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

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

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Voter Guide to the 2020 General Election

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

The President is the head of the state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and, the Commander-in-Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and are subject to the War Powers Act and the Budget and Accounting Act. The President is not a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives, and he is not subject to any other officers or proceedings of Congress.

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

1. The candidate must be listed on your state’s public-announced ballot.
2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act’s minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying as a candidate.
3. The candidate must be listed on your state’s publicly available on the Federal Elections Commission website.
4. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to be a viable nationally elective choice.

The League asked:

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

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

3. How will you address the effects of the pandemic in our country on day one of your administration?

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

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

Donald J. Trump (Republican)

No response received

Joe Biden (Democrat)

Pandemic. Recession. Redistribute. Climate change. We’re facing historic crises, and we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I’ll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we’re never so unprepared again. With the Affordable Care Act, we lowered costs and making health care a right for all. I’ll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I’ll save the energy industry, increase energy security, and close the gap in student loans and getting caregivers the money and pay they deserve.

Abedon Lopez Community Center – 155A Camino De Quintana, Santa Fe

Christian Life Church – 1215 St Johns Road, Santa Fe

Town of Edgewood Administrative Office – STA ST 2644, Edgewood

Pajarito Mountains Coalition – 5 W. Gutierrez St., Ste. 7, Pajarito Missile Plaza

San Juan County Fair – 3229 Ba-

Southwest Energy Office – 6559 Jazzy Dr., Santa Fe

Tuesday, November 3: General Election. Vote Centers are open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. All Absentee ballots are physically due back to the County Clerk’s Office no later than 7:00 pm. Mail your absentee ballot back to the County Clerk as soon as you can, but no later than October 27 to ensure it arrives before 7:00 pm on Election Day.

Voting Information

If you’ve changed your address or your party affiliation, you should register to vote. Apply in person at the County Clerk’s Office, by mail, or online. An appointment is necessary for you to register at the San Juan County Clerk’s Offi-

c. Voting at the Center, you will be asked for your name, address as registered, and year of birth. If you cannot provide this information orally, or if you registered by mail or online, you must supply documents that show your name and current address. With the exceptions noted here, no physical voter identification is required at the polling place.

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

Voter Information Online

The LWVSC Vote Guide 2020 is available at www.lwvs.com. You can also visit the website at www.Vote411.org for a site you can use to find information on candidates in your area. Voter Information Online and the League of Women Voters of New Mexico Voter Guide editor enable you to search the League’s website within the prescribed space limits. We do not allow it. The League assumes no responsibility for the content of any candidate’s reply.

With thanks

We would like to thank the League of Women Voters of New Mexico Voter Guide editor Olga Gutierrez for her assistance in compiling this guide. We also thank the League of Women Voters of the United States, the San Juan County Clerk’s Office and the Secretary of State’s office provided necessary and helpful information.

We also thank the Santa Fe New Mexican for their support and help in printing and distributing the Voter Guide.
Bob Walsh (Liberal)

The League asked: Congress should be held accountable for its inaction to help the American people weather the COVID-19 pandemic. The time is long overdue for Congress to act in the public interest to help those who are most vulnerable. Instead, Congress is focusing on its unfettered desire for power and personal agendas. What is Congress doing right now to help the American people weather the COVID-19 pandemic?

The League asked: The League asked: What measures are you proposing to address the lack of affordable child care services in New Mexico?

The League asked: The League asked: What are the key differences between your positions on Medicare-for-all and the Medicare program, which is currently available in New Mexico?

The League asked: The League asked: What steps would you take to address the issue of the American health care system's increasing costs?

The League asked: The League asked: What measures would you take to ensure that health care is accessible to all New Mexicans?

The League asked: The League asked: How would you ensure that the American people have access to affordable health care?

