

## **Overview:**

Aside from a significant shift to Republican control of the Federal government, there were no significant surprises on election night in New Mexico. Each member of the state's federal delegation (Congresswoman Teresa Leger-Fernandez; Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury; Congressman Gabe Vasquez; and, Senator Martin Heinrich) were all reelected with the only competitive race being the one between Yvette Herrell and Gabe Vasquez.

In New Mexico's relevant state races, Republicans made very modest gains with net pickups of one seat in both the House and Senate. However, those gains were offset by the loss of several moderate Democrats during the 2024 primary election where three moderate Democrats (Ambrose Catellano, Willy Madrid and Harry Garcia) lost to progressive challengers in the House and two moderate Democrats (Bill O'Neill and Daniel Ivey-Soto) lost to more progressive challengers in the Senate.

In the state Senate, despite several other close races (*Sen. Carrie Hamblen (D) v. Samantha Barncastle-Salopek (R)* and *Sen. Harold Pope (D) v. Terry Aragon (R)*), Republicans only picked-up two seats during the general with Jay Block and Gabe Ramos winning seats that were previously held by Democrats. However, Republicans dropped one seat during the primary when Josh Sanchez (R) ran for the retiring Greg Baca's seat to avoid a general election run against Angel Charlie (D) in a district that became very Democratic as a result of a recent redistricting. Though Republicans had a decent night, Democrats were able to maintain a strong majority and will control the Senate by a significant 26 to 16 majority.

In the state House, Republicans held onto a number of swing seats (*Catherine Cullen* – formerly held by *Rep. Jason Harper*, *Rep. Luis Terrazas*, *Rep. Jennifer Jones* and *Nicole Chavez* – formerly held by *Rep. Bill Rehm*) but only managed to pick up one additional seat on election night when *Rebecca Down* (R) defeated *Rep Tara Jaramillo* (D). While several other House races were close (*Rep. Nathan Small (D) v. Kimberly Skaggs (R)*; *Sarah Silva (D) v. Elizabeth Winterroud (R)*; *Rep. Kathleen Cates v. Ali Ennenga*; *Rep. Charlotte Little (D) v. Nathan Brooks (R)*), Democrats managed to hold onto those seats to maintain a significant 45 to 25 majority.

## **Main Takeaways from the New Mexico 2024 Election Cycle:**

- 1) As a result of several retirements and primary losses, there will be 29 new members of the legislature with the most significant changes impacting the Senate and House Republican caucuses due to a number of retirements after the 2024 legislative session.

- 2) Progressive Democratic will maintain significant control in the Senate with no major changes to leadership expected in the chamber. While the membership of Senate committees will change, those changes will not meaningfully impact the political composition of the committees.
  - a. Democratic Leadership — Sen. Mimi Stewart will remain the Senate Pro Temp and Sen. Peter Wirth will remain the Majority Floor Leader. Sen. Michael Padilla may move out of the WHIP position and into a more significant committee position but that is uncertain.
  - b. Republican Leadership — With significant retirements after the 2024 legislative session, the Republican Senate Caucus will be full of new faces, many of whom are former House members who will be moving to the Senate (*Candy Ezzell, Larry Scott, Jim Townsend*). With that new membership, the Senate Republicans just elected *Sen. Bill Sharer* to be their Minority Floor Leader, *Sen. Pat Woods* to be the Minority WHIP and *Sen. David Gallegos* will be the Republican Caucus Chair.
  - c. Committee Chairs and Composition — While some committee Chairs will change, and the composition of one or two committees will become slightly more Republican, those changes will be modest and have a very nominal impact on how the chamber operates.
- 3) Progressive Democratic expanded their power in the House by a few seats with several primary wins over moderate Democrats (*Rep. Harry Garcia, Rep. Ambrose Catellano, Rep. Willy Madrid*). There will be some Democratic and Republican leadership changes but the political composition of House Committees wont change much, if at all.
  - a. Democrat Leadership — While Democrats will need to elect a new Floor Leader and WHIP due to retirements, Speaker Javier Martinez will maintain his position (*Rep. Reena Szczepanski, Rep. Aleseo Alcon* and *Rep. Linda Serrato* are running for Floor Leader, *Rep. Day Hochman-Vigil* is running for WHIP and *Rep. Ray Lara* will likely remain the Caucus Chair).
  - b. Republican Leadership — Though there is still some question as to who the Republicans will elect to be their new Floor Leader, it appears that Gail Armstrong is the likely successor and Alan Martinez is the front-runner for Minority WHIP.

