prescription drug prices and end surprise medical billing, all while fighting for resources to improve the quality and accessibility of health care for rural New Mexicans.</p>	<p>This pandemic has demonstrated that the federal government must have the ability to effectively respond to public health emergencies. A crisis like COVID-19 requires a comprehensive federal response but instead we've seen a lack of leadership from the president, which has resulted in massive losses of life. The federal government should develop and prepare to implement plans to control the spread of outbreaks in coordination with all 50 states and replenish stockpiles of medical equipment.</p>	<p>Our immigration system is fundamentally broken. Congress needs to pass comprehensive immigration reform - one that includes a pathway to citizenship - protect the DREAMers, and bring humanity back to our immigration policies. We must take immediate action to ensure that the rights of migrants and refugees are protected by ending the family separation and the Remain in Mexico policies implemented by the Trump administration.</p>	<p>Voter suppression must absolutely be addressed by Congress, which has an obligation to protect the rights of the American people. Voter suppression is a threat to our democracy. In Congress I supported the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore the Voting Rights Act that was struck down by the Supreme Court. I also introduced the Native American Voting Rights Act, to create safeguards for Native American voters to eliminate obstacles to the ballot box faced by Native American voters</p>	<p>While recent events have shown a light on this, systemic racial injustice is a pervasive issue in our country. In order to address the root causes of this injustice, we must acknowledge that this racism is real and get to work. I encourage individuals to get involved and volunteer with organizations that are working tirelessly to combat racism. We must also speak out against racism, make our voices heard, and most importantly get out and vote to elect leaders who will fight to make our country</p>	<p>Congress must protect the Postal Service and the absolutely essential role it plays in our communities, including making sure New Mexicans can receive their medications and vote safely during the pandemic. I voted for legislation that would provide the Postal Service with funding to help its financial situation during the course of the pandemic. I also voted for the USPS Fairness Act, which would get rid of requirements that USPS prefund benefits, a major source of the USPS's financial troubles.</p>	<p>COVID-19 has hit the lives of New Mexicans hard. In the House, I have pushed to get New Mexico the resources we need to get through this crisis now and get us on the long path to recovery. I secured investments in our health care infrastructure, supported workers and small businesses, worked to expand broadband access to underserved areas, and fought so that rural and tribal communities are not left behind. In the Senate, I will build off this work to help New Mexico rebuild after this crisis.</p>


UNITED STATES HOUSE DISTRICT 3

This person represents New Mexico in the United States House of Representatives. The House has 435 members elected from districts based on population. New Mexico is entitled to three members. Candidates must be at least 25 years old, a United States citizen for seven years, and must be a resident of New Mexico. Representatives are elected by district for a two-year term.

The League asked:	1. Should Congress act to mitigate the effects of climate change? If so, how? If not, why not?	2. What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding the accessibility, affordability, and quality of health care?	3. What should the role of the federal government be in planning for public health emergencies? Please explain.	4. What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding our immigration system?	5. Is voter suppression an issue that needs to be addressed by Congress? Please explain.	6. What actions, if any, should be taken to address the allegations of systemic racial injustice?	7. What action, if any, should Congress take to relieve the United States Postal Service of its financial distress?	8. What is the most important issue Congress should focus on in the next two years and how would you address it?
 <p>Alexis M. Johnson (Republican)</p>	<p>As an environmental engineer, I have made sure we respect our environment while creating jobs for New Mexicans and working together. We do not want to have rolling blackouts here in NM as we see in CA due to their all sustainable push. I support sustainable efforts in NM; however, the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. It would be foolhardy to put NMs out of jobs, increase their electric bills, and take away 39% of our state revenue for our education. NM together!</p>	<p>I 100% support coverage for pre-existing conditions. I support choice of doctors and transparency of the cost of services. I will further current efforts to reduce our prescription healthcare costs by bringing in increased competition. I will continue the efforts to hold those accountable for price gouging for life saving medications. In addition, I fully support the expansion of broadband access to facilitate the growth of Telehealth services in our tribal communities and greater NM.</p>	<p>The federal government should act when there is a public health emergency such as the controversial closing of the borders and preventing those from hard-hit countries to enter the US until proper testing and safety measures could be ensured. In addition, I will work with Congress to make sure we have the proper PPE and ventilators manufactured in the US. We must make sure that the US is not beholden to other countries for critical safety gear. NM can be the premier location to manufacture.</p>	<p>I was raised by an immigrant from Mexico who taught me the value of the American dream to work hard and have American opportunity. My candidacy reflects those New Mexican values. We must understand many people that traverse the border are under duress from drug smugglers and sex trafficking. I support an increase in technological monitoring of the border as a must to secure the border. We must have a welcoming door to immigrants to this country via the legal process and comprehensive reform.</p>	<p>Our tribal communities need to have access to voting. It is imperative that all voices in New Mexico are heard. In Congress, I will make sure that all communities, irrespective of locale, have access to voting. In Congress, I will promote the voices that are not being heard here in NM not only in our tribal communities but all of NM.</p>	<p>I stand for the voice of the "forgotten" New Mexican. It is important we discuss racial injustice. In NM, I have been very vocal regarding preserving the historic traditions, culture, and religions here in NM based upon our US Constitution. My opponent has failed to stand for the Hispanic community of northern New Mexico as our religious monument was defaced because that did not coincide with the rioting and looting of the "defund" movement promoted by AOC who has endorsed my opponent.</p>	<p>I support a revamping of the USPS and funding to provide for modernization to reduce costs and become more efficient. USPS is crucial to many New Mexicans and I look forward to bringing industry leaders and work together to promote the USPS.</p>	<p>In the next two years, the health of our community is of the utmost importance: our physical health and our financial health. I will work to promote a reduction in healthcare prescription drugs and hospital service transparency as well as doctor choice. Increased competition in our health industry will increase care and reduce costs. As a small business owning family, I will look to continue stimulating the small business backbone economy of NM while creating infrastructure and collaboration.</p>
 <p>Teresa Leger Fernandez (Democrat)</p>	<p>In New Mexico, we know how important the land, clean skies and water are to who we are as a people. Yes, Congress must immediately act on climate change. We must rejoin the Paris Agreement, invest in renewable energy resources like wind and solar, utilize regenerative agriculture and pass clean energy tax incentives. Our transition away from fossil fuels must include economic assistance to places like New Mexico that have borne the brunt of our fossil fuel consumption.</p>	<p>It's up to Congress to transition America to universal healthcare, which would ensure quality, affordable access to health care for all without bankrupting co-pays and deductibles. Congress must also address discrimination based on pre-existing conditions, and bring down the cost of prescription drugs through negotiation, patent reform and increased US manufacturing. Additionally, we must fund our rural clinics and pay our rural doctors, nurses and health workers more.</p>	<p>The federal government should lead when there is a public health emergency; providing reliable public health information, mobilizing medical supplies (Defense Production Act) and promoting medical research so each state is acting in unison to eliminate the health threat. We've seen the loss of life and livelihood when we don't have a unifying national leader who instead undermines the CDC and WHO. The US has the most cases and deaths of any advanced country because of Trump's failure to lead.</p>	<p>We must honestly and compassionately apply our asylum laws to those seeking refuge from persecution. The abuse of families and children at our border does not reflect the values and humanity we believe in. Congress should pass comprehensive immigration reform that would provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, DREAMers included. Immigrants are an essential part of our economy. I helped start an immigration clinic and know the importance of this community to our country.</p>	<p>It's shameful that President Trump and some Republicans want to suppress the vote and undermine democracy. I've spent my career fighting for voting rights, and when I get to Congress I will push for the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the We the People Act to reform our electoral system, increase transparency of campaign finance, allow mail in voting, and prevent states from enacting policies that make it harder, rather than easier, for minorities and working communities to vote.</p>	<p>We must understand that racism is deeply rooted in this country and operates at a systemic and institutional level. To acknowledge this historic injustice, we must pass legislation that addresses the racial disparities in healthcare, education, and infrastructure investments. As mentioned before, I will fight for voting rights protections and push for the passage of electoral reform bills. I would also support legislation to form a commission to study reparations and to address police brutality.</p>	<p>In August, the House passed legislation to provide \$25 billion to the U.S. Postal Service and halt operational changes that have impacted mail service nationwide. The Senate should take up this bill immediately. Communities in New Mexico and across the country rely on the USPS for essential needs like medicine, bill payments, and other critical communication. It is a service we must protect.</p>	<p>The first thing the 117th Congress must pass is the recovery legislation to pull us out of the COVID recession. I will prioritize making paid family medical leave permanent, supporting working families and small businesses, and funding a broad definition of infrastructure projects, including broadband, rural health clinics and education. We must use this recovery to fix the structural problems of inequality, address our climate crisis before it's too late and fix our healthcare system.</p>



NEW MEXICO SENATE DISTRICT 19

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, senators enact “reasonable and appropriate laws,” represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 25 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a four-year term. Senators do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem.

The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
 John McDivitt (Libertarian)	<p>We can move to a more stable economy by taking full advantage of our greatest assets: incredible weather and the natural beauty of our state. We should be doing everything we can to attract retirees, small businesses and promote tourism. To do this will require intelligent tax policy changes. I recommend scrapping the onerous gross receipts tax in favor of a minimal sales tax to be applied to non-food goods ONLY. We should offer generous tax incentives to businesses which relocate to New Mexico.</p>	<p>No. Once the precedent has been set to tap the permanent funds there will be a never ending series of “needs” that will require funding. Permanent funds will cease being permanent once they are exhausted.</p>	<p>There is no action the legislature should take outside of making certain that state government isn't guilty of these same inequalities.</p>	<p>The national ranking of New Mexico speaks for itself. I believe we need much more competition in education. Competition always results in better outcomes and lower costs. I strongly believe that tax dollars should follow the student. The parents should exercise control over how that money is spent relative to the education of their children not some bureaucracy. I would encourage more charter schools as well as parochial and private schools.</p>	<p>Nothing. I do not believe it is the responsibility of the legislature to issue mandates regarding sources of energy. California has taken the lead in such actions and they now have rolling brown-outs due to lack of adequate power supplies. Who doesn't like renewable sources of energy? If the utility companies in our state believe they can meet our energy needs with less reliance on fossil fuels and maintain acceptable profit margins that should be a business decision not a legislative one.</p>	<p>If I were a network engineer of some sort I could probably formulate an impressive sounding response to this question. Unfortunately, I am not. However, I do not believe it is the constitutional responsibility of the legislature to set standards such as this. If there is a need for broadband internet in remote locations of the state only then should the legislature potentially get involved providing tax incentives to providers to stimulate the necessary private investment to make it happen.</p>	<p>NO! A paid legislature would almost certainly become a full time legislature. Our current part time, per diem based citizen legislature wherein members are generally NOT professional politicians has served us well. The only possible exception to this tradition would be in times of emergency such as the current pandemic. In times like these having the legislature in session to act on behalf of the people in the face of executive branch overreach would be advisable.</p>
 Claudia Risner (Democrat)	<p>The way to stabilize our economy is to decrease our reliance on the boom-or-bust cycle of the fossil fuels industry by diversifying our economy. We must create a business-friendly economy that nurtures small, local businesses and increases revenue in other industries such as tourism, outdoor recreation, film, aerospace, and renewable energy. We must improve our education system to build a skilled workforce and provide them health care, a living wage, and other benefits to encourage them to stay.</p>	<p>There is a time and place for everything and I believe, in the midst of this great time of need for New Mexicans, it is the time to tap into our permanent funds to ensure the economic safety of our state. Our small businesses need assistance to fully reopen in compliance with safety requirements. Our teachers and schools need additional resources to ensure our students have the opportunity to succeed at virtual learning. Frugal use of our funds is an investment in a more resilient future.</p>	<p>To address our economic and social inequalities we need to raise the minimum wage; provide healthcare to all regardless of their employment status; create legislation that defends human rights and improves conditions for the incarcerated, and provides support for successful reintegration; retrain our police to exercise due process; and create specialized task forces that focus on mental illness and homelessness in the community. We must strive to eliminate systemic racism in New Mexico.</p>	<p>Funding and effectiveness are my top concerns. Unstable funding can be remedied by basing our state's revenue on steady and reliable streams, which means diversifying our economy and becoming less dependent on oil and gas. Effectiveness can be improved by hiring more full-time teachers, raising our educators' salaries, fully funding full-day Pre-K, streamlining admin functions and putting more money in the classroom, engaging families and communities in learning and strengthening vocational ed.</p>	<p>There should be direct partnership and cost share with the Department of Energy through Sandia and Los Alamos National Labs and through the universities which require long-term strategic planning. Streamline the access routes for power transmission to get renewables to market. Continue to invest in grid modernization technologies. Invest in electric vehicle infrastructure and create tax incentives for electric vehicle purchases.</p>	<p>The minimum standard broadband speed throughout NM must be based on meeting the needs of simultaneous distant learning and working for everyone in the household. The 2015 US FCC minimum speeds are inadequate and the digital divide between urban and rural communities is a social inequity that impedes our economic growth. Reliable, affordable, high-speed internet is a necessity. We can achieve this through collaborative private and public partnerships and the use of innovative technologies.</p>	<p>New Mexico's unpaid legislature dates to 1912 and is the last in the U.S. It is an obstacle to better representation, and more effective, honest, and transparent governance. I believe NM needs paid legislators, paid staff, longer sessions, and term limits. These actions would widen the pool of New Mexicans who could serve and represent their districts; reduce legislators' dependency on lobbyists for research and advice; and provide time to adequately assess bills and committee objectives.</p>
Gregg Schmedes (Republican)	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NEW MEXICO SENATE DISTRICT 24


