

YOUR VOTE MATTERS IN EVERY ELECTION!

The June 7, 2022, Primary Election will decide who represents you in the November General Election.

The candidate information in this Voter Guide was obtained by means of a questionnaire sent to all the candidates. Their unedited responses have been printed exactly as submitted — up to the word limit for each response.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization for men and women that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League provides unbiased, factual information so that voters may be well informed.

HOW TO VOTE IN SANTA FE COUNTY

REGISTER to vote OR confirm you are already registered by going to SantaFe.vote.

You can do same day registration and vote up to and including Election Day, June 7. If you are registered as a Democrat, Republican, or Libertarian you can change your party affiliation up to when polls close on Election Day, June 7, at any early voting site up to June 4 or on Election Day, June 7, at any polling place.

TO VOTE EARLY (before June 7):

Option 1. Request an Absentee Ballot before May 25 at SantaFe.vote. Ballots mailed starting May 10; return in drop boxes or mail to County Clerk.

Option 2. Same-day registration and early in-person voting at the County Clerk's Office (100 Catron Street) May 10-June 4. For hours go to SantaFe.vote.

Option 3. Alternative Voting Sites — same-day registration and early voting. May 21-June 4. See list of locations.

TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY, JUNE 7:

Sample ballot and polling places can be found at SantaFe.vote. Hours: 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON VOTING IN THE JUNE 7 PRIMARY ELECTION, GO TO:
VOTE411.org: Online expanded Voter Guide and general voting information
LWVSFC.org: Link to Voter Guide and other voting information
LWV Santa Fe County Help Line: 505.982.9766.

ITU VOTO CUENTA EN TODAS LAS ELECCIONES, ES IMPORTANTE!

El 7 de junio de 2022 en la Elección Primaria se decidirá quién nos va a representar en la Elección General de Noviembre.

La información dada por los candidatos fue obtenida mediante un cuestionario enviado a todos ellos. Sus respuestas fueron impresas, sin editarlas, exactamente como las enviaron, hasta el límite de palabras para cada respuesta.

La Liga de las Mujeres Votantes es una organización política no partidista de hombres y mujeres que ni apoya ni se opone a ningún candidato o partido político en específico. La liga proporciona información imparcial y veraz para que los votantes puedan estar bien informados.

CÓMO VOTAR EN EL CONDADO DE SANTA FE

REGÍSTRATE para votar, O confirma si estás registrado yendo al sitio web de SantaFe.vote.

Puedes empadronarte y votar hasta el día mismo de las elecciones, el 7 de junio. Si estás registrado como demócrata, republicano o libertario y quieres cambiar de partido, puedes cambiar tu afiliación partidaria en cualquier momento hasta el cierre de las urnas el día de las elecciones, el 7 de junio, o en cualquier sitio de votación temprana hasta el 4 de junio.

PARA VOTAR TEMPRANO (antes del 7 de junio):

Opción 1. Solicita tu boleta para votar por correo antes del 25 de mayo en SantaFe.vote. Las boletas enviadas por correo a partir del 10 de mayo, después de llenarse se pueden, o depositar en los buzones especiales para la elección o mandar por correo a la oficina del secretario del condado (County Clerk's Office) en 100 Catron Street 87501

Opción 2. Para registrarse y votar temprano el mismo día y en persona, en la oficina del secretario del condado (County Clerk's Office) del 10 de mayo al 10 de junio. Para los horarios de la oficina, visita el sitio web: SantaFe.vote

Opción 3. Sitios de votación alternativos: registro del mismo día y votación temprana. 21 de mayo-junio 4. Por favor cheque la lista de ubicaciones

PARA VOTAR EL 7 DE JUNIO, DÍA DE LAS ELECCIONES:

- Las boletas de muestra y los lugares de votación se pueden encontrar en SantaFe.vote.
- Horarios: de 6:00 AM a 7:00 PM.

EARLY VOTING SITES/SITIOS PARA VOTAR TEMPRANO

(drop boxes at Early Voting Sites)/(buzones especiales para votar en los Sitios de Votación Temprana)

May 21 to June 4: Noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays/Mayo 21 de 12 p.m. a 8 p.m. (de martes a viernes) y el 4 de junio: de 10 a.m. a 6 p.m. (sábados)

- Santa Cruz** Abedon Lopez Community Center 155A Camino De Quintana
- Santa Fe** Christian Life Church 121 Siringo Road
- Santa Fe** Santa Fe County Fair Building 3229 Rodeo Road
- Santa Fe** Southside Branch Library 6599 Jaguar Dr.
- Eldorado** Max Coll Corridor Community Center 16 Avenida Torreon
- Edgewood** Town of Edgewood Administrative Office 171A State Road 344
- Pojoaque Pueblo Plaza** Pojoaque County Satellite Office 5 W. Gutierrez, Ste. 9

24-HR DROP BOXES/BUZONES ESPECIALES PARA VOTAR LAS 24 HR

(available day and night)/(disponibles día y noche):

- Santa Fe** Santa Fe Convention Center 119 S. Federal St.
- Edgewood** SFC Edgewood Satellite 114 Quail Trail
- Santa Fe** Nancy Rodriguez Center 1 Prairie Dog Loop
- Eldorado** Max Coll Community Center Avenida Torreon
- Santa Fe** La Cienega Community Center 136 Camino San Jose
- Pojoaque Pueblo Plaza** Pojoaque County Satellite Office 5 W. Gutierrez, Ste. 9
- Santa Fe** Southside Branch Library 6599 Jaguar Dr.

(re)introducing VOTE411

BE INFORMED.
VOTE INFORMED.

VOTE411 is committed to continuing to provide voters with "one-stop-shop" nonpartisan information for both general and state-specific elections.



www.vote411.org
Brought to you by the League of Women Voters Education Fund



VOTE 411







3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



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


THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What skills and knowledge will you bring to the job?	2. What are the three most important issues you plan to work on?	3. Should Congress act to mitigate the effects of climate change?	4. What election and voting reforms would you support, if any?
 <div>Teresa Leger Fernandez (Democrat)</div>	I bring to Congress 30 years of on the ground work building up businesses and our New Mexican communities. As a daughter of rural New Mexico, I have a deep understanding of our challenges and opportunities. As an advocate, I was trained to listen first, so I could understand the issues, and then work alongside the community to achieve our goals - together. In Congress, I listened to people on the ground, businesses facing tough times and families struggling to pay bills who wanted their children to get a good education. In response, we sent almost \$2 billion to keep businesses and schools open, and to give tax breaks to working families.	Since my swearing in, I've helped deliver infrastructure in water, broadband, transportation, healthcare and more, created jobs and invested in our communities. The Child Tax Credit cut child poverty by roughly 30%, sending \$207.9 million to 78,000 New Mexico families. I am working to make the tax credit permanent. Small businesses and restaurants across my district tell me the American Rescue funds helped keep them open. I will help businesses grow while protecting workers. We need to bring costs down for New Mexican families with laws like the COMPETES Act, which will address our supply chain problems and create manufacturing jobs in NM. We need accessible and affordable health care that includes behavioral health and addiction services.	Congress should act to mitigate the effects of climate change while investing in our communities and creating jobs for New Mexicans. I introduced the Orphaned Wells Clean Up and Jobs Act which was incorporated into the Bipartisan Infrastructure and Jobs Act, making \$4.7 billion available across New Mexico and the country to clean up abandoned wells. Cleaning up abandoned wells protects our air and water while also creating good-paying jobs. New Mexico should be an energy leader in wind and solar. We must also support the workers and communities that have powered our nation by investing in innovation, economic development and good paying union jobs while we reduce emissions.	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 co-sponsored the underlying bills which included my amendments and lessons from New Mexico. We must protect indigenous, minority and rural voters' access to the ballot. 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.
 <div>Alexis Martinez Johnson (Republican)</div>	As a mother and an environmental engineer I have firsthand knowledge of both our education system's weaknesses and how the energy industry works. New Mexico's education system is ranked dead last in the United States; we need concerned parents across our state to be more involved in our children's education. We also have one of the most powerful energy sectors in the entire country. We should be utilizing that while upholding reasonable environmental standards. As an environmental engineer, I've upheld those standards, and look forward to doing the same in Congress.	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.	Government has tried and failed to answer the hanging specter of climate change. We need innovative solutions and I believe those solutions will come from the free market system, not the federal government. I support research initiatives that will assist the private sector.	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.



NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR


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

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What qualifies you to be governor?	2. What are your three top priorities?	3. How would you improve the election laws?	4. What actions if any, should be taken at the state level to reduce our use of fossil fuels?
 <div>Michelle Lujan Grisham (Democrat)</div>	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 States 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.	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 states for best 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 local law enforcement offices to help them hire and retain officers, and working to address the root causes of crime by combating poverty and improving mental health care access.	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. I will always fight to protect the right of every New Mexican to vote and will always defend our democracy.	My administration has been leading efforts to make New Mexico a worldwide leader in green energy production. We put in place policies that 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.
 <div>Karen Evette Bedonie (Libertarian)</div>	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
 <div>Ginger G. Grider (Write-In) (Libertarian)</div>	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
 <div>Jay C. Block (Republican)</div>	Over 25 years of experience leading and commanding large organizations in the USAF in combat and non-combat environments. I have led teams in private industry as a nuclear weapons consultant building and leading diversified teams for clients as well as conducting business development growing a firm. I am also in my second term as a county commissioner where I was the Vice Chair for two years working with both parties making positive change for New Mexicans. That deep experience in the USAF, private industry and as a commissioner sets me apart.	1. Ed: We are dead last. We will reform education by focusing on trades, different career specialties, and teaching financial literacy making our children more competitive. 2. Jobs: We will eliminate the anti-business regressive GRT tax that places small businesses at a huge disadvantage. We will also reduce/reform the numerous regulations that are strangling our businesses impeding them from hiring more people providing better wages. 3. Crime: I agree with New Mexicans who want bail back as well as returning qualified immunity to our police. We will invest in drug/mental health treatments.	Americans demand secure and fair elections and the vast majority of people believe we need Voter ID to help secure our elections. We must update and secure outdated voter registration systems and replace all dominion machines with closed loop ballot boxes that have zero connectivity to other platforms requiring hand counting of paper ballots versus machine counting. Paper ballots need to be traceable for audits to ensure election integrity. Lastly, we need to eliminate ballot drop boxes that increases risk and voter fraud.	The marketplace should be dictating how private industry responds to consumer demand. Government has a regulatory role to protect our environment and the public. Government also has a role investing in research and development for new technologies but government should never pick which industry should be eliminated over another. This is why we see the largest gas prices on record affecting all New Mexican family budgets. The oil and gas industry provides over 100,000 direct and indirect jobs funding our schools, healthcare, infrastructure & more as well as providing for our national security
 <div>Rebecca L. Dow (Republican)</div>	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
 <div>Gregory Joseph Zanetti (Republican)</div>	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED



NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR (CONT.)				
THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What qualifies you to be governor?	2. What are your three top priorities?	3. How would you improve the election laws?	4. What actions if any, should be taken at the state level to reduce our use of fossil fuels?
 Ethel R. Maharg (Republican)	I am the 3 term first Hispanic woman elected to the Village of Cuba NM. I served 10 years. Upon my departure I left them with almost 2 million in the bank and economic development that still stands to this day. I am the only candidate with executive branch experience. I am currently the executive director for Right to Life Committee of NM serving the pro-life community for a decade. I have been a business owner, school teacher and bank manager for a national bank. I have led teams of thousands of volunteers for the betterment of our state.	1. End abortion and assisted suicide, restoring dignity to life once again. 2. Revolutionize our education system. Children will once again be taught reading writing and arithmetic and the true history of our country. I will pass an education choice bill. Funding will be tied to the child. I pledge to restore parents' rights in school. 3. I pledge to make NM safe again by closing the border and providing necessary law enforcement to our cities. We cannot improve our economy or attract great businesses if we don't respect life, our schools are substandard and we have rampant crime.	I will work with the Secretary of State to conduct a full forensic audit. I will work to have voter ID thus allowing only legal citizens to vote. I want to reinstitute paper ballots.	We are an energy-rich state and fossil fuels are a clean source of energy because they are biodegradable. I intend to increase not decrease the use of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are used in many of our everyday products and as they relate to wind and solar, they are used to make solar panels. Plastics for electric cars are made of fossil fuels. Motors and wind turbines have to have fossil fuels to operate. I will create a research and development team to research how to make wind and solar more sustainable. Currently, they are not and add to the pollution as they are not biodegradable.
 Mark V. Ronchetti (Republican)	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.	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.	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.	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.

NEW MEXICO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR				
Serves as Acting Governor when the Governor is out of the state, provides constituent services, presides over the New Mexico Senate and can vote in the event of a tie. In a general election the Lieutenant Governor is elected jointly with the Governor. Must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for the five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.				
THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What qualifies you to be Lieutenant Governor?	2. What issues would you like to work on to improve the lives of New Mexicans?	3. How do you see your role as president of the Senate?	
Howie C. Morales (Democrat)	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	
Travis Steven Sanchez (Libertarian)	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	
Ant L. Thornton (Republican)	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.	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	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.	
 Peggy L. Muller-Aragon (Republican)	I was born and raised in NM dedicating my life to public service. A mother of 3, teacher, VP of APS Board, I've been a forceful advocate for children, families and taxpayers. As APS Board Finance Committee Chair I've seen the crafting of billion dollar budgets, the sale of hundreds of millions of dollars of bonds, and initiated new investment strategies which resulted in millions of dollars of new revenue without raising taxes. I've fought for open meetings, fiscal responsibility, parental rights, school choice, quality curriculum and for reopening schools to in-person learning.	Education is an economic driver. Successful students become successful employees, job creators & contributors to a flourishing economy. A failed education system affects public safety, stifles economic growth & keeps business from locating to NM. I'll use my education expertise to work with the Gov. & the Legislature to ensure money follows the child & guarantees our children have the quality education they need to succeed. We must mitigate the damages school closures had on our children, using every initiative we can to address both unfinished learning & our student's social emotional health.	The role of any presiding officer is to be fair and impartial. I will work with the Caucus Leaders to ensure openness and transparency in the legislative process. The President of the Senate should adhere to established procedures, but most importantly, maintain the respect, dignity, and decorum of the body.	

NEW MEXICO SECRETARY OF STATE				
New Mexico's chief elections officer, overseeing the entire election process. Regulates lobbyist activity and reporting of campaign finances, and maintains records vital to commerce and industry in New Mexico. Must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.				
THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What qualifies you to be Secretary of State?	2. What are your three top priorities?	3. What actions, if any, would you take to increase voter participation?	4. What changes in New Mexico's voting procedures would you support?
 Maggie Toulouse Oliver (Democrat)	Experience. I've been an election administrator for over 15 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 played a critical role in combating misinformation re: the election's integrity. My record includes administering an election during the height of a pandemic, modernizing New Mexico's registration processes, expanding ballot access, and creating and implementing a more transparent campaign finance system.	My top priorities include defending democracy, combating dis- and misinformation, and continuing to administer free, fair, and secure elections. I believe the best way to defend democracy is to expand access to the ballot. In other words, as Secretary of State, I believe we should make it easier – not harder – for New Mexicans to vote. I believe my role as Secretary of State is to combat the lies about our elections that ultimately undermine confidence and participation. Lastly, under my administration, New Mexico is a national leader on election – I'd like to build on those successes.	While so many states across the country continue to pursue legislation that restricts access to the ballot, I'm committed to legislation and initiatives that do the opposite. Most recently, I was in the Legislature every day providing expert testimony for a number of Bills that would expand ballot access and modernize New Mexico's elections. I am eager for the opportunity to push these initiatives over the finish line and make them law so more New Mexicans can enjoy equal access to the ballot box.	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.
Mayna Erika Myers (Libertarian)	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
 Audrey Trujillo (Republican)	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.	1) Bringing back election integrity 2) Bringing back transparency to the SOS office 3) Making sure every eligible NM citizen is able to vote.	We must first bring back trust and confidence into our elections and increase access to voter registration by making it simple and secure.	#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 pre-cincts. #7 Will work and support efforts to improve and secure access to vote in the Navajo Nation.




NEW MEXICO ATTORNEY GENERAL				
The state's legal officer, legal counsel to state government, and guardian of the public interest. Represents the state before courts or agencies and provides legal opinions upon request of the Legislature, state officials or district attorneys. Must be an attorney licensed by the New Mexico Supreme Court, at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for the five years preceding his/her election. Four-year term with no more than two terms in succession.				
THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What qualifies you to be Attorney General?	2. What are your highest priorities for this office?	3. How do you intend to accomplish them?	4. What will you do to make public officials more accountable to the general public?
 Brian S. Colón (Democrat)	I have been honored to practice widely as an attorney in New Mexico for 20+ years. I've represented individuals, families and small businesses against bad actors and giant corporations. As the State Auditor of New Mexico, I have worked with the Attorney General's Office to hold corrupt public officials and the pharmaceutical sector accountable. I have had the opportunity to see the potential positive impact the office has on communities throughout New Mexico. My history of legal, public and community service show I am passionate about advocating for those on the margins without a voice.	My top priorities will be: Violent Offenders harming children - I will seek to build a criminal prosecution division full of subject matter experts that will take on the more complicated criminal cases; Environmental Protection - I will ensure that large corporations do not take advantage of New Mexicans by harming our environment and sacred resources such as water; Consumer Protection - I plan on continuing the work of the Attorney General's consumer protection division and making sure that when individuals contact the Office they receive the advocacy every New Mexican deserves.	I intend to accomplish this by ensuring my office's daily priorities include these items and will maintain a dashboard to better track resolution of cases and issues presented. I will dedicate staff and funding to prioritize these three issues. In addition to the internal focus, I will ensure that our external focus prioritizes these three issues. Finally, I will work diligently with our elected legislature, district attorneys, and civic groups to prioritize and advance progress on these issues. By working together, we can ensure that our children, environment and consumers are protected.	When I was running for State Auditor, I made a promise, to ALL New Mexican's, I would hold every elected official accountable. I travelled to all 33 counties with this message of openness and accountability. For nearly four years, I have worked diligently to fulfill this promise. When the Mayor of Las Vegas, who is a Democrat, was abusing her power, I held her accountable for her actions. When Commissioner Couy Griffin, who is a Republican, abused his powers as a County Commissioner when he tried to bill his expenses to take his horses to a Cowboys for Trump Rally, I held him accountable.

NEW MEXICO ATTORNEY GENERAL (CONT.)

