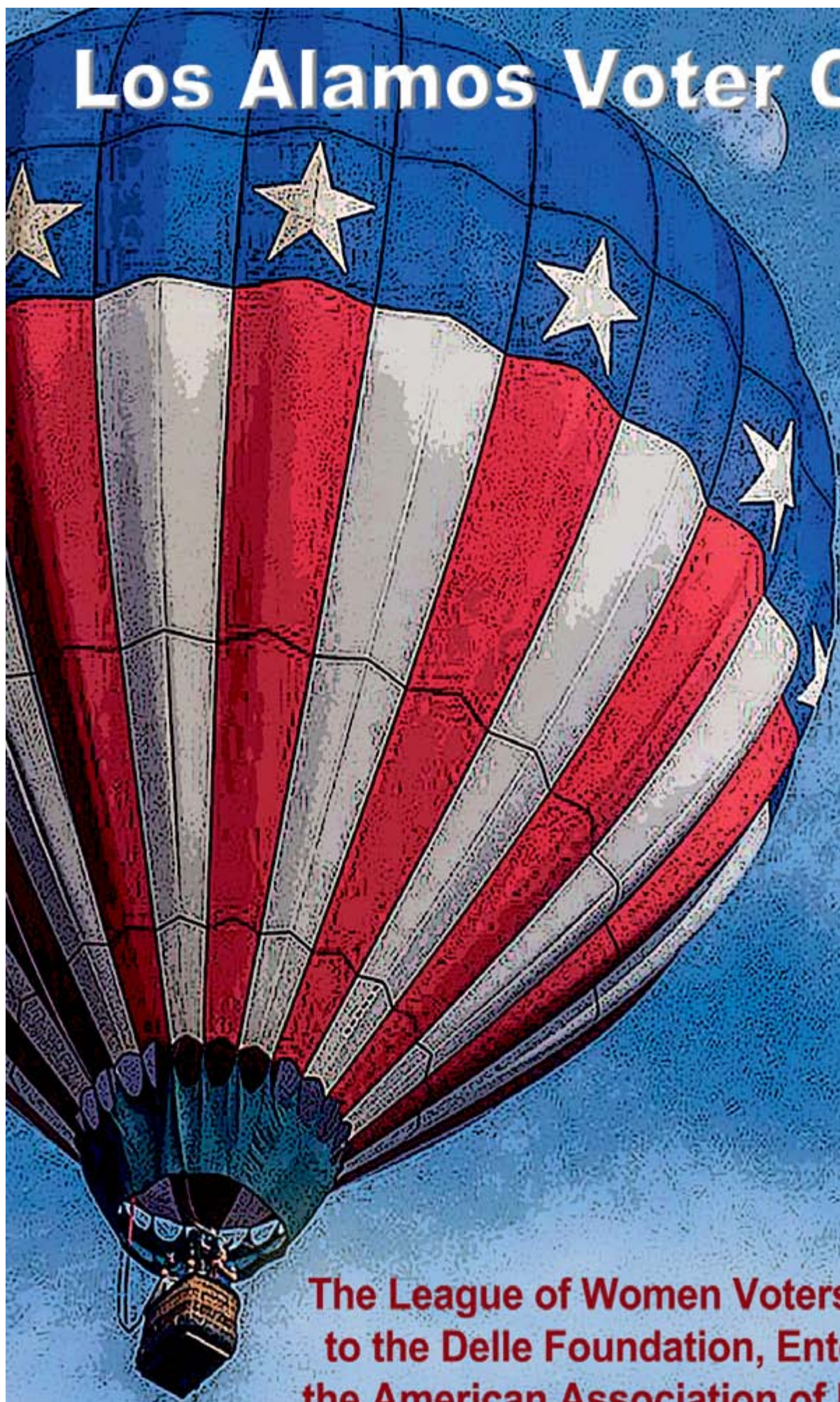


Los Alamos Voter Guide 2022



Featuring:
Voting Information
Candidates
Constitutional
Amendments
General Obligation
Bonds

Prepared by

LWV

Los Alamos

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos is grateful to the Delle Foundation, Enterprise Bank & Trust, and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for making this publication possible

Los Alamos Voter Guide to the 2022 General Election

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization for men and women, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

As a non-partisan organization, the League does not support, oppose, or make recommendations regarding any political party or candidate.

Essential Dates

Voter Registration Closes

Tuesday, Oct 11 Applications must be received by 5 pm at the County Clerk's office in the Los Alamos County Municipal Building or on-line through the NM Secretary of State Portal (NMVote.org) by 11:59 p.m.

Same Day, In-person Voter Registration. The voter must register and vote on the same day in this period. This may be done at all scheduled voting sites.

Tuesday, Oct 11 thru Friday, Oct 21 Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.

Saturday, Oct 22 thru Saturday, Nov 5 Monday thru Saturday, 8 am to 6 pm.

Tuesday, Nov 8 Vote Centers open 7 am to 7 pm.

Absentee Voting by Mail

Tuesday, Oct 11 Absentee ballots will begin to be mailed out.

Registered voters wishing to vote absentee by mail must request an absentee ballot application. Applications can be obtained online at www.NMVote.org, in-person at the County Clerk's office, or by mail. Fill them out and return them right away. The last day to request an absentee ballot is **Nov 3**. Absentee ballots can be dropped off at any scheduled polling place during voting hours or at the County Clerk's office. Absentee ballots must be received at the Clerk's office by 7 pm **Nov 8**.

Early Voting in Person

Tuesday, Oct 11 thru Friday, Oct 21 Monday thru Friday 8 am to 5 pm.

Los Alamos County Municipal Building - Council Chambers

Early Voting in Person (continued)

Saturday, Oct 22 thru Saturday, Nov 5 Monday thru Saturday from 8 am to 6 pm

Los Alamos County Municipal Building - Council Chambers

White Rock Town Hall – Training Rooms

Monday, November 7 - Voting is CLOSED

Election Day, Tuesday, November 8. Vote Centers open 7 am to 7 pm.

Registered voters of Los Alamos County may vote at any of the following Vote Centers on Election Day:
Los Alamos County Municipal Building - Council Chambers
White Rock Town Hall – Conference Training Rooms
Golf Course Community Building – Multi-Purpose Room
Betty Ehart Senior Center – Downstairs Classroom
University of New Mexico-Los Alamos – Building 6, Room 631

Voting Information

You **must be registered to vote by Oct 11** (Nov 8 if using same-day in-person registration) to vote in this election. If you have moved or changed your address or your party affiliation, you should re-register to vote. The County Clerk's office is in the LA County Municipal Building at 1000 Central Ave, Suite 240, 505-662-8010. Application may be made in person, by mail, or online.

For same-day in-person voter registration only, the applicant must appear in person at the County Clerk's office, or at any scheduled voting site, and immediately before voting shall provide:

- a New Mexico driver's license or New Mexico identification card;
- any document that contains an address in the county together with a photo identification card; or
- a current valid student photo identification card from a post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico accompanied by a current student fee statement that contains the student's address in the county.

For **mail-in registration only**, if the applicant is registering for the **first time in New Mexico**, he or she must submit a copy of one of the following types of identification showing both the name and the New Mexico address of the applicant:

- a current and valid photo ID such as a driver's license (note that the DMV can issue similar IDs to non-drivers)
- a utility bill
- a bank statement
- a government check, paycheck or other government document.

No identification is required if a voter is merely changing their registration (name, address and/or party affiliation) within the state of New Mexico.

The on-line portal (www.NMVote.org) is only available to those individuals who have been issued a New Mexico Driver's License or Identification Card.

When voting at the Vote Center, you will be asked for your name, address as registered, and year of

birth. If you cannot provide this information orally, or if you registered by mail, you will be asked for one of the above forms of identification. With the exceptions noted above, no physical voter identification is required at the poll.

Sample ballots will be available at the County Clerk's office, at the Mesa Public Library and White Rock Library, online at www.losalamosnm.us/clerk or www.NMVote.org.

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

Information Online

The LWVLA General Election Voter Guide 2022 is available at www.lwvlosalamos.org. You can also visit the website VOTE411.org for an interactive look at your ballot and all of the candidates' responses.

Local voting information is available on the Los Alamos County Clerk's website at www.losalamosnm.us/clerk.

Candidate Responses to Questions from the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos sent questionnaires to all Los Alamos candidates for the 2022 General Election, and all candidates are reported here.

Because of space restrictions, the League advised the candidates that the length of the responses would be limited. The responses of candidates are printed as received by the League other than possibly being truncated at the maximum permitted length or removing excess white spaces. We have in no way edited for meaning, grammar, or spelling. The League assumes no responsibility for the content of any candidate's reply.

In this Voter Guide, candidates are listed in ballot order. Candidate order within each office was determined by a public alphabet randomization.

Thanks

We would like to thank the League of Women Voters of New Mexico Voter Guide Editor Judy Williams. The editor of the Los Alamos Voter Guide is Lynn Jones, with the help of Akkana Peck, Rosmarie Frederickson, Barbara Calef, and Elizabeth Auden. Thank you also to the United States League of Women Voters for the support of our on-line Voter Guide at VOTE411.org.

The Los Alamos County Clerk's office and the Secretary of State's office provided necessary and helpful information.

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United States Representative, District 3

Candidates must be at least 25 years old, a United States citizen of 7 years, and a resident of New Mexico. The United States House of Representatives has 435 members of which New Mexico is entitled to 3. They serve two-year terms. District 3 includes Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and most of the northern part of the state.



**Alexis Martinez Johnson
(Republican)**

1. Do you believe the right to abortion should be codified by the Legislature?

No response was received.

2. Please explain.

No response was received.

3. What gun safety laws, if any, would you support?

No response was received.

4. What are the three most important issues you plan to work on?

Without a good education system, we can't have a good energy sector. We need STEM students to innovate and tackle our energy challenges headfirst. To improve education, we need to make sure our teachers are focused on teaching vital subjects instead of radical theories. Energy: we have endless untapped potential in New Mexico for clean natural gas and renewable energy. An energy renaissance in New Mexico would lead to a booming economy. Finally, the economy: inflation is too high, and it's because of the tax and spend policies currently running Washington.

5. What election and voting reforms would you support, if any?

I support free and fair elections. I believe that past voting protocols from the COVID-19 pandemic need to be reviewed thoroughly to see whether or not they are necessary. I support making sure underrepresented communities have access to vote, including early voting. I also believe it is important to ensure everyone is confident in our election results with widely-popular, common-sense reforms, such as Voter ID laws.

6. How could our immigration system be improved?

No response was received.

7. Please identify what you see as the major environmental challenge facing our country, and how you would address it.

No response was received.



**Teresa Leger Fernandez
(Democrat)**

1. Do you believe the right to abortion should be codified by the Legislature?

Support

2. Please explain.

I voted to pass the Women's Health Protection Act which would codify abortion access at the federal level because, in New Mexico, we trust women to make personal decisions about pregnancy with their families, their faith, and their healthcare provider - without government interference.

3. What gun safety laws, if any, would you support?

Like many families across rural New Mexico, I was born into a gun-owning household and raised in a family that hunted for sustenance. I bring this experience and connection to NM's culture of hunting, gun ownership, and gun safety to my work in Congress. In my first term, I co-sponsored the Bipartisan Background

Checks Act and the Assault Weapons Ban, spoke out in support of closing the Charleston Loophole, and am an original cosponsor of the Violence Against Women Act. I have also focused on the intersection of gun violence and the missing and murdered Indigenous women crisis, as the Chair of the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples. Through the appropriations process, I have also worked to find ways to prevent firearm suicide.

