

2023 SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO

Legislative Guide

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TO SANTA FE

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THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin



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Making the most of the money



Regardless of their tenure, their political party, their gender, their age or whether they prefer red or green chile, every legislator will have something in common this session.

They'll have a lot of money to work with.

In addition to the budget, there will be as much as a \$3.5 billion surplus in state funds, thanks largely to the oil and gas industry.

What to do with that money?

In our conversations with legislators this year, they kept coming back to one word: infrastructure.

Many of our state's aging roads, water systems and public buildings are simply worn out. In many cases, money was set aside for those improvements a year or two ago but rising costs have drastically increased the price of those projects. Legislators are saying, let's go back and get those taken care of before we start adding something new.

In other cases, the issue is vital infrastructure that's never made it to certain parts of the Land of Enchantment. Broadband internet access is one example.

Legislators are also aware this additional money is not something we can count on going forward. Many of them are saying the money shouldn't be spent on something recurring, in case the money's not there a few years down the line.

That infrastructure is something that can and should benefit all New Mexicans, as well as our children and – if we do it right – their children too.

That seems like something we should all be able to agree on.

Certainly, there are an awful lot of things we can disagree on. But maybe we should save that for another time.

As always, we wish all the legislators a good session as they work to represent we the people, and go about doing the business of the state of New Mexico.

RICHARD COLTHARP

Publisher, Las Cruces Bulletin

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Keeping Las Cruces at heart

Last summer, Wanda Bowman turned 80 years old. "I love this community, I'm grateful for the fantastic team we have at Ashley HomeStore, I love our university and, of course, our New Mexico State University Aggies, and I love what I do," said Bowman, owner/operator of Ashley. "Why wouldn't I want to keep doing all of that?"

Where many people would have retired, sold their business or moved on in some other way, Wanda Bowman keeps on going.

Her energy, her drive, the charitable work she does in the community. Those things and more earned her the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce's

Citizen of the Year award for 2022.

Even when she received the honor, she deflected her role, insisting during the ceremony the two other nominees for Citizen of the Year join her on stage for the award reception.

"Las Cruces is all about community," said Bowman, who first arrived in Las Cruces with her late husband, Bob, to open a store in 1971.

All these years later, Bowman and her team at Ashley HomeStore insist on doing the same things that made her successful then, and all the time in between. "We take care of our customers and we take care of our community."

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Santa Fe Downtown Plaza

PHOTO FROM WWW.SANTAFE.ORG

Santa Fe welcomes legislators, visitors

BY MIKE COOK

The City of Santa Fe is the oldest state capitol in the nation, and proud to host the upcoming Legislative session,” Santa Fe Mayor Alan Webber told the Bulletin. “Of course, there’s more to Santa Fe than being the home to the state government, and when legislators have time to explore our city, when people come here to testify before the legislature and then find some additional time, we’re delighted that there’s so much to see and do in Santa Fe. The restaurants offer exceptional meals for every appetite and budget, the stores and shops reflect the many different sides of New Mexico’s culture, and something fun and interesting is always at the museums, galleries and performing arts venues. New Mexico is synonymous with hospitality and Santa Fe is the capitol for that, as well,” Webber said.

Originally inhabited by indigenous Tanoan peoples, the earliest known settlements in what is now downtown Santa Fe likely date to about 900 CE. Don Juan de Oñate y Salazar (1550-1626) led an expedition that reached the area in 1598, where he established Santa Fe de Nuevo Mexico as a province of New Spain.

Oñate was the first Spanish governor of New Mexico, serving until his banishment in 1606 because of his cruel treatment of the indigenous population.

The second Spanish governor, Don Pedro de Peralta (1584-1666) founded La Villa Real de la Santa Fe de San Francisco de Asís (“The Royal Town of the Holy Faith of Saint Francis of Assisi”) in 1607. He designated it as the capital of the province in 1610, which makes it the oldest state capital in the United States. With an elevation of almost 7,200 feet, it is also the highest-altitude state capital in U.S.

Architectural highlights in Santa Fe include the state capitol building, the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi, Loretto Chapel, the Palace of the Governors, San Miguel Mission, Santuario de Guadalupe, De Vargas Street House and the New Mexico Governor’s Mansion, among others.

Santa Fe includes the Barrio de Analco, Don Gaspar and Santa Fe historic districts and the Santa Fe Railyard arts district.

Santa Fe’s incredible collection of museums includes the New Mexico Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, the New Mexico History Museum, Site Santa Fe, the Museum of International Folk Art, the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian and the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art.

The Santa Fe Opera stages annual productions; Meow Wolf’s

flagship, House of Eternal Return, opened in Santa Fe in 2021; and Canyon Road, east of the downtown plaza, is a major international destination for art lovers, visitors and residents. There are also world-class restaurants and lodging establishments throughout the city.

Among many, many others, there are websites touting the top 10, first 25, 30 best and 16 top-rated things to do in Santa Fe. Check out www.santafe.org and <https://santafenm.gov/>.

For a free Santa Fe visitor’s guide, call the Santa Fe Convention and Visitor’s Bureau at 1-800-777-2489 or 505-955-6200.

PARKING DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

For a list of City of Santa Fe parking garages and parking lots, their hours and costs, visit <https://santafenm.gov/public-works/parking/find-parking> and <https://santafenm.gov/public-works/parking/find-parking/parking-lots-and-garages>.

The City of Santa Fe enforces parking meter charges 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. The cost is \$2 per hour. Visit <https://santafenm.gov/public-works/parking/find-parking/parking-meters>.

Contact the Santa Fe Parking Division at 505-955-6581.

Visit www.nmlegis.gov/Visitors for information on free parking, including a map. The website also has information on tours and attractions.

Search for “santa fe parking map” and click on “Santa-Fe-Parking-Map copy – Squarespace” to find a parking map of downtown Santa Fe and the surrounding area. The state capitol building, located at 490 Old Santa Fe Trail, is about three-quarters of a mile southwest of downtown Santa Fe.

Search for “santa fe free shuttle” and click on “santa fe,” which will take you to a map for the Santa Fe Pick-Up Free Shuttle. The state capitol is one of its frequent stops.

Taxi service is available in Santa Fe from Capital City Cab 24 hours. Call 505-438-0000. Tours are available for walkers and those who are looking for motorized tours in and around Santa Fe.

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New leaders in House; Dems still have numbers

BY MIKE COOK

The New Mexico House of Representatives will have a new speaker and other new leaders when it convenes for the first session of the 56th Legislature Jan. 17, 2023. There will be more than a dozen new House members as a result of retirements and elections.

Albuquerque Democrat Javier Martinez will be the new speaker. An attorney who was first elected in 2015, Martinez won reelection to House District 11 in Bernalillo County in 2022 with 78 percent of the vote. He succeeds Brian Egolf, a Santa Fe Democrat, as speaker. Egolf did not seek re-election to his House seat in 2022.

Martinez, New Mexico's 31st House speaker, had been House majority leader since August 2021. He is succeeded in that post by Rep. Gail Chasey of Albuquerque, a House member since 1996. The new House majority whip is Reena Szczepanski of Santa Fe. Rep. Ray Lara of Chamberino was chosen as caucus chair by House Democrats.

House Republicans chose first-term Rep. T. Ryan Lane of Aztec as minority leader, Jason Harper of Rio Rancho as minority whip and Gail Armstrong of Magdalena as caucus chair.

Two incumbent House members lost in the June primary election. Rep. Rachel Black of Alamogordo was defeated in the Republican primary by John Block, who won the Otero County seat with 63 percent of the vote. Democrat Roger Montoya of Velarde, New Mexico was defeated in the Democratic primary by Joseph Sanchez in District 40, which includes Colfax, Mora, Rio Arriba and San Miguel counties. Sanchez, of Alcalde, won in November with 73 percent of the vote.

Two other incumbents lost in November: Rep. Candie Sweetser, a Democrat from Deming first elected in 2017, was defeated by Repub-



Speaker Javier Martinez

lican Jenifer Jones, also of Deming. The margin of victory was 45 votes out of more than 7,500 cast in the District 32 race that includes precincts in Luna, Hidalgo and Doña Ana counties. Jones will be the first Republican to hold the seat since 1982.

Incumbent Republican Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert of Corrales was defeated by Democrat Kathleen Cates for the District 44 seat in Sandoval County. Cates won by almost 300 votes out of more than 14,500 cast in the race. Powdrell-Culbert was first elected in 2002.

Also in the House, Republicans reclaimed the District 66 seat, which includes Chaves, Lea and Roosevelt counties. Incumbent Phelps Anderson, who had changed his registration from Republican to decline to state, did not seek re-election to the seat he has held since 2019 and previously held 1977-80. Republican Jimmy Mason of Artesia won the seat in November with 81 percent of the vote.

The newest New Mexico House member is Democrat Marsella P. Duarte of Albuquerque. She was appointed by the Bernalillo County Commission in December to replace Antonio "Mo" Maestas, who gave up his District 16 House seat in November when he was appointed to the District 26 state Senate seat vacated by the resignation of Jacob Candelaria, who changed his party registration from Democrat to decline to state in 2021. Both Maestas and Candelaria are from Albuquerque.

With these changes, the Democrats will control the New Mexico with 45 seats to 25 for Republicans. Democrats also control the Senate, 27-15. Because senators serve four-year terms, there were no state Senate elections in 2022. In 2024, all 112 seats in the New Mexico Legislature will be on the ballot.

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Senator Ben Ray Lujan

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Suite B40C,
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-6621

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

This map shows the new alignment of New Mexico's three congressional districts, as signed into law by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham.

Visit nmlegis.gov/Redistricting2021/
To read the bill that Lujan Grisham signed into law.



Melanie Stansbury

DEMOCRAT, DISTRICT 1

**Elected June 1, 2021,
re-elected 2022**

1421 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-6316
stansbury.house.gov



Gabe Vasquez

DEMOCRAT, DISTRICT 2

Elected Nov. 8, 2022

Vasquez was sworn in Jan. 3, 2023. For more information on the new congressman visit www.gabeforcongress.com

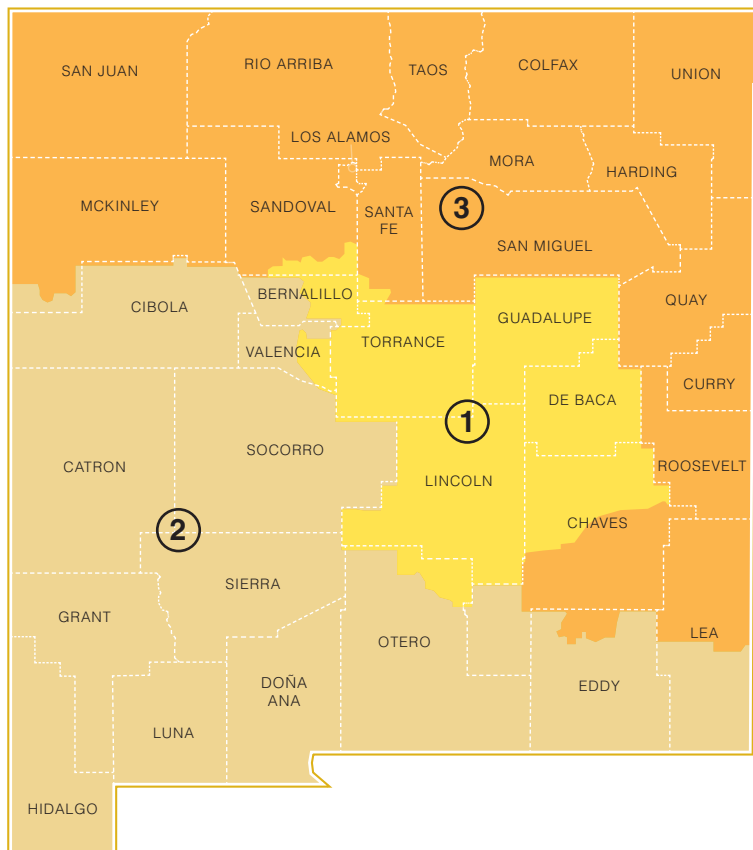


Teresa Leger Fernandez

DEMOCRAT, DISTRICT 3

**Elected Nov. 3, 2020,
re-elected 2022**

1432 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-6190
fernandez.house.gov



Now is the time to make historic progress in New Mexico

BY LT. GOVERNOR HOWIE MORALES



New Mexico has a rare opportunity to make lasting and historic progress on difficult problems during the 2023 meeting of the Legislature. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has expressed her strong support for having the state invest in ensuring that every child is fed and in substantially expanding affordable housing across New Mexico while reducing

homelessness and bolstering our ongoing efforts to rebuild and strengthen the network of behavioral and mental health care. I am hopeful that by working together, the legislature and executive will accomplish all of these key goals.

Now is the time to tackle the big social issues, when our state is prosperous and doing well financially. If we don't strengthen our communities and make life better for all New Mexicans now, when will we ever get around to doing it? That's why we were elected.

New Mexico's economic outlook has never been stronger than at this moment. The state's projected revenue for the 2024 fiscal year is nearly \$12 billion, including \$3.6 billion in new revenues. That's 42.7 percent larger than the \$8.5 billion budget in revenues for the current year, according to the Legislative Finance Committee. The good news comes thanks to surging world demand for Permian Basin oil and gas production, our low rate of unemployment and a 21 percent increase in taxable gross receipts driven by our administration's successful efforts to diversify our economy and improve the state's business climate.

In this year's legislative session, we will continue the responsible investments we know are working already in education, health care, conservation and public safety. We will also support innovative new strategies with real investments to meet other pressing needs.

As Gov. Lujan Grisham has highlighted, no New Mexico student should go hungry. All too many do, however. That is why we will work with legislators to fund healthy, high-quality breakfast and

lunch meals for every K-12 student in New Mexico at no cost, improving nutrition, and removing the burden of meal debt from schools and families. Making sure all students are fed nutritious meals daily is critical to tackling tough, intractable poverty that exists in every single community across our state. We will expand our collaboration with New Mexico farmers for fresh local fruits and vegetables to do so. This goal is achievable and is a top priority.

Second, we will make the needed investments to finally deliver significantly more affordable housing for ordinary New Mexicans who are struggling every day with the rising costs of living and keeping a roof over their heads. The problem is growing worse, and afflicts huge numbers of families, workers and seniors. As a board member of the state Mortgage Finance Authority, I see how acute the issue is becoming with each passing month. In 2020 we found that almost 44 percent of renters and more than 21 percent of homeowners are burdened with costs of 30 percent or more of their annual income going directly to their rental and housing payments. It's too much. We will take on the related, and worsening problem of homelessness in New Mexico, too, in the 2023 legislative session.

Third, we will continue to strengthen our investments in rebuilding New Mexico's network of behavioral, mental health, psychiatric and substance abuse treatment. Under the governor's leadership, we have already made remarkable progress during the past four years by eliminating behavioral health copays for hundreds of thousands of residents, and expanding access to care across the state for New Mexicans. There is still much more work to do to expand the delivery of services, especially in rural communities. We will do it this year.

Throughout 2023, I will continue my travels across our state to hear directly from residents, communities and leaders how New Mexico can do better to meet their needs. Now is the time to use our strong fiscal situation to help improve the lives of all New Mexicans, and I look forward to it.

THANKS to YOU!



COMING SUMMER 2023

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GOVERNOR

MICHELLE LUJAN

Grisham

NEW MEXICO'S 32ND GOVERNOR

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat**AGE:** 62**BIRTHPLACE:** Santa Fe, N.M.
(grew up in Los Alamos)**EDUCATION:**Law degree, University of
New Mexico School of Law**OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:**Bernalillo County Commission,
2011-12; U.S. House of
Representatives, New Mexico
District 1, 2013-18; secretary of
the state departments of Aging
and Long-Term Services, and
Health under three governors

CONTACT INFORMATION

ADDRESS: Office of the Governor,
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room
400, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501**PHONE:** 575-476-2200**EMAIL:** [governor.state.nm.us/
Contact_the_Governor.aspx](mailto:governor.state.nm.us/Contact_the_Governor.aspx)**WEBSITE:** governor.state.nm.us

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

HENRY C. 'HOWIE'

Morales

NEW MEXICO'S 30TH LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat**AGE:** 50**BIRTHPLACE:** Silver City, N.M.**EDUCATION:**Bachelor of science in education/
biology, master of arts in bilingual
special education, WNMU; Ph.D. in
curriculum and instruction, NMSU**OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:**New Mexico state senator, 2008-
18; Grant County clerk, 2005-08;
New Mexico Public Education
Department interim secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

ADDRESS: Office of the Lt.
Governor, 490 Old Santa Fe Trail,
Room 417, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501**PHONE:** 505-476-2250**EMAIL:** See website**WEBSITE:** www.ltgov.state.nm.us

SECRETARY OF STATE

MAGGIE TOULOUSE

Oliver

NEW MEXICO SECRETARY OF STATE

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat**AGE:** 45**BIRTHPLACE:** Albuquerque, N.M.**EDUCATION:** Bachelor'sdegree in political science
and Spanish, masters degree
in political science, UNM**OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:**Bernalillo County Clerk, 2007-
16; dropped out Democratic
primary for U.S. Senate, 2019

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#300, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501**PHONE:** 505-827-3600**EMAIL:** magtoulouse@gmail.com**WEBSITE:** sos.state.nm.us



ATTORNEY GENERAL

RAUL

Torres

NEW MEXICO ATTORNEY GENERAL

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

AGE: 46

BIRTHPLACE: Albuquerque, New Mexico

EDUCATION: Stanford Law School, 2005; London School of Economics and Political Science, 2001; Harvard, 1999

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

Bernalillo County district attorney, assistant U.S. attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, special assistant U.S. attorney, assistant attorney general, assistant district attorney

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STATE TREASURER

LAURA

Montoya

NEW MEXICO STATE TREASURER

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

AGE: 45

BIRTHPLACE: Las Vegas, New Mexico, grew up in San Miguel and Mora counties

EDUCATION: Bachelor's and Master's degrees, New Mexico Highlands University

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

Sandoval County treasurer, executive assistant to New Mexico treasurer, 2004-06; New Mexico Legislature staff, Sen. Pete Campos; constituent services representative, U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman

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STATE AUDITOR

JOSEPH M.

Maestas

NEW MEXICO STATE AUDITOR

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

AGE: 62

BIRTHPLACE: Born in Santa Fe, grew up in Santa Cruz

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, University of New Mexico; master's degree in civil engineering, Arizona State University

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

New Mexico Public Regulation Commission; City Councilor and Mayor of Española, City Councilor of Santa Fe

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JEFF Witte

Facing the unknown

BY SARAH RODERICK
NMDA COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

Agriculturalists face unknowns every day, from the fluctuation of grain prices to the instability of the cattle market or changes in consumer trends, not to mention the unpredictability of rainfall. Farmers and ranchers have to produce food regardless of the various unknowns during production.

"Regardless of the current conditions of the industry, agriculturalists always have to face the unknown," said New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte. "One of the largest unknowns this industry faces is the unpredictability of water."

Water is arguably the most used resource on earth, as it is needed by every living organism. However, in recent years, it has become one of the scarcest resources, especially in New Mexico.

"With our third cycle of a La Niña weather pattern, New Mexico is facing drought in ways we have never seen before," said Witte. "We are on record as the driest years since the Dust Bowl."

With local producers relying on precipitation for their farms and ranches, La Niña is troubling, to say the least. In 2021, the state faced a decline of almost two inches of rainfall in comparison to the state average from the previous year. Farmers and ranchers have been shifting their practices in order to be

more sustainable and conserve the little water the state gets during these dry weather patterns.

"Technology is allowing producers to be more efficient than ever before," said Witte. "Advancements are changing the way producers use water and other inputs for production, which is resulting in a better and more sustainable crop."

Some farmers are turning to low-water-use crops. For example, in southern New Mexico, some farmers are shifting land traditionally planted with alfalfa to cotton, which takes less water.

"Farmers are adapting to the dry conditions by using research and information that is from the past," Witte said. "By using historical statistics on water usage, farmers are adapting their production to be more sustainable with the little water we have naturally."

State-funded programs such as the New Mexico Department of Agriculture's Healthy Soil Program assist farmers, ranchers and other land managers operating in New Mexico's dry climate.

"New Mexico agriculturalists are more creative and resilient than any other industry," said Witte. "Agriculture in this state has a bright future with the technological advances and the new generation stepping into production. Regardless of the challenge, our producers will always put food on the table."