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What qualifies you to be Attorney General?	2. What are your highest priorities for this office?	3. How do you intend to accomplish them?	4. What will you do to make public officials more accountable to the general public?
 Raúl Torrez (Democrat)	Endorsed by US Senator Martin Heinrich, my family's roots in New Mexico go back centuries. I am the only candidate in this race who has prosecuted cases in a courtroom, with almost two decades experience as a prosecutor and was appointed to serve as a senior advisor in President Obama's Department of Justice. As Bernalillo County DA, I have been a national leader for "smart on crime" policies and using modern tools to solve homicide and rape cold cases. I've taken on extremist milias and big corporations like Facebook and I will continue to fight for you.	The Attorney General safeguards New Mexicans from corruption, abuse, and violence. I was the first prosecutor in the country to sue a heavily armed, right-wing militia to prevent them from policing our streets, and I took action to require Facebook to turn over information about extremists who were recruiting people to engage in criminality. My priorities are to bring my deep experience and a modern approach to prosecuting crime and corruption; and take on predatory corporations and those who target workers, seniors, vulnerable residents, and our environment.	I am the only candidate in this primary election that has prosecuted cases in a courtroom and managed a team of attorneys devoted to putting criminals and corrupters behind bars. I will do the same as your Attorney General.	Accountability starts with the Attorney General's office. That means ending the pay-to-play system currently in place where the AG's office hires big, out-of-state law firms for class action suites, and then receives thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from those same law firms, muddying the water on whose interests are really being served by these out-of-state firms.
 Jeremy Michael Gay (Republican)	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.	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.	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.	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.




NEW MEXICO AUDITOR

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

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What qualifies you to be State Auditor?	2. What would be your top three priorities?	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?
 Zackary A. Quintero (D)	I bring relevant experience, trust, and a plan to protect our people. I am the only candidate professionally trained in law, investigations, and economics. I am a graduate of both UNM School of Law and NMSU. I just finished serving as the Federal Ombudsman for New Mexico where I was responsible for investigating abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation on behalf of our seniors, veterans, and adults with disabilities community. The State Auditor's duty to protect our seniors is also personal to me because I saw my grandfather go through a predatory guardianship that stole his VA Benefits.	1) Establish a dedicated fraud unit that protects our seniors, adults with disabilities, and veterans from predatory guardianships and healthcare scams. This program includes a special prosecutor. 2) Modernize and upgrade the way we track public money by having a dedicated federal and state funds tracker. This system would help detect fraud early and ensure that education funding ends up in the classroom. 3) Create an annual climate accountability audit that reviews the total environmental damage being done by oil and gas polluters and compare it to our state investments in renewable energy.	I believe accounting firms that have active investigations or partnerships with the State Auditor should not donate. I also believe the legislature should explore making public financing an option for the race given the nature of the State Auditor's role in investigating corruption, abuse, and fraud across our state. New Mexico needs a State Auditor who can be impartial and connected to the needs of our people. That is why I am proud to be the only candidate supported and endorsed by labor unions, Planned Parenthood, and environmental groups who support keeping dark money out of politics.
 Joseph M. Maestas (D)	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 for taxpayer dollars. I serve as Chairman 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 long, consistent track record of accomplishments making me ready to lead on day one!	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.	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 approves IPAs to engage in audits and also can impose 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 State Auditor.
 Robert Jason Vaillancourt (Write-In) (Libertarian)	I was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I am the former General Manager of several NM Businesses. I am the former State Grassroots Director for a national Nonprofit organization. I am willing to serve New Mexico and my fellow New Mexicans.	Waste Fraud Abuse of NM taxpayer dollars. To manage a nonpartisan office, that executes and performs its responsibilities and duties for the State of New Mexico and its residents.	I don't disagree that these firms should not be donating to candidates that could ultimately be offering them state contracts,. I'm just a Libertarian, and the idea that we need another law to hold elected officials, and "principled businesses" to a modicum of integrity, disappoints me. I would try to figure out a different course than creating policy for something we all probably agree should not be happening.

NEW MEXICO TREASURER

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


THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What financial training and experience qualifies you for this office?	2. What are your highest priorities for this office and how do you intend to accomplish them?	3. What, if any, changes would you recommend in the policies and operations of the State Treasurer's office?
 Laura M. Montoya (Democrat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Work with state agencies and partners on improving communications.
 Heather R. Benavidez (D)	I am a former municipal and magistrate judge, and currently the chief of staff in the NM State Treasurer's Office, managing twenty-seven employees, in 5 divisions. My tenure in STO started in 2017, and I have nearly 2 decades of professional experience in local and state government, preparing annual budget reports, investment tracking, and financial program management & evaluation. I currently serve on the NM Small Business Investment Corp & Renewable Energy Transmission Authority. Education: B.A., Political Science/Spanish; Master of Public Administration (public finance/management), UNM.	My highest priority is to continue to prudently invest and protect the taxpayer's money, adhering to STO's philosophy of safety, liquidity, and yield. I'll work with our legislature to create a child development savings account plan for every child in New Mexico, accompanying our extensive efforts to assist with financial literacy education. I'll work to offer a tax credit for ABLE NM account contributions, and continue our partnership with CYFD to provide accounts to youth transitioning out of foster care, and implement our NM Work and Save retirement program.	The State Treasurer's Office has a very robust investment policy which includes excellent internal and external controls and standards of care, and a solid commitment for consistent accountability and transparency. I'd like to increase our outreach efforts to rural counties, municipalities, and tribal governments for ABLE NM and the Local Government Investment Pool to provide investment opportunity and savings programs to more New Mexicans. I'd also like to strengthen our financial literacy/consumer protection program to include development of a curriculum for our Native American communities.
 Harry B. Montoya (Republican)	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.	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.	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.

NEW MEXICO COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

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



THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What qualifies you to be Commissioner of Public Lands?	2. What are the greatest challenges facing the State Land Office?	3. How would you balance responsible stewardship of state trust lands with the need to generate revenues for the support of the beneficiaries?	4. Should the Land Commissioner improve enforcement of environmental regulations on state trust lands?
 Stephanie Garcia Richard (Democrat)	Thanks to the trust the voters have placed in me, for the last 4 years, I am proud to say I have raised the MOST money, closed the most wells & protected more acres than any previous land commissioner. I've tripled renewable energy production and issued executive orders on freshwater and the Greater Chaco Region, saving millions of gallons of freshwater and protecting over 70,000 acres from future oil and gas development. I've established programs to hold bad actors accountable and ensure remediation and removal of abandoned wells sites, saving New Mexicans millions in cleanup costs.	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.	For the last 4 years that is what we have done! We established the 1st ever comprehensive enforcement and accountability program to hold industry accountable for the use of YOUR public land, closed the most wells of any state agency, protected more acres and saved millions of beneficiary money by making industry clean up their own messes.	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, as well as saving taxpayers from footing the bill and earning more money than any other land commissioner, we have saved New Mexico taxpayers over \$20 million dollars because we are not above taking companies to court when they are not willing to clean up their messes.




NEW MEXICO COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS (CONT.)				
THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What qualifies you to be Commissioner of Public Lands?	2. What are the greatest challenges facing the State Land Office?	3. How would you balance responsible stewardship of state trust lands with the need to generate revenues for the support of the beneficiaries?	4. Should the Land Commissioner improve enforcement of environmental regulations on state trust lands?
 Jefferson L. Byrd (Republican)	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.	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.	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.	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.

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 22


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

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. How have your prior experience and education prepared you for this position?	2. What three important issues would you plan to work on?	3. How can the legislature balance the needs of farmers and ranchers with the priorities of cities and towns?	4. What can be done to support the aging population, i.e., elderly housing, elder care, transportation?
 Augustine N. Montoya (Democrat)	I have worked in various fields and for various institutions such as: Rio Grande Casa, the NM House of Representative, Jerry & Augy's wood-yard, NM Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Political Campaigns and local Government. With this knowledge I am confident that I am aware of the necessary fields to propose and pass legislation that will benefit all New Mexicans. Lastly, my education from Estancia Municipal Schools, East Mountain High School, the University of West Alabama and UNM has prepared me for the tough job of being a New Mexico Legislator.	Water Sovereignty & Equity Responsible Economic Development & Infrastructure and Roads	The legislature can make sure that both farmers and ranchers are given a level playing field as it relates to water usage and sustainability, in unison with economic opportunity and resources.	A main priority of my campaign is infrastructure. This relates to the aging population as healthcare infrastructure and access in rural New Mexico is a necessity. Furthermore, access to resources such as transportation and broadband internet are cornerstones of my campaign. I live in a community that is, by majority, an aging population. As a result, it is my belief and understanding that the state of New Mexico must stand firm in extending necessary resources to our elderly and aging citizens.
 Stefani Lord (Republican)	First of all, thank you for the great honor and privilege of being able to serve as your representative in the statehouse. I recognize I serve at the will of the people, so thank you. The regular legislative session for 2022 is over, and I'm very proud of what I achieved this year. I promised you I would fight for safer communities, fully fund law enforcement, protect our seniors and veterans, and preserve your 2nd Amendment rights. I also vowed to fight to fix our broken schools, oppose government over-reach, and, most importantly, fight for your rights. And I did!	1. Crime is out of control in New Mexico! This is why I presented real solutions to help fix crime with the following bills: HB 25 - Providing for no time limitation for prosecuting second-degree murder. HB 27 - With evidence that a person is dangerous, no release conditions will be reasonable to protect the community. HB 29 - Creates penalties to protect us and retail businesses from the recent “smash and grab” trend in stores. HB 31 - Providing additional penalties for criminals with three violent felony convictions. HJR 4 - Amending the constitution of New Mexico to allow conditions for denying bail.	Continuation of “What three important issues would you plan to work on?” 2. I also co-sponsored efforts to fix our broken public school system, which, as you know, is ranked last in the nation. HJR 11/15 - Public funding to parents for home, private, or religious-based schools, including virtual schools. HB 91 - Prohibiting language such as “Destruction of Americas by Spaniards” from the NMPED new social studies program. 3. We must fix the crime and education system to attract good-paying jobs to rebuild our economy and keep loved ones from leaving New Mexico.	I fought for tax relief for our senior citizens and our military veterans by co-sponsoring the following bills: HB 48/49 - Exempt Social Security income from state income tax. HB 76 - Military retirement income tax exemption. I also supported our local food bank with \$130,000 going to the East Mountain Food Pantry to help those in need, including seniors.



NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 41

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. How have your prior experience and education prepared you for this position?	2. What three important issues would you plan to work on?	3. How can the legislature balance the needs of farmers and ranchers with the priorities of cities and towns?	4. What can be done to support the aging population, i.e., elderly housing, elder care, transportation?
Marlo R. Martinez (Democrat)	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
 Susan K. Herrera (Democrat)	My political education began at the kitchen table and continued in Washington where I was a legislative staffer and director of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. In seventeen years at the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation, I built an \$80 million endowment with an annual giving budget of \$4 million. We funded education programs, early childhood home visiting programs, regional scholarship programs, and more. Those experiences prepared me to serve as an effective advocate for my district. As a legislator I have worked to support acequias, land grants/merced, rural water systems, education, and cap predatory lenders in New Mexico at 36% APR down from 175%.	Rural development, infrastructure, and education. As chair of the Rural Development, Land Grants, and Cultural Affairs committee, I hope to encourage economic development consistent with what rural residents want. The current budget surplus is an opportunity to build up our infrastructure; we must take it. Drinking and waste-water systems need repair and renewal. Acequias need to prepare for extended drought, which means they need to improve age old systems for the next 20 years. Broadband is essential both for economic development and for education, as Covid clearly showed. And education requires consistent support and funding. It is better to invest our Land Grant Permanent Fund in our children than to invest it in Wall Street.	It's sometimes a difficult balancing act. Being less profitable, rural areas are often neglected by commercial providers of water, electricity, gas, telephone, or internet service. But in the long run all New Mexicans will prosper or suffer together. Without healthy rural areas and a vibrant agricultural sector, the cities cannot really prosper. And on many issues, the interests of urban and rural areas coincide. And the opioid crisis has hit urban and rural areas alike. We cannot improve broadband access to rural areas without also benefitting towns and cities. And in a period of extended drought, regionalized water management will help everyone in New Mexico. As we know, la agua es la vida, water is life.	The biggest single problem I see seniors facing is the number of grandparents who find themselves raising grandchildren because the parents are absent due to mental-health issues, substance abuse, or incarceration. We need to improve our financial and social support for grandparents or other kin who must step in to raise children. We need to extend and improve opportunities for substance abuse treatment and repair the extensive damage done a few years ago to the state's behavioral health system. And we need to do what we can as a state to improve access to health care. This past legislative session I voted to eliminate the state tax on Social Security, putting more of their hard-earned money in the pocket of seniors in New Mexico.

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 43


THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. How have your prior experience and education prepared you for this position?	2. What three important issues would you plan to work on?	3. How can the legislature balance the needs of farmers and ranchers with the priorities of cities and towns?	4. What can be done to support the aging population, i.e., elderly housing, elder care, transportation?
 Christine Chandler (D)	One of the biggest challenges facing New Mexico is expanding high speed internet service across the state. Too many New Mexicans in both rural and urban communities lack access to reliable service. This significantly impedes educational achievement, job training, telemedicine and limits the state's ability to diversify its economy. Progress is being made through recent legislative initiatives; however, a full scale offensive is needed to tackle the problem on all fronts.	The state has been making incremental progress in expanding access to health care. A large portion of the state's residents receive care through Medicaid, in addition, the executive and legislature have worked cooperatively to increase access to affordable insurance through the health care exchange, and has enacted laws to lower the cost of prescription drugs - for example, by authorizing the state to import Canadian prescription drugs, through legislation limiting insulin co-pay.	Climate change must be tackled on many levels: increased and on-going support for renewable energy expansion, including large scale battery development, improved and stronger environmental regulatory measures, such as the state's strong methane rule, the enactment of clean fuel standards and the diversification of the state's economy to help us move away from oil and gas production.	The New Mexico House has adopted many measures, such as early posting of committee agendas and bill analyses, public participation in committee hearings via Zoom as well as live public comment, public access to capital outlay and supplemental (junior) budget expenditures. An area where improvement is needed is better transparency in the use of so-called generic (or “dummy”) bills.

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 46

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. How have your prior experience and education prepared you for this position?	2. What three important issues would you plan to work on?	3. How can the legislature balance the needs of farmers and ranchers with the priorities of cities and towns?	4. What can be done to support the aging population, i.e., elderly housing, elder care, transportation?
 Andrea D. Romero (Democrat)	I was elected in 2018 to represent HD46. We have only just begun to address the housing crisis, championed climate legislation, prioritized teachers and education, passed a Child Tax Credit, and to advance the opportunity with the legalization of adult recreational cannabis. I was born and raised in Northern New Mexico. My father, was the first in his family to graduate college, became an engineer, creating great opportunities for my family and setting me on stable path with a love for education. After attending elementary, middle, and high school in Santa Fe Public Schools, I graduated from Stanford University with a degree in Political Science. I am currently completing my law degree at the UNM School of Law.	Water and Our Environment: Protection & stewardship for the incredible environment that allows us to thrive—the places we rely upon for our livelihoods, food, recreation, tradition, prayer, and family gatherings need protection and we must do more to advance water protections and proper management of our scarce resources. Diversifying our Economy by Supporting Small businesses, entrepreneurs & local jobs: Smart economic development supports local small businesses & our people by paying them what they are worth. This includes promoting outdoor recreation, film, technology, & other industries that reflect our climate-driven and cultural values.	Rooted in the foundation of surviving and thriving in our rural and urban communities is robust statewide water planning and management. The universal worry about our most precious resource--water--is how we will sustain growth in the future. This is one of the most important issues that the legislature can focus on to balance the needs of farmers and ranchers with the priorities of cities and towns.	Affordable housing is one of the greatest investments we can make, where we receive a 29:1 return on investment. Our elders deserve stable & desirable affordable housing. We must continue to expand at-home care & telehealth capabilities, & address high costs of lifesaving prescription drugs. I am a big supporter of Prescription Drug Affordability legislation that will standardize costs of medication and ensure that everyone can afford the life saving medications they need. Finally, we need to address easier & more universal access to transportation. Many of us have use Uber & Lyft as options, our aging population deserves a readily available option where they can request a ride in-person with the same ease technology provides.
 Henry Roybal (Democrat)	In my opinion, listening to our community members is the most important characteristic for this position. I have spent the last 8 years doing just that as the District 1 Santa Fe County Commissioner. This experience has been invaluable and has prepared me for this position. I also earned my degrees from Northern NM College and have worked in the government and private sector which also contributes to my experience.	We Need to invest and work on our children's education and opportunities. I'm appalled that we are 49 th in the country in education. Second, addressing drug addiction and mental illness in our communities. We need more behavior health facilities and experienced staff to help people with addictions and mental illness. The good news is, if we can address our educational system, I believe over the long term, we may see less and less people that need this assistance. And third, expanding broad band infrastructure. This will help provide economic, work, and telemedicine opportunities both in the rural areas as well as in the urban areas. I believe if our children can dream and see opportunity, it will make for healthier and safer communities.	Ranchers and farmers need a larger portion of water to survive, whether it is to provide water for their livestock or the corn or chile they are growing. This is where we can be smarter with the use of technology. By deploying broadband throughout the state, including the rural areas, farmers can take advantage of technological advancements in smart watering systems (that take much less water) and smart farming techniques. We are all in this together, whether you live in the city of the country, you want fresh vegetables and healthy proteins at your dinner table. The legislature can expand broadband deployment to rural areas and incentivize smart farming techniques.	Currently we have a department in state government called the New Mexico Aging and Long-Care Services. They do offer many services and manage capital outlay monies that are funded to help improve the lives of the elderly. Keeping this department fully funded is extremely important. Moreover, if we have this agency do listening sessions across the state and bring back those results to legislators so that we could look at funding the new programs for the elderly from listening to what is important and needed to them.




NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 46 (CONT.)