4. What are the three most important issues you plan to work on?

Since I've been in Congress, I made sure New Mexico has seen investments in clean water, broadband, and infrastructure that will create good paying jobs and help our businesses grow. I am working to fight inflation and lower costs for New Mexicans by taking on the powerful corporate interests and voting to lower prescription drug prices, prevent consumer price gouging, and strengthen the U.S. supply chain by manufacturing what we need right here in America and, importantly, in NM. We passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which empowers Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices, caps out-of-pocket drug costs at \$2,000, lowers health insurance premiums for millions of Americans, and invests in clean energy production to lower energy costs.

5. What election and voting reforms would you support, if any?

As a member of the House Elections Subcommittee, I was actively involved in the hearings that led to the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act. I also co-sponsored the For The People Act, which included my amendments to make voting more accessible for rural, tribal, and minority voters. Ensuring fair elections with campaign finance reforms so that every citizen's voice counts equally is not only the right thing to do, it is the American thing to do. Our democracy is precious, and our right to vote is its foundation.

6. How could our immigration system be improved?

Reforming our immigration system would be a \$1.3 trillion dollar benefit to the US economy. We need to reform our broken immigration system, which includes providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and undocumented Americans currently living in our country, upholding the rights of immigrants and asylum seekers, strengthening the security of our borders, and addressing the root causes of immigration. Since I've been in Congress, the House has passed the American Dream and Promise Act to provide Dreamers a path to citizenship, the Farm Worker Modernization Act which both farmworkers and agribusiness support, and the No Ban Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion.

7. Please identify what you see as the major environmental challenge facing our country, and how you would address it.

Congress must help mitigate climate change, which is an opportunity for increased investments and jobs for New Mexicans. My bill, the Orphaned Well Clean Up and Jobs Act, was included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and provides \$4.7 billion to clean up abandoned wells across NM and the USA. NM is blessed with abundant natural resources including oil and gas that help fund our schools, and also wind and solar that can help power our nation. The Inflation Reduction Act is the largest investment in clean energy ever and will reduce emissions, create good quality jobs and help us grow into an energy industry leader. This law also provides critical drought relief for western states like New Mexico.

Governor

The Governor is elected to a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and must have resided continuously in New Mexico for 5 years preceding his/her election. The Governor shares the responsibility of administering the state with other elected officials, represents the state nationally and internationally, signs or vetoes statutes enacted by the Legislature, and appoints members of boards and commissions.

**Karen Evette Bedonie
(Libertarian)**

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.



Mark V. Ronchetti
(Republican)

1. Do you believe the right to abortion should be codified by the Legislature?

No response was received.

2. Please explain.

No response was received.

3. What gun safety laws, if any, would you support?

No response was received.

4. What actions if any, should be taken at the state level to reduce our use of fossil fuels?

I am a strong supporter of our oil and natural gas industry and pursue an “all-of-the-above” energy policy. I support the development of renewable energy and other energy sources, like small modular nuclear reactors. But New Mexico oil and gas must continue to play a key role in our energy economy. The governor passed her own Green New Deal in New Mexico and it’s led to higher energy costs for New Mexicans and now we are being threatened with rolling blackouts this summer. We are far better off drilling for oil in New Mexico than we are importing it from Iran, Russia, or Saudi Arabia.

5. What tax reforms would you support?

Our complicated and nonsensical tax system hammers small businesses, and punishes working families. MLG inherited the largest budget surplus in history and raised taxes anyways. She has grown government spending by more than TWO BILLION dollars and what do we have to show for it? New Mexico is last in education, #2 in violent crime, and we now have the highest unemployment rate in the country. I will reform our tax system first and foremost by cutting taxes. We will get rid of the double and triple taxing facing our small businesses and allow families to keep more of what they earn.

6. What qualifies you to be governor?

I’m an outsider who will always be on the side of hard-working New Mexicans. If political and government experience made for great leaders, we’d have two of the best in Joe Biden and Michelle Lujan Grisham. That’s clearly not the case. New Mexico is an amazing state, but the politicians have let us down. We don’t need more political elites – we need leaders with character and integrity who will listen to people, understand their concerns, and fight tirelessly on their behalf for the change we need. That’s what I will do.

7. What are your three top priorities?

My top three priorities are securing the border, fighting crime, and improving our schools. I will secure the border by deploying the National Guard and creating a Border Strike Force to target and disrupt the drug and human trafficking cartels. I will fight crime by ending “catch and release,” supporting our men and women in law enforcement, and ending the current state of lawlessness by putting real teeth in our laws. To improve schools, we will get money directly to the classroom, empower parents, and help catch kids from up the learning losses they suffered from the COVID shutdown.

8. How would you improve the election laws?

We need to make it easy to vote and hard to cheat. It’s critical that to any democracy citizens have faith in their elections. That’s why I strongly support a Voter ID law that requires voters to show photo identification to cast a ballot. I support early and absentee voting, however I will oppose the practice of automatically sending live ballots to homes without a voter request, as has been proposed by Governor Lujan Grisham. This opens the door to fraud, since 20% of the population moves every election cycle. I will also fight against any effort to legalize ballot-harvesting.



Michelle Lujan Grisham
(Democrat)

1. Do you believe the right to abortion should be codified by the Legislature?

Support

2. Please explain.

I will always defend every New Mexicans’ right to make their own decision about reproductive health care with their family and their doctor. As Governor, I repealed New Mexico’s outdated anti-abortion law, in order to ensure abortion remains legal in our state regardless of the Supreme Court. I have expanded access to abortion in our state, including protecting New Mexico women and doctors from other states’ extremist bans. As governor I will continue to ensure that New Mexico remains a safe haven from extremist attacks, protecting access to abortion in our state.

3. What gun safety laws, if any, would you support?

Keeping New Mexicans safe also means keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. That’s why my administration took action to require universal background checks for gun purchases, enact critical red flag laws, and pass bipartisan legislation that increased the penalties for gun crimes. I support common-sense gun safety laws like banning assault weapons, and keeping guns out of the hands of people who shouldn’t have them, including children. We can take steps to keep New Mexicans safe from the scourge of gun violence, while also respecting the rights of responsible gun owners.

4. What actions if any, should be taken at the state level to reduce our use of fossil fuels?

My administration has been leading efforts to make New Mexico a worldwide leader in clean energy production. We put in place policies that will expand clean energy, lower energy costs, and go after polluters. Earlier this year, New Mexico became home to the largest single-phase wind farm in the country, creating hundreds of good paying jobs. The ambitious goals we’ve set to reduce our emissions mean that New Mexico is leading the way in fighting climate change and preserving our state’s beautiful air, land, and water for future generations.

5. What tax reforms would you support?

One of my responsibilities as governor is making sure New Mexicans have what they need to thrive. Earlier this year, I signed legislation that eliminated taxes on Social Security benefits. I also signed legislation that cut the state’s gross receipts tax for the first time in 40 years, saving money for small businesses. Last year, I signed legislation that cut taxes for more than half a million families. As we grow our economy, we should continue to look at ways to save New Mexicans money and foster business and industry in our state.

6. What qualifies you to be governor?

Serving as New Mexico’s 32nd Governor has been my greatest honor. I’m proud of what we’ve delivered for New Mexico and excited about what the future holds for our great state. Prior to serving as New Mexico’s Governor, I served three terms in the United State House of Representatives and served the people of New Mexico in a variety of roles at the local and state levels. I’m running for re-election to build on the progress we’ve made so that New Mexico can thrive for years to come.

7. What are your three top priorities?

Education, economic prosperity, and public safety. We invested over \$1 billion in New Mexico’s schools, increased teacher salaries, achieved universal pre-k, and made tuition-free college a reality. We made New Mexico one of the best states for job growth in the country and cut taxes for every New Mexican. For the past four years we’ve worked to make our communities safer by raising officer pay, investing in law enforcement recruitment and training, and working to address the root causes

of crime like poverty and behavioral health. We will continue this progress in a second term.

8. How would you improve the election laws?

New Mexico already has some of the best run and most secure elections in the country. I championed same-day voter registration in New Mexico and I support changes to our election system that would make it easier for every New Mexican to cast their ballot and exercise their right to vote, while continuing to ensure our elections are safe and secure. I will always fight to protect the right of every New Mexican to vote and will always defend our democracy.

Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor serves a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and must have resided continuously in New Mexico for 5 years preceding his/her election. In the general election, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are voted on as a slate. The Lieutenant Governor acts as Governor when the Governor is absent from the state and if, for any reason, the Governor is unable to perform his or her duties. Among other duties are serving as the liaison between the people and state agencies, referring citizen complaints and problems to appropriate agencies, and reporting to the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate and can vote in the event of a tie.

Efren Gallardo, Jr (Libertarian)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.



Ant L. Thornton (Republican)

1. What issues would you like to work on to improve the lives of New Mexicans?

As Lt. Governor, I will focus on four things: EDUCATION - focus on universal school choice & vouchers for parents. ENFORCING THE BORDER - support building the wall and National Guard supplementing federal border control agents. ELECTION INTEGRITY - prototype Block Chain voting in local elections. SUPPORT LAW

ENFORCEMENT - regain Qualified Immunity for law enforcement and advocate for bail reform to stop repeat offenders.

2. What qualifies you to be Lieutenant Governor?

Two of the constitutional roles of the Lt Governor is to serve as the President of the Senate and as the state Ombudsman. In 2021, I served as a Senate Analyst for the 60 day state legislative session. I know how legislation is made. The key role is to work across the aisle and to trap bad legislation from ever reaching the floor. The second role is to serve as the Ombudsman for the State. The Ombuds serves as a liaison between the public and state agencies. I am a certified member of the IOA (International Ombudsman Association) trained in alternative dispute resolution since 2016.

3. How do you see your role as president of the Senate?

The key role is to monitor and trap bad legislation before the legislators convene by working in the sub-committees to improve the language to ensure legislation is Constitutional and doesn't violate individual rights. In addition, I have managed complex, multi-million dollar programs over the course of my career in aerospace engineering at Sandia National Laboratories and Lockheed Martin. I will be the "Go To" person for the Governor to hand off initiatives. If I can handle the development of complex nuclear weapon testing and aircraft systems, I can handle the New Mexico state bureaucracy.



Howie C. Morales (Democrat)

1. What issues would you like to work on to improve the lives of New Mexicans?

My top priorities are supporting public education, more economic prosperity, and strong public safety. Over the last 3-plus years under Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's administration, we invested more than \$1 billion in New Mexico's classrooms, increased educators' salaries, established universal Pre-K, and made tuition-free college a reality. We made New Mexico one of the top states for job growth, and we cut taxes for every New Mexican. We've worked to make communities safer by raising officer pay, and improving mental health care access.

2. What qualifies you to be Lieutenant Governor?

It has been a huge honor for me to serve as New Mexico's Lt. Governor since 2019, and I look forward to continuing that service. During my term in office so far, I have devoted much of my time to visiting with constituents in every county throughout of state to hear their concerns and ideas directly, and to help find solutions. Prior to becoming Lt. Governor, I served in the New Mexico Legislature on the Legislative Finance Committee for 11 years, gaining a broad knowledge of our communities' needs. I am running for re-election to build on the substantial progress we've made for New Mexico.

