# 2024 NM Election Analysis by Pro Business /Hospitality Lobbyist:

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Introduction: After the 2024 NM Legislative Session several notable legislators announced their retirements which will lead to significant changes in both the state Senate and State House of Representatives as every member of each chamber is up for election during the 2024 cycle. While many seats will not be in play, as detailed in the below chart, a few seats will be hotly contested in both the Democratic and Republican primary races. These contested races will see:

- 1) Progressive Democrat candidates facing off against more moderate democrat candidates for historically democrat seats.
- 2) Conservative Republicans will face off against more moderate Republican candidates in historically Republican seats; and,
- 3) In some swing seats, Republican candidates will seek to flip those seats which could erode the near super majorities that Democrats currently enjoy in both the House and Senate, however, Republicans have almost no chance of gaining control over either chamber.

Additionally, progressive advocates have signaled that they intend to challenge a few moderate Democratic incumbents in the House and Senate primaries scheduled for June 4, 2024. Similarly, some notable Republican incumbents in both chambers are squaring off against one another.

The overall impact of the 2024 election cycle will ultimately lead to significant changes in the composition of the state legislature and could lead to the further political polarization of both chambers if the progressive Democratic candidates beat out moderate democrats and conservative Republican candidates beat out moderate republicans. However, if moderate challenges and incumbents fair better in the relevant primary elections, we could see a reordering of the power structure in the state Senate and a slight shift towards the center in the House. The respective leadership structures for the Democrats in the House and Senate are taking very different approaches to the relevant primary elections. While House Speaker Javier Martinez has signaled that he will support all incumbent members of his caucus, moderate and progressive alike, the President Pro Temp of the Senate, Mimi Stewart is actively targeting moderate candidates in both the Senate and the House, which is somewhat unprecedented in modern NM politics.

Note – Races where an incumbent is not facing a primary or general election challenge are not listed below but there are 17 returning Senators running in uncontested elections and \_\_\_\_ House members

running in uncontested elections. <u>Click here for full list Senate races</u> with links to candidate bios and <u>click here for a full list of House races</u> with candidate bios.

## SENATE RACES

OFFICE	DEM	REP	ANALYSIS
SD 4 Cibola, Mc Kinley & San Juan	Sen George Munoz – Incumbent- moderate	None	A moderate leaning district so Sen Munoz, a moderate D and chair of the Senate Finance
– Sen Munoz	Keith Hillock – Challenger		Committee has the advantage and should retain the seat but is taking the race seriously against his progressive opponent.
SD 9 – Bernalillo & Sandoval	Heather Balas – Moderate candidate	Audrey Trujillo – Conservative Candidate	A swing seat formerly held by John Sapien (D) and prior to that Steve Komadia (R). It's a
Open due to retirement of Sen McKenna (D)	Cindy Nava – Progressive candidate	Frida Vasquez – Moderate Candidate	moderate district that has trended more Dem recently. The Dem primary winner will have an advantage but, if the more progressive Nava wins, Rs could in the race. A contested primary with Nava being supported by ProTem Stewart and Balas supported by the business community.
<b>SD 10 –Bernalillo &amp;</b> <b>Sandoval</b> - Sen Duhigg (D)	Katie Duhigg – Incumbent who is progressive.	Rudy Mora - Challenger	Sen Duhigg should hold this seat as it has become a very Democratic district
<b>SD 11 Bernalillo</b> – Sen Lopez (D)	Linda Lopez – Incumbent who is progressive.	None	Sen Lopez should retain the seat and win the Dem primary
	Richard Carrion – Challenger (I don't know much about Richard		
<b>SD 12 Bernalillo</b> – Open due to the retirement of Sen Ortiz y Pino	Phillip Ramirez – Challenger who is a moderate Dem	Jay Block – Conservative Candace Gould – Moderate R who is a former state senator	This seat has become much more Republican with redistricting so the fight should be in the R primary with Gould holding an advantage

OFFICE	DEM	REP	ANALYSIS
<b>SD 13 Bernalillo</b> – Sen O'Neill (D)	Bill O'Neill – Incumbent who is lightly moderate.	None	This is a D seat and former Bern Co. County Commissioner is challenging
	Debbie O'Malley – Challenger who is progressive		O'Neill. This will be a very close race.
SD 15 Bernalillo – Sen Ivey- Soto (D)	Daniel Ivey-Soto – Incumbent who is moderate.	None	This is a Dem seat and Ivey- Soto has been under fire from progressives for various
- 36m (b)	Heather Berghmans – Challenger who is		political reasons and alleged sexual harassment allegations from a progressive lobbyist
	progressive.		
<b>SD 18 Bernalillo</b> – Open Seat due to the	Natalie Figueroa who's a progressive and current member of the House.	Kurstin Johnson is a moderate R who ran against Figueroa for her	This is a swing seat and should be a close general election with a slight edge going to
retirement of Sen Tallman (D)		House seat last election cycle	Figueroa due to the composition of the district
SD 19 Bern, Sandoval, SF Torrance	William Burton Scott – I	Anthony Thornton – I	There is a libertarian candidate
– Open seat due to the	don't know anything about Scott	don't know anything about Thronton	but this is an R seat so Thornton should win the
retirement of Sen Schmedes			general election
SD 20 Bernalillo	Martine Hickey –	Wayne Yevoli – I don't	Historically an R district but
– Sen Hickey (D)	Incumbent who is lightly moderate	know anything about Yevoli	has become more of a swing seat with redistricting. Hickey has an advantage and should hold on to the seat in the general
SD 21 Bernalillo	Athena Christodoulou	John Morton – The more mod. R which Sen	This is a solid R seat, and the R primary is where the race will
– Open seat due to the retirement of Sen	Phillip Snedeker	Moores supports	be decided
Moores (R)	l don't know much	Michael Wiener – A	
	about either of the D candidates	conservative R who is a	
	Canuldates	former County Commissioner	
		Nicole Tobiassen – Most conservative R in the race	
SD 24 Santa Fe	Linda Trujillo – Former House Rep running for	None	Solid D seat and the primary is where this race will be
– Open Seat due to the	this seat- the more		decided. Linda Trujillo has
retirement of Nancy Rodriguez (D)	moderate candidate		decent name ID given her former services- State Rep and
	Anna Hansen – Former SF County		her 2 yr. tenure as the Sec. of GSD
	Commissioner who is a progressive candidate		Anna Hansen also has a decent name ID so this could be a close election.

OFFICE	DEM	REP	ANALYSIS
SD 26 Bernalillo – Sen Mo Maestas (D) - recently appointed to the seat after Sen Jacob Candelaria retired in the middle of his term	Mo Maestas – A moderate Incumbent and a former house mbr. Julie Radoslovich progressive who is backed by the Sen Pro Tem	None	It's a Dem district so a Dem primary race. Maestas is the more moderate. Radoslovich is a progressive who is being backed by the Sen Pro Temp
SD 29	Tina Garcia –	Joshua Sanchez – A	This is a lean Republican seat
Bernalillo/Valencia	Progressive leaning D who I don't know much	somewhat moderate R who is currently the	that Sen Baca (the former Minority Floor Leader held for 3
– Open Seat due to the retirement of Sen Greg	about	Senator in SD 30 but is switching to this district	terms. Sanchez lives in the current district which was
Baca (R)		because the district lines were redrawn in the last redistricting effort	redrawn in the recent redistricting effort. Sanchez should have an advantage in the general election.
SD 40 Sandoval	Amina Everett – Challenger who I don't	Craig Brandt – Incumbent who is a	This is a strong R district and Brandt should retain the seat
– Sen Craig Brandt (R)	know much about	lightly moderate R	bianut shoutu retain the seat

## HOUSE RACES

OFFICE	DEM	REP	ANALYSIS
HD 1 San Juan	None	Rod Montoya – very	A strong R district with
		conservative	no D candidate.
– Rep Rod Montoya (R)		incumbent who's	Montoya, former
		currently the	Minority House WHIP
		Republican House	just appointed as the
		leader.	House Republican
			leader due to resignation
		Keith Neil –	of Rep Ryan Lane,
		Challenger who is	previous R leader for the
		more moderate	past 2 years.
		leaning candidate	Neil is a former school
		who is a former	principal in the
		principal in the	community and has a
		community	strong network so this
			will be a race to watch
HD 9 McKinley	Patty Lundstrom – a	None	A strong D district but
	moderate incumbent who		more moderate.
– Rep Patty Lundstrom (D)	has a lot of campaign		Lundstrom has a strong
	funds on hand and is the		name ID and should hold
	former Chair of HAFC		the seat against these
			more progressive D's.
	Christopher Hudson –		The House Speaker is
	Challenger who is a more		backing Lundstrom
	progressive candidate.		despite past friction
			between them due from
			the Speaker removing

OFFICE	Arval McCabe – Challenger who is a more progressive candidate	REP	her as HAFC Chair in 2023. I'm not certain which of the challengers are more viable but one is being backed by progressive advocacy groups so this will be a race to watch.
HD 11 Bernalillo	Javier Martinez –	Bart Kinney –	A strong D district and
– Rep Javier Martinez (D)	Incumbent who is also the House Speaker and has held the set for the past 10 years or so	Challenger who is relatively unknow	the challenger is not viable
HD 13 Bernalillo – Rep Patricia Roybal Caballero (D)	Patricia Roybal Caballero – Incumbent who is very progressive. Teresa Garcia – Challenger who is slightly more moderate	None	This is a strong D district. Royball Caballero is one of the more prog. members of the House but has had significant health issues lately and come under fire for not always listening to her constituents. However, she is being backed by the House Speaker. Garcia is slightly more moderate and is serious about the campaign so this will be a race to
HD 14 Bernalillo – Rep Miguel Garcia (D)	Miguel Garcia – Incumbent who is very progressive and has held the seat for over 15 years	Konnie Legried – Challenger who is fairly unknown.	watch. This is a strong D district, so this is unlikely to be a close race.
HD 16 Bernalillo – Rep Yanira Gurrola (D) recently appointed due to the Mo Maestas moving to the Senate	Yanira Gurrola – Incumbent who is somewhat progressive. Marsella Duarte – Challenger who is the more moderate candidate	Leland Bohannon – Challenger who is relatively unknown	This is a strong D district so the race will be in the D primary. Gurrola has support from progressives and House Speaker so will be tough to beat. Duarte is a well- known D political operative who is an elementary teacher. Duarte has support from some mod. entities and will run a good campaign so this will be a race to watch.
HD 17 Bernalillo – Rep Cynthia Borrego (D)	Cynthia Borrego – Incumbent who is a moderate D	Leland Bohannon – Challenger who is more conservative but relatively unknown	This is a strong D district and Borrego has broad support as a former City Counselor so I do not think this will be much of a race