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. How have your prior experience and education prepared you for this position?	2. What three important issues would you plan to work on?	3. How can the legislature balance the needs of farmers and ranchers with the priorities of cities and towns?	4. What can be done to support the aging population, i.e., elderly housing, elder care, transportation?
 <p>Jay C. Groseclose (Republican)</p>	I am a native New Mexican and graduate of New Mexico State University. My career in water resources has enabled me to be qualified in the critical issues of water development and uses to sustain and enhance the ability of state to provide education, economic stability and growth that provides opportunities for all New Mexicans to achieve their personal goals and provide for their families. In a beautiful and magnificent climate that includes naturally restricted water resources, all New Mexicans deserve a government that enhances freedom and opportunity while protecting the constitutional rights upon which we are founded. Wise use and conservation of natural resources are critical to the future viability of rewarding lives in New Mexico.	Child abuse, crime and drug abuse are all critically wrapped in issues of behavioral health. New Mexico can do much better in providing behavioral health services to support its citizens. New Mexico needs to protect small businesses that provide opportunities for retention of high school and college graduates that we have been outsourcing to other states. A significant inhibition to businesses and industries is our severely punishing gross receipts tax system. Our educational system is failing New Mexico massively. More of our financial resources need to reach the classroom and overhead costs must be reduced. New Mexico needs to reestablish a broad range of vocational/technical education in high schools to increase student retention.	Watershed improvement is key to balancing needs of agriculture with municipal and industrial uses. Implementing water conservation practices in ag uses is low-hanging fruit for meeting M&I use in the near term if legislation addresses water right issues to facilitate the transfer of water between ag and M&I uses without diminishment of either through implementation of conservation. Funding mechanisms in state government are in place but are poorly utilized to address overall priorities, but may be inadequately funded. Reduction of ag water uses by conservation does not mean reduction of yields of food and fiber, but is an exercise to control unproductive losses. Long term development of desalinization of abundant saline sources is needed.	The support services required for the elderly are best met by local governments to prioritize expenditures. State government must not be an inhibition to local needs and priorities, thus state government functions can best meet needs by providing technical guidance and funding based on locally prioritized projects. Technical guidance is an area that is typically neglected. I believe that needs of the population are best addressed from the grass roots up rather than government imposed down. State government needs to focus on enabling local needs and ensuring that no critical need is overlooked.


NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 47

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. How have your prior experience and education prepared you for this position?	2. What three important issues would you plan to work on?	3. How can the legislature balance the needs of farmers and ranchers with the priorities of cities and towns?	4. What can be done to support the aging population, i.e., elderly housing, elder care, transportation?
 <p>Reena C. Szczepanski (Democrat)</p>	For nearly 20 years I have worked in public policy in our state – first as an advocate for public health and drug policy reform, then as leader of an organization that trains Democratic women to run for office, and most recently, as the Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the House. I am also the daughter of immigrants from India. I grew up in a working-class family, and I worked hard to complete my education at Brown University in community health. I am a mother, a sister, and a wife. My work in the legislature has contributed to major victories for working families, our environment, women, and children. I know how to get things done in the Roundhouse for Santa Fe, and I will work hard and engage our community in the process.	Voters have already spoken with me about so many issues. I am ready to help. 1) Our community needs access to affordable healthcare with shorter wait times for appointments, including behavioral healthcare. Santa Fe families shouldn't have to wait a year for a specialist, or wait months for primary care. 2) We must address climate change, and New Mexico has a unique opportunity to be a national leader on this. The fires raging across our state right now serve as a grim reminder of the risks we are facing as a community and as a planet. 3) We must continue to grow and diversify our economy, to ensure that our families have the opportunity for great jobs with a career path upwards and that NM has a solid financial future.	It's important for legislators to travel the state and ask communities about their needs, while also looking for common ground. I'm lucky to have crisscrossed our state for almost 2 decades, and I see that we have so much more in common with each other than we may realize. For example, we can look for opportunities to build infrastructure that will address each community's needs, and avoid a one-size-fits-all approach. There are communities across the state and even in our own District 47 that are struggling with access to clean water, broadband, and electricity. We can work on that, while we also address the need for community resources, affordable housing and green space within the city of Santa Fe. Listening and learning are the keys.	This is such an important issue for Santa Fe – family is important to us, especially our aging parents and relatives. We need to boost the healthcare workforce so that seniors can access the best quality healthcare and receive timely care. We also need to address the rising costs of housing. Seniors need affordable options for living in our community with the care they need, so they can remain near their loved ones and maintain their quality of life. The costs of in-home care and assistance are also rising, so we need to make sure caregivers have the best training and are affordable for seniors and their families. Meals, transportation, and companionship/community are also critical for senior wellness.


NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 48

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. How have your prior experience and education prepared you for this position?	2. What three important issues would you plan to work on?	3. How can the legislature balance the needs of farmers and ranchers with the priorities of cities and towns?	4. What can be done to support the aging population, i.e., elderly housing, elder care, transportation?
 <p>Tara L. Lujan (Democrat)</p>	My family, education, and professional experiences prepared me for the diverse skill set necessary to succeed. I attribute the foundational ethics I learned to the education and rearing from my multi-generational family. My mother emphasized the importance of education and my grandmother to public service and community. I honed in on the values of social environmental advocacy, visual arts, and the love of science that I used to earn a bachelor's degree in science/premed and fine arts. My work experience in the fields of the medical industry, political public policy, and human resources provided a balance of practical/common sense fluency I use to address and understand the extensive amount of information and work a legislator must incur.	I have been and will continue to focus working on: diversifying our economy to be sustainable and equitable through green economic strategies; improving and creating more accessible behavioral health systems that create better health outcomes for individuals and their families; and working on education issues for fair equitable practices with measurable outcomes. In relation to those initiatives, in the 2022 regular session I carried pieces of legislation including: House Bill 52, the Harm Reduction Bill; House Bill 3,Community Energy Efficiency DEV Block Grant; House Joint Resolution 2, Environmental Rights; and House Memorial 48, the STEM Career Pipeline Study.	We can balance the needs through a more equitable scope of practice. If we are to address the needs in a formidable way we have to meet and understand the functional changing environmental needs of our farmers and ranchers alongside those we are facing in cities and towns (as drought will continue to influence all growth and development) and work to implement adaptive conservation concepts. All stakeholders have to work together to adapt to the changing climate demands that we are facing.	We have to invest in affordable housing for our seniors and work with the state Mortgage Finance Authority and our local governments. There are pathways to address how we can do this through our NM tax code and state budget. I have co-sponsored legislation and invested state dollars in a study of the Healthcare Act that could create an affordable medical care model that will support the needs of our growing aging population as well at the medical service needs of all of us.

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 50


THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. How have your prior experience and education prepared you for this position?	2. What three important issues would you plan to work on?	3. How can the legislature balance the needs of farmers and ranchers with the priorities of cities and towns?	4. What can be done to support the aging population, i.e., elderly housing, elder care, transportation?
 <p>Matthew McQueen (Democrat)</p>	I'm a husband, a parent, a businessperson, and an attorney. After attending public K-12 schools, I received a BA (Political Science & Environmental Studies), MS (Natural Resources Policy), MBA, and JD. In the legislature, we're expected to vote on a wide range of issues, and I think I have a well-rounded background that has prepared me for that.	My “three e's”: Education, Ethics, & Economic Development. (And to add a fourth e, my personal passion: Environment.)	My professional area of expertise is conservation easements, which are voluntary private land protection agreements that can help farmers and ranchers keep their land in production while providing financial compensation. The Legislature has done a good job creating a robust program of (transferrable!) land conservation tax incentives.	Developing the medical field in New Mexico not only helps our aging population but also is good economic development.

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 70

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. How have your prior experience and education prepared you for this position?	2. What three important issues would you plan to work on?	3. How can the legislature balance the needs of farmers and ranchers with the priorities of cities and towns?	4. What can be done to support the aging population, i.e., elderly housing, elder care, transportation?
 <p>Anita Amalia Gonzales (Democrat)</p>	As a native New Mexican born in Las Vegas, I care deeply about our community. My family has left a legacy of strength and service that I am honored to preserve. I am a proud graduate of NM Highlands with a Masters in Business Administration, and I currently am the Deputy Director for NM MESA - a program that empowers its students with STEM Enrichment to reach their full potential as leaders and that helps to build the future workforce for New Mexico. I also serve as an Acequia Commissioner and have multiple volunteer roles in the community. I believe that my background in education, business, water, and within our community will help me truly give the constituents of HD 70 the representation that they deserve.	1: Education-With my background as a STEM Educator, I will use data driven policy and professional experience to make much needed, substantive investments in public and higher education. I believe that every child deserves a quality education. 2: Healthcare-Rural areas need access to quality medical services and affordable care and we need an increase in our quality healthcare workforce capacity. 3: Community Development and Workers Rights-We must strengthen and safeguard our local community to make it a place to survive and thrive. Average families are struggling as a result of poor government policy. I am ready to stand up for hard-working New Mexicans to drive up wages and get workers and retirees the benefits they deserve.	The urban/rural divide in New Mexico is all too real, and it is critical that we meet the needs of both farming communities as well as cities and towns that are looking to responsibly scale up and grow. As a strong supporter of agriculture, I would support using the extra money in the budget to continue helping subsidizing wages for farmers throughout the State and support policy that encouraged and supported the industry. I would also advocate funding key local/municipal programs in our cities such as multi-generational centers, public parks, youth sports, and senior centers. Both of these needs are great and we need to be fiscally responsible across the board to make sure we can fund them appropriately.	We absolutely have to look out for the aging population, and work with AARP and related advocacy groups in doing so. I would make it a priority to properly fund the NM Retiree Healthcare Authority and expand Medicaid by supporting the Health Securities Act. PERA and ERB pension needs continued work to fulfill the promises made to public employees and educators. We need to work to make long term care affordable and accessible through policy and expanding healthcare options. As mentioned in the previous answer, I also support funding critical senior programs through “Junior Money” and capital outlay that will help seniors get the activities and resources they need to continue to live successful and productive lives.
Ambrose M. Castellano (Democrat)	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED


NEW MEXICO JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT POSITION 1

Justice of the Supreme Court serves as one of five justices on the highest court in New Mexico. It is the court of last resort and has supervisory control over all lesser courts and attorneys licensed in the state. Required to hear appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, election challenges and criminal cases when a defendant is sentenced to the death penalty or life imprisonment. Has discretionary authority to review rulings of the Court of Appeals and questions of law certified to it by the Court of Appeals or federal court. Must be 35 years old, have practiced law for 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Elected statewide for eight-year term.


THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission?	2. What qualifies you for this position?	3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?	4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?
 <p>Julie J. Vargas (Democrat)</p>	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	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.	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.	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.



NEW MEXICO JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT POSITION 1 (CONT.)




THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission?	2. What qualifies you for this position?	3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?	4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?
 Thomas C. Montoya (Republican)	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.	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.	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.	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.

NEW MEXICO JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT POSITION 2


THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission?	2. What qualifies you for this position?	3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?	4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?
 Briana H. Zamora (Democrat)	Yes, I was recommended by the Bi-Partisan Judicial Nominating Commission for this position and appointed by the Governor.	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.	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.	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.
Kerry J. Morris (Republican)	No.	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.	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.	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

NEW MEXICO JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS POSITION 1

Judge of the Court of Appeals serves as one of ten judges on the intermediate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court. Judges sit in panels of three. Court reviews appeals in all cases, except criminal cases involving sentences of death or life imprisonment, appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, and cases involving habeas corpus. Must be 35 years old, have practiced law for 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Elected statewide for eight-year term.

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission?	2. What qualifies you for this position?	3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?	4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?
 Gerald Edward Baca (Democrat)	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.	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.	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.	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 (write-in) (Libertarian)	No.	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.	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.	Speedier resolution of cases. More backbone to stand up and enforce the constitution against the other branches of government.
 Barbara V. Johnson (Republican)	Yes, for a District Court Judgeship. However, I was not appointed by the Governor.	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.	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.	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.

NEW MEXICO JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS POSITION 2

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission?	2. What qualifies you for this position?	3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?	4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?
 Katherine Anne Wray (Democrat)	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.	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.	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.	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	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

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May 11: Santa Fe County Sheriff

May 12: Magistrate Court candidates Division 2

May 16: State House of Representatives

Submit questions at santafenewmexican.com/voters

NEW MEXICO JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS POSITION 2 (CONT.)

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. Have you been endorsed by the Judicial Nominating Commission?	2. What qualifies you for this position?	3. What policies are needed to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?	4. What improvements, if any, are needed in the Supreme Court?
 Gertrude Lee (Republican)	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.	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.	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.	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.



SANTA FE COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE DIVISION 2

Four-year term. The 54 Magistrate Courts have limited jurisdiction, hearing cases with claims up to \$10,000 in tort, contract, and landlord/tenant civil cases, plus misdemeanor, DWI/DUI and other traffic violations. Magistrate Judges also conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases. There are 67 Magistrate Judges. Minimum qualifications: at least 18 years of age, resident of the district, high school graduation or equivalent.

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. How have training, professional experience and interests prepared you for this office?	2. What policies are necessary to keep the judiciary free of political influence?	3. What, if any, changes to the laws would you support to assure fair treatment for everyone?	4. What can be done to eliminate the judicial backlog?
 Melissa Y. Mascarenas (Democrat)	I have over 30 years of experience and training in the legal field. After I graduated from the College of Santa Fe with a Bachelor Degree in Business Public Administration I began my career with the First Judicial District Court as a Court Monitor. While employed with the court I was able to observe various types of hearings such as Criminal, Childrens Court, Civil and Domestic cases. This is valuable knowledge. I had the pleasure of working with Judges, attorneys and the public for 9 years. I worked for 4 years at the NM Supreme Court as a Paralegal. I finished my career with the NM Environment Department where I worked as a Advanced Paralegal and a Chief Records Manager for over 17 years. I am passionate about helping people.	It is very important to keep the judiciary free of political influence by making sure that judges aren't accepting money to do favors for the public. There should be total transparency when it comes to making sure that rules are being followed so that everyone has a fair hearing. It is important to elect people who have very high standards and ethics into judge positions so that the community isn't harmed by misdeeds. As a judge you should not concern yourself as to what political party a person belongs to. You should follow the law and weigh the evidence as is required. Everyone that comes into your court should be treated fair and equal. It is important that there is training provided to the judges on a yearly basis.	Fair treatment for everyone is very important to make sure that no one is being discriminated against. There should be a way to monitor this and make the needed corrections when necessary. And if a judge is doing something illegal, they should be held accountable.	The first way to eliminate the judicial backlog is to work hard as a judge. Figure out the best course of action to take and get things back on track. I believe that having programs such as drug courts, counseling for domestic violence, community service and peer mentoring can help with the backlog. Speeding tickets and small moving violations could be sent to a drivers education program so that it can be a learning experience. Also, providing workshops on landlord tenant issues. Having a mediation program might also work for property disputes. I am willing to look at how to improve the system while making sure that everyone gets a fair hearing. Treating all judicial employees with respect and appreciation.
 John A. Baca (Democrat)	I previously held positions as a clerk and court manager where I was given the opportunity and privilege of gaining 18 years of Magistrate Judicial experience. During that time I was eager to learn every aspect of the court system, and I strived to obtain the necessary knowledge to be able to contribute to the judicial system in a larger way. I attended and engaged myself in the state judicial conferences that were mandated by the Magistrate Court Division. I later had the privilege of serving 8 years with the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office as a deputy reserve. The experience and knowledge I gained seeing both sides of the law enforced, as a deputy and judicial court manager, was invaluable and allowed me to grow in both areas of the law	Following the judicial code of ethic and the canons that are set out by the NM State Supreme Court. I'd like to really emphasize that my number one priority would be to assure that everyone who enters the courtroom be treated equally and fairly regardless of status, regardless of the policies set out, I would not allow political influence to control my decision making.	Judges don't make the laws. Assuring both sides are heard in court and making a judgement on what is presented in court. Everyone needs to be treated fairly and that should be the priority of any Judge. Judges have to support all laws and govern as laid out by the New Mexico State Legislature.	To incorporate the lessons that we have learned during this pandemic with virtual hearings and continuing to expand on how we could implement these usages better for the court system. I think it is important to work towards creating an environment that is attractive to work in. Creating opportunities for growth and advancement. Doing this will allow the hiring and retention of quality court clerks. Providing clerks with the proper training so they have the tools and confidence to be able to work effectively and efficiently. Building morale in the work place and keeping the clerks happy is important because they are the ones who make the court look and perform well. All of the things mentioned above would help eliminate the judicial backlog
 Dev Atma Singh Khalsa (Democrat)	I have worked as attorney at the DA's for nearly 3 years, logged nearly 4000 appearances in magistrate court, and managed between 80 and 140 cases at any given moment. I have always sought to aid the court in its truth-seeking function. I have dismissed any cases that had no merit, or that clearly violated a defendant's rights. I have experience going the extra mile. I was able to secure funding a start a new treatment court in Espanola. My interest is in seeking truth and developing the court's capacity for service to the public as outlined in my THRIVE plan. Informed people make better choices, and save taxpayers a lot of money. I hope to create the circle of trust in our basic institutions that is so needed at this time.	The judicial and political are intertwined the world over. The Founders' solution was lifetime appointments. While campaigning, I have found it inspiring to connect with people, and to realize how aware New Mexicans are of their history. I don't think we would favor any kind of top-down tinkering with what we have. For example, while it can seem strange to elect judges, I don't think we want to hand a blanket appointment power to the executive branch. At the magistrate level, especially in rural areas, it makes sense why we keep the courts open to a popular contest. It promotes accountability. This should be a "court for the people," and that is why my "Let's THRIVE, Santa Fe!" campaign has been developed with increased service in mind.	Fairness starts with enabling everyone to make good choices. So: 1. A massive increase in public education funding. I will leave that to the legislature. 2. A substantial pay raise for state employees. The staff I work with at the DA's, and the staff at the courts, are immensely burdened. Many help crime victims process grief in a time of sudden loss. They should be compensated better than Becky at Domino's. No one gets the job done without support. So fairness, too, is established not by top-down directives, but by lending support where it is needed. To this end, I will seek to hire a fulltime, bilingual paralegal (independent from the court) to educate, make referrals, and help people make good decisions. TRANSPARENCY is a promise.	The answer is diligence (which is why experience matters). But please understand it is not the court but the parties that ultimately drive the efficiency of the process. That said, I plan to make the parties accountable. 1. Rights-focused DWI case management. This means outlining two clear tracks for cases, one aimed at simple plea deals (where no major issues at stake), the other at ensuring a fair trial for the accused. 2. Address the roots of domestic violence. NM is 2d in the US for DV homicides. We must stop these crimes before they escalate. Programs are already at work in NM (notably Taos) to center DV cases. I will launch a similar program in SF within 1 year. We owe it to each other to do what has been shown to work.
 Michael R. Roybal (Democrat)	I am currently employed with the First Judicial District Court, as the court monitor for Judge Jason Lidyard. I am involved in various cases, including criminal, civil, probate, guardianship, and sequestered cases, among others. The cases range in severity from a straightforward landlord/tenant dispute up to quadruple homicide. This position allows me first-hand knowledge of the issues facing our community. I am responsible for attending hearings, handling evidence, drafting orders, communicating with the public and counsel, and managing the Judge's calendar. My experience in this area requires a high attention to detail and the ability to adapt quickly. It is important to get involved, roll up your sleeves, and make a positive impact.	As an elected official who serves the community in the capacity as a judge, it is important for the judiciary to be free from any political influence. All judges are monitored for compliance of and adherence to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Judges must hear and decide cases before them on the basis of the facts and evidence presented, in accordance with the law, all while maintaining impartiality. Judges should be individuals with integrity, appropriate qualifications and trusted by the community. When elected, I will agree to and abide by the Judicial Code of Conduct and the ethical principles established within it. The Code of Conduct sets forth ethical guidelines that judges must follow. There is no need or purpose for a political agenda.	In 2017, New Mexico passed a law that changed how bonds were handled in the courts. This change reduced the judge's ability to keep dangerous individuals behind bars while awaiting trial. Now, a person can commit a violent crime and, based upon the standards within the pre-trial detention rules, can be found to be not dangerous and released from custody and back into society. The state must prove the defendant is a danger, and there are no conditions of release that can ensure the safety of the victim, the community or the individual themselves. Certain conditions of release that may be appropriately considered, such as electronic monitoring with GPS and other monitoring devices, but the flaw in this law should not be lost on the public.	Delayed justice is no justice. It is important to have strong leaders and staff in the court. Prosecutors and defense attorneys are required to process their cases in a timely manner. Cases will be monitored by monthly docket reviews to ensure no case "falls through the cracks". Once elected, I will personally review each case in Division 2 to ensure that they have not been pending for more than one year. For cases that exceed this timeframe, I will set the matter for a status hearing to determine the source of the delay and continue the progress toward resolution. Once elected, there will be no task too big or small. Given my experience with the courts, I have the knowledge and ability to help with the administrative portion of the work.