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NEW MEXICO SENATE DISTRICT 19

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, senators enact "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 25 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They are elected to two-year terms. The term of each Senator shall begin on the first day of January following the election and shall continue for two years. The successors of Senators elected in odd-numbered years shall continue in office until the second Monday in January of the year next following the last day of the regular legislative session in which they were elected. The successors of Senators elected in even-numbered years shall continue in office until the second Monday in January of the next even-numbered year. The legislature shall choose a Senator as President and an Assistant President for each session of the Senate. The President may authorize the committee chairpersons to send subpoenas to persons enforcing the law. Scott Demint (Democrat)

1. What is your pri- orty from the 2023 legislature?

2. Do you favor tap- ping into the hydro- electric fund, in a greater degree than currently allowed, to fund public ed- ucation or environmental needs? Please explain your answer.

3. Why must the legislature take action regarding education beyond this session? What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?

4. What is your assessment of the legislature’s current economic platform? What improvements would you like to see?

5. What action, if any, do you believe the legislature should take with regard to broadband in the state?

6. How can New Mex- ico ensure all citizens have minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?

7. Should New Mexico be a paid legislative branch? Please explain your answer.

The League asked:

I would love to have a paid legislature in New Mexico to allow more people to run for the position. We’re blessed with a lot of people who are interested in public service but can’t afford to run because it’s too expensive.

Scott Demint

Like this?

NEW MEXICO SENATE DISTRICT 24

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, senators enact "reasonable and appropriate laws," represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets each year beginning in January. In odd-numbered years, it meets for 60 days; in even-numbered years, it meets for 30 days. The Governor may call special sessions. Candidates must be at least 25 years old and must be a resident of the district from which elected. They are elected to two-year terms. The term of each Senator shall begin on the first day of January following the election and shall continue for two years. The successors of Senators elected in odd-numbered years shall continue in office until the second Monday in January of the year next following the last day of the regular legislative session in which they were elected. The successors of Senators elected in even-numbered years shall continue in office until the second Monday in January of the next even-numbered year. The legislature shall choose a Senator as President and an Assistant President for each session of the Senate. The President may authorize the committee chairpersons to send subpoenas to persons enforcing the law.

Nancy Rodriguez (Democratic)

1. What are your pri- orities from the 2023 legislature?

2. Do you favor tapping into the hydroelectric fund, in a greater degree than currently allowed, to fund immediate educational or environmental needs? Please explain your answer.

3. What are your priorities for this legislative session and what improvements, if any, should the legislature make to improve education in New Mexico and New Mexico’s economy?

4. What action, if any, do you believe the legislature should take with regard to broadband in the state?

5. What action, if any, do you believe the legislature should take with regard to the use of fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?

6. How can New Mexico ensure all citizens have minimum standard of internet access throughout the state, and how can we achieve that?

7. Should New Mexico be a paid legislative branch? Please explain your answer.

The League asked:

I believe New Mexico has a reservoir of great natural resources and is in the right place to build a skilled workforce and increases revenue for small, local businesses. This is a real opportunity to build a resilient future.

Nancy Rodriguez

Like this?
In addition to other duties prescribed by law, senators enact “reasonable and appropriate laws,” represent the constituents of their district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature

1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more sustainable economy?

2. Do you favor tapping the permanent fund for a degree that is currently allowed, to fund immediate education or economic needs? Please explain your answer.

3. Racial and income inequalities have been identified in New Mexico and social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?

4. Are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?

5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to ensure our use of clean energy?

6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum speed standard for both broadband and internet throughout the State and how can we achieve that?

7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.

Ricardo Vargas (Republican)

Expand state tax effort, renewable energy, start-ups, tourism, arts and culture. Promote New Mexico small businesses and local corporations.

Petur Mirk (Democrat)

Yes. In the recent special session, I voted for the New Mexico Small Business Recovery Act which uses $450 million from the federal PPP to help small businesses. I have always supported a joint resolution to place a constitutional prohibition on the ballot going against the increase in the state General Fund so that an elected legislature can decide if the current fund is needed to provide for the necessary operations of our government. In short legislative sessions, all of our constituents want to see a state General Fund to help with the services necessary for the operation of our state government.

1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more sustainable economy?

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7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.