In addition to other duties prescribed by law, senators enact “reasonable and appropriate laws,” represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 25 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a four-year term. Senators do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem.

The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
 Leighton Cornish (Republican)	<p>Increase tax incentives for industries and business not only for the film industry. America should be producing our own medicines and personal protective equipment. New Mexico could be a place capable of such industry.</p>	<p>New Mexico should offer veterans an incentive to stay or retire here. Veterans in many other states do not have to pay state income tax; maybe this could work here to incentivize military veterans and retirees to stay in New Mexico.</p>	<p>I do not know about that process yet.</p>	<p>I support Federal laws regarding reproductive rights.</p>	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
Scott Milenski (Libertarian)	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
 Nancy Rodriguez (Democrat)	<p>Stay the course to end this virus pandemic; Promote our recently enacted renewable energy legislation for businesses and individuals such as the Solar Tax Credit and the Energy Transition Act; support our outdoor economy through our recently created Outdoor Recreation Division; increase the State percentage cap that can be used for business investments through legislation we recently enacted; continue to support our local workforce and provide incentives for NM businesses to thrive.</p>	<p>Children are the foundation for our future. I support a higher disbursement of permanent funds for Early Childhood Education. While NM has steadily increased funding for early childhood education programs, it has never been enough to launch a robust impact on these vital programs. The Land Grant Permanent Fund can provide the increased stable funding necessary for positive educational outcomes. I also support allocations from the Severance Tax Permanent Fund to boost our economic recovery.</p>	<p>During our recent Special Legislative Session we enacted legislation to create a Civil Rights Commission to look into the doctrine of Qualified Immunity and violation of constitutional rights. No one should be allowed to claim the defense of Qualified Immunity in doing wrong to others. Furthermore, income inequality for women must come to an end. I recently voted for legislation to require State Agencies to implement policies to prevent Institutional racism and income inequality.</p>	<p>A successful future starts with a solid early childhood education. We recently created an Early Childhood Education & Care Department which will consolidate early childhood services for more effective delivery of early education. We also created an Early Childhood Education Trust Fund to ensure a viable income resource and we must steadfastly support these two initiatives; We must also provide career advancement, better pay for teachers and recruitment and retention of classified educators.</p>	<p>We must wean ourselves from the reliance of the oil & gas industry in NM and we must focus on alternative energy. New Mexico's electricity must be carbon-free by 2045. We must continue to provide incentives for businesses to provide alternative energy sources such as solar and wind energy; We must promote The Energy Transition Act which transitions electric utilities toward greater renewable clean energy production. Climate Change must be addressed and we must provide for more green energy.</p>	<p>There is a shortage of Broadband Internet services in New Mexico that must be addressed with better coordination of statewide and intergovernmental approaches. Accurately defining underserved areas to coordinate the need for resources and identifying ways to increase and adequately fund internet services is crucial. We must develop a plan to establish a central point such as an Office of Broadband to achieve this goal.</p>	<p>New Mexico is the only state in the nation that does not pay a salary to its legislators. Having a paid legislature would broaden the pool of candidates running for office and would give voters a bigger choice. Paying legislators a salary would require a constitutional amendment to be voted on by the public at a General Election.</p>




NEW MEXICO SENATE DISTRICT 25

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, senators enact "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 25 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a four-year term. Senators do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem.

The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
<p>Ricardo Vargas (Republican)</p>  <p>Peter Wirth (Democrat)</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>Expand state support for film, renewable energy, start-ups, tourism, arts and culture. Prioritize New Mexico small businesses over out-of-state corporations.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>Yes. In the recent special session, I voted for the New Mexico Small Business Recovery Act which uses \$400 million from the Severance Tax Permanent Fund for loans to New Mexico businesses. I have always supported a joint resolution to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot giving voters the chance to increase the distribution from the Land Grant Permanent Fund for education and early childhood services.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>I will continue to support legislation requiring state agencies to address institutional racism. We need to increase the "at risk" percentage in the state equalization funding formula for public education. And, we need tax reform that reduces regressivity and increase the Working Family tax credit.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>In the current economic environment, it is critical that we continue to prioritize education funding and providing resources to those students most at risk. We also have to acknowledge the incredible pressures teachers are under teaching with COVID risks and provide necessary support.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>I supported the Energy Transition Act in 2019 which provides a roadmap for the transition to renewables. In the upcoming session we need to pass community solar and an electric vehicle tax credit.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>The pandemic has highlighted the critical need to incentivize and invest in broadband. We have to leverage state dollars to maximize federal and grant matching funds. Internet should be treated as an essential utility like electricity and water.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>I will support a joint resolution to let the voters decide if the constitution should be amended to pay legislators. Having a paid legislature will allow the body to better reflect the populace.</p>


NEW MEXICO SENATE DISTRICT 39

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, senators enact "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 25 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a four-year term. Senators do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem.

The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
<p>Joseph Tiano (Republican)</p>  <p>Elizabeth Stefanics (Democrat)</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>This all will need to take place over several years - new revenues from an equitable standard. (i.e. hybrid and electric vehicles; renewable energy after installation and long term utilization). Legalize and tax marijuana after careful consideration. Expand sustainable tourism throughout the state. Review and retire tax exemptions and credits that do not benefit New Mexicans.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>I have voted for both of these measures in the past - permanent funds for early childhood education and permanent funds to benefits our small businesses. Any use of the permanent funds should be judicious and a small percentage of the interest not the corpus.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>We must continue to address poverty and literacy in our state - Broadband and IT services around the entire state. Racial inequalities in our state cover many different groups, African American, Jewish, sometimes Hispanic, sometimes Mexican, immigrants, Asian, etc. Task forces are complementary in nature but are not statutory and long lasting. Address educational inequalities, public safety standards, health and human services, and more in every piece of legislation that we consider.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>Small class sizes; adequate bilingual and multilingual teachers and staff; appropriate compensation levels; broadband around the entire state; IT supplies and services where needed; improvement of facilities; and upgrades of school infrastructure (water and sewer). Initiate new support for all of our rural libraries.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>Continue to support development of solar and wind energy. Revise the Energy Transmission Act to deflect the financial burden from the rate payer. Pass the Community Solar Act. Support our community colleges and colleges with the workforce training for these industries. Investigate aquaponics for food insecurity, vineyards, small farming. Continue investments in our Healthy Soils Programs, and hemp farming.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>The state should partner with a national/international company to provide broadband - ie. from a Google weather or satellite balloon. Utilize the skills of others that our state has not been able to accomplish in the last 2 or 3 decades. Initiate a partnership with our federal elected officials, our air force bases, and federal financial investment.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>Yes - I believe that we could attract younger individuals, single parents, individuals with families, individuals that need to leave work for this responsibility. It will offer us an opportunity to capture more interest in running for elected office.</p>

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 22

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, representatives enact "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 21 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a two-year term. Representatives do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem.

The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
<p>Jessica Velasquez (Democrat)</p>  <p>Stefani Lord (Republican)</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>I'm a small business owner. My top priority is creating new opportunities to help us all get ahead. NM needs to encourage home-grown entrepreneurship and drive job creation: reform taxes, incentivize new business, and modernize infrastructure. I will focus on emerging economic sectors, such as aerospace and cybersecurity, energy production, advanced manufacturing, and digital media and film. Diversifying the economy will take time. Decisive action today will lead to a stronger economy tomorrow.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>We must invest in the future of our children. I support a constitutional amendment that would allocate funds from the Land Grant Permanent Fund for education and economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19. However, we need strong oversight and accountability measures in place, with clear benchmarks to measure progress and success.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>Eliminating structural racial and income inequality requires long-term commitment to fairness and justice at every level, and across every sector. State policy should focus on creating good jobs with livable wages, enforcing anti-discriminatory laws in the workplace and in financial systems, increasing access to affordable high quality healthcare, reforming bias within the criminal justice system, creating affordable housing, and ensuring our tax code is fair for families and small business.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>I am a former public school teacher. New Mexico's students and teachers are among the most talented, capable and resilient in the nation. NM's public schools have been short-changed---and have suffered from inadequate funding. We need to focus on recruiting and retaining outstanding teachers, expanding school-based health and social services necessary for student success, investing in early childhood education, raising salaries for teachers, and expanding community school initiatives.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>Although New Mexico currently relies heavily on oil and gas extraction, this is a short-term outlook. What is needed is a long-term view of investment that includes prioritizing green energies in tandem with small business growth and strategies to diversify our economy, which will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and foster growth in other job sectors. New Mexico is a state filled with sunshine and wind; capitalizing on these natural resources can make our state a leader in clean energy.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>In a high-speed world, many communities are at risk of being left behind because NM lacks access to broadband internet. Yes, we should work toward a minimum standard of access across the state. To achieve that goal, we need a complete analysis of existing gaps in service and future need assessment, strong coordination between the private and governmental sector, and a dedicated department with clear directives and oversight. Investment in broadband infrastructure will need to be increased.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>That decision will be up to the people of New Mexico, when and if they have the chance to vote on it. Unpaid legislators, in short legislative sessions, are dependent on committee staff and lobbyists to help craft law, and are vulnerable to conflicts of interest. Not offering a salary also means that the people who can serve in the legislature are typically wealthy, retired, or are lucky to have flexible, understanding employers OR own their own businesses. NM would benefit from a change.</p>