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

YEARS IN OFFICE: 12

AGE: 60

BIRTHPLACE: Santa Fe, New Mexico (grew up on a ranch near Stanley, New Mexico)

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in agricultural business management, master's degree in economics and agricultural economics, from New Mexico State University

OTHER EXPERIENCE: Director of governmental affairs for the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau

CONTACT INFORMATION

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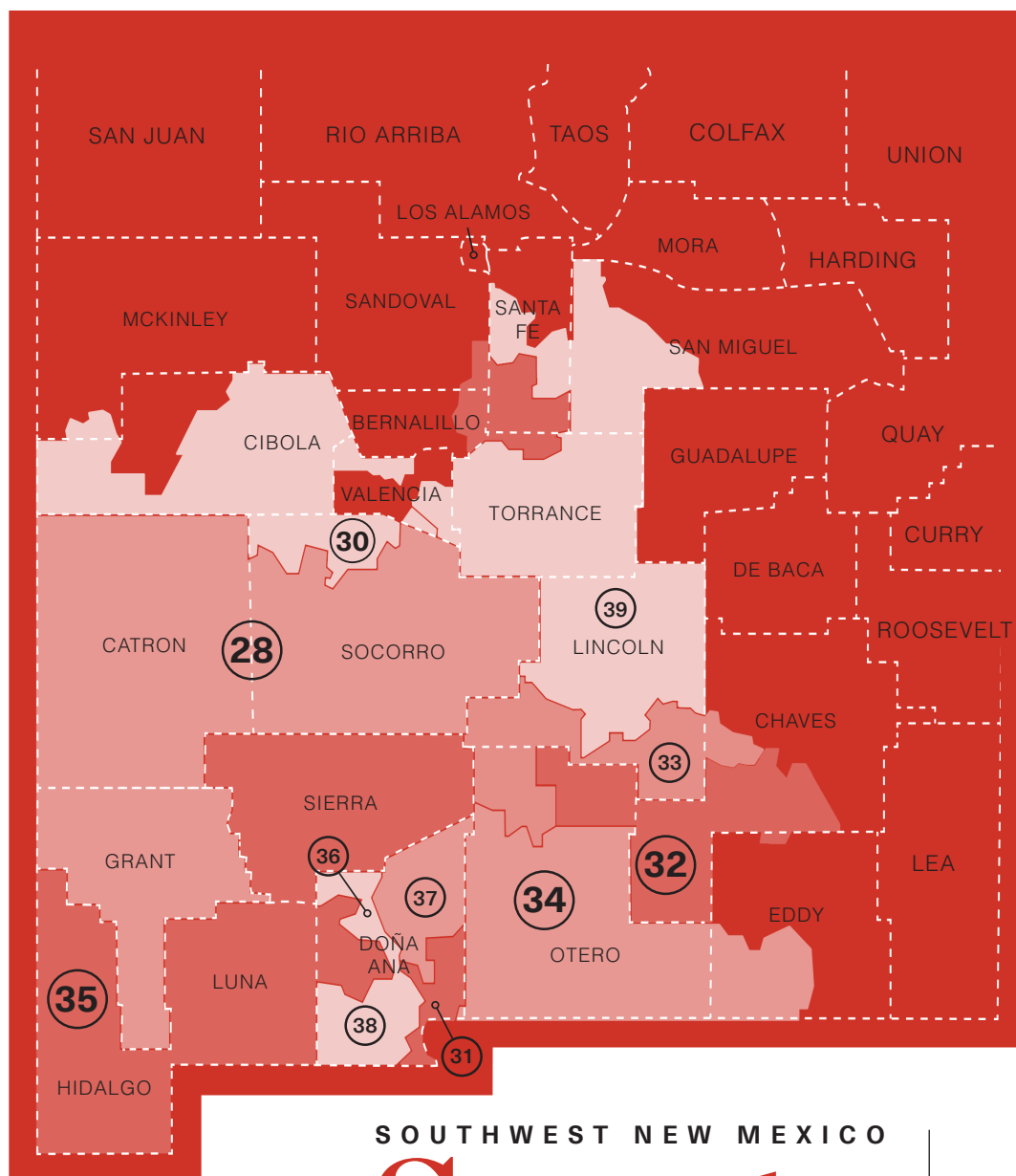
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- 42 GAY KERNAN



NOTE: THIS MAP SHOWS DISTRICTS PRIOR TO RE-DISTRICTING. THE SENATE WILL STILL REPRESENT ITS OLD DISTRICTS THIS SESSION.

SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO Senate DISTRICT MAP



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William "Bill" Soules
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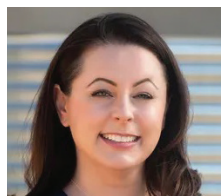
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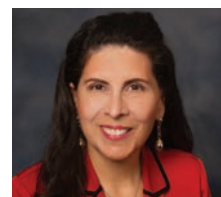
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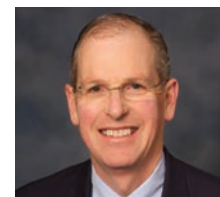
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Peter Wirth, D-Santa Fe County

MAJORITY WHIP:
Linda Lopez, D-Bernalillo County

MINORITY FLOOR LEADER:
Greg Baca, R-Bernalillo
and Valencia counties

MINORITY WHIP:
Craig Brandt, R-Sandoval County

To reach your legislator during the session, call 505-986-4300.





DISTRICT 28

SIAH CORREA Hemphill

Main concerns are health care, quality education and jobs

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Siah Hemphill said as a member of the Finance Committee “we have worked hard during the interim to build a budget that prioritizes improving the quality of life for all New Mexicans, including improving access to healthcare and behavioral healthcare, providing funding for water projects, especially in rural New Mexico, addressing housing needs, and continuing to work on improving our education system.”

She said there are several bills she is currently working on, but two she is especially excited about that will help rural communities get funding for much needed water and

infrastructure projects, and another that will help empower people with disabilities to make decisions that impact their lives.

For capital outlay projects, she said there are many needs across the rural districts. Supporting requests directly improving quality of life for families living in rural southwest New Mexico will be her priority.

In regard to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham’s legislative priorities for the 2023 session Hemphill believes the governor will continue to prioritize policies and programs that will improve the well-being of every New Mexican, especially children, and expand

COUNTIES SERVED: Catron, Grant and Socorro

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Two

PROFESSION: Educator, teacher trainer, school psychologist

EDUCATION: Western New Mexico University, B.A. in elementary education and M.A. in psychology

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: None

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opportunities across our state.

“I’m hoping we have a more typical legislative session,” she said. “Where the public can participate like they did before the pandemic and we have more opportunities to connect with each other and celebrate the great accomplishments we have had over the past few years.”



DISTRICT 39

ELIZABETH ‘LIZ’ Stefanics

Sen. Liz Stefanics standing up for her counties

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Sen. Liz Stefanics has definite ideas about what to do with a rising budget surplus in New Mexico. She is working toward trust funds for the state.

“We need to be putting more money into education, the disabled, second language, and we have fallen behind with water and affordable housing,” she said. “We would create five to 10 trust funds to put large amounts of money into, then try to identify how that money would be spent.”

She said her own issues of concern include health care and the environment. She is concerned because many people will be kicked off Medicaid this year. The Covid concessions allowed people not extremely

poor to have medical help.

“We are going to have an issue around access to health care,” Stefanics said. “There are not enough providers in rural areas. That might be how the health bucket could be used.”

Stefanics said she is introducing bills on climate and public health issues. One would allow communities to evaluate possible climate traumas before they happen.

“We live in a state with some tornadoes, some with pollution of water or air,” she said. “Some of these communities could be evaluated in terms of problems.”

She is sponsoring a bill creating a fund for rural hospitals when they try to set up

COUNTIES SERVED: Santa Fe, San Miguel, Torrance, Valencia, Bernalillo, Lincoln

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Six

AGE: 72

BIRTHPLACE: Dayton, Ohio

PROFESSION: Retired

EDUCATION: Bachelor’s degree from Eastern Kentucky University; master’s degree in resources management from the University of Wisconsin; doctorate in administration and law from University of Minnesota

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Four years in the New Mexico Senate; eight years on the Santa Fe County commission

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■ STEFANICS CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



DISTRICT 30

JOSHUA A.

Sanchez

Consider infrastructure,
as well as individual rebates

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

When Sen. Joshua Sanchez talks about the capital outlay process, he can quickly get off on a tangent. Last year, each of New Mexico's senators got around \$3 million in capital outlay money to use in their districts.

For 2023, the number will likely be higher. Sanchez appreciates any increase, because in his vast district the needs are critical.

"The capital outlay system really needs to be redone," he said. "You have some senators in Albuquerque who represent as small as a six-block radius. I get the same money, and I have an ungodly amount of acres to cover." His district encompasses land over four counties (Cibola, McKinley, Socorro and Valencia), and five Native American pueblos

(Acoma, Alamo, Isleta, Laguna and Zuni).

The lion's share of the budget surplus, Sanchez believes, should go into infrastructure.

"My areas are such rural areas, and everything is so outdated, that's what we need to be looking at," Sanchez said. "We have multiple police departments, and sheriff's departments, five pueblos, fire departments, EMTs, and sewer plants that are outdated in all my areas. We're concentrating on the most dilapidated sewer plants, like Blue Water in Grants. We're hoping to find them money to appropriate, and then maybe a (federal) money match."

And while there is dire need for infrastructure repairs and replacements, here's another tangent Sanchez takes: Send some

COUNTIES SERVED: Cibola, Socorro, McKinley and Valencia

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Two

AGE: 41

BIRTHPLACE: Belen, N.M.

PROFESSION: Small business owner, five years working for the Rio Grande Conservancy District

EDUCATION: Belen High School

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: None

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of that surplus back to its original owners.

"That surplus the governor's talking about means we've overtaxed the people and the businesses," he said. "I think we should give some of that money back. I think it should be in the form of some kind of rebate, which would in turn stimulate the economy."



DISTRICT 32

CLIFF

Pirtle

Dealing with infrastructure and
crime should cross party lines

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

Aside from his pre-statehood-era beard, Sen. Cliff Pirtle, is perhaps best known for his views on Daylight Saving Time.

"My time change bill is one everyone either loves or hates," Pirtle said. "It comes to a pretty good consensus, including with folks from Las Cruces, that any change we would make, the state of Texas and El Paso would do the same thing."

The commerce between southern New Mexico and El Paso is significant, and having them on different times could complicate life,

particularly for those catching an early flight out of the El Paso International Airport.

Many believe as Pirtle does, that the change is inevitable.

"There are already 25 some-odd states that have already done permanent daylight-saving-time bills," he said.

Such a bill could get bipartisan support, and other issues, Pirtle believes, should be irrelevant as to party. One is infrastructure.

"The main priority that most every legislator has is to spend this surplus in a way that benefits future generations, and we can get

COUNTIES SERVED: Chaves, Eddy, Otero

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: 10

AGE: 37

PROFESSION: Farmer

EDUCATION: Roswell High School

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the best bang for our buck," Pirtle said. "It's tempting to take this once-in-a-while money and fund temporary things. But that can be irresponsible because if the program goes into the next year and not the money, it can't sustain. We need to look at schools, roads, public building, parks and those things."

One issue in Pirtle's district represents a common problem statewide in the wake of worldwide supply-chain issues and inflation. "Dexter had a project approved before

■ PIRTLE CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



DISTRICT 31

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Ten

AGE: 61

BIRTHPLACE: Las Cruces

PROFESSION: Attorney

EDUCATION: Bachelor's in architecture, University of New Mexico; master's in architecture, California Polytechnic State University; juris doctorate, UNM

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Doña Ana County Commission, 1998-2001; New Mexico House of Representatives, 2001-12

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JOSEPH Cervantes

Focus on state's permanent financial stability

BY MIKE COOK

What do you think the legislature's funding priorities should be for 2023?

"Our first priority should be investing the (state's budget) surplus in the funds that will permanently address New Mexico's needs rather than just spending the money in a boom year, then tightening the belt in a lean year," said state Sen. Joseph Cervantes of Las Cruces.

"We shouldn't continue to operate like a roller coaster," Cervantes said. "The common goal across the board is to reduce the dependency on oil and fossil fuels. We should have the foresight to realize that day will come and have these funds available for the future."

A permanent fund "allows for some level of disbursement annually while protecting the corpus. We did that with early childhood and that is growing enormously, which is a great thing," he said.

"We're going to have to resist the urge to go out and spend it all today," Cervantes said. "The equivalent of that is that the state should refund it all to taxpayers. That is an imprudent use of those funds given the enormity of the needs in New Mexico." Major refunds would make sense "if our infrastructure, state "highways, bridges, school buildings, was up to date."

What bills do you plan to introduce?

"My principal job will to be to chair the Senate Judiciary Committee," Cervantes said. "We're the final committee in most cases. We see most bills."

More than introducing bills, Cervantes said his role is "to have an imprint on each substantive piece of legislation as it comes through the chambers."

As judiciary chair, Cervantes will focus on public safety and crime, including "How we do a much better job of combating rampant crime in Albuquerque."

Cervantes said he also will "give a lot of attention to how we select judges. I think we can make quite a bit of improvement there. The judges who

sit on the bench in our state are key to attacking crime in the state."

What do you expect from the governor?

"I expect her to (make) an ambitious effort (regarding) early childhood services," he said. "I think she realizes there's quite a bit of improvement that can be made with regard to protecting children in terms of protective services. I think she's going to work at providing greater resources to early childhood education and early public education."

Your district's capital outlay needs?

Cervantes said he will focus capital outlay funds on "resources for Sunland Park and Anthony municipal governments as well as Doña Ana County."

The senator said he will "continue to try and improve the access to basic resources in the colonias (including) an emphasis on assuring the availability of safe drinking water, which is particularly threatened right now with our ongoing drought,"

What else would you like to add?

Cervantes said legislative modernization may be considered during the session, adding he would like to see the legislature meet for 45 days each year instead of the current "antiquated" 30- and 60-day sessions.

"Most folks are surprised to know that we don't have any staff at all," he said.

Allowing legislators to provide better constituent services by providing them with access to staff "would be an important improvement," he said.

Coming up with a salary for legislators is "a continuing discussion," Cervantes said.

"My opposition in the past has been to have outside groups set that salary. I have consistently opposed the legislature giving away its authority," he said. "The idea of having commissions and boards making decisions for us shows a lack of accountability and I don't think it's a solution."

WILLIAM F. 'BILL'

Burt

Senator urges caution with surplus: Don't spend it all in one place

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

With a New Mexico revenue budget surplus estimated as high as \$3.5 billion, it's easy for legislators' eyes to get really big.

Senator Bill Burt, however, wants to be like the cautious parent of a kid who just got a whole bunch of birthday money.

"We're going to try our best to put a big chunk (of the surplus) in the severance tax permanent fund to help build it up," Burt said. "We know, according to the oil and gas industry the amount produced is going to cross where renewables start coming into play, and that's expected to be about 10 years from now. We're becoming more and more dependent on renewables, so we need to start working now preparing for that transition period where we start losing a significant portion of those oil and gas revenues, which have historically been about 40 percent of our state's budget."

Burt believes capital outlay money should be applied toward "moving the state forward with things like water projects, road and bridge projects, certainly helping out our fire departments, first responders and police departments," he said.

"We also need to keep technologies moving forward so they're up to standard, so that law enforcement has the best quality computers, and they are all integrated so people can talk to each other across departments. It's a safety issue. We also need to look at replacing some very old firefighting equipment."

Burt has two bills he expects to introduce and be actively involved with.

He has long been an advocate of eliminating taxes for military retirees in New Mexico. He believes it would encourage New Mexico military retirees to stay here, and could entice those around the country to come here. That bill passed last session, but was modified late in the game so it is not ongoing.

"I will attempt to take the sunset clause off of the military retirement bill," he said. "The governor put that on there, because we had some significant rebates and other tax issues. But it has a three-year phase-in. We need to take the sunset off."

Another bill would bring up to date the catastrophic injury and loss of life insurance for firefighters and first responders.

"There will probably be a combination of three or four bills I'll be participating in," Burt said. "New Mexico is so far behind the curve on this issue. Should there be a death during their job this would cover them to current levels, rather than the same level they've had for decades."

There has been discussion at all levels of state government, including in the governor's office, about tax reform. However, Burt said, there have been very few specifics about the way to do it.

Burt is in favor of a serious re-working.

"I've always felt we need to do a major revision on the tax code as a foundation for moving the state forward," Burt said of a system that's been in place since the 1970s and 80s. "Back then it was based on gross receipts taxes. I'd much rather see part of our tax code be a sales tax. That would set up the state of New Mexico for



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POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: 12

AGE: 71

BIRTHPLACE: Deming, N.M.

PROFESSION: Broadcaster

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in mass communications, New Mexico State University

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better business and attract more businesses. We could implement personal and business tax breaks, which would invigorate the economy through sales and purchases and goods and services, and we could make it on the on back end. When people have more money, they make more purchases. I'd like to see significant change, that would benefit businesses and individuals, and certainly help our economic development department bring new businesses to the state."

■ STEFANICS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

services and can't break even. There are bills for consumers to help with prescriptions; energy audits for public buildings because some believe public buildings could be run more efficiently; senior food programs; and assisting communities with renewable energy.

Representing several small communities, she wants to introduce a way to address dead-

locks in city or county voting to allow mayors to break the deadlock. She is sponsoring water bills to support the 50-year water plan, staffing and water rights.

"I have focused on trying to get enough money for every school, or at least every district, to have one school nurse," she said. "I believe the schools need social workers too."

"I try to take whatever funds I have and divide them up in the rural areas," she said regarding capital outlay. "But we have been advised not to appropriate money without a plan. Planning documents must be in place."

She said the requirement makes it harder to get capital outlay, but it gets the state looking at ways of helping small communities.



RON Griggs

Needed infrastructure, tax reform likely in 2023

DISTRICT 34

COUNTIES SERVED: Otero, Eddy, Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: 10

AGE: 70

BIRTHPLACE: Portales, N.M.

PROFESSION: Business owner, Griggs Holdings LLC

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in business administration from New Mexico State University

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Alamogordo City Council and Mayor of Alamogordo

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Considering the large budget surplus that is expected in 2023, what do you think should be the state's spending priorities for the 2023 session?

We know this is one-time money and I believe it should be spent on one-time projects. Roads, water and wastewater are expensive and needed projects across the state. New Mexico also needs quality-of-life projects that make our state a more enjoyable place to live.

What bills do you plan to introduce during the 2023 legislative session?

I will introduce a bill to ban prescribed burns between the first of February and the first of June. I am still considering some others.

What are likely to be the capital outlay priorities for your district next year?

I expect our capital dollars to be

around \$4 million for each senator, roughly the same as last year. We are holding meetings to hear from the local governments about their needs.

What do you think will be Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's legislative priorities for the 2023 session?

I would think she would continue with the hydrogen hub and the clean fuel standards. I expect tax reform to be on the agenda in some form or fashion and I imagine changes to gun laws will show up as well. Everything is on the table, this time so just get ready and hold on (to) your hat and your checkbook!

How is your Senate district different as a result of redistricting?

Senate District 34 picked up a little of Artesia and a little more of Otero and Eddy counties but lost some of Carlsbad and all of its small part of Doña Ana County.

PIRTLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Covid," Pirtle said. "Now the project price has doubled. We're trying to backfill some of those holes with capital outlay and making sure important water and sewer projects get done, especially in the smaller communities. As projects are getting completed, we may have to use more money."

Teamwork is an asset in his district.

"Chaves and Eddy counties work together well," Pirtle said. "We meet with our colleagues and work collaboratively to find the best way for the communities and taxpayers."

There's another issue Pirtle believes should have bipartisan support.

"This crime, we should be able to come up with something we can all agree on," he said.

Pirtle plans to introduce a bill to simplify credentialing doctors and bridge the gap

between doctors and insurance companies.

"Doctor recruitment has been difficult enough, especially in the rural areas, let alone adding 4-6 months for credentialing," Pirtle said.

The next two years for state senators will be transitional, thanks to redistricting. Because they have not been elected through the new district, technically they'll still serve their old district. At the same time, they'll need to learn and support their new districts.

"I represented the Mescalero Apache tribe last 10 years, and enjoyed being their voice in Santa Fe," Pirtle said. "I was disappointed to lose them (through redistricting). I'll be working to assure Sen. Burt has a great relationship with the Mescalero Apache tribe as they move into his district. "I gained a lot of

farming community and agriculture business, north of Artesia and south of Roswell, which is good. And I'm excited about the increased amount of Artesia I'm gaining."

And while Pirtle believes a lot can be accomplished by working across the aisle, he also reminds people of another perspective regarding the political views of the state.

"I know we're a super-minority as Republicans, but almost 50 percent of New Mexicans didn't vote for the governor," he said.

"We really need to work together for the good of the people. The people in general are tired of us not working together. We should be coming up with best solutions, and we do that by working together. The past couple of years hasn't felt very collaborative. Hopefully, we can come up with a consensus."

CRYSTAL Diamond

Agencies must spend taxpayers' money wisely

BY MIKE COOK

It is important that state agencies and programs provide a return on the investment the legislature is making in them, with measurables and deliverables that show they are meeting their marks and the money is being well spent, state Sen. Crystal Diamond said.

Responsible money management is important for long term stability, she said. The senator supports creating trust funds, like the new and very large early education trust fund and a natural resources trust fund the state is likely to create.

"Maintaining high reserves while creating and investing in trusts better prepares the state for rainy days," Diamond said.