Joseph Tiano (Republican)

This bill all need to take place. - first: new revenue sources for education, cultural or economic sectors, such as an energy or an industry cyber security, energy production, advisory boards in every school, or community colleges, to reduce the number of state legislators and increase the size of the bear at the General Fund.

1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more sustainable economy?

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6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum speed standard for both broadband and internet throughout the State and how can we achieve that?

7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.

Joseph Tiano (Republican)

I am excited to have lived in New Mexico for 30 years. My priorities include environmental sustainability, public safety, public schools, health care, social services, and economic development.

1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more sustainable economy?

2. Do you favor tapping the permanent fund for a degree that is currently allowed, to fund immediate education or economic needs? Please explain your answer.

3. Racial and income inequalities have been identified in New Mexico and social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?

4. Are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?

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7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.

Jessica Valenzuela (Democrat)

I will support any resolution to slightly increase the rate on those filing the lowest incomes to incentivize and start to help moderate and small business but I will not support any resolution to slightly increase the rate on those filing above the threshold.

1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more sustainable economy?

2. Do you favor tapping the permanent fund for a degree that is currently allowed, to fund immediate education or economic needs? Please explain your answer.

3. Racial and income inequalities have been identified in New Mexico and social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?

4. Are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?

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6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum speed standard for both broadband and internet throughout the State and how can we achieve that?

7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.

Jessica Valenzuela (Democrat)

In my opinion, education is the answer. I am a former public school teacher and New Mexico needs a larger number of educators who can serve in the state. It is necessary for New Mexico to invest in education and training for our general fund because we need more prepared professionals to serve our communities.

1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more sustainable economy?

2. Do you favor tapping the permanent fund for a degree that is currently allowed, to fund immediate education or economic needs? Please explain your answer.

3. Racial and income inequalities have been identified in New Mexico and social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?

4. Are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?

5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to ensure our use of clean energy?

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7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.

Stefan Lerd (Independent)

I believe that we need to make New Mexico safe and to reduce the number of mass shootings and deaths from domestic violence. Education is the key to reducing these issues.

1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more sustainable economy?

2. Do you favor tapping the permanent fund for a degree that is currently allowed, to fund immediate education or economic needs? Please explain your answer.

3. Racial and income inequalities have been identified in New Mexico and social and economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?

4. Are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?

5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and to ensure our use of clean energy?

6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum speed standard for both broadband and internet throughout the State and how can we achieve that?

7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislature? Please explain your answer.
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.

Helen Milenski (Democrat)

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.

Christine Hampton

( Democrat)

atile oil and gas industries. We must reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and promote renewable energy. We must diversify our economy and invest in infrastructure that will attract new businesses; to restructure our tax system and create a workforce for the 21st century. We must increase broadband internet access in rural areas. One way to increase internet capacity in rural areas: to invest $20 billion broadband in New Mexico. All NM communities should be able to access the permanent fund at the state level to help us navigate the financial impacts of the Great Depression. We need to return to publicly funded education so that we are able to create a stable and prosperous future in New Mexico. We need policies that ensure that all children have the best chance to succeed in school but also have a chance to succeed in life. We must increase internet access and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

We need to make New Mexico more attractive to business and increase the state’s tax base, improving education, and reducing crime. I support reining in our tax base, which unburdens businesses and individuals. I support returning our tax base to funded goods only. I support the need to reduce law enforcement spending to ensure that all children have the opportunity to succeed in school, including New Mexico’s children.

Helen Milenski (Democrat)

Improve our public education system and vocational training programs to create a workforce that is capable of working in a knowledge economy. A small percentage of our students graduate from high school and Grand Permanent Fund income is essential to the support of education and vocational training programs. The Economic Development Department and the Workforce Development Department of Workforce New Mexico (WNM) fund in New Mexico. According to WNM, the local impact of diversifying our economy will be the long-term benefits for the State.

Christine Hampton

( Democrat)

The challenge of our time is to harness our solar energy, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and promote clean energy initiatives that shift from coal while providing economic opportunities for many entities. With so many entities, the state should be able to fund programs dependent on internet access.

