



Los Alamos County Voters' Guide to the 2010 General Election

*Prepared by the League of Women Voters of
Los Alamos and the League of Women Voters
of New Mexico*

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

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

Essential Dates

October 5, 2010: Voter registration closes. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. in the County Clerk's office, 2451 Central Ave., Suite D (westernmost portable building).

October 5 - October 30, 2010: In-person absentee voting at the County Clerk's office during regular business hours. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, October 30, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

October 16, 2010: Early voting begins at Mesa Public Library 2nd floor, rooms 1, 2 & 3; Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, **October 19** thru Saturday, **October 23**

Tuesday, **October 26** thru Saturday, **October 30**

October 29, 2010: Last day to mail an absentee ballot.

October 30, 2010: Absentee/Early voting ends.

November 2, 2010: General Election Day. Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Absentee ballots must be delivered to the County Clerk by 7 p.m.

Voting Information

You must be registered by October 5 in order to vote in this election. If you have moved or changed your address or your party affiliation, you should reregister to vote. The County Clerk's office is located in Suite D at 2451 Central Ave., 505-662-8010. Application may be made in person or by mail, but note the identification requirements below for applications made by mail.

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

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

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

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

If a voter arrives at the polls on Election Day and finds that his name is not on the list of registered voters, the poll workers will redirect him to the correct precinct, or if necessary, will issue a provisional paper ballot.

Sample ballots will be available at the County Clerk's office or online at www.losalamosnm.us (click on "General Election"). Voters may vote for a straight party ticket at the beginning of the ballot; however, voters must then additionally vote for non-partisan judge retention, the charter amendments, the bonds and constitutional amendments. Voters who vote a straight party ticket may override that vote by simply marking candidates of other parties whom they wish to designate. Voters may also vote for each candidate individually.

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

Attention: Precinct 10 Voters

Your polling place for the General Election has been changed to the PEEC Building, located at 3540 Orange Street, also known as "L" Wing of the High School.

Information Online

The Voters' Guide 2010 is available at www.lwvlosalamos.org. Additional information about congressional and state legislative candidates is available at www.vote-smart.org.

A detailed analysis of the five Constitutional Amendments, prepared by the Legislative Council Service, may be accessed through www.lwvlosalamos.org.

The 2010 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act (S.B. 0001 in the 2010 regular legislative session) lists the projects to be funded by the General Obligation Bond. Issues may be accessed through www.lwvlosalamos.org.

Detailed information about the eleven ordinances dealing with the Los Alamos County Charter Amendments is available on the Charter Review Committee website at www.losalamosnm.us. Click on "County Projects"/"Charter Review Committee Project."

Maps of precinct boundaries and polling places for Los Alamos are available at www.losalamosnm.us. Click on "Election and Candidate Information," then "Precinct and Polling Places." Maps of legislative districts are available at the NM Legislature website: www.legis.state.nm.us/lcs/districts.aspx. A map of the PRC districts is available at the Public Regulation Commission website: www.nmprc.state.nm.us/districtmap.htm.

For Spanish language information covering absentee/early voting and the constitutional amendments, go to www.sos.state.nm.us.

Candidates' Responses to Questions from the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico and the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos sent questionnaires to most of the candidates for the 2010 General Election. Candidates in uncontested local races were not surveyed, but the names and parties of all candidates who will appear on the ballot are listed in the guide.

Because of space restrictions, the League advised the candidates of the word limits on responses. If any answer exceeded the stated limit, we indicate the extra words with ellipses. The responses of candidates are printed exactly as received by the League. We have in no way edited for meaning, grammar, punctuation, or spelling. The League assumes no responsibility for the content of any candidate's reply.

Candidates are listed in ballot order, determined by lot for the 2010 General Election on September 1, 2010. The result of this drawing for position on the ballot is that Democratic candidates will be listed before Republican candidates.

Thanks

We would like to thank the League of Women Voters of New Mexico Voters' Guide editor, Jennice Fishburn, as well as Marcy Litzenberg of Santa Fe and Josephine Porter and Andrea Targhetta of Albuquerque. The editor of the Los Alamos Voters' Guide is Lynn Jones, with the help of Rebecca Shankland, Barbara Calef, Katherine Campbell, Chris Chandler, Rosmarie Frederickson and Janet Hall.

The Secretary of State's office, the Legislative Council Services, and the Los Alamos County Clerk's office provided helpful information.

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos is grateful to the following business and community contributors who made the printed version of this publication possible:

AAUW (American Association of University Women)
Blue Window Bistro
C.B. Fox
Central Avenue Grill
Cook'n In Style
Fidel's Office Supplies
George Chandler Law
Lorraine Hartway, CPA
LA Chiropractic and Acupuncture Center
LACDC (Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corp.)
LANB (Los Alamos National Bank)
LATA (Los Alamos Technical Associates)
Jan Merin, M.D.
Neptune and Company
Radio Shack
Frederica Smith, M.D.
TRK Management
Zia Credit Union

Copyright@2010 League of Women Voters of Los Alamos
Copyright@2010 League of Women Voters of New Mexico

Candidates for Federal, State and Local Offices

General eligibility requirements for all state, district, and county candidates: A candidate must be a registered voter in New Mexico affiliated with the political party for which he/she is seeking office. A candidate for district office must reside in the district of voter registration.

U.S. House of Representatives, District 3

New Mexico elects three representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives. They serve two-year terms. District 3 includes Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and most of the northern part of the state. Annual salary: \$174,000.

Ben R. Lujan
(Democrat)



Describe your specific experience and abilities that prepare you for the office of United States Representative.

I have always believed in helping people. In 2004 I was elected to the Public Regulation Commission (PRC). I ran for the PRC because I wanted to help protect consumers and ensure people were treated fairly. This gave me the experience to stand up for New Mexicans in Congress. I have been working hard in Congress to get our economy on track, end Wall Street's risky behavior and prevent insurance companies from controlling patients' health care.

What are the top two economic concerns facing the country? What actions would you take as a U.S. Representative to address these concerns?

The top two economic concerns are Job Creation and Economy Stability. Economic stability will come through making sure that insurance companies, big banks and Wall Street can no longer take advantage of the American people. Job creation will come through investments in our community's infrastructure to the country working again, tax credits for small businesses and tax cuts for American families, which are all important to getting the economy on track.

Do you think immigration laws should be changed? Please explain.

I believe that America needs comprehensive immigration reform. We have a serious immigration problem that demands a solution. That's why I'm a cosponsor of H.R.4321, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act of 2009. It's a bill whose time is due, and I hope to keep working on it in the next Congress to make sure our borders are safe and our immigration problems are addressed adequately.

How will you balance the continuing costs of military actions with the costs of domestic needs?

I believe we need to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. While we need to provide our troops with the supplies they need to get home safely, we also need to bring them home. In the short term we have passed the Recovery Act which helped stabilize the economy by making investments to get people to work right here at home, and made sure that thousands of teachers, firefighters, and police officers stayed employed.

Thomas E. Mullins
(Republican)



Describe your specific experience and abilities that prepare you for the office of United States Representative.

As a professional engineer, entrepreneur, father, and small business owner, I believe my 20 years of life in New Mexico have given me the listening skills, knowledge, life experience, and good judgment to listen to the people of this diverse district. After listening and evaluating alternatives, I believe I can restore trust in our Federal Government through my common sense votes. I will be a clear voice for the people, not special interests.

What are the top two economic concerns facing the country? What actions would you take as a U.S. Representative to address these concerns?

Our national debt, nearly \$ 14 Trillion, and reducing bloated Federal Government spending. As a Congressman, my job is to do the difficult task of honoring prior commitments, while reducing waste and bureaucracy to balance spending with tax revenues. Regulations, fees, and permits are merely taxes under a disguised name. I will reduce the regulatory burden, hold executive branch agencies accountable to the people, and promote private sector job creation by restoring Liberty.

Do you think immigration laws should be changed? Please explain.

Our immigration laws should be enforced at all levels. We are a nation of laws and legal immigration. Illegal behavior should be prosecuted and punished. We must create a reasonable guest worker program that does not automatically entail citizenship, discuss the anchor baby burden upon taxpayers, and properly enforce employer requirements. As your Congressman, I will ensure the Federal Government performs its Constitutional responsibility to provide for the common defense and secure our borders.

How will you balance the continuing costs of military actions with the costs of domestic needs?

We must fully support our military forces engaged in combat. We must also consider reducing our military presence in countries such as, Germany, Japan, and South Korea, which may no longer be strategic. Balancing the budget will require the removal of wasteful spending in both the defense and non-defense arena. The Constitution of the United States will serve as my guide when balancing future commitments domestically and militarily.

GOVERNOR

The Governor is elected to a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. The Governor shares the responsibility of administering the state with other elected officials, represents the state nationally and internationally, signs or vetoes statutes enacted by the Legislature, and appoints members of boards and commissions. Annual salary: \$110,000.

Diane D. Denish
(Democrat)



If elected, what are your two highest priorities? What specific actions will you take to accomplish them?

I am focusing my attention on issues that directly impact working families – specifically, creating jobs and expanding educational opportunities. I have put forward specific plans to invest in small businesses, expand our high-tech and clean-energy sector, and create a workforce that can compete for the high-demand jobs of the future. Read my plan at www.dianedenish.com/jobs

How will you handle projected budget deficits for the State of New Mexico? What will your top priorities be?

I have put forward a reform plan to save taxpayers \$450 million over five years – not by cutting education, health care or public safety – but through consolidations, use of technology, reducing the number of political appointees and slashing the state car fleet. We must also close loopholes that give breaks to powerful out-of-state companies at the expense of working families.

In light of the new federal health care law, what will you do to ensure that New Mexicans have quality health care?

As former Chair of Insure NM, I've been a longtime advocate for expanding access to affordable health care. I proudly cast the tie-breaking vote against a bill to allow insurance companies to spend less on patient care. As Governor, I will implement the new federal law so more New Mexicans have insurance and our workforce is prepared for the health care industry jobs of tomorrow.

