

VOTE 2018

GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

ABSENTEE VOTING: October 9 - November 6
ABSENTEE IN-PERSON VOTING: October 9 - November 3
EARLY VOTING: October 20 - November 3



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

The League of Women Voters is a non-profit organization that seeks to promote informed citizen participation in government by providing unbiased information about political issues and candidates. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League does adopt positions on political issues after a process of study and consensus by its members.

The League encourages all citizens to register to vote, become informed on issues and candidates, and VOTE! Every vote counts!

The candidate information in this Voter Guide consists of the unedited responses of the candidates to a set of questions sent to the candidates by the League. The answers have been printed exactly as submitted (up to the stated word limit for each response). The candidates and their responses are listed in ballot order.

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

VOTER REQUIREMENTS

To vote in the November 6, 2018 General Election, you must be registered to vote in, and be a current resident of, the County of Santa Fe as of October 9, 2018.

You can check the status of your voter registration at the NM Secretary of State's website, http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Voter_Information/voter-information-portal.aspx.

WHEN AND WHERE TO VOTE

2018 GENERAL ELECTION ABSENTEE AND EARLY VOTING SCHEDULES

VOTER REGISTRATION closes Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

ABSENTEE IN-PERSON VOTING - Tuesday, October 9 through Saturday, November 3, 2018 County Clerk's office (102 Grant Avenue); Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The office is closed Monday, October 8, 2018. The County Clerk's office will be open for Voting on Saturday, November 3rd, 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., but not the other Saturdays of early voting.

EARLY VOTING - Saturday, October 20th through Saturday, November 3rd

Hours of Early Voting are:

12:00 Noon until 8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Saturday. (No Early Voting on Mondays)

EARLY VOTING SITES ARE:

- **NEW - Abedon Lopez Community Center - 155A Camino De Quintana, Santa Cruz**
- **Christian Life Church - 121 Siringo Road, Santa Fe**
- **NEW - Edgewood Elementary School - 285 Dinkle Road, Edgewood**
- **Max Coll Corridor Community Center (new facility) - 16 Avenida Torreon, Eldorado**
- **Pojoaque County Satellite Office - 5 W. Gutierrez - Ste. 9, Pojoaque Pueblo Plaza**
- **Santa Fe County Fair Building - 3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe**

ABSENTEE VOTING BY MAIL

You can apply for an absentee ballot now or any time up until Friday, November 2, 2018, although voters are encouraged to not wait until the last minute. The last day the County Clerk can send out Absentee Ballots is Friday, November 2nd.

To apply for an Absentee Ballot, you can go online to electronically request an Absentee Ballot Application Request: https://www.santafecountynm.gov/clerk/elections_information. You can print out the application and mail or deliver it to the County Clerk's office. Or, call the County Clerk's Office (505-986-6280) to request an application. When you receive the application, you must fill it out and return it to the Clerk's office. State law does not permit the Clerk to mail ballots within the USA until October 9th.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

102 Grant Avenue
Santa Fe, NM 87501
P.O. Box 1985
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1985
Phone Number: 505-986-6280

ELECTION DAY - November 6th - Polls Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at numerous Voting Convenience Centers around the County. You can vote at ANY Center, without regard to where you reside. The list of Voting Convenience Centers will be available on the County Clerk's website: www.santafecountynm.gov/clerk.

QUESTIONS? NEED MORE INFO?

Santa Fe County Clerk: 505-986-6280.

Website: <https://www.santafecountynm.gov/clerk>.

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

MUNICIPAL QUESTION

CITY OF SANTA FE MUNICIPAL CHARTER AMENDMENT

NOTE: This ballot question is only for residents of the City of Santa Fe. The ballot language reads (in part):

Shall the Santa Fe Municipal Charter be amended to allow the City to enact by ordinance its election date and the date on which officials take office as provided in the Local Election Act?

(Vote For or Against)

A vote FOR would amend certain City Charter provisions regarding the date of the municipal election, allowing Santa Fe City elections to be governed by the Local Elections Act passed by the NM Legislature in the 2018 session. This Act will consolidate most nonpartisan local elections into one election held in November of odd-numbered years. The current provisions of the City Charter are not consistent with this Act, in that the Municipal elections are now held in March of even-numbered years. In Santa Fe, the municipal election is currently held approximately one month after the local school board and community college elections.

If this ballot question is approved by voters, and a proposed enabling City ordinance is also passed, the City's election date and terms of office of local officials would be changed. (The ordinance may be considered by the Council on October 10.) The proposed transition would move elections now scheduled for March 2020 to November 2019, and March 2022 to November 2021. This would have the effect of shortening the terms of office of the current Mayor, City Council members and Municipal Judge by approximately two months.

Proponents of the change point to typically low voter turnout in local elections as proof of "voter fatigue" in having many separate elections, and say voters are accustomed to voting in November, rather than at various other times. They want to increase voter participation in local elections.

Opponents want to maintain separate elections, believing that the voters who are most interested in a particular area, such as City governance or schools, turn out for the special elections while those less interested do not. Additionally, opponents say it may be confusing for voters to be presented with many disparate elections at the same time.

COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT GROSS RECEIPTS TAX REAUTHORIZATION

BALLOT QUESTION: VOTE FOR OR AGAINST

Do you support reauthorization of the existing County Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax of one-eighth of one percent (1/8%) to finance the operational costs and capital expenditures of passenger transportation in the North Central Regional Transit District by repealing the 2024 expiration of the tax?

Brief Analysis

In November 2008 voters of Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, and Taos Counties voted to fund the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) with a 1/8% Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax (GRT). The enabling ordinance contains a sunset provision, which provides the tax will be rescinded in January 2024 unless reauthorized by voters. This ballot question would remove the sunset clause. The Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) is 2½ cents on \$20.

NCRTD buses service Los Alamos County, Santa Fe County, Taos County, Rio Arriba County, and 9 nearby pueblos. In FY2017 there were more than 1.3 million passenger trips; there have been 7.3 million trips since 2008. This includes routes operated by NCRTD and those funded by NCRTD.

The Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) funds approximately 68% of NCRTD operations; the rest is made up through federal grants and various revenues. Approximately 60% of this GRT, totaling \$4.7M, is shared with Los Alamos County Atomic City Transit, Santa Fe Trails, and NM Rail Runner Express.

Federal grants are contingent upon having a matching source of non-federal dollars, thus without the matching funds from the GRT, the services provided by NCRTD would cease to exist.

More details are available at: <http://ncrtd.org/quick-facts-for-website-2017-optimized.pdf>

WITH THANKS

The 2018 General Election Voters' Guide was produced and distributed by the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County and the League of Women Voters of New Mexico. The League appreciates the *New Mexican's* generous support of this project and commitment to educating the public.

Tax-deductible donations to the League are gratefully accepted to support voter services projects such as Voters' Guides, candidate forums, and voter registration efforts. If you would like to contribute to the LWVSFC to support voter services, you can donate online at www.lwvsfc.org or mail your check, payable to LWVSFC, to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY
P. O. Box P.O. Box 31547
Santa Fe, NM 87594
505-982-9766
www.lwvsfc.org

THE QUESTIONS IN THIS VOTER GUIDE WERE POSED BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VIA EMAIL TO EACH CANDIDATE. THE ANSWERS ARE PROVIDED EXACTLY AS SENT BY THE CANDIDATES, UP TO THE WORD NUMBER LIMIT (65 WORDS FOR MOST). IF A CANDIDATE SUBMITTED AN ANSWER THAT EXCEEDED THE WORD LIMIT, THE ANSWER WAS CUT OFF AT THE WORD LIMIT. THE LEAGUE DID NOT EDIT THE CANDIDATES' ANSWERS IN ANY OTHER WAY.