Helen Milenski (Democrat)

State-wide access to broadband internet is essential to our economic development. We see with education, better representation. Do it now! It is time for a cohesive strategy. The time is now.

Helen Milenski (Democrat)

We are going to need to make New Mexico one of the three lowest states in uninsured individuals.

Christine Hampton

( Democrat)

The New Mexico legislature has been one of the leaders in developing renewable energy. On-bill financing is now available for low-income New Mexico residents so that we can meet the requirement to sell electricity from renewable energy. The early work of the legislature must be continued to move New Mexico to a more stable economy, and encourage further investment in the state. We are going to need to make New Mexico one of the three lowest states in uninsured. We need to create the permanent fund at the state level to help us navigate the financial impacts of the Great Depression. We need to return to publicly funded education so that we are able to create a stable and prosperous future in New Mexico. We need policies that ensure that all children have the best chance to succeed in school, including New Mexico’s children.

Christine Hampton

( Democrat)

The same actions we need to take to achieve our goal of reducing our reliance on fossil fuels could also help address and reduce racial inequality.

Christine Hampton

( Democrat)

No. Tapping them now to support economic growth while the state faces an uninsured rate among children and the uninsured rate among low-income households.

Christine Hampton

( Democrat)

6. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?

Christine Hampton

( Democrat)

Helen Milenski (Democrat)

5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and to encourage the use of clean energy?

Christine Hampton

( Democrat)

4. What is your major concern regarding education, how can they be addressed, and how can we improve our educational system?

Christine Hampton

( Democrat)

3. What is your major concern regarding education, how can they be addressed, and how can we improve our educational system?

Christine Hampton

( Democrat)

2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds to create a reserve in times of need so that states could meet the requirement to sell electricity from renewable energy?

Christine Hampton

( Democrat)

1. What are your priorities for New Mexico to create a more stable economy?

Christine Hampton

( Democrat)

The legislature meets each year. In bold red numbers, 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 they are elected. They serve a two-year term. Representatives do not receive a salary, but they do receive a per diem.

Susan Mercer

( Democrat)

New Mexico needs to create and retain business and to educate New Mexicans. We need to set aside 25% of our tax base as a fund to help us navigate the financial impacts of the Great Depression. We need to diversify our economy. We need to create a knowledge economy. We need to create a workforce for the 21st century. We need to increase broadband internet access in rural areas. One way to increase internet capacity in rural areas is to invest $20 billion broadband in New Mexico. All NM communities should be able to access the permanent fund at the state level to help us navigate the financial impacts of the Great Depression. We need to return to publicly funded education so that we are able to create a stable and prosperous future in New Mexico. We need policies that ensure that all children have the best chance to succeed in school, including New Mexico’s children.

Susan Mercer

( Democrat)

Yes, New Mexico is one of the poorest states in the country. We need to create a reserve fund to help us in hard times and we need to invest in New Mexico’s future. A knowledge economy is necessary for success in good schools, a stable and diversified economy, and a cohesive strategy. We need to tax labeled/advanced/traffiti/alternative/organic/energy friendly policies, we can return to publicly funded education, so that we are able to create a workforce for the 21st century.

Susan Mercer

( Democrat)

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.

Helen Milenski (Democrat)
Matthew asked:

1. What are your priorities to move New Mexico to a more stable economy?

2. Do you favor tapping the permanent funds, in a greater degree than is currently allowed, to fund immediate economic needs? Please explain your answer.

3. Racial and income inequalities have become important national economic issues. What actions should the legislature take to address and resolve these issues?

4. What are your major concerns regarding education in New Mexico and how can they be addressed?

5. What action, if any, should be taken by the legislature to reduce our use of fossil fuels and encourage the use of clean energy?

6. How can New Mexico increase access to broadband internet? Should there be a minimum standard of internet access throughout the State, and how can we achieve that?