What should be done at the state level to help reduce our use of fossil fuels and encourage the use of clean energy? What actions will you propose?

The clean energy sector will not only help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, but create the jobs of the future for New Mexico. I've been a strong supporter of a do everything energy strategy that includes traditional wind, solar, bio-fuels and geothermal technology. I have proposed a detailed plan to develop the high-tech clean energy jobs of the future, which can be read at www.dianedenish.com

Susana Martinez
(Republican)



If elected, what are your two highest priorities? What specific actions will you take to accomplish them?

We must create a positive environment for businesses to create jobs and reform our education system. My detailed plan to create jobs calls for ending corruption, cutting wasteful spending, and phasing-out job killing taxes. To reform our school system, we must get money out of bureaucracy and into the classroom, end social promotion of students, reward outstanding teachers with merit pay, and expand educational opportunities.

How will you handle projected budget deficits for the State of New Mexico? What will your top priorities be?

The budget grew by over 54% during the Richardson/Denish Administration. I will implement zero-growth budgets in most agencies and audit each department to root-out waste, such as eliminating the number of political appointees that has exploded over the last 8 years and selling the state jet. By eliminating waste and enacting zero-growth budgets, we can protect critical government functions like education and children's health care.

In light of the new federal health care law, what will you do to ensure that New Mexicans have quality health care?

While I support insurance reforms and coverage for those with pre-existing conditions, the federal legislation poses a direct threat to quality health care while doing nothing to control costs for middle class Americans. Our priority in New Mexico must be to control costs, including expanding the range of affordable health care plans and tax credits to help businesses provide coverage. We also need legal reform.

What should be done at the state level to help reduce our use of fossil fuels and encourage the use of clean energy? What actions will you propose?

America is too dependent on other nations to meet our energy needs. To reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, we must expand our domestic energy production. New Mexico can lead the way with our abundance of clean energy potential, including wind, solar, and natural gas. We can continue to provide incentives for these industries to develop and reduce barriers that hinder development.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

complaints and problems to appropriate agencies, and reporting to the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate and can vote in the event of a tie. Annual salary: \$85,000.

Brian S. Colon
(Democrat)



What qualifications and attributes do you have that make you uniquely qualified to be Lieutenant Governor?

I'm a product of Democratic values. As a child, we needed governmental programs to help secure the basics, and even though we worked hard, we needed a helping hand. There are many people who feel that way today and they need an advocate in the Roundhouse. I'm running to rebuild our economy and invest in public education to prepare our children for jobs of tomorrow.

The governor usually assigns specific tasks to the Lieutenant Governor. To which areas of government would you like to be assigned and why?

This race is about jobs, the economy and education. As the first in my family to go to college, improving education is my top priority. I believe a good education is the key to a good job and will invest in public education while holding schools accountable for student performance. In addition to stronger licensing requirements for educators and staff, I will work to find a way to increase teacher pay, reduce class sizes and strengthen science and technology programs.

John A. Sanchez
(Republican)



What qualifications and attributes do you have that make you uniquely qualified to be Lieutenant Governor?

My core values of integrity, service, family and faith, joined with my extensive small business experience, and my seasoned political background have prepared me for this leadership role. I will be a reliable partner with Susana Martinez, to meet the challenges that New Mexico faces, and I will be a steady voice of reason and an advocate for practical solutions.

The governor usually assigns specific tasks to the Lieutenant Governor. To which areas of government would you like to be assigned and why?

Beyond the Constitutional duties of the office, I will offer my support and focus, whenever possible, to everyday New Mexicans, as they try to deal with the vast network of state agencies. An appropriate and properly directed phone call or inquiry can be helpful in getting a citizen's problem resolved, or a simple request for assistance met, and moved through the bureaucratic process. I will also participate on Boards and Commissions that require executive branch oversight.

SECRETARY OF STATE

The Secretary of State serves a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. The Secretary of State is second in line of succession to the governorship behind the Lieutenant Governor. The Secretary of State attests and affixes the Great Seal of the State of New Mexico to official documents, maintains the state repository of signed legislation and required filings, is the chief election officer, and generally supervises statewide elections. The Secretary of State is responsible for the registration of lobbyists, trade names, trademarks, and notary public commissions. Annual salary: \$85,000.

Mary Herrera
(Democrat)



What improvements will you make in the operations of the office of the Secretary of State?

I will continue to identify improvements and cost-saving measures, and implement election standards and reform recommended by the Federal Election Commission, to make elections fair, efficient and universally respected. Mapping information and voter demographics will be consolidated to provide resources for the 2011 Legislature for redistricting. The website will be expanded and enhanced to provide the public with more electronic documents, reports and educational information.

As Secretary of State, what role will you play in increasing voter turnout? Will you support same day registration? Why or why not?

I will expand the current outreach with a customer service-oriented program to encourage voter registration, participation and turnout through the media, and with creative, cost-efficient programs, student mock elections, visits to high schools, college campuses and civic organizations. Booths will be set up at special events and festivals. I will support same-day registration to enfranchise more voters, only if safeguards are included to prevent fraud.

How will you ensure the accuracy and efficiency of the electoral process and conduct the post-election audit?

I will continue promulgating rules to assure uniformity of elections, implement election reform and establish procedures for the random audits tasked by the legislature. I will continue to participate in post-election audits and studies as those I have participated in with Bernalillo County and University of New Mexico. I will expand collaborative opportunities for county clerks to receive training and discuss and resolve election issues.

What changes, if any, will you support in campaign finance reporting?

In 2010, I launched a new user-friendly campaign finance reporting system. I will continue to expand the system to include a component for lobbyist filing. Additional features will be added to the system to allow multiple data sorting and retrieval features,

as funds become available. I will support legislation to require additional candidate filing dates. These initiatives will improve transparency and accountability to the taxpayers.

Dianna J. Duran
(Republican)



What improvements will you make in the operations of the office of the Secretary of State?

First of all, the Secretary of State (SOS) is the leader. She must ensure fairness for all, treating everyone with equal respect – regardless of party. I’ll work to restore efficiency, fiscal responsibility, and transparency. We’ll assist county clerks in conducting elections, while working with the legislature to pass much-needed election reform, including the requirement to show an ID when a person goes to vote.

As Secretary of State, what role will you play in increasing voter turnout? Will you support same day registration? Why or why not?

The SOS must ensure integrity in the elections process. Voter ID is critical to restoring confidence in the NM voting system. Same day registration has the opposite effect. “Increasing turnout” is the job of candidates, parties, and causes. If the SOS ensures fairness, an honest count of votes, and a sense of confidence in the system – for all New Mexicans – voter turnout will increase.

How will you ensure the accuracy and efficiency of the electoral process and conduct the post-election audit?

From the voter registration process to the final counting of votes, I will work to reform our outdated and internally inconsistent election code, including those sections concerning the post-election audit. We must have new, state-of-the-art software. Importantly, we have to ensure every company is given a chance to produce and provide the creative technology we need – not just favored groups or contributors.

What changes, if any, will you support in campaign finance reporting?

The campaign reporting act – like the election code itself – is both lengthy and internally contradictory. Both need revision. I’ll work with concerned citizens, all parties and public interest groups, and with legislators to make the code and system consistent, understandable and useful. A top priority will be to make the entire system, especially the on-line interface, user-friendly. The system has to work and work well.

STATE AUDITOR

The State Auditor serves a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. The Auditor conducts and oversees audits of the activities of state government officials and entities receiving money from state tax revenue. Annual salary: \$85,000.

Hector Balderas
(Democrat)



**What experience and education does the State Auditor need?
What are your qualifications in these areas?**

As a former prosecutor with a B.A. from Highlands University and a J.D. from UNM Law School, I was elected State Auditor in 2006. I have aggressively fought government waste, fraud and abuse uncovering the largest embezzlement case in state history – the Jemez Mountain Public Schools corruption case. I work closely with law enforcement and oversight agencies to ensure justice is served.

What are the most important responsibilities of the State Auditor? What will you accomplish in your term of office?

As State Auditor, my primary responsibility is to hold government agencies accountable to taxpayers. My duty is to monitor public schools and other agencies that mismanage public resources and fail to submit audits. I instituted a program that labels these agencies “at-risk” for fraud and demands compliance with state law. I will continue to scrutinize government’s operations to achieve stronger oversight of public dollars.

What existing policies will you keep and which will you change?

It’s critical to keep policies that increase accountability and save taxpayer dollars. During my administration, I crafted reforms that will cut costs for rural governments struggling to pay high audit fees and launched a statewide hotline that any person can call to report fraud, waste or abuse of public resources. I will change policies that fail to hold government responsible for untimely audits. Visit: www.balderas2010.com.

Errol J. Chavez
(Republican)



**What experience and education does the State Auditor need?
What are your qualifications in these areas?**

An experienced decision maker in a large organization qualifies a candidate for the position of State Auditor. Understanding how organizations function is the key to being a successful Auditor. I trained at the National War College to be an executive with the Drug Enforcement Administration. I served nine years in the Senior Executive Service. I was responsible for the operations of three different Field Divisions

What are the most important responsibilities of the State Auditor? What will you accomplish in your term of office?

Preventing waste, fraud and abuse of State funds is the most important responsibility. I will stop corrupt government officials from ignoring their fiduciary responsibilities.

What existing policies will you keep and which will you change?

I will document new policies that are understandable to all employees. I will allow investigators to coordinate with auditors within the State Auditor's Office and I will coordinate with prosecutors from various levels of government (Local, State and Federal).

STATE TREASURER

The State Treasurer serves a four-year term, with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. The Treasurer receives, pays out, and accounts for receipts and expenditures of all state monies, and invests the balances. Among other duties are providing reports to the State Auditor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Finances. Annual salary: \$85,000.

James B. Lewis
(Democrat)



The New Mexico State Treasurer is entrusted with approximately four billion dollars of the state's short-term funds. What specific experience do you have that qualifies you to perform and control this function?