MUCH MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE REGARDING THE CANDIDATES' EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND, PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ISSUES, AND PUBLIC ENDORSEMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONS, AT LWVNM.civcengine.com.

UNITED STATES SENATOR

Represents New Mexico in the United States Senate, which 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. One New Mexico seat is up for election this year. Elected statewide for six-year staggered term. Salary: \$174,000.

The League asked:



MARTIN T. HEINRICH
Democrat

1. What immigration policies do you support? Please address issues related to undocumented immigrants.

I support comprehensive immigration reform that provides a fair pathway to citizenship to the undocumented immigrants in our country, meets our economic needs and makes smart investments in border security. Reform must protect Dreamers. We don't need a bigoted and wasteful wall, an immigration system that tears apart families and punishes asylum seekers, or a ban on immigrants and refugees based on how they pray.

2. What actions do you advocate to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of health care?

We should expand programs we know work like Medicare and Medicaid so more people can access affordable care, and I've supported proposals to do that. I'm working to lower prescription drug costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices and allowing for safe drug reimportation from countries like Canada. What we shouldn't do is gut Medicaid and Medicare funding to pay for tax cuts for corporations.

3. What do you see as the major environmental challenge facing our country and how would you address it?

Failure to act on climate change will be catastrophic. We are already seeing its costly effects in New Mexico – larger fires, more destructive floods. I've passed incentives to grow renewable energy use and promote energy efficiency, and I've boosted funding for climate change research at our national labs. New Mexico and the country should seize this opportunity to innovate while rapidly cutting our carbon emissions.

4. Given recent events in New Mexico and across the nation, what would you do to address gun violence?

I refuse to accept the status quo of mass shootings and daily gun violence. I support universal background checks, fixing NICS, limiting magazine capacity, cracking down on strawman purchases, closing the domestic violence loophole, and preventing those on the No Fly List from buying guns. I also called for repeal of the Dickey amendment banning research on gun violence, which we finally achieved this year.



GARY E. JOHNSON
Libertarian

I support immigration reform that allows those that wish to come to this country to be allowed to do so legally instead of forcing people into situations where they enter the country illegally which causes further human suffering. We must control our border without forgetting that we are country of immigrants. Controlling our border does not require building a wall that we will later tear

I am a firm believer in free market solutions. I believe we should have uber everything, that includes healthcare. I support free trade when it comes to medication and allowing insurance to be purchased across state-lines. Federal funding for healthcare can be provided in the form of bloc grants to the state who are better suited to the meet the needs of the people needing

I think we face a crisis here in New Mexico regarding the use of water. We need to encourage solutions that allow for the responsible use of our resources through best management practices that conserve water. The fundamental responsibility of the federal government is to protect from harm, that includes protecting us from polluters and bad players who fail to provide due care for the

I believe that we need to figure out steps to address mental health issues that lead to violence. Infringing upon law abiding citizens' constitutional rights to take away the implement used for violence is not a solution that will solve the problem.



MICK RICH
Republican

Secure our borders. Non-Citizens who break our laws and don't work or go to school cannot stay. Illegal immigrants that came before 2008 can obtain legal status, but they must exit the country and re-enter the country legally. DREAMers will receive legal status and can apply for citizenship with the legal immigrants seeking citizenship. A new legal immigration policy on applicant merit, not family relationships.

To reduce cost insurance plans, allow insurance plans to be sold across state lines. Eliminate mandated coverages and allow people to customize health plans based on their needs. Incentivize healthy living through reduced premiums. Protect insurance coverage for those with pre-existing conditions.

Policy ideas to solve our environmental challenges should be based on analysis of all direct and indirect impacts to the environment. Example: Is the Gulf of Mexico algae bloom an indirect result of increased Midwest corn production to produce ethanol? The government performs cost benefit ratios for almost every project; it should do the same for environmental improvement projects.

Ensure that individuals who should not have access to firearms don't gain gun access, while also ensuring they receive due process. Background checks on all firearm purchases, no exceptions. Any declared "Gun free zones" become responsible for the safety of their occupants.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Represents New Mexico in the United States House of Representatives, which 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 an inhabitant of New Mexico. Elected by district for two-year term. Salary: \$174,000.

The League asked:



BEN R. LUJÁN
Democrat

1. What immigration policies do you support? Please address issues related to undocumented immigrants.

I support humane and comprehensive immigration reform that strengthens border security, brings workers out of the shadows, strengthens our economy, and protects Americans, families, and Dreamers. That's why I joined a bipartisan group demanding we act on legislation to protect Dreamers. I've denounced Trump's horrific Zero Tolerance policy, visited children held in heartbreaking detention facilities, and cosponsored legislation to end family separation at the border.

2. What actions do you advocate to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of health care?

Healthcare is a right, not a privilege. It should be affordable, accessible, and high-quality. Millions of Americans have preexisting conditions and we must protect their access to coverage. I've introduced the State Public Option Act to create a Medicaid-based healthcare option, so all Americans can have a high-quality, low-cost health insurance choice. Also, my bill became law for \$100 million to ensure children have healthcare.

3. What do you see as the major environmental challenge facing our country and how would you address it?

We must act to address climate change and protect New Mexico's land, air, and water. That's why I've fought to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to streamline acequias' eligibility for federal conservation programs. I've also introduced legislation to create a national renewable energy standard to reduce carbon emissions and drive the deployment of clean energy.

4. Given recent events in New Mexico and across the nation, what would you do to address gun violence?

Too often, senseless acts of gun violence have shaken our nation. I cosponsored legislation to overturn the ban on federal dollars being used to research the gun violence epidemic, to ban future sales of assault weapons, and to expand background checks. And, I support measures to prevent people on the terrorist and FBI watch lists from purchasing weapons, limit magazine size, and ban bump stocks.



CHRIS MANNING
Libertarian

I support increasing merit based and or employer preference immigration, I support family reunification, and asylum and refugee immigration. We need to decrease the percentage of our immigration that is family reunification based, and increase the employer preference/merit based immigration. Right now family reunification accounts for about 80% of all naturalized citizens.

We need to increase the number of colleges and universities that offer medical programs to increase the number of nurses and doctors we have. We should shift to a health insurance system that is individual based instead of employer based so your employment doesn't affect your ability to see a doctor. Change Medicare/Medicaid from age/income based enrollment to medical condition based.

I believe the biggest challenge is the conservation and efficient use of our water. Droughts are a common occurrence in New Mexico and we rely heavily on agriculture in many areas of the state. We need to ensure we are protecting this resource and using it wisely.

Gun violence is actually very heavily concentrated in a few areas. These areas on average have 20% of the male population with no high school degree and 30% of the population lives in poverty. The most effective gun violence prevention is increased graduation rate and reduction of poverty. That is why my campaign focuses on education and economic opportunity.

JERALD STEVE MCFALL
Republican

NO REPLY RECEIVED

NO REPLY RECEIVED

NO REPLY RECEIVED

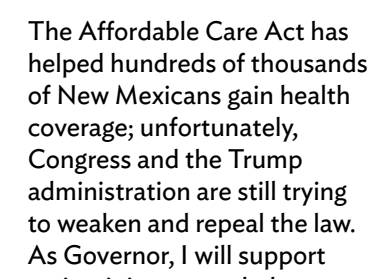
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GOVERNOR

Head of the executive branch and the highest state official in New Mexico. Appoints and supervises directors of executive departments, appoints members of boards and commissions, and signs or vetoes statutes enacted by the Legislature. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$110,000.

The League asked:

1. In light of continuing changes to the Affordable Care Act, what will you do to ensure that New Mexicans have access to quality health care?