The senator said the legislature also needs to provide matching funds to bring more federal dollars into New Mexico.

"Our rural communities can't currently come up with the local matches needed to get federal wildfire grants," she cited as one example.

"We are overtaxing our citizens," Diamond said. "I supported rebates to New Mexico taxpayers last session. I would rather come up with tax breaks and not collect the money in the first place."

Along with state Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, D-Grant, Socorro, Catron, Sierra, Diamond plans to sponsor legislation to enlarge the state rural ombudsman office, to identify rural-urban discrepancies. There is a need to expand that office, she said, "especially with all this infrastructure money coming in. Small communities don't have the capacity to manage those funds and they lose out."

Diamond and Hemphill also plan to introduce a tax incentive bill to expand railroads to enhance economic development for mining in Silver City and Lordsburg and oil and gas production on the state's east side. It could also benefit Spaceport America and the future of space flight.

"Railroads are part of New Mexico's past and its future," Diamond said.

With Rep. Gail Armstrong, R-Socorro, Valencia, Catron, Diamond plans to co-sponsor a bill to clean up old tax

policy to protect and support rural New Mexico, including "how we tax some of our businesses in rural areas."

With capital outlay, Diamond plans to fund projects that have already started.

"With the rise in inflation, costs have doubled from estimates made two, four, five years ago," she said. "We need to follow up and make sure we have enough funding to complete the projects that we've started: planning, designing, land acquisition."

The governor has talked about tax reform and reducing gross receipts tax about one percent, Diamond said. "That would not have a measurable impact on hard-working families," the senator said. "We need real, measurable tax cuts and business-friendly tax policies that help recruit businesses to New Mexico. I hope we see some meaningful tax reform during the 2023 session."

"The black eye of this administration has been the state Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)," Diamond said. "We know we have got to do something to address repeat child maltreatment. Our child wellbeing is some of the worst in the nation. We need to hold CYFD accountable in a meaningful way."

Diamond said she will co-sponsor a bill to create a CYFD ombudsman who "only represents the interests of the child. It's unfortunate that is needed, but it is. The governor is willing to listen. I would support her in any efforts to invest in CYFD."

Large investments in mental health are needed, she said. With rising child maltreatment, high crime, being the lowest in education and jobs, poverty – "We're not properly addressing mental health. I'm excited when people make it a priority."

"When I come back to my district, I don't see a huge change in New Mexico's working families," Diamond said. "I don't know if they're reaping the benefits of this excess funding. The challenge is, are we ensuring that we take it one step forward, streamlining, identifying barriers?"



DISTRICT 35

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana, Luna, Sierra, Hidalgo

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Two

AGE: 43

BIRTHPLACE: Nacogdoches, Texas

PROFESSION: Rancher, consultant

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and agricultural business, NMSU

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Member, Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools Board of Education, 2017-20; member, Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District for eight years

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For example, she said, certain social worker degrees have a six-month waiting period for full licensure before they can begin to practice. They are not paid and can't immediately serve patients without supervision during this period.

In schools, mental health care and other areas, she said, "We need to make sure funding is quickly getting to the people on the ground. Increasing funds doesn't bring solutions if we don't increase access. New Mexico state government funds and operates in silos – the intentions of the legislature may be (good), but often services and resources are not being utilized by the public because of access barriers."



DISTRICT 36

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Six

AGE: 51

BIRTHPLACE: Las Cruces, N.M.

PROFESSION: Conservationist

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in government, University of Texas at Austin; graduate course work, Institute of World Politics, Washington, D.C.

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: New Mexico House of Representatives, 2007-10 and 2013-16

SENATE COMMITTEES: Chair, Radioactive and Hazardous Materials; member: Finance; Water and Natural Resources

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JEFF Steinborn

Infrastructure, outdoor recreation, film production among legislature's big-ticket items

BY MIKE COOK

There are a lot of big-ticket items for New Mexico that we have to keep investing in," state Sen. Jeff Steinborn said. "Our dams are very old and in bad shape – Hatch flood control projects (for example) need to be funded."

Steinborn also listed renewable energy infrastructure and transitioning to a clean-energy economy and a carbon-free future as priorities, along with safe schools; first responders; growing the state's outdoor and film economies; increasing broadband access; continuing to invest in education, including Opportunity Scholarships; and health care.

"We've achieved some very big things and made some very profound changes in this state that should turn around some of the bad statistics," he said.

"Our priorities are in a good place," Steinborn said. "People deserve elected officials who are ready to govern the state and create a better future."

Capital outlay

State Senate District 36 includes part of Las Cruces and stretches all the way north to the Sierra County line.

Noting that each of New Mexico's 42 state senators could receive \$3-\$4 million in capital outlay funds, Steinborn said his priorities for capital outlay spending will include addressing the needs of the City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County and rural communities in northern Doña Ana County, including the Village of Doña Ana, Hatch, Salem and Radium Springs.

"The list is still there and the needs are still great," Steinborn said.

In rural communities, the need for flood control is especially great, he said.

"The state's budget windfall will allow us to finally protect the lives and property" areas of the county where annual flooding is a serious problem, Steinborn said.

Other priorities will include trails in the Village of Doña Ana, parks in Hatch and improvements in Las Cruces neighborhoods and historic districts.

Legislation

Steinborn, who is president of the nonprofit Film Las Cruces that works with the City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County to bring film production to the area, said he wants to position the city and county "for our share of the state film industry."

He would like to move the Rio Grande Trail Commission to the Outdoor Recreation Division of the New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD) to "give it a boost forward," Steinborn said. Growing outdoor recreation in general is important, Steinborn said.

"People want outdoor experiences in New Mexico," he said, "getting outdoors and enjoying our incredible public lands and outdoor spaces."

Steinborn said he would also like to see a new Creative Industries Division in EDD to promote economic development, the arts, "creative spaces" and the culture and cuisine that employ thousands of New Mexicans.

Steinborn said he will support bills – possibly a constitutional amendment – to professionalize the legislature.

Voters elect "the best available," he said, but it is disadvantageous to the state to have a part-time legislature and full-time special interests.

The legislature needs longer sessions to "meet the modern-day needs of our society." Legislators could also better serve their constituents if they had staff to work on policy development and complex issues and help build coalitions, he said.

"Continuing to operate 'on a shoestring,'" Steinborn said, "is that the state we want? Does that produce the best outcome?"

WILLIAM 'BILL' Soules

Education is the priority in the 2023 session

BY MIKE COOK

With a budget surplus that is likely to be in the billions for the next fiscal year, state Sen. Bill Soules is planning to introduce bills during the 2023 legislative session that would increase funding for public schools and higher education in New Mexico. He also wants to increase gun control and reduce the use of fossil fuels.

"What can we do to make education better?" Soules said. "I'm a realist as well as a futurist about what we can do."

Soules, who is chair of the New Mexico Senate Education Committee and the interim Legislative Education Study Committee, said he wants salary increases for teachers to cover inflation, for teachers with long records of service, for principals and to help fund hard-to-fill teaching positions.

Soules also wants a residency program that would pay student teachers a salary during the year they spend under the tutelage of a certified teacher as part of earning a teaching license. This "gold standard model" would encourage potential teachers to move to New Mexico and would help fill the state's colleges of education, Soules said.

Soules said he also wants the legislature to institute a minimum salary for all education personnel, including cafeteria workers and custodians. And, he wants a greater investment in community schools.

Soules said he also supports increased funding to the lowest-income schools "to directly address the poverty issue." Increased funding should also be provided to instruction time at schools lagging behind state standards, he said. And the state should reward school districts that are going beyond minimum standards.

"Las Cruces is leading the way," Soules said, with the year-round school calendar Las Cruces Public Schools adopted in 2021 and its additional days and hours of classroom instruction.

Soules said New Mexico also needs to look at incentives to convert most school buses from diesel to electric.

Instead of continuing to pay for custodial care, the state should invest in making early childhood education universal, increasing funding for salaries and home-visitation programs, Soules said. He also supports converting early childhood classrooms into certified childhood care centers.

"It's expensive, but it's expensive not to do it," Soules said. "There is no substitute for one-on-one time with kids."

New Mexico needs a "child bill of rights," he said, that guarantees early childhood education along with a guarantee of food and shelter.

"What does it cost to do that?" Soules said. "What does it cost not to do that?"

For higher ed, Soules said he supports increased investment in career and technical education (CTE) and building trades, including more CTE centers.

Soules said he plans to introduce three gun-control bills in the session.

The May 24, 2022, mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas confirmed that "Guns are the problem," he said.

Soules said he will introduce bills to ban the sale of assault weapons, to ban high-capacity magazines and to provide \$2 million for an assault-weapon buyback that could get 4,000 assault weapons "off the streets."

Soules also will introduce a bill to mandate the use of lead-free airplane fuel. The FAA has approved an unleaded fuel for planes, he said, and the state should incentivize its use by initially subsidizing the extra cost and then penalizing those who haven't converted.

Soules said the legislature also should begin discussing a mandate to convert about 90 percent of state vehicles to electric by 2030.

Soules said he is concerned about New Mexico Department of Finance



DISTRICT 37

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: 10

AGE: 67

BIRTHPLACE: Las Cruces, N.M.

PROFESSION: Retired teacher and principal; licensed pilot

EDUCATION: Bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology; Ph.D. in education and psychology, New Mexico State University

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Member, Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education, 1992-2000

SENATE COMMITTEES: Chair, education; member; conservation; interim committees; vice chair, public schools capital outlay oversight task force; member, science, technology and telecommunications, Indian affairs

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WEBSITE: billsoules.com/#about william-soules

and Administration plans to increase the budget reserve funds to as much as 40 percent of the budget or more.

That's an over-calculation of what New Mexico would need in a budget crisis, he said.

"I taught math," Soules said. "That's not how statistics and probability works."



CARRIE Hamblen

Helping small business, tax reform,
infrastructure need to be addressed

DISTRICT 38

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Two

AGE: 54

BIRTHPLACE: Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

PROFESSION: President and CEO, Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism, UTEP; two master's degrees: communication studies and public administration, NMSU

SENATE COMMITTEES: Chair, Economic Development and Policy (Interim); Vice Chair of Tax, Business and Transportation; member: Conservation and Rural Economic Opportunities Task Force

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What do you think should be the state's spending priorities?

We need to continue to help small businesses as they dig their way out of the pandemic rubble and resume operations as close to normal (as possible). We know that there are still outstanding debts and loans that were taken in addition to the state and federal assistance. We should be helping them for at least the next two to three years.

What bills do you plan to introduce during the 2023 legislative session?

There are some bills of mine that didn't make it out of the House or Senate that I will be reintroducing, including the Healthy Foods Financing Initiative, Modifications to the Human Rights Act, the Los Amigos Transitional Housing and a bill to help the Burrell College with scholarships.

What are likely to be your capital outlay priorities for next year?

Once again, we are expecting over \$1 million in capital outlay monies for infrastructure projects (for each state senator). Most of my priorities for the upcoming year will be dedicated to the rural parts of District 38.

What priorities in addition to the budget do you think the legislature and governor should have for the 2023 session?

We will be focusing a great deal on tax reform this year as well as continuing to push some form of the Voting Rights Act, modernizing the legislature and more.

How different is your state Senate district as a result of legislative redistricting following the 2020 census? What are the new and important issues in your district?

Once again (District 38) includes the Town of Mesilla, which has some significant drainage issues for their streets. I plan on helping them with that as well as directing funding towards items that are beneficial for community members and services.

What is your favorite place in or around Santa Fe during your stay there for the legislative session or any other time you go? Is there a "hidden treasure" you have found and would like to share?

I don't get out much when I am in Santa Fe but I have two favorite places so far. Rio Chama restaurant has a really nice atmosphere and food in addition to be right across the street from the capital. The second favorite place is my office on the fourth floor of the Roundhouse that I get to share with four other freshman senators.



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Award-winning state flag leads iconic New Mexico symbols

BY MIKE COOK

Tiny Zia Pueblo, with fewer than 1,000 residents and located about 40 miles north of Albuquerque in Sandoval County, was settled about 1250 A.D. and is the origin of the Zia symbol that lies at the center of the state flag and at the heart of the people and culture of New Mexico.

Dr. Harry P. Mera (1875-1951), a Santa Fe archeologist, used the symbol to create a new state flag and win a contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The New Mexico Legislature adopted his creation as the official state flag and Gov. Arthur T. Hannett signed it into law March 15, 1925.

La bandera del estado de Nuevo Mejiico consistently ranks as America's most beautiful state flag.

A medical doctor, Mera lived in Michigan, New York, Ohio, Colorado and Kansas before settling in Santa Fe in 1922, where he pursued an interest in archaeology.

In creating his design for the flag contest, Mera remembered a pot featuring the Zia sun symbol he had seen at Zia Pueblo. He also incorporated the scarlet and gold of the flag adopted by Spain in 1785.

"Four is the sacred number of Zia, and the figure (on the flag) is composed of a circle from which four points radiate," according to the secretary of state website (www.sos.state.nm.us/about-new-mexico/state-flag). "The sacred number is embodied in the earth with its four main directions; in the year with its four seasons; in the day, with sunrise, noon, evening and night; in life, with its four divisions – childhood, youth, adulthood and old age. Everything is bound together in a circle of life, without beginning, without end. The Zia believe, too, that in this great brotherhood of all things, man has four sacred obligations: he must develop a strong body, a clear mind, a pure spirit and a devotion to the welfare of his people. The red and yellow are the colors of Isabel of Castilla that the Spanish Conquistadors brought to the New World. The symbol's proportions are fixed by legislative act, with the four groups of rays set at right angles, the two inner rays one-fifth longer than the outer rays. The diameter of the circle in the center is one-third the width of the symbol."

The salute to the flag is "I salute the flag of the state of New Mexico, the Zia symbol of perfect friendship among united cultures." The



New Mexico flag was rated first in a 2001 survey of 72 U.S. and Canadian flags by the North American Vexillological Association.

Great seal of the State of New Mexico

From www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Visitors/BrochureEnglish.pdf

"The great seal of New Mexico has changed little since the territorial seal of 1851. The American bald eagle shielding the smaller Mexican eagle within its wings symbolizes New Mexico's change of sovereignty in 1846. The bald eagle, which represents bravery, skill and strength, clasps three arrows in its talons. The smaller Mexican brown (or harpy) eagle grasps a snake in its beak and cactus in its talons. This portion of the seal is still the official symbol of Mexico; it illustrates the ancient myth in which the gods ordered the Aztecs to settle where they saw an eagle perched on a cactus devouring a serpent.

State motto

The scroll below the American and Mexican eagles contains the motto *Crescit Eundo* or, translated from Latin, "It Grows As It Goes." The date 1912 was added to the seal when New Mexico was admitted as the 47th state. The word "territory" was replaced by "state" in that year."

State song

The New Mexico Legislature adopted "O Fair New Mexico" as the state song in 1917.

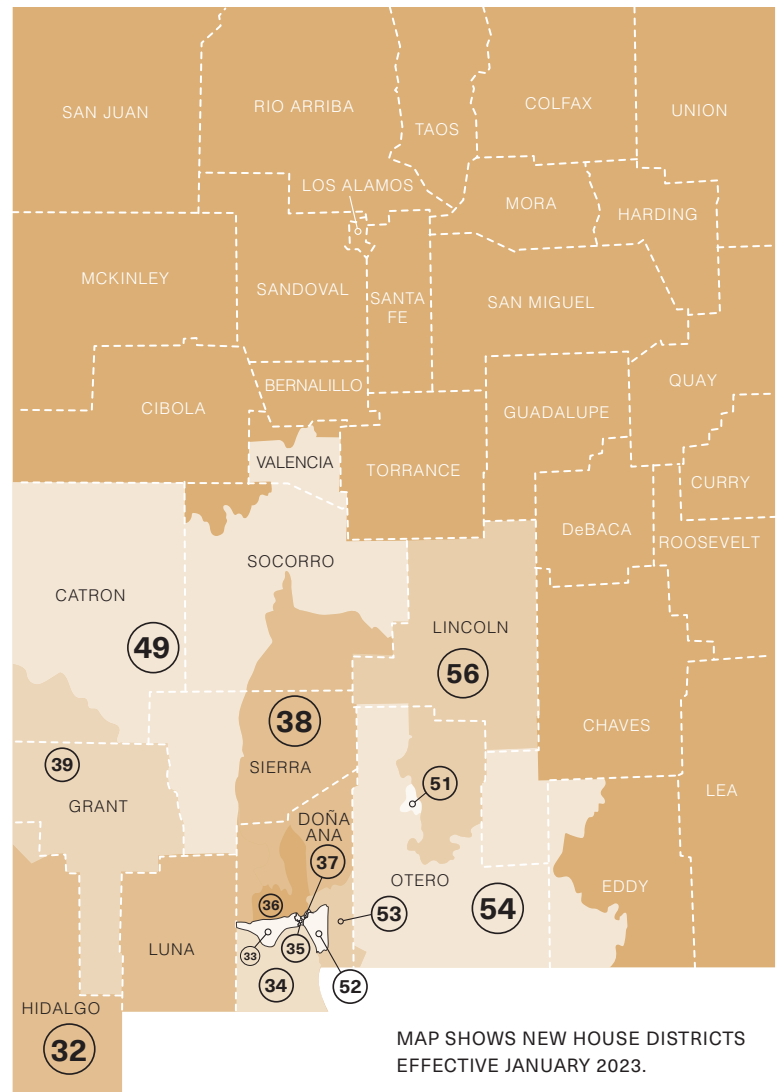
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

- State slogan: Everybody is somebody in New Mexico.
- State question: Red or green?
- State answer: Red and green or Christmas
- State animal: Black bear
- State bird: Roadrunner
- State cook: Biscochito
- State aircraft: Hot air balloon
- State gem: Turquoise
- State folli: *Coelephysis*
- State flower: Yucca
- State vegetables: Chile and pinto bean
- State aroma: Roasting green chile (if the bill to be introduced by state Sen. Bill Soules, D-Doña Ana, during the 2023 session passes.)

The song was written by Elizabeth Garrett (1885-1947), the daughter of one-time Doña Ana County Sheriff Pat Garrett, who shot and killed Billy the Kid in 1881, in Fort Sumner. Amadeo Lucero (1900-87) wrote "Asi Es Nuevo Mexico," the Spanish-language state song.

REPRESENTATIVE NUMERICAL LIST

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 RODNEY MONTOYA | 36 NATHAN SMALL |
| 2 MARK DUNCAN | 37 JOANNE FERRARY |
| 3 T. RYAN LANE | 38 TARA JARAMILLO |
| 4 ANTHONY ALLISON | 39 LUIS M. TERRAZAS |
| 5 DOREEN WONDA JOHNSON | 40 JOSEPH L. SANCHEZ |
| 6 ELISEO LEE ALCON | 41 SUSAN HERRERA |
| 7 TONYA R. MIRABAL MOYA | 42 KRISTINA ORTEZ |
| 8 BRIAN BACA | 43 CHRISTINE CHANDLER |
| 9 PATRICIA LUNDSTROM | 44 KATHLEEN M. CATES |
| 10 ANDRES ROMERO | 45 LINDA M. SERRATO |
| 11 JAVIER MARTINEZ | 46 ANDREA ROMERO |
| 12 ART DE LA CRUZ | 47 REENA C. SZCZEPANSKI |
| 13 PATRICIA ROYBAL CABALLERO | 48 TARA L. LUJAN |
| 14 MIGUEL GARCIA | 49 GAIL "MISSY" ARMSTRONG |
| 15 DAYAN HOCHMAN-VIGIL | 50 MATTHEW MCQUEEN |
| 16 MARSELLA DUARTE | 51 JOHN BLOCK |
| 17 CYNTHIA D. BORREGO | 52 DOREEN GALLEGOS |
| 18 GAIL CHASEY | 53 WILLIE MADRID |
| 19 JANELLE I. ANYANONU | 54 JAMES TOWNSEND |
| 20 MEREDITH A. DIXON | 55 CATHRYNN BROWN |
| 21 DEBRA SARINANA | 56 HARLAN H. VINCENT |
| 22 STEFANI LORD | 57 JASON CARL HARPER |
| 23 ALAN T. MARTINEZ | 58 CANDY SPENCE EZZELL |
| 24 ELIZABETH THOMSON | 59 GREG NIBERT |
| 25 CHRISTINE TRUJILLO | 60 JOSHUA N. HERNANDEZ |
| 26 ELEANOR CHAVEZ | 61 RANDALL T. PETTIGREW |
| 27 MARIAN MATTHEWS | 62 LARRY SCOTT |
| 28 PAMELYA HERNDON | 63 MARTIN RUBEN ZAMORA |
| 29 JOY GARRATT | 64 ANDREA R. REEB |
| 30 NATALIE FIGUEROA | 65 DERRICK LENTE |
| 31 WILLIAM REHM | 66 JIMMY G. MASON |
| 32 JENNIFER JONES | 67 JACKY CHATFIELD |
| 33 MICAELA LARA CADENA | 68 CHARLOTTE L. LITTLE |
| 34 RAYMUNDO LARA | 69 HARRY GARCIA |
| 35 ANGELICA RUBIO | 70 AMBROSE M. CASTELLANO |



MAP SHOWS NEW HOUSE DISTRICTS
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2023.

SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO

House

DISTRICT MAP



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Joanne Ferrary
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Gail Armstrong
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DISTRICT 53
Willie Madrid
Page 43



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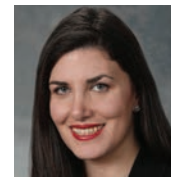
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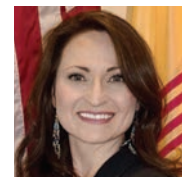
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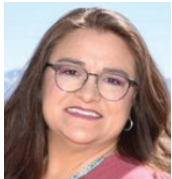
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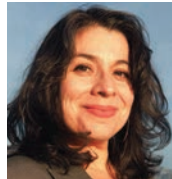
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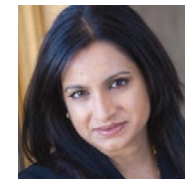
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Gail Chasey
D-Bernalillo

MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

T. Ryan Lane
R-San Juan

MAJORITY WHIP

Reena Szczepanski
D-Santa Fe

MINORITY WHIP

Jason Harper
R-Sandoval

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

Ray Lara
D-Doña Ana

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS CHAIR

Gail Armstrong
R-Socorro, Catron, Valencia, Sierra

Speaker to be voted in during the session. To reach your legislator during the session, call 505-986-4300.





DISTRICT 32

JENIFER Jones

Registered nurse tuned in to healthcare issues

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

In one of the closest legislative races Rep. Candie Sweetser, one of the more conservative Democrats in the Legislature, trailed Republican Jenifer Jones by 41 votes of more than 7,500 cast. It was close enough to trigger a recount, but Sweetser conceded the election.

Jones said she wants to address law enforcement and public safety in the border region, as well as gaps in healthcare for rural residents and New Mexico's historically lagging education outcomes. She believes many border problems have gone underreported and been neglected by officials.

As a third-generation graduate of Deming High School, Jones said she is deeply rooted in her community. A registered nurse, Jones feels she understands the healthcare needs of rural communities.

She said she intends to defend Second Amendment rights in District 32 and all of New Mexico. With crime on the rise, she believes it is more important than ever for law-abiding citizens to have the means to protect themselves and their loved ones. She is a lifetime NRA member and intends to support gun rights.

In addition to championing rural health-

COUNTIES SERVED:

Luna, Hidalgo, Grant

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: First year

BIRTHPLACE: Deming, N.M.

PROFESSION: Oncology nurse

EDUCATION: New Mexico Junior College

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care needs of her community, Jones has said she understands the importance of supporting agriculture.

"Our southern New Mexico farmers and ranchers need a louder voice in the New Mexico House of Representatives, as well as more support and less regulations," Jones told the Deming Headlight.



DISTRICT 51

JOHN Block

Seeking to give Alamogordo a strong voice in Santa Fe

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

Jan. 17, 2023, will be a doubly special day for John Block.

For one, it will be his first day as a brand-new legislator, representing House District 51 from Alamogordo.

Second, it will be his 26th birthday.

A native New Mexican, Block returned to the Land of Enchantment a couple of years ago after working in Washington, D.C.

"I spent a lot of time in Alamogordo as a kid," Block said. "It's the hidden gem of New Mexico. It's very cool to be right outside of a national monument, and just 20 minutes from Cloudcroft."

While living in Alamogordo, he began looking at state politics, particularly from

the perspective of his own House district.

"I saw a need," Block said. "I saw the folks in my district were being underrepresented in Santa Fe. I decided to mount a primary challenge, knocked door to door and talked to people about issues they truly cared about. I couldn't have done it without the support of so many people. It was truly a team effort to restore representation."

One of his first concerns, Block said, is addressing outdated community assets.

"The state must invest surplus funds in fixing critical infrastructure while also sending more funding to municipal and county police forces to ensure public safety is a top priority," Block said. "During this surplus of

COUNTIES SERVED: Otero

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

AGE: 26

BIRTHPLACE: Santa Fe, N.M.

PROFESSION: Publishing, owner and founder of Piñon Post, an online statewide conservative publication

EDUCATION: Associate's degree from Santa Fe Community College, Bachelor's degree in business administration from Rutgers, MBA from Eastern New Mexico University

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

Former secretary-treasurer of the Republican Women of Otero County

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funds, this is the time to prudently spend on non-recurring investments, such as attending to building projects like court houses, schools, and state health care

■ BLOCK CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

MICAELA LARA Cadena

Infrastructure, behavioral health critical issues



DISTRICT 33

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Four

AGE: 40

BIRTHPLACE: Born in El Paso; raised in Mesilla, N.M.

PROFESSION: Research director, Young Women United, a New Mexico nonprofit

EDUCATION: Bachelor's in international studies, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut; master's in community and regional planning, University of New Mexico

HOUSE COMMITTEES: Vice chair, Judiciary; member: Taxation and Revenue; Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy; Courts, Corrections and Justice; Legislative Health and Human Services

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legal and protected without any further action needed by the legislature or executive.

And, Roe was never enough. It's time to make real on our commitments to these same New Mexican families – who continue to need a full spectrum of care, from miscarriage and pregnancy loss, fertility and lactation support and behavioral health services in their pregnancies and beyond. Abortion is healthcare, and part of the way we get there is making sure we meet the full needs of our families without shame or stigma.

What do you think should be the state's spending priorities for the 2023 session?

With the unprecedented revenues of recent years, I'm proud of the responsible efforts to invest heavily in New Mexico's reserves (what might be compared to our state savings accounts). As revenues like this cannot be guaranteed moving forward, moments like this allow New Mexico to catch up on much needed infrastructure projects across the state, as well as funding important long-term priorities, like solidifying our behavioral health system.

What bills do you plan to introduce during the 2023 legislative session?

- Fee elimination on traffic and criminal cases: I am working with New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice Shannon Bacon, along with the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Fines and Fees Justice Center, to eliminate fees currently associated with traffic and criminal cases. The core operations of the courts should be funded by the government, and not shouldered disproportionately on the back of lower income people in New Mexico.
- Corrections oversight: I am working with Barron Jones (ACLU of New Mexico) to bring independent oversight to corrections in New Mexico. If we have the authority to incarcerate people, we must be accountable to that authority. Key components of this effort include:
 - a) Compel the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) to engage in public rulemaking process (currently NMCD operates under procedures enacted by the secretary)
 - b) Establish New Mexico Corrections Oversight Commission to be made up of stakeholders across a spectrum of lived experiences and expertise, including

people that have been incarcerated, people who have had loved ones incarcerated (commission to be appointed by the legislature, judiciary and executive).

- Gross receipts tax exemption for child care providers: I am working with local small business owners and the New Mexico Child Care and Education Association on a bill that will give all community-based providers (private providers) a GRT exemption on pre-K and child care assistance contracts (only child care assistance contracts, not private pay child care contracts). Currently, the state Public Education Department and nonprofits do not have to pay GRT on pre-K services and nonprofits do not have to pay GRT on childcare assistance contracts.

What are likely to be the capital outlay priorities for your district in 2023?

I will continue to prioritize investments in New Mexico State University, investment which serve House District 33 and our broader southern New Mexico students and communities. I will also support key priorities as identified by Doña Ana County, the City of Las Cruces and the Town of Mesilla.

How is your House district different as a result of redistricting?

House District 33 is now geographically larger, extending below Interstate-10 west to the Doña Ana county line (including the Southern New Mexico State fairgrounds, the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility and the Las Cruces Industrial park).

What else would you like to add?

Indigenous, Black, people of color and rural communities across New Mexico have demonstrated their beliefs and voted their values on abortion access for generations.

In New Mexico, abortion remains



DISTRICT 34

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Four

AGE: 52

BIRTHPLACE: El Paso, Texas; grew up in Anthony

PROFESSION: Coordinator for Instructional Resources, Gadsden Independent School District

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in English, New Mexico State University

HOUSE COMMITTEES: Chair, House Democratic Caucus; (interim) Member: Appropriations and Finance; Education; Economic Development and Policy; New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight; Legislative Finance

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RAYMUNDO 'RAY' Lara

Rep. Lara is new Democratic caucus chair in the New Mexico House

Rep. Ray Lara was elected Democratic caucus chair in the New Mexico House of Representatives by his fellow Democratic House members following the Nov. 8, 2022 general election.

Considering the large budget surplus that is expected in 2023, what do you think should be the state's spending priorities for the 2023 session?

Since the influx of oil and gas revenue is not really considered recurring revenue per se, I feel that the surplus funds that we'll have access to, should be primarily used for infrastructure projects. As we know, infrastructure is really needed around the state. Roads, bridges, water, wastewater and flood mitigation are critical to the wellbeing of our communities, in particular the rural areas. Infrastructure should also be considered to build up our capacity for housing developments and business expansion as well.

What bills do you plan to introduce during the 2023 legislative session?

For the upcoming session, I plan to introduce three bills:

1. The Educator Healthcare Insurance Equity Act, better known as the 80/20 bill, which will require all public school entities to pay for 80 percent of an employee's health care cost. This will allow many public school employees to take home more of their hard-earned pay.
2. I'll also be introducing a bill that will waive the fee for a state-issued ID for youth and individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
3. This bill will be adding the Camino Real newspaper to the official list of Spanish-language newspapers in the state.

What are likely to be the capital outlay priorities for your district next year?

My legislative district has many, many needs. Most of these are for basic infrastructure services such as water/wastewater, natural gas. However, I will also be focusing on funding quality-of-life type projects like community centers and walking paths. I anticipate the same amount (of capital outlay funds) as last session, approximately \$1.2 to \$1.4 million (for New Mexico House members).

What do you think will be Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's legislative priorities for the 2023 session?

I believe that the governor will be focusing on legacy projects, in particular infrastructure projects that will have a positive impact on New Mexicans statewide. I also believe that there will be a greater focus on trade and job creation on the border with our friends from Mexico.

How is your House district different as a result of redistricting?

House District (HD) 34 (which includes southwest Doña Ana County and stretches to both the Texas border and Mexico border) had some changes based on population. HD 34 picked up precinct 81 (westside) from HD 52, while HD 52 picked up precinct 79 (Mesquite) from HD 34. HD 34 had to reduce its population due to the growth in Sunland Park/Santa Teresa. Its geographical size has somewhat been reduced.

ANGELICA Rubio

Equity, modernizing legislature top agenda

BY MIKE COOK

“There’s a lot of things that we need to be doing differently,” state Rep. Angelica Rubio said. “Equity is really important.”

In rural communities, not everyone has a vehicle. Making sure people have transportation, including for trips to bigger cities for health care, is essential, she said. “We are a car-centered society.”

Modernizing the legislature

Rubio said one of her priorities for the 2023 session will be legislative modernization. Rubio said she is one of nine House members who want to create a commission to establish compensation for legislators and 60-day sessions every year with no restrictions on bill introductions. “There are so many issues we can’t address at the state level right now,” Rubio said. “Legislators all have jobs on the side. Unless you are retired or very well off, you don’t have the capacity to invest your time in the legislature. That’s an equity issue. People are being disproportionately represented.”

A recent Common Cause poll showed more than 70 percent of New Mexicans interviewed thought New Mexico legislators were getting a salary of more than \$75,000 a year, Rubio said. (They receive no salary, only per diem.) When asked follow up questions, those surveyed said they would support a salary for legislators and creating an independent commission to come up with it.

“That’s a lot of really good momentum moving forward,” Rubio said. “Compensation is a tough issue. Legislators are afraid to vote for it. But it’s important for people to know, if we want good government, if we want a diverse group of legislators that are representative of our communities, there is a direct correlation between the state being last on a lot of lists and having a legislature that is not compensated.”

Rubio said there is also support for

legislators having paid staff.

Rubio is concerned there is no option for people to attend legislative sessions or meetings online.

“We need to come into the 21st century and provide access for those who are unable to make the drive to Santa Fe,” she said. “We need to push the legislature and the governor to actually make these investments. We can host virtual sessions at the Roundhouse. If a legislative committee is meeting in a community where broadband access is poor, why don’t we figure out a way to provide broadband for this community?”

Housing and poverty

“We have an incredible housing crisis on our hands that was exacerbated during the pandemic,” Rubio said.

With state Rep. Andres Romero (D-Bernalillo), Rubio said she will carry a bill to reform the state tenant-landlord statute to extend timelines for overdue rent payments.

She also will also introduce a bill “to help older folks and people who live in mobile home parks, to make life easier for them,” she said.

“Homelessness is treated like a crime,” she said. “That doesn’t solve the problem. I hope advocates will continue to be at the center of these conversations. They are working directly with communities impacted by being unsheltered.

“Being poor is not a crime and nobody should be treated that way,” Rubio said. “There are a lot of wrongs that need to be righted – so many things we’re having to address that require long-term investment. We don’t want to have to come back and deal with these issues in a decade,” she said. “If we make those front-end investments now, it will make a difference.”

Other issues

“We have put a lot of dollars into our educational system,” Rubio said. “It



DISTRICT 35

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Six

AGE: 43

BIRTHPLACE: Roswell, N.M.
(grew up in nearby Lake Arthur)

PROFESSION: Consultant

EDUCATION: B.A., government, New Mexico State University; M.A. Latin American Studies, California State University Los Angeles

HOUSE COMMITTEES: Chair, Transportation, Public Works and Capital Improvements; member, Labor, Veterans and Military Affairs

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should be representative of our very diverse and very culturally rich state. Educational advocates have a vision and a plan for what that could potentially look like. That should be considered by the legislature instead of continuing to focus on the traditional, test-driven curriculum. We should look at it in a much more holistic way.”



DISTRICT 36

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Six

AGE: 40

BIRTHPLACE: Albuquerque, N.M.

PROFESSION: Conservationist

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

Las Cruces City Council member

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degrees in English, philosophy, College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio

HOUSE COMMITTEES: Vice chair, Appropriations and Finance; member: Agriculture, Acequias and Water Resources; Printing and Supplies; Legislative Finance; Rural Economic Opportunities Task Force, Economic Development and Policy; Water and Natural Resources

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NATHAN Small

Vice chair of House Appropriations sees great responsibility with budget surge

BY MIKE COOK

I believe we're in a once-in-statehood moment," state Rep. Nathan Small, D-Doña Ana, told the Bulletin in October.

"We're seeing the most revenue we've ever seen," said Small, a former Las Cruces city councilor who was first elected to the New Mexico House in 2016 and re-elected in 2018, 2020 and 2022.

He is vice chair of the New Mexico House of Representatives Appropriations and Finance Committee (HAFC) and a member of the state Legislative Finance Committee (LFC).

Record budget growth will allow the state "to continue to invest in New Mexico across so many areas," Small said.

During the 2022 session, legislators removed most state taxes on Social Security, lowered gross receipts taxes and increased basic educator pay, he said. Most state residents also received a \$500 stimulus check from the state last summer.

The state is continuing to expand health care access, including behavioral health, and make it more affordable, and is investing more in infrastructure and renewable energy development, Small said. New Mexico is also making "historic investments" in water and watershed restoration, he said, including finding ways to access previously unusable sources of water, like New Mexico State University brackish-water research and reclaiming billions of gallons of water used in oil and gas production.

The budget increase is occurring because New Mexico is "seeing strength across many different sectors of the

economy," he said.

The state's oil and gas production has increased dramatically since the onset of Covid and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"New Mexico production has increased at a critical time for the world," Small said.

With legislators of both parties working collaboratively, the legislature can use the budget surplus "to go beyond rebuilding" behavioral health services in New Mexico to make them the strongest in the Southwest, Small said, ensure that local and state law enforcement officers are well paid, well trained and well equipped and invest more in higher education across the state.

"We can afford to do this in ways we never have before," he said.

A proposed amendment to the state constitution that would allocate state Permanent Fund revenue to early childhood education is "the right investment," Small said, and could help make New Mexico "the best state in the Southwest to start and raise a family. Investing in kids is the right thing to do," he said.

Spending the state's money wisely and making sure its budget is secure into the foreseeable future is an "incredible responsibility" the legislature must live up to, Small said.

"Leadership is so key," he said. Having a "voice for southern New Mexico" on HAFC who is directly involved in crafting the state budget is critical "at a time when we have the most resources in our history," he said.

JOANNE J. Ferrary

Eyeing education, economy, environment



DISTRICT 37

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Six

AGE: 69

BIRTHPLACE: Canton, Ohio

PROFESSION: Retired Planner Director

EDUCATION: Bachelor's in individual studies, master's in business administration, both New Mexico State University

HOUSE COMMITTEES: Chair, consumer and Public Affairs; member, Health and Human Services; (interim) co-chair, Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight; vice chair, Radioactive and Hazardous Materials; member;; Legislative Ethics; Legislative Health and Human Services, Legislative Education Study Committee

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in District 37, however, remain the same – Las Cruces want a strong economy, a good education for their children, affordable healthcare and a clean and safe city and state to live in. I am so proud to be able to work with my constituents to make that a reality.

What should the legislature's budget priorities be in the 2023 session?

We have a unique opportunity to continue to build a better New Mexico for us all and help hard-working New Mexicans. The (budget surplus) number may be even bigger than (\$1.5 billion), so we need to invest in New Mexicans. Specifically, I believe we should provide rebate checks for New Mexico residents to help ease increasing daily life costs; support K-12 public education programs, which includes free lunch for children; invest in job training programs and apprenticeships; and extend the newly approved child tax credit and investments into low-income housing and infrastructure. I am open to other ideas on how to spend money, but I believe these things should be baseline initiatives for the legislature.

What bills do you plan to introduce during the 2023 legislative session?

My career has been dedicated to increasing public safety and strengthening public health. I look forward to sponsoring and co-sponsoring many pieces of legislation, but the top things I am working on include: 1) Introducing a green amendment to our Constitution that guarantees our right to clean air, water and soil for a healthy environment for us all; 2) Increase excise taxes on liquor and nicotine products to reduce harms and fund education, prevention and treatment programs; 3) Provide alternative guardianship program for elders and those with disabilities; and 4) Enforcement of safe storage of guns to protect children at home and in schools from gun violence.

Capital outlay priorities?

In 2021 we were appropriated

roughly \$1.562 million for capital outlay projects. That number may go up during the 2023 session – and we will likely also receive funds from the “junior bill” that can provide funding for critical community projects. I have not decided yet which projects in my district, the county and the state are most critical – I prefer to wait for the process and speak with constituents and local leaders on what is most needed. However, I do believe in upgrading essential infrastructure services in regard to parks, libraries, roads, etc., as well providing any needed funding for public housing and upgrades to public safety projects so we can support our first responders.

What do you think will be Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's legislative priorities for the 2023 session?

I believe she will continue to work with the legislature to deliver on campaign promises which include investing in public education, growing the economy and supporting small business, leading on affordable healthcare and protecting our environment. I am especially excited to work with her office to see what we can accomplish on the green amendment. We have a great opportunity this session to invest in our future, and I look forward to working with the governor on these key issues.

How is your House district different as a result of redistricting?

District 37 has been one of the fastest growing districts in the state, and voter turnout in 2020 reflected that. Due to the mandates of how many people we may represent, my district now has 25 percent fewer constituents, although the area of land is about the same, as I represent more of the northern and central part of the city. The priorities

TARA Jaramillo

Socorro native seeks to bring positive change

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

You're 53 years old, CEO of a busy company with more than 300 employees. You have four children and five grandchildren.

Why in the world would you want to run for office, especially one that doesn't come with a paycheck?

Well, maybe, because your 16-year-old daughter, your youngest child, looked around at the problems and difficulties in her community and said, "Mom, we've got to change this."

Tara Jaramillo, the newly elected state representative for newly redrawn District 38, born and raised in Socorro County, has a history of changing things.

Nearly 25 years ago, when her second oldest child was diagnosed with autism, Jaramillo looked around for resources for the care, advocacy and education needs unique to the autistic.

"We couldn't find a place, so we built it," said Jaramillo, who in 1999 co-founded Positive Outcomes, an organization that provides personal care services, physical therapy, occupational therapy and more for children and families with those special needs.

Now, Positive Outcomes has more than 300 employees.

When Covid first hit, Jaramillo found especially dire needs at the Alamo Navajo Nation, a reservation in northwest Socorro County of about 2,000 people.

"We helped there, and more than 60 percent of the people had no running water," Jaramillo said. "There was no store, and the Navajo Nation was closed. So, we moved there and lived there for 18 months. We lost more than 70 patients and six colleagues - including my father - to Covid. We began to see needed massive changes, especially with healthcare and education. Like much of rural New Mexico, there was no broadband. I believe many died because of lack of access to healthcare, and it's impossible to do telehealth with

no system in place."

As a state representative, Jaramillo believes there are opportunities to change the infrastructure in New Mexico.