OFFICE	DEM	REP	ANALISYS
HD 18 Bernalillo	Marianna Anaya – Very	None	A strong D district that is
	progressive candidate		fairly progressive
– Open seat due to the	supported by a number of		leaning. While Doherty
retirement of Gail Chasey	progressive groups and		is working hard and
	the trial lawyers who is a		raised some money. I
	current lobbyist		believe this race will be
			between Anaya and
	Gloria Doherty – The more		Taneja who are splitting
	moderate D, who is a		support between some
	nurse		progressive groups.
			Taneja has strong
	Juan Larranaga –		community ties as a
	Moderate D, has very little		general practitioner, but
	campaign infrastructure		Anaya will probably be
	1 0		better funded.
	Anjali Taneja – Slightly		
	moderate leaning		
	candidate, is a Doctor		
	and a well-developed		
	campaign infrastructure		
HD 19 Bernalillo	Janelle Anyanonu –	Leanna Derrick –	This is a strong D seat
	Incumbent D who is	Challenger who is	and Anyanonu should
– Rep Janelle Anyanonu (D)	progressive but	more conservative	win easily.
	reasonable and open to	but relatively	win cusity.
	conversations	unknown	
HD 20 Bernalillo	Meredith Dixion –	Tracy Major –	This is a swing seat with
	Incumbent D who is	Challenger who is	a near even R/D split.
– Rep Meredith Dixon (D)	moderate/progressive and	conservative leaning	However, Dixon has
	the vice chair of HAFC	but relatively	broad support from
	the vice chair of HAPC	unknown	progressives and the
		UTIKITOWIT	business and has a well-
			developed campaign
			infrastructure so she will
			be very difficult to beat.
HD 22 Bernalillo/Torrance	Fred Ponzlov – Challenger	Stefani – Incumbent	This is a strong R district
	-		and will not be much of a
– Rep Stefani Lord (R <b>)</b>	who is a D and relatively	who is a very	
UD 02 Sandaval	unknown	conservative R	race
HD 23 Sandoval	Frank Smith – Challenger	Alan Martinez –	This is a strong R district
– Rep Alan Martinez (R)	who is a D and is relatively	Incumbent who is a	and Martinez should win
	unknown	moderate R	pretty easily
HD 24 Bernalillo	Elizabeth "Liz" Thompson	Anne Edenfield –	This district has shifted
	– Progressive D who has	Challenger who is	to a pretty strong D
– Rep Liz Thompson (D)	held the seat off and on	relatively unknown	district over the past 6
	for 10 years and is		years and Thompson
	currently the chair of		should hold the seat
	House Health		without much trouble
HD 25 Bernalillo	Christina Parajon –	Denis Litvinenko –	This is a strong D district
	Incumbent who is a very	Challenger who is	and Parajon should hold
	progressive D	otherwise unknown	the seat easily
appointed to the seat due to the	progreeente B	1	
appointed to the seat due to the retirement of Christina Trujillo			
appointed to the seat due to the retirement of Christina Trujillo	Eleanor Chavez –	Patrick Sais –	A strong D district so
– Rep Christina Parajon (D) appointed to the seat due to the retirement of Christina Trujillo HD 26 Bernalillo		Patrick Sais – Challenger who is an	A strong D district so Chavez should hold the
appointed to the seat due to the retirement of Christina Trujillo	Eleanor Chavez –		_
appointed to the seat due to the retirement of Christina Trujillo HD 26 Bernalillo	Eleanor Chavez – Incumbent who is a very	Challenger who is an	Chavez should hold the

OFFICE	DEM	REP	ANALISYS
HD 97 Bornelille	Marian Matthews –		This is a swing seat with
HD 27 Bernalillo – Rep Marian Matthews (D)	Incumbent who is a moderate candidate who formerly worked in the AG's Office	Gregory Gallegos – Challenger who is otherwise unknown and is likely a place hold in the event Matthews loses the	a near even D/R split but the real race is in the D primary as Matthews should hold the district if she makes it through that race. Matthews has
	Greg Seeley – Challenger who is more progressive and works at Sandia Labs	D primary	held the seat for 4 years but has come under fire from progressives due to several moderate votes (MedMal, PFLMA, etc.) Seeley is being backed by progressive groups and the Senate ProTem. However, Matthews has significant support from the business community and the House Speaker.
HD 28 Bernalillo – Rep Pamelya Herndon (D)	Pamelya Herndon – Incumbent who is a very progressive D	Marcie May – Challenger who is an R but relatively unknown	This should be a swing seat, but Ds have held it for some time and Herndon has been a strong candidate. Could be a race if May raises enough money and Rs decide to target the seat which is not super likely.
HD 29 Bernalillo – Rep Joy Garrett (D)	Joy Garrett – Incumbent D who is progressive but reasonable	Gregory Cunningham – Challenger who is a moderate R and is retired law enforcement	A D leaning district but Garrett has held the seat for several terms and beat Cunninham by a comfortable margin in the 2022 election cycle. Garrett should hold the seat this time around as well.
HD 30 Bernalillo – Open seat due to Rep Natalie Figueroa's move to an open Senate Race	Elizabeth Torres- Velasquez – Expected to be a progressive leaning D but is relatively unknown.	Victor Dore Jared Secret Not much to know about either of these candidates but expect that both are fairly conservative	This used to be a swing seat but has trended more Democratic for the past several cycles. I really don't know much about the candidates but expect Torrez-Velasquez to be supported by progressives so she will have an advantage.

OFFICE	DEM	REP	ANALYSIS
HD 31 Bernalillo – Open Seat due to the retirement of Rep Bill Rehm	Vickey Estrada-Bustillo	Nicole Chavez – previously ran against Rep Herndon and lost in 2022. She is a criminal justice advocate whose son was murdered & is pretty politically active. Being supported by Rep Rehm. Sarah Jane Allen/ Patrick Huested – Not much is known	A strong R district and the winner of the R primary should have a significant advantage in the general election. Not much is known about the R candidates, other than what is listed for Chavez.
HD 44 Bernalillo/Sandoval – Rep Kathleen Cates (D)	Kathleen Cates – Incumbent D who is extremely progressive but who is supported by the	Ali Ennenga – R challenger who is pretty conservative. Ennenga previously	This is a swing district that has trended more D in recent years. Cates beat incumbent R, Jane
	House Speaker.	ran against and loss to Rep Hochman- Vigil in 2022.	Powdrell-Culbert in 2022. Cates will have an advantage in this race, but it should be close.
HD 50 Sandoval/SF	Matthew McQueen – who is very prog. and the chair	Kenneth Brennan Endy Lossing	Fairly solid D district that McQueen has held for
– Rep Matthew McQueen (D)	of Energy and Nat. Resources. McQueen has the House Speaker & environment advoc. Groups supporting.	Not much is known about these two political newcomers	about 10 years. McQueen should have an advantage in the general election and should win the race.
HD 57 Sandoval – Open Seat due to the retirement of Rep Jason Harper (R)	Michelle Sandoval – Relatively unknown newcomer	Catherine Cullen – Unknown John DiAntonio – Former State Eng been around and is a moderate Corrine Rios –	This is a lean R seat that should be a safe win for Rs if they nominate a fairly moderate candidate in the general.
		Unknown	
HD 60 Sandoval	Luke Jungman – Challenger who is a D and	Joshua Hernandez – Incumbent R who is moderate	A strong R seat and Hernandez should hold
– Rep Joshua Hernandez (R)	unknown	mouerate	the seat without much trouble.
HB 68 Bernalillo – Rep Charlotte Little (D)	Charlotte Little – Incumbent D who is fairly progressive and won by	Nathan Brooks Virgina Gonzales	A swing seat that leans D in recent years. In 2022 this was the closest
	less than 25 or so votes to Robert Moss (R) in 2022	-Not much is known about these candidates but to win they will have to be moderates	House race in the cycle. However, for any R to win they need to run a mod. urban campaign. This will be one to watch.

OFFICE	DEM	REP	ANALISYS
HD 69	Harry Garcia – Incumbent	None	A strong D district and
Bern/Cib/McK/SJ/Soc/Val	D who is a moderate and		fairly moderate leaning
	first won this seat in 2016		due to its rural
– Rep Harry Garcia (D)	after former House		composition. Garcia will
	Speaker Ken Martinez		have a race on his hands
	retired		but, if he raises enough
			money, he should win
	Michelle Abeyta –		the race. The House
	Challenger who is running		Speaker and business
	as a progressive D		community are
			supporting him while
	Stanley Michael –		progressive groups are
	Unknown		supporting Abeyta.
HD 70 San Miguel/Torrance	Ambrose Castellano –	None	A strong D district that
	Incumbent D who is very		has leaned slightly
– Rep Ambrose Castellano (D)	moderate and who is		moderate. Castellano
	supported b business		has defeated Gonzales
	groups and the House		twice before but in the
	Speaker		2022 cycle it was by a
			very small margin.
	Anita Gonzalesis		Castellano should have
	running as a progressive		the advantage but this
	D. This will be Gonzales'		will be a race to watch.
	third time running against		
	Castellano for the seat		





Among Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia and Santa Fe counties, only three primary races in the House are contested among Democrats. Districts 13, 27 and 69 Democrats. Districts 13, 27 and 69 have incumbents running against new candidates, and Districts 16 and 18 are all new faces. Following are candidates' responses to a Journal questionnaire; responses have been edited for brevity and clarity.

## DISTRICT 13

Southern Albuquerque's District 13 is all but guaranteed to stay blue, as two Democrats and no Republicans run in the primary. Incumbent Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero is up against Teresa Garcia this veer Garcia this year

#### Patricia Roybal Caballero

Did not respond to Journal questionnaire.

# Teresa Garcia Education: Bachelor's of Science, Major in Biology, Minor in Chemistry

Occupation: Digital marketing communication specialist Family: 2 children Birthday: 9/30/1987

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? I have proudly lived in District 13 for 14 years.

for 14 years. 2. Why are yourunning? As a deeply engaged member of for office to effect positive change and advocate for my community's meds. I share the sentiment of many in our district who feel forgotter and underrepresented. Iam here to advocate for my community in bringing 7. New Voice, Your Voice, A New Vsico, Your Vision, "for a brighter future in District 13. 3. What issues are ton f mind

3. What issues are top of mind for you? Top issues include rampant crime Top issues include rampant crime with inadequate accountability, deficient initrastructure lacking proper roads, sidewalks and lit communities, alongside frequent racing and gunshots. Residents desire local amenities like Costco and Home Depot to create jobs. I'm committed to addressing these concerns for public safety, infrastructure, economy and especially education.

4. What experience do you have? I transitioned from a 10-year oharmaceut champion community welfare, particularly focusing on domestic violence issues. With extensive involvement in local and statewide organizations supporting survivors, I currently chair the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Commission for the city of Albuquerque. My reputation is built on integrity and commitment to intentional change.

to intentional change. 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? Ivouidlike to see District 13 property represented and legislation that would directly impact my community be heard and passed. Forty percent of domestic violence cases come out of District 3, where SB 12, the Renaming of the Family Violence Protection Act, will help survivors. It's important to have a representative who pays attention to their district and its needs and collaborate with other legislators collaborate with other legislators to make sure important legislation is passed.