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Democrat

The Affordable Care Act has helped hundreds of thousands of New Mexicans gain health coverage; unfortunately, Congress and the Trump administration are still trying to weaken and repeal the law. As Governor, I will support maintaining expanded Medicaid and strengthening the program with a buy-in option, lower drug prices through coordinated purchasing, and a stronger behavioral health system in every corner of the state.

2. What would you do in your role as Governor to support sufficient funding for education, including early childhood education?

We have a constitutional and moral obligation to give each New Mexico student the opportunity to grow and succeed through public education. This must begin with quality early childhood education, which is why I a prudent permanent fund distribution to help fund universal pre-k. I'll also put more dollars in our classrooms by diversifying revenues, streamlining administration, and giving educators a much-deserved raise.

3. How do you propose to improve the economy and job prospects in New Mexico?

First, I'll invest in our people. I'll strengthen public education and create workforce training opportunities in schools and colleges that targets jobs in key growth sectors like biotechnology and clean energy. Second, I'll work to invest in those sectors with our permanent funds and expand international trade and investment. Third, I'll raise the minimum wage while creating clear pathways for families to escape poverty.

4. Do you support expanding the use of clean energy, and if so, how?

I support making New Mexico the leader in clean energy development and technology. We must provide more clean energy for ourselves and export to neighboring states, creating thousands of good jobs. I'll increase our renewable portfolio standard to 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2040, invest in energy-efficient renovations and technology, and work to eliminate unnecessary and harmful methane emissions from our oil/gas production.

5. Given recent events in New Mexico and across the nation, what would you do to address gun violence?

There are clear steps we must take to reduce gun violence in our communities. First, we must strengthen our gun laws with truly universal background checks, taking guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, and a ban on military-style assault weapons. Second, I will support school-safety improvements and hiring more police to working with our communities to stop and solve crime.



STEVE PEARCE
Republican

The Act has failed in several areas. Insurance companies are exiting the state, health insurance costs more, covers less and has higher deductibles. I will rebuild the private insurance market and implement measures such as shopping across state lines, covering preventive medicine with insurance and incentivizing healthy lifestyles. I will hold pharmaceuticals and physicians accountable to not over prescribe or send excessive prescriptions by mail.

Our schools are broken, badly managed and falling short. I propose shifting money from administrative costs into classrooms, letting teachers focus on teaching and holding administrators to account for better management. Simply spending more alone won't work unless we change the system to allow teachers to focus on students. I fully support current early childhood programs, but funding needs to be within our state budget.

I will put my business experience to work growing and diversifying the economy. We need high tech jobs for the PhD's and researchers. We will have apprenticeship programs to train for the skilled jobs that are waiting for workers (plumbers, truck drivers, electricians etc.) We need a rural economy like hydroponic organic greenhouses to make NM food self-sufficient with fresh, pesticide free, year-round food.

I've long supported clean energy and will support its expansion. I'll recruit companies to NM who've committed to using 100% renewable energy. Solar and wind power are natural areas for NM to excel in but we also have biomass and geothermal energy that can be tapped. We'll link our labs and universities with this natural skill set to become a national leader in clean energy.

The question of gun control has several components including repeal of the Second Amendment which I do not support doing. I do support holding federal agencies accountable for failing to heed warning signs and reports of violent tendencies. To protect students, schools can take preventive measures without gun control including 100% controlled access, metal detectors, remote locking of corridors and expanded mental/behavioral health counseling.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Serves as Acting Governor when the Governor is out of the state, provides constituent services, presides over the New Mexico Senate and can vote in the event of a tie. In a general election the Lieutenant Governor is elected jointly with the Governor. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for the five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$85,000.

The League asked:

1. What qualifications and attributes do you have that prepare you to succeed as Lieutenant Governor?



HOWIE C. MORALES
Democrat

As a father, an educator, a coach and a Senator, I've been on the front lines, fighting for our families and ensuring the next generation has every opportunity to succeed. I have fought for increased funding for our classrooms, public safety, and job training programs. As a key voice on the Senate Finance Committee, I've worked tirelessly to make state's budget more reflective of our

2. The Governor usually assigns tasks to the Lieutenant Governor. What issues would you like to work on to improve the lives of New Mexicans?

I look forward to working with Michelle Lujan Grisham to make bold investments into our classrooms as well as apprenticeships and skills training so that every New Mexican has a chance at a good paying job here at home. I'll use my experience in the classroom to help fix our public education system and ensure we are spending more time teaching our children and less....



MICHELLE GARCIA HOLMES
Republican

New Mexico is my home. I was educated here (Bachelor of Science) and served 30 years as a commissioned police woman (Detective, & Chief of Staff.) I am a wife, mother, and grandmother and my passion is to serve. I have made a career of standing up for New Mexicans and I will work to make New Mexico prosperous and safe for all. Website: Ltgov2018.com

Public safety is the backbone of any prosperous community. I will utilize my experience to pull together our state's resources to tackle crime. Safe cities help our businesses grow and attract new businesses to New Mexico. Child abuse, drug trafficking, violent and property crimes are holding us back, we can provide a brighter future for our children and families through experienced leadership and hard work.

The League of Women Voters will present a Candidate Forum where the candidates for this seat in the US House of Representatives will answer the public's questions. It will be October 19, 5:30 p.m. at HEC (Higher Education Center) 1950 Siringo Road, Santa Fe

SECRETARY OF STATE

New Mexico's chief elections officer, overseeing the entire election process. Regulates lobbyist activity and reporting of campaign finances, and maintains records vital to commerce and industry in New Mexico. Must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$85,000.

The League asked:

1. Describe both the specific experience and abilities you have that prepare you for this office.
2. What actions would you take to increase voter registration and voter turnout?
3. Do you support any changes in New Mexico's voting procedures, such as online voting, mail-in voting, or requiring picture/photo IDs at the polls?
4. What changes, if any, would you support in campaign finance regulation and reporting?
5. Do you support open primaries? Please explain.



MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
Democrat

Having served as Secretary of State for nearly two years and Bernalillo County Clerk for 10 years, I have experience running open, transparent elections; making voting accessible; and ensuring our elections systems are secure. Further, as Secretary of State, I have shined a light on dark money in politics, made elected officials' financial dealings public and made it easier for people with disabilities to vote.

Increased registration and turnout are key to ensuring government reflects the will of the people. As Secretary of State, I have worked with the Motor Vehicle Department to make it easier for eligible voters to register or update their registration. I also created nmvote.org so voters can easily check their registration, find polling places, review sample ballots and request an absentee ballot online.

I support policies that enhance the security and integrity of elections. Mail-in voting is a possible option that I am considering. While I'm open to exploring block-chain and technologies that could create secure online voting, we aren't there yet. Finally, voter ID laws don't make elections safer; they make it harder for elderly voters, the poor and people of color to cast a ballot.

As Secretary of State, I enacted rules to shine a light on dark money in politics. I also made elected officials' financial disclosure forms available online. Transparency is key. Additionally, we will soon update and streamline the technology that candidates use for their reports to make it easier for campaigns to follow the rules and for the public to follow the money.

I support open primaries. Our current primary system excludes too many voters. I would like to see a primary system in which voters who are not registered with a major party can choose the primary in which they would like to vote. When voters know that their voices are heard, they are more likely to trust and participate in our election process.



GINGER G. GRIDER
Libertarian

Firstly, I am a citizen of the State of New Mexico. I have co-owned and operated a small business in New Mexico for the past 24 years with my husband. I have served the citizens of New Mexico as an advocate for special needs families around the State with Parents Reaching Out as a Families as Faculty volunteer for 5 years.

Education, education, education. I believe that a better-informed electorate is what is needed to revitalize our state, county, and local elections and bring its citizens out of voter apathy. A clear understanding of what the Offices being voted on do and how they intersect with the average New Mexican's life, is critical to increasing both voter registration and turn out.

