ABSENTEE VOTING: October 9 - November 6
ABSENTEE IN-PERSON VOTING: October 9 - November 6
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 has adopted positions on public 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 register 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.

You can apply for an absentee ballot now or any time up until Friday, November 2, 2018, although some polling places will not have the absentee ballots available.

You can apply for an absentee ballot by calling 505-986-6280, or you can apply in person at the County Clerk’s Office, 102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

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

Hours of Early Voting are:
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at all polling locations, except for the following:
12:00 Noon until 6:00 p.m. at Santa Fe County Fair Building – 3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe
No Early Voting on Mondays

EARLY VOTING SITES ARE:

- New - Abedon Lopez Community Center – 155A Camino De Quintana, Santa Cruz
- Zag Valve
- Edgewood Elementary School – 185 Dona Linda Road, Edgewood
- Max Coe Community Center (new facility) – 16 Avenida Turnor, Espanola
- Pajarito Mesa Satellite Office – 5 W. Gutierrez – Ste. 9, Pajarito Mesa 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 9, 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 2.

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... In the application 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 count.

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 Voting Convenience 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

QUESTION? 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

ANCIENT 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 2012 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 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 amendment may be considered by the Council on October 10. The proposed transition would move elections now scheduled for March 2020 to November 1919, 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 holding 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 wish 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 (GRT) or an alternative form of taxation for the financial operations and capital expenditures of passenger transportation in the North Central Regional Transit District by repealing the 2014 expiration of the tax?

Brief Analysis

The 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 0.1% Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax (GRT). The enabling ordinance contains a sunset provision, which provides that the tax will be repealed in January 2014 unless reauthorized by voters. This ballot question would remove the sunset clause. The Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) is a .1% sales tax. NCRTD buses service Los Alamos County, Santa Fe County, Taos County, Rio Arriba County, and 9 nearby pueblos. In FY2017 there were more than 1.5 million passenger trips, there have been 2.3 million trips since 2018. 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 $4.1M, 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, NCRTD would cease to exist.


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 371547
Santa Fe, NM 87594
505-986-9766
www.lwvsfc.org

1 VOTER GUIDE 2018
The League asked:

1. What immigration policies do you support? Please respond in favor of undocumented immigrants.

I support comprehensive immigration reform that allows the millions of people living in this country to come to America legally and without fear of deportation. I also support pathways to citizenship for those who have made a home and contributed to our communities. I believe we should create a pathway to legal status for those who are here today, including those who entered the country without papers. This will provide a clear and systematic approach to resolving the challenges posed by unauthorized immigration.

MICHELLE GARCIA HOLMES

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

In the United States Senate, I have worked to address the health care crisis by advancing policies that expand access to affordable health care, improve the quality of care, and address the cost of healthcare. I have supported legislation that would reduce prescription drug costs, improve mental health services, and address the opioid epidemic. I am a strong advocate for improving the United States’ healthcare system to ensure that all Americans have access to high-quality, affordable care.

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 work to preserve and strengthen the Affordable Care Act, which has made significant progress in reducing the number of uninsured and expanding access to quality, affordable care for all New Mexicans.

STEVE PEARCE

3. What would you do to address gun violence?

As a father, an educator, a coach and a Senator, I’ve been on the front lines of this issue. I will utilize my experience in the classroom to help fix our public education system and focus on teaching and holding schools accountable for preparing students for better education. Simply spending more alone won’t do anything unless we use the system to allow teachers to focus on students. I fully support current NYPD childhood programs, but believe we need to get to the root of the problem.

I support the background checks on all firearm purchases, no exceptions. Any declared “gun free zones” become responsible for the safety of their occupants.

The Act has failed in several areas. Insurance companies are acting in the state, health insurance and has more, coverage less, and it’s incredibly difficult. We’ll work to keep the market and implement measures such as shopping across state lines, covering preventative medicine with insurance and incentivizing healthy behavior. I will fully support and fund the framework for those covering their policies, and funding for our state’s programs.

MARTIN T. HEINRICH

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

We need to make it clear to the American people that gun violence is an epidemic that we cannot ignore. We need to work together to pass common-sense gun safety laws. I support universal background checks, fixing NICS, limiting magazine capacity, strict rules against straw purchases, and enforcing the existing laws.