## 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? I value the accessibility of our

Ivalue the accessibility of our citizen legislators and the openness of the Capitol. It's crucial that people can freely engage with lawmakers at any time to discuss issues that concern them. Maintaining thi na this

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accessibility fosters transparency and strengthens democracy in New Mexico's Legislature.

# DISTRICT 16

Two Democrats — Marsella Duarte and incumbent Yanira Gurrola Valenzuela — are competing for House District 16, which is in Albuquerque's West Side. The winner will face Republican Leland Benwood Bohannon in the General Election.

#### Marsella Duarte

Education: New Mexico State University, B.A. Sociology Occupation: Community school coordinator Family: Shawn, who has two daughters. We also have a dog named Gemma. Birthday: 4/29/1982

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? Forty years, I was born and raised in House District 16.

2. Why are you running? ing to champion the needs of our community, ensure needs of our community, ensure fair representation and drive positive change. With a focus on public safety, education, infrastructure and economic development, I will bring fresh perspectives and deflective solutions to the issues that matter most to our quality of life on the West Side. I care.

3. What issues are top of mind or you? for you? My top issues include unacceptable crime rates, homelessness driven by lack of affordable housing and mental health support; underfunded education systems struggling with teacher retention and technology integration, health care accessibility and costs; and senior care facing nught and senior care facing quality, affordability and caregiver

#### shortages. 4. What experience do you

ve? have? I served as chair of the Northwe Community Police Council and Community Police Council and vice chair of the Democratic Party of Bernalillo County. I have also worked at the Legislature as a committee assistant in House Appropriations and Finance Committee and House Labor Veterans and Military Affairs Committee Appropriations of the Appropriate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee Appropriate Committee Committee Appropriate Committee Committ Committee.

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? New Mexico's House of Representatives needs reforms in increased public engagement and stricter ethical standards. Additionally, bolstering legislative efficiency through technology and bipartisan collaboration will improve governance and accountability.

# 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? Ilike the accessibility of legislators. I will answer and return

Yanira Gurrola Valenzuela

Education: M.A. in Curriculum & Instructional Leadership, College of Santa Fe, 2005; BS in Industrial Electronic Engineering, Instituto Tecnológico de Chihuahua, 1996 Occupation: Educator/project coordinator, Dual Language Education NM (DLeNM)

#### Family: N/A Birthday: 4/25/1974

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? Almost 16 years. 2. Why are you running? As a state representative, a long-time teacher, and a West Sider, I am deeply familiar with the issues facing our families. I want to continue my work to fight for safe and crime-free communities great education for our kids,

housing people can afford and good job opportunities for New Mexicans 3. What issues are top of mind

Voters tell me their priorities are reducing crime, gun violence and homelessness. Mine, too, but of course, my passion is education, specifically addressing the

## BY MEGAN GLEASON JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

challenges of teacher retention. I support proven strategies to prevent crime like neighborhood policing, and I will continue to champion gun safety legislation and affordable housing.

#### 4. What experience do you have?

have? have an engineering background and more than 20 years of educational experience. I taught math at an APS Title I school. I ve lived in my district for more than 15 years, and have served as a state representative since January 2023. My dedication to our community has been continuous.

# 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature?

w Mexico is the only state New Mexico is the only state that does not pay its legislators, and that limits who can serve. Paid lawmakers are a key part of improving state governance. Our community deserves the strongest representation possible, and that's why I'm an advocate for modernizing the Legislature

Legislature. 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? New Mexico has its challenges, but it's also a wonderful, welcoming place to live and raise a family. It's for these reasons I want to see us do better. We must continue to maintain ou commitment to supporting working families, setting our children up for success, and making Albuquerque safer.

#### DISTRICT 18

Four Democrats are vying to represent a southern part to represent a southerm part of Albuquerque, north of the Sunport. The winner is likely guaranteed a spot in the Legislature, as the candidate will run unopposed in the General Election. The race replaces long-time Rep. Gail Chasey, who served for nearly three decades.

## Marianna Anaya

Education: B.A. Mexican American Studies, Concentration in Education Policy, University of Texas at Austin | UCLA, Race & Ethnic Studies in Education, Graduate School of Education, GPA 4.0, Degree incomplete. Occumation: Small-hysichase Occupation: Small-business owner, Anaya Consulting, LLC Family: My family has been in New Mexico for over 13 generations.

Birthday: 12/13/1989

1. How long have you lived in your district? your district? Three years; blocks outside district boundaries for years prior

2. Why are you running? I'm running because the people I'm runing because the people of HD18 deserve someone who will fight for them, as Rep. Gail Chasey did for 27 years. I was born and raised in Albuquerque and throughout my career, successfully passed legislation for abortion access, quality health care, increased corporate accountability and greater public safety.

safety.

safety. 3. What issues are top of mind for you? Poverly is the root of many issues we face as a community — from homelessness and substance abuse, to health access and education. Too many families are living paycheck to paycheck and could easily fall into poverty, exacerbating the safety issues our community already faces. 4. What experience do you

## 4. What experience do you have?

have? Ive spent my career fighting for public education, people's rights and safety. Ive led legislative efforts to repeal New Mexicos 1969 abortion ban, protect patients and providers from criminalization, pass the Voting Rights Act, hold corporations Accention accountable for harm to New Mexico families and for Paid Family and Medical Leave.

# 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature?

We must professionalize ou Legislature to ensure more Legislature to ensure more women, people of color and queer communities can serve in office, and further, to ensure legislators have staff to help analyze bills so that decisions are made based on data not hearsay or reliance on lobbyists.

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? Ihope the tradition of direct access to elected officials remains. New Mexico families deserve legislators they can call, who are just as easy to talk to as their neighbors, so that pressing issues in our community are issues in our community are central to the bills we pass in the Poundbauer

#### Juan Larrañaga Education: MBA MIS

Occupation: Instructional design Family: Anna, 5 Birthday: 8/4/1973

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? Almost 30 years

Almost 30 years 2. Why are you running? I will prioritize public safety, education and early literacy and work trielessly to make our community thrive. Together we can expand services for early literacy, support educators, improve the education gap, support renewable energy, support renewable energy support our heritage language and support working families.

and support working fairnings. 3. What issues are top of mind for you? Together we can expand services for early literacy, support educators, improve the education awarding gap, support renewable energy, reclaim our heritage languages and support working languages and support working families. I will work for children's health and create collaboration to improve neighborhood safety. 4. What experience do you

4. What experience do you have? I have served on neighborhood boards and have taken leadership positions on mary boards. I serve on mary early literacy boards. I advocated for personalized license plates, and I changed UNM Tobacco-Free Pelicy. I served on UNM Staff Council.

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? I want to pass a statewide recess bill for our students. I want to protect children from second hand smoke. I want to create heritage language programs.

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? Itwant us to help each other as neighbors. To serve as mentors and assistants. I want to promote the green amendment and support working families.

#### Anjali Taneja

3. What issues are top of mind for you? As a state representative, I'll work to expand access to quality health care and expanded services for including seniors, unhoused and veterans. I'll introduce legislation to incentivize the recruitment and retention of public safety workers, including behavioral health specialists, crises managers, first responders and poblice workers. Education: Family Medicine Residency and Fellowship at Harbor-UC LA Medical Center Harbor-UC LA Medical Center; Medical Doctor degree from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School; Masters in Public Health from Columbia Mailman School of Public Health; B.A. in International Relations and B.A. in Biology from Lehigh University responders and police worker Occupation: Physician 4. What experience do you

## Family: N/A

Birthday: 4/1/1977

#### 1. How long have you lived in your district? 12 years

2. Why are you running? Roughly 25% of the state budget encompasses health but there encompasses health but there are no doctors serving in the New Mexico House. I will bring decades of on-the-ground experience among and in partnership with community to the Legislature to work on intersectional and imaginative solutions around health, environment, housing and more 3. What issues are top of mind

3. What issues are top of mind for you? At first glance, my career revolves around matters of health. But my desire to serve my neighbors in state is underprinned by thereality that health isn't limited to a narrow definition. Healthier communities are ones in which economic opportunity, access to housing and education, public safety and a safeguarded environment all intersect.

## 4. What experience do you

4. What experience up you have? Lam the executive director and a physician at Casa de Salud, a nonprofit clinic that provides primary care, addiction treatment and queer/transgender care to

the uninsured and patients on Medicaid. I've helped transform local and state policy, including with legislation that makes New Mexico a leader in health care innovation.

# 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature?

Public service should operate as a continuous partnership between an elected official and their constituents. Legislators must center and champion the lived experience and wisdom of the people closest to the pain rather than participate in political gamesmanship or defer to connected insiders.

#### 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature?

The legislative process is largely accessible. During the 2023 session. I helped conceptualize a bill in collaboration with Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino to ensure evidencebased treatments for opioid addictions in jails and prisons across New Mexico. Stakeholder input is valued by the best of the Legislature.

#### Gloria Sue Doherty

Education: Associate of Science in Nursing, Palm Beach College, Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from Lynn University and Dual Master's of Science in Nursing as an Adult Health Nurse Specialist and Acute Care Nurse Practitioner from the University Intel Marker of DIP Intel Nurse New Mexico and a Ph.D In Public Policy and Public Administration.

, oncy and Public Administration. Occupation: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, UNM-Sandoval Regional Medical Center, Ialso own a consultancy, where I provide medical-legal, regulatory and scope of practice expertise.

Family: Single, two adult sons

Birthday: 11/20/1968

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? I've lived in District 18 for just under 20 years.

ander zo years. **2. Why are yourunning?** As an advanced nurse, I dedicated my life to helping others. Seeking public office is an extension of my unwavering belief that we can do better. I'm not a political insider. I'm a mother, a nurse an advocate and small-

business owner who believes in a better future for all New

3. What issues are top of mind

have? I have been a nurse for more than 25 years and I own a small business. I am also a workplace safety specialist. As a health care expert, I have given testimony many times to legislative committees to promote health

committees to promote nearth care policies in New Mexico. I served on Sen. Ben Ray Lujan's and Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerras'

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? After reading UNM's research study about the New Mexico's legislative processes, I believe it's imperative that we modernize and professionalize our legislative

branch. I strongly support either two 45- or 60-day legislative sessions. Legislators should be provided with professional staff

vear-round and district offices. to

better serve constituents. 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Maxico's Legislature? I would like to continue to see the inclusive professionalism Rep. Gail Chasey helped foster in the Legislature. Finally, I hope the members continue to work to address complex and critical leases

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better serve constituents.

issues

roundtable on workforce shortage.