7. Should New Mexico move to a paid legislators policy? Please explain your answer.

The League asked:

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The League asked:

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The League asked:

Jay Greencote (Republican)

The time is critical for New Mexico to focus inward on the state’s needs and not just on what is happening on Wall Street and in Washington. We need to make immediate investments in our workforce, in the health care system, and in our schools. As Governor, I will launch a program to ensure every child has access to high-quality pre-K education.

Andres Romero (Democrat)

We need to take advantage of the opportunities to improve our economy and make New Mexico a place where families can thrive. But we can’t do that if we don’t have infrastructure and broadband. We need to focus on education and workforce development, and we need to immediately address the pandemic and its impact on our economy.

Neal Eggle (Democrat)

Big natural resources in New Mexico, and we need to make sure we have a skilled workforce that knows how to make the best use of them. We need to diversify our economy and make sure we have a mix of industries that can thrive during different economic conditions. We need to focus on infrastructure, workforce development, and education to ensure our children have the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

Tara Lujan (Democrat)

I want New Mexico to lead the way in creating a diverse economy with meaningful opportunities for all our citizens. We need to take advantage of the unique strengths that our state has to offer and focus on creating a diverse economy that will be sustainable for the long term.

Matthew McQueen (Democrat)

The need to diversify our economy means moving away from dependence on the oil and gas industry. We need to be innovative and open to new ideas. I believe we can create a diverse economy that is sustainable for the long term.

The Technical Specifications of the Diverse Economy

We need to diversify our economy and move away from dependence on the oil and gas industry. We have the potential to have a diverse economy that can create jobs and provide opportunities for all New Mexicans. We need to be innovative and open to new ideas. I believe we can create a diverse economy that is sustainable for the long term.

The Energy Transition Act

The Energy Transition Act is a transformative package for the state, New Mexico can lead the way by reducing our national carbon footprint and being a leader in green energy.

New Mexico people are working to reduce our carbon footprint, decrease energy poverty, increase energy efficiency, and reduce our energy debt.

The Energy Transition Act will make New Mexico a leader in the movement towards a sustainable energy future.
NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 50 CONTINUED

In addition to other duties prescribed by law, representatives exhibit exact “reasonable and appropriate limits” that represent the constituents of the district, and serve on standing or interim committees. The legislature meets every other year in January, in odd-numbered years; it meets 60 days in even-numbered years, instead of 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 they are elected. They serve a two-year term. Representatives do not receive a salary, but they receive a per diem per day.

The League asked:

Jerry Gage (Libertarian)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Christina Estrada (Republican)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Shannon Bacon (Libertarian)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Neal S. Fuller (Republican)

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

NEW MEXICO HOUSE DISTRICT 70

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

NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT POSITION 1

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

The League asked:

1. How have your training, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on the court?

2. Do you believe that all persons in New Mexico have fair and equal access to the legal system and the legal system if not, what reforms do you support? Please explain.

3. What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Supreme Court practices and why?

4. Do you favor nonpartisan election for the judiciary? Why or why not?

5. What policies are critical to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?

NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT POSITION 2

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

The League asked:

1. How have your training, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on the court?

2. Do you believe that all persons in New Mexico have fair and equal access to the legal system and the legal system if not, what reforms do you support? Please explain.

3. What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Supreme Court practices and why?

4. Do you favor nonpartisan election for the judiciary? Why or why not?

5. What policies are critical to keep the judiciary independent from political influence?
There are ten judges on the New Mexico Court of Appeals. It is the intermediate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court. Judges sit in panels of three. The Court reviews appeals in all cases, except criminal cases involving sentences of death or life imprisonment, appeals from the Public Regulation Commission and cases involving habeas corpus. Judges must be at least 30 years old, have practiced law for ten years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years before applying. Judges are initially appointed by the Governor to a term of six years. The commission recommends judges to the Governor. The commission is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The commission is independent of the Governor and the judicial branch and is not subject to the Governor or judicial branch for the purpose of selecting judges. The commission is responsible for evaluating judges for retention. The commission is composed of 11 members. There is no such thing as a public education commission district. The Public Education Commission is a ten-person commission that is advisory to the Secretary of Education. The Commission authorizes and monitors all state-chartered charter schools. Commissioners must be 18 years of age. 