- c. Committee Chairs and Composition — Several Committee’s will get new Chairs and there will be a decent number of new Republican members in the chamber but the political composition of House Committees will not change much.
- 4) In general, the legislature will become slightly more progressive and polarized, which will make successful advocacy related to several major issues (MedMal Reform, Mergers and Acquisitions, Oil and Gas setbacks, Green Amendment, Paid Family Medical Leave, etc) a bit more difficult. The Majority Leadership in the House and Senate will also become slightly more progressive with the President Pro Temp of the Senate, Sen. Mimi Stewart, solidifying her progressive base. In the House, Speaker Javier Martinez, will have to manage a few more progressive Democrats that will be less likely to favor or support moderate policies. While the new Senate Republican caucus will be more contentious in terms of their interaction with the majority, the most significant impact that they will have on the chamber is to delay proceedings through long floor debates and filibusters.
  - 5) Governor Lujan-Grisham was a very active part of the Harris presidential campaign and likely would have been in line for a cabinet position if Harris had won. With the Harris loss, the Governor will very likely finish out the last two years of her second term. Jockeying to be the Democratic nominee for the 2026 Gubernatorial race has already begun with Deb Holland (former Congresswoman and Interior Secretary), Sen. Martin Heinrich (Current NM Senator) and Sam Bregman (Current BernCo DA) as the front runners for the Democratic nomination. The Republican field is a bit less obvious but Nella Domenici, State Senator Crystal Diamond-Brantly, State Rep. Rebecca Down and former NM Supreme Court Justice, Judy Nakamura, are all names that have been thrown out. However, there have been no announcements and none of the Republicans mentioned have voice any direct intention to run.

**Note** – Races where an incumbent did not face a primary or general election challenge are not listed below. For a full list of the 2024 election results on the Secretary of State web-site [click here](#) and for a detailed analysis of the election [click here](#).

**Senate Races**

Office	Dem	Republican	Outcome
SD 2 – Open due to retirement of Sen Neville (R)	Songtree Pioche – 21%	Steve Lanier – 79%	Steven Lanier, a Freshman Legislator, won this seat easily.

SD 3 – Sen Pinto	Sen Shannon Pinto (Incumbent) — 100%	None	Shannon Pinto, a progressive, won this in the primary.
SD 4 – Sen Munoz	Sen George Munoz (Incumbent) — 100%	None	George Munoz, a moderate and chair of Finance, defeated his more progressive challenger in the
SD 8 – Sen Campos	Sen Pete Campos (Incumbent) — 100%	None	Pete Campos won this election in the primary.
SD 9 – Open due to retirement of Sen McKenna (D)	Cindy Nava — 56%	Audrey Trujillo — 44%	Cindy Nava, a progressive and Freshman Legislator, won the general election by a wide
SD 10 – Sen Duhigg (D)	Katie Duhigg (Incumbent) — 58%	Rudy Mora (Challenger) — 42%	Katie Duhigg, a progressive and Chair of Rules as well as vice-chair of Judiciary, held this seat by a wide margin. This used to be a swing district but after redistricting it has become a very D
SD 11 – Sen Lopez (D)	Linda Lopez (Incumbent) — 100%	None	Linda Lopez, a progressive, won this race in the primary.
SD 12 – Open due to the retirement of Sen Ortiz y Pino	Phillip Ramirez — 48%	Jay Block — 52%	Jay Block, a conservative R and Freshman Legislator, won this seat by several points after it became more R after a recent redistricting. Block is a former Sandoval County