Being elected twice as Bernalillo County Treasurer and twice as State Treasurer uniquely qualifies me for the office. I efficiently and effectively manage the State's approximately \$17 billion portfolio, including general, bond, LGIP and federal funds. I have proven leadership and management skills. My education includes an MPA, BBA, BS in Education, investment training at Kellogg and Wharton business schools.

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

My highest priority is to restore and maintain honesty and integrity to the Office. My priorities for accomplishing this are: enhance communication, collaboration and cooperation with external and internal customers; enhance the safety, liquidity, and yield of investments; enhance the cash management system by streamlining the banking process, SHARE, and revising business practices; enforce the Code of Conduct for all employees.

Jim D. Schoonover
(Republican)



The New Mexico State Treasurer is entrusted with approximately four billion dollars of the state's short-term funds. What specific experience do you have that qualifies you to perform and control this function?

As DAC Treasurer I was able to earn millions of dollars from investments while being completely sure our money invested was secure. Due to my success with investments, NMSU County College asked me to design a class on

investments for other county treasurers. After completing this, I was asked to be the keynote speaker and presenter at the training conference for all 33 county treasurers.

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

My priority as State Treasurer is to Secure our Financial Future. My vision includes: full disclosure for all financial records to be open for public review; secure and protect taxpayers' dollars; maximize rate of return on all state investments; conservative fiscal responsibility; work for and be accountable to the People of New Mexico; improve communication with excellent customer service and an open door policy.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General serves a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. A candidate also must be a licensed attorney of the Supreme Court of New Mexico in good standing. The Attorney General is the state's legal officer, legal counsel to state government, consumer advocate, and guardian of the public interest. This includes representing the state before courts or agencies when required by the public interest or requested by the Governor, and providing legal opinions upon request of the Legislature, any state official, or any district attorney on a pending subject. Annual salary: \$95,000.

Gary K. King
(Democrat)



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

My highest priority continues to be the protection of New Mexico families. My focus has been and will continue to be prevention of fraud against all citizens, particularly our seniors; education of our young people to make wise choices; apprehension and prosecution of public corruption and fighting trafficking in drugs, arms and humans across our Southern border.

With the increasing exposure of unethical behavior in government, what will you do to make public officials more accountable to the general public?

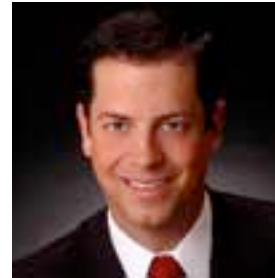
I created and continue to support the AG's Government Accountability Division to investigate and prosecute public officials who violate the public trust. I will also continue to advocate for ethics reform in the Legislature. I will assure that we continue our program of training local officials throughout the state to comply with our Sunshine Laws. Transparency in government is our greatest tool to prevent corruption.

What will you do to protect New Mexicans from consumer fraud? What, if any, additional legislation is needed?

I will continue to operate an active Consumer Protection Division to advocate for consumers who have been victims of fraud. We will continue to educate consumers through live presentations, internet and video presentations of new scams. I will continue

to fight predatory lending practices through litigation and improvements to our laws. We should limit interest rates, rollovers and unfair tactics by predatory lenders.

Matthew E. Chandler
(Republican)



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

My highest priorities as Attorney General include putting people above politics, and truly holding public officials accountable when they engage in public corruption. For too long the AG's Office has been used to push a political agenda, while turning a blind eye to corruption. This year we can change the focus of the AG's Office by replacing a career politician with a focused prosecutor.

With the increasing exposure of unethical behavior in government, what will you do to make public officials more accountable to the general public?

The AG must protect our tax dollars and retirement funds from corrupt public officials, and stop relying on federal prosecutors and other states attorneys general to do the job. As a prosecutor, I have a proven track record of removing unethical government officials from their offices and into a prison cell. Justice must be swift and stern to end this era of corruption.

What will you do to protect New Mexicans from consumer fraud? What, if any, additional legislation is needed?

I believe we must enforce the laws on the books before trying to multiply them. Consumer education will be a vital part of my mission as AG. I believe the best consumer protection is a meaningful, statewide public awareness campaign of consumer rights and common scams. I will ensure that consumer complaints are answered timely, investigated aggressively, and prosecuted diligently to protect all New Mexicans.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Commissioner of Public Lands serves a four-year term with no more than two terms in succession. A candidate must be at least 30 years of age, a United States citizen, and have resided continuously in New Mexico for five years preceding his/her election. The Commissioner of Public Lands takes control, has jurisdiction, care, and custody of all trust lands. He/she administers state trust land to generate the highest possible level of sustainable revenue for New Mexico's public schools, public institutions of higher learning, and other public institutions. Income from these lands supports state institutions. Annual salary: \$90,000.

Ray Bennett Powell
(Democrat)



The State Land Office manages approximately 9 million acres of land and the mineral rights on 13 million acres in support of public schools, universities, hospitals, charitable purposes, and penitentiaries. What will you do to be a responsible steward of these resources?

The Land Commissioner can sell, lease, or trade the land. Who we pick is critical to our future well-being. As a former Land Commissioner, botanist, and veterinarian, I will: work to create good jobs, particularly to build a new energy economy; protect and responsibly manage our public lands; generate more money to improve our children's schools; provide ethical and honest leadership.

How will you evaluate possible land swaps that involve trust lands?

I will guarantee that proposals for land exchanges, long-term leases or sales are discussed in widely announced public meetings held in all counties where land would be involved. I will initiate joint planning agreements with every municipality and county where there is state land. This will ensure that local city and county governments help determine the most appropriate uses of trust land in their communities.

What will you do to develop renewable energy resources that could generate additional sources of revenue for the land trust's beneficiaries?

I am committed to developing a strong renewable energy economy. Using New Mexico's trust lands we can foster public-private partnerships that create good jobs producing renewable energy and the technologies associated with a restoration economy. With our state's intellectual capital we can lead the world. In my previous tenure as Land Commissioner, I worked with utilities to establish the first wind farms in New Mexico.

Matthew D. Rush
(Republican)



The State Land Office manages approximately 9 million acres of land and the mineral rights on 13 million acres in support of public schools, universities, hospitals, charitable purposes, and penitentiaries. What will you do to be a responsible steward of these resources?

As an agriculturalist I know first hand how to be a responsible steward of our land. Taking care of our land is a passion of mine. As Commissioner I want to expand the "Don't Trash the Trust Program". I will also ensure all groups who lease or have any dealing with our lands are doing what is right to protect and preserve our land.

How will you evaluate possible land swaps that involve trust lands?

I understand the importance of land trades and swaps to benefit local communities as well as our state trust. All land swaps will be done by bringing everyone involved in the trade to the table, including local communities impacted by a swap. Land swaps will be of

greatest benefit to the people of New Mexico, not just for the benefits of private interests or corporations.

What will you do to develop renewable energy resources that could generate additional sources of revenue for the land trust’s beneficiaries?

Bringing renewable energy to our state is a must. I currently serve on the New Mexico Plan for Bio Fuels Development Committee. We can bring renewable energy to our state and be a leader in alternative energy production. 95% of the funding to the office comes from the oil and gas industries; we must diversify this funding and alternative energy can be the key.

JUDICIAL OFFICES

Vacancies for courts in New Mexico are filled through appointment by the governor from a slate of potential nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. The newly appointed judge must then run in a contested, partisan election at the next general election. Thereafter, the judge runs in nonpartisan retention elections for set terms. In a partisan election, the candidate receiving the most votes will be elected. In a retention election, the justice or judge must receive a 57% “yes” vote out of all the votes cast on the question of whether the justice or judge should remain in office. The website of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, www.nmjpec.org, includes evaluations and information about retention candidates. As a nonpartisan organization, the League of Women Voters does not support, oppose, or make recommendations regarding any political party or candidate.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

The ten judges on the Court of Appeals are elected by all voters in the state and serve eight-year terms. To be eligible to hold the office of Judge of the Court of Appeals, a person must be 35 years old, have practiced law for at least 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last 3 years. As the intermediate appellate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals currently reviews appeals in all cases, except criminal cases involving sentences of death or life imprisonment, appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, and cases involving habeas corpus. The judges sit in panels of three judges to decide cases. Annual salaries: Chief Judge, \$119,406; Judge, \$117,506.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS – PARTISAN

Position 1: Robert E. Robles
(Democrat)

How have your training, professional experience, and interests prepared you to serve on the New Mexico Court of Appeals?

Thirteen years as a lawyer and over seventeen years as a district judge has given me the opportunity to try and hear hundreds of jury and non-jury trials involving civil, criminal, divorce, child custody, juvenile, contract and negligence matters, in addition to appeals from



administrative agencies. Appeals from these cases come to the Court of Appeals where I have served since January 2009. www.votejudgerobles.com

What improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented?

The Court of Appeals receives approximately 1000 cases per year that must be processed quickly and efficiently to ensure prompt resolution for litigants. Therefore, it is essential to appoint and elect experienced, highly qualified judges who do not require on-the-job training and who can expeditiously write thoughtful and effective opinions based on the rule of law.

What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence?

Strict compliance with the Code of Judicial Conduct; abstaining from expressing personal or political viewpoints critical of the law/legal system; being unaware of individual contributors to judicial campaign fund; abstaining from making statements regarding issues that may come before the Court, which would require recusal for prejudgment; and serving all New Mexicans fairly and honorably without regard to political affiliation.

Position 1: Ned S. Fuller
(Republican)



How have your training, professional experience, and interests prepared you to serve on the New Mexico Court of Appeals?

I have been an attorney for 17 years. I have been an administrative law judge. I have been married for 22 years and, with my wife, raised 4 wonderful daughters. I volunteer at church, with youth and for the Boy Scouts of America. I understand how the law affects the average person. We need judges who will apply the law equally to all parties. www.nedfuller.com

What improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented?