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 41

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The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
 Susan Herrera (Democrat)	<p>New Mexico needs to create and retain businesses; to restructure our tax system; and continue to set aside 25% of our assets in a reserve fund to help us navigate oil and gas markets until we have a diversified economy. To attract business, we need to restructure our tax system, improve education and invest in infrastructure. To improve education we need to raise teachers salaries and invest in early education. Infrastructure demands a statewide broadband internet network that serves all NM.</p>	<p>Yes. New Mexico is one of the poorest states in the union and has the second largest endowment fund. We can access the permanent fund for help in hard times and we could invest in New Mexico businesses and infrastructure. Good roads, good schools, a stable and statewide broadband internet network, and business investments all create and attract jobs with a return on investment. The time is now.</p>	<p>New Mexicans should reform our criminal and justice systems and examine long held racial bias. We should also return to publicly financed prisons. No one should make a profit out of detaining prisoners. We also need to provide support and training for community policing and we need to raise salaries for law enforcement officers so that we are able to recruit and retain the best and the brightest. County sherriffs should be hired within a county personnel process, not elected.</p>	<p>We are going to need to make up for lost time due to the pandemic. The early work of the 2019 K-5+ legislation (a longer school year and professional development) will set the stage for best practices and New Mexico can build on these practices to help students, parents and teachers alike. Pre-natal through age six are the most important learning years, so state programs like home visiting, quality daycare, and universal pre-k need to be expanded to give our children the best chance possible</p>	<p>The New Mexico legislature has been one of the nation's leaders in reducing fossil fuels and promoting clean energy. New Mexico needs to work closely with the non-profit rural electrical cooperatives that provide energy to our rural communities without worrying about providing profits for shareholders. On-bill financing is now provided by rural electric coops in partnership with solar energy companies to harness solar power while bringing down the cost of energy to rural communitie</p>	<p>NM DoIT hasn't done it! The PRC hasn't done it! It's time to revamp our entire broadband internet system making internet accessible to all New Mexicans. Japan and South Korea said, "Let's have the free internet for all our citizens." What a concept! Non-profit rural electric coops have built a grid for energy, we should build on that grid to provide broadband internet capacity in rural communities. We need a broadband internet czar that oversees competing state agencies. Do it now!</p>	<p>Yes. The 41st District is the size of Connecticut. Adequate representation means pre and post meetings with constituents, city and county governments, school boards and schools, and non-profit organizations to understand state issues. I travel 1500 to 2000 miles a month. My office is my home office and my phone is my home phone. We have no staff and review and deliberate on a \$20 billion budget. NM needs a paid legislature and a longer legislative session. Time for a constitutional amendment</p>



NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 43

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The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
 David E. Hampton (Republican)	<p>We need to make New Mexico more attractive to business. My priorities involve reforming our tax code, improving education, and reducing crime. I support replacing gross receipts tax, which unfairly burdens small businesses, with a sales tax that applies to finished goods only. I support reducing government spending to enable lower taxation and remove our reliance on severance taxes from fossil fuel extraction. I support amending catch and release to exclude violent offenders.</p>	<p>No. Tapping them now to support overspending by government will make the income they produce unavailable to future generations, damaging education and other programs in the future, and requiring higher taxes to make up for the shortages. I do support creative use of the permanent funds which will not deplete them, like making portions of them available for low interest loans to small businesses.</p>	<p>The same actions we need to take to achieve a more stable economy, such as tax reform, improved education, and reduced crime, will help address and resolve racial and income inequalities. We need to enforce current legislation which supports equal opportunity and ensure that all New Mexicans have equal access to the opportunities that a stable and prosperous economy would provide.</p>	<p>Since top-heavy government schools have failed to meet the requirement of providing sufficient education to all students, the Legislature should make educational choice available to parents, and the money allocated to education from the State Budget should follow the student. This would especially help rectify education inequalities like those we see in the Navajo Nation and in lower income communities.</p>	<p>At this time, I do not support any actions at the state level to reduce our use of fossil fuels. Wind, solar, and the other renewable options do not seem to be effective and produce additional environmental problems in regards to production and disposal. In addition, at a time when 41% of New Mexico's budget is funded by severance taxes generated from fossil fuel extraction in our state, transitioning from fossil fuel use seems unwise.</p>	<p>One way is to apply for USDA grants. Another way, and certainly the one the state legislature could accomplish most easily, would be to encourage infrastructure development by exempting it from gross receipts tax. Eliminating taxation would make it profitable for providers to build the infrastructure in many areas. I do not support establishing a state minimum standard. Established state standards, as we see with education, referencing the Yazzie/Martinez case, can be ignored by the state.</p>	<p>I do not support moving to a paid legislature. In addition to imposing a substantial cost on New Mexico that would require increased taxation, there is no guarantee that we would have better representation. I am pleased with the individuals who are offering to represent us without compensation.</p>
 Christine Chandler (Democrat)	<p>Improve our public education system and vocational training programs to create a workforce and labor pool to support a sustainable commercial sector. Maintain and create adequate infrastructure, including strong internet capabilities, necessary to attract businesses. Diversify the economy, for example, by supporting clean energy initiatives, legalizing adult use cannabis under strict controls, developing a strategy to draw a manufacturing into our economy.</p>	<p>Revenue volatility undermines reliable, consistent funding sources for educational initiatives. A small percentage of the interest on the Land Grant Permanent Fund would allow sustained support for education and early childhood programs. The Economic Recovery Act tapped into the Severance Tax Permanent Fund to invest in New Mexico businesses impacted by the pandemic. Efforts such as these will reap long term benefits for the State.</p>	<p>This challenge must be approached on many different fronts: minority and rural populations must receive educational opportunities equal to their peers in more affluent areas, including narrowing the technology gap; new criminal justice strategies that include police reforms; limited reliance on incarceration, and expanded diversion and alternative sentencing programs; social welfare, behavioral health and drug treatment initiatives; and support for families through paid family leave and childcare.</p>	<p>For a variety of social and economic reasons, too many New Mexico children begin their educational experience without the foundation necessary for them to succeed. To support these children, the State must continue to advance Pre-K and early childhood programs that have been shown to promote not only student success in school but also life outcomes.</p>	<p>The Energy Transition Act is a guide for initiatives that shift from fossil fuels to cleaner energy alternatives. The law sets strong renewable energy goals and establishes a pathway for a low-carbon energy transition away from coal while providing workforce training and transition assistance to affected communities. We must continue to be creative, looking for solutions that capitalize on our solar and wind capabilities, while at the same time supporting worker transition with vocational training.</p>	<p>State-wide access to internet service that meets a minimum service standard must be achieved not in the long-term but in the short-term. The responsibility for overseeing and championing internet services is spread out among too many entities. With so many diffuse pieces, it is difficult to implement a cohesive strategy. Without one responsible organization, the state will continue to move in ever too slow incremental steps.</p>	<p>A paid legislature will attract members who could not otherwise sustain the financial hardship from leaving a job or business for one to two months a year, as well interim committee participation. This constitutional change would help encourage younger people with families and those with lower incomes to serve.</p>

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 45


In addition to other duties prescribed by law, representatives enact "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 21 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a two-year term. Representatives do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem.

The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
 Helen Milenski (Libertarian)	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p>
 Linda Serrato (Democrat)	<p>We must diversify our economy and invest in our infrastructure to ensure that we are attracting new businesses to our state while fostering growth within it. By investing in statewide broadband, education, and worker-friendly policies, we can begin to encourage others to invest their businesses and futures here. We must reduce our reliance on the volatile oil and gas industry and begin utilizing business incentives that succeeded in similar states following the last Recession.</p>	<p>This global economic crisis and the inept response of the President occurred just as New Mexico was one of the last states to fully recover from the Great Recession. We need to utilize any advantage we have at this moment to rebuild New Mexico faster than we did last time. I support tapping the permanent fund at a higher percentage to support this effort.</p>	<p>We need worker-friendly policies such as Paid Sick Leave, Paid Family Leave and a statewide Living Wage to provide economic stability to all New Mexicans. As our economy overall has suffered, families have shouldered a greater portion of that burden. I believe in community-based solutions that originate from BIPOC community organizations to begin to address some of our state's inequality. We need to stop relying on our police force as a blanket solution to all challenges.</p>	<p>I am focused on three key issues. First, parents face an unfair and unnecessary choice: investment in our children's education or a sustainable future. We need to diversify our state's economy and reduce our reliance on oil and gas to protect our investments in education. In 87507, our families need our community schools to return and the state can work with local leaders to do</p>	<p>I believe the Energy Transition Act was a good first step and now it is up to PRC and Roundhouse to ensure it is implemented correctly. We must prioritize clean energy along with modernizing our economy. We need community solar to encourage local communities to invest in solar and have a new source of revenue. I'll be proud to work with local organizations like YUCCA Action, Sierra Club: Rio Grande Chapter, CVNM and others to modernize our energy solutions.</p>	<p>The good news is we don't have to reinvent the wheel. Some of our Mountain West neighbors have successfully increased internet access through developing task forces, creating grant programs dependent on population being served and utilizing national grants that may be helpful. However, we must work with our diverse communities including rural, towns, Pueblos and the Navajo nation to increase connectivity without sacrificing our local wellbeing.</p>	<p>This is an issue that should come before New Mexican voters. I believe the pandemic and plummeting price of oil and gas revealed our need for a year-round legislature which can only function by paying our leaders. In addition, our Democracy runs best when individuals from diverse socio-economic backgrounds represent their communities at the Roundhouse. If we are serious about engaging working families in the legislature, we need to begin paying our legislators.</p>


NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 46

The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
<p>Jay Groseclose (Republican)</p>  <p>Andrea Romero (Democrat)</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>The time is critical for New Mexico to focus inward in the state to invest its funds. Early childhood education and homegrown industries such as in agriculture, outdoor recreation, film, high technology (e.g. tech-transfer from National Labs), and the legalization of recreational cannabis are a good start. As we recover from the COVID-19 crisis, we know that a strong economy is only as good as our public health. Any economic plan should be coupled with building a strong healthcare system.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>We should have a flat tax across the state and ensure that we fix the regressive nature of our tax structure to better support small businesses and working families, and also focus on those who work in seasonal or boom/bust industries. We need to work from the bottom up to undue tax benefits that support only corporations and the wealthy and restructure to ensure we benefit the many and not just a few.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>First and foremost, we should ensure our data reflects that of the 2020 Census. The redistricting process should also include independent redistricting commissions. These commissions should focus on inclusivity, good-faith negotiation, transparency which will allow for fair redistricting that protects community interests and guards against partisan, racial and class-based gerrymandering.</p>	<p>Pro-life.</p> <p>Reproductive rights are a right to have sovereignty over one's body and to access healthcare freely, safely and legally. They require 100% protection from any infringement on such rights. Private healthcare decisions are between those seeking care, their doctors and family. We need to protect these rights and honor them as we would any of our sacred rights to freedom and liberty.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>It has been a long standing tradition in our Legislature to ignore climate change in order to ensure we have revenues from oil and gas, and that has to change. The 'boom and bust' economic cycles are no longer anything we can depend upon for revenue. And, alas, the clean energy revolution is here and available for the taking in our state. Now is the time to invest our legislative efforts in supporting wind, solar, energy storage, modernization, and grid renewal.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>There have been so many innovations in broadband delivery and the necessity for universal access is more than ever. It is as essential as utilities like electricity and water--it is part of our meeting our everyday needs, for work and play. The minimum standard should be universal access for healthcare, first responders, students and educators, special needs, and small business. This takes a budget and action plan by our legislature about how and what we will invest in to bring it to life.</p>	<p>NO RESPONSE RECEIVED</p> <p>My experience of juggling legislative responsibilities along with work, school, family and friends, is not unique to the experience of my legislative colleagues. Although, it would be better for the people of New Mexico if I was in a position to fully focus my life and time to the legislative needs in our state. I believe a professional and paid legislature is needed and will only benefit the people of NM.</p>


NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 47

The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
<p>Brian Egolf, Jr (Democrat)</p> 	<p>I will continue to support our work to diversify New Mexico's economy and end our dependence on revenue from oil and gas. This means more investments in film, biotech, aerospace, value-added agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and wind and solar energy. Partnerships between higher education and these promising industries will expand our workforce. NM already has natural strengths in outdoor recreation, tourism, and the cultural economy. Diversification is critical to our economic prosperity.</p>	<p>I strongly support using the Land Grant Permanent Fund to invest in our children's future. It is the best way to achieve our goals of giving every family the opportunities they deserve for a world-class education. Deploying the Fund responsibly will strengthen the foundation of our state and create opportunities that will last for generations. I also pushed for the Small Business Recovery Act, which invests Severance Tax Permanent Funds into small businesses that were impacted by COVID-19.</p>	<p>Systemic and institutional racism are real, and I am proud to stand with my colleagues in transforming state government and New Mexico to root out the evils of racism. We must pass robust legislation to address institutional racism and legislative policies to evaluate racial impacts of legislative we consider. Finally, I am proud to have created the NM Civil Rights Commission, which will provide the legislature with solutions to make New Mexico a more equitable, just, and safe place to live.</p>	<p>We have achieved tremendous progress since launching our Education Moonshot in 2019, but more works remains to be done. I support universal pre-K as a significant step toward setting a great foundation for our children. We must continue to expand programs that work, like K-5 Plus and extended learning time. Those must go hand-in hand with programs to address other determinants of educational outcomes such as child hunger, family behavioral health, and adverse childhood experiences.</p>	<p>The Energy Transition Act was an extraordinary step we have taken to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels for energy generation and move toward clean energy. I was proud to champion this legislation because it has set us on a course to zero-carbon electricity. We will continue to press forward: my office is working on a climate change package for the 2021 session. New Mexico must continue to be a leader in clean energy and combating climate change.</p>	<p>Our current crisis has laid bare the digital divide in New Mexico. Far too many families don't have adequate bandwidth to accommodate remote learning for their children, and broadband access is key to participating in our modern economy. The Department of Information Technology has recently completed a study to measure the need in our state and estimate the costs. I am committed to working with our federal and state policy makers to assemble funding for this statewide broadband plan</p>	<p>During my 12 years of service, I have seen legislators forced to choose between their wages to support their families and their public service, and met excellent candidates who did not run for the legislature simply because they couldn't afford it. Our legislature works best when we reflect all of the diversity of our beautiful state. Serving in the legislature should not be something that a community member can't afford. I believe we should allow an independent body to set a fair salary.</p>

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 48


The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
<p>Tara Lujan (Democrat)</p> 	<p>I want New Mexico to lead in a green economy and diversify from gas and oil. The pandemic heightened the needs of our most vulnerable and the need to create better more dignified jobs and wages. We need to build upon the ETA and other economic development including film, tourism, tech industries, startups and other small business. We have to expand our healthcare/medical systems, science/research institutions, invest in high quality education, and secure broadband infrastructure and access.</p>	<p>We will have to work together to have a balanced plan if we want to use the permanent funds. We are enduring the burdens of an epidemic and have to account all other funding from the federal government and other sources. We have to know what resources are available before knowing what will be appropriate to use from the permanent funds. There are going to be needs greater than we have seen in the past and if it is necessary then I will advocate to use of the funds.</p>	<p>It is past time we overcome and eliminate racial and low-income inadequacies in our educational system and across our communities. We have the power to reform inequality by: providing health care for all of our families that is not dependent on employment, securing inclusive and accessible education, paying dignified living wages, taking climate action, expand tax reform so large corporations pay their fair share, and protect our full range of access to reproductive health care.</p>	<p>The main concern is sending our children and educators back to school and work during the pandemic. This has to be done is the safest way possible with respect and concern to everyone's wellbeing. I will be concerned with the basic needs of our students as the pandemic has proven to magnify those basic security needs for food, shelter, and safety of our most vulnerable families. I will be concerned with better pay for teachers, recruiting, special/exceptional students' needs, and broadband needs</p>	<p>New Mexico is positioned to rise as a leader in the green energy economy through the progression of the Energy Transition Act, passed in 2019. In addition we can invest in a statewide electric vehicle charging network, clean public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; establish comprehensive environmental pollution taxes, reform tax breaks and subsidies for polluting corporations; incentivize wind, solar, community solar and other renewable energy production.</p>	<p>We have to work collaboratively to bring a safe, comprehensive and high functioning/streaming system across the state. There has to be a centralized managed operation/department/agency created to coordinate federal, state, and sovereign government efforts much like the work the Dept. of Transportation does. Broadband is an essential utility that has to be delivered across the state equitably and is necessary for educational and economic development, safety, and healthcare access.</p>	<p>Yes, as a working mother, I advocate for a paid legislature to ensure more diverse representation in the legislature. It can be financially unfeasible for many working people to run for a seat, or take time off to serve. If we want more diverse voices to be heard, represented and respected we need to pay them for their time and talent. This will create a more balanced and diverse body that is more reflective of New Mexico and the leadership we need.</p>

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 50

The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
<p>Matthew McQueen (Democrat)</p> 	<p>The need to diversify our economy away from dependence on the oil and gas industry is critical. We have made significant strides in some industries that will recover when the pandemic subsides. New Mexico is a leader in film and television production. We have tremendous tourism resources, including in outdoor recreation. As we work to improve our healthcare system we will also attract more retirees to the state. Finally, we have incredible, largely untapped potential in tech businesses.</p>	<p>In the recent special legislative session, we passed the Small Business Recovery Act to put the Severance Tax Permanent Fund to work for New Mexico's small businesses. I also support increasing the payout from the Land Grant Permanent Fund by just 1% to pay for universal early childhood education, which would preserve the corpus of the fund while bringing transformative change to New Mexico.</p>	<p>High-quality, public education should be available to everyone, and we need to continue to work to overcome and eliminate racial and low-income inadequacies in our educational system. We should restore progressivity to our tax code so the wealthy pay a fair share. And we should legalize recreational cannabis, the criminalization of which disproportionately affects people of color. These are a few of many important steps that need to be taken.</p>	<p>We need more classroom resources, more respect for our educators, and universal broadband access, including in rural communities. We are likely facing a budget crunch in the coming year, and as we work to balance the budget—which we are legally required to do—we must protect the education investments and gains we have made in recent years.</p>	<p>The Energy Transition Act passed in 2019 takes significant steps to decrease our use of fossil fuels, and increase the production of renewable energy, in the utility sector. In the transportation sector, we need to incentivize and expand the availability of charging stations so consumers can confidently purchase electric vehicles and use them throughout the state, and we can begin by electrifying the state fleet.</p>	<p>Currently, broadband availability relies on a patchwork of providers in different regions of the state, and it's spotty at best, especially in rural communities. We need a single state office to be in charge and coordinate federal, state, and private efforts. Like the rural electrification efforts begun in the '30s, broadband is necessary for education and economic development. All households should have at least 300 mbps broadband.</p>	<p>If we want the state legislature to be composed of everyday New Mexicans, not disproportionately the retired or the wealthy, we need to pay our legislators. Many talented leaders do not run because they cannot afford to work for free or be subsidized by their industry. This should change. A paid legislature would result in a younger, more diverse, more representative body—one that better reflects New Mexico.</p>

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 50 CONTINUED

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, representatives enact "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 21 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a two-year term. Representatives do not receive a salary, but they do receive a pre-set per diem.

The League asked:	1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?	2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or economic needs? Please explain your answer.	3. Racial and income inequalities have become important social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?	4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?	5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?	6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?	7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
 Jerry Gage (Libertarian)	By introducing a new source of revenue that has the potential for international trade and domestic profits.	NO. Those funds are dedicated by law for a particular reason to tap into those out of reacting to someone else's crisis.	NONE. The challenges of real equality is to get past racial differences. All lives matter especially mine.	With distant learning now the new norm teachers should have ongoing video training to better serve the students.	NONE. Legislature is already in place to reduce our personal use yet still be able to supply others elsewhere	We achieve it by basic conversation.	Equality should extend to all elected members of the state.
Christina Estrada (Republican)	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 70

NO RESPONSE WAS RECEIVED FROM AMBROSE CASTELLANO (DEMOCRAT) AND NATHAN DIAL (REPUBLICAN)



NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT POSITION 1

There are five justices on the New Mexico Supreme Court, the highest court in the State. It is the court of last resort and has supervisory control over all lesser courts and attorneys licensed in the state. The Court is required to hear appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, election challenges and criminal cases when a defendant is sentenced to the death penalty or life imprisonment. The Court has discretionary authority to review rulings of the Court of Appeals and questions of law certified to it by the Court of Appeals or federal court. Candidates must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for ten years and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Justices are elected statewide for eight-year terms.

The League asked:	1. How have your training, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on the court?	2. Do you believe that all persons in New Mexico have fair and equal access to legal assistance and the legal system? If not, what reforms do you support? Please explain.	3. What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Supreme Court practices and why?	4. Do you favor nonpartisan elections for the judiciary? Why or why not?	5. What policies are critical to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
 Ned S. Fuller (Republican)	I am a deputy district attorney in San Juan County, NM. I have served as an administrative law judge, district court judge, as the NM Worker's Compensation Director, Acting Cabinet Secretary for the NM General Services Department and overseen the litigation involving the State. I have served in private practice handling a wide variety of civil matters. What most qualifies me to serve however is my philosophy and commitment that a judge must uphold the Constitution and follow the law.	Not yet. There are a number of organizations that provide access to legal help. See for example: https://www.nmbar.org/NmbarDocs/forPublic/LegalServiceProviders.pdf I support efforts to streamline the adjudication process through arbitration, mediation, and summary trials. As NM Workers' Compensation Director I worked to make the system accessible to our rural communities through video conferencing, weekly lump sum settlement hearings and online mediation scheduling.	Regarding criminal law we can do better in balancing the rights of the accused and the safety of our community. I support pre-trial detention rules that combine dangerousness hearings and preliminary hearings and allow the same rules of evidence for both. I would make the time constraints consistent with the complexity of the case. Our system is too expensive and there are too many delays. I support alternative dispute resolutions such as arbitration, mediation and summary jury trials.	Yes, but I would rather have a system allowing the executive to appoint with retention votes to follow. This approach better meets the goal of an independent judiciary that is also accountable to the public it serves. Whether partisan or non-partisan, elections politicize our judiciary by requiring judges to campaign. We should study whether our justices should be selected one each from five different geographical regions of the State. Currently all five justices come from Santa Fe or ABQ.	There is a tension between having an independent judiciary and an accountable judiciary. I support retention votes at regular intervals so that the people can remove a judge who has strayed from their oath to uphold the Constitution. As many have pointed out from Aristotle to Madison, the main protection against a politicized judiciary is to support men and women of sound judicial philosophy committed to following the law and not rewriting it.
 Shannon Bacon (Democrat)	I have been serving New Mexico as a judge for over a decade. Prior to my appointment to the New Mexico Supreme Court, I was a district court judge. This experience, trying cases, managing a very large docket and working on the administration of justice gives me a solid foundation for the work of the Supreme Court. I have also dedicated much of my judicial career to equal access to justice. Providing legal services to New Mexican's who cannot afford a lawyer is critical to the legal system.	Yes. I believe that all New Mexican's should have fair and equal access to legal assistance and the legal system. I am an active member of the Access to Justice Commission and was the Co-Chair of the Second Judicial District's Pro Bono Committee. In these roles I have worked on programs providing free legal services to anyone in need and creating systems that make it easier for people to navigate the court system. I continue this work on the Supreme Court.	I support changes that allow cases to be timely decided. Often, by the time a case reaches the Supreme Court, years have passed. Ensuring that once the case reaches the Court it moves toward resolution requires a focus on deciding cases and writing opinions. Recently, I proposed procedural changes to our rules that will allow the Court to address cases more quickly. I also support changes that foster open government, such as the Court's recent decision to telecast our oral argument.	I do. The judiciary is an independent branch of government that by design is not subject to political winds. Judges are not partisan. Because of the unique role of the judiciary and judges, it would better reflect the courts if judicial elections were non-partisan.	First, the public financing of judicial races is critical. Public financing keeps "big money" out of judicial races and helps to reduce influence. Second, the judicial code of conduct and the Judicial Standards Commission that enforces the code of conduct are important to maintaining an independent judiciary. The code of conduct provides clear rules governing a judge's behavior, including

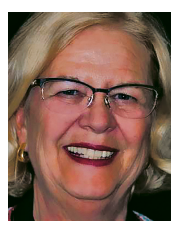

NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT POSITION 2

There are five justices on the New Mexico Supreme Court, the highest court in the State. It is the court of last resort and has supervisory control over all lesser courts and attorneys licensed in the state. The Court is required to hear appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, election challenges and criminal cases when a defendant is sentenced to the death penalty or life imprisonment. The Court has discretionary authority to review rulings of the Court of Appeals and questions of law certified to it by the Court of Appeals or federal court. Candidates must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for ten years and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Justices are elected statewide for eight-year terms.