SD 13 – Sen O’Neill (D)	Debbie O’Malley (Challenger) – 100%	None	Debbie O’Malley, a progressive and Freshman Legislator, won this seat in the primary by defeating incumbent Bill O’Neill. O’Malley is also who is a former BernCo Commissioner.
SD 15 – Sen Ivey-Soto (D)	Heather Berghmans (Challenger) – 61%	Craig Degenhardt – 39%	Heather Berghmans, a somewhat progressive D and Freshman Legislator, beat incumbent Daniel Ivey-Soto by 60 points in the primary and won the general by a large
SD 18 – Open Seat due to the retirement of Sen Tallman (D)	Natalie Figueroa – 58%	Kurstin Johnson – 42%	This district is considered a swing seat but Natalie Figueroa, a progressive and former House member won the seat by a wide margin after vacating her House
SD 19 – Open seat due to the retirement of Sen Schmedes (R)	William Burton Scott – 43%	Ant Thornton – 57%	Ant Thornton, a Freshman Legislator, won this seat by a comfortable margin .
SD 20 – Sen Hickey (D)	Martine Hickey (Incumbent) – 58%	Wayne Yevoli – 42%	This has historically been an R district but Martin Hickey, an MD who is fairly progressive, won the
SD 21 – Open seat due to the retirement of Sen Moores (R)	Athena Christodoulou – 47%	Nicole Tobiassen – 53%	Nicole Tobiassen, who is a former executive and Freshman Legislator, won by a moderate margin to hold this solid R seat.

SD 23 – Sen Harold Pope (D) – Is running against two R candidates	Sen Harold Pope (Incumbent) – 53%	Terry Lynn Aragon – 47%	Harold Pope, a very progressive D, won this swing seat by a moderate margin. Rs could flip this seat with the right moderate candidate.
SD 24 – Open Seat due to the retirement of Sen Nancy Rodriguez.	Linda Trujillo – 100%	None	Linda Trujillo, a somewhat moderate D, won this seat in the primary. Trujillo is a former House member and the previous Cabinet Secretary of P.R.
SD 26 – Sen Moe Maestas (D) - recently appointed to the seat after Sen Jacob Candelaria retired in the middle of his term.	Moe Maestas (Incumbent) – 100%	None	Moe Maestas, a somewhat moderate D, won this in the primary.
SD 27 – Sen Greg Nibert (R) - recently appointed to the seat after Sen Stewart Engle retired in the middle of his term	None	Patrick Boone (Challenger) – 100%	Patrick Boone, a conservative R and Freshman Legislator, won this race in the primary by defeating incumbent Greg Nibert.
SD 28 – Open seat due to the resignation of Sen Correa Hemphill (D)	Chris Ponce (Replaced Incumbent Siah Correa Hemphill when she resigned after the primary) – 45%	Gabe Ramos (Challenger) – 55%	Gabe Ramos won this swing seat by a comfortable margin by defeating Chris Ponce. The seat was previously held by D Siah Correa Hemphill so this is a pick-up for Rs. Ramos formerly held this seat as a D before being defeated by Correa Hemphill in 2020. Ramos has since switched to the Republican party and is

SD 29 – Open Seat due to the retirement of Sen Greg Baca (R)	Tina Garcia – 41%	Joshua Sanchez – 59%	Joshua Sanchez held onto this seat for Rs by a pretty significant margin. Sanchez is a moderate R who vacated SD 30 after redistricting made it a D seats. Sen Baca (the former Minority Floor Leader held the seat for
SD 30 – Open Seat due to Sen Sanchez (R) running for the open SD 29	Angel Charley – 100%	None	Angel Charley, a progressive and Freshman Legislator, won this seat in the primary.
SD 32 – Open Seat due to the retirement of Sen Cliff Pirtle (R)	None	Candy Spence Ezzell – 100%	Candy Spence Ezzell, a conservative R and former House member, won this seat in the primary after vacating her House Seat.
SD 33 – Open seat due to the retirement of Sen Bill Burt (R)	None	Nicholas Paul – 100%	Nicholas Paul, a Freshman Legislator, won this seat in the primary.
SD 34 – Open seat due to the retirement of Sen Ron Griggs (R)	None	James Townsend – 100%	James Townsend, conservative R and former Minority House Leader, won this seat in the primary after vacating his House
SD 36 – Jeff Steinborn	Jeff Steinborn (Incumbent) – 56%	David Tofsted (Challenger) – 44%	Jeff Steinborn, a progressive, held onto this seat by a wide margin.