## Albuquerque Journal - 05/26/2024

DISTRICT 27 nocrats want to represent

the Northeast Height's District 27 incumbent Marian Matthews and Greg Seely. The winner will face Republican Gregory Gallegos in November Marian Matthews

Education: B.A. Missouri State University (political science) J. University of New Mexico ce) J.D. Occupation: Retired Family: 1 child

Birthday: 12/7/45

### 1. How long have you lived in your district? 36 years

2. Why are you running? To advocate for children, t disabled, caretakers, seni small business and others not in the power structure. To use my improve public safety and deter crime. To improve quality of life for New Mexicans. To complete the North Domingo Baca Aquatic Center experience as a prosecutor to

#### 3. What issues are top of mind for you? Public safety: human trafficking

Public safety: human trafficking and violent juvenile crime; workable, sustainable Paid Family Medical Leave; solve funding delays to caregivers; housing protections for seniors; affordable housing; rebuilding New Mexico health care provider resources; economic, workforce and job development.

#### 4. What experience do you

have? State representative four-plus years; former deputy attorney general; former prosecutor; experienced in civil rights litigation; business instructor at CNM; longtime advocate for disabled, seniors and children

oisabled, seniors and children 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? We need permanent year-round staff, office in the community we serve, pay: longer sessions; revamped interim committee process; use of subcommittees to focus on more complex issues

# 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's stay the same in New Mexico' Legislature? We've made progress in ethics legislation and in staffing of support offices like LFC, LCS,

Speaker's Office, etc Greg Seeley

Creg Seeley Education: Bachelor of Science: Business Management — Human Resources Management | Western Governors University — Salt Lake City, Associate of Applied Science: Electronic Systems Technology, Associate of Applied Science: Transportation & Associate of Applied Science: Human Resource Management | Community College of the Air Force — Montgomery, AL Occupation: Independent consultant Family: Jess, 3 Birthday: 10/26/1982

## 1. How long have you lived in your district?

Education: Bachelor's and a your district? Three years in new HD 27 since redistricting. Most of my life in the NE Heights in or near the district. Master's Occupation: None at this time Family: Joseph, 3 children Birthday: 9/14/1965

2. Why are you running? I'm running for House District 27 to modernize our state Legislature and to develop open, transparent and responsive gove rnment. and responsive government, while growing our organizational capacity to address 21st century challenges. I am committed to building safe, healthy and prosperous communities, protecting our democracy, and creating a more just future for all. 3. What issues are top of mind

for you? Ending childhood poverty, Ending childhood poverty, increasing housing access and protecting workers. Investing in community safety, courts and law enforcement. Enhancing cybersecurity, data and AI readiness. Fighting climate change, developing infrastructure and clean energy. Growing our health care workforce and access to care Protecting democracy. to care. Protecting democracy the environment and reproductive

## rights. Passing true gun reform that keeps our families safe. 4. What experience do you

More than 15 years of public service in federal, state and local government from enlisting in the world's greatest Air Force to Congress, to Albuquerque City Hall securing millions in funding for my beloved hometown. I ve written legistation, founded a business, served in war and raised a family here in New Mexico. service in federal, state and local

May 26, 2024 3:59 pm (GMT -6:00)

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? Isupport modernizing our state Legislature, including year-round paid staff and standing up regional offices to support constituent services. I also support expanding legislative sessions asking where to sessions, asking voters to consider full-time salaried legislators and making bold investments in the staff and resources needed to addre resources needed to address increasingly complex 21st cer challenges. 6. What do you want to see

stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? A strong Democrat majority working to build a brighter future for all New Mexicans.

#### DISTRICT 69

eans the winner will have a

uncontested General Election

Michelle Abeyta

Harry Garcia

HOUSE

RACES

REPUBLICAN

for the House are contested, between Bernalillo, Sandova Santa Fe and Valencia count none involve incumbents. Tw

Four Republican primary races

candidates are running for District

30, three are running for District 31, two are running for District 50,

Following are candidates' responses to a Journal questionnaire; responses have been edited for brevity and clarity.

Two Republicans are seeking the seat in the Northeast Height's District 30. One will face Democrat Elizabeth Diane

Torres-Velasquez, who runs unopposed in her primary. The

candidates are all looking to replace Democratic Rep. Natalie Figueroa, who decided not to run for reelection.

and cops aren't allowed to do their jobs. I also want to see sn

businesses grow, and they can't with the gross receipts tax.

3. What issues are top of mind

for you? Crime. Educational choice.

Ibelieve in the Second Amendment. I'm pro-life. I'm for small business. We need to let cops do their jobs; stop catch-and-release.

4. What experience do you

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's

have? I have never run before, but I have helped on other political campaigns: Yvette Herrell, Audrey Trujillo and Stefani Lord.

Legislature? That the people we vote in listen to the people and what they want for this state to be safer, and that can't happen with an open border.

Also, we need to support our small business by getting rid of the gross receipts tax.

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's stay the sam Legislature?

ve?

Victoria Doré

**DISTRICT 30** 

three are running for District 57 and two are running for District 68.

Did not respond to Journal questionnaire.

Did not respond to Journal questionnaire.

Did not respond to Journal questionnaire.

Stanley Michael

Education: Bachelor's of Science from Brigham Young University Incumbent Rep. Harry Garcia Incumbent Rep. Harry Garcia runs against two other candidates for District 69, which spans rural areas on the edge of and beyond Bernaillio County, including Cibola, McKinley, San Juan, Socorro and Valencia counties as well. No Republican running renear the winepartiell bus no an Occupation: Mother and smallbusiness owner. Family: Brad Allen, 6 children Birthday: 11/2/1974

## 1. How long have you lived in your district?

That oil and gas is used, since it's abundant in our state. We need

abur ruant in our state. We need to use our natural resources and keep the Second Amendment strong.

Did not respond to the Journal questionnaire.

It's a three-way race among the Republicans who want to snag the seat representing northern

the seat representing northern Albaquerque's District 31. The winner will face Democrat Vicky Estrada-Bustillo, who's running unopposed in the primary. Current seat-holder Republican Rep. Bill Rehm, who's served as a representative since 2006,

Jared Secret

DISTRICT 31

decided not to se

Sarah Jane Allen

2. Why are you running? Why are you running?
 Lam running because our state is moving backwards. Open borders have resulted in out-of-control crime and drugs that are rampant. Our schools are failing, and it's never been harder to operate a business in New Mavies then today. It's time for a Mexico than today. It's time for a new direction.

# 3. What issues are top of mind for you? Border security and the crime

that's plaguing our families and small businesses. The real need to effectively educate our children. Improve health care by writing policies that'll attract and retain more doctors. 4. What experience do you

have? My family runs a small business in Albuquerque and also has been active in improving our local schools through the PTA and being involved in our local school board races. This gives me a unique perspective across a range of issues that make me uniquely qualified.

# 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's

change in New Mexico's Legislature? We have to seriously address public safety and border security. These issues are deeply intertwined, and I can tell you after knocking on hundreds of doors in HD 31, my neighbors are deeply troubled by the inaction from the Roundhouse. I also believe term limits should be implemented. 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature?

I'm running to shake up Santa Fe not celebrate it.

#### Patrick Huested

Education: Bachelor's of Science, Electrical Engineeri (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University), and Masters in Business Administrati (Pepperdine University)

Occupation: Retired Lt Col, USAF; currently corporate trainer and author Family: None: three stepchildren

Birthday: 12/29/1967

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? 11 years

2. Why are you running?

1. How long have you lived in your district? Three years We need more outspoken legislators that will fight for the rights of the people and defend our Constitution. 2. Why are you running? To see a change in my district and community. Too much crime,

## 3. What issues are top of mind for you? Secure the border; hold criminals responsible; bail reform; defend our First Amendment and Second Amendment rights; improve education; stop inflation; reduce taxes; defend our freedom.

4. What experience do you

have? Served 22 years in the U.S. Air Force: skills leading interagence Force; skills leading interage teams and negotiations with contractors; served 13 months in Iraq; published author; corporate trainer/professional speaker. When I take an oath, it's absolute.

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? Legislature? Ispent time combatting bad bills in 2023 and was surprised how little committees consider public comment, giving as little as 30 seconds to individuals. I was surprised how poorly bills are written (some are copied verbatim from other states), and a little "analysis" in dan incomplete bill's "analysis" is often incomplete

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's

Legislature? We need more bipartisan support for crime bills.

#### Nicole Chavez Education: B.S., Business Administration

Occupation: Director of sales, outreach & retention at Presbyterian Health Plan Family: 3

Birthday: 7/9/1978 1. How long ha your district? Eight years ve you lived in

# 2. Why are you running? My son Jaydon was murdered in 2015. Progressive legislators have ignored our pleas to fix our criminal justice system and cree laws and policies to hold crimina

not to run for the Legislature again. District 57 is based further out of Albuquerque, covering communities in and to the accountable. Too many New Mexicans have been affected by crime. I want a state where our kids won't have to leave to northwest of Rio Bancho

#### 3. What issues are top of mind for you? Crime: End catch and release,

Crime: End Catch and release, hold violent offenders accountable, create stronger penalties for repeat offenders. Border: End our sanctuary state status, stop the flow of illegal drugs, migrant surges and human trafficking. Healthcare: Make it alfordable for doctors to practice in this state lower maloractice in this state, lower malpractice insurance, increase Medicaid reimbursements. Economic Development: Create tax policies that foster economic growth, stop over regulation over regulation.

4. What experience do you have? Over 23 years in health care administration; therefore, I understand our access to health care issue in New Mexico. Homicide victim advocate; l've Homicide Victim advocate; I ve been at the legislative session for the last eight years fighting for stronger crime bills. Founde of Robbed New Mexico (victim advocacy group); five-year previous PTA president at Albuquerque Public Schools.

# 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? We need real change instead

of lip service to combat our crime issues, address our failing education system and address access to health care. I want to see our legislators truly govern by working across party lines to address the real issues of the state

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? To continue to see that every New Mexican has access to their elected officials. As an advocate for the last eight years, I know that the average citizen does have a voice in Santa Fe and can be beard

#### DISTRICT 50

Two Republicans are looking to make it to the General Election to face Santa Fe County's District 50 incumbent Democrat Rep. Matthew McQueen.

### Wendy Lossing

Education: Bachelor's of Science in Nursing Occupation: RN Family: Jeffery Lossing, 6 children, 7 grandchildren Birthday: 1/19/1973

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? Five years.

2. Why are you running? There is a movement towa There is a movement toward large, restrictive government in New Mexico that does not represent the people of this represent the people of this district. The people and their needs are being ignored, so I have decided to step up to be their representative.

#### 3. What issues are top of mind

3. What issues are top of mind for you? Keep our schools about education and pay our teachers more. Overhaull CYFD to protect these children. Our Second Amendment rights need to be preserved. Harsher punishment of crime, the return of cash bail and more funding for law enforcement. Secure our border and encourage legal citizenship. Reduce taxes to support small businesses and put more money into citizens pockets.