3. How do you see your role as president of the Senate?

As President of the Senate, the Lt. Governor has the authority to cast a deciding vote when the body is equally divided on an issue. It is a place I know well from serving there for 11 years as a senator, and I respect its processes and traditions of cooperation. I have many friends in the Senate, and I am comfortable there. In my role as President, I seek to contribute to its running smoothly, to calm tempers when they rise, and to support positive legislation for our state.

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State serves a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years old, be a citizen of the United States, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for 5 years preceding his/her election. The Secretary of State is second in line of succession to the governorship behind the Lieutenant Governor. The Secretary of State attests and affixes the state seal to official documents, maintains the state repository of signed legislation and required filings, is the chief election officer, and generally supervises statewide elections. The Secretary of State is responsible for the registration of corporations, partnerships, lobbyists, trade names, trademarks, and notary public commissions.



Maggie Toulouse Oliver (Democrat)

1. What qualifies you to be Secretary of State?

Experience. I've been an election administrator for over 16 years, serving first as a County Clerk in Bernalillo County and then Secretary of State. As New Mexico's Secretary of State, I served as President of NASS (National Association of Secretaries of State) during the 2020 election, and led a bipartisan campaign combating election disinformation.

My record includes overseeing an election during a pandemic and the state's largest wildfire, modernizing New Mexico's registration processes, expanding ballot access, and creating and implementing a more transparent campaign finance system.

2. What would be your top three priorities?

My top priorities include expanding ballot access, combating election disinformation, and continuing to shine a light on dark money by making our campaign finance system more transparent. I believe we should make it easier – not harder – for New Mexicans to vote. Election disinformation promotes voter

apathy and undermines confidence and participation. As such, I believe my role as Secretary of State includes providing citizens with accurate and widely available information. Lastly, I want to continue making our campaign finance system more transparent so we know who is funding our politics.

3. What actions, if any, would you take to increase voter participation?

While so many states across the country continue to pursue legislation that restricts access to the ballot, I support legislation and initiatives that do the opposite – it's a false dichotomy to suggest increased access comes at the expense of election integrity. This past session, I was in the Legislature providing expert testimony for a number of Bills that would expand ballot access and modernize New Mexico's elections. A critical part to this is also providing people with reliable sources of election information so they feel confident in our elections and voting procedures.

4. What changes in New Mexico's voting procedures would you support?

I would support changes to New Mexico's voting procedures that address issues related to accessibility, both when registering and casting a ballot. For instance, New Mexico is a rural state, and therefore we should do our best to accommodate the unique needs of our rural voters – whether that is expanding vote by mail periods or opening voting convenience centers. I implemented same day registration so that, for the first time in our state's history, Independent and DTS voters had a chance to vote in our primary election – those are the types of initiatives I support.



**Audrey Trujillo
(Republican)**

1. What qualifies you to be Secretary of State?

I have bachelor degrees in Criminology, Spanish and Portuguese as well as a Master in Public Administration from the University of NM. I also have worked and volunteered at numerous jobs in the public, private and nonprofit sector, holding titles of Executive Director, President, Treasurer and Coordinator. In addition I have run my own state licenced businesses. I am also heavily

involved in voter integrity efforts in NM including working with Rio Rancho commissioners and county clerks on sensible ways to secure our elections and build confidence in the voters.

2. What would be your top three priorities?

1) Bringing back election integrity 2) Bringing back transparency to the SOS office
3) Making sure every eligible NM citizen is able to vote.

3. What actions, if any, would you take to increase voter participation?

We must first bring back trust and confidence into our elections and increase access to voter registration by making it simple and secure.

4. What changes in New Mexico's voting procedures would you support?

#1 Voter ID. #2 Secure Access to ballot and voting polls. #3 More frequent Cleaning of voter rolls. #4 More frequent audits. #5 More training on procedures and rules. #6 Access to more voting locations in precincts. #7 Will work and support efforts to improve and secure access to vote in the Navajo Nation.

Mayna Erika Myers (Libertarian)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.

Attorney General

The Attorney General serves a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and must have resided continuously in New Mexico for 5 years preceding his/her election. A candidate also must be a licensed attorney of the Supreme Court of New Mexico in good standing. The Attorney General is the state's legal officer,

legal counsel to state government, consumer advocate, and guardian of the public interest. Duties include representing the state before courts or agencies when required by the public interest or requested by the Governor, and providing legal opinions upon request of the Legislature, any state official, or any district attorney on a pending subject.



**Raúl Torrez
(Democrat)**

1. Do you believe the right to abortion should be codified by the Legislature?

Support

2. Please explain.

New Mexico must continue to be a safe harbor for women seeking to access reproductive healthcare. We also need comprehensive legislation to prevent bordering states

from imposing civil and criminal liability on women and healthcare providers. I will work with the New Mexico Legislature to help craft such legislation and to provide the Attorney General's Office with the maximum authority required to prevent other states from utilizing state and local law enforcement or our courts to issue subpoenas, request discovery or assist in any civil or criminal matter targeting anyone who travels to our state to access reproductive healthcare.

3. What gun safety laws, if any, would you support?

As a prosecutor of nearly twenty years and District Attorney, I have seen the havoc gun violence has wreaked on our community. As Attorney General, I will continue to advocate for common-sense gun control legislation that would implement stiffer penalties for threats of mass violence, particularly at schools, and for the use of guns in the commission of a crime. I have and will continue to support legislation that creates penalties for parents that negligently store firearms.

4. How do you intend to accomplish them?

As a career prosecutor, District Attorney, and as Attorney General, I can use my experience in both the state and federal criminal justice system to work with the Legislature to craft common-sense gun legislation that is practical and reflects the needs of our community.

5. What will you do to make public officials more accountable to the general public?

As Attorney General, I will enforce the rule of law against anyone, regardless of who they are, their party, or the office they hold. In addition to prosecuting public officials for corruption or abuses of power, I will also commit to ensuring timely compliance with the Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records Acts.

6. What will you do to protect New Mexicans from consumer fraud?

I will work to rebuild the inhouse litigation capabilities of the office and work to end the extensive use of out-of-state law firms, particularly for consumer protection cases. The Office will aggressively investigate and prosecute claims of consumer fraud including price gouging, wage theft and worker misclassification, and abusive landlord and debt collection practices.

7. What are your highest priorities for this office?

As Attorney General, I will use my nearly two decades of experience as a prosecutor to strengthen our criminal justice system by implementing common sense policies to keep violent, repeat offenders off our streets. Additionally, the Office will aggressively fight for consumers and workers, safeguard the environment, take on corruption and special interests, and protect our democracy and women's rights.

8. What qualifies you to be Attorney General?

Over the last two decades, I've served as an assistant District Attorney, assistant

Attorney General, assistant US Attorney, and as a White House Fellow and senior advisor in President Obama's Department of Justice and have spent my career fighting to protect families. I have also served as District Attorney, managing the largest law office in the state, where we used smart-on-crime approach to solve decades-old rape cases. I've taken on extreme, right wing militias and big corporations like Facebook, and I know how to fight and advocate for the policies we need to make our communities safer.



**Jeremy Michael Gay
(Republican)**

1. Do you believe the right to abortion should be codified by the Legislature?

No response was received.

2. Please explain.

No response was received.

3. What gun safety laws, if any, would you support?

No response was received.

4. How do you intend to accomplish them?

I will accomplish my priorities through education, transparency, and prosecution. I will invest in educating New Mexicans on their rights as citizens so they will be less vulnerable and more empowered to identify and report scams, fraud, and corruption. I will maintain a policy of transparency by exposing those who are engaging in illicit activity and recognizing those who are examples of integrity and public service. I will prosecute criminal activity, fraud, and abuse to deliver results and real consequences for those who choose to victimize and illegally profit off honest citizens.

5. What will you do to make public officials more accountable to the general public?

As Attorney General, I will act as a real watchdog for the people of New Mexico instead of as a political insider covering up for corrupt politicians. It will be clear in Santa Fe and across the state that the Attorney General's office will no longer turn a blind eye to misconduct. When political fraud, waste, or abuse is uncovered it will be exposed and uprooted.

6. What will you do to protect New Mexicans from consumer fraud?

I will educate consumers so they know their rights and are less likely to fall victim to fraudulent schemes. I will highlight and recognize businesses that play by the rules, serve the community, and deal honestly with their customers. I will disrupt, expose, and bring businesses and individuals who engage in consumer fraud to court to make sure New Mexico is a safer place to live and a level playing field for honest businesses.

7. What are your highest priorities for this office?

My highest priorities as Attorney General are to make NM a safer place, raise a family, run a business, and protect New Mexicans from threats to their personal property, and hard-earned tax dollars.

8. What qualifies you to be Attorney General?

I am a man of honor, integrity, and principle. As a man of faith, as a father and husband, as a United States Marine Corps Captain, as a seasoned trial attorney, and as an honest legal advocate, I believe I have what it takes to execute the mission of the Attorney General's Office.

State Auditor

The Auditor serves a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and must have resided continuously in New Mexico for 5 years preceding his/her election. The Auditor conducts and oversees audits of the activities of state government officials and entities receiving money from state tax revenue.



**Joseph M. Maestas
(Democrat)**

1. What qualifies you to be State Auditor?

I have 30+ years of experience working for the federal government as a licensed engineer and 14 years as local elected official. As a City Councilor and Mayor of Espanola and a City Councilor in Santa Fe, I carried a fiduciary responsibility to protect taxpayer dollars. I serve as Vice

Chair of the Public Regulation Commission representing 400,000+ New Mexicans ensuring utility rates are fair and reasonable, and fighting for access to solar energy and broadband for all New Mexicans. I bring proven leadership and a consistent track record of accomplishments. Ready to govern & lead on day one!

2. What would be your top three priorities?

Be the independent watchdog that New Mexicans deserve to protect all public funding by: 1) Creating a score card of key indicators that will surface irregularities quickly to cut down on fraud, waste, and abuse. 2) Auditing Federal infrastructure, education, and capital outlay spending to ensure that funds are spent in an accountable and transparent manner. 3) Cracking down on exploitative adult guardianships by broadening the investigatory authority of the office and providing greater protection of vital public information and critical infrastructure by auditing cyber security funding.

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?

Support

4. Please explain your answer to the above question.

These pre-approved, independent public accountants (IPAs) also audit all other public entities in addition to State agencies. Candidates for State Auditor (SA) should not receive contributions from IPAs as the SA regulates IPAs and approves them to engage in audits & imposes restrictions, including disqualification, depending on their performance. The SA also provides oversight of audit contracts in addition to determining, by rule, how often IPAs must rotate out of existing contracts. This prohibition of campaign contributions to SA candidates protects the integrity of the Office of SA.



**Travis Steven Sanchez
(Libertarian)**

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.

State Treasurer

The State Treasurer serves a four-year term, with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and must have resided continuously in New Mexico for 5 years preceding his/her election. The Treasurer receives, pays out, and accounts for receipts and expenditures of all state monies, and invests the balances. Among other duties are providing reports to the State Auditor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Finances.



Harry B. Montoya
(Republican)

1. What financial training and experience qualifies you for this office?

As a two-term Pojoaque School Board member and two-term Santa Fe County Commissioner, in addition to founding two non-profit organizations, I have spent the majority of my professional and elected official life ensuring

financial responsibility is of first and foremost importance.