Government in general needs to get back to the basics. The Constitution is what limits government. Thus, the Courts should uphold the Constitution and enforce the rule of law. Judges should use common sense to dismiss frivolous claims and defenses. Once a person is lawfully convicted of a crime, judges should hold the person accountable. Government should serve the people. www.nedfuller.com

What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence?

What injects politics into the Courts is when judges rewrite the law instead of apply the law. We need judges who will uphold the Constitution and enforce the rule of law. A judge's role is similar to that of a baseball umpire. The umpire applies the rules fairly to both sides. Likewise, a judge must apply the law fairly to all parties. www.nedfuller.com

Position 2: Linda M. Vanzi
(Democrat)



How have your training, professional experience, and interests prepared you to serve on the New Mexico Court of Appeals?

Prior to being appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2008, I served with distinction as a district court judge. That experience combined with my broad legal background as a lawyer, working for large corporations, owning my own business, and being actively involved as a volunteer have all prepared me to continue the tradition of fairness, equality and intellectual rigor on the appellate court.

What improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented?

As the only intermediate appellate court serving the entire state, the Court of Appeals reviews appeals in almost all cases. The court effectively manages a caseload of over 900 cases a year. However, as with most government agencies in New Mexico, the current budget crisis has impacted the court's ability to fill vacant positions. Cases could be decided more expeditiously with a fully staffed court.

What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence?

Judicial independence is critical to our system of democracy and necessary to provide balance in our government. Judicial candidates must promote public confidence by demonstrating that they are free from political influence. This is done by scrupulously following the code of judicial conduct, by having a campaign committee to handle finances, and by never compromising ethics or integrity for the sake of a vote.

Position 3: Tim L. Garcia
(Democrat)



How have your training, professional experience, and interests prepared you to serve on the New Mexico Court of Appeals?

During my years in private practice, I represented clients in nearly every area of law (including civil, criminal, domestic, administrative and governmental) and practiced before most of the courts in our region (State, Municipal, Metro, Magistrate, District and Appellate; Federal District and 10th Circuit). This experience was extremely valuable during my seven years as a District Court judge and now on the Court of Appeals.

What improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented?

Resources are very limited and the appellate docket is very demanding. Nearly all of our appellate court budget is allocated to the resource staffing needs for the court. Without additional monies, it will be very difficult to add the needed personnel to improve the

services of the court. The budget crunch has had a significant effect on the courts, and other areas of government as well.

What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence?

Public financing of appellate court elections has been implemented to maintain judicial independence. The existing law for public financing needs to be amended to enable candidates to effectively run for these judicial positions. Present restrictions do not allow candidates to have necessary resources to run their campaign until a few months before the election. This should be changed to make public financing universally chosen by judicial candidates.

N.M. House of Representatives, 43rd District

There are 70 members in the N.M. House of Representatives. The legislative sessions begin on the third Tuesday of January. In odd years, these last 60 days; in even years, 30 days. Representatives are elected for two-year terms. The 43rd District includes Los Alamos and parts of Sandoval and Santa Fe Counties.

Stephanie M. Richard
(Democrat)



What would your approach be to balancing the state budget? Please be specific.

We must demand greater government efficiency. State agencies currently employ performance metrics to measure program cost effectiveness. However, the legislature has to take greater responsibility in holding agencies to these performance measures. We must look at who's not paying their fair share. Right now out-of-state corporations are not required to report and pay taxes on the income they make in NM. This costs us millions.

In many parts of the state, including the Middle Rio Grande, consumption of water exceeds the renewable supply. How can New Mexico bring supply and demand of this critical resource into balance?

This is one of the most complex issues facing our state. There is no simple answer but NM can start by coordinating regional water plans to avoid over allocation, developing more incentives for water conservation, creating stability for water users by completing adjudications, prepare for climate change through improved watershed management, and employing best science practices (knowledge of local hydrology) in planning future water uses.

How would you change the current campaign finance laws in New Mexico? What classes of individuals or incorporated entities, if any, should be barred from contributing to the campaigns of candidates for public office?

Special interest money has an undue influence in our democratic process. Without campaign finance and ethics reform to reduce the influence of special interests, reform on

issues like healthcare, education and taxes becomes difficult. That's why I support publicly financed campaigns for statewide and legislative offices. I also would create an independent ethics commission that investigates complaints against state officials, state employees and lawmakers.

Jeannette O. Wallace
(Republican)



What would your approach be to balancing the state budget?

Please be specific.

Our General Fund budget grew by over 50%, over \$2 Billion, to over a \$6 Billion total. We only have 2 million citizens. We must address duplicate services, administrative costs for all of State Government and number of employees, both exempt and non-exempt. We need to address contracts. The legislature needs to regain control of the appropriating process and vote for vetoes when necessary..

In many parts of the state, including the Middle Rio Grande, consumption of water exceeds the renewable supply. How can New Mexico bring supply and demand of this critical resource into balance?

We must address growth. Allowing a county the ability to add developments and purchase their water rights from miles away does not help the small land owners and their aquifers. We do not want to inhibit growth, however, available resources at the site without harming our rural areas is difficult. We must address all resources as we continue to grow, including all utilities, including sewers..

How would you change the current campaign finance laws in New Mexico? What classes of individuals or incorporated entities, if any, should be barred from contributing to the campaigns of candidates for public office?

All donations should be open, all officers available, businesses as well as so-called non-profits. Legislators are 'citizen' legislators, as such they come from the business community. They do have conflicts, that is the way our constitution is set up, everyone is represented. Other elected officials, such as PRC or state Auditor, have other conflicts check for those possible conflicts.

District Judges - 1st Judicial District - Partisan

New Mexico's 33 counties are divided into 13 judicial districts. The First Judicial District includes Los Alamos, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties. These are courts of general jurisdiction that hold jury trials in the following types of civil cases: tort, contract, real property rights and estate contests. The district courts in New Mexico generally have exclusive jurisdiction in all matters involving juvenile, domestic relations, and all cases not excepted in the Constitution or by law, such as those concurrent with probate courts in probate matters.

To be eligible to hold the office of District Court Judge, a person must be at least 35 years old, have practiced law for at least 6 years, and reside in the district for which he/she is elected or appointed. Judges serve six-year terms. Annual Salary: \$111,631.

Sara M. Singleton
(Division II: Civil & Family Court)
(Democrat)
unopposed



Sheri A. Raphaelson
(Division V: Rio Arriba Civil, Adult Criminal)
(Democrat)
unopposed



T. Glenn Ellington
(Division VII: Family Court)
(Democrat)
unopposed



Mary L. Marlowe
(Division VIII: Family Court)
(Democrat)
unopposed



Los Alamos Municipal Judge

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

Alan S. Kirk
(Republican)
unopposed



Los Alamos Magistrate Judge

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

Pat A. Casados
(Democrat)



Describe your qualifications and pertinent experiences that have prepared you to be a magistrate court judge.

Qualifications: Diligence to the Canon of Ethics, integrity, honesty, fairness, common sense, commitment to protect everyone's rights, adhering to the law and maintaining the decorum and dignity of the court. Experiences: Eight years on Los Alamos bench and serving in courts statewide, mentor judge, board member/secretary of the Judge's association, serving on numerous committee locally and statewide and a 39 year resident.

What changes are needed in the magistrate court system? How would you, as a magistrate judge, address them?

Statewide: The new computer system for better efficiency and education of judges will insure maintaining mandatory sentencing and the highest ethical standards. I am working with the budget committee for continuing funds. As a New Judge Trainer, we are working to assure all judges receive the best training in issues of law, standards, consistence and ethics. Locally: Continuing outreach to the public on court procedures.

Gary R. Ahlers
(Republican)



Describe your qualifications and pertinent experiences that have prepared you to be a magistrate court judge.

The criminal justice system is my first passion. I am a retired Police Officer of 20+ years. NM and NJ experience: Board Vice President of the Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico, for domestic violence; Small Business owner in New Mexico for 16 years; Former Court Liaison Officer, Bergen County Family Courts, NJ; Former Police Academy Instructor: Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Police/Juvenile Relations.

What changes are needed in the magistrate court system? How would you, as a magistrate judge, address them?

The Magistrate Court must be more community oriented. The Magistrate is elected by the people to ensure that justice is met in a fashion consistent with community values. A way to address this issue is to restructure the court to accommodate the people it serves, for example to have Court hours in the evening one night per week. For more information visit www.garyahlers.com

Los Alamos County Council

The Council of the County of Los Alamos is the governing body of Los Alamos County and was created by the Los Alamos County Charter. The Council consists of seven members elected at large for four-year staggered terms. Four seats will be filled in the 2010 election by the four candidates receiving the most votes. The County Council holds two regular sessions per month, plus one work session. Its members also serve as liaisons with the County's Boards and Commissions and other governmental entities.

Kenneth F. Johnson

(Democrat)



What are your thoughts on Los Alamos County's Sustainability Initiative? This policy, adopted in 2008, commits the County to implementing a strategy to make County operations and the community at large environmentally sustainable. What further actions in this area do you think the County should be taking?

The goal of environmental sustainability is inevitable. The county needs to incorporate, as appropriate, green building design and construction in all of their capital projects and encourage the Los Alamos Public Schools and local businesses to do the same. Simple things such as bike lanes and wider sidewalks encourage less dependence on motorized vehicles thus supporting a cleaner environment.

How can the County help Los Alamos Public Schools and UNM-LA meet their financial challenges? What initiatives would you support?

The county cannot directly financially aid the Los Alamos Public Schools. However, the county can do so indirectly. For example the county absorbed the demolition of the school buildings at the Trinity Site, saving the schools several million dollars. The joint effort between the county and LAPS, if successful, will bring significant lease revenue to LAPS.

What are your goals for the Trinity Site Revitalization Project? How might those goals be accomplished?

