

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

Jason R. Weeks, Esq.

The Weeks Law Firm, P.C.



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. [Click here for full list Senate races](#) with links to candidate bios and [click here for a full list of House races](#) with candidate bios.

## SENATE RACES

| OFFICE   | DEM   | REP  | ANALYSIS   |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>SD 4 Cibola, Mc Kinley &amp; San Juan</b><br><br>– Sen Munoz                          | Sen George Munoz – Incumbent- moderate<br><br>Keith Hillock – Challenger  | None   | A moderate leaning district so Sen Munoz, a moderate D and chair of the Senate Finance Committee has the advantage and should retain the seat but is taking the race seriously against his progressive opponent.   |
| <b>SD 9 – Bernalillo &amp; Sandoval</b><br><br>Open due to retirement of Sen McKenna (D) | Heather Balas – Moderate candidate<br><br>Cindy Nava – Progressive candidate                                      | Audrey Trujillo – Conservative Candidate<br><br>Frida Vasquez – Moderate Candidate       | A swing seat formerly held by John Sapien (D) and prior to that Steve Komadia (R). It's a 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; Sandoval</b><br>- 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><br><br>– Sen Lopez (D)   | Linda Lopez – Incumbent who is progressive.<br><br>Richard Carrion – Challenger (I don't know much about Richard) | None   | Sen Lopez should retain the seat and win the Dem primary   |
| <b>SD 12 Bernalillo</b><br>– Open due to the retirement of Sen Ortiz y Pino              | Phillip Ramirez – Challenger who is a moderate Dem  | Jay Block – Conservative<br><br>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   |
|  |   |  |  |