#### 4. What experience do you

have? Currently elected on the local Soil and Water Conservation District, appointed Court Appointed Special Advocate (child CASA) in the past, invited and served on a have? County Health Council, history of forensic/SANE nurse.

# 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? I would like to turn the Legisla

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? I would like to see the Legislature actually address the issues of greatest concern for the people of New Mexico. We need to uld like to turn the Legislature

### red! Less-restrictive government, better representation of the citizens and money going back to the people

Page : C003

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? Maintaining that all the various cultures of New Mexico can be represented and respected in our state government.

#### Kenneth **Doland Brennan**

Did not respond to Journal questionnaire.

DISTRICT 57 Three Republican candidates want to fill Republican Rep. Jason Harper's seat after he decided

**Corrine Rios** Education: Master's of Science in Education, Master's of Arts Elementary Education Occupation: Stay-at-home mom. Ministry leader Family: Pilo, 5 children, 7 grandchildren Birthday: 9/26/1967

1. How long have you lived in your district?

15 2.Why are your unning? I'm runing because we need to start incentivizing the New Mexican values that promote upward mobility. The government needs to stop increasing taxes, overregulation and overspending. The government has a duty to protect citizens from criminals by enforcing the laws on the books. enforcing the laws on the books. want to vote for families first.

3. What issues are top of mind vnatis for you? Taxes Taxes, overregulation, education, crime, border.

### 4. What experience do you

have a variety of experiences I am an educator, home-school mom, wife and mom of several veterans and enlisted, smallbusiness owner, local Christian author and ministry leader.

author and ministry leader. 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? I would like to see more checks and balances. I) The governor's discretionary fund should have legislative oversight and approval. These are taxpayer dollars.2) The governor's "emergency powers" should include an expiration date. 1) Lagislative exhect faste II S. 3) Legislators should take U.S. Constitution and New Mexico Constitution training course. 4) Term limits.

# 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature?

Our part-time Legislature.

#### Catherine Jeanette Cullen

Education: Colorado Real Estate Training Center - 1995 Occupation: Associate broker-real estate Family: Richard, 2 Birthday: 9/25/1971

## 1. How long have you lived in your district?

## 21 vears

2. Why are you running? I hope to continue the great representation that we've had under Rep. Harper. Drawing fr my experience on the school board, I will advocate for caree technical education, ensuring its success locally and statewide. My first priority will be focusing on my constituents and being available to them.

#### 3. What issues are top of mind

r vou? for you? Crime, inflation, border security, career technical education (CTE), access to mental health and medical services, primary care, and specialist physicians. 4. What experience do you have?

I served the Rio Rancho community for eight years on the Rio Rancho School Board. I have also had the opportunity to serve on various national and local boards and committees fo various causes. I am a graduate of Leadership Sandoval County and Leadership New Mexico's Local Government Leadership program.

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### Albuquerque Journal - 05/26/2024

address the shortage of medical professionals in the state, provide incentives and reduce the cost of malpractice insurance. 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? r nake drastic changes in the Legislature. The majority won't pass much-needed crime bills, and our community crime bills, and our community not only expects but demands that we address this issue. People are unsatisfied with their unwillingness to pass good legislation, and we can't continue with the status quo.

#### John Richard

D'antonio Jr. Education: B.S. Civil Engineering, University of New Mexico Occupation: Water resources engineer and consultant Family: Cassandra D'Antonio; 4 children Birthday: 6/12/1957

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? Six-plus

2. Why are you running? Why are you running?
 Ibelieve my government experience, skills and abilities will greatly assist our state and my district and community. I also have extensive experience with the legislative process, how state government works and, more importantly, how it doesn't. There will be no on-the-job training, as I will be effective on Day 1.

## 3. What issues are top of mind

for you? Agua es Vida, water is life, is a defining mantra for me. Everyone deserves a sustainable and deserves a sustainable and safe water supply, just like they deserve the dignity of the foundations of opportunity — which include a safe community, access to health care, education and job opportunities, reliable infrastructure and a thriving economy.

4. What experience do you

have? Having served as New Mexico State Engineer under three governors, I have decades of governors, I have decaues o. experience in water resources, and sound water policy implementation and exte Implementation and extensive water rights knowledge and expertise. I also have vast experience in building coalitions with state and local government: federal agencies, private sector organizations and sovereign trib eign tribal organiza nations.

nations. 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? Capital outlay reform. We need to eliminate the "spreading of peanut butter" to a multitude of projects around the state, which has led to over \$5 billion of unspent capital on much needed projects. We can do this by accelerating project failwory, transforming has a failwory for public/private and allowing for public/private

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? I am going to pass on this question.

#### DISTRICT 68

Two Republicans hope to be Iwo Republicans hope to be the one to make it to the General Election for a chance to contest Democratic incumbent Charlotte Little's seat, for which she's seeking reelection. District 68 covers Albuquerque's Paradise Hills

#### Nathan Brooks

Education: College Occupation: Executive director Family: N/A Birthday: 10/10/1975

## 1. How long have you lived in your district? Four years 2. Why are you running?

I am running to implement pro-business policies that stimulate Dusiness policies that stimulate economic growth, improve our infrastructure and enhance public safety. My experience in leadership as a businessman equips me to effectively address the challenges our district faces and to drive meaningful progress for Albuquerque.

# 3. What issues are top of mi for you? Top issues for me include

enhancing infrastructure, specifically widening Paseo del Norte and Unser, reducing crime through tougher sentencing for through tougher sentencing for repeat offenders and fostering economic growth through pro-business policies. These areas are crucial for improving our community's safety and prosperity.

May 26, 2024 4:02 pm (GMT -6:00)

## 4. What experi ve? have? I have extensive experience in leadership of nonprofit organizations and as a

4. What exper

Policy advocate for 20 years

senior policy advisor, field policy and management, U.S.

Department of Housing and

Urban Development; executive director, Transform Education

New Mexico; political director, Ben Ray Lujan U.S. Senate Campaign; chief administrative officer, The U.S. Hispanic

Leadership Institute; executive leadership fellow, Aspen Institute

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature?

We must professionalize New Mexico's Legislature to ensure we are attracting the brightest candidates from all walks of life

and that the Legislature has the

time and resources it needs to pass quality laws. There is an opportunity to work together and deliver the best legislation possible for all New Mexicans.

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's

appreciate the ways, that despite

differences. New Mexico's legislators can come together

to pass bipartisan legislation

I am also impressed with the

**Heather Balas** 

qualifications and competencies of so many of our current legislators — from education to business, law, science, and more.

Education: Master's degree in Education: Master's degree in communication, University of Maryland. Policy Leadership Credential, Harvard University's Kennedy School. Bachelor's degree in journalism, Eastern New Mexico University

Occupation: Vice president, Election Reformers Network

Birthday: 12/19/1968

Family: My husband of 28 years is Joe Wellborn. We have two children.

1. How long have you lived in your district? 20 years

2. Why are you running? I worry every day about the future of our state and nation

The fractured nature of federal

policymaking today means state

legislatures could easily become

elections. We need experienced people who know policy and find lasting solutions.

3. What issues are top of mind

preparing students for changing iobs of the future. A more diverse

for you? Top-rate, equitable education

economy supporting small

business and innovation, so our

young people can build futures here and reduce our over-

reliance on oil and gas. Access to health care, mental health care and reproductive health. Sound conservation. Guarding

democracy.

4. What experi

the last line of defense on key issues like women's health and fair

Legislature?

have?

organizations and as a businessman in Albuquerque. My roles have honed my skills in strategic planning, fiscal management and community engagement, equipping me to effectively address and lead on legislative priorities for our district. 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature?

# Legislature? Iwant to see a more efficient, accountable Legislature that prioritizes fiscal responsibility, supports pro-business legislati and implements tougher crime

laws to enhance public safety. These changes are essential to foster a safer, more prosperous environment for all New Mexicans. 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's

Legislature? I value the commitment to preserving our unique cultura heritage and natural resources These should remain priorities, ensuring that while we progress economically and socially, we also safeguard the aspects that make New Mexico distinct and vibrant.

#### Virginia Gonzales Did not respond to Journal questionnaire.



### SENATE DEMOCRATIC RACES

Many New Mexicans are try to snag a seat and nametag or the state Senate floor with the De mocrats. There are se contested Democratic primary races for the Senate, the most of any of the legislative races in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia and Santa Fe counties. Familiar and new names will be on the ballot for these seats. Every contested rac among the four counties has two candidates, except District 24, which here three which has three. Following are candidates' responses to a Journal questionnaire; responses have been edited for brevity and clarity.

# DISTRICT 9

Two Democrats are looking to snag outgoing Democratic Rep. Brenda McKenna's District 9 sea for a chance to serve Corrales, Placitas and the town of Bernalillo In November, the winner will face either Frida Susana Vasquez or Audrey Trujillo, who are running in the District 9 Republican primary

#### **Cindy Nava**

Cincoy Nava Education Master's, Educational Leadership & Policy, Concentration: Higher Education Policy & Politics, University of New Mexico; Bachelor of Arts Degree, Political Science & Criminology, University of New Mexico; Associate of Arts Degree, Education Policy, Santa Ee Compunity Collerce Fe Community College Occupation: Policy advisor and consultant, FMR White House political appointee. Senior Policy Advisor at U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Family: Hector Ontiveros, husband; Norma & Francisco Javier Nava, Parents; Eric Nava brother, Brenda Nava, sister; Jazlyn & Sophia Nava, nieces

## Birthday: 4/9/1987 1. How long have you lived in your district?

Four vears 2. Why are you running? 2. why are you running ? New Mexico needs our own version of The American Dream – a state with a world-class education system, affordable housing and accessible health care. As a former DACA recipient I know these building blocks mus be in place to create success

## I want to help build this New Mexico Dream for our familie 3. What issues are top of mind for you? I believe that every child deserves a great education, everyone needs a place they call home, and every New Mexican deserves

every New Mexican deserves professional, affordable and accessible health care. Everyone has the right to feel safe on our streets and neighborhoods. Finally, New Mexico has tremendous potential for further economic development.

#### Linda Lopez

Education: B.A. (College of Santa Fe 1987); MBA (College of Santa Fe 1992) Occupation: Consultant Family: Single parent; 2 children Birthday: 3/13/1964

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? Purchased home in West Gate 1995.

# 2. Why are you running? Iam running for re-election to ensure quality health care, quality mental health care, a strong/ responsive educational system, protection of our environment, investment in families/children, work towards creating safe ating safe communities for all.

3. What issues are top of mind for you? My top issues include enacting the educational reforms outlined in the Yazzie/Martinez litigation; in the Yazzie/Martinez litigation; stopping gun violence, sexual assault and domestic violence; strengthening the recruitment, training and placement of menta health professionals; protecting our water.