The League asked:	1. How have your training, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on the court?	2. Do you believe that all persons in New Mexico have fair and equal access to legal assistance and the legal system? If not, what reforms do you support? Please explain.	3. What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Supreme Court practices and why?	4. Do you favor nonpartisan elections for the judiciary? Why or why not?	5. What policies are critical to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
 Kerry J. Morris (Republican)	Having been licensed to practice law for nearly 40 years, I've had the opportunity to represent thousands of individuals, small businesses, insurance companies, state agencies, and many others. My years of experience have provided me with a broad understanding of a wide variety of areas of legal practice. My years of experience representing people enable me to understand the needs, expectations, and concerns of parties who appear before the court.	Yes, I do believe that all persons in New Mexico have fair and equal access to legal assistance and legal system in New Mexico. There are a wide variety of free legal services offered to those of limited means who otherwise would be unable to afford legal representation or have access to the courts. Among the many services available to the poor, include the public defender's office for qualified criminal defendants and many programs for non-criminal or civil cases.	None at the present time.	I do not favor nonpartisan elections for the judiciary because I believe that party affiliation is one important factor among many that may be helpful to the public in evaluating judicial candidates.	Justices and judges have an absolute duty to be fair, impartial, and independent in their judicial decisions regarding the cases before them. I believe that the best way to accomplish this is for judges to put the law before politics by faithfully and consistently applying the law as written; that the words used by the legislature in a duly enacted law should be given the customary meaning that
 David K. Thomson (Democrat)	My legal career and community involvement have uniquely prepared me for this position. I was vetted by a bi-partisan judicial nominating commission and extensively interviewed by the Governor, who appointed me to the position. As a sitting Justice, and former trial court judge in the 1st judicial district, my experience proved invaluable in ensuring the NM court system remained open during COVID19. I litigated for the NM Attorney General's Office and am familiar with how to run a court system.	In many rural parts of this state there is a legal desert and legal access gap. To close the gap, I support limited licensing of non-lawyers for simple legal matters. I support increases in technological infrastructure to allow filing by email and remote appearances. I believe if a lawyer provides free legal aid, they should receive a reduction in dues or CLE credit. Finally, we need to create a loan forgiveness program for new lawyers that will serve rural areas.	Many changes are required because of the pandemic that will serve our system well afterward. For example, courts broadened access to electronic filing for non-represented parties. I led an effort to expand digital access. We must continue to make this process easier, especially for rural communities. During these times of social unrest, we must confront and address our role in resolving racial inequality. That is why I started a minority clerkship program to improve diversity in the judiciary.	Our system of choosing judges is not perfect. However, voters have the information needed to elect experienced and qualified judges. My experience is well documented. I am the only one in my race who went through a vigorous vetting process with a bipartisan nominating commission and interview process. Voters can read the opinions or articles on the law I have written. As a trial court judge, I was evaluated by the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. Documented verified experience counts.	The Judicial Nominating Commission is one way to remove political influence on the judiciary. I was vetted by this bipartisan commission that looked at my qualifications and experience before sending my name to the Governor for appointment. In addition, the legislature should consider whether partisan elections should be replaced by another model like appointment and retention after a certain term of service. Finally, the judicial branch should have more autonomy over its budget.


NEW MEXICO COURT OF APPEALS POSITION 1

There are ten judges on the New Mexico Court of Appeals. It is the intermediate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court. Judges sit in panels of three. The Court reviews appeals in all cases, except criminal cases involving sentences of death or life imprisonment, appeals from the Public Regulation Commission and cases involving habeas corpus. Judges must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for ten years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Judges are elected statewide for eight-year terms. Judicial vacancies are filled through appointment by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. At the next regular election the judicial position is filled in a partisan election in which the appointed judge must participate and win the most votes to retain the seat. Judges serve for terms of a set number of years, after which they must win a 57% "yes" in retention elections to keep their seats.

The League asked:	1. How have your training, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on the court?	2. Do you believe that all persons in New Mexico have fair and equal access to legal assistance and the legal system? If not, what reforms do you support? Please explain.	3. What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Court of Appeals practices and why?	4. Do you favor nonpartisan elections for the judiciary? Why or why not?	5. What policies are critical to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
 <p>Barbara V. Johnson (Republican)</p>	<p>I was sworn in as an attorney in October, 1988. I started working immediately in the area of Family Law, which is a very broad area involving the parties' relationships, children, finances, assets, liabilities and at times criminal and other civil matters. Although most of my cases are settled, those that are not are concluded with a trial. If the trial judge decides an issue incorrectly, the next step is to ask the Court of Appeals to change the trial judge's decision, which I have done.</p>	<p>No. Access to and justice from our legal system is best obtained with the assistance of an educated, trained, experienced professional - a lawyer. Those that cannot afford a lawyer often represent themselves. We should have more publications available about the various areas of law and more programs making it easier for lawyers to obtain their required credits for representing litigants that cannot afford a lawyer or will represent litigants for a reduced fee.</p>	<p>I understand some of the reasons appellate decisions take years to be issued is the difficulty in keeping the attorney clerks that assist the Judges, the Judiciary is not sufficiently funded to hire, train and keep those attorneys, there are insufficient funds for proper training of new Judges and continuing legal education for more experienced Judges. Those budget matters should be examined within the Court of Appeals and addressed to our legislators, so our Judiciary is an equal branch.</p>	<p>No. Judges elected by the citizens keep the judges accountable to the citizens. Committees should not be reviewing applications and making recommendations to the Governor to fill vacancies. Each step of our current process allows for input by citizens. However, our citizens are mostly unaware of any process but an election. The Judiciary is an equal branch of our government. As such, it should be created by the voters it serves - just like to legislative and executive branches.</p>	<p>Keep the selection of Judges an election of those willing to serve the citizens of New Mexico by following the law regardless of their personal and political positions. Public financing of election funds is critical. Most important is the willingness of voters to learn about the candidates before casting their very important vote.</p>
 <p>Zach Ives (Democrat)</p>	<p>My experience as a judge and a lawyer have prepared me well. Over the past year and a half serving on the Court of Appeals, I have gained a great deal of experience doing the difficult work of an appellate judge. Before Governor Lujan Grisham appointed me, I had 17 years of experience as a litigator, handling appeals in federal and state courts and a wide variety of cases in trial courts. I also served as a law clerk to Chief Justice Pamela Minzner of the New Mexico Supreme Court.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, no. For civil matters, I support the Justice For All Initiative. Its basic goals are to ensure that every person with legal needs can (1) access important components of our system with or without the help of a lawyer and (2) receive appropriate services, such as alternative dispute resolution and representation by a lawyer. For criminal matters, I believe we must adequately fund legal representation for people (defendants and victims) who cannot afford to pay private lawyers.</p>	<p>Our court is exploring how to use our limited resources more efficiently because additional funding will be scarce due to the pandemic. For example, I have worked on a pilot project involving potential changes to our calendaring system, which is what we use to determine how difficult each case is and what resources we will need to analyze the case and make a decision. Modifying this system could increase the quality of our decisions and decrease the amount of time it takes to resolve appeals.</p>	<p>Yes, I believe nonpartisan elections would benefit New Mexicans by increasing the independence of our judiciary. Ultimately, whether to make this change is a question for our Legislature. In the meantime, voters have a neutral source of information about qualifications: bi-partisan judicial nominating commissions. I participated in this rigorous vetting process, which involves a written application and interview by all commissioners. The commission recommended me as a qualified candidate.</p>	<p>We need a properly designed and sufficiently funded public financing system to better insulate New Mexico's judiciary from politics. This prevents contributors from trying to gain influence over our judiciary, and it maintains public confidence that judges are not swayed by campaign contributions. Judges are currently allowed to choose to publicly finance their campaigns, and I have done so.</p>



NEW MEXICO COURT OF APPEALS POSITION 2

There are ten judges on the New Mexico Court of Appeals. It is the intermediate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court. Judges sit in panels of three. The Court reviews appeals in all cases, except criminal cases involving sentences of death or life imprisonment, appeals from the Public Regulation Commission and cases involving habeas corpus. Judges must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for ten years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Judges are elected statewide for eight-year terms. Judicial vacancies are filled through appointment by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. At the next regular election the judicial position is filled in a partisan election in which the appointed judge must participate and win the most votes to retain the seat. Judges serve for terms of a set number of years, after which they must win a 57% "yes" in retention elections to keep their seats.

The League asked:	1. How have your training, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on the court?	2. Do you believe that all persons in New Mexico have fair and equal access to legal assistance and the legal system? If not, what reforms do you support? Please explain.	3. What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Court of Appeals practices and why?	4. Do you favor nonpartisan elections for the judiciary? Why or why not?	5. What policies are critical to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
 <p>Stephen P. Curtis (Libertarian)</p>	<p>I have practiced law in NM since 1978. During this time I have represented clients in hundreds of cases, including approximately 20 appeals in many different areas of law.</p>	<p>I believe all persons in NM have access to legal assistance, although people and entities who have more wealth do have better access. I suggest that the entire legal process should be streamlined and made to be more efficient and, therefore, less costly.</p>	<p>I believe we need more Judges on the Court of Appeals so that cases are decided more expeditiously.</p>	<p>I do favor non-partisan elections for the judiciary. Party affiliation hinders the process and unnecessarily politicizes the elections. I suggest an open process where anyone who obtains the requisite signatures should be on the ballot.</p>	<p>I think non-partisan elections would greatly assist in this goal.</p>
 <p>Shammara H. Henderson (Democrat)</p>	<p>I was vetted and recommended by a bi-partisan commission and appointed by the Governor. My experience includes all sides of criminal and civil matters as a former federal and state prosecutor and defense lawyer. My work on civil rights, employment law, and personal injury has afforded me a diverse career. As an Assistant US Attorney under the Obama administration and clerk for Supreme Court Justice Charles Daniels, I understand how the important work of the courts impact all New Mexicans.</p>	<p>While NM is fortunate that the courts' staff, judges, and attorneys are more diverse than in other states, we do not have a perfect system. While we have many wonderful programs, many New Mexicans are still falling through the gaps and receiving inconsistent sentencing or punishment when not represented by trained attorneys. Equitable resources across all judicial districts and the formation of specialty courts across the state are critical.</p>	<p>Making the court more user-friendly for pro se parties is always a challenge. We have been working on technology changes so that those without attorney-representation have easier access to competently move their cases forward. The Court is also working on ensuring more oral arguments during the pandemic through virtual means. And, each judge has been committed to ending backlog and getting the court a stable caseload as compared to historical norms.</p>	<p>Integrity and confidence in the election of our judiciary is critical. While judges currently run in partisan elections, we must adhere to a very strict Code of Conduct which prohibits us from being "political" and taking stances on issues. Voters should take great confidence in electing those who went through the bi-partisan nominating process, which I did. It is a rigorous process to ensure only the most qualified judges are appointed and have been deemed qualified.</p>	<p>Adherence to the NM Judicial Code of Conduct is critical to ensure that judges remain independent from political influence. Voters must have confidence that elected judges will interpret laws fairly and honestly. Good judges should have a record of being respected by attorneys who were on opposing sides. In addition to strict policies, voters have the right to review and select judges based on prior legal careers that should exemplify ethics, fairness, and trust.</p>
 <p>Gertrude Lee (Republican)</p>	<p>For over ten years I have worked as a trial attorney and prosecutor in both State and Tribal court. I worked my way up from an entry-level attorney to a Deputy District Attorney in Gallup where I represented the State in numerous jury trials and filed several appeals. I continue my work as a prosecutor in Farmington. I am also the former Chief Prosecutor of the Navajo Nation where I brought cases before the Tribal Courts, and managed 10 prosecutor offices and several dozen staff.</p>	<p>We are living in unprecedented times. As we rely more on technology the issues with access become more apparent and difficult for those in rural communities with unstable housing, limited telephone service, and/or no access to the internet. To this end, I support reforms and projects to improve broadband infrastructure in rural communities to make electronic access more available, thus ensuring that everyone has fair and equal access to the legal system.</p>	<p>We have all heard the phrase "justice delayed is justice denied." This is true for parties who wait years for a decision from the Court of Appeals. However, the Court faces a number of challenges, including an increasing docket and limited resources. I would recommend using available data to help identify where the appellate process can be streamlined. Streamlining the process should aim to decrease the time period it takes to calendar a case and decrease the time it takes to decide a case.</p>	<p>I favor a process of selection based upon merit to be followed by a retention election. The process of selection by merit separates the Judge from partisan politics while ensuring he or she is qualified for the position. I am in favor of retention elections so the people always have a say whether to keep a judge or not.</p>	<p>I'm part of a team of judicial candidates that believe in putting the law before politics and it is absolutely essential for a judge to be impartial and to maintain the rule of law. This means judges should be open minded, unbiased, remain impartial and non-partisan when rendering decisions.</p>


PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION DISTRICT 4

The Public Education Commission is a ten-person commission that is advisory to the Secretary of Education. The Commission authorizes and monitors all state-chartered charter schools. Commissioners must be 18 years of age, a United States citizen, and reside in the district he/she represents. There are four-year staggered terms. Districts 1, 4, 8, 9 and 10 are up for election in 2020.