SD 38 – Carrie Hamblen (D)	Carie Hamblen (Incumbent) – 51%	Samantha Barncastle Salopek (Challenger) – 49%	Carrie Hamblen, a progressive and vice-chair of Corporations and Transportation, defeated Barncastle-Salopek in what was one of the closest races in the state. Barncastle was up early but day of voting favored Hamblen. Hamblen could be in line for Chair of Senate
SD 40 – Sen Craig Brandt (R)	Amina Everett (Challenger) – 46%	Craig Brandt (Incumbent) – 54%	Craig Brant, a somewhat moderate R, defeated his D challenger by a
SD 42 – Sen Steven McCutcheon (R) – recently appointed due to the retirement of Sen Gay Kernan (R)	None	Larry Scott (Challenger) – 100%	Larry Scott, a conservative R and former House member, won this race in the primary by defeating McCutcheon after vacating his House

### House Races

Office	Democrat	Republican	Comments
HD 1 – Rep Rod Montoya (R)	None	Rod Montoya (Incumbent) – 100%	Rod Montoya, a conservative R, won this seat in the primary. Montoya was vying for a leadership role but has seemingly deferred to Rep Gail Armstrong who will very likely be the new Minority Floor



HD 3 – Open seat due to the resignation of Rep Ryan Lane	None	William Hall – 100%	William Hall, a conservative R and Freshman Legislator, won this seat in the primary.
HD 4 – Open seat due to the retirement of Rep Anthony Allison	Joseph Hernandez – 56%	Lincoln Mark – 44%	Joseph Hernandez, a progressive and Freshman Legislator, won this seat by a comfortable margin. This seat used to be a solid swing seat but has tended more D in recent years.
HD 6 – Rep Eliseo Alcon (D)	Eliseo Alcon (Incumbent) – 59%	Paul Spencer (Challenger) – 41%	Eliseo Alcon, a progressive, held onto this seat by a comfortable margin. Alcon is running for Majority Floor Leader but is not favored to win that leadership race.
HD 9 – Rep Patty Lundstrom (D)	Patty Lundstrom (Incumbent) – 100%	None	Patty Lundstrom, a moderate D and former chair of HAFC, won this race in the primary.
HD 11 – Rep Javier Martinez (D)	Javier Martinez (Incumbent) – 75%	Bart Kinney (Challenger) – 25%	Javier Martinez, the House Speaker, held onto this seat by a very wide margin.
HD 13 – Rep Patricia Roybal Caballero (D)	Patricia Roybal Caballero (Incumbent) – 100%	None	Patricia Royball Cabellero, a progressive, won this race in the primary.
HD 14 – Rep Miguel Garcia (D)	Miguel Garcia (Incumbent) – 72%	Konnie Legried (Challenger) – 28%	Miguel Garcia, a progressive, held onto this seat by a pretty wide margin.

HD 16 – Rep Yanira Gurrola (D) recently appointed due to the Mo Maestas moving to the Senate	Yanira Gurrola (Incumbent) — 59%	Leland Bohannon (Challenger) — 41%	Yanira Gurrola, a progressive, won this race by a wide margin.
HD 17 – Rep Cynthia Borrego (D)	Cynthia Borrego (Incumbent) — 54%	Leland Bohannon (Challenger) — 46%	Cynthia Borrego, a moderate, held onto this seat a by a sizable margin. Borrego is also a former Albuquerque City Counselor.
HD 18 – Open seat due to the retirement of Gail Chasey (D)	Marianna Anaya — 100%	None	Marianna Anaya, a progressive and Freshman Legislator, won this race in the primary.
HD 19 – Rep Janelle Anyanonu (D)	Janelle Anyanonu (Incumbent) — 72%	Leanna Derrick (Challenger) — 28%	Janelle Anyanonu, a progressive, won this seat by a wide margin.
HD 20 – Rep Meredith Dixon (D)	Meredith Dixon (Incumbent) — 56%	Tracy Major (Challenger) — 44%	This is a close swing seat but Meredith Dixon, a moderate and vice-chair of HAFC, carried it by about 10 points for the second ..
HD 22 – Rep Stefani Lord (R)	Fred Ponzlov (Challenger) — 35%	Stefani Lord (Incumbent) — 56%	Stefani Lord, a conservative R, won this seat by a comfortable margin.
HD 23 – Rep Alan Martinez (R)	Frank Smith (Challenger) — 45%	Alan Martinez (Incumbent) — 55%	Alan Martinez, a somewhat moderate R and possible Minority WHIP, won this seat by a wide margin.
HD 24 – Rep Liz Thompson (D)	Elizabeth “Liz” Thompson (Incumbent) — 59%	David Daffron (Challenger) — 41%	Liz Thompson, a progressive and chair of Health, easily held onto this seat.