#### 4. What experience do you

have? Elected in 1996 to the New Mexico Legislature represen the South Valley and South W Mesa, I have passed legislatio improving our community and state, including paper ballots (2006) and access to reproductive health care (2021). Ilisten to community issues/ concerns and work to find a resolution.

# 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature?

The Legislature? The Legislature needs to change from a 30-day/60-day system to a 60-day legislative session every year. New Mexico should provide a base salary to legislators

## ensuring a cross-section of New Mexico communities participate

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? Legislators should continue to converse, listen and find common ground to work on solutions for our state.

#### **Richard Carrion**

Education: Associate degree in business administration from Central New Mexico Community College. Occupation: Quality assurance/ quality control manager Family: Rosina Carrion. We have two children and two grandchildren

Birthday: 1/27/1971

## 1. How long have you lived in your district? 40-plus years. 2. Why are you running? I am running for office not seeking power, prestige, name recognition and certainly not for the money, as this is a non-paid position. Instead, I am running to serve my community, to be a voice to the voiceless and to work building a

served 12 years as executive director of New Mexico First, a better community statewide policy organization co-founded by Sens. Jeff 3. What issues are top of mind for you? 1. Crime: Holding criminals Bingaman and Pete Domenici Crime: Holding criminals accountable and producing a safer community. 2. Education: Providing an option for school choice and offering a workforce development program for skilled trades. 3. Health care: Lure more doctors and nurses to New then was tapped by the Thornburg Foundation to lead Investments in good government. I currently work every day to advance a fair, trusted democratic process in America. 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Mexico. 4. Economic growth: Legislature? Update roads, bridges and tax-friendly policies for businesses.

Regarding culture, I'd like to see the Legislature become less polarized, with more lawmakers focused on truly listening to others. Regarding structure, I support passage of the package of modernization bills that would eliminate the swings betweer the 30- and 60-day sessions compensate legislators and provide modest staffing.

#### 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's eqislature?

like that the legislative se are more transparent than in the past, with most hearings streamed live on Zoom. I like that hearing recordings are now archived online. Lastly, I believe the current lawmakers work ver ork very hard every day – and that practice

#### DISTRICT 11

Incumbent Sen. Linda Lopez is up against Richard Carrion in the race for the District 11 seat, which covers part of southern Albuquerque along Central Avenue and to the west of the Rio Grande. No Republicans ar running for this district seat, so who wins the primary will likely are wind up in the Roundhouse

#### **DISTRICT 13**

District Two Democrats are running to represent Bernalillo County's District 13, encompassing communities around the Big1. Incumbent Sen. Bill O'Neil faces Debbie O'Malley, and with no Republicans running, one will move on to an uncontested race in the Grazent Elevation.

## Bill O'Neill

Did not respond to Journal questionnaire.

in the General Election.

Page : C004

### Debbie O'Malley

Education: Valley High (diploma), TV-I (Certification in Clerical and Bookkeeping), UNM (Art and Education-no degree) Occupation: Owner, Community Development LLC, Land Use Consulting Family: Michael, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren

# 1. How long have you lived in your district?

to leverage and bring more resources to our underserved neighborhoods.

#### 3. What issues are top of mind

for you? Strategies to increase affordable housing, transitional and permanent; laws that effectively address gun violence; access to affordable health care; support for our students to succeed in

#### 4. What experience do you

4. What experience do you have? In the late 1980s, I and my neighbors successfully organized to get basic improvements to our underserved neighborhood while fighting an industrial polluter. The revitalization of the Sawmill peichborhood is a zresult of many. neighborhood is a result of many years of this commitment. This experience led to my seeking public office as a city councilor and county commissioner.

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? New Mexico is the only state that does not provide a salary for legislators, and that needs to change. It should not be a financial burden for anyone w iselinitiate sense in this cance is eligible to serve in this capacity. Last session, funding was passed to provide district representatives with salaried staff.

## 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's

Legislature? We need to retain a State Ethics Commission, but it should be independent.

### DISTRICT 15

Around the Northeast Heights, Heather Berghmans is running to replace incumbent Sen. Daniel Ivey-Soto, who has served as a senator since 2013. The primary winner will go on to compete against Republican Craig Degenhardt in November's General Election.

#### Heather Jean

daughter

must ao

Berghmans Education: Master's Public Administration, B.A. Political

Birthday: 2/16/1988

1. How long have you lived in your district? Since 2019

I am running because public service is one of the most impactful ways to improve the lives of children, women and families — and because leaders

who are unethical and ineffective

3. What issues are top of mind for you? My top concerns are those of our community: reducing crime, homelessness and gun violence;

improving educational outcomes for our students; housing

affordability; access to health care; and greater support for families needing child care and elder care. I believe we must do more to address climate change

and protect our natural resources

. sand

Powered by TECNAVIA

4. What experience do you have? I am a policy analyst, a finance consultant and a new mom. I have also worked in business.

2. Why are you running?

#### Occupation: Consultant 4. What experience do you Family: David Parkinson; one

have? Please do not underestimate my Please do not underestimate my inexperience with my desire to get the job done. My opponent has been in office 27 years longer than I, but these abilities 'that I possess will be an asset in the position I am seeking: Integrity, leadership skills, analytical and divide I the set of the se critical-thinking skills, decisive commonsense decisionmaker and problem solving.

# 5. What do you want to se change in New Mexico's Legislature?

change in New Mexico's Legislature? Ivould like to see an annual salary for the legislators, as I believe this will generate interest for candidates from all walks of life. Having the average, hardworking, blue-collar workers run for public office, like me, is something that I "word like to see more of.

# would like to see more of

Would like to see more of. 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? I would like to see the same process continue for passage of New Mexico legislation. I believe this process provides structure, time for discussion, collaboration with other legislators to adjust the bill, if needed, and to provide a simple majority vote to enact legislation:

Birthday: 11/25/1956

# I was born within the "

boundaries for District 13

2. Why are you running? I believe the voters in District 13 deserve a choice, and I want the senator who holds that seat to be a strong advocate for the priorities important to our district and to work with our local officials to be userse and bring more

## Albuquerque Journal - 05/26/2024

international e-commerce. For over five years, I worked with our state's Democratic lawmakers to pass legislation that has contributed to major victories for working families and our onment.

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? We need more diversity in the Legislature — of experience, ethnicity, age and gender. New Mexico has the last unpaid legislature in the country, and it legislature in the country, and it largely limits the type of perse who can serve to those who are retired or independently wealthy. This needs to change. Legislators must also have staff.

## 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's

Legislature? Legislature: I have generally seen lawmakers of both parties in New Mexico work to find common ground to get things done, unlike what we see nationally. A culture of mutual respect needs to be honored and continued

## Daniel Ivey-Soto

Did not respond to Journal *questionnaire*.

#### DISTRICT 21

Another Northeast Heights Race, this one mainly north of Academy Road, will lead to a new face in the District 21 seat, held by outgoing Republican Rep. Mark Moores. Two candidates are trying to secure the Democrat spot in hopes to later face off with the Republican who wins the three way race in the primary.

#### Athena Ann Christodoulou

Education: Professional Science Master (Nanoscience and Microsystems and Business management), University of New Mexico, May 2012 Master New Mexico, May 2012 Master of Science in Environmental Engineering, University of Central Florida, 1994 Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, North Carolina State University, 1983, summa cum laude

summa cum lauue Occupation: Retired Navy Commander; Owner Solargetic Designs, LLC, Albuquerque, energy consultant; co-founder energy consultant; co-found CSolPower, LLC, Albuquerqu CSolPower, LLC, Albuquerque, Clean thermal energy storage for heat on demand & Community Solar, CEO of Pen L O P, LLC, (dba Udorami) Albuquerque, NM Co-founder of digital list maker Udorami.com Family: Christos Christodoulou; 3

Birthday: 11/5/1961

1. How long have you lived in your district? Almost 25 years 2. Why are you running? We all want safe communi -hities and a good education and economic a good education and economic opportunity for our kids. In a decade, I hear their thanks. Thanks for our courage, wisdom, and compassion to find solutions together. I served our country and my family, now I wish to serve the people of New Mexico. 3. What issues are top of mind for you? My community is concerned

My community is concerned about crime right now, especially involving guns. As a Moms Demand Action gun sense candidate, I will work to protect our second graders along with our Second Amendment rights, and work to lessen the impact of warmer times we will be facing.

#### Heat incites more violence. 4. What experience do you

have? I'm a retired Navy commander experienced tech entreprener energy and environmental neur er, and mom. I've been in front of legislators in committee hearings as a citizen, making brief comments in support of clean air, land and water. In 2023, I served as a committee bill analyst in the New Mexico Legislature.

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? Coming to the Legislature as an engineer and naval officer, I would like to see more effort to prioritize beind the see that the the the legislation, see more action than words and facilitate a professional legislature. Let's bring more transparency in lobbying and legislator relationships. Improve the capital outlay process with a more comprehensive oversight

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? Citizen participation matters, and the current ability for remote comment in committees means comment in committees means our voices are at least heard. That opportunity needs to be in all committees. The collegial manner between all legislators operating in the woman-majority House sets the tone for a government by and with the people. Philip Snedeker Education: B.A., Social Science M.A., Educational Administratio Western New Mexico University Occupation: Retired Law Enforcement/Corrections Family: N/A

Birthday: 5/26/1955

## 1. How long have you lived in your district? 11 years. 2. Why are you running?

to serving the people of my

3. What issues are top of mind

reduction initiatives, measures to address homlessness, improvement of our educational system, support/strengthen pretrial detention, strengthen economy/business development

4. What experience do you Two-year municipal police officer, 10-year senior officer, New Mexico State Police; former sheriff, Quay County, New Mexico; 31-year career

administrator, New Mexico

Correction Department; Probation/Parole Division, Albuquerque; certified New Mexico secondary level school

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's

**Legislature?** Comprehensive, accountable, transparent representation of o state's citizens and their needs.

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? The ability of citizens to actively participate in their government.

DISTRICT 24

Anna Hansen

No Republican is running for District 24, all but guaranteei

a Democrat will represent the southwestern Santa Fe area.

Three women are trying to get Sen. Nany Rodriguez's spot after she decided not to run again.

Education: Master's in Art & Art History from the University of New Mexico, Bachelor of Fine Arts from UNM

Occupation: Santa Fe County commissioner, small-business owner Dakini Design, Photography and Consulting LLC

Family: I do not have a spou

1. How long have you lived in your district? I've lived in the District 24 for 40

2. Why are your unning? To bring real environmental leadership to the Legislature and champion sustianability. As senator, Ill secure improved infrastructure, Increase access to health/mental/behavioral care and expand broadband. III champion solutions for housing, climate change, water security, demand greater investments in our schools and protect our diverse hentage and cultural landscape.