Shammara H. (Libertarian)

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

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1. What in your background qualifies you to sit on the Public Education Commission?

I have a PhD in High Energy Physics, and have run an oil and gas research and development company, and have run a university program focussing on alternative energy. I have been involved in the development of new technology, and have worked in the oil and gas industry for over 30 years. I am well-versed in the physics and economics of energy systems, and the environment of alternative energy technologies.

2. Do you favor an appointment process rather than election of PRC members? Please explain your answer.

Yes, I do favor an appointment process rather than election of PRC members. It is important to have a diverse group of individuals with different backgrounds and experiences on the PRC. This will ensure that the decisions made by the PRC are informed by a wide range of perspectives, and that the PRC is able to make decisions that are in the best interests of New Mexico.

3. What policies are critical to keeping the judiciary independent and free from political influence, and do you think judicial elections should be nonpartisan?

As a family court judge, I have faced numerous challenges in my role, and I have worked to ensure that my decisions are based on the facts and the law, rather than on political considerations. I support a nonpartisan election process for judges, as it helps to ensure that judges are selected based on their qualifications and experience, rather than on their political affiliation. This will help to ensure that the judiciary remains independent and free from political influence.

4. How should the PRC assess the financial health of public utility companies and make decisions on tariff proposals?

The PRC should assess the financial health of public utility companies by reviewing the financial statements and other relevant data, and by considering the company's business plan and strategy. The PRC should also consider the company's performance over time, and any initiatives the company has taken to improve its financial situation.

5. What should the PRC do to help ensure access to high quality broadband in underserved areas of the state?

The PRC should work to improve access to high quality broadband in underserved areas of the state by working with public and private entities to ensure that all New Mexicans have access to affordable, reliable, and high-speed internet service. This could include working with telecommunications companies to expand their service areas, and with state and local governments to provide funding and support for broadband infrastructure projects.
1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 1

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

The League asked:

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?

2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?

3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?

Ashley A. Fowlkes
Attorney
attorneyatlawashleyfowlkes@gmail.com
1. My attributes and experiences make me uniquely positioned to bring to the Court a diverse background and skill set. My education and experience have prepared me to be an effective advocate for the citizens of the First Judicial District.

2. The First Judicial District Court is currently understaffed. Many positions are open, and the public and private sectors are experiencing staffing shortages due to the pandemic. The public will need to continue to be educated on the importance of judicial services and how the court systems work.

3. Transparency is critical to the public's trust in the judiciary. As a member of the public, I have a responsibility to ensure that the court systems are functioning effectively and efficiently.

The New Mexico Code of Judicial Conduct requires that a judge shall not permit himself or herself to be unduly influenced by publicity or by public opinion. As a result, a judge must use his or her best judgment in maintaining a public profile that is consistent with the respect and confidence that the public has for the judiciary.

J. Andrew McFarland
J. McFarland Law
andrew@jmcfarlandlaw.com
1. My background and experiences in the field of law and social work have prepared me to serve as a judge. I have a deep understanding of the complexities of the issues that come before the court, and I am committed to ensuring that justice is served.

2. The First Judicial District Court is currently understaffed. Many positions are open, and the public and private sectors are experiencing staffing shortages due to the pandemic. The public will need to continue to be educated on the importance of judicial services and how the court systems work.

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Sandra M. McClellan
Attorney
smcclellan@tla.state.nm.us
1. My background and experiences in the field of law and social work have prepared me to serve as a judge. I have a deep understanding of the complexities of the issues that come before the court, and I am committed to ensuring that justice is served.

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Francis J. Matthews
Attorney
Matthews Law Firm
mattlawfirm@gmail.com
1. My background and experiences in the field of law and social work have prepared me to serve as a judge. I have a deep understanding of the complexities of the issues that come before the court, and I am committed to ensuring that justice is served.

