

2024 SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO

Legislative Guide



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THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin

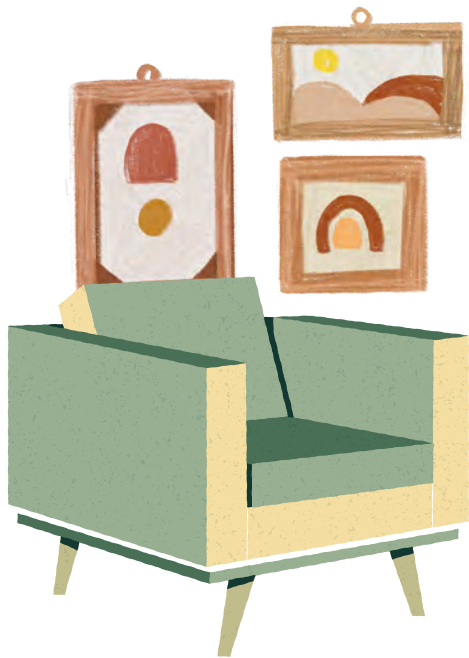




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Nights run long in a short legislative session



Lawmakers return to Santa Fe on Jan. 16 for a 30-day session, taking their places in our beautiful Capitol building for a period of bustling activity, jostling one another in the hallways and jousting on the floor and in committee hearings.

These shorter sessions are generally meant to focus on budgetary matters. However, legislative committees can expect late nights as hundreds of bills seek their path to

the House and Senate floors. They will not be limited to spending: Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham will place an assault weapons ban on the call, setting up a tough debate for a short session in particular.

Sen. George Muñoz, D-Gallup, who chairs the Senate Finance Committee, will seek an independent audit of New Mexico's film rebate program, to check whether the generous rebates are paying

off for the state in jobs and economic development.

Similarly, lawmakers will take a hard look at whether public investment in Spaceport America is living up to the facility's promise as they consider further appropriations and capital outlay.

We wish all our representatives in this unpaid volunteer legislature the very best as they sip from the figurative firehose and attempt to make good law on behalf of all New Mexicans in these 30 days.

Belinda Mills

BELINDA MILLS

Southwest Regional Group Publisher

Las Cruces Bulletin

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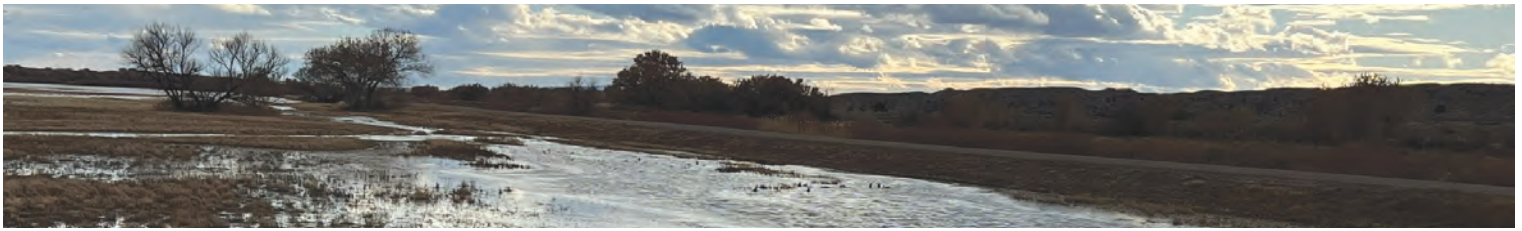
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Legislature convenes Jan. 16, 2024

BULLETIN REPORT

The New Mexico Legislature will convene for the second session of the 56th New Mexico Legislature for a 30-day session, Jan. 16-Feb. 15, 2024. Legislation passed by both houses but not acted upon by the governor by March 6 is pocket vetoed. May 15 is the effective date of legislation passed and signed by the governor that is not a general appropriations bill or a bill carrying an emergency clause or other specified date.

A 30-day session is restricted to the state budget, the governor's call and consideration of bills vetoed by the governor.

The New Mexico Senate comprises 27 Democrats and 14 Republicans. Rep. Mimi Stewart, D-Albuquerque, is the president pro tempore. Peter Wirth, D-Santa Fe, is the majority floor leader. Michael Padilla, D-Albuquerque, is the majority whip. Gregory A. Baca, R-Belen, Valencia, is the minority floor leader. Craig W. Brandt, R-Rio Rancho, is the minority whip.

The New Mexico House of Representatives is comprised of 45 Democrats and 25 Republicans. Rep. Javier Martinez, D-Albuquerque, is the House speaker. Rep. Gail Chasey, D-Albuquerque, is the majority floor leader. Reena Szczepanski, D-Santa Fe, is the majority

whip. Rep. T. Ryan Lane, R-Aztec, is the minority floor leader. Rep. Greg Nibert, R-Roswell, is the minority whip.