"All of us who lived through (Covid) are still struggling," she said. "You see it in the schools. There's a lack of education, socialization problems and social-emotional difficulties. It's hard to go back to normal when you've lost friends and loved ones."

What do you think should be the state's spending priorities with the expected budget surplus?

"Infrastructure," Jaramillo said. "Ensuring every community has access to water. It sounds basic, but we haven't achieved that hurdle yet. And broadband should be a human right, because it provides you with healthcare, it provides you with information and education."

What bills do you plan to introduce during the 2023 legislative session?

"We are working on some," she said. "Including a bill that would identify someone as autistic on a driver's license. If a person with autism is pulled over on a traffic stop, they can become nervous and non-responsive to an officer. This could be very important information. I'm also working with Elephant Butte, regarding their funding from the State Parks."

She is also working on the state's network of systems that deals with children born to mothers addicted or exposed to substances. In many cases, the networks are breaking down and children are falling through the cracks.

"We need to fix those gaps," Jaramillo said. "Women struggling with addictions need our full support. And we need to focus on the needs of the child and determine what is their best placement."



DISTRICT 38

COUNTIES SERVED: Sierra, Doña Ana, Socorro

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: First year

AGE: 53

BIRTHPLACE: Socorro, New Mexico

PROFESSION: Speech Language Pathologist

EDUCATION: Master's in speech language pathology, New Mexico State University; B.A. in communication disorders, NMSU

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Socorro Consolidated School Board

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What are likely to be the capital outlay priorities for your district?

"The majority is much needed infrastructure," she said. "There are tons of requests for work that could not be completed due to inflation or supply chain issues. So, we'll see what we need for additional funding to finish those projects. Socorro County has capital outlay for a gymnasium, fire services and the courthouse. The City of Socorro is looking for roads. Hatch needs infrastructure due to flooding, and New Mexico Tech has requested funding for much-needed infrastructure."

LUIS Terrazas

Jobs, tax reform, broadband access, small business, ag are top issues



What bills do you plan to introduce in 2021?

There are still many unknowns; for one, the speaker limiting the number of bills we will be able to introduce. In general, I will support legislation that helps people get back to work; comprehensive tax reform, such as Social Security income exemption; broadband internet for rural areas; support small business and agriculture.

What bills do you expect the governor to introduce in the session?

I cannot speak on behalf of the governor. Although the governor has expressed a commitment to champion and support much needed in-state meat inspections. She's been consistent in her support of unlimited abortion on demand. She intends on passing an abortion bill that allows abortion up to the ninth month and strips a doctor or nurse's right of whether or not they want to participate in an abortion – otherwise known as the conscience clause. Those are things I have heard or read about but I personally have not had a conversation with the governor.

Do you think the governor will again introduce legislation to legalize the recreational use of marijuana? If so, how will you vote on legalization?

Again I cannot speak on behalf of the governor. I am in support of medical marijuana. However, I have questions/concerns about many aspects of legalizing marijuana for recreational use. The questions and concerns are, where and how will the sales be deposited? Who and how will we license growers and sellers? Does law enforcement have the training and equipment to measure a person when under the influence? I have concerns about second-hand smoke to the public, especially children.

What are the capital outlay priorities for your district?

My district covers three counties: Doña Ana, Sierra and Grant. The needs are great in those areas. I am looking forward to consolidating my efforts with other legislators to leverage as much support for our counties as possible. There are drainage issues, school improvements, hospital improvements, handicap accessibility and compliance issues, maintenance and municipality projects. There are literally tens of millions of dollars in requests and I will be tasked with appealing for and delegating these requested funds on an extremely limited budget.

Do you think the 2021 session is likely to be entirely held remotely because of the pandemic?

There are many discussions about how to handle the session during this difficult time. No definitive decision has been made. I believe our state has the capacity to allow the legislature to convene in Santa Fe. First responders and firefighters do not have a choice. I believe the legislators and the public will follow social distancing practices for a safe session. We need to do our jobs as public servants. It is felt by some that Zoom meetings are more economical for public participants because they do not have to drive, buy meals, etc. Folks in Santa Fe and Albuquerque have better access to broadband than rural areas. Not only to broadband but a broadband/internet that can withstand the increase in traffic. Rural areas are already experiencing issues because of the number of users attending school. Having a virtual session also denies the legislators working with one another because of the great disconnect of working from home and access to the public, the way true legislation was meant to be.

DISTRICT 39

COUNTIES SERVED: Grant, Hidalgo, Catron

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Two

AGE: 50

BIRTHPLACE: Silver City, N.M.

PROFESSION: Owner, Terrazas Funeral Chapels

EDUCATION: BBA in accounting, Western New Mexico University

HOUSE COMMITTEES: Member: Health and Human Services; Labor, (interim) Military and Veterans Affairs; Enrolling and Engrossing; Military and Veterans Affairs; Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight; Economic Development and Policy; Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy

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What are the concerns in your district?

Possible budget cuts. Small businesses reopening, people need to get back to work. A high failure rate of children with remote learning and the need for broadband because of poor internet in some of our rural areas. I would like to see children go back to school as soon as possible. I have concerns about the children's mental, physical, emotional health and well-being from being isolated for so long.



GAIL 'MISSY' Armstrong

New caucus chair adds part of
Sierra County to an already large district

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

DISTRICT 49

COUNTIES SERVED: Catron, Sierra, Socorro, Valencia

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Six

AGE: 55

BIRTHPLACE: Socorro County

PROFESSION: Rancher and businesswoman

EDUCATION: High school, some college

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The refrain for so many legislators regarding the 2023 session also rings true for Rep. Gail “Missy” Armstrong’s District 49.

Flooding the last few years really did a number on roads and structures in Valencia County, highlighting the need for solving a number of infrastructure issues in the area.

Armstrong was re-elected in 2022, unopposed, as she has ever since being appointed to the position in 2016 to fill the spot vacated by former Speaker of the House Don Tripp when he retired.

And, essentially, the whole time she has been in office, Armstrong has sought another infrastructure goal: improved broadband access to the internet.

“In my area, we have places we don’t have cell phones, much less broad-

band,” Armstrong said last year. “The pandemic has taught us we can do a lot online, if we’re able to get online.”

New Mexico Tech, the internationally regarded university that’s frequently overlooked in its own state, is always a priority for Armstrong, who recognizes Tech doesn’t have the representation in Santa Fe that the state’s larger universities have.

Armstrong has also been named the new Republican caucus chair.

During her tenure in the state House of Representatives, Armstrong has represented all of Catron County, most of Socorro County and a portion of Valencia County. While redistricting re-shaped her geographically expansive area of representation, she retains coverage in those three counties and added the western side of Sierra County.

■ BLOCK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

facilities. However, the state should reserve a significant portion of the excess funds for the Permanent Fund.”

As an example of the decaying infrastructure, Block cited a county watershed originally built to last for 50 years, and it’s now 70-something years old and about to fail.

“I will be working with Senators Ron Griggs and Bill Burt to help on that,” he said.

“Infrastructure is huge concern for people in this state, especially in southern New Mexico,” he said. “Those things transcend political lines. It’s basic everyday stuff.”

Block’s district is primarily in the City of Alamogordo and there’s a key attraction there he hopes to address with capital outlay.

“The city is looking for funds to help refurbish the Alameda Park Zoo,” Block said. As far as other capital outlay projects, he plans to get input from the community.

“Once the capital projects are filed on Jan.

12 and after I have carefully reviewed each request,” he said. “I will take great care to ensure those funds go to the most urgent matters.”

Listening and speaking up comes naturally to Block, who feels he can identify with many people in his district and in the state.

“I grew up in a regular everyday New Mexico household,” Block said. “My folks didn’t have a lot of money. I learned how to work hard at a young age, busing tables at 15, and I learned to speak about issues we care about at a young age.”

He plans to dive in, and bring legislation to the floor of the House.

“I will be introducing bills regarding election integrity, public safety, fixing New Mexico’s broken education system, protecting gun rights, tax reform, protecting the right to life, reforming the Children, Youth & Families Department, restoring

protections for police officers, among other measures,” Block said. “I hope to work with my colleagues from across the state to get the job done and pass meaningful reforms.”

Block said he has been “incredibly grateful and humbled by the honor of serving our community in the state House of Representatives. I will work tirelessly to make Alamogordo’s voice heard and continue advocating to make the legislative process as open and transparent to citizens as possible.

“It’s been rewarding to go down the street or at the coffee shop and talk to neighbors who voted for you, and they seem happy, excited, hopeful, for our win,” Block said. “That was the payoff, to represent people who feel they don’t have a voice. And for the people who didn’t vote for me, I’m going to work just as hard for them. Their voice is just as important as anyone else in the district.”

DOREEN Gallegos

Infrastructure, mental health need action

BY MIKE COOK

Considering the large budget surplus in 2023, what do you think should be the state's spending priorities for 2023?

"I would like us to look at infrastructure," state Rep. Doreen Gallegos said. "We do a little bit, but we can't ever finish ... these projects that would be so good for the communities that are impacted by roads, sewer systems, bridges that need to be fixed."

"We are always dealing with education and social services," Gallegos said. "Those areas close to my heart."

What bills do you plan to introduce during the 2023 legislative session?

"It's so hard to get people licensed in the state of New Mexico and it takes forever," she said. "Last year, we did a general fix. This year's I'm looking for an update for nursing practitioners. Health care in New Mexico is something I'm concerned about. We are losing more and more doctors and health care professionals. Credentialing needs to be right for the standards, not jamming people up with a lot of red tape. They need to be able to start practicing," she said.

"With Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM) in my district, I am also looking at initiatives and incentives to keep more doctors who graduate practicing here," Gallegos said. "I am so proud that we're doing that type of training, but we need to entice them to stay here."

What are likely to be the capital outlay priorities for your district?

House District 52 includes part of Las Cruces, Anthony, Vado, Berino and Mesquite, which was added during redistricting, Gallegos said. Some parts of the district are affluent, she said, and other parts are very poor.

Anthony, New Mexico, needs a bigger multi-generational community center,

Gallegos said. It would be a safe place for people to go and would provide children and students with Wi-Fi connections and to use computers and be a place for senior citizens.

"I've been working on it for the past five years," Gallegos said. "Hopefully, it has some wings to it now."

Gallegos said the legislature also needs to make sure colonias in southern Doña Ana County have safe drinking water and utilities.

What do you think will be Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's priorities?

"We've been talking tax reform for a while," Gallegos said. "It's going to be an interesting balancing act: tax reform without raising taxes."

"I would like us to really look at public safety; look at municipalities – with all this money coming in, making sure people are safe in their homes," she said. State Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) social workers "need to be out there making sure kids are safe."

"How do we better spend CYFD funding?" she said. "How are we going to make sure (this funding) is not just going into a pot and not serving people? Mental health services, the increase in the homeless population, food banks: There is so much need."

"It starts with mental health," Gallegos said. "More drug and alcohol programs are needed to make sure people get services, including those on that cusp of becoming homeless. How do we keep this person from becoming homeless, from losing custody of a child, if they no longer have a stable address and can't get medications?"

What else would you like to add?

"I am going to lead, to make sure my constituents and our area get the services they deserve and they need," Gallegos said. "I will continue to be a voice. I want to know what the district is



DISTRICT 52

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: 10

AGE: 54

BIRTHPLACE: El Paso, Texas

PROFESSION: Executive director, Mesilla Valley Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

EDUCATION: Bachelor's and master's degrees in social work, New Mexico State University

HOUSE COMMITTEES: Member: Commerce and Economic Development; Government, Elections and Indian Affairs; Printing and Supplies; Rules and Order of Business; (interim) Legislative Council; Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy; Courts, Corrections and Justice; Economic Development and Policy; Indian Affairs; Investments and Pensions Oversight; Legislative Finance; Capitol Security Subcommittee.

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doing, what the community is doing," she said. NMSU is part of my district. If there are good ideas, new initiatives to put forward, I want to hear about them. The same with BCOM."

Gallegos said she also will continue to support small business. "I believe in business," she said.



DISTRICT 54

JAMES

Townsend

Townsend focus
is on infrastructure

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

James Townsend has said his biggest concerns for his district vary between a desperate need for infrastructure, including the roads and bridges, and that the legislature act fiscally responsible and not create any new taxes or indebtedness.

Townsend has served as a member of the House Appropriations & Finance Committee and a designee of the Legislative Finance Committee. Townsend said he tempers any spending initiatives with calls for fiscal restraint. Unopposed in both the primary and general election in 2018, he would like to see the economy in the

southeastern part of the state boom.

Budget items most critical to Townsend include Capital Outlay, education and the state highway improvement plan.

He said the state is losing its young people because they don't have the same opportunities here as they do in other places.

All the counties and districts propose capital outlay projects, and each municipality ranks their top three or top five projects, Townsend said. In his district Carlsbad is looking to improve roads and infrastructure; water and schools are priorities in Cloudcroft and Lake Arthur;

COUNTIES SERVED:

Chaves, Eddy, Otero

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Eight

AGE: 68

BIRTHPLACE: Carlsbad, New Mexico

PROFESSION: Retired senior vice president of Holly Corporation

EDUCATION: New Mexico State University

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

Lobbyist in Santa Fe and Washington, D.C. for 15 years.

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Artesia needs more money for infrastructure and schools.

Townsend serves on the House Energy, Environment & Natural Resources, Judiciary, printing & Supplies and Rules & Order of Business committees.



DISTRICT 56

HARLAN H.

Vincent

Rookie rep goes in with
'eyes and ears open'

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Harlan Vincent is excited about his newly elected status.

"It's such a rewarding position," he said. "I am super pumped about this next year. One of the reasons is because of my grandbabies – I want to ensure they have what we had."

He said he wants to see the budget requests prioritized to put good money to good projects such as small community water systems and community infrastructure.

"I am going in with my eyes open and my ears open because so many legislators I respect," Vincent said. "I am conservative

and will not throw good money at bad projects."

A bad project is one that hasn't been planned out or had some earnest money put down, he said.

"People that want a project to really be good will have the planning and fiscal possibilities laid out," he said.

As a new legislator, Vincent is not introducing any new bills this year.

"I am going this year to defend against bad bills," he said. "I would like to see more defending against bad bills. I want to get in there and help fix the problem."

Vincent said his priorities involve ad-

COUNTIES SERVED: Lincoln, Otero

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Zero

AGE: 51

BIRTHPLACE: Clovis, New Mexico

PROFESSION: Businessman, owner and operator of Flash Paving and Flash Quality Hunts, former Fire Chief of Ruidoso

EDUCATION: Associate degree in fire science

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vocation for veterans, first responders, the elderly and the youth. He has been visiting elder care centers and senior centers and said many of them are in need of support.

"We need to invest in our youth, and I don't mean throwing money at education," he said. "But I do want to invest in

■ VINCENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 43



WILLIE Madrid

Continue focus on health, mental health issues

DISTRICT 53

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana, Otero

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Four

AGE: 52

BIRTHPLACE: El Paso, Texas

PROFESSION: Former public schools education support staff, Gadsden Independent School District

EDUCATION: BA in business management, University of Phoenix

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What do you think the state's spending priorities should be for the 2023 session?

A continued development of mental health services as well as a continuance of medical vaccination support and study with the "triple-demic."

What bills do you plan to introduce during the 2023 legislative session?

Madrid said he plans to introduce an "election reform bill to create (an) equal number of early voting days across the state"; and an "education bill to increase classified personnel salaries." Madrid said he "will support Department of Transportation bills as well."

What are likely to be the capital outlay priorities for your district next year?

"My priorities will depend on what each county has put on the ICIP (Infra-

structure Capital Improvement Plan) request forms and I will choose which projects will do the most for the whole of my district," Madrid said.

What do you think will be Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's legislative priorities for the 2023 session?

We are still pending some discussion from the governor on what her direction will be for the upcoming session.

How is your House district different as a result of redistricting?

The results are about the same in size and demographic based on the results of my re-election i.e. (the) number of people who came out to vote and the ratio of Democrats to Republicans," Madrid said. His New Mexico House District 53 includes portions of both Doña Ana and Otero counties. He lives in Chaparral, which is located in both counties.

■ VINCENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42

our youth and more and more into our veterans."

In terms of capital outlay project, Vincent said there are some projects dear to him.

What are likely to be the capital outlay priorities for your district next year?

"Water is our life blood," he said. "Whatever I can do with water, I want. "Fire, police and EMS are big priorities of mine as well as mental health."

He will be meeting with the leaders in his district to vet and prioritize the projects to get them started or completed.

Hoping that Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's legislative priorities are positive and

bipartisan, Vincent is interested in sitting down at the table as ladies and gentlemen.

"We need to find common ground, we have just gotten to be an onery bunch," he said. "Just because things get in the way it doesn't mean we can't work together."

He said he is going to put God first and pray for patience and discernment.

"It's going to be difficult because I am a very staunch conservative," Vincent said. "I am going up there and hope God works through me to do the best for my district and for my state."

One of the areas he admits there is not much common ground includes gun con-

trol. According to Vincent, he goes by the Constitution and that is unconstitutional.

"I won't give an inch on guns, not a smidge on red flag bills," he said. "I don't have no wiggle room, so we are not going to see eye to eye. But it doesn't mean we don't like each other."

With his district covering the communities of Mescalero, Bent, everything on the left or the highway up through Cloudcroft and Timberon, he has a variety of folks to represent.

"I want to make them proud," he said. "I'm going in not as a bull in a China closet but with my eyes and ears open. I'm here to help."

"Making a Difference in Our Community"

A collage of circular photographs showing various senior citizens engaged in different activities. Some are wearing face masks. The activities include reading, exercising, socializing, and working on projects. At the bottom, a green banner with white text reads "Safe Volunteering Making Smiles & Senior Volunteers".

Educate TimeBanking

Senior Volunteers
CAREGIVING & RESPITE
 Support & Share
 Promoters



Safe Volunteering
Making Smiles Every Day
Health Promotion
Mentoring

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Gallup, NM 87301
(505) 399-5019

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Silver City ,NM 88061
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JANUARY 2023 | LAS CRUCES BULLETIN

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Catron County

State's largest county was created more than a century ago

New Mexico's largest county (it is larger than four U.S. states), Catron was created Feb. 25, 1921, from part of neighboring Socorro County. The county was named for Thomas B. Catron (1840-1921), who had served as mayor of Santa Fe, New Mexico's territorial representative in the U.S. House and one of the state's first two United States senators.

Catron County is home to the Apache and Gila national forests, along with the Continental Divide. Less than 20 percent of the county is privately owned; the rest is public land.

From www.nmcounties.org/counties: "Catron County has many campgrounds on U.S. National Forest land, with facilities, or find a quiet place under the pines to set up camp."

Village of Reserve

Mayor Hilda D. Keller

The Village of Reserve is the only incorporated community in Catron County. The address is Village of Reserve, P.O. Box 587 Reserve, NM 87830-0587. Call 575-533-6276. Reserve was incorporated in 1974. Its general fund expenditures were \$225,600 in 2020, with all village funds totaling \$2,137,529. The village has six full-time employees. The four-member council meets at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month.



PHOTO BY ELVA OSTERREICH



QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

Population: 3,731 (2021)

Households: 1,546 (2020)

Median household income: \$36,607 (2020)

Persons below poverty level: 22.8 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments: 66 (2020)

Non-employer establishments: 361 (2019)

Total employment: 486 (2020)

GEOGRAPHY

Land area (square miles): 6,924 (the state's largest county)

Persons per square mile: 0.5

PHOTO BY LAURIE FORD



PUBLIC OFFICIALS

STANLEY BROWN

Interim County Manager
P.O. Box 507
Reserve, New Mexico 87830
stan.brown
@catroncountynm.gov
575-533-6423
575-533-6433 Fax
575-519-2064 Cell

CATRON COUNTY COMMISSION

P.O. Box 507
Reserve, NM 87830
575-533-6423

AUDREY H. McQUEEN

County Commissioner
Position # 1

BUSTER FLOYD GREEN

County Commissioner
Position #2

HAYDEN D. FORWARD

County Commissioner
Position #3

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

LILLIE LANEY

Catron County Assessor
P.O. Box 416
Reserve, NM 87830
575-533-6577

SHARON ARMIJO

Catron County Clerk
P.O. Box 197
Reserve, NM 87830
575-533-6400

JOYCE R. LANEY

Treasurer
P.O. Box 407
Reserve, NM 87830
575-533-6384

KEITH HUGHES

Sheriff
P.O. Box 467
Reserve, NM 87830
575-533-6222

EDUCATION

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUEMADO SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 128,
Quemado, NM 87829-0128
575-773-4700
quemadoschools.org

RESERVE

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 350,
Reserve, NM 87830
575-533-6242
reserveschools.com

PHOTOS BY ELVA ÖSTERREICH



CATRON COUNTY COMMUNITIES

APACHE CREEK

Census-designated place
Population: 77

ARAGON

Census-designated place
Population: 98

CRUZVILLE

Census-designated place
Population: 223

DATIL

Census-designated place
Population: 24

GLENWOOD

Census-designated place
Population: 57

LUNA

Census-designated place
Population: 32

PIE TOWN

Census-designated place
Population: 8

QUEMADO

Census-designated place
Population: 173

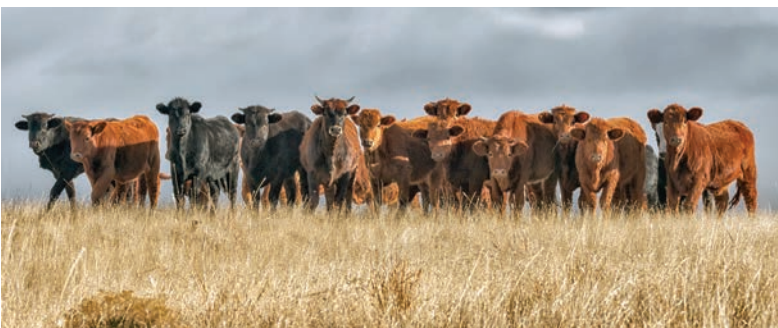
RESERVE

Census-designated place
Population: 490

PLEASANTON

Census-designated place,
Population: 350

PHOTO BY LAURIE FORD





BURRELL COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

*PARA LA GENTE Y EL FUTURO
FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE FUTURE*

430

New physician
graduates
(2020, 2021, 2022)

\$96.5M+

Overall economic
impact

99.5%

Graduate Medical
Education (GME)
Residency
placement

\$12M

Annual payroll
and more than
120 jobs

#2 In the U.S.