3. What issues are top of mind for you? Water protections, including expanding surface water

protections and banning PFAS

use. Establishing a state bank and

micro-lending program for New Mexicans, passing Paid Medical Family Leave, increasing the Child Tax Credit and holding our state accountable for its education

shortcomings and financially

4. What experience do you have?

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's

going beyond the Yazzie-Martinez agreement.

2. Why are you running?

Birthday: 5/25/1948

vears

landscape

eina

r you? omprehensive crime, volence

community.

Education: B.A. in Public Health, Fort Lewis College Occupation: Leadership analyst, office of House Majority Leader Representative Gail Chasey Earning Ne acquire are objecten Family: No spouse or children Birthday: 12/17/1995 lifelong, dedicated public serva role, with a strong commitment

should continue to b

and celebrated by the Legislature The floor-session moments help

to dampen partisan rhetoric and serve as reminder that their votes impact all New Mexicans, not just their district.

Veronica Ray Krupnick

1. How long have you lived in your district? I've lived in Senate District 24 for the past 5 years, in various parts of the district.

and accessible nousing, environmental justice, behavioral

welfare advocate and foster care alumni, I want to ensure our children, young people and families are holistically supported.

have? I've served as a child welfare advocate, leading policy efforts locally, statewide and nationally for nearly six years. My advocacy is centered in racial equity, decriminalization and uplifting lived experience solutions. I'm the

year-round leadership analyst to House Majority Leader Chasey and staffed the recent 30- and 60-day legislative sessions.

Legislature? I want to see the modernization of our Legislature, so more young, diverse and working leaders can serve. We need voices like mine who represent historically excluded communities and are living the daily challenges of the average New Mexican. Opening this denciber the forework of the result.

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature?

this door is how I believe we

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico Legislature? Working as a legislative staffer,

want that to change. I hope we continue to grow and strength the bridge between people an

Education: Seattle University School of Law — Juris Doctor; The Evergreen State College — Bachelor of Arts; Green River Community College \_ Applied

Community College — Applied Associate of Arts Early Childhood Education

Occupation: Attorney / Retired

Family: Fabian Trujillo; 5 children

Birthday: 5/20/1959

Linda Trujillo

een and appreciate h

create transformation

I have s

health and strengthening tribal

sovereignty. As a career child

4. What experience do you

have?

#### DISTRICT 26

davs

of the district. 2. Why are you running? Lam running for because I know we have never had a voice like mine in office, and it is time for boild change. I'm a 28-year-old Indigenous leader who has the lived experience, professional background and determination to bring a new voice to New Mexico politics. In another Senate race without any Republicans running, two any Hepublicans running, two Democrats want to serve the communities mostly west of the Rio Grande near Interstate 40 in Albuquerque. Incumbent Sen. Moe Maestas is trying to keep the Sente seath ew on in 2022, after serving as a representative for 15 wears. 3. What issues are top of mind for you? My No. 1 priority is child welfare and safety. Additional priorities of mine are affordable and accessible housing,

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's

Legislature? I support professionalizing the

Legislature. Legislators should be fairly compensated to attract a diverse range of candidates. I also support providing year-round staff to ensure continuity

n legislative work, bette constituent services and more

informed decision-making.

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? While I would like to have the

30-day session extended and the limitation on budget-related bills eliminated, I don't want any session to extend beyond 60

#### Julie Radoslovich

Education: Rio Grande High School; Stanford University — Bachelor of Arts in English Bachelor of Arts in English; Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Afarias – Master of Public Administration; College of Santa Fe – Coursework for teaching certification and related licensure requirements: University of New Mexico – Education Lea dership Program, Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) Certificate with Distinction Occupation: Retired teacher, school principal/director Family: Raymond Badua, Maj. USAF retired, 3 children Birthday: 1/23/1969

#### 1. How long have you lived in your district? I have lived in my district for 23

vears

2. Why are you running? Our neighbors — including working families, women, immigrants, children and the elderly — deserve a legislato elderly — deserve a legislator who will show up on behalf of their interests. Voters to whom I speak daily say that my opponent is out of touch with their concerns and largely disengaged from dialogue with voices on the ground.

3. What issues are top of mind for you? A flourishing economy; strong public education system; a healthier, more secure collective accessible our lawmakers are. We often refer to the State Capitol as "The People's House," and I never future are all interlinked. In partnership with stakeholders, I will prioritize measures in the Senate to build safer communities; strengthen educational frameworks; support our neighbors providing care for elderly family members; and safekeep our greenway spaces, water, and air.

## 4. What experience do you

4. What experience do you have? For over 20 years, I served as a teacher and then principal/ director with Albuquerque Public Schools at Sochools at Sochools at Sochools at Sochools Horder Academy. Legislative bodies benefit from voices informed by direct classroom experience. I also bring academic training in public administration as well as nearly a decade working in national beath the server and the se decade working in national health care policy.

S. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? This Senate seat is not about my voice — it's about empowering and amplifying the voices of the people who live in District 26. It's about realizing that we diffeoundo are formilion enjoy all rise when our families enjoy the wealth of potential and opportunity together. Creating a more prosperous future begins with that truth.

# 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature?

Legislature? Legislature? Lispent the week of my 55th birthday in Santa Fei Istening to testimory in committee hearings about paid family medical lease and sensible gun adley measures. I appreciate that every day citizens can access the ejislative process as our state works toward policies that make ther most sense for New Mexico

families

## Antonio "Moe" Maestas Education: University of Washington, B.A.; University of New Mexico, School of Law, J.D.

Occupation: Lawyer Family: Vanessa Alarid, 3 children Birthday: 7/6/1968

## 1. How long have you lived in your district?

I live approximately a mile and a half from my childhood home. I have lived in on the west side for 29 years (since returning from college), including apartment, a mobile home and current home

2. Why are you running? Ilove New Mexico and Ilove the West Side. I have been a proven leader in the Legislature for 18 years and hope to contin contributing to public safety, growing our economy, improving educational outcomes consistent with the Martinez/Yazzie concerns and providing more access to affordable health care.

## 3. What issues are top of mind

Public safety and fighting crime. As a former prosecutor, I believe the criminal justice system must ensure swift and certain justice. Building out our early childhood educational system; overcoming generational poverty with good economic policy and sound infrastructure investment to spur economic growth; and building a strong behavioral health system. 4. What experience do you

#### have?

have? I was a community organizer, worked nights in a factory to put myself through college, and prosecuted violent crimes as young lawyer. I have 18 years of experience in the Legislature, experience in the Legislature, having served as: majority whip, chair of Commerce Committee and member of Finance Committee, and know how to get things done.

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? We need to modernize the New Mexico Legislature. I support arobust session of 60/90 weekdays each year that doesn't require an executive message to introduce legislation. Legislators need year-round staff to deal with constituent services and ensure capital projects are on schedule. We also need a paid Legislature.

# 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's

stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? The New Mexico Legislature needs to maintain decorum and collegiality. Simple and trusted rules of procedure in committee and on the floor must be strengthened. We must be an example of democracy, be an example of democracy, regardless of what happens in D.C. We must restore people's confidence in government with honesty, accountability and transparency.



## REPUBLICAN RACES

Republicans in the Albuquerque and Santa Fe region want a chance to make their way into the Roundhouse. Between Bernalillo, Valencia, Santa Fe berriallio, valerica, santa re and Sandoval counties, there are four contested Republican primary races for state Senate. Like the House Republicans, none of the contested races have incumbent candidates. Each of the contested districts among the four counties has two candidate except for District 21, which has three people running. Following are candidates' responses to a Journal

shav been edited for brevity and clarity.

Hoping to later flip the District 9 seat on the other side of the aisle, two Republicans are running in the primary to represent Corrales Placitas and the town of Bernalillo One of them will run in November against the Democrat who wins that party's two-way primary race

Education: University

2. Why are you running? I amrunning to help bring back the prosperity that we the people of New Mexico deserve. Safer streets, border security, less taxes on gas, helping our children of New Mexico prosper in education.

# of the Early Childhood Education and Care Department, Education is the foundation for a brighter future. When we commit to this priority, we create opportunities for a positive impact in our community.

When we invest in education, we're investing in families. That's why I co-sponsored the creation of the Early Childhood Education

# SENATE

#### DISTRICT 9

#### Frida Susana Vasquez

Occupation: Small-business entrepreneur Family: Kristiar Birthday: 11/16/1972

1. How long have you lived in your district? Almost 15 years

1. How long have you lived in your district? I've lived at this location for 19

2. Why are you running? I'm running for state Senate to be a voice for our community and enact positive change. As the first person in my family to attend and graduate from college, I know how education can impact a pomono life I tetom the value of

## person's life. It stops the cycle of poverty and opens doors to more

have: Two-term county commissioner Two-term county commissioner, president, Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area; chair, Coalition of Sustainable Communities NM: president, Women of National Association of Counties, Graduate of UNM (master's, BFA), a small-business opportunities. 3. What issues are top of mind for you? Our most pressing issues aren't

iobs.

4. What experi

aare

Our most pressing issues aren't new, just more aucte. We all want and need access to educational opportunities, affordable housing, good jobs and the right to make medical decisions. I will protect women's reproductive health care, advoccate for early childhood, K-12, and higher education; increase affordable housing; and foster high-wage

# change in New Mexico's Legislature? The capital outlay process needs to be overhauled, with more emphasis on investing these extreme financial returns for longextreme innancial returns for long term gain instead of projects that aren't shovel ready. Extending the length of the budget session to at least 45 days. Greater government transparency and expanded public participation.

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? Keeping accessibility open to legislators, and New Mexico is a beautiful and diverse place that

3. What issues are top of mind for you? High crime rate, border security, education and helping bring more

jobs to our state. 4. What experience do you have?

In the past 20 years of my life, I have been in corporate sales and have been in corporate sales and started my successful business in Rio Rancho. I was part of a huge corporation where I assisted in its growth throughout the nation by being part of their policymaking and implementing training. and implementing training nationwide.

# 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature?

What I wish to see change in the Legislature is more concentration in helping reduce the crime epidemic of our cities, securing our border, helping our education for our children ... so we are not dead last in the nation.

#### 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? What I would love to see is new

change in order to make our state prosperous, and that will only happen with our voters getting out and voting for that change.

#### Audrey Trujillo

Education: University of New Mexico: B.A. Criminology, B.A. Spanish and Portuguese & M.A. Public Administration (Emphasis in Justice Administration) Occupation: Retired Family: Jerome Trujillo, 3 children Birthday: 3/15/1972

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? 25 years

2. Why are you running? I'm running to unite our community. From Algodones, Placitas, Town of Bernalillo, Village of Corrales and Sandia Pueblo, everyone deserves to have a voice in our Legislature 3. What issues are top of mind

for you? Economy, public safety, education, environment, supporting the Constitution,

## mental health, protecting women's sports and election integrity 4. What experience do you

have? My experience includes

My experience includes serving my community as the PTA president for Corrales Elementary School; committee director at the Corrales Mentor Center, which helped children and with end by helped children and with anti-bullying seminars volunteering for the local harvest festival that partnered with the local Kiwanis Club, and serving as the committee chair for the loca 702 Boys Scouts and PAC 702

# 5. What do you want to se change in New Mexico's

Legislature? Iwould like to see more transparency from our Legislature. Many people believe that we don't have adequate representation. I will make an effort to see that everyone can have a voice and know that our government process is transparent.