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María E. Sanchez-Gagne
Attorney
mgsanchezgagne@gmail.com
1. My background and experiences in the field of law and social work have prepared me to serve as a judge. I have a deep understanding of the complexities of the issues that come before the court, and I am committed to ensuring that justice is served.

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Sylvia K. Lamer
Attorney
lamer@lamerlawfirm.com
1. My background and experiences in the field of law and social work have prepared me to serve as a judge. I have a deep understanding of the complexities of the issues that come before the court, and I am committed to ensuring that justice is served.

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Jason C. Lidyard
Attorney
jasonlidyard@gmail.com
1. My background and experiences in the field of law and social work have prepared me to serve as a judge. I have a deep understanding of the complexities of the issues that come before the court, and I am committed to ensuring that justice is served.

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1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 2

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

The League asked:

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?

2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?

3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 3

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

The League asked:

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?

2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?

3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 4

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

The League asked:

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?

2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?

3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 5

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

The League asked:

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?

2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?

3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 7

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

The League asked:

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?

2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?

3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?
**1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 8**

**The League asked:**

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?

Prior to coming to the bench, I worked in private practice for approximately 18 years. I began working in the Court in 2008 and was a judge in 2010. I have a strong work ethic; I value justice; I have strong organizational skills; I am fair and balanced; I value standards and I am very hard working.

2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?

As a longtime member of the Access to Justice Committee, I have seen the positive impact that is made when the legal community reaches out to the public to provide free legal services. In a similar vein, the court should implement a clinic program to educate the public, specifically children, about the role of the judiciary in the legal system. As a holder of a dual emphasis MBA in Human Resources and Public Policy & Leadership (UNM), I have a scientific, marketing and advocacy background with 15 years of experience.

3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?

I hold the existing New Mexico Code of Judicial Conduct. A copy of the New Mexico Code of Judicial Conduct can be found on the New Mexico One Source which is a free legal research tool.

**Mary Marlene Summero (Democrat)**

**1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 9**

**The League asked:**

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?

I have practiced law for 33 years, the last 20 in New Mexico. My many years of practice have brought me to a point where I now feel comfortable sitting on the bench and deciding the legal issues that come before the court. I am very good at looking at both sides of an issue, viewing both points of view and coming to a fair resolution of an issue or a case. My sense of fairness has not been lost over the years. I also endeavor every day to be courteous and patient with everyone who appears in my courtroom.

2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?

A lot of the people who come to our court cannot afford an attorney. I would like to see us expand some of the current self-help programs to assist persons who are representing themselves.

3. What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keeping the judiciary independent from political interference?

We need to keep the judiciary bipartisan. It is important that we have a bipartisan Judicial Commission to review applications for judicial positions that open when a judge leaves the bench. We believe the state funding of statewide judicial campaigns should be expanded to include all judicial races to keep interest groups out of judicial races. It is important that everyone who comes into our court feels they will have their case judged fairly.

**Matthew Justin Wilson (Democrat)**

**1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETENTION: DIVISION 10**

**The League asked:**

1. What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge?

I have been an attorney for 30 years and practiced in the criminal justice system the whole time. I first worked as a public defender, then I was an attorney in the Attorney General’s office and finally in private practice focusing on criminal defense and family law. I have also been the Chief Judge for our District. I have a strong work ethic. I value compassion and I value fairness.

2. Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court, and how could those improvements be implemented?

We need to keep the judiciary bipartisan. It is important that we have a bipartisan Judicial Commission to review applications for judicial positions that open when a judge leaves the bench. We believe the state funding of statewide judicial campaigns should be expanded to include all judicial races to keep interest groups out of judicial races. It is important that everyone who comes into our court feels they will have their case judged fairly.

**Kate McGarry Ellismon (Democrat)**

**1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**The League asked:**

1. Describe your qualifications for this position.

I have a dual BA in Cognitive Neuroscience and Ethical Psychology. I have an MA in Educational Psychology from the University of New Mexico and a PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley. I am proficient in managing consistently high-functioning and high-performing teams in the tech, academic, legislative and non-profit sector. My varied background has honed my skills in project management with an adaptive style ready for new and shifting demands.