As a County Commissioner, we function as the Board of Finance and while serving on the Commission, I initiated this obligation to ensure the County was maximizing the investments and return on investments, which allowed us to complete many capital projects during my tenure on the Commission.

2. What are your highest priorities for this office and how do you intend to accomplish them?

The highest priorities for this office is to ensure the safety of the investments, the liquidity of our investments, and maximizing yield for our investments. This includes transparency and accountability in the Treasurers Office and all monies are spent according to the Constitution of the State of NM. I plan to accomplish this by listening to the Citizens of the State of NM. There may be ideas as to how we can accomplish all of the above with the safety, liquidity and yield as the major goal. Citizen participation is important, as well as keeping them informed. I am opposed to a public bank.

3. What, if any, changes would you recommend in the policies and operations of the State Treasurer's office?

Changes in the policies and operations of the State Treasurers office may or may not be needed. It is important that I hire individuals who will be able to competently and judicially, perform an analysis of the policies and operations of the Office. If there is a need for change, we will implement those changes. If there is no need for change, as they say, if it isn't broken, don't break it. It is imperative that the analysis be completed prior to making any recommendations for change.



Laura M. Montoya
(Democrat)

1. What financial training and experience qualifies you for this office?

NM Tax Policy Committee; 2 terms, (8 yrs) as the Elected Sandoval County Treasurer; 23 years of federal, state, tribal and local government; 600+ hours of finance, investment, taxes, economics, pension and management; Certified Public Official (CPO); Certified Public Manager (CPM); Certified Treasury Official (CTO); Vice - Chair Finance, Pension and Intergovernmental Affairs (7 years); Chair Next Generation Young Elected Officials (7 years); BA in Political Science and Psychology with a minor in Sociology; MA in Public Affairs; Rotary Scholar - University of Costa Rica

2. What are your highest priorities for this office and how do you intend to accomplish them?

Strengthen transparency and integrity within the State Treasurer's Office; Do a complete internal audit of all processes, contracts and portfolios; Increase outreach in our rural, county, city and tribal communities especially with the Local Government Investment Pool and financial literacy; Review politically appointed positions and see if they have value in the office. Review the internal budget and determine where we can save taxpayer dollars; Meet with the State Treasurer's Office team and see what ideas they have to increase efficiency, transparency, outreach and integrity.

3. What, if any, changes would you recommend in the policies and operations

of the State Treasurer's office?

An annual review of internal processes with the State Treasurer's Office team to refresh core responsibilities, determine any edits, amendments, and additions based on the current environment. (pandemic, cyber security issues, safety standards, new IT systems, etc); Analysis on salaries so that those STO team members' job descriptions reflect their daily duties and the pay they should be earning. I will use the \$94,000 from the newly created Chief of Staff position to assist with bringing these salaries to the 21st century. Work with state agencies and partners on improving communications.

Commissioner of Public Lands

The Commissioner of Public Lands serves a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years of age, a United States citizen, and must have resided continuously in New Mexico for 5 years preceding his/her election. The Commissioner of Public Lands has jurisdiction, care, and custody of all trust lands. He/she administers state trust land to generate the highest possible level of sustainable revenue for New Mexico's public schools, public institutions of higher learning, and other public institutions.



Jefferson L. Byrd
(Republican)

1. What qualifies you to be Commissioner of Public Lands?

Jeff's work experience is broad, working as an environmental engineer on a Geoprobe rig installing micro-monitoring wells at a depth of 18 to 20 feet as a geologist and completing site delineation plans of numerous industrial sites from New York to California. He has installed and completed site remediation systems at various sites around the Southwest. Jeff is also a cattle rancher and works as a wind-miller on his own and neighboring ranchers' wells. Jeff understands the importance of managing land while balancing our State's resources and protecting the environment.

2. What are the greatest challenges facing the State Land Office?

As a steward of the land I have a responsibility to protect and manage our State's land resources for the betterment of our citizens, our environment, and future. We must use our State's resources in an environmentally responsible way.

3. How would you balance responsible stewardship of state trust lands with the need to generate revenues for the support of the beneficiaries?

I would recognize their needs to be a balance between protecting the environment, creating revenue for the State, and ensuring that citizens are best served.

4. Should the Land Commissioner improve enforcement of environmental regulations on state trust lands?

Support

5. If you answered agree, how would you do it? If you answered disagree, please explain why not.

As a PRC commissioner, we have moved to enforce the ETA Environmental Transition Act. I have worked in a bipartisan manner and will continue to do so. My record speaks for itself.



Stephanie Garcia Richard
(Democrat)

1. What qualifies you to be Commissioner of Public Lands?

Thanks to the trust the voters have placed in me, for the last 4 years, I am proud to say I've raised the MOST money, closed the most wells & protected more acres than any previous

land commissioner. We made renewable energy and economic development top priorities. I've issued executive orders on water and the Greater Chaco Region, saving 100 million of gallons of freshwater and protecting over 70,000 acres from future development. I've established programs to hold bad actors accountable and ensure remediation and removal of abandoned wells, saving New Mexicans millions in cleanup costs.

2. What are the greatest challenges facing the State Land Office?

Diversification is the biggest challenge we face. The billions we raise from oil & gas will not always be here and we need to look to protect our environment and raise money from other sources like: renewable energy, economic development and border commerce. This summer, I signed a lease for the largest wind farm in the western hemisphere to be developed on state trust land ensuring that we tripled renewable energy production in less than four years.

3. How would you balance responsible stewardship of state trust lands with the need to generate revenues for the support of the beneficiaries?

As a former teacher, I know firsthand how important our revenue is for education. My office has focused on expanding and creating revenue sources like the new Netflix facility, tripling renewable energy and helping solve challenges like access to affordable housing. However, using our natural resources to generate revenue CANNOT come at the expense of the long-term health of the land. We've prioritized working with current lease holders to restore the health of our public lands, clean up spills, properly plug oil wells, and remediate environmental damage, all while maximizing revenue.

4. Should the Land Commissioner improve enforcement of environmental regulations on state trust lands?

Support

5. If you answered agree, how would you do it? If you answered disagree, please explain why not.

We have gone above & beyond any previous land commissioner to enforce environmental regulations. In addition to closing more wells, demanding stricter methane and produced water regulations and protecting more acres, we have saved New Mexico taxpayers over \$15 million dollars in cleanup costs by taking companies to court when they're not willing to clean up their messes.

LARRY E. MARKER (write-in)
(DTS)

1. What qualifies you to be Commissioner of Public Lands?

As an entrepreneur and businessman for the majority of my life I have extensive experience in management of all aspects of various small business. I have years of experience in oil and gas production, ranching, farming with previous experience in construction manufacturing, service and installation. Experience directly related to the duties of the Commissioner of Public Lands include knowledge of leases for oil and gas production, state grazing leases and right of way leasing. I have a deep working knowledge of the regulations related to State Trust Land. I have an all-around business acumen.

2. What are the greatest challenges facing the State Land Office?

The past few years have shown me the biggest challenge facing the SLO is to stay focused on the job of the SLO. The mandated job of the SLO is to generate as much revenue as possible on state trust land while protecting the value of the public asset (land). The SLO must be independent and free from ALL outside special interests and free from partisan politics. The SLO and its Commissioner should not be beholden to any political party. As an Independent candidate I owe no allegiance to anyone except Jesus Christ and the citizens of the state of NM.

3. How would you balance responsible stewardship of state trust lands with the need to generate revenues for the support of the beneficiaries?

The balance between responsible stewardship and max revenue generation should be the only focus of the Commissioner and the SLO. That balance can only be maintained with an educated, common-sense, practical and realistic approach to the management of State trust land. Special interests and politics have no place in responsible management of state trust land. Special interest and politics are inherently detrimental to the proper management of public assets. The SLO and Commissioner should always be a separate independent state agency.

4. Should the Land Commissioner improve enforcement of environmental regulations on state trust lands?

Disagree

5. If you answered agree, how would you do it? If you answered disagree, please explain why not.

The job of the Commissioner of Public Lands is to generate revenue while preserving the value of the public assets. Obviously, any activity that degrades the value of the public lands will be a serious issue to be dealt with in a fair and impartial but stern manner. The NMOCD and environmental regulatory agencies are charged with the enforcement of environmental regulations and cooperation between those entities and the SLO are critical but an expansion or conversion of the duties of the SLO is contrary to the lawfully mandated mission of the Commissioner and the SLO.

State House of Representatives, District 43

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. Candidates must be at least 21 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They serve a two-year term. The 43rd District includes Los Alamos and parts of Sandoval and Santa Fe Counties.



Christine Chandler
(Democrat)

1. Do you believe the right to abortion should be codified by the Legislature? Please explain.

New Mexico is in a good position because, with the repeal of the State's antiquated abortion law that criminalized abortion in most cases, women's ability to make their own decisions as to abortion care is fully recognized. Additional protections that the Legislature

and Governor should consider are in the areas of patient privacy, and rejecting efforts by out-of-state politicians and law enforcement to impose their states' policies in contravention of New Mexico's support for access to care.

2. What gun laws, if any, would you support?

I would support measures that provide restrictions on the purchase of semi-automatic firearms, and I would also support measures that imposed safe storage requirements on gun owners and that limited magazine capacities.

3. Do you think our current redistricting process needs reform? If yes, how?

The process enacted by the Legislature for the most recent redistricting worked reasonably well. It was an open process that required public engagement that led to sound recommendations to the Legislature. The House followed the recommendations closely and created fair and in many cases, competitive districts. Improvement could no doubt be made but in general, the approach is sound.

4. How should New Mexico reform its tax system?

It should be recognized that the Legislature is on a continuum of tax reform that began in 2019. With enactment of the working families tax credit, the low

income comprehensive tax rebate, and changes to the capital gains deduction, the progressivity of tax code has been enhanced. Progressivity is a measure of a fair and equitable code and efforts in this regard should continue. We should also look to ways to lower GRT, which is a regressive revenue source.

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. To be retained, a judge must receive at least 57% “yes” votes out of all those cast for that office. The website of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, www.nmjpec.org, includes evaluations and information about retention candidates.

Justice of the Supreme Court

The five Supreme Court justices are elected by all voters in the state and serve eight-year terms. To be eligible to hold the office of Justice of the Supreme Court, a person must be 35 years old, have practiced law for at least 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last 3 years. The Supreme Court serves as the administrative head of the New Mexico judicial branch of government. It is the “court of last resort” for state appellate actions, regulates attorneys and judges, and has superintending control over all lower state courts. It has jurisdiction over civil cases where jurisdiction is not specifically vested in the state Court of Appeals, appeals from criminal cases imposing the death penalty or life imprisonment, appeals from decisions of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, certiorari review of state Court of Appeals decisions, and cases certified to it by the state Court of Appeals or any federal court.

Justice of the Supreme Court - Position 1



Thomas C. Montoya
(Republican)

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission? Yes or No

I have been endorsed three (3) times by the Judicial Nominating Commission for District Court Judge. I did not apply to the Commission this time.

2. What qualifies you for this position?

40 years of practice in all NM trial and appellate courts. J.D. U.S.C. “A” preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings. Cited as authority in 3 appellate cases. 20+ years member prestigious American Law Institute. Co-Chair of Child Support Guidelines Commission which promulgated New Mexico’s statutory Child Support Guidelines. Chair of Rules Committee of the N.M. Supreme Court, which promulgated statewide rules of procedure for domestic relations and domestic violence cases. Selected as qualified to be District Court Judge by Judicial Nominating Commission. NM native.