Percentage of
underrepresented
minority students
(URM) enrolled in
colleges of osteopathic
medicine



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(HEED) Award

175+ Residency
Positions

Assisted in creating
over 175 residency
positions



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Burrell.edu

Doña Ana County

Film studio, Electronic Caregiver,
Burrell College, NMSU, Mesilla Plaza

Doña Ana County was one of New Mexico's nine original counties, created in 1852. It was named for Doña Ana Gomez Robledo (1604-80), granddaughter of the oldest colonist of the 1598 Juan de Oñate Expedition to leave descendants in New Mexico, according to <https://nmhistoricwomen.org/>.

The county is a leading producer of chile peppers, onions and pecans, and is "one of only two counties in the United States to have a diacritical mark in its name; the other is Coös County, New Hampshire," according to www.donaanacounty.org.

California-based 828 Productions CEO and founder Todd Lundbohm announced in August 2022 that 828 will build a 300,000 square-foot studio on 35 acres west of downtown Las Cruces. Just a month earlier, Electronic Caregiver founder and CEO Anthony Dohrmann announced that ECG purchased the tower that bears the company name in downtown Las Cruces. ECG moved into the tower in 2017. The tower, built in 1962, is 120 feet tall and has 11 stories and 105,000 square feet.

Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM) opened on the campus of NMSU in 2017 and graduated its first class in 2021. BCOM "is the only medical college in the U.S. with a mission addressing healthcare in the southwestern United States and its border with northern Mexico," according to <https://bcmnm.org/>.

City of Las Cruces

Mayor Ken Miyagishima became Las Cruces' longest-serving mayor in November 2021. He was elected in November 2007 and served six years prior to that as a member of the city council. He also was a member of the Doña Ana County Commission for eight years.

City manager: Ifo Pili

P.O. Box 20000, Las Cruces, N.M. 88004-9002, 575-541-2083, www.las-cruces.org.

Las Cruces was incorporated in 1907.

The city has 1,321 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were \$102 million. Its current budget is \$515.4 million.

The seven-member city council meets the first and third Mondays of each month at 1 p.m. for a regular meeting and the second and fourth Mondays at 1 p.m. for work sessions.

Town of Mesilla

Mayor Nora Barraza

P.O. Box 10, Mesilla, N.M. 88046-0010, 575-524-3262, www.mesillanm.gov

Mesilla was incorporated in 1959.

The town has 21 full-time employees. Its 2020 budget included \$1,543,174 in general fund expenditures, with \$3,309,041 in all funds.

The five-member Mesilla Town Council meets at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays of each month at Mesilla Town Hall, 2231 Avenida de Mesilla in Mesilla.

City of Anthony

Mayor Diana Murillo-Trujillo is also a member of the Doña Ana County Commission.

820 Highway 478, Anthony, N.M. 88021-9369, 575-882-2983, info@cityofanthonymn.com, www.cityofanthonymn.com

Anthony was incorporated in 2010.

The city has 14 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were \$2.452 million, with \$12.2 million in all funds.

The five-member Anthony City Council meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month.

City of Sunland Park

Mayor Javier Perea

1000 McNutt Road, suite A, Sunland Park, N.M. 88063-9200, 575-589-7565, www.sunlandpark-nm.gov

Sunland Park was incorporated in 1983.

The city has 88 full time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were \$7.3 million, with \$15 million in all funds.

The seven-member city council meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Village of Hatch

Mayor James Lynn Whitlock. Andy Nuñez was mayor 2013-21.

P.O. Box 220, Hatch, N.M. 87937-0220, 575-267-5216, www.villageofhatch.org

The village was incorporated in 1927.

Hatch has 21 full time employees. Its 2020 budget included \$2.356 in expenditures, with \$6.07 million in all funds.

The five-member village council meets at 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at 133 N. Franklin St.

DOÑA ANA QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

Population:
221,508 (2021)

Households:
79,421 (2020)

Median
household income:
\$44,024 (2020)

Persons below
poverty level:
20.5 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments:
3,675

Total employment:
53,960


Non employer establishments:
13,662

GEOGRAPHY

Land Area (square miles):
3,807.51

Persons per square mile: **55**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov



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CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

HATCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Address: P.O. Box 568, Hatch, NM 87937
 Phone: 575-519-4723
 Email: hatchchamber@gmail.com
 Website: www.villageofhatch.org/links/chamber_of_commerce

GREATER LAS CRUCES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Address: 150 E. Lohman Ave.
 Las Cruces, NM 88001
 Phone: 575-524-1968
 Website: www.lascruces.org

LAS CRUCES GREEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Address: 221 N. Main St.
 Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
 Phone: 575-323-1575
 Website: locallascrucres.com

LAS CRUCES HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Address: 277 E. Amador Ave, Suite 305
 Las Cruces, NM 88001
 Phone: 575-524-8900 Fax: 575-532-9255
 Website: lascruceshispanicchamber.com

SUNLAND PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Address: 1000 McNutt Road (Sunland Park City Hall), Sunland Park, N.M. 88063
 Phone: 575-502-5053
 Email: contact@sunlandparkchamber.com
 Website: sunlandparkchamber.com/ and www.facebook.com/sunlandparkchamber

ELECTED OFFICIALS

DOÑA ANA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

845 N. Motel Blvd.,
 Las Cruces, NM 88007
 575-647-7201
 www.donaanacounty.org

DISTRICT 1
 Christopher Schaljo-
 Hernandez
 575-525-5808

DISTRICT 2
 Diana Murillo-Trujillo
 575-525-5804
 dmurillotrujillo@
 donaanacounty.org

DISTRICT 3
 Shannon Reynolds
 575-525-5807
 sreynolds@donaanacounty.org

DISTRICT 4
 Susana Chaparro
 575-525-5810,
 schaparr
 donaanacounty.org

DISTRICT 5
 Manuel Sanchez
 575-525-5809
 msanchez@donaanacounty.org

COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Clerk: Amanda López Askin, Ph.D.
 575-647-7421 | www.donaanacounty.org/clerk

County Treasurer: Eric L. Rodriguez
 575-647-7433 | www.donaanacounty.org/treasurer

County Assessor: Gina Ortega
 575-647-7400 | www.donaanacounty.org/assessor

County Sheriff: Kim Stewart
 575-525-1911 | www.donaanacounty.org/sheriff/profile

County Probate Judge: Judith Ann Baca
 575-525-6132 | www.donaanacounty.org/probate

County Manager: Fernando R. Macias
 575-525-5802 | www.donaanacounty.org/countymanager

DOÑA ANA COUNTY COMMUNITIES

ANTHONY
 City Population: 283

BERINO
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 1,704

CHAMBERINO
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 687

CHAPARRAL
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 13,744
 (in Doña Ana and Otero
 counties)

DOÑA ANA
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 1,375

FAIRACRES
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 1,213

GARFIELD
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 146

HATCH
 Village
 Population: 1,718

LA MESA
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 642

LA UNION
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 975

LAS CRUCES
 City
 Population: 114,139

MESILLA
 Town Population: 2,274

MESQUITE
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 892

ORGAN
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 226

PLACITAS
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 576

RADIUM SPRINGS
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 1,487

RINCON
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 494

RODEY
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 594

SALEM
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 586

SAN MIGUEL
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 939

SAN PABLO
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 1,019

SAN YSIDRO
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 199

SANTA TERESA
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 6,553

SUNLAND PARK
 City Population: 17,581

UNIVERSITY PARK
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 2,917

VADO
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 3,189

WHITE SANDS
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 1,368

2023 NM LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

CAPITAL PROJECTS

SEWER INSTALLATION PROJECT

Continued installation of wastewater sewer system throughout Las Cruces to eliminate the use septic tanks, specifically in the remaining Brittany Estates and Estados Serenos subdivisions.



EAST MESA ROADS & DRAINAGE

Continued development of roads and drainage infrastructure in the East Mesa area of Las Cruces.



TELSHOR - SPRUCE INTERSECTION

Completion of the improved traffic flow infrastructure and signal improvements at the Telshor Blvd. and Spruce Ave. intersection.



UNIVERSITY AREA COMPLETE STREETS

To study, plan, design, and reconstruct University Avenue. Includes acquisition of right-of-way, roadway and streetscape improvements, lighting, landscaping, wayfinding, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and purchase of transit stops, shelters, and ADA improvements.



LIFT UP LAS CRUCES Street Lighting & Roadway Improvements

Provide additional lighting throughout the Lift Up Las Cruces area. Construct sidewalk and ADA improvements throughout the Lift Up area.



POLICE EQUIPMENT

Purchase body cameras for Police Officers.



FIRE STATION IMPROVEMENTS

Construct, renovate and improve various fire stations throughout Las Cruces including fencing, gates, office renovations, restrooms, bays, and parking areas.



PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements to include Gomez Park improvements and Pioneer Park gazebo and plaza area.



AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements and infrastructure to allow for passenger service to include terminal improvements, related infrastructure, construct a maintenance facility, relocate, and construct a new fuel farm, and rehabilitate water tank as primary water source for Airport.



TOURISM IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements and related infrastructure to facilities in Las Cruces to increase tourism through appropriation bill to be submitted by the NM Tourism Department to include improvements to the Museums, Convention Center, and Library.

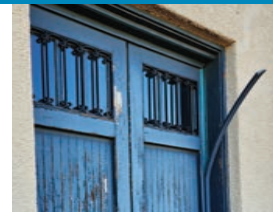




PHOTO BY ELVA ÖSTERREICH

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4950 McNutt Road,
Sunland Park, NM 88063
575-882-6200
www.gisd.k12.nm.us

HATCH VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

204 Hill St., Hatch, NM 87937
P.O. Box 790, Hatch, NM 87937
575-267-8200
www.hatchschools.net

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Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-527-5800
lcps.net

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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Las Cruces, NM 88005
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lascrucesacademy.org

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Las Cruces, NM 88005
575-526-2517
lccsonline.org

MESILLA VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Las Cruces, NM 88001
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mvcsonline.com

MISSION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

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Las Cruces, NM 88011
575-532-5489
www.mlschool.net

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NM 88005
575-541-0145
www.almadarte.org

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400 W. Bell Ave., Las Cruces,
NM 88005
575-526-2984
ladh.org

J. PAUL TAYLOR ACADEMY

402 W. Court Ave., Building 2,
Las Cruces, NM 88005
575-652-4006
www.jpaultayloracademy.org

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1405 S. Solano Drive,
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-527-5916
www.lasmontanashigh.com

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207 S. Main St.,
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-527-9085
lcnas.org

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Las Cruces, N.M. 88007
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3400 S. Espina St.,
Las Cruces, NM 88003
575-527-7500
dacc.nmsu.edu

DACC – EAST MESA CAMPUS

2800 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd.,
Las Cruces, NM 88011
575-528-7000

DACC – GADSDEN CENTER

1700 E. O'Hara Rd., Anthony,
NM 88021
575-882-3939

DACC – SUNLAND PARK CENTER

3365 McNutt Road, Sunland
Park, NM 88063
575-874-7780

DACC – WORKFORCE CENTER

2345 E. Nevada Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-527-7776

DACC – CHAPARRAL LEARNING CENTER

755 Prescott Anthony Drive
Chaparral, NM 88081
575-824-2000

UNIVERSITIES

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY (NMSU)

1780 E. University Ave.,
Las Cruces, NM 88003
575-646-0111
nmsu.edu



Spaceport America grows activity, business

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Spaceport America isn't just a platform for potential ticketed individuals to be tourists in space.

It is home to a variety of burgeoning companies with space-related goals, providing a platform for organizations such as NASA, UpAerospace and Celestis to launch dreams.

"Spaceport America is a unique multipurpose facility for commercial and federal aerospace customers," said New Mexico Spaceport Authority Executive Director Scott McLaughlin. "Our partnership with U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range allows us to attract a wide range of users for training, test and development, and the great weather in southern New Mexico is perfect for year-round missions."

The spaceport itself is in Sierra County; executive offices are in Las Cruces.

USAF Thunderbirds conduct winter training

The United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron "Thunderbirds" kicked off their first ever winter training trip at Spaceport America in January 2022.

The team's first training site in 2022 was Spaceport America where 6,000 square miles of restricted airspace, low population density, a 12,000-foot runway, 340 days of sunshine and low humidity make conditions favorable.

Spaceport America Cup

Last summer, more than 1,300 participants attended the 2022 Spaceport America Cup representing 95 higher education institutes from 16 countries across the globe. Student teams participated in presentations and displays at the Las Cruces Convention Center, followed by two and a half days of launching at Spaceport America's vertical launch area.

"The Cup fulfills Spaceport America's mission to promote educational involvement in spaceport activities and training of the

workforce to develop the skills needed to enter aerospace careers," McLaughlin said. "We have seen many rocketeers return to Spaceport America once they have graduated and joined the aerospace workforce. We are particularly excited to see so many of our local institutions getting involved in the competition this year and competing for the Chile Cup."

Phantom Space conducts hot fire test

Phantom Space Corporation, a space applications company providing launch services and satellite manufacturing to business and government clients, boasts a successful stage hot fire test at Spaceport America.

Phantom's pathfinder test stage completed a 60-second hot-fire test to validate first- and second-stage systems used in Phantom's Daytona Launch System. The Daytona launch vehicle will become the company's workhorse, capable of putting 450 kilograms into low Earth orbit for less than \$4 million.

"This hot-fire test is an important step for us in the development of the Daytona launch vehicle," said Jim Cantrell, Phantom's CEO and co-founder.

SpinLaunch's 10th suborbital launch

SpinLaunch plans to loft small satellites into low Earth orbit by 2026. The California-based start-up is developing a rotating arm to fling small satellites into near-Earth space and had its 10th successful test launch in less than a year at Spaceport America in September 2022.

For the first time, the vehicle hosted a range of third-party experiments including from NASA, Airbus and Cornell University.

The customer payloads launched by the accelerator had to survive up to 10,000 Gs (that's 10,000 times the force of Earth's gravity) as the 108-foot-long (33 meters) rotating arm hidden inside a white casing spun the payload faster

than the speed of sound.

Virgin Galactic plans Signature Campus

Virgin Galactic secured land to move forward with a new astronaut campus and training facility near Virgin's commercial operations headquarters at Spaceport America.

The land will be for exclusive use by Virgin Galactic Future Astronauts and up to three of their guests in advance of a spaceflight from Spaceport America.

Virgin Galactic has totaled more than \$180 million in expenditures in New Mexico, with more than \$50 million in supplies purchased from more than 200 different local suppliers. The company currently employs more than 200 New Mexico-based employees and expects many professional and service roles will be created to support its growing operations.

PHOTOS BY ELVA ÖSTERREICH



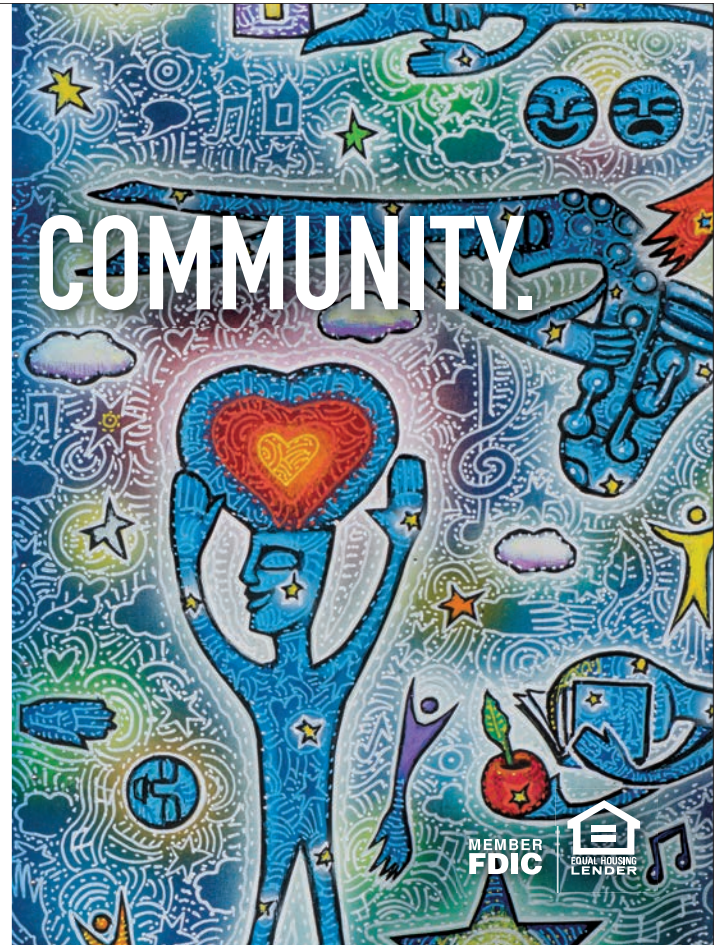
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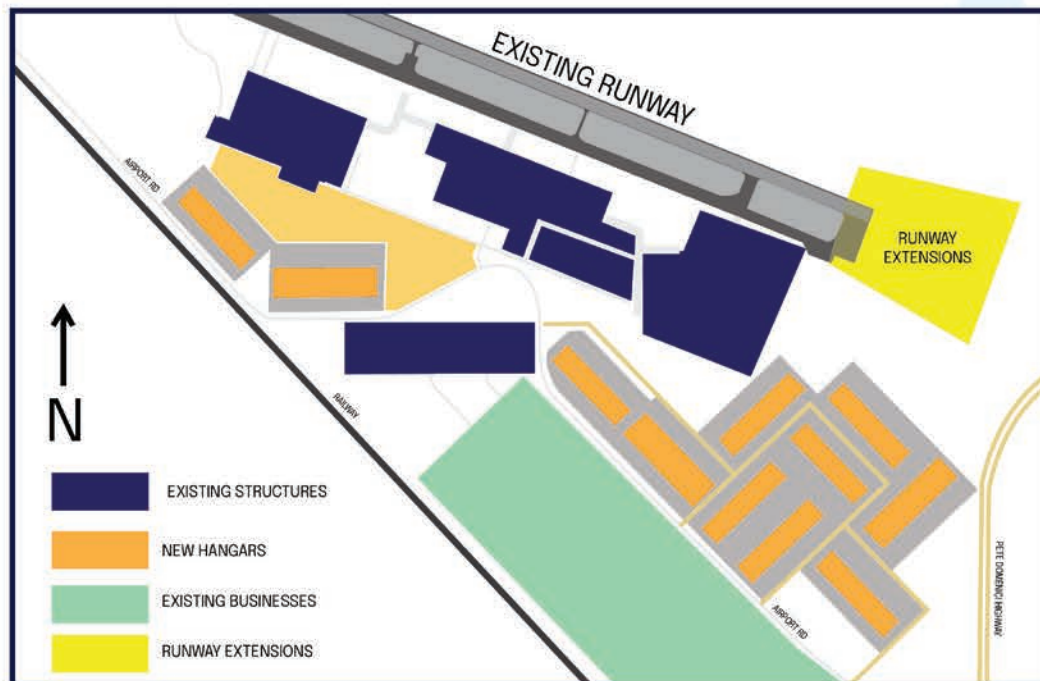
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FLY INTO THE FUTURE AT SANTA TERESA JETPORT



EXPAND AIR CARGO CAPABILITY

- Widen the runway from 100 ft to 150 ft
- Increase weight capacity to accommodate 737 aircraft
- Expected completion-mid-March 2023

T-HANGAR EXPANSION

- Seven new hangars to hold an additional 126 aircraft
- Expected completion: June 2023

PROJECTED UPGRADES TO JETPORT

We are excited to announce several updates and improvements to our facility, including the addition of seven new hangars that will provide space for 126 aircraft. These hangars will offer state-of-the-art amenities for pilots and aircraft owners.