My goal for the Trinity Site Revitalization Project would be a successful combination of retail and residential development, which could help revitalize downtown Los Alamos. To accomplish this goal the Trinity Site must not be developed piecemeal. Instead a single developer with an integrated plan is required to bring the right mix of retail and residential development.

Which capital improvement projects, current and proposed, are most essential for the County's future, and why?

The current and proposed capital improvement projects that improve the county's infrastructure are essential. They improve the quality of life for Los Alamos residents by making the community a desirable place to live. They also indirectly support the

economic revival of Los Alamos by making the county attractive to small and large businesses, and they aid LANL in the recruitment of new staff.

Betty Ann Gunther
(Democrat)



What are your thoughts on Los Alamos County's Sustainability Initiative? This policy, adopted in 2008, commits the County to implementing a strategy to make County operations and the community at large environmentally sustainable. What further actions in this area do you think the County should be taking?

The Los Alamos County should add the American Institute of Architecture standards for buildings and materials to the LEED proposals it has already adopted for the construction of green buildings. I prefer CIP projects, both current and proposed, that use or study renewable energy sources. I would favor a project to study the use of natural gas (CNG) in county and private vehicles.

How can the County help Los Alamos Public Schools and UNM-LA meet their financial challenges? What initiatives would you support?

The county can aid the public schools through public-private partnerships which benefit the schools, such as the Trinity Project. In addition, it can help increase the property tax base by the approval of projects which are built by the federal government on privately owned land. It can help UNM-LA by direct funding support and by guaranteeing any loans that UNM-LA might need for projects.

What are your goals for the Trinity Site Revitalization Project? How might those goals be accomplished?

I would like to see the county find a developer for the Trinity Sites Project who would build an attractive area for restaurants, shops and a large grocery store. Los Alamos needs more options for shopping, especially for grocery shopping. I would want the buildings involved to be the most sustainable possible given current technology and I would like to see ample parking there.

Which capital improvement projects, current and proposed, are most essential for the County's future, and why?

Completion of the Trinity Site Project and construction of a new municipal building are top priorities for me. It is also important to me that the county create an up-to-date and secure archival and records center. My priority list would also include all projects regarding the maintenance and improvement of county utilities especially water tanks, dams, the electric grid and recycling projects.

Deborah F. Gill
(Democrat)



What are your thoughts on Los Alamos County's Sustainability Initiative? This policy, adopted in 2008, commits the County to implementing a strategy to make County operations and the community at large environmentally sustainable. What further actions in this area do you think the County should be taking?

I support implementation of the County's Sustainability Initiative's strategic objectives. Reducing energy usage per capita; increasing transit ridership, reduction of water usage and greenhouse gas emissions, sustainability education, trail development, fulfilling other targets are essential for continued quality of life. Improved cyclist/driver/courtesy initiatives, tapping methane from the landfill, a future solar array and more pedestrian friendly sidewalks are actions the county should also be taking.

How can the County help Los Alamos Public Schools and UNM-LA meet their financial challenges? What initiatives would you support?

I support meeting monthly with both organizations ensuring open communication. Transportation and utility relationships should be discussed with LAPS after review of state law. The Trinity Site Revitalization must continue to ensure additional LAPS funds. Council, continuing work on regional economic development issues, can benefit UNM-LA. Council familiarity with local, regional, Pueblo and Lab skill development needs can help UNM-LA determine new degree program development.

What are your goals for the Trinity Site Revitalization Project? How might those goals be accomplished?

Council must proceed calmly and with extreme patience toward choosing a site developer by carefully processing review information from members of the community, the Trinity Site Revitalization Project Committee, the County Administrator, and the Economic Vitality Administrator. We need to ensure that the Site plan merges successfully with the rest of the downtown development. Financing mechanisms should carefully balance development benefits and long term obligations.

Which capital improvement projects, current and proposed, are most essential for the County's future, and why?

Use of community resources must benefit the "common good". Approval of any CIP requires comprehensive evaluation. The Golf Course Clubhouse renovation and/or replacement compliments quality of life. The new Visitors Center in White Rock contributes to economic vitality. A Teen Multi-purpose Center could ensure kids are engaged in healthy activity instead of risky behavior. A new entrance/exit road to Quemazon benefits public safety.

Frances M. Berting
(Republican)



What are your thoughts on Los Alamos County's Sustainability Initiative? This policy, adopted in 2008, commits the County to implementing a strategy to make County operations and the community at large environmentally sustainable. What further actions in this area do you think the County should be taking?

Many sustainability advances have been made, e.g.: Eco Station, Pajarito Cliffs and Justice Center built to LEED standards; 40% of waste recycled; extensive transit system in operation; green (solar) electricity available to customers; Waste Management Board transformed to Sustainability Board; Sustainability website established; etc. Feasibility of many additional initiatives is being considered. Total energy cycle must be included if replacing hydrocarbon fuels.

How can the County help Los Alamos Public Schools and UNM-LA meet their financial challenges? What initiatives would you support?

Pursue initiatives already in place: * Build Trinity Place as planned, so that the schools benefit from leases of their property and increased tax income as that area increases in property value. * Maintain the 2.2 mil (\$1.5 million) County property tax reduction recently voted to partially offset recent school bond tax increase. * Assist with maintenance of joint use facilities.

What are your goals for the Trinity Site Revitalization Project? How might those goals be accomplished?

Trinity Place should become an attractive gathering place with a Target type store (including groceries), surrounded by small, local shops, with offices, mixed housing, a plaza facing the Canyon Rim Trail, underground parking on Canyon side, and possibly a high-end hotel with convention center. A design like the original Boyer concept should be requested/required of bidders for the development.

Which capital improvement projects, current and proposed, are most essential for the County's future, and why?

* Radio System for Emergency Communications Interoperability: crucial public safety issue, long overdue. * Multi-Purpose Youth Facility: treating youth as respected community members. * White Rock Community Center: essential White Rock downtown rehabilitation. * Community Building/Site Study: essential planning for Community Center, Ashley Pond Park, future use of building itself. * Community Broadband Network; essential for a thriving 21st century community!

Ronald D. Selvage
(Republican)



What are your thoughts on Los Alamos County's Sustainability Initiative? This policy, adopted in 2008, commits the County to implementing a strategy to make County operations and the community at large environmentally sustainable. What further actions in this area do you think the County should be taking?

I agree in principle with the County's Sustainability Initiative. Since this was approved in March of 2008, I think the next step is to evaluate where the county is with respect to their initial goals, and modify the plan as needed.

How can the County help Los Alamos Public Schools and UNM-LA meet their financial challenges? What initiatives would you support?

There are several creative things that the county can do to help offset budget cuts, and still remain within the law regarding funding issues. One possible idea is for the County to take over operation of the Duane Smith Auditorium. This would lower the operating cost to the schools, while giving the County a performing arts center, and allow for greater renovation of the facility.

What are your goals for the Trinity Site Revitalization Project? How might those goals be accomplished?

Bring to completion the development plan that all of the contractors promise us when they are bidding on the development contract. I think there is the potential for a lot of growth in the retail sector in Los Alamos, and the Trinity site is a great place for that growth to start. The project needs to be developed with the entire town in mind.

Which capital improvement projects, current and proposed, are most essential for the County's future, and why?

I am in favor of the CIPs that either improve the quality of life for the citizens of Los Alamos, or create improvements that will foster retail development and increase visitors. The current CIPs that I think meet these requirements are the WR Road Improvements, WR Visitors Center, the Golf Course Clubhouse Renovation, and the North Mesa Ball Field Lights Replacement.

Geoffrey M. Rodgers
(Republican)



What are your thoughts on Los Alamos County's Sustainability Initiative? This policy, adopted in 2008, commits the County to implementing a strategy to make County operations and the community at large environmentally sustainable. What further actions in this area do you think the County should be taking?

Environmental sustainability for the county begins with limiting the growth of its ever increasing footprint. The County should refrain from building over-sized buildings, even if it is to a LEED standard. The County's should also support alternative energy, gray water use, and conservation. The County has unique responsibility to be a good steward of all resources that it uses.

How can the County help Los Alamos Public Schools and UNM-LA meet their financial challenges? What initiatives would you support?

The County is limited by law in this area. A primary step is to keep the County's own fee and tax increases to a minimum. The County often forces the two educational entities to compete for finite public support for limited resources. I would support the County funding certain renovations of publicly used facilities, provided LAPS or UNM-LA sought such help.

What are your goals for the Trinity Site Revitalization Project? How might those goals be accomplished?

The goal for the project should be development with private investment. The County should be focused on ensuring that clear, enforceable zoning and development code is in place so that any private investor knows up front what the community will support. The next step is to ensure the process is open and competitive. The County should not be the primary developer or offering public subsidies.

Which capital improvement projects, current and proposed, are most essential for the County's future, and why?

The projects centered on the two town centers (LA and WR) are essential for economic purposes. However, we can't forget all the small projects that make this a great place to live, even though each project may serve only a small constituency. Recreation and public space projects indirectly add value to the community.

James W. Hall
(Republican)



What are your thoughts on Los Alamos County's Sustainability Initiative? This policy, adopted in 2008, commits the County to implementing a strategy to make County operations and the community at large environmentally sustainable. What further actions in this area do you think the County should be taking?

I voted for the sustainability plan while on Council. I believe it is an important long-term strategy for our community. We already have some successes—the hugely successful bus service, new bike lanes, the low flow hydro project, and the new smart grid initiative. We should continue incremental implementation of the strategy as technologies mature and resources are available.

How can the County help Los Alamos Public Schools and UNM-LA meet their financial challenges? What initiatives would you support?

The County has made significant contributions to the public schools by building new maintenance facilities, merging common support facilities such as warehouse operations, deferring rent payments, and supporting the recent school bonds. Both K-12 schools and UNM-LA are important community resources and, although independent governmental units, deserve County support where legally allowed.

What are your goals for the Trinity Site Revitalization Project? How might those goals be accomplished?