3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

A judge must place the law above any other consideration in deciding a case. A judge cannot, in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct, manifest bias or prejudice, or engage in harassment, including but not limited to bias, prejudice, or harassment based upon race, religion, color, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, spousal affiliation, socioeconomic status, political affiliation, age, physical or mental handicap or serious medical condition, nor permit others subject to the judge’s direction or control to do so.

4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?

Because the Supreme Court is the rule-making body governing all courts, attention must be paid to adherence to the Constitution and the rule of law throughout the state. Cases cannot be decided because of a desired outcome, but only on the law and facts of the case. Judges must decide on what the law is, and not what the law should be, in the opinion of the judge. There can be no respect of persons before the law, resulting in a different decision based upon the person or company which appears before the court. All persons are required to be equal before the law, regardless of rich or poor.



Julie J. Vargas
(Democrat)

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission? Yes or No

Yes. I was endorsed by the Bi-Partisan Judicial Nominating Commission in November 2020 for the position I currently hold and appointed by the Governor.

2. What qualifies you for this position?

Serving on New Mexico’s two highest courts, along with my over two decades in private practice helping New Mexican families and small businesses. As a judge, I have authored more than 125 opinions and decided hundreds of other cases in all areas of the law. While in private practice, I co-chaired the State Bar’s Ethics Advisory Committee and now serve as the Supreme Court’s liaison to the Disciplinary Board. I previously served as Co-Chair of the Advisory Opinions Committee, dedicated to advising judges on their responsibilities under the Code of Judicial Conduct.

3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

Public financing of judicial races is the most important policy necessary to retain judicial independence and deter political influence. In 2021, the Legislature expanded public financing to all district court races. NM is the only state that provides public financing for both statewide and district court judicial races. Public financing alleviates concerns that a judge’s decision was influenced by a large campaign contribution and promotes public trust in our judicial system. For that reason, I’ve applied for and secured public financing in my efforts to retain my seat on the Supreme Court.

4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?

Access and transparency. Expanding virtual hearings is cost effective, increases access, saves money for citizens, and increases legal service options to underrepresented communities. Virtual hearings reduce the time parties have to take off work to attend and eliminate transportation and childcare issues. Allowing unrepresented parties to e-file pleadings also expands access. Live-streaming Supreme Court oral arguments increases transparency, as the public can see our work. Expanding our outreach to NM’s schools teaches students about the role of the courts and the rule of law in our society.

Justice of the Supreme Court - Position 2

Kerry J. Morris
(Republican)

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission? Yes or No

No.

2. What qualifies you for this position?

I’ve been practicing law for over 40 years. I am a problem solver, not a part of the

elite legal establishment with vested interests in furthering progressive political agendas. I represent the working people of New Mexico; they include families who've experienced tragedy, people who've been treated unfairly, and people who are victims of crime. I understand the problems of working people and small business owners who have lost jobs, their businesses due to government shutdowns. I will bring to the Supreme Court the balance of an outsider, a constitutionalist who strictly interprets the law.

3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

Increase judicial pay and make funding of the courts independent of the politics of legislature and the governor by indexing them to the pay rate for federal judges. The governor just vetoed a pay raise for the judges that would have done this. She did this without explanation leaving us to speculate as to her reasons. She vetoed the pay raise even though the court ruled in her favor on all of her Covid decrees. Perhaps the Governor was unhappy with the recent ruling by the court on who gets to spend the federal money. Clearly, she was sending a political message to the Supreme Court.

4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?

The Supreme Court will be improved with my election to the Court through a better balance of judicial philosophies. As the Albuquerque Journal stated when it endorsed me for the Supreme Court in 2020, "Morris, as a Republican, offers the Supreme Court some needed diversity in philosophy and thinking. The political balance of the court has historically been to the left, and the pending retirement of the Supreme Court's only Republican, Judith Nakamura, makes balancing the court with a new Republican that much more important." Albuquerque Journal October 15, 2020



**Briana H. Zamora
(Democrat)**

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission? Yes or No

Yes, I was recommended by the Bi-Partisan Judicial Nominating Commission for this position and appointed by the Governor.

2. What qualifies you for this position?

I serve as a Supreme Court Justice, in this position, with well-rounded legal experience having litigated civil, criminal and children's court cases throughout the State of New Mexico. More significantly, the experience I gained as a trial and appellate court judge is invaluable. I have served at every level of the judiciary and presided in thousands of cases, over 100 jury trials and every type of criminal proceeding. I have in-depth knowledge of our criminal justice system. Additionally, as an appellate court judge I issued opinions in every area of the law.

3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

As Judges, we must adhere to our oath of office and strict ethical rules, which requires judges to decide cases without regard to political or private interests and regardless of public opinion. We are required to follow the law and Constitution. Ethical rules also require that we not state our opinions on political issues. It is also critical that our state has public financing for our appellate and district judicial races to ensure that our campaigns are not funded with large contributions from private sources. That is why I've applied for and received public financing to run my campaign.

4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?

The Supreme Court is a respected and well-oiled machine that has been following

well-established protocols for decades. However, I do believe upgraded technology, including an updated case management system would result in more efficiencies. Increasing access to justice for our rural communities, continuing our efforts to better collaborate with our justice partners to improve our criminal justice system, and efforts such as our new Statewide Judicial Commission on Mental Health will ensure we continue to meet the needs of our residents who come into contact with the judicial system.

Judge of the Court of Appeals

The 10 judges on the Court of Appeals are elected statewide and serve 8-year terms. Eligibility requirements: a person must be 35 years old, have practiced law for at least 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last 3 years. As the intermediate appellate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals 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. The judges sit in panels of three judges to decide cases.

Judge of the Court of Appeals - Position 1



**Barbara V. Johnson
(Republican)**

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission?

Yes, for a District Court Judgeship. However, I was not appointed by the Governor.

2. What qualifies you for this position?

I have been a Family Lawyer since 1988. Family law involves everything that touches the lives of our citizens. Some of those kinds of cases are divorces, custody and time sharing, child support, peoples' houses and personal belongings, at times domestic violence, crimes, business matters, estate planning and retirement plans. Family law can be very challenging, but is also very rewarding. The Court of Appeals hears cases that someone believes a trial judge decided incorrectly. Being a Family Lawyer both in and out of the Courtroom on a variety of cases is a great background/foundation.

3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

The Judiciary is an equal branch of our government. Each branch has different responsibilities. Our Courts are responsible for following the law when deciding a dispute. Every case has facts relating to that case. Judges must not make those decisions based on outside influences. Judges should not create law as the legislative branch of government is responsible for that. Judges are to apply and follow the rule of law. When the voters learn about candidates, they should vote for the one that fills the job description.

4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?

Our citizens deserve more expedient decisions from the Court. The litigants' lives are often on hold for years while their case in the Court winds its way through the complicated system of an appeal. The job is to determine whether a case was decided correctly and if not to reverse it, and send it back with instructions and explanations that give citizens and judges guidance. If the case was decided correctly, it should be affirmed quickly so that the litigants can move forward with their lives. Hopefully, I can assist with streamlining the process and working for all our citizens.



Gerald Edward Baca
(Democrat)

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission?

I was recommended by the Bi-Partisan Judicial Nominating Commission and interviewed, vetted, and appointed by the Governor for this position on the NM Court of Appeals.

2. What qualifies you for this position?

I have over 34 years of experience as a practicing attorney and judge in my home state of New Mexico. My experience is in nearly every area of law that comes before the courts of New Mexico. I served as a district judge for over 9 years and I currently serve as a judge on the Court of Appeals, having been appointed in April 2021. Before becoming a judge, I served as a prosecutor in the First and Fourth Judicial Districts. In my practice, I was a criminal defense attorney and I handled a wide variety of civil cases from divorces and auto accident cases to complex wrongful death cases.

3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

First and foremost, the judiciary must remain independent from any influence, political or otherwise. I believe the current Canons of Judicial Conduct sufficiently set forth the expected conduct of a judicial candidate in a partisan election. However, I think the requirements to qualify for public financing for judicial campaigns should be adjusted. Instead of having our committees collect over 1,300 \$5 contributions, a different threshold should be required in order to take money completely out of the process.

4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?

In New Mexico, every litigant is entitled to one appeal. The great majority of those appeals are heard by the Court of Appeals (COA). As a result, the COA has hundreds of cases on its docket. Each of these cases takes time to review and decide. Thus, the COA is a very busy court. The COA is working hard to resolve these appeals in a timely manner. However, the judges at the COA are acutely aware of the need to get these appeals resolved more quickly. Thus, the COA, myself included, is constantly looking at ways to more efficiently and expeditiously decide these appeals.



SOPHIE I. COOPER
(Libertarian)

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission?

no

2. What qualifies you for this position?

Strong academic and legal background: 1973 BA economics, University of Chicago; 1989, JD, Washington

College of Law (American University), 4th highest in class. Employed as a Public Defender for 30 years. Strong person: morally, spiritually, mentally, and physically. Good understanding of the cultures and values of New Mexicans. I've lived here 45 years; participated in Native American ceremonies; traveled extensively through Navajo-land; currently employed at the Pueblo of Isleta.; and Jewish. A good mix of cultures.

3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

Mainly, the judiciary needs to do its job and protect our constitutional rights from government. How quickly we, the people, lost our freedom to a virus. I don't understand "emergency powers" that continued over two years. The Governor

used a Riot Control Act designed to control riots to lock-down Gallup; she closed the churches entirely the night before Easter 2020; she told us what to wear and how many people we can have in our homes, and the Courts did nothing. Our rights are embodied in our federal and state constitution and the Court needs to protect the people from abuse of power.

4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?

Speedier resolution of cases. More backbone to stand up and enforce the constitution against the other branches of government.

Judge of the Court of Appeals - Position 2



Katherine Anne Wray
(Democrat)

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission?

Yes, the Bi-Partisan Judicial Nominating Commission determined I was qualified and recommended me to the Governor for an extensive interview, and she appointed me to this position.

2. What qualifies you for this position?

I have worked and practiced in the district and appellate courts for nearly fifteen years. I first served as a law clerk for an appellate and a district court judge. In private practice, I worked simultaneously as a criminal staff attorney, trial counsel in complex civil cases, and an appellate attorney. My practice focused on legal writing and analysis, as well as civil and appellate procedure. I served multiple terms on the New Mexico Supreme Court's Appellate Rules Committee and the Code of Professional Conduct Committee, and I was privileged to teach legal writing at UNM School of Law.

3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

Many policies protect judicial independence. The Code of Judicial Conduct requires judges to maintain independence, integrity, and impartiality, whether campaigning or applying the law. District court judges' decisions are subject to one automatic review and the Court of Appeals' decisions may also be further evaluated by the New Mexico Supreme Court. The Judicial Standards Commission reviews a judge's professional conduct and assists the public to decide whether to retain the judge. The judge, though, must recognize her own biases, adhere to the law, and disregard political influences.

4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?

The Court of Appeals is responsible for reviewing almost all cases appealed in New Mexico, involving nearly every area of the law. Because we are a such a busy, the biggest need is to move cases through the system so that appeals are timely heard and parties get the resolution they need. Since joining the Court, I've utilized my appellate, trial, civil, and criminal experience to work with my colleagues to be an active and productive addition to the Court. I have focused on learning quickly, carefully reviewing cases, and keeping in mind the parties who are waiting for decisions.