In addition to the new hangars, we have also widened our runway to 150 feet, providing even more space for aircraft to take off and land safely. This wider runway will allow us to accommodate a greater range of aircraft, including larger planes like the 737. With the increased weight capacity of our runway, we can now handle aircraft of all sizes with ease.

Overall, the Santa Teresa Jetport is now better equipped than ever to meet the needs of pilots and businesses alike. We encourage you to choose the Santa Teresa Jetport for your aviation needs.



**"Leading Doña Ana County forward,
one decision at a time."
Doña Ana County Commission**

In 2022, Doña Ana County partnered successfully to enhance economic development and improve residents' quality of life.



MENTAL HEALTH UPDATES

The Crisis Triage Center in Doña Ana County is revolutionizing the way crisis situations are handled, as it is the first in the state to implement the "Crisis Now" model. This innovative approach includes a call center for emergency calls, mobile crisis services, and a 24/7 facility to provide round-the-clock support to those in need. The Crisis Triage Center is proud to partner with The State of New Mexico and RI International to bring this important service to the community. With the help of these partnerships, the Crisis Triage Center is able to provide vital support to those experiencing a crisis and help them navigate through difficult times.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

- El Camino Real Road was resurfaced in Phase 1, with a \$425,000 capital outlay investment.
- The Doña Ana School Road Multi-use Trail was resurfaced. A curb and gutter with a 5-foot-wide sidewalk was added to enhance the safety, a \$225,000 capital outlay investment.
- Carver Road was resurfaced with an infusion of \$230,000, stretching from Highway 28 to San Pablo Road.



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

The brand new BMX pump track at the Delores C. Wright Center is a popular development for the whole region. A capital outlay investment of \$600,000 made this state-of-the-art track possible.



SAFE COMMUNITIES

A new fire station in Anthony will serve the southern area of the County with an investment of \$5.5 million.

For more information on Doña Ana County, visit:
www.DonaAnaCounty.org

Southern Doña Ana County

Bionic growth in Santa Teresa area

The opening of the 1970s TV show “The Six Million Dollar Man” touted the world’s first bionic man, and how technology could make him “better, stronger, faster.”

In Santa Teresa, New Mexico, at the southern tip of Doña Ana County, less than 10 miles north of Mexico, and less than 10 miles west of El Paso, Texas, logistics, infrastructure and human resources are getting “better, stronger, faster.”

The timely shipping of goods is vital to the global economy. We learned that during the pandemic.

And more and more, goods are coming through Santa Teresa.

They’re coming by rail.

They’re coming by road.

They’re coming by air.

And they’re all coming through this little town in southern New Mexico whose port of entry and surrounding area has become a giant shipping, logistics and storage hub, as well as an industrial park.

In 1994, commercial crossings at the Santa Teresa port of entry were fewer than 3,000. In 2021, there were 153,500. That’s more than 420 a day, if you’re counting.

“The biggest asset New Mexico has is its border with Mexico,” said Jerry Pacheco, president of the Border Industrial Association, a Santa Teresa-based organization that has worked on growing international trade for more than 30 years.

Santa Teresa provides nearly 5,000 jobs in New Mexico and generated \$1 billion in total output in New Mexico in 2020, along with \$228 million in labor income and \$75 million in state, local and federal taxes.



Here are some recent highlights of expanding opportunities in the region.

- A new T-hangar at the Doña Ana County International Jetport, boosted by \$2.25 million in federal funds. “With the investment by both federal and state governments, the Santa Teresa Jetport is poised to become a regional player in logistics,” Pacheco said.

- A \$72 million cargo aviation facility for Burrell Aviation, which will construct multiple structures designed to expand cargo and distribution services, including facilities dedicated to air cargo handling, cold storage, distribution and aircraft maintenance. The facility is expected to create up to 1,300 jobs and can house 124 aircraft, with a runway widened from 100 to 150 feet to accommodate larger cargo jets.

- The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded Doña Ana County a \$1.1 million grant to plan, implement and operate an integrated logistics hub, being referred to as the Tradeport, last August.

“The county looks forward to working with the federal government as we develop what the future of an intermodal center can be,” said Doña Ana County Manager Fernando Macias.

- In September, The New Mexico Department of Transportation announced it will spend \$45 million in federal Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant funds to build “direct route to El Paso and Interstate 10 in southwest New Mexico. The six-mile roadway will connect the Santa Teresa Port of Entry to New Mexico Highway 273 in nearby Sunland Park. “The construction of this new border highway is a game changer in the way that it will increase logistical efficiencies between the Santa Teresa industrial base and the El Paso/Juarez region,” Pacheco said.

- In October, officials cut the ribbon on the new Union Pacific Industrial Careers Academy located in the Doña Ana County Community College Sunland Park Center. It will provide fast-track training in logistics, warehousing, transportation, manufacturing and more, and was made possible by a \$350,000 grant from Union Pacific, which has made significant impact in southern New Mexico, including a \$400 million investment in the Santa Teresa intermodal terminal in 2014. A Union Pacific official said they fully intend to hire people from the program as soon as they graduate.

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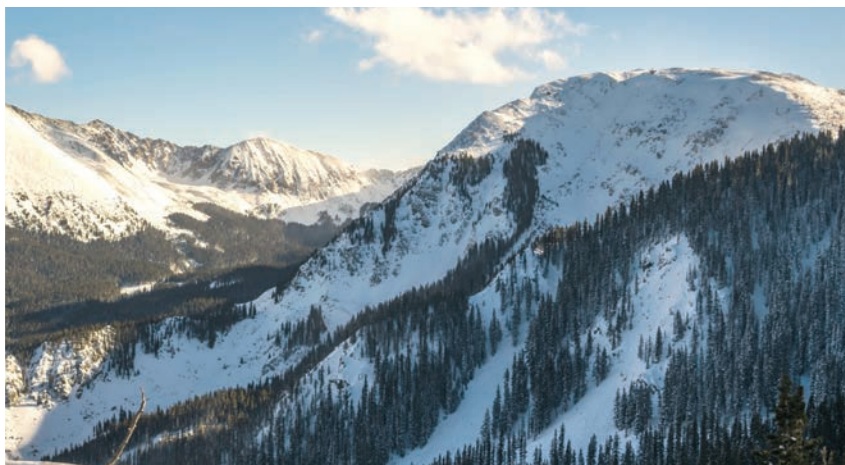
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CTP@NMSU.EDU





EL MONTE
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PHOTO BY ELVA ÖSTERREICH

Grant County

The Old West, history, mining, WNMU

Grant County was created in 1868 from part of Doña Ana County. It was named for Civil War Union General and U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant.

The county is gateway to the Gila Wilderness and the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, which was the home of the Mogollon people in the 13th and 14th centuries. Grant County also contains the world's largest open-pit copper mine at Santa Rita and City of Rocks State Park.

From www.nmcounties.org/counties: "The county seat is Silver City, founded in the 1870s with the discovery of silver in the area. "Its Wild West past includes the first arrest and (brief) incarceration of William Bonney, better known as Billy the Kid. Although Bonney moved on, the Kid's family lived in the area for many years, and his mother is buried in the town's Memory Lane Cemetery."

Town of Silver City

Mayor Ken Ladner

P.O. Box 1188, Silver City, N.M. 88062-1188, 575-538-3731,
www.townofsilvercity.org

Silver City was incorporated in 1878, and was founded "after the discovery of silver in and around the town," according to the city web site.

Silver City has 149 full time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were \$9 million, with all funds totaling \$33 million.

The five-member town council meets at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 101 W. Broadway St.

City of Bayard

Mayor Chon S. Fierro

P.O. Box 728, Bayard, N.M. 88023-0728, 575-537-3327,
www.cityofbayardnm.com

Bayard was incorporated in 1938.

Bayard has 27 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were \$1.65 million, with all city funds totaling \$8.2 million.

The five-member city council meets at 2 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Town of Hurley

Mayor Ed Stevens

P.O. Box 65, Hurley, N.M. 88043-0065, 575-537-2287,
www.townofhurley.us

Hurley was incorporated in 1956.

The town has 11 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were almost \$600,000, with all funds totaling \$1.78 million.

The five-member Hurley Town Council meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at 101 Cortez Ave.

Village of Santa Clara

Mayor Richard Bauch

P.O. Box 316, Santa Clara, N.M. 88026-0316, 575-537-3246,
santaclara7@villageofsantaclara.com, www.villageofsantaclara.org

The village was founded in the 1860s and the first post office was established in 1887. Santa Clara was incorporated in 1947 as the Village of Central, New Mexico. It changed its name to Santa Clara in 1996.

The village has 15 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were \$628,000, with all village funds totaling just over \$3 million.

The five-member village council meets at 3 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at 516 Fort Bayard St.

QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

Population: 27,889 (2021)

Households: 11,496 (2020)

Median household income: \$37,453 (2020)

Persons below poverty level: 20 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments: 547 (2020)

Non-employer establishments: 6,608 (2020)

Total employment: 1,637 (2019)

GEOGRAPHY

Land area (square miles): 3,962

Persons per square mile: 7.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov

ELECTED OFFICIALS

GRANT COUNTY COMMISSION

Grant County Administration Center
1400 Highway 180 E,
Silver City, NM 88061
P.O. Box 898, Silver City, NM 88062
575-574-0000

DISTRICT 1

Chris M. Ponce
575-574-0021
cponce@grantcountynm.com

DISTRICT 2

Eloy H. Medina

DISTRICT 3

Alicia Kay Edwards
575-654-4364
aedwards@grantcountynm.com

DISTRICT 4

Gerald Wayne Billings
575-574-0092
bbillings@grantcountynm.com

DISTRICT 5

Harry Francis Browne
575-654-4396
hbrowne@grantcountynm.com

COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Clerk: Marisa Castrillo,
575-574-0043, grantcountynm.gov/elected-officials/clerk

County Assessor: Misty A. Trujillo
575-574-0027, grantcountynm.gov/elected-officials/assessor

County Treasurer: Patrick M. Cohn, Jr.
575-574-0061, grantcountynm.gov/elected-officials/treasure

Sheriff: Raul D. Villanueva
575-574-0100, grantcountynm.gov/elected-officials/sheriff

County Probate Judge: Mary Ann C. Sedillo
msedillo@grantcountynm.gov, grantcountynm.gov/elected-officials/probate-judge

County Manager: Tim Zamora
575-574-0008, grantcountynm.gov

EDUCATION

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SILVER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS
2810 N. Swan St.,
Silver City, NM 88061
575-956-2000
www.silverschools.org

COBRE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

900 A. Central Ave.,
Bayard, NM 88023
P.O. Box 1000, Bayard, NM 88023
575-537-4010
www.cobre.k12.nm.us

CHARTER SCHOOLS

ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL
410 W. 10th St.,
Silver City NM 88061
575-538-2547
aldocs.org

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

GUADALUPE MONTESSORI SCHOOL
1731 N. Alabama St.,
Silver City, NM 88061
575-388-3343
www.guadalupeмонтessori.org

UNIVERSITIES/ COLLEGES

WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
1000 W. College Ave.,
Silver City, NM 88062
P.O. Box 680,
Silver City, NM 88062
800-872-9668, 575-538-6011
wnmu.edu



WESTERN
NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
Silver City, New Mexico

GRANT COUNTY COMMUNITIES

BAYARD

City Population: 415

CLIFF

Census-designated place
Population: 173

HURLEY

Census-designated place
Population: 1,393

MIMBRES

Census-designated place
Population: 404

PINOS ALTOS

Census-designated place
Population: 209

SANTA CLARA

Village Population: 1,708

SAN LORENZO

Census-designated place
Population: 149

SILVER CITY

Town, County Seat
Population: 9,530

LAKE ROBERTS

Census-designated place
Population: 53

FAYWOOD

Census-designated place
Population: 18

HANOVER

Census-designated place
Population: 155

PHOTO BY ELVA OSTERREICH



Hidalgo County

Some of state's most rugged beauty

Hidalgo County was created from part of Grant County Jan. 1, 1920. Its name comes from the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which, in 1848, ended the war between the United States and Mexico and brought what would become New Mexico and all or part of other western states into the U.S. The treaty was signed in Villa de Guadalupe Hidalgo, which is now a Mexico City neighborhood.

Elevations in the county run from 3,710 feet to 8,444 feet, according to hidalgocounty.org, which also says the county includes 20 mountain ranges. One of those is the Peloncillo Mountains, which are home to 91 mammal species.

From www.nmcounties.org/counties: "In 1917, former Lincoln County and Doña Ana County Sheriff Pat Garrett's blind daughter, Elizabeth Garrett, wrote the state song "O Fair New Mexico" in Lordsburg. In 1927, Charles Lindbergh stopped in Hidalgo County in the "Spirit of Saint Louis." Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor attended eighth grade in Lordsburg."

City of Lordsburg

Mayor Glenda F. Greene

409 W Wabash St., Lordsburg, N.M. 88045-1811, 575-542-3421,
cityoflordsburg.com

Lordsburg was incorporated in 1916.

The city has 48 full-time employees. It's 2020 general fund expenditures were almost \$3.3 million, with total city funds of almost \$13.5 million.

The seven-member city council meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month.

Village of Virden

Mayor Jacob S. Bigler

110 Richmond Ave., Virden, N.M. 88045-8008, 575-358-1000,
www.facebook.com/VillageofVirden

Virden was incorporated in 1932.

The village had 2020 general fund expenditures of almost \$125,000, with total village funds of \$225,000.

The five-member village council meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month.



PHOTOS BY DAWN AERTS



QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

Population: 4,074 (2021)

Households: 1,742 (2020)

Median household income: \$44,722 (2020)

Persons below poverty level: 19.8 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments: 88 (2020)

Non-employer establishments: 198 (2019)

Total employment: 717 (2020)

GEOGRAPHY

Land area (square miles): 3,436

Persons per square mile: 1.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov



ELECTED OFFICIALS

HIDALGO COUNTY COMMISSION

305 Pyramid St.
Lordsburg, NM, 88045
575-542-9428

Art Malott
Kelly Peterson
Joel Edwards

SHERIFF
William E. Chadborn Jr.
575-542-3833

COUNTY CLERK
Alyssa A. Esquivel
575-542-9213
COUNTY TREASURER
Leslee Rudiger

COUNTY ASSESSOR
Martin Neave

COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE
Dusti Rose Conover

COUNTY MANAGER
Tisha Green
575-542-9427
tisha.green@
hidalgocounty.org

EDUCATION

LORDSBURG MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

401 W. 4th St.,
Lordsburg, NM 88045
(575) 542-9361
www.lmsed.org

SUPERINTENDENT
Stephen Lucas

PRINCIPALS
Scott Roberson, Lordsburg HS
Ralph Almanzar, Central,
Dugan-Tarango Middle Schools
Adam Amador, R.V. Traylor
Elementary School

ANIMAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#1 Panther Blvd.,
Animas, NM 88020
(575) 548-2299
animask12.net

SUPERINTENDENT
Loren Cushman

PRINCIPAL
Ron Pierce

HIDALGO COUNTY COMMUNITIES

ANIMAS

Census-designated place
Population: 124

COTTON CITY

Census-designated place
Population: 355

GLEN ACRES

Census-designated place
Population: 208

LORDSBURG

City, County Seat
Population: 2,256

RODEO

Census-designated place
Population: 54

VIRDEN

Population: 174

PLAYAS

Census-designated place
Population: 52

WINDMILL

Census-designated place
Population: 93



Lincoln County

Billy the Kid, Smokey Bear, UFO crash site, horses

Lincoln County was carved out of Socorro County in 1869 and named in honor of President Abraham Lincoln. It was once the largest county in the U.S. with 4,831 square miles and was so large it had two county sheriffs, including Pat Garrett.

From www.nmcounties.org/counties: “In the late 1870s the so-called Lincoln County War broke out between ranchers and the owners of the county’s largest general store. William Bonney, aka Billy the Kid, became involved, killing a couple of deputies and the county sheriff.”

Legend has it that a UFO crashed near Corona in Lincoln County in July 1947. It became world famous as the Roswell Incident.

Ruidoso Downs Racetrack and Casino hosts both thoroughbred and quarter horse racing, notably the All American Quarter Horse Futurity, the richest race in quarter horse racing.

The county includes parts of the Lincoln, Guadalupe and Sacramento national forests and is home to Smokey Bear Park. Smokey, a black bear rescued as a cub after a 1950 fire in the Capitan Mountains, became the national symbol of the U.S. Forest Service’s campaign against forest fires. He also gave his name to a ranger district in Ruidoso.

Lincoln County is home to more than 30 sites on the National Register of Historic Places. They include The Carrizozo Commercial Historic District, Carrizozo Woman’s Club and Paden’s Drug Store in Carrizozo; the El Paso and Southwestern Railway Water Supply System and Mesa Ranger Station Site in Nogal; Feather Cave and the Lincoln Historic District in Lincoln; Fort Stanton (a state historic site) and Wizard’s Roost in Capitan; the Peter and Heriette Wyeth Hurd house in San Patricio; Jacarilla Schoolhouse in Jacarilla; the Luis A. and Susan B. Jimenez House and Studios in Hondo; Monjeau Lookout in Villa Madonna; the New Mexico Military Institute Summer Camp main building, Old Downtown Mill and Ruidoso Lookout Tower in Ruidoso; and White Oaks Historical District in White Oaks.

Village of Ruidoso

Mayor Lynn D. Crawford

313 Cree Meadows Drive, Ruidoso, N.M. 88345-6938,
575-258-4343, www.ruidoso-nm.gov

Ruidoso (the name means “noisy,” and comes from the Ruidoso River) was incorporated in 1945.

The village has 185 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were almost \$12.7 million, with all village funds totaling \$34 million.

The seven-member village council meets at 1 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month.

City of Ruidoso Downs

Mayor Dean Holman

P.O. Box 348, Ruidoso Downs, N.M. 88346-0348, 575-378-4422,
www.ruidosodowns.us

Ruidoso Downs was incorporated in 1947.

The city has 53 full time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were \$4 million, with all city funds totaling \$8.45 million. The five-member city council meets at 5:30 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at 123 Downs Drive.

Town of Carrizozo

Mayor Ray Dean

P.O. Box 247, Carrizozo, N.M. 88301-0247, 575-648-2371,
www.carrizozonm.us

Carrizozo (the name means “reed grass”), was incorporated in 1917. The town has 11 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were almost \$800,000, with funds totaling \$1.7 million.

Village of Capitan

Mayor Ron Lowrance

P.O. Box 1380, Capitan, N.M. 88316-1380, 575-354-2247,
www.villageofcapitan.org

The village was founded in the 1890s and incorporated in 1937. Smokey Bear is buried in Capitan’s Smokey Bear Historical Park. The village has 10 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were \$707,000, with funds totaling \$2.4 million.

Village of Corona

Mayor Samuel Seely

P.O. Box 37, Corona, N.M. 88318-0037, 575-849-5511, www.villageofcorona.com

Corona, established as a railroad town in 1903, was incorporated in 1947.

The village has four full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were \$204,559, with funds totaling \$1.42 million.

QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

Population: 20,436 (2021)

Households: 8,478 (2020)

Median household income:
\$44,939 (2020)

**Persons below
poverty level:**
16.9 percent

BUSINESS

**Total employer
establishments:** 671 (2020)

Total employment:

5,295 (2020)

**Total non-employer
establishments:**
1,979 (2019)

GEOGRAPHY

**Land area
(square miles):** 4,831

**Population per
square mile:** 4.2



EDUCATION

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CAPITAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

519 Smokey Bear Blvd.,
Capitan, NM 88316
P.O. Box 278, Capitan, NM 88316
575-354-8500
www.capitantigers.org

CARRIZOZO MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

800 D Ave., Carrizozo, NM 88301
P.O. Box 99, Carrizozo, NM 88301
575-648-2346
www.carrizozogrizzlies.org

CORONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

531 Franklin St.,
Corona, NM 88318
P.O. Box 258
575-849-1911
www.cpssc Cardinals.org

HONDO VALLEY

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

111 Don Pablo Lane,
Hondo, NM 88336
575-653-4411
www.hondoreagles.org

RUIDOSO

MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

200 Horton Circle,
Ruidoso, NM 88345
575-630-7000
www.ruidososchools.org

UNIVERSITIES/ COLLEGES

EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY-RUIDOSO

709 Mechem Drive,
Ruidoso, NM 88345
575-257-7222
575-315-1120
www.ruidoso.enmu.edu

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMUNITIES

ALTO

Unincorporated community
Population: 2,776

CAPITAN

Village
Population: 1,356

CARRIZOZO

Town, county seat
Population: 942

CORONA

Village
Population: 113

FORT STANTON

State historical site
Population: 41

GLENCOE

Unincorporated community
Population: 225

HONDO

Census-designated place
Population: 473

LINCOLN

State historical site
Population: 189

RUIDOSO

Village
Population: 7,879

RUIDOSO DOWNS

City
Population: 2,611

SAN PATRICIO

Town Population: 351

WHITE OAKS

Ghost town
Population: 70

Nogal

Census-designated place
Population: 126

PHOTOS BY ELVA ÖSTERREICH

ELECTED OFFICIALS

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSION

300 Central Ave., P.O. Box 711,
Carrizozo, NM 88301
Phone: 574-648-2394

DISTRICT 1

Todd F. Proctor

DISTRICT 2

Samantha Mendez

DISTRICT 3

Jon Floyd Crunk

DISTRICT 4

Lori McKnight

DISTRICT 5

Mark Fischer

COUNTY CLERK

Sharon Hemphill
575-648-2394 ext. 6
800-687-2705 ext. 6

COUNTY SHERIFF

Michael Wood
575-648-2341
800-687-2419
mwood@lincolncountynm.gov

COUNTY TREASURER

Sherrie L. Huddleston
575-648-2397 ext. 7
800-687-2705
fax 575-648-2551

COUNTY ASSESSOR

Walter Hill
575-648-2306 ext. 125
800-687-2705
whill@lincolncountynm.gov

PROBATE JUDGE

Rhonda Burrows
office: 575-648-2394 ext 6
rburrows@lincolncountynm.gov

COUNTY MANAGER

Ira Pearson
575-648-2385 ext. 101
ipearson@lincolncountynm.gov





PHOTOS BY ELVA ÖSTERREICH



Luna County

Pancho Villa, duck races and Luna Mimbres Museum

Luna County was created March 16, 1901, from parts of Doña and Grant counties. It was named for Solomon Luna (1858-1912), a sheep rancher and banker.