SANTA FE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

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

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What prior experience and education prepared you for this position?	2. What is the most pressing problem in Santa Fe County?	3. What are your suggestions for reducing violent crime?	4. Do you support creating dedicated open spaces for people experiencing homelessness? Explain.
 Justin S. Greene (Democrat)	For close to 30 years, my wife Sandra and I have lived, volunteered, led initiatives, and built successful businesses like Dashing Delivery in Santa Fe. I've used my MBA from UNM and expertise in economic development and urban planning on revitalization projects like the conversion of Camel Rock into a film studio, the Santa Fe Railyard redevelopment, and the Ft. Marcy Dog Park. With a district that includes 5 tribal nations and spans from Chimayo into the City, my experience on the RediNet board, Pueblo of Tesuque Development Corporation, and the Santa Fe Planning Commission taught me where the issues are in our County and how we can work together to solve our unique, complicated issues. Learn even more by visiting www.justingreene.com	Housing. The County cannot solely carry the burden of sprawl when the City produces the majority of the need. We also cannot ignore the impacts of growth on our limited water supply. The housing issue is related to other pressing issues such as public safety and economic development. Santa Fe's lack of affordable housing for our workforce hinders the recruitment and retention of staff throughout government, front line workers, and our major industries (arts, hospitality, technology, film). Housing can take many forms but we need to work on Santa Fe's sustainable regional planning via the Regional Planning Organization, encourage public/private partnerships to address housing shortcomings, and help the City update the General Plan.	It's time to start addressing the root causes of crime and that starts with addressing economic and social inequality. If everyone had access to a good paying job, safe and affordable housing, quality childcare and educational opportunities - we would watch our crime rates plummet. We can help alleviate law enforcement's struggle to fill positions by expanding drug treatment programs and investing in innovative solutions like specialized mobile units with social workers and public health professionals to assist in non-violent and behavioral calls. Finally, we can further deter crime and build a stronger community by ensuring our first responders, teachers, and mental health professionals have access to affordable housing in Santa Fe.	The pandemic, just like homelessness, is something no one sees coming but we can all acknowledge people's lack of access to stable employment and the continued rising inflation of consumer goods and housing will continue to exacerbate this issue. Although a dedicated space for a homeless encampment isn't ideal, it does allow the community to establish a centralized location that can be used to provide 'wrap around' services to address underlying issues causing homelessness in our community. This solution can be quicker than developing a new facility, costs much less, and can be temporary as needs shift in the community.
 Jon Paul Romero (Democrat)	My prior experience begins with me being born and raised in Santa Fe County District 1. My education is K-12 at Pojoaque Valley School District, class of 1986. I then went on to earn a BS in Civil Engineering from the UNM in 1994. In 2009, I was first elected to the Pojoaque Valley School District Board of Education where I have served 3 consecutive terms from 2009 to 2021, while I was on the BOE, I was elected president of the board for 5 consecutive years. The PVSD has over 1800 students, 250 employees and a \$28M budget. My work and experience over my career has prepared me to be a county commissioner for my community and district 1 in Santa Fe County, so that I may represent Santa Fe County to the best of my abilities.	There are many issues that we face in Santa Fe County, but I think the biggest issue that needs to be addressed that will have the biggest impact is that of being able to maintain a quality of life within district 1. So, individuals can continue to live within their cultural and traditional ways of life, such as irrigation and farming of the lands, maintaining quality roads, maintaining clean drinking water, if that be from a well or a regional water system, continue land use codes that allow for proper growth within Santa County District 1.	I think to reduce crime is a three (3) tiered process; 1st is to increase funding for the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office to increase manpower and patrols throughout the county and district 1, 2nd develop strategies that will better educate and prepare individuals to be vigilante to help detect and report suspicious activities and report them to the authorities and 3rd to continue to educate and inform the community of ways to help in the prevention of crimes.	As a commissioner, I believe that we must provide individuals that are in need, a place to live so that they are not on the streets. If that is a designated area of open space so that they can set up a place of shelter to live until they get back on their feet again. We as humans we must try and provide for the less fortunate as we move forward in these current events that we face.



SANTA FE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 (CONT.)

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What prior experience and education prepared you for this position?	2. What is the most pressing problem in Santa Fe County?	3. What are your suggestions for reducing violent crime?	4. Do you support creating dedicated open spaces for people experiencing homelessness? Explain.
 Orlando Alfonso Romero (Democrat)	With extensive private sector and government experience, I can hit the ground running and do not need on the job training. Experience includes constituent Services Liaison for outgoing Dist. I County Commissioner Henry Roybal working with the constituents daily throughout this diverse rural and urban district including the Cities of Santa Fe and Espanola and four tribal governments. I have the experience to make government work for the people also having served as Deputy Chief of Staff in the Governor's office, Director of the Community Development Block Grant program serving the 33-counties and 99 cities in the state; Chief of Staff for the NM Public Regulation Commission, and the State Cash Manager/Director of the NM State Treasurer's office.	IT STARTS AND ENDS WITH WATER and the need for sustainability. It is crucial that we work with the Cities of Santa Fe and Espanola to ensure their water needs are met, as well as the continued traditional uses of water in the rural area via acequias and wells. If elected, I would request appointment to the Buckman Direct Diversion Board that oversees drinking water for the city and parts of District I. I am knowledgeable about the water issues in the Pojoaque River Basin and the Aamondt Water Settlement	Public safety and the quality of life are critical to the well-being of Santa Fe County. The southern part of District I is primarily within the city limits of Santa Fe and is under the jurisdiction of the city police. Except for tribal police, the area north of the city limits to Espanola is the responsibility of the Santa Fe County Sheriff. I support providing adequate resources for the Sheriff's Department, to ensure the hiring of deputies at proper levels, proper trainings, as well as for state-of-the-art digital communications and other technology that will enhance coordination and cooperation among local, state, tribal and other federal law enforcement agencies.	Homelessness is a heartbreaking crisis. It is everywhere but appears concentrated in the urban areas. Having an open space in a rural area far from medical, food, and other services is not reasonable. In the metro the location of such an open space is a concern as most residents do not want the issues the homeless bring to their neighborhoods. If a suitable location can be identified, and meets with community support, I would favor that approach.