As a father, an educator, a coach and a Senator, I’ve been on the front lines of this issue. I will utilize my experience in the classroom to help fix our public education system and focus on teaching and holding schools accountable for preparing students for better education. Simply spending more alone won’t do anything unless we use the system to allow teachers to focus on students. I fully support current NYPD childhood programs, but believe we need to get to the root of the problem.

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MARTIN T. HEINRICH

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

As Governor of New Mexico, I have prioritized economic development and job creation. My administration has worked to attract new businesses to the state, expand existing industries, and create jobs in sectors such as renewable energy, agriculture, and tourism. We have also focused on providing support to small businesses and entrepreneurs. To continue this progress, I propose to:

- Expand economic development programs to create new jobs and stimulate growth.
- Attract new industries to New Mexico and support the growth of existing ones.
- Increase funding for education and training programs to better prepare workers for in-demand jobs.
- Work with local governments and businesses to identify opportunities for collaboration.

We have a constitutional and moral obligation to give each New Mexico student the opportunity to grow and succeed through quality public education. This must begin with quality early childhood education, which is why I support a robust preschool fund distribution to help fund universal preschool. I’ll also put more dollars in our classrooms by diversifying revenue, streamlining administrative, and giving educators a much deserved raise.

STEVE PEARCE

6. Do you support changing the use of the lieutenant governor’s position? How?

As a father, an educator, a coach and a Senator, I’ve been on the front lines of this issue. I will utilize my experience in the classroom to help fix our public education system and focus on teaching and holding schools accountable for preparing students for better education. Simply spending more alone won’t do anything unless we use the system to allow teachers to focus on students. I fully support current NYPD childhood programs, but believe we need to get to the root of the problem.

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 sane and reasonable gun safety measures, as well as expanding access to number of tools we have like background checks, gun safety measures to reduce gun violence.

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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 work to preserve and strengthen the Affordable Care Act, which has made significant progress in reducing the number of uninsured and expanding access to quality, affordable care for all New Mexicans.

STEVE PEARCE

7. 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?

We support expanding programs we know work like the Medicaid and Medicare to make sure more people can access effective care, and I’ve supported proposals to lower prescription drug costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices and allowing for safe drug repurposing in our national interests like China. We’d use this to make a drug Medicaid and Medicare fund to pay for tax cuts for corporations.

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MARTIN T. HEINRICH

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

I believe that we need to figure out a way to make our health care system reflect our values. It needs to be more affordable, it needs to be more accessible, and it needs to be more equitable. I think it’s important that we make sure that our health care system is working for everyone.

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MARTIN T. HEINRICH

9. What questions in this voter guide were posed by the League of Women Voters via email to each candidate?

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a non-partisan organization that sponsors voter guides to help inform voters about candidates’ positions on various issues. LWV asks each candidate to respond to a set of questions related to their platform, beliefs, and experiences. These questions are then compiled into a voter guide, which is made available to the public.

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MARTIN T. HEINRICH

10. How can I find more information about the candidates’ education, professional background, public statements on issues, and endorsements by organizations, at LWVNMI.com?

The League of Women Voters (LWV) provides comprehensive information about candidates, including their education, professional background, public statements on issues, and endorsements by organizations. Visitors can find this information on their website, LWVNMI.com. The LWV also encourages the candidates to share their platform and beliefs in a series of debates and forums, where they can discuss their views on various issues.

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MARTIN T. HEINRICH
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 of candidates and election results. 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: $80,000.

The League asked:
1. Describe both the specific experience and education that prepared you for this role?
2. What is your highest priority for this office, and how do you intend to accomplish them?
3. What will you do to protect New Mexicans from fraud, waste, and abuse?
4. What is the Attorney General's role in fighting corruption in New Mexico?

The League asked:
1. What do you think the most significant challenge to the State's revenue streams is, and what strategies will you pursue to address this challenge?
2. What is your highest priority for this position, and how will you go about achieving it?
3. How will you ensure that New Mexico has a strong and stable tax base?
4. How will you recommend additional funding for state trust lands without increasing taxes?