The League asked:	1. What in your background qualifies you to sit on the Public Education Commission?	2. If elected, what are your two highest priorities?	3. What is your position on opening new charter schools? Should there be a cap on the total number of state charter schools?	4. How should the PEC assess the financial stability of schools before authorizing or renewing a charter?
 <p>Laura Burrows (Libertarian)</p>	<p>I'm a long time educator; Education Coordinator of the Aerospace Education Center of Little Rock Arkansas; Field Outreach Educator for the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History; Board member of Pajarito Environmental Education Center 2000-2002, and an substitute teacher for Los Alamos Public Schools and UNMLA. I am currently elected to the UNMLA Advisory Board.</p>	<p>Insure the widest possible adoption of Charter Schools in New Mexico Public Schools System, consistent with a quality education for students from a wide variety of cultural, socioeconomic backgrounds, and interests. I have a particular interest in supporting high quality education for non-college track students, not as an afterthought, but as a primary mission of specialized integrated curriculum, and charter schools.</p>	<p>The very concept of putting a cap on the number of charter schools betrays an interest not in the welfare and benefit of the students, but rather of other institutional interests. There should be precisely, exactly as many charter schools as are needed to benefit the students, no more and no less.</p>	<p>Rationally and logically, and without political or institutional bias.</p>
 <p>Rebekka Kay Burt (Democrat)</p>	<p>I started my career as an 8th grade English teacher in Rio Rancho. I spent several years as a policy analyst at ABQ City Council. I then combine my background in education and knowledge of policy to serve New Mexico at the Public Education Department. I most recently joined a NM technology company, supporting educators in sharing resources. I have a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Business Administration, both from New Mexico Highlands University.</p>	<p>1. Stabilizing our state's education system after this global pandemic by partnering with the Public Education Department to provide high quality support, strategies & resources needed to schools and teachers at this unprecedented time. 2. As an educator, I know that students learn best when they find what they are passionate about and have the opportunity to grow in that passion. This is not always traditional learning. I would advocate to expand vocational education opportunities for students.</p>	<p>All families deserve to have high quality options for their children for public education. Not every student fits best into their neighborhood school. I would support all new applicants & renewals being held to a high standard. In contemplating a new charter or a cap, I would consider the area it is being proposed to ensure it is not already being served by several schools options. We have some areas in our state that have many options & some that don't have any. It should be more equitable.</p>	<p>I believe in maintaining a high standard of accountability with our public charter schools in finances, audits & performance. I would like to see transparency in spending in schools by showing where money is being spent and that money is being used to serve our students who need it the most. I would advocate to provide more support and training to charter leaders and governing boards on budgeting. I do believe malfeasance in finances is a valid reason to close or not renew a charter.</p>



PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION DISTRICT 10

The Public Education Commission is a ten-person commission that is advisory to the Secretary of Education. The Commission authorizes and monitors all state-chartered charter schools. Commissioners must be 18 years of age, a United States citizen, and reside in the district he/she represents. There are four-year staggered terms. Districts 1, 4, 8, 9 and 10 are up for election in 2020.

The League asked:	1. What in your background qualifies you to sit on the Public Education Commission?	2. If elected, what are your two highest priorities?	3. What is your position on opening new charter schools? Should there be a cap on the total number of state charter schools?	4. How should the PEC assess the financial stability of schools before authorizing or renewing a charter?
 Steven J. Carrillo (Democrat)	<p>First and foremost, having a record of accomplishment as a school board member serving SFPS for the last eight years. I've greatly expanded my knowledge of education issues, honed my skills in developing oversight policy, and have always been able to cut through the noise and get the heart of the matter. Ability to see and understand where obstacles may be and to move through them in a respectful and productive manner. Finally, no politics; always putting kids first in my decision making.</p>	<p>Protecting the interests of students and their families. I would work with the commissioners to streamline cumbersome administrative processes and strive to eliminate redundancies that make for confusion and frustration. Let's develop a five year strategic plan, and guiding standards and policies that make life easier and more clear for our school directors, staff, and families. I believe we should be fair minded and transparent, keeping politics out of our decision-making.</p>	<p>No. There should not be a cap on the number of state charter schools. But this is not a binary choice. This is really determined by the "market." Is there a need that the proposed charter would fill that the school district is unable to? If so, then the proposed charter must be considered. Also, we must be mindful, and consider how an additional school will fit within the education landscape in the school district. So, it follows then that I have no issue with opening new charters.</p>	<p>As one would evaluate the merits and/or deficiencies of any business plan presented in the private sector. Has a balanced budget been developed that meets the regulatory requirements of the PED? And most importantly, does the financial plan meet the needs of teachers, minimize administrative costs, focus on teaching & learning, and ensure that the school lives up to its vision and mission. Look for dollars to the classroom. Remember, kids first. This goes for authorizing and renewing.</p>


PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION DISTRICT 3

The Public Regulation Commission is a five-person commission that regulates the utilities, telecommunications and motor carrier industries. It also oversees pipeline and fire safety. A candidate must be a citizen of the United States and reside in the district he/she represents. A candidate must also certify that he/she has at least ten years of specified professional experience and education in an area regulated by the Commission. Commissioners are elected by district and have four-year staggered terms. Districts 1 and 3 are up for election in 2020.

The League asked:	1. What are your qualifications for this position?	2. Do you favor an appointment process rather than election of PRC members? Please explain your answer.	3. When evaluating requests for utility rate increases, what factors should be considered to ensure fairness to both the rate payers and the companies involved?	4. What role, if any, does the PRC have in addressing climate change?	5. What should the PRC do to help ensure access to high quality broadband in underserved areas of the state?
 Joseph M. Maestas (Democrat)	<p>I have bachelors and masters degrees in civil engineering. As a lifelong public servant, I served our country as a Federal engineer and regulator for over 30 years working at all levels of Federal government. I served my communities for 14 years as councilman and Mayor for the City or Espanola; and councilman for the City of Santa Fe, all quasi-judicial bodies like the PRC. I'm currently a consulting engineer and licensed to practice engineering in the States of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.</p>	<p>Nationally, our democracy is under threat. Trusting voters to elect their representatives is key to our reflective democracy. I don't believe voters will undermine New Mexico's democracy by removing their voice and choice to elect PRC commissioners by voting in favor of a proposed State constitutional amendment to change the commission from elected to appointed. A smaller, appointed commission with longer terms of office will only serve industry insiders and special interests, not the consumers.</p>	<p>The PRC reviews a utility's cost of service and establishes utility rates necessary to recover those costs. The PRC determines that such costs are reasonable and prudent, including a reasonable return on equity, for the utility to provide adequate, efficient, and reasonable service. The PRC verifies costs with adjustments for known and projected changes whereby recovery of these costs must be equitably shared among different customer classes. By law, utility rates must be just and reasonable.</p>	<p>As an engineer, I trust the science that tells us that climate change is a real threat to us now and in the future. Our State is a national leader in addressing climate change through the enactment of the Energy Transition Act (ETA) of 2019 which accelerates our transition to 100% renewable energy. Growing our renewable energy sector will help create new jobs, diversify our economy, and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. The PRC is key to the implementation of the ETA and other legislation.</p>	<p>The pandemic exposed the critical need for immediate, expanded, and equitable access to broadband across NM. The PRC must work with the State's congressional delegation and executive and legislative branches to develop a statewide broadband plan. The plan must have adequate, consistent State funding to leverage Federal funding and target underserved areas. The PRC must also increase the \$5M broadband program within the Rural Universal Service Fund. A mix of broadband technologies must be used.</p>
 Christopher B. Luchini (Libertarian)	<p>I have a PhD in High Energy Physics, and have run an oil and gas research and development company, and a GeoThermal green energy company since 2010. I am well versed in the physics, economics and regulatory environment of alternative energy generation, transmission and storage.</p>	<p>Regulatory capture is the process where a regulated commercial sector has disproportionate influence on those regulating that sector. While having the members of the PRC be elected is not a cure for regulatory capture, the alternative method of having those members of the PRC be appointed will likely result in industry insiders having even more power within the PRC that they do no. So I would oppose converting the PRC to an appointed body.</p>	<p>Utility investors need to receive a risk weighted return on their investment. Unfortunately utility rates are set as a return-on-capital, giving management an incentive to spend more on imprudent or wasteful capital projects, as a way to increase profits. The PRC needs to be aggressive in discounting wasteful capital spending projects, so that rate payers don't pay for those projects. Rate payers must accept that build out of Green projects will require (hopefully temporary) higher rates.</p>	<p>Given that the Energy Transmission Act explicitly directs the PRC to regulate electricity production away from carbon based energy, the PRC must act to implement the ETA to the best of their ability. Under the ETA it is the duty of the PRC to address carbon and other GreenHouse Gas emissions.</p>	<p>This is special are of interest to me as a candidate. The telecom companies have received large incentives to build out rural broadband, with little progress on the ground to show for the public monies spent. The PRC should vigorously audit these contracts, and seek the return of funds, and compensation for violation of these broadband agreements. The PRC has at its disposal is regulatory action to compel competitors access to these broadband markets, to further induce deployment of broadband.</p>


1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DIVISION 3: FAMILY COURT

New Mexico's 33 counties are divided into 13 judicial districts. The 1st Judicial District includes Los Alamos, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties. These are courts of general jurisdiction that hold jury trials in the following types of civil cases: tort, contract, real property rights and estate contests. The district courts in New Mexico generally have exclusive jurisdiction over domestic relations, mental health, appeals for administrative agencies and lower courts, criminal appeals, and juvenile cases. To be eligible a person must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for at least 6 years preceding assumption of office, and reside in the district for which he/she is elected. Judges serve six-year terms. Division 3 is a Family Court. Division 6 is a Civil Court.