SANTA FE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. What prior experience and education prepared you for this position?	2. What is the most pressing problem in Santa Fe County?	3. What are your suggestions for reducing violent crime?	4. Do you support creating dedicated open spaces for people experiencing homelessness? Explain.
 Camilla M. Bustamante (Democrat)	I have committed 30 years of my life to the betterment of community in our culturally and geographically unique region. My experience in higher education as a professor and academic dean placed me in leadership roles that allowed me to steward the goals and achievements of others. Trained as an environmental scientist with advanced degrees in environmental epidemiology and health education, I understand the scope of the challenges we face in these times-as well as ways to communicate those issues most affecting our communities. Interwoven in my professional life has been a commitment to work within the community by engaging diverse voices and partnerships in the interest of solving community issues.	Water quantity and quality continues to be the issue of most concern in Santa Fe County. Both as a citizen in the rural community of La Cienega and in my profession I have witnessed a significant drop in the water table and increased risk to water quality. I am committed to continued work within the universe of coalitions and community groups who serve to protect this critical asset. I will continue to leverage relationships between those who have expertise in water issues so that collectively we can all work toward the best solutions.	Research shows that investment in community resources that provide place-based opportunities for personal development and social interaction have less violent crime. These resources may include summer employment opportunities, social activities, and support services to engage disinvested community members. Connected communities have less crime and I will employ community engagement strategies for this purpose and for the purpose of improving the quality of life. Unfortunately, reducing violent crime and addressing violent crime as a community are both necessary - it remains important for community members to be informed on how to protect themselves and work collectively to reduce crime in our area.	The homelessness crisis is much more complicated. Though not all homeless are affected by mental illness, since the 1980s this has been a major factor for most who live on our streets. Though I have never heard of "open space" as a solution for this problem, I do understand that people require infrastructure and support services to have stability and an improved quality of life. Creating inclusive spaces where individuals have support to live with dignity and respect is the ideal place-based solution, and I am committed to working toward such efforts.
Rudy Nelson Garcia (Democrat)	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED	NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
 Chris Rivera (Democrat)	I have spent my adult life as a public servant. I spent 24 years in the City of Santa Fe Fire Department where I served as a firefighter/paramedic and retired as the Fire Chief in 2010. In 2012 I was elected to serve as a City Councilor representing District #3. As a City Councilor I am a part of a team of elected officials and city staff that helps to set policy regarding City matters and managing an operating budget of over 100 million dollars.I am uniquely qualified to advance collaboration between the City and the County, which is sorely needed. I have a certificate from Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education in "Senior Executives in State and Local Government" and an Associates Degree in Business Administration and Para-medicine	Securing water for generations to come is the most pressing problem for Santa Fe County. Though we have the Buckman Direct Diversion and the city as a back-up source, it is still not an unlimited supply. We need to ensure that we are being aggressive with our conservation efforts both for residential and commercial users. We also need to ensure that as population grows and more homes are being built that we are considering green building codes and giving builders and home buyers rebates for utilizing water conservation appliances and landscape plans that require the least amount of water possible .We need to work with the city to diversify our water sources and look for new and effective ways to make use of the water that we currently have	One of the basic ways to help reduce violent crime is to provide the Sheriff's office with the funding and resources needed to hire as many officers as needed to serve the entire county. Another way is to ensure that the county is responding to calls for service in the appropriate manner. One example may be to ensure that the right resources are dispatched to calls for mental health, which may not necessarily require a law enforcement response. Another example would be to make it less of a priority to stop vehicles with burnt out signals or cracked windshields. Both of these examples would increase the availability of officers for response to more violent crimes. Lastly would be to ensure we have competitive pay and benefits.	I do support creating dedicated open space for people experiencing homelessness as long as it is done with safety and consideration for everyone involved including the public. I support open spaces because it gives homeless persons a place that they can go and feel safe as compared to the alternative of camping in an arroyo or in the forest where an open fire could be disastrous. It allows for areas that can be secured and maintained and can allow homeless persons access to bathroom and other facilities. Having the homeless in a specific area could lead to better wrap around services such as social workers or counseling services if needed.


SANTA FE COUNTY SHERIFF

Four-year term. The Sheriff enforces the provisions of all county ordinances; aids in the arrest and detention of escaped prisoners; and serves and executes all process, writs, and orders directed to him/her by magistrate judges and certain others directed by municipal judges. Minimum qualifications: at least 18 years of age and a legal resident and elector of New Mexico.

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. Why do you want this position and what are your qualifications?	2. What qualifications would you prioritize in hiring additional officers?	3. What factors should be considered when dealing with a possible mental health issue?	What are your suggestions for limiting gun violence in the county?
 David J. Webb (Democrat)	I have dedicated my life to public safety, and I believe in progressive policing. I have seen Law Enforcement evolve over my career, and I'm running for Sheriff because I know we can do better; do better by the people we serve, do better by our deputies, and do better with our partner agencies. I have served as a Dispatcher, Public Safety Aide, Deputy, Police Officer, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. I have also served as a Field Training Officer, Master Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor, Bicycle Officer, Motorcycle Officer, and General Police Instructor. I have received training as a Public Information Officer, as well as multiple trainings in leadership at the First Line Supervisor, Police Command, and Police Executive levels.	As a leader in my profession, I understand that the hiring process must be stringent. This profession is not for everyone. As Sheriff, I will prioritize the hiring process to individuals who show interest in public service and display values that prove to be beneficial to the community and Law Enforcement. Qualifications I will seek are honesty, integrity, respect, leadership, and a dedication to serve the community. Having core values provides a foundation for not only who you are as a person, but how you navigate through life and conduct yourself on a daily basis. If elected as Sheriff of Santa Fe County, I will continue to lead by example and exemplify these core values to all citizens and department members.	Dealing with persons affected by mental illness is an area that I care about deeply. Training in this area is imperative, but also, building partnerships with experts in this field is crucial. Having empathy to those who are suffering from mental illness is incredibly important. Taking time, building rapport, and trying to understand what the individual is experiencing, will better assist Law Enforcement in de-escalating and resolving these situations. Many times in these situations, family or caretakers can be helpful in understanding the person, and what may aid or assist in a successful resolution. Training and fostering partnerships around mental illness, will better assist Law Enforcement, and build trust within the community.	Gun violence not just in our community, but nationwide, has risen to a dangerous level. Although we speak of the weapons used when committing crimes, we must go further, and identify the root cause. To limit gun violence, we must address the issues around these crimes. Pursuing those who manufacture and sell narcotics, and provide resources to those who use, is also important. With guns, we need to do a better job of documenting, tracking, and analyzing weapons seized by Law Enforcement to identify where the guns are coming from, and we need to prosecute felons who are found to be in possession. This will not only provide a better picture of the illegal sales of the weapons, but also discourage people from possessing them.
 Adan Mendoza (Democrat)	I believe I have the experience, credentials, and record of accomplishment to continue serving as Santa Fe County Sheriff. My academic and public service qualifications along with my policy initiatives make me the best-qualified candidate to be your Sheriff. Bachelor of Arts, Criminology, UNM, 1995; Graduate, NM Law Enforcement Academy, 1998; nearly 25-years in law enforcement and administration; elected sheriff in 2018. As Sheriff, I have worked tirelessly to strengthen public safety, increase deputy salaries, and initiate public policies to improve policing. If voters provide me the privilege to serve a second term, I will work to expand programming, ensure accreditation of the agency, and upgrade radio communication technologies.	Recruitment and retention are essential priorities for my second term as Sheriff and it has been a priority during this term. Times are challenging for the law enforcement profession, and recruitment is a difficulty we must contend with. Deputy sheriffs need to possess several fundamental qualities. Honesty and integrity are essential. Deputies must demonstrate good judgment along with good communication skills. Our agency seeks to employ persons who hold these qualities. I believe that our deputy sheriffs and their job, responding to dangerous situations and engaging members of our community, are crucial to keeping Santa Fe County safe and making it safer for the greater community. We will continue seeking out the best and brightest.	When deputies respond to incidents where a person is suffering from a mental health crisis, the safety of the individual is the utmost priority for that deputy. Police officers are not trained mental health professionals but are often the first responders on the scene at an incident. As Sheriff, I have worked during my first term to help initiate the county's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program. LEAD is a public safety program providing deputies a vehicle to divert individuals to community-based health services instead of arrest, jail, and prosecution. The LEAD program is vital to the county's behavioral health strategic plan. I will work to expand this program in my second term.	Gun violence is rising. It is a public health crisis. Law enforcement agencies need to identify problem areas in communities where surges in gun violence occur and we need to collaborate to engage those criminals perpetrating violent acts. Law enforcement agencies must share information and work together to identify those victimizing the communities and hold them accountable. Communities need to engage our youth and offer beneficial alternatives before they engage in gang activity. Firearm access to youth must be reduced. Keeping guns out of the hands of those who are violent is essential. We need to work with families and the community to get guns off the streets and ensure that justice is swift when gun violence is involved.

SANTA FE COUNTY ASSESSOR

Four-year term. The County Assessor is responsible for the tax related valuation of all county property, with certain exceptions, and prepares a periodic property tax schedule. Minimum qualifications: at least 18 years of age and a legal elector and resident of New Mexico.

THE LEAGUE ASKED:	1. Describe the qualifications and pertinent experience that have prepared you to be the County Assessor.	2. What is the biggest challenge to the County Assessor's office and how would you address it?	3. How do you plan to maintain fairness and transparency in property valuation?	4. What primary methods would you use to value new construction?
 Isaiah F. Romero (Democrat)	Through my 21 years in the Santa Fe County Assessor's Office, I have worked my way from a Field Auditor to Appraiser, and now the Chief Commercial Appraiser. I have built my knowledge in appraisal, my understanding of leadership and ability to navigate through difficult situations. I am a New Mexico Certified Appraiser and have managed some of the most difficult evaluation accounts within the office. I have attended many courses in appraisal and training in leadership within government. I count myself blessed to have experienced and learned from the three previous assessors who have accomplished and achieved an office of excellence. As a coach, Maradomo, and leader in my church, I have learned more of what people value in Santa Fe County.	I believe the biggest challenge is the shortage of staff and the retirement of some of the key members within the office. The office has experienced much success and we are now met with the obstacle of training new staff to carry on the work that has been accomplished by those ready to retire. To address the issue, I hope to cross-train current staff and help make the Assessor's Office an attractive place to work. Technology has also been a useful tool for our office and has helped us achieve the goals we have accomplished. Many technological possibilities may also help us solve this issue and help us continue as an office of excellence.	The Assessor's Office values property in the masses utilizing homogeneous neighborhoods within a mass appraisal system. As the Assessor, a goal of the office will be to continue to seek data and train our appraisers to ensure taxpayers' values are fair and equitable. Our office will also continue to offer as much data as possible online and accessible in various forms of communication to ensure all demographics are reached. I believe this is another avenue where technological advancements will help us to excel in these areas.	As an Appraiser, the value you achieve is only as good as the information you have in hand. In appraisal, there are generally three methods to value real estate, the Sales Comparison Approach, the Income Approach, and the Cost Approach. Depending on the type of property, your data may be limited to place weight equally on each of these methods. As an Appraiser, I would choose the method that has the best data to defend the value when appraising in mass.

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