I wholeheartedly support any measure that would increase voter participation. I am excited about "Blockchain" capabilities as it applies to voting and have been following the development of it as such. Any measure that aides the New Mexico citizen in being able to participate in their representative government is a good thing

I feel that the law is sufficient and adequate and that it only need be applied fairly and equitably to all New Mexicans regardless of their party affiliation to work the way it was intended to ensure transparency to the electorate.

I support open primaries over closed ones but ultimately, they are simply first draft team picking subsidized by the New Mexican tax payer. If a political party chooses to have a primary, then it is my opinion that the party pay for that themselves and not hoist the bill off on the tax payer who may or may not be invested in the process.



GAVIN S. CLARKSON
Republican

Proven job creator. Brought \$3/4 billion to rural and tribal areas in New Mexico. Law degree and three business degrees. Wrote software for state ethics law compliance. Taught corporate law and computer science for decades, including secured transactions and corporate formation matters that became the responsibility of the Secretary of State in 2013. Cybersecurity experience. Enrolled tribal member. Veteran.

I would stop the weaponization of the Secretary of State's office that has left many New Mexicans feeling disenfranchised, including independents and non-progressive Democrats. I will work to ensure that every vote counts, but also ensure that Zombies, Aliens, and Canines do not vote. I would increase active military and tribal participation in elections, including the translation of ballots into Native languages.

When a non-citizen votes, a citizen's vote is diminished. Our ancestors including my father, the first American Indian jet pilot, fought against tyranny to protect our freedoms. Allowing those who cheated the system to vote is an insult to both our veterans and to all the legal immigrants who followed the rules. I will implement Voter ID, which is supported by 70% of New Mexicans.

The Secretary of State is not supposed to make laws. Legislators make laws. Yet when the legislative process did not produce a result that my opponent wanted, she unilaterally decided to violate the First Amendment rights of anyone who donated to a cause that she opposes. I will rescind that illegal policy, protect First Amendment freedoms, and keep ANTIFA away from you and your family.

I believe that members of political parties have constitutionally protected freedoms, including the freedom to associate. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that parties, as private organizations, have a constitutional right to manage their own affairs without undue state interference. There are other mechanisms that have the potential to increase voter choice, particularly for independents, but that is a matter for the legislature to consider.

STATE TREASURER

Serves as the state's banker and is entrusted with receiving, keeping, and disbursing state money; deposits funds in financial institutions to invest; and oversees the short-term investment fund. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$85,000.

The League asked:

1. What specific financial training and experience do you have that qualifies you to perform this function?
2. What are your highest priorities for this office and how do you intend to accomplish them?
3. What, if any, changes would you recommend in the policies and operations of the State Treasurer's office?



TIM EICHENBERG
Democrat

Four years' experience as New Mexico State Treasurer. Elected two terms Bernalillo County Treasurer. Worked in private sector for over 30 years as Property Tax Consultant, General Contractor and Real Estate Broker. Appointed by the Governor as New Mexico State Property Tax Director (2004). Elected to New Mexico Senate (2008); Chaired Restructuring Committee and Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee.

The Safety of New Mexico's money is the first priority, followed by ensuring required liquidity and then maximizing yield. Manage New Mexico's cash with integrity and transparency. Improving the quality of life for all New Mexicans through promoting ABLE NM so people with disabilities establish tax-free savings without losing public-assistance eligibility and Help New Mexico's private-sector employees to retire financially secure.

We have recently implemented the State SHARE System (accounting program) in the State Treasurer's office. All other State agencies currently utilize this system. I initiated legislation regarding transparency in investment fees that passed the legislature but was vetoed by the Governor, but will try again in 2019. Other changes that I believed needed to be implemented have been accomplished over the last three years.



ARTHUR L. CASTILLO
Republican

Bachelor's degree Business Administration; Chief Finance Officer, NM State Treasurers office; Paymaster, grant accountant, writer, administrator, City of Albuquerque; Grant accountant, writer, administrator, transportation planner, NM Department of Transportation; Physical Plant Director, University of Albuquerque; Accounting manager, Bernalillo County Treasurers office; plus entry level positions as a property control and payroll clerk; 4 year veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Evaluate policies and procedures before making changes as necessary to comply with federal regulations, state of NM statutes, and other mandates required by GAAP and GAAFR. Hire the most qualified executive staff within the area of expertise. Review staff functions and set or ad-just internal audit procedures for all functions of the STO.

I was not able to find the STO's policies and procedures, the STO does not publish their Policies and Procedures on their website. The prior administration's Policies and Procedures were sufficient for that time. Changes will be made to insure legal mandates are adhered to. I do not intend to waste money to make unnecessary changes.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The state's legal officer, legal counsel to state government, and guardian of the public interest. Represents the state before courts or agencies and provides legal opinions upon request of the Legislature, state officials or district attorneys. Must be a licensed attorney of the Supreme Court of New Mexico in good standing, at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for the five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$95,000.

The League asked:

1. Describe both the specific experience and abilities you have that prepare you for this office.
2. What are your highest priorities for this office, and how do you intend to accomplish them?
3. What will you do to make public officials more accountable to the general public?
4. What will you do to protect New Mexicans from consumer fraud?
5. What is the Attorney General's role in fighting the opioid crisis in New Mexico?



HECTOR BALDERAS
Democrat

Growing up in poverty has made me an aggressive street fighter. This personal experience created the conviction that everyone - no matter their background - deserve opportunities to succeed. As a prosecutor and certified fraud examiner I uncovered the largest public school embezzlement in state history. As AG, I will continue to tirelessly pursue those who exploit the vulnerable and ensure the safety and prosperity of families.

My top priorities are to protect vulnerable children who fall through the cracks through systemic failures, protect hard working consumers by combating political corruption and unfair trade practices by corporations, and continue partnering with local, state and federal authorities to fight against crimes such as human trafficking, money laundering, and violent crimes.

I will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute public officials regardless of party affiliation. I will continue to fight for pension forfeiture for public officials who violate the law and continue to partner with NM citizens who courageously step forward to report public corruption. I will continue to fight for tougher penalties against government agencies that are not transparent to the public.

I will continue to aggressively litigate against powerful out of state corporations who don't pay taxes or scam consumers for hard earned wages. As AG, I have recovered over 20 million dollars and have made substantial reinvestments for consumer training and prevention tools to make smarter, more informed consumers who are empowered to protect themselves from fraud.

New Mexicans are dying at an alarming rate. I have filed suit against opioid distributors and manufacturers in order to secure funding to be reinvested in education, treatment, and law enforcement. I have launched Project OPEN: Opioid Prevention & Education Network, a public opioid abuse training program aimed to educate advocates, law enforcement, healthcare professionals and policy makers on the impact of opioid abuse.

STATE AUDITOR

Assures that the financial affairs of every state and local entity are thoroughly examined and audited each year and determines that such audits conducted by independent auditors are made in a competent manner. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$85,000.

The League asked:

1. What experience, education and other qualifications do you have for the State Auditor position?
2. Which areas require the immediate attention of this office?
3. The State Auditor contracts with independent public accounting firms to audit state agencies. Should these firms be prohibited from making campaign contributions to candidates for State Auditor? Why or why not?



BRIAN S. COLÓN
Democrat

My finance degree (New Mexico State University) and law degree (University of New Mexico) are a perfect fit for this office. I also have 25+ years as an entrepreneur and work with business/government transactions along with philanthropic endeavors as I built a legal career will make me an effective State Auditor. I will fight corruption, waste, fraud and abuse while addressing public policy issues.

Fighting corruption, waste, fraud and abuse demand immediate attention. I will expand OSA's capacity and engage voters in all 33 counties to identify areas of fraud/abuse needing investigation. Taxpayers know best where there are areas of concern and utilizing taxpayers is the most effective way to fight corruption. I will build on momentum created by previous auditors, AG Hector Balderas and Mayor Tim Keller.