The Trinity site is a rare resource for Los Alamos County—significant land available for commercial and/or residential development. My general goals are major retail development and a mix of housing units. I would also like some allocation of land for development by locals. While I appreciate the advantages of a master developer, I am concerned about “freezing out” local businesses and builders.

Which capital improvement projects, current and proposed, are most essential for the County's future, and why?

The most important non-utility capital projects are the new Municipal Building, projects that will help development in White Rock, ongoing improvements to streets and sidewalks, and projects that improve parks and recreational opportunities. The latter include hiking and biking trails, Camp May improvements, and similar initiatives. I cannot be more specific about priorities without reviewing Phase 1 project analysis and hearing testimony.

Los Alamos County Assessor

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

JoAnn Johnson
(Republican)
unopposed



Los Alamos County Sheriff

The Sheriff's Office enforces all Federal, State, and County laws. This office is also responsible for the service of legal process from various courts and court support services. The County Sheriff serves a four-year term.



Marco Valentino Lucero

(Democrat)

unopposed

Los Alamos County Probate Judge

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



Y. Ellen Hong

(Democrat)

unopposed

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

The five justices on the Supreme Court are elected by all voters in the state and serve eight-year terms. To be eligible to hold the office of Justice of the Supreme Court, a person must be 35 years old, have practiced law for at least 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last 3 years. The Supreme Court serves as the administrative head of the New Mexico judicial branch of government. It is the “court of last resort” for state appellate actions, regulates attorneys and judges, and has superintending control over all lower state courts. It has jurisdiction over civil cases where jurisdiction is not specifically vested in the state Court of Appeals, appeals from criminal cases imposing the death penalty or life imprisonment, appeals from decisions of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, certiorari review of state Court of Appeals decisions, and cases certified to it by the state Court of Appeals or any federal court. Annual salaries: Chief Justice, \$125,691; Justice, \$123,691.

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT – RETENTION

(See previous Judicial Offices section.)

Charles W. Daniels

What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current New Mexico Supreme Court Justice?

I have had 38 years of a broad range of experience as a trial lawyer, a law professor, a teacher of judges and lawyers, and an author of legal publications. In life, I have had equally diverse experiences, including military service, employment in a number of jobs since I was 13, including manual labor, and I am a husband, a father, and a grandfather.



Given your experience as a current Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, what programs or changes will you implement to improve the Supreme Court system?

I want to bring our courts into the 21st century with electronically created and accessed records. I am also forming a task force to study bail procedures, to better protect the community, to assure the presence of the accused, and to honor constitutional rights. We must do better in accomplishing these goals, and it is time for a fresh look at how we can do so.

From your perspective as a current Justice, what ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence?

Our courts must always be independent of improper political and personal influences. Judges must be strong to resist efforts of those who would try to exercise those influences. Judges should be careful to avoid involvement in partisan political activities and should make sure that neither their words nor deeds will create the impression that they are politically biased. True justice has no political party label.

Petra J. Maes

What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current New Mexico Supreme Court Justice?

My 37 years of legal experience includes: eight years as a trial attorney; seventeen years as a district court judge serving in the Criminal, Civil, Family and Children's Court divisions; and twelve years as a justice. I have served in leadership positions in both courts as: Chief Judge and Chief Justice. I raised four children as a single parent after my husband's death. I am a grandmother.



Given your experience as a current Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, what programs or changes will you implement to improve the Supreme Court system?

Overseeing automation for the entire judiciary to improve our courts ability to access records and data and as response to budget cuts. Continue as co-chair of the New Mexico Commission on Access to Justice, which is a comprehensive effort to improve access to the Courts for low income New Mexicans, making equal access to justice more than a slogan but a core function of courts.

From your perspective as a current Justice, what ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence?

To preserve the integrity and independence of the judiciary, judges must be able to explain their decisions on the basis of the law and the application of the facts to the law. To maintain public confidence, judges shall not allow family, social, political or other relationships to influence the judge's judicial conduct or judgment. The judge's only constituency is the law.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS – RETENTION

(See previous Judicial Offices and Judge of the Court of Appeals section.)

Michael D. Bustamante



What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current Judge of the Court of Appeals?

I have 36 years of professional experience: 20 years in a broad private practice and 16 years on the Court of Appeals deciding all manner of civil and criminal matters. My personal attributes include intellectual curiosity, industry (I have worked since age 10), good writing skills and good humor. I retain and nurture my 400-year-old roots in New Mexico.

Given your experience as a Judge of the Court of Appeals, what improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented?

An intermediate appellate court's primary task involves review for error. Our decisions must be made quickly while giving cases the attention they merit. We are streamlining our administrative processes for processing case records, legal research, and writing using electronic technologies as much as possible. As chair of the judiciary's information technology committee, I am working to install e-filing technology at all court levels.

What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influences?

Without entirely ceding their First Amendment Rights, judges must be careful to avoid involvement in partisan politics, including publicly speaking for or against candidates for political office and contributing more than nominal amounts for campaigns. Even the perception of political bias is potential poison to the faith and trust of the citizenry in the judiciary's ability to render fair and impartial justice.

Celia Foy Castillo



What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current Judge of the Court of Appeals?

I have 29 years of legal experience, almost 10 years on the Court of Appeals and 19 years primarily in private practice. I serve on several court committees and am chair of the budget committee. Before law, I worked in education and was a teacher. I am bilingual, am a hard worker, look at both sides of an issue, and believe in equal justice for all.

Given your experience as a Judge of the Court of Appeals, what improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented?

The Court of Appeals considers cases from all over New Mexico. We are working on increasing the use of technology to make the appellate system more understandable to the public and more accessible to the litigants. We are also dealing with budget challenges and are focusing on ways to continue providing quality work and service despite a severe cut in funding.

What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influences?

The Code of Judicial Conduct limits political participation by judges. Code provisions must be followed and enforced. Even the appearance of improper political influence can affect confidence in the judiciary, and thus participation in partisan politics may be even more limited than set forth in the Code. Judges must conduct themselves at all times in an unbiased and impartial manner.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

On November 2, 2010, five proposed constitutional amendments will appear on the New Mexico general election ballot as the result of passage of joint resolutions by the New Mexico Legislature in its 2009 and 2010 regular legislative sessions. For adoption, a constitutional amendment requires ratification by a majority of those voting on the constitutional amendment. Proposed constitutional amendments become effective upon approval by the voters unless an effective date is provided within the text of the proposed amendment.

BRIEF ANALYSIS AND ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST

The full text of each amendment with “for and against” arguments prepared by Legislative Council Services staff can be found on the New Mexico Legislature’s website: <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/reports.aspx>. The following information includes the text of each proposed amendment with a brief analysis of the amendment and a summary of arguments for and against the amendment.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 1

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Article 9, Section 14 of the Constitution of New Mexico to permit the establishment of a college scholarship program for New Mexico military war veterans.

Brief Analysis

Constitutional Amendment No. 1 would create a new exception to the “anti-donation clause” to allow the state to establish a veterans’ college scholarship program for military war veterans of conflicts that began after August 1, 1990. The scholarship would exempt those veterans from payment of tuition and would be administered in a similar manner as the scholarship for Vietnam conflict veterans. In order to be eligible for the scholarship,

military war veterans must exhaust all educational benefits offered by the United States Department of Defense or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, have been honorably discharged, have been a resident of New Mexico at the original time of enlisting, or have lived in New Mexico for 10 years, and awarded a campaign medal for service after August 1, 1990.

Arguments For

1. Currently the constitution allows the state to establish a scholarship program only for Vietnam veterans. The anti-donation clause prohibits other veterans from receiving that scholarship.
2. State institutions already provide statutorily or constitutionally created scholarships, grants, and loan-for-service programs to many other groups. Veterans who served in a conflict after 1990 are equally deserving of a scholarship program at state institutions.
3. Supplementing existing federal educational programs and providing veterans the opportunity to start and finish their education at any time will provide additional opportunities to veterans, help them earn a higher income, establish a more educated work force, and attract economic development to New Mexico.
4. The residency requirement in this proposed amendment is identical to the residency requirement for those veterans of the Vietnam conflict who might be seeking a scholarship. That long-standing residency requirement has not been challenged, and there is no reason to believe that it will be.

Arguments Against

1. The amendment might invite a potentially disruptive legal challenge. Establishing a residency requirement for veterans to receive a scholarship is not an acceptable basis on which to grant or deny state benefits. The U. S. Supreme Court has prohibited similar restrictions on benefits offered to veterans, citing violations of the equal protection and the right-to-travel protection clauses of the United States Constitution.
2. The exclusion of veterans who served in conflicts between 1975 and 1990 might violate the equal protection clauses of the federal and state constitutions.
3. While veterans have served their country and are deserving of honor and support, a change to the anti-donation clause will enrich only this one specific group.
4. If the state voluntarily provides educational benefits to veterans, this will only encourage the federal government to shift more of its responsibilities to the state.
5. It is irresponsible to add to the state's financial problems by approving another unfunded program that will result in increased tuition for other students or increased taxes for New Mexico residents.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 2

A joint resolution proposing to amend Article 10, Section 2 of the Constitution of New Mexico to allow county officials to serve three consecutive terms instead of two.

Brief Analysis

Constitutional Amendment No. 2 proposes to amend Article 10, Section 2 of the Constitution of New Mexico to allow county officials to serve three consecutive terms instead of two.

Arguments For

1. This amendment strikes a balance between those who want to ensure that a county officer will not take advantage of incumbency and those who recognize the value of having public officers who are experienced and knowledgeable. There still would be term limits, but officials who earn the support of the voters will be allowed the chance to run for and serve in office for one additional term before being barred from holding county office for a two-year period.
2. The pool of eligible and capable individuals within a county, especially in New Mexico's many low-population counties, is often quite small. Term limits artificially limit the choice of available and qualified candidates for elective office. Incompetent or corrupt officeholders may always be voted out.
3. County governments in New Mexico have the oldest and most restrictive term limits in the United States, according to the National Association of Counties. County officials must be permitted to gain and use the expertise that three consecutive terms afford.
4. Unelected officials, such as long-time career bureaucrats, gain power when elected officials leave office after only two terms.