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

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

#### HOUSE RACES

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

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
|  | Arval McCabe –<br>Challenger who is a more progressive candidate   |   | 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.   |
| <b>OFFICE</b>  | <b>DEM</b>   | <b>REP</b>  | <b>ANALYSIS</b>   |
| <b>HD 11 Bernalillo</b><br>– Rep Javier Martinez (D)   | Javier Martinez –<br>Incumbent who is also the House Speaker and has held the seat for the past 10 years or so                       | Bart Kinney –<br>Challenger who is relatively unknown                           | A strong D district and the challenger is not viable  |
| <b>HD 13 Bernalillo</b><br>– Rep Patricia Roybal Caballero (D)   | Patricia Roybal Caballero –<br>Incumbent who is very progressive.<br><br>Teresa Garcia –<br>Challenger who is slightly more moderate | None  | This is a strong D district. Roybal 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 watch. |
| <b>HD 14 Bernalillo</b><br>– Rep Miguel Garcia (D)   | Miguel Garcia –<br>Incumbent who is very progressive and has held the seat for over 15 years   | Konnig Legried –<br>Challenger who is fairly unknown.                           | This is a strong D district, so this is unlikely to be a close race.  |
| <b>HD 16 Bernalillo</b><br>– Rep Yanira Gurrola (D)<br>recently appointed due to the Mo Maestas moving to the Senate | Yanira Gurrola –<br>Incumbent who is somewhat progressive.<br><br>Marsella Duarte –<br>Challenger who is the more moderate candidate | Leland Bohannon –<br>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.                           |
| <b>HD 17 Bernalillo</b><br>– Rep Cynthia Borrego (D)   | Cynthia Borrego –<br>Incumbent who is a moderate D   | Leland Bohannon –<br>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   |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>HD 18 Bernalillo</b><br>– Open seat due to the retirement of Gail Chasey  | Marianna Anaya – Very progressive candidate supported by a number of progressive groups and the trial lawyers who is a current lobbyist<br><br>Gloria Doherty – The more moderate D, who is a nurse<br><br>Juan Larranaga – Moderate D, has very little campaign infrastructure<br><br>Anjali Taneja – Slightly moderate leaning candidate, is a Doctor and a well-developed campaign infrastructure | None  | A strong D district that is fairly progressive leaning. While Doherty is working hard and raised some money. I believe this race will be between Anaya and Taneja who are splitting support between some progressive groups. Taneja has strong community ties as a general practitioner, but Anaya will probably be better funded. |
| <b>HD 19 Bernalillo</b><br>– Rep Janelle Anyanonu (D)  | Janelle Anyanonu – Incumbent D who is progressive but reasonable and open to conversations   | Leanna Derrick – Challenger who is more conservative but relatively unknown | This is a strong D seat and Anyanonu should win easily.  |
| <b>HD 20 Bernalillo</b><br>– Rep Meredith Dixon (D)  | Meredith Dixion – Incumbent D who is moderate/progressive and the vice chair of HAFC   | Tracy Major – Challenger who is conservative leaning but relatively unknown | This is a swing seat with a near even R/D split. However, Dixon has broad support from progressives and the business and has a well-developed campaign infrastructure so she will be very difficult to beat.   |
| <b>HD 22 Bernalillo/Torrance</b><br>– Rep Stefani Lord (R)   | Fred Ponzlov – Challenger who is a D and relatively unknown  | Stefani – Incumbent who is a very conservative R                            | This is a strong R district and will not be much of a race   |
| <b>HD 23 Sandoval</b><br>– Rep Alan Martinez (R)   | Frank Smith – Challenger who is a D and is relatively unknown  | Alan Martinez – Incumbent who is a moderate R                               | This is a strong R district and Martinez should win pretty easily  |
| <b>HD 24 Bernalillo</b><br>– Rep Liz Thompson (D)  | Elizabeth “Liz” Thompson – Progressive D who has held the seat off and on for 10 years and is currently the chair of House Health  | Anne Edenfield – Challenger who is relatively unknown                       | This district has shifted to a pretty strong D district over the past 6 years and Thompson should hold the seat without much trouble   |
| <b>HD 25 Bernalillo</b><br>– Rep Christina Parajon (D) appointed to the seat due to the retirement of Christina Trujillo | Christina Parajon – Incumbent who is a very progressive D  | Denis Litvinenko – Challenger who is otherwise unknown                      | This is a strong D district and Parajon should hold the seat easily  |
| <b>HD 26 Bernalillo</b><br>– Rep Eleanor Chavez (D)  | Eleanor Chavez – Incumbent who is a very progressive D   | Patrick Sais – Challenger who is an R but otherwise unknown                 | A strong D district so Chavez should hold the seat without much trouble  |
|  |  |   |  |

| OFFICE  | DEM  | REP  | ANALYSIS   |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p><b>HD 27 Bernalillo</b></p> <p>– Rep Marian Matthews (D)</p>   | <p>Marian Matthews – Incumbent who is a moderate candidate who formerly worked in the AG’s Office</p> <p>Greg Seeley – Challenger who is more progressive and works at Sandia Labs</p> | <p>Gregory Gallegos – Challenger who is otherwise unknown and is likely a place hold in the event Matthews loses the D primary</p>           | <p>This is a swing seat with 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 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.</p> |
| <p><b>HD 28 Bernalillo</b></p> <p>– Rep Pamela Herndon (D)</p>  | <p>Pamela Herndon – Incumbent who is a very progressive D</p>  | <p>Marcie May – Challenger who is an R but relatively unknown</p>  | <p>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.</p>  |
| <p><b>HD 29 Bernalillo</b></p> <p>– Rep Joy Garrett (D)</p>   | <p>Joy Garrett – Incumbent D who is progressive but reasonable</p>   | <p>Gregory Cunningham – Challenger who is a moderate R and is retired law enforcement</p>  | <p>A D leaning district but Garrett has held the seat for several terms and beat Cunningham by a comfortable margin in the 2022 election cycle. Garrett should hold the seat this time around as well.</p>   |
| <p><b>HD 30 Bernalillo</b></p> <p>– Open seat due to Rep Natalie Figueroa’s move to an open Senate Race</p> | <p>Elizabeth Torres-Velasquez – Expected to be a progressive leaning D but is relatively unknown.</p>  | <p>Victor Dore</p> <p>Jared Secret</p> <p>Not much to know about either of these candidates but expect that both are fairly conservative</p> | <p>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 Torres-Velasquez to be supported by progressives so she will have an advantage.</p>  |