Independent accounting firms that contract with the Office of State Auditor should be prohibited from making campaign contributions to candidates for State Auditor due to potential conflicts of interest. We should also consider whether similar contributions to gubernatorial candidates should be prohibited for the same reason. Our system of campaign finance needs to be changed. Public financing discussions and solutions should continue.



WAYNE A. JOHNSON
Republican

My experience as State Auditor, successful owner of a media business, and two-term Bernalillo County Commissioner come together to achieve the primary objectives of my office - transparency and accountability. As Auditor, I uncover facts and report back to the public without regard to politics or partisanship. I am a strong, independent voice for New Mexico families and answer only to the public.

First, to expose and bring into compliance taxpayer-funded organizations that have heretofore hidden from public scrutiny-like the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities and the High Risk Pool. I've already uncovered hundreds of thousands of public dollars used for everything from \$8,000 parties to WhistlePig whiskey. Also, provide accountability for seniors and their conservators and improve financial practices of entities subject to State Auditor's review.

There are serious First Amendment issues when restricting legal contributions from specific groups. However, I do not solicit contributions from firms who go through the OSA firm profile process. Also, all but a few of the over 1,300 audits performed annually are procured by the organization being audited. It's a good process that protects the IPA from unscrupulous candidates while helping to guarantee high-quality audits.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

Leads the State Land Office, which manages 9 million acres of land and 13 million acres of mineral rights held in trust to support public schools, universities, hospitals, charitable purposes and penitentiaries. Must be at least 30 years of age, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. Salary: \$90,000.

The League asked:

1. Describe both the specific experience and abilities you have that prepare you for this office.
2. How will you balance responsible stewardship of state trust lands while maximizing the revenues necessary for the support of the beneficiaries?
3. How can the Land Commissioner improve enforcement of environmental regulations on state trust lands?
4. How would you generate additional revenue for the beneficiaries of the trust?



STEPHANIE GARCIA RICHARD
Democrat

Chair of the House Education Committee, 3-term State Representative and awarded "Spirit of Bipartisanship" by NM First. I have represented all land office issues and users; on both sides of the aisle. I'm excited to leverage the mandate by ensuring we increase funding for early childhood education, schools, and hospitals. I've championed renewable energy and job training to assist in diversification away from extractive industries.

The land office needs to make decisions with the recognition that the health of the environment, the economy, the public, and the animals are inextricably intertwined; ensuring optimal revenue generation while preserving the land for future generations. With that said, oil and gas will continue to be a mainstay in our state and we must ensure we're maximizing our financial returns while guaranteeing environmental safeguards.

First, we must mandate that lease agreements include requirements to adhere to clean air and water standards. Second, we must partner with other agencies on oversight, encouraging them to report when they witness a violation occurring. Finally, we must increase our field capacity in the office, so we have more eyes on state trust land.

I will restore the \$700 million in renewable energy projects abandoned by the current office holder and implement a program that would establish transmission lines that allow for New Mexico to make royalties from selling renewable energy to vast markets in the West, like we do with oil and gas.



PATRICK H. LYONS
Republican

I served as the Commissioner of Public Lands from 2003-2010, and have the experience to provide the leadership the Land Office needs to move New Mexico forward and raise revenue in a sustainable way for education and the 22 beneficiaries. During my tenure, I raised a record \$4Billion in revenue with a flat budget for 8 years and every dollar accounted for.

Stewardship of State Trust Land is very important and I want to ensure that our future generations can enjoy the benefits from State Trust Land. I will ask the Legislature to fund a restoration program to keep State Trust Land clean and our forests healthy. While Land Commissioner, I initiated a program called "Don't Trash the Trust," which worked with communities and lessees to care....

The Land Office needs to work closely with the NM Environment Department and the NM Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, Oil Conservation Division. They need to bring on an environmental engineer to interpret and enforce regulations on State Trust Land. The Land Office also needs to establish an environmental advisory board with professionals that have the knowledge and experience to make recommendations on...

I will diversify the energy portfolio by continuing to create renewable energy projects like wind and solar leases on State Trust Lands. I will expand opportunities for commercial leases in urban areas, such as the projects I supported as Land Commissioner, including UNM West, Presbyterian Trust and Cleveland High School. I would expand outdoor recreational access and opportunities on State Trust Land.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!!

LWV BE SURE TO VOTE!!

NEW MEXICO STATE JUDICIAL OFFICES

Vacancies for courts in New Mexico are filled through appointment by the governor from a slate of potential nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. The newly appointed judge must then run in a contested, partisan election at the next general election. Thereafter, the judge runs in nonpartisan retention elections for set terms. In a partisan election, the candidate receiving the most votes will be elected. In a retention election, the justice or judge must receive a 57% “yes” vote out of all the votes cast on the question of whether the justice or judge should remain in office.

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

Serves as one of five justices on the highest court in New Mexico. It is the court of last resort and has supervisory control over all lesser courts and attorneys licensed in the state. 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. 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. Must be 35 years old, have practiced law for 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Elected statewide for eight-year term. Salary: Chief Justice, \$141,818; Associate Justice, \$139,818.

The League asked:

1. How have your training, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on this court?
2. What policies are critical to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
3. What improvements in the Supreme Court would you seek to make if elected?



MICHAEL E. VIGIL
Democrat

I have been a lawyer for over 42 years and a Judge on the Court of Appeals for over 15 years. I was a trial attorney for over 27 years in civil and criminal cases and over 50 appeals. As Judge, I have decided over 3,000 cases and written over 1,000 opinions in every aspect of the law, protecting the rights of all New Mexicans.

A judge must put ethics and impartiality first in deciding cases, and it is critical that judges not take money from special interests, corporations, or oil and gas companies. I am the only candidate for Supreme Court who is publicly financed. I am committed to insuring that all parties coming to court are treated equally, regardless of gender, race, economic status, background, or sexual preference.

I will bring my decades of experience in the criminal law to improve the rules for keeping people in jail who are dangerous pending their trial. In addition, I will explore whether the State can appeal from a sentence it deems to be too light.



GARY L. CLINGMAN
Republican

I prepared through hard work. I attended college at night while working as a police officer. I earned a Master of Judicial Studies degree, joined the faculty of the National Judicial College, and am a published author. A Judge for 21 years, I've tried over 650 jury trials, including complex civil and criminal litigation, children's court matters, divorces, torts, and contract disputes.

Soundly reasoned, clearly written opinions that are based upon precedent safeguard judicial independence. When this principle is observed, critics must attack the law upon which the opinion rests and not the judiciary itself. However, if this principle is ignored and non-precedential considerations become the basis for decisions, the judiciary abandons its safe haven above the political fray and its claim for judicial independence rings hollow.

The Supreme Court administers the entire judiciary. It has established internal deadlines to accelerate the resolution of cases before it. I would establish resolution deadlines for all state courts and increase the judiciary's use of technology to better serve New Mexicans. We must develop faster and less expensive ways to resolve civil and domestic relations disputes while honoring due process requirements.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS — POSITION 1

Serves as one of ten judges on the intermediate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court. Judges sit in panels of three. 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. Must be 35 years old, have practiced law for 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Elected statewide for eight-year term. Salary: Chief Judge, \$134,727; Judge, \$132,827.

The League asked:

1. How have your training, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on this court?
2. What policies are critical to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
3. What improvements in the Court of Appeals would you seek to make if elected?



KRISTINA BOGARDUS
Democrat

I have 27 years of legal experience, working with my colleagues to reach consensus on difficult legal issues. I have focused on legal writing throughout my career and believe that my writing skills will be an asset to the Court. I am a person who treats everyone with equal respect and fairness. I want to take these qualities to the Court of Appeals.