Stephen P. Curtis
(Libertarian)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.



Gertrude Lee
(Republican)

1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission?

No, I have not. I have been endorsed by the Albuquerque Police Officers' Association. When I ran for Court of Appeals in 2020 I was endorsed by the Albuquerque Journal.

2. What qualifies you for this position?

My experience as a manager and trial attorney has prepared me to serve on the Court of Appeals. For twelve years I have worked as a trial attorney and prosecutor. In Gallup, I represented the State in numerous jury and bench trials in the Magistrate and District Courts. I also filed several appeals on behalf of the State. I continue my work as a prosecutor in Farmington. I also served as the Chief Prosecutor of the Navajo Nation where I managed ten prosecutor offices and several dozen staff across the reservation in addition to practicing in the tribal courts.

3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

It is absolutely essential for a judge to be impartial and to maintain the rule of law. This means judges should be open minded, unbiased, remain impartial and non-partisan when rendering decisions.

4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?

I believe bringing balance to the Court would be an improvement. The Court could use an addition who has significant experience practicing in rural New Mexico and tribal courts. My addition to the bench would add a completely different voice to the Court of Appeals. I was born in Shiprock and grew up outside Farmington. I am a member of the Navajo Nation (my clan is Near to Water born for Big Water). I have practiced law in rural New Mexico my entire career and I have experience in tribal court. Because of my work in public safety, I also appreciate the criminal law issues New Mexicans face.

Los Alamos County Magistrate Judge

The Magistrate Court's jurisdiction includes civil complaints of up to \$10,000, criminal misdemeanor cases, some traffic cases, and felony preliminary hearings. Magistrate Judges serve four-year terms.



Catherine E. Taylor
(Democrat)

1. Describe your qualifications and pertinent experiences that have prepared you to be Magistrate Judge.

I've been an attorney for more than 20 years. I am currently the Teen Court Coordinator for Los Alamos Municipal Court and Vice President of the New Mexico Teen Court Association. I completed a week-long training for aspiring judges at the National Judicial College in

October 2021. As a Deputy Trial Counsel for the California State Bar, I prosecuted California-licensed attorneys for ethics and code of conduct violations. As a Deputy District Attorney, I prosecuted felonies and misdemeanors.

2. What factors should be considered in determining the appropriate sentence for an offender?

Generally speaking, the primary factor to be considered is the applicable statute(s): i.e., what does the law require? Where the law allows for a judge to vary from the prescribed sentence, consideration of aggravating and mitigating factors, possibly to include victim impact statements; a defendant's criminal history; or a defendant's

status (e.g., juvenile) are also relevant.



Tim Bullock
(Republican)

1. Describe your qualifications and pertinent experiences that have prepared you to be Magistrate Judge.

I have practiced law for decades in three states serving in the roles of civil litigator, prosecutor and as defense attorney. I've practiced at every level in federal and state court. I am the only actively practicing attorney in this race. I pledge to listen and impartially apply the law to the facts. I will not legislate from the

bench. Every citizen, will receive due process and equal protection in my court. At sentencing, I will hold individuals accountable showing compassion when merited.

2. What factors should be considered in determining the appropriate sentence for an offender?

Factors which will affect my sentencing include: a defendant's prior criminal record; their age and sophistication; the circumstances under which their crime was committed; the offender's state of mind during commission of the crime; their likelihood of recidivism; whether the defendant genuinely feels remorse, and; whether restitution to the victim is warranted. Where the law allows judicial discretion, I will be firm but fair.

Los Alamos County Sheriff

The Los Alamos County Charter states: "The Sheriff shall have those powers and duties assigned to sheriffs by state statutes, including the powers of a peace officer, but the Sheriff shall not duplicate or perform those duties in this Charter or by ordinance or resolution assigned or delegated to the County's Police Department."



Jason Wardlow-Herrera
(Democrat)

1. What do you see as the major function of the Sheriff's office in Los Alamos County?

The Sheriff of Los Alamos County only has one duty, the sheriff is responsible for maintaining the sex offender registry. The sheriff is responsible for updating the sex offender database, updating their flyers throughout the county and conducting unannounced home inspections of offenders to

ensure they are abiding by state law and our local ordinances.

2. What should be the interaction between the county Sheriff's department and the Police department?

The interaction between the sheriff and police department is critical to the success of the sheriff's department. The Los Alamos County Sheriff is an administrative sheriff, meaning his/her authority is not the same as any other sheriff or police officer in the state of New Mexico. Therefore, the assistance and cooperation of these two organizations is imperative for the sheriff's department role in Los Alamos County.



Chris Luchini
(Libertarian)

1. What do you see as the major function of the Sheriff's office in Los Alamos County?

Exactly the statutory duties in the County Charter and the NM State Constitution: Maintaining the Sex Offender Registry,

and optionally, removing the burden of service of process from the LA Police Department.

2. What should be the interaction between the county Sheriff's department and the Police department?

The Sex Offender Registry needs to be updated quarterly, or when a new registration is required. Ideally the Sheriff and Police Department would coordinate these notifications and ensure that there are no gaps in the registration process. For Service of Process, the Sheriff should personally conduct these duties, unless the person being served has a history of violence. In that case, either the Police Department should provide a uniformed officer to assist, or take over that service.

Los Alamos County Assessor

The County Assessor is the elected official responsible for valuing all real and personal property for taxing authorities in the County. Taxing authorities include such organizations as school districts, county hospitals, municipalities, conservancy districts, and flood control authorities. The assessor also develops and maintains all parcel information in the county and administers the granting of certain exemptions allowable by the N.M. Property Tax Code. The County Assessor serves a four-year term.

Laura Burrows (Libertarian)

1. What would be your priorities as County Assessor?

The Assessors Office will likely be quite busy for the upcoming term, with all the new housing being planned and built in the county. Insuring that the valuations for new and upgraded housing are free from conflict of interest, and as fair as possible is the prime duty of the assessor. Additionally, outreach and education to inform those property owners of property tax relief that they are due should become an ongoing effort.

2. How do you plan to maintain fairness and transparency in property valuations?

I have no connection to the construction, development, or remodeling contractors. I will not accept any campaign contributions from any source. While in office, all decisions and appeals of valuation will be as transparent and open as the law allows. Initial review of appeals will be double blind, where possible, to prevent even the appearance of bias. A systematic review of the way valuations are set, and the review process, will a first priority.



George Chandler
(Democrat)

1. What would be your priorities as County Assessor?

My priorities will be to monitor operations of the office and ensure that policies and procedures are kept up to date, that the staff maintains qualifications and is adequately compensated, that contingencies are provided for, and that succession plans are in place for key

personnel. I will seek public input and ways we can improve our operations, and serve as the point of contact with the County Council and the Property Tax Division of the Department of Taxation and Revenue.

2. How do you plan to maintain fairness and transparency in property valuations?

I will monitor the data collected and evaluations done, and use statistical tools to ensure equity across property classes. I will continue current in-person and on-line access to data and property assessments as provided by law, while looking for opportunities to improve. Public outreach and education are necessary for the success of these programs. I will monitor complaints and appeals, and due process. The best guarantee of fairness is a competent, well-trained staff.

Los Alamos County Councilor

The Los Alamos County Council is the County's governing body and was created by the Los Alamos County Charter. The Council consists of seven members elected at large for four-year staggered terms. Four seats will be filled in the 2022 election by the four candidates receiving the most votes. The County Council generally holds two regular sessions per month, plus one work session. Its members also serve as liaisons with the County's Boards and Commissions and other governmental entities.



James Curtis Wernicke Jr.
(Libertarian)

1. What processes would you use to guide decision-making when changes to our open spaces are proposed?

Proposals should be transparently developed with well-defined scope and social, environmental, and economic costs and benefits. Conclusions should be strongly supported by objective measurements (e.g. trail counters) when possible, and we should increase public outreach for surveys to better represent the community. Prioritize those proposals that provide highest and most reliable cost-benefit.

2. Should the Council ensure that County residents have access to affordable, high-speed broadband? If so, how?

Yes, because access to information empowers citizens. Charge local ISPs the same price as national ISPs for the same public utility pole access. Increase collaboration with ISPs to install fiber conduit under roads when roads are rebuilt. Make publicly-funded fiber accessible to all. Work with neighboring pueblos to build mutually beneficial connections to backbones.

3. What County services need to be improved and how will you champion these improvements?

All services can be improved. Open Space: Increase stewardship education and volunteer outreach. Parks & Rec: Better maintain facilities. Economic Development: Increase contract transparency and inclusion of local entrepreneurs, e.g. public land auctions. Building Safety: Simplify codes and permits to safety issues, e.g. allow work without a license. Public Works: Expand bike lanes, work w/ stakeholders to create LA/WR bike route. DPU: proactively upgrade infrastructure, P&Z: Zone more housing.

4. In February, the LARES (Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability) Task Force submitted a list of possible actions that the County could take to address climate change. What are your top two priorities among these for the County to pursue? Please explain.

GR-3: Create and promote a strategic climate action plan from trustworthy data to achieve community goals with frequent, measurable milestones, and incentives for reaching those milestones. GR-8: Increase public education about reducing consumption and waste. These actions empower citizens to innovate and implement solutions to best meet their personal circumstances.



Sharon L. Dry
(Republican)

1. What processes would you use to guide decision-making when changes to our open spaces are proposed?

I would gather the facts and engage with residents

who actively use the identified spaces, and with County Staff that manage the space. My decision-making would also be guided by and in compliance with the LAC Open Space Management Plan. Similar to many residents, my home borders open space in which my children and grandchildren have explored and played over the years, so I would champion the improvement and preservation of our open spaces.

2. Should the Council ensure that County residents have access to affordable, high-speed broadband? If so, how?

Council should make every effort to ensure that high-speed broadband is available and make it as affordable as possible. Broadband is important to education, telemedicine, and business in general. LAC has invested in numerous surveys and a Broadband Manager and Director of Broadband Policy have been hired to work toward installation in the county. Broadband is now included in statewide utility infrastructure planning and federal funds are available. It is time to end delays and move forward.

3. What County services need to be improved and how will you champion these improvements?

During my campaign, I have spoken with many local business owners and found great frustration in attempting to open and operate a business in LAC. For example, interdepartmental conflicts have caused at least one business to move opening dates out so far that owners had to get additional loans. I'd like to see Staff provide owners with positive assistance to enable success. We should instill a stronger sense of customer service in County Staff so local small business is fostered and facilitated.

4. In February, the LARES (Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability) Task Force submitted a list of possible actions that the County could take to address climate change. What are your top two priorities among these for the County to pursue? Please explain.

LA County and our region are not prepared to implement this plan. Notably, transmission infrastructure is inadequate. Full electrification is not feasible at this time. The cost for recommended actions would measurably lower the living standards for many residents, with no measurable benefit to us and the globe. Our small county at best could only make a negligible impact on global temperature. As wind and solar is increased in our region, the focus needs to be on the grid before the LARES plan.

**Reginald Thomas Page Jr.
(Republican)**

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.