# 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's

Legislature? We are one of the very few legislatures that doesn't pay our representatives or senators a salary. We only have per diem. Our Founding Fathers wanted to ensure that our government is We The People. Not caree politicians. I believe we shou maintain per diem and keep our Legislature the citizen's legislature. should

## **DISTRICT 12**

With long-standing Democratic Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino leaving the Legislature after this year Republicans are looking to flip the Rio Rancho seat. Before that, Republican voters will need to dial two candidates down to one Democrats do the same wit three options for District 12.

## Candace

Thompson Gould Education: Del Norte High School

May 26, 2024 4:01 pm (GMT -6:00)

Occupation: Executive director Family: Leland Gould: 1 Birthday: 8/9/1958

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? District 12 was created in 2021.1 have lived in District 12 since 2021

## and in New Mexico for 52 years.

2. Why are you running? I am running because we are losing our state to crime, failing schools and an open border. The

## liberal majority is doing nothing about it. I am running because I know I can make a difference. 3. What issues are top of mind

for you? I am dedicated to improving our state by holding criminals accountable, supporting law enforcement, a secure border that stops the flow of illegal drugs, an education system that puts our children first, and upholding New

#### Mexico values 4. What experience do you

have? Four years in the New Mexico Senate, 50 years of small-business experience, with 18 years advocating for the rights of aged-out foster youth in the state and helping them become self-sufficient and successful individuals, breaking the cycle of

## abuse and neglect.

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? The liberal majority in the Legislature is not responsive to the proof of the proposile legislated the needs of the people. Instead of fighting crime, they're attacking the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. Instead of focusing on education, they are forcing parents out and bringing in social agendas.

# 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? New Mexico has a citizen's

legislature, where elected officials are not paid and are not solely reliant on their position for income. This eliminates the potential for conflicts of interest and allows for a more genuine and dedicated approach to serving the people

#### Jay C. Block

Education: Bachelor's and master's degrees from North Dakota State University and Troy State University Occupation: County commissioner and nuclear operations consultant Family: Jennifer, 4

## Birthday: 11/9/1970 1. How long have you lived in your district? Nine years

2. Why are you running? I'm running because Ne Mexico has major areas it must improve for the people. We need innovative solutions for education, crime, tax relief, poverty, mental health, the border and economic

development. . What issues are top of mind for you?

The border, crime, fixing our educational system, tax relief for families, homelessness and mental health, providing treatment for substance abuse

4. What experience do you

lam a retired lieutenant colonel, U.S. Air Force and Afghanistan combat veteran who was entrusted with the nation's nuclear codes. I have been a leader in private industry for eight vears, leading teams helping of my firm's marketplace. Lastly, I am

# in my seventh year serving on the Sandoval County Commission.

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature? More bipartisan work between both parties providing innovative each triang that marks how Maximo solutions that make New Mexico more business friendly with safe

streets, improved infrastructure, reformed education and health care, and tax relief for families and small businesses. Currently, one party is close to a supermajority, and this has stifled moderate and

## conservative ideas. 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature?

Not much. Right now, our state Legislature is performing poorly last in education, while ranking high in crime, joblessness and drugs. Our Legislature must be held accountable. Dramatic change is needed throughout state government.

DISTRICT 21

John C. Morton

GS degree

redistricting.

for you?

The spot for District 21 in Albuquerque's Northeast Heights

is one of the larger Senate

races among Republicans in

the primary election, with three

candidates running. Republican Sen. Mark Moores chose not to

run again this year after more than a decade in office. The winner will face the Democrat who wins their District 21 primary race.

Education: University of Idaho.

intelligence officer retired, federal adjudicator, retired

Occupation: U.S. Air Force

Birthday: Decline to answe

1. How long have you lived in your district? Two years, but over 40 in the previous district, before

2. Why are you running

I'm running for a seat ... to help

throughout the state, and to work

to make it a better-run and more-effective place that makes positive changes for our citizens.

3. What issues are top of mind

I'll work to pass legislation to

help secure our border, to help

pass legislation to keep violent

criminals in iail pending trial, to

reform education to meet 21st

4. What experience do you

My experience working with

strategies to combat drug

analytically.

understood

children

correct.

for you?

have?

Federal Drug Enforcement Agencies will be useful in planning

smuggling into New Mexico, and my military experience helps

e look at our state's problem

5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's Legislature?

I'd like to see more committee

meetings held in the evenings

so people who work can testify

in person, I will sponsor a bill to

require bills to be written simply

and clearly so they may be easily

6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? Not much.

Education: Honors A.A. St. Pete

Jr. College B.A. History and Minor Anthropology/Archaeology, USF

Occupation: Business coach

1. How long have you lived in your district? Eight years

2. Why are you running? I'm running for state Senate because we need solutions

that require common sense

innovation and hard work to

3. What issues are top of mind

Securing our border, restoring

Family: Mark Tobiassen; 2

Birthday: 1/13/1970

Nicole L. Tobiassen

century challenges and keep talented students in-state, and to build a strong economy.

effect positive change in my district and, by extension,

Family: Deborah, none

Legislature? We need balance in the Legislature to ensure all voices are heard.

### 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's

state lags behind or fails us.

## Education: B.A., University of

New Mexico Occupation: Consultant /Realtor (25 years / retired) / owner of a retail business (5 years) Family: Juliana / 1 daughter

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? 25 years in this district

2. Why are you running? Because I have the time, creativity, past elective experience and commitment to make our state a much better place to live and work. I have a long record of accomplishments as an Albuquerque city councilor, N.M. state senator and Bernalillo County commissioner.

Ensure that dangerous criminals are kept in jail, see that the homeless get off the streets and into treatment, defend our Second Amendment rights attract more doctors and retain

## ve?

Albuquerque city councilor, 1985-1989; N.M. state senator, 1993-1997; Bernalillo County commissioner, 2009-2012

# Legislature?

An exorbitant \$5.2 billion is sitting idle in the state's Capital Outlay Reserve. If New Mexico had a systematic integrated method of allocating capital outlay, the Land of Enchantment would not have this problem.

We are a multicultural state the members of the Legislature represent this diversity well coming from every faction (Anglo Hispanic, Native American and African American) — it is an amazingly representative body

### DISTRICT 23

Two Republicans are in the race to represent more-rural western Albuquerque communities, as the district spans beyond the petroglyphs. The primary winner will run in November against incumbent Democratic Sen. Harold Pope Jr., who is running uncontested in his primary.

#### Terry Lynne Aragon

Education: Associate of Science Medical Laboratory Technologies, MLT ASCP Occupation: Wastewater

technician Family: 5 adult children, 11 grandchildren, 4

Securing our border, restoring law and order, lowering taxes, educating our children, reinstating qualified immunity for APD, eliminating Social Security tax, access to medical care. 4. What experience do you

I've dedicated my professional career to making New Mexico a better place to live, find employment and own a business employment and own a business. Every day I challenge leaders to grow their skillsets, expand their vision of what is possible and take action toward strategic goals. Through my business, I help other businesses busine grow card businesses thrive and grow and in the process make New Mexico a better place, because healthy businesses create more jobs and raise the standard of living for us

# What do you want to s ange in New Mexico's

Mexicans 4. What experience do you have?

Amendment rights. Defeat the

radical left takeover of public

schools: teach our children to

Fe's reckless spending, put

think, not what to think. End Santa

money back into pockets of New

as treasurer, chaired fiscal committee. Currently manage

Wastewater Laboratory, Town

laboratory policies, standard operating procedures for

5. What do you want to see

change in New Mexico's Legislature?

I would like to see an end to the

power grab being perpetrated in the Legislature by extreme,

progressive advocates posing as

legislators. They have enacted a radical, destructive agenda rather

than representative legislation

that protects and enhances the

stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature?

out of Santa Fe that promotes protections or enhancements of

reasonable to say that there's not much worth keeping regarding

Family: Elaine and three children

1. How long have you lived in your district?

represent the traditional values and interests of my fellow community members here in

Albuquerque's West Side, We

need common sense approaches

law enforcement, supporting local

to addressing crime, supporting

businesses and working-class

families. I am positioned to do this in a more effective manner

than my opponent, having seen

his track record for the last four years. I believe voters are ready

3. What issues are top of the

The biggest issue impacting our community's quality of life and quality of place is certainly the growing presence of criminal

activity. Everyone in New Mexico

is experiencing the increase in recent years of retail theft

vandalism, street violence and

4. What experience do you

enforcement, to include being

sheriff and a small business

5. What do you want to see

The lack of compromise between

change in New Mexico's

the minority and majority in both our House and Senate is

collaborative solutions that representative members of our Legislature can agree to that best

the state of New Mexico.

6. What do you want to se

to its effective functioning.

We must continue to uphold these principles, even when

we disagree or have differing

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viewpoints.

a significant concern. We need

serve their constituents as well as

stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature?

The decorum and statesmanship of the Legislature are crucial

Served in all levels of law

mind for you?

homelessness.

Legislature?

have?

owner

for the change I bring to the table

2. Why are you running? I am seeking office to best

the lives of New Mexicans. It is

the current status quo.

Manuel "Manny'

Education: Bachelor's

Occupation: Retired

Birthday: 1/1/1964

30-plus years

Gonzales III

lives of New Mexicans

6. What do you want to se

I see no evidence of any

meaningful or representative

legislation currently coming

compliance reporting.

of Bernalillo. Created, developed

Page : C006

Member YDI Head Start Policy stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature? Currently, our state is in dire need of change. Government and the legislative branch must be held more accountable for when our stata loap babind or fails up. Council. Created, developed policy for early childhood education, nutrition, health, narental involvement advocating needs, well-being of their childre in school and community. Served

# Michael C. Wiener

Birthday: 6/22/1954

# 3. What issues are top of mind for you?

the ones we have no

4. What experience do you

# 5. What do you want to see change in New Mexico's

# 6. What do you want to see stay the same in New Mexico's Legislature?

aboratory management/

great-grandchildren Birthday: 5/20/1960

# 1. How long have you lived in your district? 29 years

2. Why are you running? I'm running because New Mexico is on the wrong path. We've become a lawless state that places families and children last places families and children last. Government's responsibility is in safeguarding our communities, but that's not happening. I cannot continue, in good conscience, sitting by allowing this to happen to our society, to our culture.

#### 3. What issues are top of mind for you?

Implement tough-on-crime policies that punish criminals, not protect them. Defend law abiding citizens and their Second