With the October 2023 resignation of state Sen. Stuart Ingle, R-Portales, who was elected in 1984, the senior member of the legislature is now state Sen. Pete Campos, D-Las Vegas. Campos is the president of Luna Community College in Las Vegas, New Mexico, and the former mayor of Santa Rosa.

At press time, Ingle's successor had yet to be appointed. Several candidates were seeking the recommendations of local county commissioners ahead of a selection by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham to complete Ingle's term.

Sen. Steve McCutcheon II, R-Carlsbad, replaced Republican Gay Kernan, who retired in August 2023. McCutcheon was appointed by Lujan Grisham.

In the House, Democrat Yanira Gurrola replaced Marsella Duarte in January 2023. Democrat Cristina Parajón replaced Marsella A. Duarte Christine Trujillo in District 25. Trujillo resigned July 1. Gurrola and Parajón were appointed by the Bernalillo County Commission.



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Former Las Cruces educator takes on secretary role

BY MIKE COOK
LAS CRUCES BULLETIN

New Mexico “is poised to do some great things” in public education, the new secretary of the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) told the Las Cruces Bulletin shortly after his appointment.

A former Las Cruces Public Schools teacher and principal and New Mexico State University regent, Arsenio Romero, Ph.D., was named NMPED secretary in March 2023 by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, replacing Kurt Steinhaus, who retired.

“With his broad range of experience as a teacher, a principal and superintendent in districts across the state, I have full confidence that (Romero) will continue to build innovation and access for New Mexico students,” Lujan Grisham said. “Dr. Romero has the vision and expertise to implement the changes our public education system needs.”

“He was my first choice” (to succeed Steinhaus), said state Sen. Bill Soules of Las Cruces, a Democrat and chair of the Senate Education Committee.

The legislature overwhelmingly passed House Bill 130 less than a week after Romero became NMPED secretary, increasing instructional time for most New Mexico school districts. Lujan Grisham signed it into law March 16, the day after Romero was confirmed as NMPED secretary by the state Senate.

During the session, the legislature and governor also approved an average six percent pay raise for educators and doubled the salary for educational assistants.

With that kind of support from the governor and legislature and “a great team” at NMPED, “all the pieces are in place,” Romero said. “We are going to have results.”

In addition to increased learning time for students, Romero said he wants NMPED to base its decisions on “accurate, reliable data,” and said an upgraded data system and website will soon be in place.

He said the department also must continue to focus on the 2018 Yazzie/Martinez court ruling that mandates New Mexico provide students with a sufficient public education, including at-risk students.

Another priority, Romero said, is addressing the high turnover among



ARSENIO ROMERO

teachers, principals and superintendents in New Mexico schools. Through better recruitment and retention efforts, the state can “build pipelines” to fill teacher shortages that also train future principals and superintendents, he said.

The state should focus on each student’s educational career from age 3-4 until he or she is ready to enter the workforce, Romero said. That means seeing the state Early Childhood Education and Care Department, NMPED and the state Higher Education Department “as an aligned entity,” he said.

“It’s about building relationships” among educators, administrators and legislators and the governor to “do what’s best for kids,” Romero said.

A parent (Romero and his wife, Amber, have four children enrolled in LCPS schools, including one who is autistic), former elementary school teacher and principal, superintendent and university regent, “now I have the opportunity to bring it all together,” Romero said.

Romero, 49, has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a Ph.D. in educational management and development, both from NMSU. He has a master’s degree in educational leadership from the University of New Mexico. Romero maintains a home in Las Cruces.

A native of Belen (his mother taught first grade there for 25 years), Romero began his career in education as an elementary school teacher and principal in Las Cruces. He served as assistant superintendent for instruction and transformation for Roswell Independent School District before being named superintendent of Deming Public Schools. He became superintendent in Los Lunas in January 2021.

Romero was named national superintendent of the year by the Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrations in 2019 and was named 2021 administrator of the year by the New Mexico Association of Elementary Principals.

NMPED receives about 47 percent of New Mexico’s annual budget and oversees the education of nearly 325,000 K-12 students in 89 school districts across the state that range in size from about 75,000 students in Albuquerque Public Schools and 25,000 in LCPS to fewer than 100 in some rural districts.

HOUSE BILL 130 RAISES NEW MEXICO NEAR TOP STATES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

House Bill 130 creates the New Mexico K-12 Plus Program, raising the minimum number of instructional hours required for elementary and secondary schools statewide. It will add an average of about 10 days of instruction in about three-quarters of New Mexico school districts and more than one-quarter of charter schools, according to an analysis by the New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC).

HB 130 raises New Mexico to second place among six states in the region for minimum

instructional hours, the LESL said. At 1,140 hours, New Mexico is behind only Texas (1,260) and ahead of Colorado (990 elementary hours/1,080 secondary hours), Oklahoma (1,080), Utah (990) and Arizona (890/720).

“Increasing the minimum hour requirement to 1,140 hours would place New Mexico among the highest hour requirements in the 50 states,” the LESL said, “but other states rarely contemplate embedded professional work within their instructional hours.”