Deming is the county seat. Nacio Herb Brown (1896-1964), who wrote the score for the 1952 musical “Singin’ in the Rain,” was born in Deming. Pancho Villa raided Columbus in southern Luna County on March 9, 1916. Pancho Villa State Park in Columbus “features an exhibit hall and structures that capture the rich history of the Pancho Villa Raid and Camp Furlong,” according to www.emnrd.nm.gov. The Great American Duck Race, which has brought international fame to Deming, was started at Luna County Courthouse Park in 1979. The old National Guard Armory building was purchased from the State of New Mexico in 1977 and converted into the world-class Deming Luna Mimbres Museum.

City of Deming

Mayor Benny L Jasso

P.O. Box 706, Deming, N.M. 88031-0706, 575-546-8848, www.cityofdeming.org

Deming was founded in 1902. It was named for Mary Ann Deming (1827-89), the wife of railroad executive Charles Crocker (1822-88).

Deming’s population is 14,758.

The city has 160 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were more than \$13.5 million, with more than \$42.5 million in all city funds.

Village of Columbus

Mayor Esequiel Salas

P.O. Box 350, Columbus, N.M. 88029-0350, 575-531-2283, www.historicvillageofcolumbus.org

Columbus was incorporated in 1913. On March 9, 1916, the village was raided by about 500 members of the army of Pancho Villa. Part of the town was burned and about 20 people were killed, including members of the U.S. Army’s 13th Cavalry Regiment.

The population of Columbus is 1,442.

Columbus has 16 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures totaled \$800,000, with all village funds totaling almost \$9 million.



QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

Population: 25,532 (2021)

Households: 8,911 (2020)

Median household income:
\$32,251 (2020)

Persons below poverty level:
22.3 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments:
384 (2020)

Total employment: 5,112 (2020)

Total non-employer
establishments: 1,057 (2019)

GEOGRAPHY

Land area (square miles): 2,965

Population per square mile: 8.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov

ELECTED OFFICIALS

LUNA COUNTY COMMISSION

700 S. Silver Ave., P.O. Box 1838,
Deming, NM 88031
Phone: 575-546-0491

DISTRICT 1

Ray Trejo

DISTRICT 2

Colette Chandler

DISTRICT 3

John Sweetser

COUNTY CLERK

Berenda McWright

COUNTY SHERIFF

Mike Eby

COUNTY TREASURER

Kristie Hobbs

COUNTY ASSESSOR

Michelle Holguin

COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

Diana May-Diaz

COUNTY MANAGER

Chris Brice

www.lunacountynm.us

LUNA COUNTY COMMUNITIES

COLUMBUS

Village

Population: 1,044

DEMING

County Seat

City

Population: 14,758

NUTT

Unincorporated
community

Population: 12

SUNSHINE

Census-designated
place

Population: 279

EDUCATION

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1001 S. Diamond Ave.

Deming, NM 88030

575-546-8841

www.demingps.org

Add Superintendent:

Arsenio Romero, Ph.D.

UNIVERSITIES

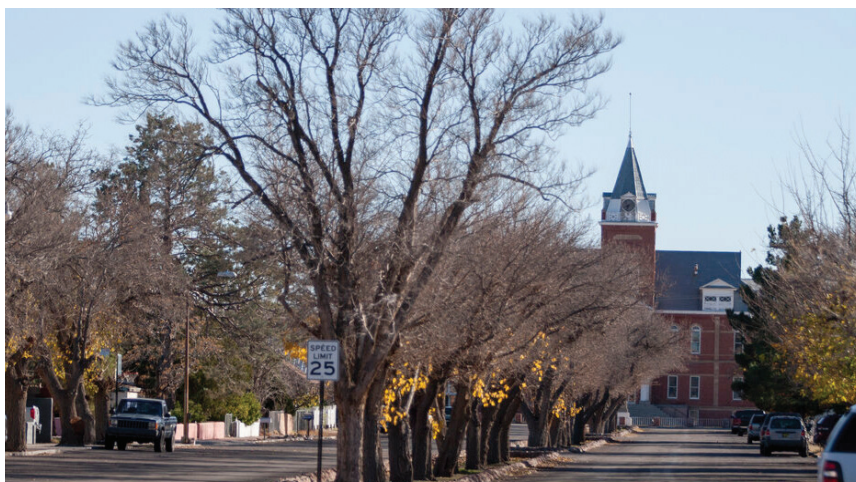
WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY-DEMING

2300 E. Pine St.

Deming, NM 88030

575-546-6556

extended.wnmu.edu/deming/



Otero County

White Sands, Space Museum,
Holloman AFB, Mescalero Apaches call it home

Otero County was created in 1899 from parts of Doña Ana and Lincoln counties. It was named for Miguel Antonio Otero, territorial governor at the time of its creation.

Only about 10 percent of the land in the county is privately owned. The rest belongs to the federal government, the state and the Mescalero Apache Tribe.

Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range, two of the largest U.S. Army bases in the United States, make their homes in Otero county, along with the New Mexico Museum of Space History.

The southernmost ski area in the U.S. is located in Cloudcroft. The county is also home to Oliver Lee State Park.

City of Alamogordo

Mayor Susan L. Payne

1376 9th St., Alamogordo, N.M. 88310-5855, 575-439-4100, <http://ci.alamogordo.nm.us>

Alamogordo was incorporated in 1912.

The city has 320 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were almost \$14.2 million, with almost \$81 million in all city funds.

The seven-member city council meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Village of Cloudcroft

Mayor Bill Denney

P.O. Box 317, Cloudcroft, N.M. 88317-0317, 575-682-2411, www.villageofcloudcroftnm.net

The village was incorporated in 1948. Cloudcroft was established in the late 19th century when the railroad was completed between Alamogordo and El Paso. "The name Cloudcroft is a term related to an English description of a clearing covered in clouds," according to the village website.

Cloudcroft has 13 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were \$1.3 million, with almost \$6.6 million in all village funds.

The six-member village council meets at 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at 201 Burro Ave.

Village of Tularosa

Mayor Margaret Trujillo

705 St Francis Drive, Tularosa, N.M. 88352-2731, 575-585-2771, www.villageoftularosa.com

Tularosa was incorporated in 1916. "Tularosa gets its name from the Spanish description for the red or rose-colored reeds growing along the banks of the Rio Tularosa," according to the village website.

Tularosa has 36 full time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were almost \$1.4 million, with almost \$5 million in all village funds.

The five-member village council meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month.

QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

Population: 68,537 (2021)

Households: 23,112 (2020)

Median household income:
\$45,032 (2020)

Persons below poverty level:
15.5 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments:
913 (2020)

Total non-employer establishments: 3,505 (2019)

Total employment: 11,958 (2020)

GEOGRAPHY

Land area (square miles): 6,612

Population per square mile: 10.3

PHOTOS BY ELVA OSTERREICH



EDUCATION

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**ALAMOGORDO
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
1211 Hawaii Ave.,
Alamogordo, NM 88310
575-812-6000
www.alamogordoschools.org

CLOUDCROFT MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

10 Swallow Place,
Cloudcroft, NM 88317
P.O. BOX 198
575-601-4416
www.cmsbears.org

TULAROSA MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

504 First St.,
Tularosa, NM 88352
575-585-8800
www.tularosak12.us

MESCALERO APACHE SCHOOL

249 White Mountain Drive
Mescalero, NM 88340
575-464-4431
www.maschiefs.org

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UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES

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-ALAMOGORDO**
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Alamogordo, NM 88310
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www.nmsua.edu



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Holloman AFB, NM 88330
575-479-2337
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OTERO COUNTY COMMUNITIES

ALAMOGORDO

City, County Seat
Population: 31,635

BENT

Unincorporated
community
Population: 151

BOLES ACRES

Census-designated place
Population: 2,311

CHAPARRAL

Unincorporated
community
Population: 14,437
In Doña Ana and Otero
counties

CLOUDCROFT

Population: 828

HIGH ROLLS- MOUNTAIN PARK

Unincorporated
Community
Population: 1,370

HOLLOMAN AFB

Census-designated place
Population: 3,943, plus
21,000 active duty

LA LUZ

Census-designated place
Population: 1,799

MAYHILL

Unincorporated community
Population: 45

MESCALERO

Census-designated place
Population: 1,127

NEWMAN

Unincorporated
community
Population: Unavailable

OROGRANDE

Unincorporated
community
Population: 5

PIÑON

Unincorporated
community
Population: 24

SACRAMENTO

Census-designated place
Population: 60

THREE RIVERS

Unincorporated
community
Population: 119

TIMBERON

Census-designated place
Population: 244

TULAROSA

Village
Population: 2,983

WEED

Unincorporated
community
Population: 98

TWIN FORKS

Census-designated place
Population: 234

ELECTED OFFICIALS

OTERO COUNTY COMMISSION

1101 New York Ave.,
Alamogordo, NM 88310
575-437-7427
www.co.otero.nm.us

DISTRICT 1

Gerald Ray Matherly

DISTRICT 2

Amy Barela

DISTRICT 3

Vickie Pruiett Marquardt

COUNTY CLERK

Robyn Holmes

COUNTY SHERIFF

David Black

COUNTY TREASURER

Laura Whiteside

COUNTY ASSESSOR

James Bowman

COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

LaTanya Boyce

COUNTY MANAGER

Pamela Heltner



Sierra County

From the Old West to Spaceport America

Sierra County was created April 3, 1884, from parts of Socorro and Doña Ana counties. Sierra is the Spanish word for mountain range; the county possibly takes its name from the Black Range, also called Devil's Mountains (Sierra Diablo).

Elephant Butte Lake, five miles north of the county seat of Truth or Consequences, is the largest body of water in the state and the focal point of one of New Mexico's most popular state parks. Caballo Lake and Percha Dam state parks are also in Sierra County.

Truth or Consequences was incorporated as Hot Springs in 1916 and became the county seat (succeeding Hillsboro) in 1937. Elephant Butte Dam, once the largest U.S. Bureau of Reclamation project, was completed in 1916. In the late 1930s, the town had about 40 hot-springs spas. It was renamed Truth or Consequences in 1950 at the request of Ralph Edwards, who hosted an NBC Radio (and later television) show of that name. T or C still celebrates the fiesta that Edwards started.

City of Truth or Consequences

Mayor Amanda Forrister
505 Simms St., T or C, N.M. 87901-2726, 575-894-6637,
www.torcnm.org

The city has 110 full time employees. The city's 2020 general fund expenditures were \$6,198,935. All city funds totaled \$35,478,966.

The five-member city council meets at 9 a.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

City of Elephant Butte

Mayor Phillip Ward Mortensen
P.O. Box 1080, Elephant Butte, N.M. 87935-1080, 575-744-4892,
www.cityofelephantbutte.com

Elephant Butte was incorporated in July 1998 as New Mexico's 101st incorporated community, according to the city website.

The city has 12 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were \$908,391, with all city funds totaling almost \$3.1 million.

The five-member city council meets at 2 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month at 103 Water Ave.

Village of Williamsburg

Mayor Deb Stubblefield
P.O. Box 150, Williamsburg, N.M. 87942-0150, 575-894-6385,
www.villageofwilliamsburg.com

"The village came to be in 1950, when some citizens of Truth or Consequences (then known as Hot Springs) moved next door in protest of the new name," according to Williamsburg's website.

Williamsburg has one full-time employee. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were \$318,214, with all funds totaling \$485,397.

The five-member village council meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at 309 Veater Road.

PHOTOS BY ELVA ÖSTERREICH

QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

Population: 11,502 (2021)
Households: 5,402 (2020)
Median household income:
\$33,873 (2020)
Persons below poverty level:
22.1 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments:
213 (2020)
Total non-employer establishments: 2,167 (2020)
Total employment: 2,167 (2020)

GEOGRAPHY

Land area (square miles): 4,181
Population per square mile: 2.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov



ELECTED OFFICIALS

SIERRA COUNTY COMMISSION

855 Van Patten St.,
Truth or Consequences, NM 87901
575-894-6215
www.sierraco.org

James Paxon
jpaxon@sierraco.org

Travis Day
tday@sierraco.org

William H. Hopkins
hhopkins@sierraco.org

COUNTY CLERK
Shelly Trujillo
strujillo@sierraco.org

COUNTY SHERIFF
Joshua Baker

COUNTY TREASURER
Candace Chavez
cchavez@sierraco.org

COUNTY ASSESSOR
Michael Huston
mhuston@sierraco.org

COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE
Tom Pestak
tpestak@sierraco.org

COUNTY MANAGER
Charlene Webb
575-894-6215
cwebb@sierraco.org

SIERRA COUNTY COMMUNITIES

ARREY
Census-designated place
Population: 308

CABALLO
Census-designated place
Population: 118

CHLORIDE
Ghost town Population: 20

CUCHILLO
Census-designated place
Population: 35

CUTTER
Census-designated place
Population: Unavailable

EDUCATION

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS
910 N. Date St.,
Truth or Consequences, NM 87901
575-894-8166
torschools.net

UNIVERSITIES/ COLLEGES

WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
GARDNER LEARNING CENTER
601 Sunset St.,
Truth or Consequences, NM 87901
575-538-6369
extended.wnmu.edu/torc

SIERRA COUNTY COMMUNITIES

DERRY
Census-designated place
Population: 110

ELEPHANT BUTTE
City
Population: 1,552

ENGLE
Census-designated place
Population: Unavailable

HILLSBORO
Census-designated place
Population: 199

HOT SPRINGS LANDING
Census-designated place
Population: 122

KINGSTON
Census-designated place
Population: 57

LAKE VALLEY
Census-designated place
Population: 75

LAS PALOMAS
Census-designated place
Population: 176

LAS PLACITAS
Census-designated place
Population: 470

MONTICELLO
Census-designated place
Population: 84

OASIS
Census-designated place
Population: 117

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
County Seat
Population: 5,839

UPHAM
Unincorporated community
Population: 1,650

WILLIAMSBURG
Village
Population: 481

WINSTON
Census-designated place
Population: 64



Socorro County

One of New Mexico's oldest counties

Socorro County was one New Mexico Territory's nine original counties, created July 1, 1952, with the City of Socorro as the county seat.

The Spanish word "socorro" means aid, which refers to the help Native Americans gave to travelers in the area.

The county's colorful history includes connections with Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Geronimo, Victorio, The Apache Kid and Cochise.

New Mexico School of Mines, now popularly known as New Mexico Tech, was founded in 1889.

The county is also home to the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array radio astronomy observatory, a component of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, built in the 1930s.

Socorro County is also home to the Sevilleta and Bosque del Apache national wildlife refuges. The county also contains part of Cibola National Forest.

City of Socorro

Mayor Ravi Bhasker has been mayor since 1990 and is one of the longest-serving mayors in New Mexico history.

P.O. Box K, Socorro, N.M. 87801-0329, 575-835-0240,
www.socorronm.gov

Socorro was incorporated in 1894.

The city has 167 full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund



expenditures were almost \$6.7 million, with all city funds totaling \$26.34 million.

The nine-member Socorro City Council meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at 111 School of Mines Road.

Village of Magdalena

Mayor Richard Rumpf

P.O. Box 145, Magdalena, N.M. 87825-0145, 575-854-2261,
www.villageofmagdalena.com

Magdalena was incorporated in 1918.

The village has seven full-time employees. Its 2020 general fund expenditures were almost \$510,000, with all village funds totaling \$1.36 million.

The five-member village council meets at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 108 N. Main St.

PHOTOS BY ELVA ÖSTERREICH

QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

Population: 16,311 (2021)

Households: 5,002 (2020)

Median household income:
\$20,297 (2020)

Persons below poverty level:
25.1 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments:
222 (2020)

Total employment: 2,894 (2020)

Total non-employer establishments: 726 (2019)

GEOGRAPHY

Land area (square miles): 6,646

Population per square mile: 2.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov



ELECTED OFFICIALS

SOCORRO COUNTY COMMISSION

Socorro County Courthouse
200 Church St.
Socorro NM 87801
575-835-0589
www.socorrocounty.net

DISTRICT 1

Joe Gonzales
575-835-0589 x1111
jgonzales@co.socorro.nm.us

DISTRICT 2

Craig D. Secatero
575-517-6843
csecatero@co.socorro.nm.us

COUNTY CLERK

Betty Saavedra
bsaavedra@co.socorro.nm.us

COUNTY SHERIFF

Lee Polo Armijo

COUNTY TREASURER

Rose Mary Rosas
rrosas@co.socorro.nm.us

COUNTY ASSESSOR

Julie Griego
julieg@co.socorro.nm.us

DISTRICT 3

John J. Aguilar

DISTRICT 4

Glen Duggins
575-835-0589 x1114
505-385-4029 (cell)
glend@co.socorro.nm.us

DISTRICT 5

Antonio Ray Martinez
575-835-0589 x1111
575-418-7261 (cell)
rmartinez@co.socorro.nm.us

COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

Gilbert Peralta
575-835-0423 x 2507

COUNTY MANAGER

Michael Hawkes
575-835-0589 x1110
mhawkes@socorro.nm.us
210 Park St.
Socorro, NM 87901

SOCORRO COUNTY COMMUNITIES

ABEYTAS

Census-designated place
Population: 43

ALAMO

Census-designated place
Population: 816

BINGHAM

Census-designated place
Population: 165

CHAMIZAL

Census-designated place
Population: 62

CLAUNCH

Census-designated place
Population: 62

ESCONDIDA

Census-designated place
Population: 14

LEMITAR

Census-designated place
Population: 475

LUIS LOPEZ

Census-designated place
Population: 74

MAGDALENA

Village
Population: 684

POLVADERA

Census-designated place
Population: 626

SAN ACACIA

Census-designated place
Population: 36

SAN ANTONIO

Census-designated place
Population: 9

SAN ANTONITO

Census-designated place
Population: 94

SOCORRO

City
Population: 8,406

VEGUITA

Census-designated place
Population: 98



EDUCATION

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SOCORRO CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS
700 Franklin St.,
Socorro, NM 87801
575-835-0300
www.socorroschools.org

MAGDALENA

MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS
201 Duggins Drive,
Magdalena, NM 87825
P.O. Box 24
575-854-2241
www.magdalena.k12.nm.us

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

ALAMO NAVAJO COMMUNITY SCHOOL
P.O. Box 5907,
Alamo, NM 87825
575-854-2543
www.ansbi.org

CHARTER SCHOOLS

COTTONWOOD VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL
P.O. Box 1829,
201 Neel Ave.,
Socorro, NM 87801
575-838-2026
www.socorroschools.org/o/cvc

UNIVERSITIES/ COLLEGES

NEW MEXICO TECH INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY
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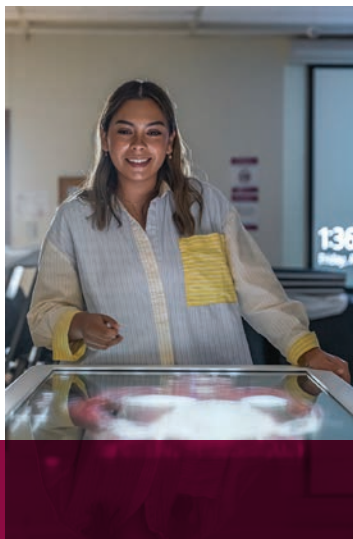
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