The League asked:	1. What experience and education do you bring that especially qualify you for this position?	2. What can you as a judge do to improve the foster care system?	3. What policies are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political influence, and do you think judicial elections should be nonpartisan?
 Shannon Broderick Bulman (Democrat)	<p>District Court Judges bring an array of different professional experience to the bench. As a new judge, I have found it to be invaluable to have worked for decades in our community to assist individuals and families to assess their legal issues and resolve disputes, both through mediation and litigation. This work has afforded me some insight into the strengths of our families in Northern New Mexico and the various social and economic challenges they encounter.</p>	<p>As a family court judge, I handle kinship guardianships, an alternative to state foster care. These cases have increased due to the devastating impact of substance use disorder. I must assess cases to ensure that each child is protected within the limits of state law. I refer parties to community services to support children, caregivers and those parents who seek recovery. The formal foster care system is created by the legislature and administered by CYFD; judges cannot change the system.</p>	<p>An independent judiciary is critical to maintain public confidence in the rule of law. Since 1988, the NM Constitution has required that judicial candidates be vetted by a politically balanced judicial nominating commission. In order to retain their seat, appointed judges must then stand for election in the general election immediately following their appointment. Public financing for some judicial positions has been another positive step toward removing political influence from the process.</p>


1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DIVISION 6: CIVIL COURT

New Mexico's 33 counties are divided into 13 judicial districts. The 1st Judicial District includes Los Alamos, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties. These are courts of general jurisdiction that hold jury trials in the following types of civil cases: tort, contract, real property rights and estate contests. The district courts in New Mexico generally have exclusive jurisdiction over domestic relations, mental health, appeals for administrative agencies and lower courts, criminal appeals, and juvenile cases. To be eligible a person must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for at least 6 years preceding assumption of office, and reside in the district for which he/she is elected. Judges serve six-year terms. Division 3 is a Family Court. Division 6 is a Civil Court.

The League asked:	1. What experience and education do you bring that especially qualify you for this position?	2. What can you as a judge do to improve the foster care system?	3. What policies are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political influence, and do you think judicial elections should be nonpartisan?
 Bryan Paul Biedscheid (Democrat)	<p>Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico Law School 22 years as a lawyer in private practice, often appearing before judges in the First Judicial District Court 1.5 year as a district court judge appointed by Governor Lujan Grisham 23 years as the husband of Jennifer Biedscheid (I can contribute to good decisions even when there is a smarter person in the room) Proud father of our 12-year old daughter (I know what it is like to continue to work with increasingly limited authority)</p>	<p>Providing information to keep the voters well-informed (thank you for producing this guide!) Public financing for judicial campaigns (exists at the state-wide level but not at the district court level) Guaranteed adequate funding for the judicial branch of government</p>	<p>Yes. Going back to your last question, having to identify with a political party as a judicial candidate can alienate people appearing in court from the other party. As judges, we are tasked with being fair to everyone and I and my fellow judges work hard to be prepared for all hearings and treat all parties the same. The partisan election process can send a contrary message (but it is currently the process and I am running as a Democratic Party candidate in that process).</p>


1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 1

Voters at a nonpartisan retention election may vote either “yes” or “no” for each individual judge up for retention. To retain the office, a judge must receive 57% “yes” votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention. The website of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, www.nmjpec.org, includes evaluations and information about judicial retention candidates.

The League asked:	1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?	2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?	3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?
 <p>Francis J. Mathew</p>	<p>As a lawyer, I represented individuals, local business entities, national companies, banking institutions, debtors, creditors, plaintiffs and defendants. I have experienced litigation as a party as well as a representative attorney. I have participated in the community as a board member on non-profits and advisory school boards. I believe these experiences have given me perspective, empathy, patience and an ability to discern the truth as well as a desire to provide a sense of fairness.</p>	<p>The First Judicial District Court is currently understaffed. All employees are subject to the stress of overwork and burnout due to the demands made upon them with the limited resources provided to them to accomplish the services they have been tasked to perform. The First Judicial District and all districts around the State are in need of more qualified staff employees. Our employees are under paid for the work they do and the demands made upon them. Staff salaries need to be increased.</p>	<p>Providing the judiciary with funding in a way that is not dependent on a political system by way of legislative grant and subject to a gubernatorial veto would assist this process. New Mexico should keep judges out of the political process by using all retention elections after a judicial candidate has been nominated by a bi-partisan commission and appointed by the Governor. Having judges go through partisan elections risks having judges incur political debts.</p>


1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 2

Voters at a nonpartisan retention election may vote either “yes” or “no” for each individual judge up for retention. To retain the office, a judge must receive 57% “yes” votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention. The website of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, www.nmjpec.org, includes evaluations and information about judicial retention candidates.

The League asked:	1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?	2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?	3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?
 <p>Maria E. Sanchez-Gagne</p>	<p>Serving as a district court judge, I bring twenty-four years of extensive litigation experience in criminal and civil law. As a bilingual native New Mexican, I bring a cultural awareness and understanding to those I serve in the First Judicial District.</p>	<p>Increased diversity of judges in the First Judicial District is needed to reflect the multi-cultural diverse population that reside in the counties of Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos. The Supreme Court has established a commission to study issues related to race and bias in the state's justice system and to promote diversity among judges and judicial employees. Hopefully through the work of this commission diversity among judges will be promoted and reflected in the First Judicial Court.</p>	<p>The New Mexico Code of Judicial Conduct requires that a judge shall disqualify himself or herself in any proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned. It is imperative that a judge not only consider an obvious ethical conflict, but also consider how their impartiality may be viewed by the public on a case where a judge may have a current or former professional relationship or a political affiliation with any of the parties or their family members.</p>


1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 4

Voters at a nonpartisan retention election may vote either “yes” or “no” for each individual judge up for retention. To retain the office, a judge must receive 57% “yes” votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention. The website of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, www.nmjpec.org, includes evaluations and information about judicial retention candidates.

The League asked:	1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?	2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?	3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?
 <p>Sylvia F. Lamar</p>	<p>I have a combined 37 years as a Family Law Attorney and then as a Family Law Judge, as well as familial knowledge of the effects mental health illnesses and Substance Use Disorders have on the families of our community. During my 8 years on the bench I have met regularly with directors and employees of programs providing counseling, substance use treatment, and immigration services in NNM. I am the appointed NM representative to the National Judicial Opioid Taskforce.</p>	<p>The First Judicial District Court has a Self Help Division and Family Court Services which are used extensively by family Court litigants. Both of these, as well as all other departments, would benefit from increased resources. Our court is severely understaffed, and our staff is not paid enough. We need to increase the number of positions, and increase salaries so that our employees do not burn out and leave for work elsewhere.</p>	<p>The checks and balances provided by our three branches of government. The judicial nominating commissions are bipartisan, resulting in the appointment of qualified attorneys to judicial positions.</p>


1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 5

Voters at a nonpartisan retention election may vote either “yes” or “no” for each individual judge up for retention. To retain the office, a judge must receive 57% “yes” votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention. The website of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, www.nmjpec.org, includes evaluations and information about judicial retention candidates.

The League asked:	1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?	2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?	3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?
 <p>Jason C. Lidyard</p>	<p>After nearly a decade of applying the criminal law in Northern New Mexico, I have learned a great deal about our criminal justice system and the intersectionality of crime, poverty, mental health, and substance use. In my two and a half years as a district judge, I have used this knowledge to be innovative and to promote change in our system so that it not only ensures the health and safety of our community but also affords a fair, just, and compassionate application of the law.</p>	<p>Changes should be made to pre-trial and post-conviction supervision of criminal defendants. Our current supervision schemes generate a revolving door of short-term incarceration for non-violent, technical violations which, in turn, generates instability for defendants and inhibits their ability to rehabilitate and become “productive members of society.” We need to evaluate the efficacy of these supervision schemes and their potential to penalize based on socioeconomics and race.</p>	<p>When a judge is subject to retention by popular vote, there is little insulation from politics. If the public dislikes a judge's decision, the public can vote that judge off the bench. With this in mind, the law, at times, requires a judge to make rulings that the public will dislike. As a result, a controversial ruling can jeopardize a judge's retention. The judiciary, however, cannot function unless judges follow the law without fear of politics. That is our duty and that is what we do.</p>


1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 7

Voters at a nonpartisan retention election may vote either “yes” or “no” for each individual judge up for retention. To retain the office, a judge must receive 57% “yes” votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention. The website of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, www.nmjpec.org, includes evaluations and information about judicial retention candidates.

The League asked:	1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?	2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?	3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?
 <p>T. Glenn Ellington</p>	<p>I am a native of Northern New Mexico. I was born in the Espanola Valley. For over 30 years I have served as a public defender, Chief Public Defender for the State of NM, District Court Judge, private attorney, Secretary of the Department of Taxation and Revenue, and a judge on the New Mexico Court of Appeals. I have had a great deal of experience in many areas of the law including civil, family, child protective services, and adult criminal cases. I bring this broad experience to every case.</p>	<p>The First Judicial District would benefit from the expansion of specialized courts, specifically problem-solving courts similar to those established in other districts in the State. An example of a problem-solving court is that the First does not have is an ICWA Court. There is currently one in operation in the 2nd Judicial District. ICWA Courts address the needs of Native American families in child protective services cases.</p>	<p>Transparency is the key. As a result of the pandemic, the First District, as well other state courts throughout NM, have established video and audio internet sites which allow public access to all non-sequestered cases. For the first time in NM history, the public is able to access court proceedings as hearings are being conducted. This innovation, created by necessity, allows the public to see first-hand courts in operations. The log-in information is posted on the court website.</p>


1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 8

Voters at a nonpartisan retention election may vote either “yes” or “no” for each individual judge up for retention. To retain the office, a judge must receive 57% “yes” votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention. The website of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, www.nmjpec.org, includes evaluations and information about judicial retention candidates.

<p>The League asked:</p>	<p>1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?</p>	<p>2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?</p>	<p>3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?</p>
 <p>Mary Marlowe Sommer</p>	<p>Prior to coming to the bench, I worked in private practice for approximately 18 years. I began working for the Court in 2008 and became a judge in 2010. I have served on Family court, Children's court, Adult Criminal court and our Drug Courts. In 2017, I became the Chief Judge for our District. I have a strong work ethic. I value candor. I have strong organizational skills. I am fair and empathetic to victims and defendants alike; but I am necessarily firm in my decision-making.</p>	<p>The Santa Fe Magistrate Court is in need of a new courthouse. The Espanola Magistrate Court needs facility improvements. The Santa Fe District Court, the Santa Fe and Espanola Magistrate Courts are seriously understaffed. Employees are doing two or more jobs. Because of our merger with the Magistrate Courts, our Human Resources and Administrative Divisions have taken on more work. We need competitive salaries to get and keep employees.</p>	<p>I think the existing New Mexico Code of Judicial Conduct keeps the judiciary independent from political interference. A copy of the New Mexico Code of Judicial Conduct can be found on New Mexico One Source which is a free legal research tool.</p>


1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 9

Voters at a nonpartisan retention election may vote either “yes” or “no” for each individual judge up for retention. To retain the office, a judge must receive 57% “yes” votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention. The website of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, www.nmjpec.org, includes evaluations and information about judicial retention candidates.

<p>The League asked:</p>	<p>1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?</p>	<p>2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?</p>	<p>3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?</p>
 <p>Matthew Justin Wilson</p>	<p>My goal is to be conscientious and thoughtful regarding the decisions that I make, knowing that the cases that I preside over impact individual lives. Having practiced law for 16 years and having served on the bench for an additional 7 years, I have a strong understanding of the law and strive every day to apply the law fairly and impartially, without forgetting my common sense. I also endeavor every day to be courteous and patient with everyone who appears in my courtroom.</p>	<p>As a long-time member of the Access to Justice Committee, I have seen the positive impact that is made when the legal community reaches out to the public to provide free legal services. In a similar vein, the court should implement a civics program to educate the public, especially children, about the role of the judiciary as an equal and independent branch of government with a primary function of preserving our fundamental rights and our basic freedoms within our society.</p>	<p>As members of a separate branch of government, judges should exhibit a professional commitment to justice by applying legal precedent and the law to the facts in each individual case while trying to avoid improper influences. By achieving justice one case at a time, you build public respect and legitimacy, thus maintaining judicial independence.</p>


1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 10

Voters at a nonpartisan retention election may vote either “yes” or “no” for each individual judge up for retention. To retain the office, a judge must receive 57% “yes” votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention. The website of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, www.nmjpec.org, includes evaluations and information about judicial retention candidates.