Arguments Against

1. The proposed amendment makes no distinction between large and small counties, and it does not recognize the wisdom in preventing public officers from taking advantage of incumbency.
2. Longer terms of service allow official and special interests to become more entrenched.
3. Extending the current limit to 12 years would not provide any more time to gain experience, but would limit the ability of those with new ideas and energy to compete against officeholders who can use the advantage of incumbency to defeat most newcomers.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 3

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Article 7, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico to modernize language on qualified electors by removing language denigrating persons with developmental disabilities, adopting federal requirements to vote, defining mental incapacity for voting purposes and restricting felons from voting except as restored by statute.

Brief Analysis

Constitutional Amendment No. 3 proposes to change several provisions that control who may vote in New Mexico's elections. The proposed amendment to Article 7, Section 1 would:

1. Replace the language regarding the right to vote of persons over 21 years of age with the federal constitutional standard, which guarantees the right of United States citizens who are 18 years of age or older to vote.
2. Remove the durational residency requirements, which are already effectively preempted by federal law, and authorize the legislature to determine those requirements in accordance with federal law.
3. Replace the provision that guarantees New Mexico residents the right to vote in all elections for public officers with a provision that guarantees the right to vote to persons who are United States citizens and otherwise qualified to vote under federal law, subject to residency and registration requirements enacted by the legislature.
4. Allow the legislature to determine if convicted felons will be able to vote or not, regardless of whether the convicted felons have served the entirety of their sentences.
5. Guarantee that qualified electors will be eligible to vote in all elections in New Mexico rather than just elections for public officers, which presumably would prohibit voter eligibility restrictions based on property ownership or other restrictions currently in effect for some special district elections.
6. Remove the constitutional restriction on "idiots" and "insane persons", but allow the legislature to restrict citizens from voting by reason of mental incapacity, which is limited to "persons who are unable to mark their ballot and who are concurrently also unable to communicate their voter preference".

Arguments For

1. The right of citizens over the age of 18 to vote is established by the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution, and the imposition of durational residency requirements is limited by federal law. New Mexico already complies with federal law governing

voting rights. Eliminating provisions in Article 7, Section 1 that conflict with federal requirements will bring the Constitution of New Mexico into accord with federal law and New Mexico statutes.

2. Despite a title that indicates the opposite, the proposed amendment eliminates the current constitutional provision that prohibits voting by convicted felons who have not been restored to political rights. Removing this prohibition will allow the legislature to decide whether to extend the right to vote to some of the most disenfranchised citizens of the state, while maintaining the flexibility to limit the right of felons to vote if the legislature deems it appropriate.

3. In addition to the other proposed changes, this amendment would replace "idiots" and "insane persons" with "mental incapacity", defined as persons who cannot mark a ballot and are unable to communicate their voting preference.

Arguments Against

1. The amendment invites a potentially disruptive legal challenge because the ballot title does not accurately reflect the language and provisions contained in the body of this amendment. The ballot language can lure voters to cast their votes based on the provision to remove language denigrating persons with developmental disabilities, rather than on all of the provisions.

2. This proposed amendment forces a voter to accept more than one proposal or none at all, rather than having the choice of voting on each proposal separately. Combining two independent provisions in the same piece of legislation is prohibited by the New Mexico Constitution.

3. Limitations on the power of the legislature to determine who may or may not vote should remain part of the constitution. Constitutional Amendment No. 3 gives the legislature too much power to determine the eligible electorate.

4. The amendment defines mental incapacities as physical limitations. It is not wise to entirely remove the state's ability to pass legislation that disqualifies persons from voting on grounds of mental unsuitability. Denying persons with severe mental deficiency or dementia the right to vote is good public policy.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 4

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Article 8 of the Constitution of New Mexico to provide a property tax exemption for property of a veterans' organization chartered by the United States Congress.

Brief Analysis

Constitutional Amendment No. 4 would add a new section to exempt from taxation the property of a veterans' organization chartered by the U.S. Congress and used primarily for veterans and their families.

Arguments For

1. Property belonging to churches and charitable organizations is not taxed. Therefore, the property of veterans' associations, which are also charitable organizations, should not be taxed. Since state courts have not allowed veterans' organizations tax-exempt status under current exemptions for charitable organizations, the constitutional amendment is necessary to provide the property tax exemption.
2. This amendment ensures that only legitimate veterans' organizations chartered by the U.S. Congress will receive the property tax exemption. Because the burden to prove eligibility is on the organization, resources spent by the state to verify eligibility will be minimal.
3. While providing important tax relief to organizations benefiting our veterans, exempting the few congressionally chartered veterans' organizations in the state will have a minimal fiscal impact. According to the Veterans' Services Department, there are 175 veterans' organizations in New Mexico.

Arguments Against

1. Veterans already receive several specific tax benefits provided by the Constitution of New Mexico and the Property Tax Code.
2. The proposed property tax exemption would reduce the net taxable value of property in the state and have the effect of raising property tax rates for all other taxpayers. It is not wise public policy to raise property taxes on everyone else in the state during a national recession in order to exempt social clubs.
3. The activities of the veterans' organizations benefit the membership of the organization and not the general public. Moreover, the property tax exemption would not benefit individual veterans directly.
4. This amendment ignores the many groups with organizations of their own that have made sacrifices, such as schoolteachers, firefighters, police officers and other public servants. Providing benefits for veterans is a federal responsibility, and the state should not relieve the federal government of that responsibility.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 5

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Article 4, Section 28 of the Constitution of New Mexico to allow the appointment of certain former members of the legislature to civil offices in the state in a limited situation.

Brief Analysis

Constitutional Amendment No. 5 would allow a member of the legislature to be appointed to a civil office during the term of the legislature for which the member was elected, in limited situations. A member of the legislature may be appointed to civil office if that member resigns from the legislature prior to the appointment and if the civil office was not created, nor the salary for the position increased, during the term from which that member resigned.

Arguments For

1. Legislators gain a great deal of knowledge about how state government works. Vacancies in other branches of government might be difficult to fill because of the scarcity of relevant expertise, especially in states with a small population such as New Mexico.
2. This exception to the current prohibition on the appointment of legislators to civil office during their terms of office still protects the public against self-dealing politicians.
3. State lawmakers are unpaid citizen legislators whose only compensation is per diem and mileage for their service. Current law does not allow a legislator to resign to accept an appointive position, paid or unpaid, in any civil office. This proposed amendment recognizes that the legislator, after resigning, should not be barred from a position in government.

Arguments Against

1. Prohibiting a legislator from resigning in order to be appointed to civil office prevents the possibility of undue influence over the legislator by the appointing official. Because it is very difficult to prove such conduct, the state's constitution makes certain the temptation to provide legislative favors in exchange for appointment to a civil office is eliminated.
2. Although the prohibition on appointing a legislator to a civil office during the term for which the legislator is elected has been in the state constitution since its adoption in 1912, the appearance of corruption in the appointive process still could threaten the integrity of the executive or legislative branches of government.
3. The amendment allows a select few individuals to become, in effect, "power brokers" with a "corner" on the influence and privileges of political office. If legislators are allowed to resign and then be appointed to civil offices, an appointing official may appoint a legislator in order to influence the outcome of legislation.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ISSUES

General Obligation Bonds and Taxes

A bond represents a debt for money borrowed by a government to finance capital improvement projects. The government promises to repay the amount borrowed, plus interest, over a period of time. The bonds are called "General Obligation" because payment of the debt service (principal plus interest) is a general obligation of the governmental entity issuing the bond, in this case the state and its property owners. Therefore, the bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the State of New Mexico.

General obligation bonds are payable from property taxes levied on all property in the state that is subject to property taxation. According to the Board of Finance Division of the Department of Finance and Administration, the specific amount of property taxes collected in a given year is attributable to a number of factors, including the amount of debt service required for existing general obligation bonds, the projected debt service required for the new bond issue, the latest assessed valuation of net taxable property, cash balances in bond debt service accounts, the date of issuance, and the actual interest rate obtained on the bond sale.

Based on the assumption that all four bond issues will be passed by voters, the property tax year 2010 mill levy has been set to 1.53 mills, which is higher than the 2009 rate of 1.15 mills. The State Board of Finance estimates that over a ten-year period, the four bonds on the ballot will increase annual property tax bills by an average of \$11.26 per \$100,000 of asset value. Of that \$11.26, Bond A accounts for \$0.50, Bond B accounts for \$0.45, Bond C accounts for \$0.33, and Bond D accounts for \$9.98.

2010 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act

The 2010 New Mexico Legislature passed the 2010 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act detailing projects that would be funded by these bonds. No bonds will be issued or sold under the act until the state's registered voters have voted upon and approved the bonds. Each bond is voted upon separately.