I have always held myself to the highest ethical standards required by my profession, and, as a judge, I will continue to do so. The Judicial Code of Ethics provides strict rules to insulate the judiciary from politics. The public finance option is another way to keep political influence out of the courts, and I qualified for such financing for my campaign.

Lawyers rely on our appellate courts to guide their practice and to advise their clients. I will keep the existing law in sight and not stray too far from it. The Court must provide timely opinions that provide clarity and guidance to lawyers and their clients and I intend to meet that goal. I expect to work hard to help relieve the Court's heavy caseload.



STEPHEN G. FRENCH
Republican

Prior to joining the Court, I was a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and civil trial attorney in State and Federal courts. I litigated over 110 appeals in State and Federal court. Since being appointed to the Court of Appeals, I have authored or participated in over 70 opinions. In the last two years, I have cleared the learning curve regarding the craft of authoring opinions.

Our Code of Judicial Ethics generally serves to protect the independence of the courts. We need to keep partisan politics out of all judicial races. Public funding of Court of Appeals' races was a great start. However, we must amend the New Mexico Constitution, Article VI, Section 33, to require non-partisan elections for judges in order to keep the judiciary independent from political influence.

The modernization of the Court should continue to be our primary focus. Currently, we are transitioning the entire structure of the Court in order to address efficiency. This is an ongoing and time intensive process. Our goal is to provide quick resolution of disputes and justice for everybody who comes before the Court.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS — POSITION 2

The League asked:

1. How have your training, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on this court?
2. What policies are critical to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
3. What improvements in the Court of Appeals would you seek to make if elected?



JACQUELINE R. MEDINA
Democrat

I have practiced law for 27 years. As a former Children's Court Attorney, Prosecutor, and Assistant Attorney General I tried several cases and handled over 160 appellate cases. I serve on the New Mexico Supreme Court Appellate Rules Committee, mentor law students, new attorneys, and I am a former Family Selection Committee member for the Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity. I bring experience and integrity.

Judges are required to perform their work in a fair, impartial, and diligent manner. Judges must remain faithful to the law and not allow themselves to be swayed by partisan interests, fear of criticism, or public outcry. A judge must ensure that her extra-judicial activities not conflict with or give the appearance of conflicting with her judicial obligations.

I have 16 1/2 years of appellate work and will hit the ground running. Criminal appeals make up the largest category of cases. As a former prosecutor I know that the lives of victims, the accused, and their families are on hold while their cases await review. I will seek to ensure that all cases are resolved in a timely and accurate manner.



HANK BOHNHOFF
Republican

An appellate judge must have integrity, a strong work ethic, broad legal experience, and demonstrated legal ability. My parents taught me to work hard and be honest, fair, and respectful. I worked my way through Stanford University and Columbia University Law School. For 34 years I litigated a wide variety of cases across New Mexico, earning our legal community's respect. See www.KeepJudgeHankBohnhoff.com for more information.

Voters that I have met across New Mexico are dismayed to learn that our judges must run in partisan elections. Partisan elections for judges increase the risk that they will rule based on political considerations. The surest way to keep politics out of the courtroom is for New Mexico to join the many other states that have abandoned partisan, contested elections for judges.

Our Court must decide appeals expeditiously, yet give each case careful consideration. We currently face a significant backlog. My colleagues and I recently have streamlined our procedures to process our docket more efficiently. These reforms are working, but do not sacrifice our commitment to give each party who comes before us his or her day in court. Upon election, I will continue implementing these improvements.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS — POSITION 3



BRIANA H. ZAMORA
Democrat

My professional experience includes nearly a decade as a Judge in New Mexico. I have presided over thousands of cases and well over a hundred jury trials. I have earned a reputation for being fair but tough. New Mexicans deserve experienced judges who are independent and have integrity. The New Mexico Court of Appeals will benefit from my experience and reputation of integrity and fairness.

Judicial independence requires that New Mexico courts be free from improper influence from the legislative or executive branches of government. Judges must also set aside partisan or private-party interests when making decisions. Judicial ethics rules mandate judges make decisions independently and free from other influences. As a judge, I adhere to the Judicial Code of Conduct, which is an important tool for ensuring judicial independence.

New Mexico Courts, including the Court of Appeals, are extremely busy. When courts are overburdened, cases can be unreasonably delayed. Litigants have a right to timely decisions. To cure this problem, our courts could benefit from additional resources, possible restructuring and increased use of alternative dispute resolution programs. As a judge, I have and will continue to, work to improve our courts system.



EMIL J. KIEHNE
Republican

The most important qualification that voters should look for in a Court of Appeals judge is experience in doing appeals work, which requires very different skills from being a district court judge. With over 17 years' experience handling appeals in both civil and criminal cases, I'm the only candidate for Position 3 whose career has been dedicated to this area of the law.

I am participating in New Mexico's system of public financing for statewide judicial elections, which means that I am not beholden to campaign contributors or special interests. Our Code of Judicial Conduct also places strict limits on the political activities of judges. Another good idea would be to move away from the partisan judicial races that we currently have in New Mexico.

When I became a judge on the Court of Appeals over to months ago, I discovered that the Court was behind on its work, and had inefficient practices that slow cases down. My fellow judges and I are now making significant changes to help the Court decide cases more quickly, including hiring more law clerks and using more modern software, to name a few.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS — POSITION 4

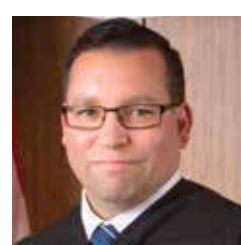


MEGAN P. DUFFY
Democrat

I began my career clerking for Justice Bosson at the NM Supreme Court. Since then, I've spent my career at a small civil firm in Albuquerque, mastering my field and representing real people all over New Mexico. I understand how our courts affect every person in our state and I have the ability, experience, and perspective to serve New Mexico with integrity.

Public financing is critical to the courts' independence because the campaigns do not accept any money from donors and special interests, which eliminates conflicts of interest. In addition to adhering to our strict Judicial Code, I commit to always put ethics and impartiality first, and to treat all parties equally. I am proud to be publicly financed and committed to maintaining judicial integrity and independence.

The Court is facing a backlog of cases as a result of having 5 judges retire in the last two years. My commitment is to work hard to bring the Court's docket current so that parties receive timely decisions in their cases, and to draft clear opinions that litigants, attorneys, and courts can use and apply in future cases.



DANIEL JOSE GALLEGOS
Republican

By necessity, an appellate judge must be a generalist. Throughout my varied career, I have served as a prosecutor in the Navy and in NM; a legal advisor to military commanders at sea and in Iraq; a COA staff attorney, where I handled more than 250 appeals; and following a recommendation by the bipartisan judicial nominating commission, I am currently a sitting COA judge.

No one wants to appear before a judge perceived to be beholden to someone or something other than the law itself. Public financing of judicial elections is a start, but in this constitutionally mandated partisan election, I have also chosen to utilize campaign materials that do not denote political party affiliation. In this way, I can guarantee that I render decisions without fear or favor.

The Court must not only issue fair, just, and well-reasoned opinions, but it must also ensure that its opinions are timely. As a sitting COA judge and member of the Judicial Information Systems Council, I have been on the forefront of internal and technological improvements aimed at increasing judicial efficiency. With my continued efforts, I believe opinions will be issued in a timelier fashion.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS - RETENTION

JUDICIAL RETENTION — Voters at a retention election may vote either “yes” or “no” for each individual judge for retention. To retain the office, a judge standing for retention must receive 57% “yes” votes of all the votes cast on the question of retention.

The League asked:

1. How have your training, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on this court?
2. What policies are critical to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
3. What improvements in the Court of Appeals would you seek to make if retained?