<p>The League asked:</p>	<p>1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?</p>	<p>2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?</p>	<p>3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?</p>
 <p>Kate McGarry Ellenwood</p>	<p>I have practiced law for 33 years, the last 20 in New Mexico. My many years of practice have brought me to a point where I now feel comfortable sitting on the bench and deciding the legal issues that come before the court. I am very good at looking at both sides of an issue, seeing both points of view and coming to a fair resolution of an issue or a case. My sense of fairness, attention to the law, and firm belief in justice help me bring compassion and neutrality to the decisions I make.</p>	<p>A lot of the people who come to our court cannot afford an attorney. I would like to see us expand some of the current self-help programs to assist persons who are representing themselves.</p>	<p>We need to keep the judiciary bipartisan. It is important that we have a bipartisan Judicial Commission to review applications for judicial positions that open when a judge leaves the bench. I believe the state funding of statewide judicial campaigns should be expanded to include all judicial races to keep interest groups out of judicial races. It is important that everyone who comes into our court feels they will have their case judged fairly.</p>


1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

New Mexico District Courts handle civil suits involving real estate or claims over \$10,000, juvenile cases, divorce and child custody, criminal felony cases, and appeals from lower courts. The 1st Judicial District of New Mexico includes Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe Counties. District Attorneys serve a four-year term.

<p>The League asked:</p>	<p>1. Describe your qualifications for this position.</p>	<p>2. How would you deal with repeat DWI offenders?</p>	<p>3. What are the most urgent needs of the District Attorney's office?</p>	<p>4. What changes, if any, are needed in New Mexico law regarding criminal cases?</p>
 <p>Mary V. Carmack-Altwhies (Democrat)</p>	<p>I have been an attorney for 15 years and practiced in the criminal justice system the whole time. I first worked as a public defender, then running my own practice focusing on criminal defense and finally for 2 years in the District Attorney's office as the head of the special victims and violent crimes unit. Having worked both sides of the criminal justice system, I know what it takes to make it more fair, just, and efficient.</p>	<p>Repeat offenders need effective and on-going treatment, but they also need consequences because they make all of us less safe on our roadways. We will prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law while also focusing on getting them services they desperately need.</p>	<p>The office needs effective management to fully administer justice in the First Judicial District.</p>	<p>Our laws make it to easy to prosecute low level and non-violent cases and much harder to prosecute violent and multiple offenders. Therefore our prison system is filled with people struggling with addiction with no focus on treatment. We need to change the way we view substance use disorders and offer more intervention and treatment so that the low-level offenders don't become violent offenders.</p>

SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of the county from which elected. The Clerk is the ex-officio recorder of Santa Fe County and may legally record any document that is certified. The office also issues marriage and occupational licenses. The County Clerk's Bureau of Elections administers all elections in the County.

<p>The League asked:</p>	<p>1. How do your abilities, experience and education prepare you for this office?</p>	<p>2. What are your highest priorities for this office?</p>	<p>3. What improvements or changes would you make as County Clerk?</p>
 <p>Katharine Clark (Democrat)</p>	<p>I have a dual BA in Cognitive Neuroscience and Ethical Psychology (UC Berkeley) and hold a dual emphasis MBA in Human Resources and Public Policy & Leadership (UNM). I have a scientific, marketing and advocacy background with 15 years of managing consistently innovative and high-performing teams in the tech, academic, legislative and non-profit sectors. My varied background has honed my skills in project management with an adaptive style ready for new and shifting demands.</p>	<p>My three priority platform positions: 1.) election protection - improving security measures and polling place processes & monitoring potential voter suppression, 2.) expand ballot and voting information access to increase turnout - championing an all-mail ballot (with ballot drop-off and assistance), same-day voter registration, and ensuring those with challenges are protected and 3.) expanding the user-friendly clerk's office by building upon accessibility, accountability and responsiveness.</p>	<p>The Clerk's office is transitioning to digital records. Creating a user-friendly customer portal with online payment and search for documents, forms, and maps, is an extension of this modernization. I plan to work with the Secretary of State's office to expand voter engagement with social media presence and outreach including letting voters know that mail-in ballots were received, polling place wait times, and voting reminders. I plan to balance faster election results while retaining accuracy.</p>

SANTA FE COUNTY TREASURER

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of the county from which elected. The Treasurer is responsible for collecting property taxes in Santa Fe County and for the supervision and investment of funds.

The League asked:

1. How do your abilities, experience and education prepare you for this office?

2. What are your highest priorities for this office?

3. What improvements or changes would you make as County Treasurer?



Jennifer Manzanares (Democrat)

As the current Chief Deputy Treasurer, I have been fortunate to learn the various functions of the Treasurer's Office hands on. The office serves as the Counties bank, therefore I have become knowledgeable about State of NM Statutes and laws that drive the various aspects of serving the customers of the County. I have learned the property tax collection processes, county Investment portfolio process, and the daily operations in the office. My experience the last year has prepared me to serve.

My highest priorities for the County Treasurer's office is to continue the customer service practices like the Property Tax Outreach program, expand automated services for the customer to make payments more feasible, work with other County departments to improve customer service overall. Having served my community for over 20 years as a public servant, I plan on continuous quality improvement, and professional development for staff to serve the customer at the highest level possible.

As the County Treasurer I would make improvements in the following areas: Improve on line processes to further serve the customer, continue to work with Investment committee on prudent investment policies especially with the fast changing economy, establish ways to work with other County departments to streamline practices, and ongoing professional staff development.

SANTA FE COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 2

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of the district from which elected. The person in this office, together with other members of the County Commission is responsible for County government budget, County ordinances and resolutions, and zoning and business regulation in unincorporated areas, and sets policy for the operations of County government.

The League asked:

1. How do your abilities, experience and education prepare you for this office?

2. Name one of the biggest problems facing Santa Fe County today and explain how you would deal with it.

3. What would you do as a County Commissioner to increase openness and transparency in County government?



Anna Hansen (Democrat)

Commissioner Hansen has had roads paved, repaired and maintained through out the district, secured funding for Agua Fria's wastewater sewer project, supported and protected the Agua Mutual Domestic water system and has created partnerships to address the health care and drug addiction needs in District 2 and throughout the county. She has passed more than forty progressive resolutions to solve critical issues within District 2 and countless protections for our land, water, and air.

Commissioner Hansen has long fought for comprehensive cleanup of radioactive and hazardous waste at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). She has challenged the Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration, and LANL as they reduce protections for workers, the public, and the environment. Cleanup of LANL's toxic dumps will create jobs and protect Santa Fe County regional drinking water, residents and resources by making sure that legacy waste is removed from the

Commissioner Hansen understands that transparency and communication are critical to good government. She has responded to your concerns with public outreach, E-newsletters, town halls, community forums, and continues to meet with many HOAs on a regular schedule throughout District 2. Now with the CORVID-19 we need to continue to Improve our digital meeting platforms and find new and inventive way to reach as many of our constituents as possible so that they can take part in the process.

SANTA FE COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 4

NO RESPONSE WAS RECEIVED FROM ANNA HAMILTON (DEMOCRAT)

SANTA FE COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 5

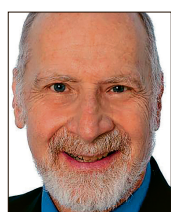
Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of the district from which elected. The person in this office, together with other members of the County Commission is responsible for County government budget, County ordinances and resolutions, and zoning and business regulation in unincorporated areas, and sets policy for the operations of County government.

The League asked:

1. How do your abilities, experience and education prepare you for this office?

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3. What would you do as a County Commissioner to increase openness and transparency in County government?



Hank Hughes (Democrat)

I have been the executive director of the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness since 2001 and have experience supervising a staff of 20, working with state and local governments, managing a \$1.7 million budget, developing affordable housing, and bringing diverse groups together to solve problems. I have a Master of Engineering Degree and worked for 5 years as a Water Resources Specialist at Cornell University where I helped communities prevent or alleviate groundwater contamination.

We need to meet all of Santa Fe County's energy needs with renewable energy quickly, and we will need to get our economy restarted after COVID-19. I would work to put solar panels on all County buildings. I would institute incentives for builders to put solar panels on all new structures, and I would start a small grants program to help low income home owners add solar panels. I would work with PNM to develop more large scale wind, solar, and energy storage projects to serve Santa Fe County.

I would hold monthly town hall meetings for constituents, and send regular email newsletters about important issues. I would make draft minutes of meetings available as soon as they are filed with the Clerk, and have the County do a better job of posting meeting times for public meetings, locations and agendas on the County website. I would broadcast more public meetings. I would ensure the Commission continues to hold public hearings at convenient times such as right after work.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1

"Proposing to amend the Constitution of New Mexico to provide that the public regulation commission consist of three members appointed by the governor from a list of professionally qualified nominees submitted to the governor by a nominating committee as provided by law and that the commission is required to regulate public utilities and may be required to regulate other public service companies."

Summary

Constitutional Amendment 1 would amend Article 11, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico to reduce the number of Public Regulation Commission (PRC) members to three, with no more than two members from the same political party. Members would no longer be elected, but instead would be appointed for six-year terms by the governor, with the consent of the senate, from a list of nominees submitted to the governor through a newly established Public Regulation Commission Nominating Committee. Constitutional Amendment 1 would also amend Article 11, Section 2 of the Constitution of New Mexico to narrow the scope of the PRC's constitutionally granted regulatory powers to public utilities, while still allowing the legislature to assign responsibility for the regulation of other public service companies to the commission by law.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2

"Proposing to amend article 20, section 3 of the Constitution of New Mexico to permit the adjustment by law of terms of nonstatewide elected officers and to standardize the date an officer begins to serve."

Summary

Constitutional Amendment 2 proposes to amend Article 20, Section 3 of the Constitution of New Mexico to allow the legislature to adjust the term of a state, county or district officer to align or stagger the election of officers for a particular state, county or district office throughout the state. No statewide elective office would be subject to adjustment. The proposed amendment also clarifies that officers elected to fill a vacancy in office shall take office on the first day of January following their election.

BOND QUESTION A

Aging and Long-Term Services Department

The 2020 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed thirty-three million two hundred ninety-two thousand one hundred forty-one dollars (\$33,292,141) to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition projects and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

A bond represents a debt for money borrowed by a government to finance capital improvement projects. The State of New Mexico promises to repay the amount borrowed, plus interest, over a period of time for each General Obligation bond that is approved by voters. The bonds are called "General Obligation" because payment of the debt service (principal plus interest) is a general obligation of the State and its property owners through property taxation. According to the Board of Finance Division of the NM Department of Finance and Administration, the specific amount of property taxes collected in a given year is attributable to a number of factors, including the amount of debt service required for existing General Obligation bonds, the projected debt service required for the new bond issue, the latest assessed valuation of net taxable property, cash balances in bond debt service accounts, the date of issuance, and the actual interest rate obtained on the bond sale. Based on

BOND QUESTION B

Library Acquisitions

The 2020 Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of library acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed nine million seven hundred fifty-one thousand four hundred thirty-three dollars (\$9,751,433) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal and public library resource acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

the assumption that all three bond issues will be passed by voters, the property tax year 2020 mil levy has been set at 1.36 mils, which is the same as the 2018 and 2019 rates. The State Board of Finance estimates that over a ten-year period, the three issues on the ballot would cost approximately \$10.99 per \$100,000 of asset value. Of the annual average \$10.99, Bond Issue A accounts for \$1.83, Bond Issue B accounts for \$0.54, and Bond Issue C accounts for \$8.62.

The total for all three questions, including bond issuance costs, is **\$199,402,049**. A complete breakdown of the designated projects under each bond issue can be found on the New Mexico Legislature's website: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/20%20Regular/final/SB0207.pdf>. Information provided by the NM Department of Finance and Administration.

BOND QUESTION C

Higher Education

The 2020 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed one hundred fifty-six million three hundred fifty-eight thousand four hundred seventy-five dollars (\$156,358,475) to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?