**Gary Lane Stradling
(Republican)**

1. What processes would you use to guide decision-making when changes to our open spaces are proposed?

Our county enjoys extraordinary riches of nature: mountains, canyons, trails, etc. surround us. This

wealth of beauty and access is contrasted with unprecedented challenges in housing, utilities, and mobility. I will balance our needs and priorities, aware of our environment. As we develop housing for many thousands of Los Alamos workers, we will provide parks, trails, and boundary spaces. We will balance the needs of our diverse community with inclusive options. I will listen to our voters.

2. Should the Council ensure that County residents have access to affordable, high-speed broadband? If so, how?

High-speed internet is an essential part of modern life. As an isolated community, with access limitations, access to this essential service must be facilitated by the County. As the county contracts for economical supplies of essential commodities like natural gas, water, and electricity, it is appropriate for the County to supply high-speed broadband over optical fiber or other state-of-the-art "pipes", metered and at cost, but without a commercial or ideological bias. This is long overdue.

3. What County services need to be improved and how will you champion these improvements?

The most critical county issue is acquiring federal land for housing development. Many, many thousands commute into the county daily for lack of housing. Many non-LANL workers who would start and staff businesses are not here. Our business and housing economic market are distorted by lack of housing supply and a very high demand. The environment bears an unnecessary burden. I will work with federal offices, using my extensive federal experience, to resolve the barriers to federal land transfer.

4. In February, the LARES (Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability) Task Force submitted a list of possible actions that the County could take to address climate change. What are your top two priorities among these for the County to pursue? Please explain.

The directive of the LARES study required a "zero carbon emission" outcome by 2070, driven by partisan ideology, and not supported by science (See Steve Koonin- "Unsettled"). Actions and policies proposed by LARES would have unmeasurably small impact on larger environmental states, will be expensive, and inconvenient to county residents, and thus are truly "virtue signaling" by a small group at the expense of the rest of the county. I would put the LARES recommendations to a county referendum.



**Melanee M. Hand
(Democrat)**

1. What processes would you use to guide decision-making when changes to our open spaces are proposed?

I support County Approved Plans and studies for Council reference and decision making. Analysis of complex issues and building consensus with stakeholders is part of the planning process. Council should consider approval of plan updates by considering current issues and needs, citizen input, recommendations from County Boards, qualified staff, consultants, and weighing potential impacts to long term vision and goals.

2. Should the Council ensure that County residents have access to affordable, high-speed broadband? If so, how?

Yes! Accessibility to better broadband services equalizes opportunities for all, increases work productivity/income. A community survey (County Broadband Manager recommendation) must first clearly identify the scope for broadband projects, including recommendations to improve availability, price, and quality of services. Next, partner with stakeholders and government entities to develop plans and right-of-ways to apply for Federal funding and incentivize developers for superior performance.

3. What County services need to be improved and how will you champion these improvements?

I will support current proposals for the development of a one-stop health services hub identified in the 2020 Health Gap Analysis to correct County deficiencies. I also

support proper budget and staffing proposals for key County services, recreation, open space, and trails. I will vote “yes” for infrastructure upgrades that include sustainable energy infrastructure and transportation for mass-transit options that link regional and local transit.

4. In February, the LARES (Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability) Task Force submitted a list of possible actions that the County could take to address climate change. What are your top two priorities among these for the County to pursue? Please explain.

One top priority should be support of the LARES report implementation strategy using short-, mid-, and long-term actions within general and specific categories of natural gas, electricity, transportation, waste consumption, conservation of natural resources, and community planning. Another priority should focus on the next step of planning identified in the LARES final report to determine feasibility and ease of accomplishing actions within the County’s budget.



**Suzie Havemann
(Democrat)**

1. What processes would you use to guide decision-making when changes to our open spaces are proposed?

Public participation is essential to the support and success of all our County services and given the high value repeatedly placed on preserving our open space, civic engagement would be a top priority for me. I

would incorporate the guidelines from the 2015 Open Space Management Plan, the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, and the 2021 Strategic Leadership Plan. We should seek input from all stakeholders to collectively understand the goals, scope, impacts, objections, and metrics of a given project.

2. Should the Council ensure that County residents have access to affordable, high-speed broadband? If so, how?

Yes. Reliable, equitable access to information is a prerequisite to a healthy community. All stakeholders (County, LANL, LAPS, UNM-LA, health care providers, local businesses, regional neighbors, REDI-Net) should be part of the process to improve broadband infrastructure. I support efforts to solve “last mile” and “middle mile” challenges; more options will enable competition and better service to the end user. We also need to be ready to leverage federal and state resources once available.

3. What County services need to be improved and how will you champion these improvements?

We enjoy top notch services in Los Alamos. That said, continuous improvement is paramount to me. During my campaign I’ve learned we should improve how we provide information and garner public input that is used in policy decisions; simplify our permit process to make it easier to improve property; foster synergy with non-profits to improve mental health, youth, and family services. I will champion these efforts by always asking if we are making things easier, better, and more cost effective.

4. In February, the LARES (Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability) Task Force submitted a list of possible actions that the County could take to address climate change. What are your top two priorities among these for the County to pursue? Please explain.

We need to be part of climate change solutions. As an early member of the RES task force, I support its action plan. We need to hire a senior staff person who will be our “sustainability coordinator” to ensure net-zero, resiliency, and sustainability goals are met across all County departments. Working with DPU, we need to invest in the means to firm up our renewable energy sources. We must also develop a strategic action plan to ensure we are making progress in measurable and meaningful ways.



**Theresa A. Cull
(Democrat)**

1. What processes would you use to guide decision-making when changes to our open spaces are proposed?

(1) I would review the process that the requesting committee/organization used to arrive at their request. Did they give ample notice and opportunity for comments from the public? How did those comments affect their decision? Did they consider other alternatives? (2) I would review the Open Space Management Plan developed by citizens from our community (and any other relevant documents) for guidance, and (3) I would ask if the request is necessary and whether/how it benefits the community.

2. Should the Council ensure that County residents have access to affordable, high-speed broadband? If so, how?

Yes. I would continue supporting the efforts underway to provide affordable high-speed broadband to residents. I will continue to monitor the information provided by the County’s Broadband Manager and encourage regular status updates to the Council to make sure that the path forward addresses identified community needs and gets the support needed (e.g., funding, staffing) to proceed efficiently.

3. What County services need to be improved and how will you champion these improvements?

Based on feedback I’ve received, some of the services that could be improved include Atomic City Transit (extend hours to weekends and evenings); the permitting process (shorten turnaround time); trails design and maintenance; and infrastructure project planning. I would talk with responsible County personnel to get their input and work with the County Manager on process improvement and with the Council on planning and budgeting.

4. In February, the LARES (Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability) Task Force submitted a list of possible actions that the County could take to address climate change. What are your top two priorities among these for the County to pursue? Please explain.

My top two priorities are (1) continue to fund a Sustainability Coordinator and (2) create and adopt a strategic Climate Action Plan. In order for the County to have a chance at achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, we need a plan to get there and someone to manage that plan, coordinate with County Departments, and report progress and status to the Council and the Community. The LARES report should be used to develop the Plan, since it includes specific recommendations and timelines.



**Randall T. Ryti
(Democrat)**

1. What processes would you use to guide decision-making when changes to our open spaces are proposed?

I propose that the County has an environmental review process that includes expert analyses and is open for public dialog and addresses impacts to open space or other resources.

This environmental review process would address the potential for impacts on the plants, animals, current users and potential new users and attempt to reconcile any conflicts. I am in favor of making this process a County policy document, which would lead to more consistency in the process and how it is applied.

2. Should the Council ensure that County residents have access to affordable, high-speed broadband? If so, how?

Yes, we hired a broadband manager and retained a technical firm to develop options for community broadband with recommendations for technology and infrastructure investments. Options will be developed with significant public involvement. Given that Federal/State funding to improve broadband access targets low income or very rural locations, Council will make a business case for a General Obligation

Bond for the preferred option, letting voters decide if the County should make this investment.

3. What County services need to be improved and how will you champion these improvements?

1. Support for local small businesses. I would develop metrics to effectively track programs for mentoring, recruiting, and retaining small businesses. 2. Social services need to be expanded in the County by building a coordinated hub and finding the necessary providers, especially for behavioral and mental health services. 3. Trails maintenance and improvements. I want the County to recruit and retain staff for trails maintenance and improvements with regular reporting to Council.

4. In February, the LARES (Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability) Task Force submitted a list of possible actions that the County could take to address climate change. What are your top two priorities among these for the County to pursue? Please explain.

1. Develop a partnership or cooperative agreement with LAPS and LANL (GR-7) that would lead to opportunities in the areas of electric and transportation, such as deployment of rooftop or parking lot solar installations. Such a partnership would help LANL meet its carbon neutral goals and provide a revenue stream for LAPS. 2. I would encourage the BPU/DPU to evaluate distributed storage (E-7,8) in addition to utility-scale storage projects. Storage is key to addressing renewables fluctuations.

Los Alamos County Probate Judge

The Probate Court, in an office within the County Clerk's office, is convened by appointment with the Judge to probate wills. Probate Judges serve four-year terms.



Michael D. Redondo
(Democrat)

1. What in your experience qualifies you for the office of Probate Judge?

I have served as the Probate Judge since June of 2019. I have participated in all of the Probate Judge training sessions offered by the New Mexico Judicial Education

Center since that date. Prior to serving as Probate Judge I served two full terms on the Los Alamos County Planning and Zoning Commission including serving part of my second term as chair of the commission.

2. What are the most important functions of the Probate Judge?

The Probate Judge reviews applications for informal probate of wills and intestate estates and appoints Personal Representatives and Special Administrators to manage and settle a deceased person's estate. Additionally, a Probate Judge may perform marriages within the county. While the Judge is not required to conduct marriages I am committed to providing this important service to the entire community.

Los Alamos Municipal Judge District 32

The Municipal Court's jurisdiction includes all municipal and county offenses, including non-felony traffic violations. Municipal Judges serve four-year terms.



Elizabeth K. Allen
(Democrat)

1. Describe your qualifications and pertinent experiences that have prepared you to be a Municipal Judge.

After working for a decade as a prosecutor and defense attorney, it has been a pleasure to serve as the Los Alamos Municipal Judge since 2019. I have been able to use my legal experience to conduct a court that ensures legal access, due process rights and fair hearings. I have been appointed as the President of the Municipal Judge Association, a trainer and mentor for judges and a member of the NM Judicial Council which allows insight into issues facing the judiciary statewide.

2. How do you see the role of Municipal Judge in Los Alamos County?

The Municipal Judge represents the judicial branch within our city/county government. The Judge's role is that of impartiality and fairness. The duty of the judge is to ensure that Constitutional rights are protected, whether it is a simple traffic ticket or a more serious crime. This includes providing online court options during a pandemic, interpretation services and first-rate customer service for those that are required to appear in court.

Judicial Retention Election

In a nonpartisan retention election, voters may vote either "yes" or "no" for each judge standing for retention. To retain office, a justice or judge must receive 57% "yes" votes out of all the votes cast on the question of retention. The website of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, www.nmjpec.org, includes evaluations and information about judicial retention candidates.

Justice of the Supreme Court - Retention



Michael E. Vigil

1. What qualifies you for this position?

I was elected to the Supreme Court in 2018, and from 2020 until 2022, I was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Prior to my election to the Supreme Court, I was a judge on the Court of Appeals, from 2003 until 2018, and was Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals from 2015 to 2017. I have heard and decided thousands of appeals. I have served on the New Mexico Sentencing Commission, the New Mexico Chief Judges Council, the New Mexico Courts Budget Committee, and the Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeals. I have also been an elected member of the American Law Institute since 2009. Prior to my public service as a judge and justice, I was an attorney in private practice in New Mexico for over 27 years.

2. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

The pay for justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the Court of Appeals, all district court judges, and metropolitan court judges needs to be set independent of politics.

3. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?

Mechanisms need to be explored and acted upon to complete the entire appel-

late process quicker, without sacrificing justice.

Judge of the Court of Appeals - Retention



Jane B. Yohalem

1. What qualifies you for this position?

I was elected a New Mexico Court of Appeals judge in November 2020 and have been deciding appeals and writing opinions since that time. Before becoming an appeals judge, I was an appeals lawyer in New Mexico representing people from every corner of the State before our Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. I was counsel in over 400 appeals, resulting in more than 100 published

decisions advancing the law of New Mexico. My career began as a civil rights lawyer representing children with disabilities and have represented indigent families in termination of parental rights cases for many years.

2. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

Public officials need to respect the special role of the judiciary and treat it as a separate, independent, and co-equal branch of government. A policy of avoiding accusations that the courts are acting out of political motives goes a long way toward ensuring that the judiciary remains independent. Our courts can promote respect for their unique role by treating all litigants with respect and by writing clear and thoughtful decisions which explain the court's reasoning in each case.

3. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Court of Appeals?

Cases need to be decided with shorter and clearer decisions explaining the Court's reasoning both to the litigants and to our district courts. The Court of Appeals has made much progress in this direction, as well as in shortening the time period to resolve cases on appeal. I am committed to these goals and will continue to work to achieve them

Constitutional Amendments

The following summary and arguments are condensed from material provided by the NM Legislative Council Service (LCS) staff. Neither the LCS nor the League has an opinion on the amendments and makes no claim for the validity or consistency of the arguments presented.

Constitutional Amendment 1

Proposing an amendment to article 12, section 7 of the constitution of New Mexico to provide for additional annual distributions of the permanent school fund for enhanced instruction for students at risk of failure, extending the school year, teacher compensation and early childhood education; requiring congressional approval for distributions for early childhood education.

SUMMARY of Proposed Constitutional Amendment 1

Constitutional Amendment 1 (CA1) proposes to amend Article 12, Section 7 of the Constitution of New Mexico to provide additional distributions from the land grant permanent funds. These distributions would be in an amount of 1.25% of the average of the year-end market value of the Permanent School Fund for the immediately preceding five calendar years. Forty percent of this would be distributed to public schools for enhanced instruction for at-risk stu-

dents, extending the school year and teacher compensation, and 60% would be to provide early childhood education, defined as nonsectarian and nondenominational education for children, until they are eligible for kindergarten. CA 1 would permit the legislature to suspend these additional distributions by a three-fifths' vote and also would automatically suspend the additional distribution if the five-year average market values of the land grant permanent funds fall below \$17 billion. If CA 1 is approved by the voters, it would require congressional approval prior to taking effect.

Arguments For CA 1

1. Would provide additional and needed funding for public schools and early childhood education.

With the proposed additional distribution from the Land Grant Permanent Fund, public education and early childhood education programs will receive an increase in educational funding. The projected additional funding for early childhood education may help close the funding gap that the Early Childhood Education and Care Department presented in its recent finance plans, which estimated that an additional \$505 million would be needed by fiscal year 2026 to provide New Mexico with universal access to early childhood services.

2. Early childhood educational programming provides a significant benefit in student outcomes.

Many studies have shown that pre-kindergarten programs are among the most effective measures for improving student outcomes. Participation in pre-kindergarten led to higher high school graduation rates and improved outcomes for students with special needs.

3. Increased student outcomes provide direct benefits to taxpayers and the state.

The benefit to taxpayers for pre-kindergarten programs is estimated at \$16,000 per student. The students on average earn higher lifetime wages and pay higher taxes; also there are savings from lower crime and social program spending.

Arguments Against CA 1

1. Other funding is available to accomplish the goal of the proposed constitutional amendment.

Funding through a new distribution provided in CA1 may not be necessary to sufficiently fund early childhood programs because in 2020 the state created a new trust fund, the Early Childhood Education and Care Fund. Rather than risk the corpus of the Land Grant Permanent Fund and possible reductions in future distributions to existing beneficiaries, it may be more appropriate to rely on this Fund for early childhood programs.

2. The amendment will eventually cause diminishing distributions due to a smaller fund corpus.

The Land Grant Permanent Fund is invested to ensure sustainable growth over time. A larger fund equates to a larger distribution. If more money is distributed from the fund now, then less money will be available for investment and the fund will grow at a lower rate over time.

3. Further legislative changes would likely be necessary.

If CA 1 is approved by voters, further NM legislative action will be required. Sixty percent of the new distribution would be provided for early childhood education. It is statutorily unclear how this money would be used and what state department, agency or entity would receive this distribution.

4. May not actually increase funding for public education or early childhood education.

Public education and early childhood education receive significant portions of their budgets from other sources, including other existing funds in state law and General Fund appropriations that are made annually. The state could reduce distributions and appropriations from other funding sources to education.

Constitutional Amendment 2

Proposing to amend Article 9, section 14 of the Constitution of New Mexico to allow public investment to provide access to essential household services, including internet, energy, water, wastewater, and other similar services as provided by law, upon the enactment of general implementing legislation by a majority vote of the members elected to each house of the Legislature.

SUMMARY of Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2

Constitutional Amendment 2 would amend Article 9, Section 14 (commonly referred to as the “anti-donation clause”) of the Constitution of New Mexico to allow the legislature to enact statutes that authorize the state to spend money to assist in the construction of utility lines or other infrastructure for energy, internet, water, wastewater, and similar services for primarily residential purposes. Such statutes would be required to include provisions to safeguard public money and resources.

Arguments For CA 2

1. The amendment would increase access to essential utility services.

Broadband internet, energy, water, and wastewater services are essential utility services in today’s world, and some communities in New Mexico still lack these basic services. The proposed amendment would authorize direct state investment to ensure access to essential utility services by all New Mexicans and allow for public-private partnerships to provide access to these services.

2. May assist the state with leveraging federal funding.

The current anti-donation prohibition limits New Mexico’s ability to compete with other states regarding rural development and to access federal funding for such development projects. The proposed amendment may give New Mexico the best chance to leverage federal dollars to achieve the broadest access to internet service and other essential household services throughout the state.

3. May assist with ensuring that all New Mexicans have access to the internet.

Adoption of the proposed amendment could be particularly helpful in building high-speed broadband internet infrastructure throughout the state. It would allow the state to invest in the broadband infrastructure needed for the full participation of all of New Mexico’s residents in the modern world.

4. The implementing legislation would be vetted through the public legislative process.

Adoption of the proposed amendment would be just the first step in a lengthy process to allow the use of public funds to provide access to essential house-

hold services. The legislature would need to pass implementing legislation that includes fiscal safeguards for a utility assistance program to take effect.

Arguments Against CA2

1. The proposed amendment lacks clarity and leaves too much discretion for future legislatures in enacting the implementing legislation.

It is not clear from the text of the amendment exactly what projects state funds will be allowed to be used for, as those specifics will be laid out in the implementing legislation.

2. Public money may not be adequately safeguarded.

The purpose of an anti-donation clause is to ensure that taxpayer money is not being used to support or subsidize private gains without the state receiving something of value in exchange for the transfer of money or property. The proposed amendment does not specify how the implementing legislation is to “safeguard public money” nor is there inclusion of a spending cap.

3. The growing exceptions to the anti-donation clause are swallowing the rule.

New Mexico’s anti-donation clause is being whittled away. Since 1971, it has been amended six times to create exceptions for such things as scholarship programs, care of the indigent, and affordable housing.

Constitutional Amendment 3

Proposing to amend Article 6, Section 35 of the Constitution of New Mexico to provide that an appointed judge serve at least one year before a general election is held for the office to which the judge was appointed.

SUMMARY of Proposed Constitutional Amendment 3

Constitutional Amendment 3 proposes one substantive change and several technical changes to Article 6, Section 35 of the Constitution of New Mexico. Substantively, Constitutional Amendment 3 proposes to delay the general election for a seat to which a judge is appointed until after that judge has served on the court for one year following appointment by the governor. Technically, this constitutional amendment proposes to use gender-neutral language in Article 6, Section 35, i.e., changing “his application” to “the application” and “chairman” to “chair”, and it also replaces the term “committee” with “commission” in several instances for consistency.

Arguments For CA 3

1. Allows the public to evaluate an appointed candidate on the merits prior to election.

If the amendment is adopted, appointees will have at least one year to serve on the bench before they face a general election. Appointees who do not otherwise have judicial experience will have time to hone their judicial skills and the public will be able to observe their conduct as a judge before they run for election.

2. Enables greater access by judicial candidates to public financing.

Judicial candidates are authorized to access public financing for elections pursuant to the Voter Action Act. When a judicial appointee must run for the office in a partisan election shortly after being appointed, the timelines for complying with the Voter Action Act are compressed; and depending on the time between the appointment and the election, the appointee may not be able to meet the deadlines to qualify for the public financing. Requiring the election to be held at least one year after appointment provides time for an appointed judge

to meet the deadlines and qualify for the available public financing.

3. Helps with recruitment and diversity for judgeships.

Allowing an appointed judge to serve in the position for at least one year before having to run for the position in a partisan election will help with the recruitment of qualified, diverse applicants to the judgeship. Attorneys who work in private practice may not choose to seek judicial positions if they may serve only for a short time.

Arguments Against CA 3

1. Delaying the election may have unintended consequences.

There could be unintended consequences if an election to fill the vacancy does not take place until the first general election following one year after appointment. For example, depending on when a vacancy is created and when the appointment to fill the vacancy is made, the appointee could serve up to three years in the position before the general election is held.

2. Unclear if the new language applies to judges other than appellate judges.

3. Removes an inherently political decision from the political process for a longer period than the Constitution of New Mexico currently provides.

This amendment would require the public to refrain from participating in the political process for a year, at a minimum, prior to that appointed candidate facing the elective process.

2022 General Obligation Bonds and Taxes

A bond represents a debt for money borrowed by a government to finance capital improvement projects. The State of New Mexico promises to repay the amount borrowed, plus interest, over a period of time for each General Obligation bond that is approved by voters. The bonds are called “General Obligation” because payment of the debt service (principal plus interest) is a general obligation of the State and its property owners through property taxation. According to the Board of Finance Division of the NM Department of Finance and Administration, the specific amount of property taxes collected in a given year is attributable to a number of factors, including the amount of debt service required for existing General Obligation bonds, the projected debt service required for the new bond issue, the latest assessed valuation of net taxable property, cash balances in bond debt service accounts, the date of issuance, and the actual interest rate obtained on the bond sale. The passage of the following three bonds will not increase taxes.

Bond Question 1 – Aging and Long-Term Services Department

The 2022 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed twenty-four million four hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$24,470,000) to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition projects and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

Bond Question 2 – Library Acquisition

The 2022 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of library acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed nineteen million two hundred sixty-six thousand dollars (\$19,266,000) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal and public library resource acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

Bond Question 3 – Higher Education

The 2022 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed two hundred fifteen million nine hundred eighty-six thousand dollars (\$215,986,000) to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

For _____ Against _____