J. MILES HANISEE

My twenty-four years of legal experience include being a Judge on the Court of Appeals since 2011, a federal prosecutor, and a lawyer representing New Mexicans. Since my family moved to Taos in 1986, my love of our state's outdoors, culture, people, diversity, and cuisine have contributed to my understanding of public service and the need for a fair, efficient, and independent judiciary.

Most voters agree that politics and judicial service are functionally incompatible. Yet except in retention elections such as mine this year, our state still opts to identify judicial candidates by political party affiliation. That should change, as it has in most other states. During my seven years as an appellate judge, I have advocated loudly for non-partisan judicial elections, as yet to no avail.

Six of our ten appellate judges have retired in the past four years. Afterward, my senior colleagues and I noticed an accompanying opportunity to modernize court processes. I hope to continue my contribution to this effort, which combines staffing revisions, technology upgrades, improved training, and changes to our use of limited financial resources to attain speedier, correct, and more publicly accessible rulings.

PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSIONER

Member of five-person commission that regulates the utilities, telecommunications and motor carrier industries. Also oversees pipeline and fire safety. Must be a citizen of the United States and reside in the district he/she represents. Must also certify that he/she has at least ten years of specified professional experience or combined professional experience and education in an area regulated by the commission. Elected by district. Four-year staggered term. Districts 2, 4, and 5 are up for election this year. Salary: \$90,000.

The League asked:

1. What are your qualifications for Public Regulation Commissioner?
2. When evaluating requests for insurance and utility rate increases, what factors should be taken into account to ensure fairness to both the public and the companies involved?
3. What should the PRC do to help ensure access to high quality broadband and internet service to underserved areas of the state?
4. What is your position regarding increased renewable energy production and transmission lines?



KEVIN J. SANDERS
Democrat

I have a Bachelor of Science in political science from Eastern New Mexico University, and a Juris Doctor from the UNM School of Law. As an attorney, I have worked at state and federal regulatory agencies, including the NMPRC and the FCC. I am in private practice and on the board of directors for the Public Law section of the NM State Bar Association.

Utility ratemaking must ensure reasonable energy prices, give proper incentives for efficiency and demand control, and ensure utility health and access to capital. We need to prioritize energy storage along with distributed renewable energy sources. Having options that give customers real choice will bring down prices and also strengthen rural New Mexico's utility infrastructure.

The PRC should do everything in its power to increase broadband options, including cooperative and municipal internet service providers. This includes working to bring new service providers and create partnerships with current ones to serve outlying areas. These additional services should complement but not replace the current options. There is much that can be done to streamline permitting and lower barriers to broadband buildout.

New Mexico is well positioned to take advantage of solar and wind energy. We should encourage national and even global investment in our generation and transmission infrastructure, but we should also be wary of deals that sell out our state's future for short-term gain. In short, we have to connect Eastern NM to a reliable, affordable, and balanced energy market worldwide.



JEFFERSON L. BYRD
Republican

I have a degree in Agricultural Engineering and worked for refining, pipeline, and trucking companies. I am also a business owner myself.

There are a lot of factors that go into these decisions. I will be a voice for the people of New Mexico who, like me, are worried about energy rates becoming unaffordable. With my engineering background, I have a unique perspective regarding the technical aspect of these rate cases.

I believe a free market will provide the best service at the lowest rate. I recognize that service is not at its best in the state, and will work to remove burdensome regulations that are preventing companies from moving forward with upgrading service across the state.

I am in full support of alternative energy. I will promote the full use of all forms of energy from cradle to grave. I would like to see every opportunity for New Mexican's to help grow the job market, while at the same time, making our state an energy source for others. I will also work diligently to ensure that the power supply remains reliable.

THERE WILL BE TWO PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND FOUR BOND ISSUES ON THE BALLOT. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM, SEE LWVSFC.ORG AND LOOK IN THE VOTER INFORMATION TAB.

CANDIDATES FOR REPRESENTATIVE - NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, the person in this legislative office, together with other representatives, enacts “reasonable and appropriate laws,” represents the constituents of his or her district, and serves 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. Must be at least twenty-one years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. Two-year term. No salary. Per diem is \$165 per day plus mileage reimbursement at the federal rate while in session or at interim meetings.

HOUSE DISTRICT 22

The League asked:

1. Describe the specific experiences and abilities that prepare you for the office of New Mexico State Representative:

2. If elected, what will be your two highest priorities for your district? What specific actions will you take to accomplish them?

3. Given recent events in New Mexico and across the nation, what would you do to address gun violence?

4. What will you do to improve the quality of life for New Mexicans?



JESSICA VELASQUEZ
Democrat

My professional background as a business owner, public school teacher, and university instructor has given me first-hand experience in two crucial areas for the state of New Mexico: economics and education. A long-time New Mexican resident, married to a native New Mexican, with school-aged children, I am actively engaged in the East Mountain community. I understand our community's issues and values, and will be a strong advocate for the East Mountains, Edgewood, and Placitas.

My two top priorities are improving New Mexico's education system and building our economy. Education, from early childhood to college, needs to be adequately funded. Our teachers and educational support staff need better salaries, the teacher evaluation system needs to be revised, and the costly and time-consuming PARCC test needs to be replaced. Improving New Mexico's economy depends on 21st century job creation, a powerful, skilled workforce to fill those jobs, and a modern infrastructure.

Poverty, mental health, and substance abuse are a few issues that contribute to violence, and I support programs addressing those problems. I also support reasonable gun legislation which upholds the rights of responsible gun owners, but which also seeks to keep us safe. For example, gun violence restraining orders courts to temporarily bar an at-risk person from buying firearms, and can give police the right to temporarily seize weapons from an at-risk person.

I will work to improve our quality of life by strengthening our schools, building jobs, protecting our environment, supporting public safety through adequate funding and training for all first responders, ensuring quality healthcare in both urban and remote sections of our state, fighting for the best possible care for our seniors and veterans, and standing up for working families. I am committed to a better NM for us all.



GREGG SCHMEIDES
Republican

My experience as a physician and engineer has taught me how to listen to people and solve problems. I have learned to make decisions based on evidence, which I will do as a legislator. My time serving the sick in central Africa has given me valuable experience working with people of different cultures and languages. It's imperative that our representatives serve and listen to all people.

District 22 wants better economic opportunity and lower crime. These issues go hand-in-hand. We must offer greater support to our first responders and rid our communities of drugs. Our local businesses have been crushed by overregulation and a burdensome tax code. Our GRT rate should be lowered and simplified so small business can make a come-back in our district.

As a physician, I will work hard to address mental health issues in our state as they pertain to gun violence. Many of these individuals don't have access to care. We must also address the root causes of gun violence: the loss of value for human life, lack of respect for authority, and broken families.

First of all, I will sound the alarm on any corruption and reckless partisanship, so New Mexicans can enjoy a service-oriented legislature working for them. We must expand our private business sector to increase prosperity for all. Perhaps one of the best ways to improve our quality of life is to allow our families to stay together, as people are driven to move away for lack of opportunity.

HOUSE DISTRICT 43

The League asked:

1. What are the major concerns regarding education in New Mexico? How can they be addressed?

2. What actions do you advocate to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of health care for New Mexicans?

3. How can New Mexico diversify its economy to reduce reliance on income from the oil and gas industry?

4. What measures do you support to protect New Mexico's natural resources in this time of climate stress?



CHRISTINE CHANDLER
Democrat

The public education system is underfunded, and students, particularly those who are “at risk” are not receiving the quality education to which they are entitled. We should increase funding to expand access to early childhood programs, including Pre-K, reduce class sizes and improve teacher pay and training/mentoring. We should expand vocational and job training programs for students who chose to pursue trade careers.