HD 25 – Rep Christina Parajon (D) who was appointed to the seat due to the retirement of Chrsitina Trujillo	Christina Parajon (Incumbent) — 69%	Denis Litvinenko (Challenger) — 31%	Christina Parajon, a progressive, won this seat by a wide margin.
HD 26 – Rep Eleanor Chavez (D)	Eleanor Chavez (Incumbent) — 58%	Patrick Sais (Challenger) — 42%	Eleanor Chavez, a progressive, won this seat by a wide margin.
HD 27 – Rep Marian Matthews (D)	Marian Matthews (Incumbent) — 54%	Gregory Gallegos (Challenger) — 46%	Marian Matthews, a moderate, won this swing seat by a pretty comfortable margin after defeating a progressive challenger
HD 28 – Rep Pamelya Herndon (D)	Pamelya Herndon (Incumbent) — 56%	Marcie May (Challenger) 44%	Pamela Herndon, a progressive, won this seat pretty easily. Historically, this has been a swing seat but in recent years it has been won by D by fairly wide margins.
HD 29 – Rep Joy Garrett (D)	Joy Garrett (Incumbent) — 54%	Gregory Cunningham (Challenger) — 46%	This is only a D leaning district but Garrett has held the seat for several terms and beat Cunninham by a comfortable margin in for the second time.
HD 30 – Open seat due to Rep Natalie Figueroa’s move to an open Senate Race	Elizabeth Torres-Velasquez — 54%	Lori Lee Robertson (Jared Secret won the primary but withdrew) — 46%	Elizabeth Torres-Velasquez, a progressive Freshman Legislator, won this seat a by a comfortable margin. This used to be a swing seat but has trended more D for the past

HD 31 – Open Seat due to the retirement of Rep Bill Rehm	Vickey Estrada-Bustillo – 48%	Nicole Chavez – 52%	Nicole Chavez, a somewhat moderate R, won this historically R seat by somewhat comfortable margin. This the only safe R seat left in Bernalillo
HD 32 – Rep Jennifer Jones (R)	Linda Alvarez (Challenger) – 39%	Jennifer Jones – (Incumbent) – 61%	Jennifer Jones, a moderate R, held onto this seat by a pretty wide margin. This is a lean R seat that has recently been held by Ds but is trending more
HD 34 – Rep Raymundo Lara (D)	Raymundo Lara (Incumbent) – 58%	Larry Sedillo (Challenger) – 42%	Ray Lara, a somewhat moderate D and majority caucus chair, held onto this seat by a reasonable margin.
HD 35 – Rep Angelica Rubio (D)	Angelica Rubio (Incumbent) – 100%	None	Angelica Rubio, a progressive D, won this seat in the primary.
HD 36 – Rep Nathan Small (D)	Nathan Small (Incumbent) – 52%	Kimberly Scaggs (Challenger) – 48%	Nathan Small, a progressive and chair of HAFC, held onto this seat by a fairly narrow margin. This is a swing seat and the R was up early, but lost ground when day of voting numbers started coming in.