All of the four 2010 bond issues ask for voter approval to issue general obligation bonds as follows: Bond Issue A, in an amount not to exceed \$7,790,320, to make capital expenditures for senior citizen facility improvements, construction, and equipment acquisition projects; Bond Issue B, in an amount not to exceed \$7,082,110, to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal, and public library acquisitions; Bond Issue C, in an amount not to exceed \$5,100,000, to make capital expenditures for pre-kindergarten classrooms and facilities at public schools and for public school books and instructional materials; and Bond Issue D, in an amount not to exceed \$155,567,824, to make capital expenditures for certain higher educational and special schools capital improvements and acquisitions. The total for all four questions, including bond issuance

costs, is \$175,540,254. A complete breakdown of the designated projects under each bond issue can be found on the New Mexico Legislature's website:
<http://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/10%20Special/final/SB0001.pdf>

Bond Issue A – Senior Citizen Facility Improvements

Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed seven million seven hundred ninety thousand three hundred twenty dollars (\$7,790,320) to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvements, construction and equipment acquisition projects and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

Summary of Senior Center Projects to be Funded: The sale of Bond Issue A will fund 93 senior citizen facility projects in 27 New Mexico counties, including the Navajo Nation and pueblos, as follows: Bernalillo County, six projects totaling \$2,518,000; Catron County, two projects totaling \$39,500; Chaves County, two projects totaling \$252,600; Cibola County, two projects totaling \$36,100; Colfax County, two projects totaling \$32,500; Curry County, one project for \$5,200; De Baca County, one project for \$9,200; Dona Ana County, two projects totaling \$253,500; Eddy County, two projects totaling \$128,300; Grant County, three projects totaling \$142,400; Guadalupe County, one project for \$51,000; Lea County, three projects totaling \$12,100; Lincoln County, four projects totaling \$86,500; Los Alamos County, one project for \$89,000; McKinley County, ten projects totaling \$820,700; Mora County, one project for \$17,500; Otero County, one project for \$42,000; Quay County, three projects totaling \$35,300; Rio Arriba County, eight projects totaling \$400,800; San Juan County, six projects totaling \$219,100; Sandoval County, twelve projects totaling \$866,800; Santa Fe County, seven projects totaling \$196,700; Sierra County, two projects totaling \$136,300; Socorro County, three projects totaling \$263,500; Taos County, four projects totaling \$542,300; Union County, three projects totaling \$203,100; and Valencia County, one project for \$300,000. These 93 projects include designing, constructing, equipping, and furnishing of 9 new senior centers.

Bond Issue B – Library Acquisitions

Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed seven million eighty-two thousand one hundred ten dollars (\$7,082,110) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal and public library acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

Summary of Library Projects to be Funded: The following projects have been specifically designated for funding by the sale of Bond Issue B.

Cultural Affairs Department: \$2 million to acquire library books, equipment, and library resources for public libraries statewide, and \$1 million for supplemental library resource acquisitions, including books and equipment, and for planning, designing, and constructing capital improvements for tribal libraries statewide.

Higher Education Department: \$2 million to acquire library books, equipment, and resources for academic libraries statewide.

Public Education Department: \$2 million to acquire library books, equipment, and resources for public libraries statewide.

Bond Issue C – Public Schools

Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed five million one hundred thousand dollars (\$5,100,000) to make capital expenditures for pre-kindergarten classrooms and facilities at public schools and for public school books and instructional materials and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

Summary of Public School Projects to be Funded: The following projects have been specifically designated for funding by the sale of Bond Issue C.

Public Education Department: \$2 million for renovation and construction of pre-kindergarten classrooms and facilities at public schools statewide; \$2 million to purchase school books and instructional materials statewide; \$500,000 to purchase school buses statewide; and \$500,000 for student count equipment in school buses statewide.

Bond Issue D – Higher Education and Special Schools Improvement and Acquisition

The 2010 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher educational and special schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed one hundred fifty-five million five hundred sixty-seven thousand eight hundred twenty-four dollars (\$155,567,824) to make capital expenditures for certain higher educational and special schools capital improvements and acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

Summary of Higher Education and Special School Projects to be Funded: The following projects have been specifically designated for funding by the sale of Bond Issue D.

Eastern New Mexico State University: \$4 million to construct and improve the physical plant complex, including purchasing and installing a modular building at the Roswell branch campus; \$500,000 for renovations and infrastructure improvements, including energy efficiency and campus safety, at the Ruidoso branch campus; \$7 million for renovations and infrastructure improvements, including the razing of closed facilities, at ENMU in Portales.

Higher Education Department: \$16 million to renovate the Jeanette Stromberg hall at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque; \$1 million to renovate the former allied health facilities for use as computer labs and classrooms at Clovis Community College in Clovis; \$2 million to plan, design, and construct a facility for the renewable energy program and to purchase and install equipment for the school of trades and technology at San Juan College, San Juan County; \$5 million to renovate the vocational education complex at Luna Community College, Las Vegas; and \$1 million for infrastructure improvements at Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe County.

New Mexico Highlands: \$7 million to renovate and equip the historic Trolley building at New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas.

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology: \$12 million to design, equip, and furnish phase 1 of the geology facility at New Mexico Tech.

New Mexico State University: \$1,750,000 for infrastructure renovation and improvements at the Grants branch campus, Cibola County; \$18 million to renovate/construct and equip the Hershel Zohn theater and Branson library to house the institute for public policy at NMSU, Las Cruces; \$5,650,000 to design, construct, and equip an addition to the Gadsden center at the Dona Ana Community College branch, Dona Ana County; \$1,250,000 for infrastructure renovation at the Carlsbad branch campus, Eddy County; \$1,750,000 for infrastructure renovation at the Alamogordo branch campus, Otero County.

New Mexico School for the Deaf: \$3 million to coordinate with the public school facilities authority for fire suppression and improvements to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other renovations to address critical deficiencies at the New Mexico School for the Deaf, Santa Fe.

University of New Mexico: \$3,800,000 to renovate/construct and equip the biology building at UNM; \$12 million to demolish the old facility and construct an outpatient services building at Carrie Tingley Hospital, UNM; \$10 million to construct and furnish Reibsoner Hall, the chemistry building, at UNM; \$4 million to construct a new collaborative teaching and learning building for the College of Education, UNM; \$10 million for construction and furnishing of the Health Science Education Interdisciplinary Building, UNM; \$750,000 to renovate and equip science labs, classrooms, and storage space, Los Alamos branch campus; \$1,400,000 for improvements to the Zollinger Library, Gallup branch campus; and \$2 million to construct and equip phase I of the research center and learning library, Taos branch campus.

Western New Mexico University: \$5,500,000 for infrastructure improvements, including renovating the McCray Arts Building, Silver City.

Indian Affairs Department: \$1 million for improvements and security enhancements at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque; \$2 million to construct a regional wellness center for the Santa Fe Indian School, Santa Fe County; \$750,000 to construct the science technology and sculpture foundry buildings at the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe County; and \$1,500,000 to construct and improve general classroom facilities at Navajo Technical College, Crownpoint.

PROPOSED LOS ALAMOS COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENTS BRIEF EXPLANATION AND ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST

Question No. 1

In Article I, Ordinance #558 would:

- delete material in Section 101 that is inconsistent with state law;
- add to Section 103 wording to clarify that the purpose of the Charter is to provide for the maximum self-government allowed under state law.

Question No. 2

In Article II, Ordinance #559 would:

- in 202.2: add an exception to public council meetings “as authorized by state law”;
- allow five voters to make a written request (instead of submitting a petition) for consideration of a matter by council;
- *add an exception to the requirement for 4 affirmative votes for council action “as otherwise allowed in the Charter”;
- in 203.2.1: make the ordinance enactment clause consistent with state law;
- in 203.2.3: enable the council to re-consider a proposed ordinance that has been substantively amended no less than 7 days after the initial meeting. Currently a 30-day publication period is required;
- in 203.3: during an emergency, allow a majority of a quorum of councilors to adopt emergency ordinances. (*This provision is one reason for changing 202.2 above.) Currently 5 votes are required in an emergency.

Arguments for: It may be difficult to get all the Council together in an emergency such as the Cerro Grande fire. Emergency ordinances expire after 90 days.

Arguments against: The proposal lowers the threshold too much.

Question No. 3

Article II Section 200.4 Vacancies: Ordinance #560 would, in the unlikely event of 4 or more vacancies, allow a majority of the remaining councilors to fill each vacant seat.

(*This provision is another reason for the proposed change in 202.2 above.)

Arguments for: Vacancies on the Council could render the 4-vote requirement of section 202.2 of the charter difficult or impossible. This change clarifies that an appointment of a councilor requires only a majority of the councilors remaining until a quorum of four councilors exists, in which case an affirmative vote of four councilors is required under another section of the Charter. Currently, it would not be possible to reconstitute our County government with less than four councilors.

Arguments against: In an extraordinary circumstance where there would be less than four Councilors, a special election should be required as a more satisfying way to reconstitute county government.

Question No. 4

In Article II, Ordinance #561 would amend Subsection 200.5 and Section 304 to state that reimbursement of expenses incurred by elected officials in the performance of official duties shall be made in accordance with an ordinance.

Question No 5

In Article III Section 305 Ordinance #562 would:

- consolidate provisions concerning the membership of boards and committees, which would be deleted from Article IX Section 905;
- clarify that the Council may create boards and commissions “by ordinance” and ad hoc committees “by Council action.”

In Article III Section 306.2 the ordinance would designate the Personnel Board as a standing board.

Question No. 6

In Article VI Ordinance #563:

- Changes to Sections 600 and 601 would bring the Charter in line with state election laws.
- An addition to subsection 600.2 would establish that a tie vote is to be resolved by lot.

Question No. 7

Article IV Section 408. Capital Projects Permanent Fund: Ordinance #564 would delete outdated state law references.

Question No. 8

In Article III Subsection 306.3, Ordinance #565 would replace current language describing prohibited activities by County employees with the requirement that, “The

Council shall prescribe in the personnel ordinance limitations on employee political activities as are consistent with federal and state law.”

Question No. 9

Ordinance #566 would delete Article IX, Section 904, which is related to suing and serving a lawsuit on the County. The provision conflicts with state law.

Question No. 10

Ordinance #567 would amend the Charter to refer to state law regarding the publication of legal notices. Currently the Charter specifies where County notices are to be published and posted, including the requirement that the posting be with a newspaper with an office located in the County.

Arguments for: It is unnecessary to include the uniform publication requirements found in state law for local governments within the Charter definition of “publish or publication.” This section accounts for the possibility that the community may not always have a newspaper with an office in Los Alamos.

Arguments against: This ordinance does not do enough to ensure that our county business is going to be adequately displayed in local media. State statutes get changed, and the current protection of established local media publishing of county business might be lost.

Question No. 11

Ordinance #568 would clarify that the Council Chair would serve as the head of the government for the purpose of emergency law. The current term, “military” law, is outdated.