The current healthcare system leaves too many New Mexicans without affordable coverage, particularly as the Affordable Care Act is being dismantled at the federal level. We should increase access to Medicaid through an income-based buy-in program for New Mexicans. In addition, the state should study and support if economically feasible, a single payor program, such as the one proposed in the Health Security Act.

First we must recognize that an educated workforce that includes relevant vocational training, is an important factor in recruiting new businesses to the state. It will take time but is an essential element to improving our economy. We should also look for ways to incentive reliance on our clean, natural resources, such as wind and solar.

With the federal government pulling back from the Clean Power Plan, the State needs to revisit its clean air standards. In addition we should work toward an increase in the renewable energy standard, funding for the Renewable Energy Transmission Authority and support ways to incentivize renewable energy sources, including renewing the solar tax credits.



LISA SHIN
Republican

Let's replicate the success of the Los Alamos Public Schools to other communities: exceptional parental engagement, community involvement, and support for our teachers. We have a serious gap when it comes to “middle-skills” so let's prioritize vocational education to prepare our students for a skilled workforce. Expand access to online education, ensure reading proficiency by 3rd grade, elect a state school board.

My opponent's “single-payer” pipe dream brings massive taxes, lowers both access to and quality of care. Telemedicine, that meets the standards of care, can greatly benefit those in the rural areas. Emphasize health education, wellness & preventive services. Fight drug abuse through early intervention, a holistic approach to long-term recovery, & robust law enforcement.

Our State brought in an extra \$158 million in 2018, and is expected to bring in \$93 million more due to record oil & gas production. We should diversify & expand our base, but it would be difficult for another industry to generate such revenues for our education, law enforcement, health care.

Our County's Carbon Free Power Project is innovative technology that should be embraced immediately. Its goal to be a clean energy, “carbon-neutral electrical energy provider by 2040” is forward thinking.

HOUSE DISTRICT 46

The League asked:

1. What legislation would you support to deal with the critically growing needs of the aging population — i.e. housing, elder care, and transportation?

2. What would you propose to insulate New Mexico from the impending trade wars?

3. What is your position on the potential overturn of Roe vs Wade, and if Roe is overturned what legislation would you support to help New Mexico women work through the impact this will have on their lives?

4. What legislation would you support addressing the rising costs of health insurance — especially for small businesses?



ANDREA ROMERO
Democrat

Efforts to support high-quality healthcare for northern New Mexico's elders is key, including healthcare, housing and transportation, highly qualified practitioners in the field, and a higher standard of care. Innovations in in-home care have been revolutionary and we can do more to bring high-quality services directly to those in need.

New Mexico's Finance Authority invests heavily in Wall Street and other diverse investments that could negatively affect our ability to steady the state budget because of an impending trade war. The State Investment Council should assess our financial portfolio to ensure the right balance of more conservative investment tools during this unstable time until there is no longer a threat of multiple trade wars.

With an impending threat that Roe v. Wade could be overturned, the New Mexico legislature must ensure that abortion remains decriminalized and access to all reproductive health needs are maintained. We must protect women's reproductive health. I stand proudly with Planned Parenthood and am honored to have their endorsement.

It's critically important that small businesses and our broader community have increased access to affordable, high quality healthcare. Implementing initiatives for cost-sharing, wellness programs, prescription drug price safeguards, disease management initiatives, and care improvement are proactive ways of addressing rising costs. The Legislature should work with the NM Insurance Commission to enact laws to increase accountability and rate reviews, cut waste, and improve care.



HEATHER NORDQUIST
(Write-in)

I would support all legislation helping the elderly achieve a better quality of life while maintaining their independence and dignity. More specifically, I would be committed to reducing hunger and food insecurity among older individuals. Many seniors receive only one meal a day. Legislation enhancing transportation options is also severely needed for appointments and other necessities for our elderly.

Currently, New Mexico imports far more goods and services than we export. Exporting goods and services brings new dollars into the state instead of just recirculating the same dollar. This imbalance becomes paralyzing for New Mexico to create good paying jobs for our youth and others. The trade wars will make foreign goods more expensive. We need to solve our own challenges first.

New Mexico has long had some of the least restrictive abortion laws in the country, but only by virtue of the US Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision. As a legislator, I vow to work to repeal NMSA 30-5-1 - 30-5-3 to make sure that we allow reproductive and health decisions to be made by those that should make them; women and their doctors.

The New Mexico Health Security Act would allow small businesses to capitalize on a larger risk pool for their employees. I am still studying this legislation, but would support the study to quantify the costs to New Mexico, small business employers and employees as a possible solution to this very serious problem.

HOUSE DISTRICT 50

The two candidates for this race answered different questions, due to the League's duplication of question mailing coupled with an incorrect email address for one of the candidates. The League apologizes for the fact that we cannot present the candidates' answers to the same questions.

The League asked:

1. Describe the specific experiences and abilities that prepare you for the office of New Mexico State Representative.

2. If elected, what will be your two highest priorities for your district? What specific actions will you take to accomplish them?

3. Given recent events in New Mexico and across the nation, what would you do to address gun violence?

4. What will you do to improve the quality of life for New Mexicans?



MATTHEW MCQUEEN
Democrat

As a parent of two small children (a two-year-old and a four-year-old), a small business owner, a practicing attorney for over twenty-five years (with degrees in law, business, and natural resources policy), and having already served in the New Mexico House of Representatives for four years, I am well prepared to continue representing the people of House District 50.

I will continue to support the expansion of early-childhood education, so all New Mexico kids can be prepared to start school when the time comes, and I will work to open our economic development incentives to more small and local businesses, including specifically grocery stores in food-insecure communities.

There are numerous common-sense, widely supported gun safety measures we can and should enact. I personally sponsored a ban on so-called “bump stocks” (that allow semi-automatic weapons to fire like fully-automatic weapons), but we should also adopt universal background checks to keep weapons out of the hands of violent felons, trigger lock requirements for households with small children, and procedures to remove firearms from homes experiencing domestic violence.

While we're currently experiencing a financial windfall from the oil and gas industry, but we know it won't last. We need to invest the money wisely to diversify our economy and improve our educational system. Renewable energy and outdoor recreation are keys to New Mexico's financial future, not continued overreliance on boom-and-bust extractive industries.

The League asked:

1. What legislation would you support to deal with the critically growing needs of the aging population — i.e. housing, elder care, and transportation?

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3. What is your position on the potential overturn of Roe vs Wade, and if Roe is overturned what legislation would you support to help New Mexico women work through the impact this will have on their lives?

4. What legislation would you support addressing the rising costs of health insurance — especially for small businesses?



JARRATT APPLEWHITE
(Declined to state)

We have a moral obligation to provide for our seniors — we need to do a lot more than pass legislation. We can improve the current patchwork quilt of services and integrate them more effectively. In a poor state innovation and frugality must be coupled. The recent judicial decision mandating expanded funding for children limits the availability of new support for seniors.

My biggest concern is with our neighbors south of our border with whom we have centuries of cultural and economic ties. Our trans-border economy is important. Regulating trade is, rightfully, a federal responsibility. I will work hard to coalesce voices in the Legislature to send a unified message to our congressional delegation that will protect our vibrant cross-border ties.

I understand and respect those who believe life begins at birth and those who believe it begins at conception. I believe that these personal issues should be decided by the affected individuals and their families and that government should not intrude. Women must control their own bodies. An overwhelming percentage of legal professionals across the political spectrum believe that Roe v Wade is settled law.

Insurance costs mirror the costs of our healthcare system. It's vastly more expensive than that of other developed nations. Its outcomes are mediocre. It's shameful. Premiums will stabilize when costs are stabilized. Extracting the layers of unnecessary profit is imperative. Healthcare private interests have their claws deep into the pockets of both parties. Many politicians are more attentive to these special interests than their constituents.