HD 38 – Rep Tara Jaramillo (D)	Tara Jaramillo (Incumbent) — 48%	Rebecca Dow (Challenger) — 52%	Rebecca Down, conservative R and former House member who previously held this seat, defeated Tara Jaramillo by a pretty narrow margin. <b>This is the one pick-up by Rs in the house.</b> With redistricting, this became a swing seat, but Down should hold it as long as she wants it.
HD 39 – Rep Luis Terrazas (R)	Gabrielle Begay (Challenger) — 54%	Luis Terrazas (Incumbent) — 46%	Luis Terrazas, conservative D, held onto this seat pretty easily. While this is a swing seat, Terrazas will hold it as long as he
HD 40 – Rep Joseph Zanchez (D)	Joseph Sanchez (Incumbent) — 39%	Diego Olivas (Challenger) — 61%	Joseph Sanchez, a moderate, won this seat by a wide margin.
HD 41 – Rep Susan Herrera (D)	Susan Herrera (Incumbent) — 100%	None	Susan Herrera, a progressive, won this race in the primary.
HD 43 – Rep Christine Chandler (D)	Christine Chandler (Incumbent) — 100%	None — While no Rs are running, Chris Luchini ran as Libertarian but then dropped out.	Christine Chandler, a progressive and chair of Judiciary, won this seat after the Libertarian candidate
HD 44 – Rep Kathleen Cates (D)	Kathleen Cates (Incumbent) — 53%	Ali Ennenga (Challenger) — 47%	Kathleen Cates, a progressive, won this seat by a pretty narrow margin. This is a swing seat and should be closer than it has been but Rs need to find a moderate candidate to make it a race in the future.

HD 50 – Rep Matthew McQueen (D)	Matthew McQueen (Incumbent) — 61%	Kenneth Brennan (Challenger) — 39%	Matthew McQueen, a progressive and chair of Energy and Environment, held onto this seat by a pretty
HD 51 – Rep John Block (R)	Ashlie Myers (Challenger) — 39%	John Block (Incumbent) — 61%	John Block, a conservative R, won this seat by a wide
HD 53 – Rep Willie Madrid (D)	Sarah Silva (Replaced Jon Hill after he defeated incumbent Willie Madrid but then withdrew for health reasons) — 51%	Elizabeth Winterrowd — 49%	Sarah Silva, a progressive and Freshman Legislator, narrowly defeated Winterrowd who was up early but lost when day of voting numbers came in. This seat has been held by Ds for some time but is definitely a swing seats that Rs could pick-up with a moderate
HD 54 – Open Seat due to Rep Jim Townsend running for an open Senate seat	None — There is a libertarian candidate	Jonothan Henrey —	Jonathan Henry, a Freshman Legislator, won this seat in the primary.
HD 55 – Rep Cathrynn Brown (R)	None	Cathrynn Brown (Incumbent) — 100%	Cathrynn Brown, a conservative R, won this race in the primary.
HD 57 – Open Seat due to the retirement of Rep Jason Harper (R)	Michelle Sandoval — 50%	Catherine Cullen — 50% (up about 100 votes)	Catherine Cullen, a moderate and Freshman Legislator, narrowly carried this seat by about 10 votes. <b>There will likely be a recount in this race, which was the closest in the state.</b> This is a lean R seat that is becoming more of a swing seat with

HD 58 – Open seat due to Rep Candy Ezzell running for an open Senate Seat	None	Angelita Mejia – 100%	Angelita Mejia, a Freshman Legislator, won this seat in the primary.
HD 59 – Rep Jared Hembree (R) who was appointed when Rep Number was appointed to an open state Senate	None	Jared Hembree (Incumbent) – 100%	Jared Hembree, a moderate R, won this seat in the primary.
HD 60 – Rep Joshua Hernandez (R)	Luke Jungman (Challenger) – 43%	Joshua Hernandez (Incumbent) – 57%	Joshua Hernandez, a moderate R, held onto this seat by a fairly wide margin.
HD 62 – Open Seat due to Rep Larry Scott running for a Senate Seat	None	Elaine Sena Cortez – 100%	Elaine Cortez, a Freshman Legislator, won this seat in the primary.
HB 68 – Rep Charlotte Little (D)	Charlotte Little (Incumbent) – 52%	Nathan Brooks (Challenger) – 48%	Charlotte Little, a progressive, narrowly defeated Nathan Brooks. This is a solid swing seat that Rs could win if they ran a compelling moderate candidate.
HD 69 – Rep Harry Garcia (D)	Michelle Abeyta (Challenger) – 100%	None	<a href="#">Michelle Abeyta, a progressive, won this seat in the primary when she defeated the moderate incumbent Harry Garcia.</a>
HD 70 – Rep Ambrose Castellano (D)	Anita Gonzales (Challenger) – 100%	None	<a href="#">Anita Gonzales, a progressive and Freshman Legislator, won this seat in the primary when she defeated the incumbent Ambrose Castellano.</a>

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