| <b>OFFICE</b>  | <b>DEM</b>  | <b>REP</b>  | <b>ANALYSIS</b>  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>HD 31 Bernalillo</b><br>– 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.<br><br>Sarah Jane Allen/ Patrick Husted – 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. |
| <b>HD 44 Bernalillo/Sandoval</b><br>– Rep Kathleen Cates (D)                       | Kathleen Cates – Incumbent D who is extremely progressive but who is supported by the House Speaker.  | Ali Ennenga – R challenger who is pretty conservative. Ennenga previously ran against and lost to Rep Hochman-Vigil in 2022.  | This is a swing district that has trended more D in recent years. Cates beat incumbent R, Jane Powdrell-Culbert in 2022. Cates will have an advantage in this race, but it should be close.      |
| <b>HD 50 Sandoval/SF</b><br>– Rep Matthew McQueen (D)                              | Matthew McQueen – who is very prog. and the chair of Energy and Nat. Resources. McQueen has the House Speaker & environment advoc. Groups supporting. | Kenneth Brennan<br>Endy Lossing<br><br>Not much is known about these two political newcomers  | Fairly solid D district that McQueen has held for about 10 years. McQueen should have an advantage in the general election and should win the race.  |
| <b>HD 57 Sandoval</b><br>– Open Seat due to the retirement of Rep Jason Harper (R) | Michelle Sandoval – Relatively unknown newcomer   | Catherine Cullen – Unknown<br><br>John DiAntonio – Former State Eng been around and is a moderate<br><br>Corrine Rios – Unknown   | This is a lean R seat that should be a safe win for Rs if they nominate a fairly moderate candidate in the general.  |
| <b>HD 60 Sandoval</b><br>– Rep Joshua Hernandez (R)                                | Luke Jungman – Challenger who is a D and unknown  | Joshua Hernandez – Incumbent R who is moderate  | A strong R seat and Hernandez should hold the seat without much trouble.   |
| <b>HB 68 Bernalillo</b><br>– Rep Charlotte Little (D)                              | Charlotte Little – Incumbent D who is fairly progressive and won by less than 25 or so votes to Robert Moss (R) in 2022                               | Nathan Brooks<br>Virginia Gonzales<br><br>-Not much is known about these candidates but to win they will have to be moderates   | A swing seat that leans D in recent years. In 2022 this was the closest 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  |
|---|--|-------------|---|
| <p><b>HD 69</b><br/> <b>Bern/Cib/McK/SJ/Soc/Val</b></p> <p>– Rep Harry Garcia (D)</p> | <p>Harry Garcia – Incumbent D who is a moderate and first won this seat in 2016 after former House Speaker Ken Martinez retired</p> <p>Michelle Abeyta – Challenger who is running as a progressive D</p> <p>Stanley Michael – Unknown</p>                 | <p>None</p> | <p>A strong D district and fairly moderate leaning due to its rural composition. Garcia will have a race on his hands but, if he raises enough money, he should win the race. The House Speaker and business community are supporting him while progressive groups are supporting Abeyta.</p> |
| <p><b>HD 70 San Miguel/Torrance</b></p> <p>– Rep Ambrose Castellano (D)</p>           | <p>Ambrose Castellano – Incumbent D who is very moderate and who is supported b business groups and the House Speaker</p> <p>Anita Gonzales --is running as a progressive D. This will be Gonzales’ third time running against Castellano for the seat</p> | <p>None</p> | <p>A strong D district that has leaned slightly moderate. Castellano has defeated Gonzales twice before but in the 2022 cycle it was by a very small margin. Castellano should have the advantage but this will be a race to watch.</p>   |
|   |  |             |   |