2. How would you deal with repeat OWI offenders?

Repeat offenders need effective and on-going treatment, but they also need consequences because they make all of us less safe on our roads. We will prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law while also focusing on getting them the help that they desperately need.

3. What are the most urgent needs of the District Attorney’s office?

The office needs effective management to fully administer justice in the First Judicial District. Our office is to prosecute law and violent criminals and much harder to prosecute more violent and repeat offenders. Therefore our prison system is filled with people on probation or parole on probation on probation. We need to change the way we view substance use disorders and offer more treatment. If we don’t treat these offenders then they become violent offenders.

**Mary Y. Camacho-Torres (Democrat)**

**SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK**

**The League asked:**

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

I have a dual BA in Cognitive Neuroscience and Ethical Psychology. I have an MA in Educational Psychology from the University of New Mexico and a PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley. I am proficient in managing consistently high-functioning and high-performing teams in the tech, academic, legislative and non-profit sector. My varied background has honed my skills in project management with an adaptive style ready for new and shifting demands.

2. What are your highest priorities for this office?

My three priority platform positions: 1) election protection - more resources for the county to ensure that all registered voters can cast their ballot (including early voting and absentee ballots); 2) repeat offender treatment; and 3) expanding the user-friendly clerk’s office by building upon openness, accountability, responsiveness.

**Katherine Clark (Democrat)**

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**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1**

**Summary**

Constitutional Amendment 1 would amend Article II, Section 7 of the Constitution of New Mexico to increase the general obligation bonds that can be issued by the State from $80 million to $500 million per year. This would authorize the issuance and sale of Higher Education, special school, and public library acquisition bonds.

**BOND QUESTION A**

**Library Acquisitions**

The 2020 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of library acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed 500 million dollars to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal and public library resource acquisitions to provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of bond and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

A bond represents a debt for money borrowed by a government to finance capital improvement projects. The State of New Mexico promises to repay the amount borrowed, plus interest, over a period of time for each General Obligation Bond that is approved by voters. The bonds are “General Obligation” because payment of the debt service (interest plus principal) is a general obligation of this state and is secured by the state’s property tax base.

The amount of debt service interest plus principal is a function of the net taxable value of the real property within the state. The amount of debt service interest plus principal is determined by the state’s financial advisors and is based on the amount of federal funds anticipated to be available for education and library programs. The state’s financial advisors will recommend the amount of debt service interest plus principal that should be included in each bond issue.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2**

**Summary**

Constitutional Amendment 2 adds Article II, Section 13 to the Constitution of New Mexico to allow the legislature to authorize by law of the county governing body to regulate public service companies located within the county.

**BOND QUESTION B**

**Higher Education**

The 2020 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher education bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed one hundred fifty million dollars to make capital expenditures for higher education, special schools, tribal schools, and public libraries in New Mexico?

A bond represents a debt for money borrowed by a government to finance capital improvement projects. The State of New Mexico promises to repay the amount borrowed, plus interest, over a period of time for each General Obligation Bond that is approved by voters. The bonds are “General Obligation” because payment of the debt service (interest plus principal) is a general obligation of this state and is secured by the state’s property tax base.

The amount of debt service interest plus principal is a function of the net taxable value of the real property within the state. The amount of debt service interest plus principal is determined by the state’s financial advisors and is based on the amount of federal funds anticipated to be available for education and library programs. The state’s financial advisors will recommend the amount of debt service interest plus principal that should be included in each bond issue.

The total amount of all bonds, including bond issuance costs, is $158,840,000. A complete breakdown of the designated projects under this bond issue can be found on the New Mexico Legislative website: https://redleg.nmlegis.gov/Session/2020Bills/pdfs/2020b027.pdf. Information provided by the Department of Finance and Operations of the State of New Mexico.