The League asked:
1. What do you think is the most important component of the state's economic development strategy?
2. What is your highest priority for this role, and how will you go about achieving it?
3. What strategies will you use to attract new businesses to New Mexico?
4. How will you ensure that the state's workforce is skilled and competitive?
JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

STEPHEN G. FRENCH

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 by attorneys licensed in the state. Required to hear appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, election challenges and criminal cases when a defendant is working more law clerks and using more modern software, to name a few.

The most important qualification that voters should look for in a Judge of Court of Appeals is experience and doing your work, which requires you to be the person who has been around the block and knows how the system works. I am the only person who has been on the Court of Appeals and has served as a judge for over 30 years.

The New Mexico Court of Appeals will benefit from my experience and integrity, and I am confident that I will do what is best for the people of New Mexico. I have always held myself to the highest ethical standards and will continue to do so if elected. My service on the Court of Appeals has given me a unique perspective regarding the technical aspect of some of these cases.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS — POSITION 1

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?

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?

PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

Member of five-person commission that regulates the utilities, telecommunications and motor carrier industries. Also oversees pipeline and fire safety. Must be a New Mexico citizen and in good standing with the commission. May serve two terms, one of which must be a non-partisan term and the other a partisan term.

The League asked:

1. What are your qualifications for Public Regulation Commissioner?
2. When evaluating requests for insurance and utility rate increases, how would you take into account to ensure both the public and the companies involved benefit?
3. What should the PRC do to help ensure access to high-speed internet service to underserved areas of the state?
4. What is your position regarding increased renewable energy production and transmission infrastructure?

New Mexico is well positioned to attract and grow renewable energy technology companies, especially those focused on solar and wind energy. We have a unique combination of natural resources and a workforce with the skills to support this growth. This would create new jobs and diversify our economy.

I am in full support of alternative energy. I will promote the full use of all forms of energy, including renewable energy, to ensure a diverse and sustainable energy future for our state. I will also work diligently to ensure that the power supply remains reliable.
GREGG SCHMIDES
Republican

My experience as a physician and engineer has prepared me to face uncertainty and complex
problems. I have learned to make decisions that
will do as a legislator. My time serving the sick
in New Mexico has taught me how to listen to
people and understand their needs. I am actively
engaged in the East Mountains, Edgewood, and Placitas.

JUDITA VELAQUEZ
Democrat

The public education system is underfunded, and
we can do more to bring high-quality services to
other communities. I believe that our schools need
additional funding to expand access to early childhood
programming. I am focused on policies to help
students, particularly those who are "at risk".

CHRISTINE CHANDLER
Democrat

Let's replace the access of the Las Animas Public Schools to other communities:

MARGRETHE ALLEN
Republican

Efforts to support high-quality healthcare for
northern New Mexico's elders are key, including
home health, hospice services, and enhanced
transportation options. We need to ensure that
care, and transportation?

HEATHER WOOD (NO PARTY)

Currently, New Mexico imports far more
than it exports. A balance of payments is
necessary for the health and prosperity of our
U.S. economy. We must work with our trading
partners to make foreign goods more expensive. We need
to reduce the demand for foreign goods and
reduce the pressure on our currency.

MATTHEW MEEDEN
Democrat

We have a moral obligation to provide for our
judicial system and the legal profession in general.
We can improve the current patchwork of state
Courts, and work towards a more unified
system. Renewable energy and outdoor
programming are some of the ways we can improve
our quality of life.

JARRITT APPLEWHITE
(Independent at large)

My background in business has taught me how to
think critically and evaluate financial metrics.
Regulating trade, I have a holistic
understanding of the end users of our products.

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 they are elected to represent. The changes happen each year. The bill number is not unique except within the same legislative session (LCS). No two consecutive sessions use the same bill number, even if the bill is for the same or similar purpose. The changes happen each year. The bill number is not unique except within the same legislative session (LCS). No two consecutive sessions use the same bill number, even if the bill is for the same or similar purpose. The changes happen each year. The bill number is not unique except within the same legislative session (LCS). No two consecutive sessions use the same bill number, even if the bill is for the same or similar purpose.