Las Cruces Public Schools will

add 10 minutes to elementary school instructional hours to comply with HB 130, the school district said. When the 2023-24 school year, elementary school classes began at 8 a.m. and ended at 2:40 p.m., 10 minutes later than before. Middle school classes continued at the same length but started and ended 10 minutes later than before: 8:55 a.m. and 3:55 p.m. High school classes continue at the same length but started and ended five minutes earlier than last school year: 8:25 a.m. and 3:25 p.m.

HB 130 provides that

“professional work” (educator training, professional development, home visits, parent-teacher conferences, mentorship, coaching, employee collaboration) may take up to 60 instructional hours in elementary school and up to 30 in secondary school.

“No one in New Mexico is pleased with our state’s education rankings,” said state Sen. Bill Soules, D-Las Cruces, chair of the Senate Education Committee and LESL. “This bill gives our educators the time to prepare great lessons and gives our students the time to learn.”

Legislative action can help make New Mexico's children more secure

BY LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR HOWIE MORALES



The New Mexico Legislature has a great opportunity during its 2024 meeting to help make children and schools across our state more secure. That was a call of many who participated in the New Mexico Safe School Summit (NMS3) held in mid-November in Bernalillo. The need feels more urgent today than ever.

It is becoming all too common to see headlines that another student was found with a gun on the campus of a New Mexico high school. In most of those incidents, no one was hurt, but one sees the potential for great danger. It has become clear to me that New Mexico's leaders should convene regularly to have the broad conversation of how we protect our students and schools better, Pre-K/Elementary to higher education, and how we can empower and train communities to create safe school environments conducive to learning.

Beginning earlier this year, I used my office as Lieutenant Governor to partner with Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham to assemble a multi-agency effort focused on school safety. Together with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Safe Schools Working Group and Advisory Council of the state Public Education Department and many leaders from education and law enforcement, we joined to hold these discussions.

There were 350 participants from school districts and emergency management offices from across the state. The NMS3 gathering included diverse keynote speakers and breakout sessions hosted by subject matter experts, community leaders and students and administrators on comprehensive safety, sharing their evidence-based best practices.

New Mexico, thankfully, has been spared the deadliest of the nation's horrific school shooting tragedies such as Uvalde, Sandy Hook, Parkland, Virginia Tech, Nashville and Columbine. But there has been a history of growing gun violence in our own schools with tragic ends. In 2017, two students, Casey Jordan-Marquez and Francisco "Paco" Fernandez, were lost to a shooting at Aztec High School in Aztec, New Mexico. Their names should never be forgotten. It was the quick actions of teachers in barricading and having locked classroom doors that prevented mass casualties there.

I recall vividly the day in 1999 when a 13-year-old female student was shot and fatally wounded in the lobby of her Deming middle

school. More recently, an 18-year-old shooter shot and killed three people and wounded six more in Farmington. Although it was near a school and not on the school grounds, the attack activated several school lockdowns and responses. There also have been numerous incidents involving guns at schools in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and elsewhere. Every community has felt the impacts. Nationally, news of high-profile mass shootings carried out by students has become far too regular.

As a parent, former classroom teacher and coach for a decade in Grant County, the demand for safe schools in New Mexico feels more pressing with each passing day. We know the concept of school safety extends far beyond addressing the threat of violence only, important as that is. Ensuring a healthy learning environment, and a positive school climate for both students and educators, is a critical priority. That multi-faceted issue will continue to be a key focus of the NMS3 ongoing discussions.

Our schools and districts are continually finding new ways to adapt and expand security on their own, but for too long it has lacked the statewide focus it requires. The New Mexico Safe School Summit is helping to change that. It will be held annually. Discussions of safety must cover so many topics: hardening of facilities and advanced security upgrades, infrastructure such as metal detectors, keyless door entries and door-ajar sensors, scanners, secure vestibules, and active-shooter trainings and drills, threat assessment systems and emergency preparedness.

But real school safety strategies also require thorough discussions of other key factors that contribute to a school's climate: availability of mental health support services, social-emotional learning, bullying and harassment, student misconduct, opportunities for student engagement, community engagement, parents' and families' involvement in their children's schools and building trust between students and SROs and educators.

There is no single solution to fixing the violence in our schools. But we know that we want students and educators to operate in an environment in which they are protected physically, mentally and emotionally in every school and college across New Mexico. Leadership in the legislature to create more school safety, along with deep community engagement by everyone, can help us find the answers for a better future.

For more information on the New Mexico Safe School Summit, visit [NMS3.org](https://www.nms3.org).





Santa Fe welcomes legislators, visitors during session and year round

BY MIKE COOK
LAS CRUCES BULLETIN

“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 capital 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 santafe.org and 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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U.S. SENATORS



Senator Martin Heinrich

DEMOCRAT
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re-elected 2018
709 Hart
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202-224-5521
www.heinrich.senate.gov



Senator Ben Ray Lujan

DEMOCRAT
Elected 2020
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202-224-6621
www.lujan.senate.gov

U.S. SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

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



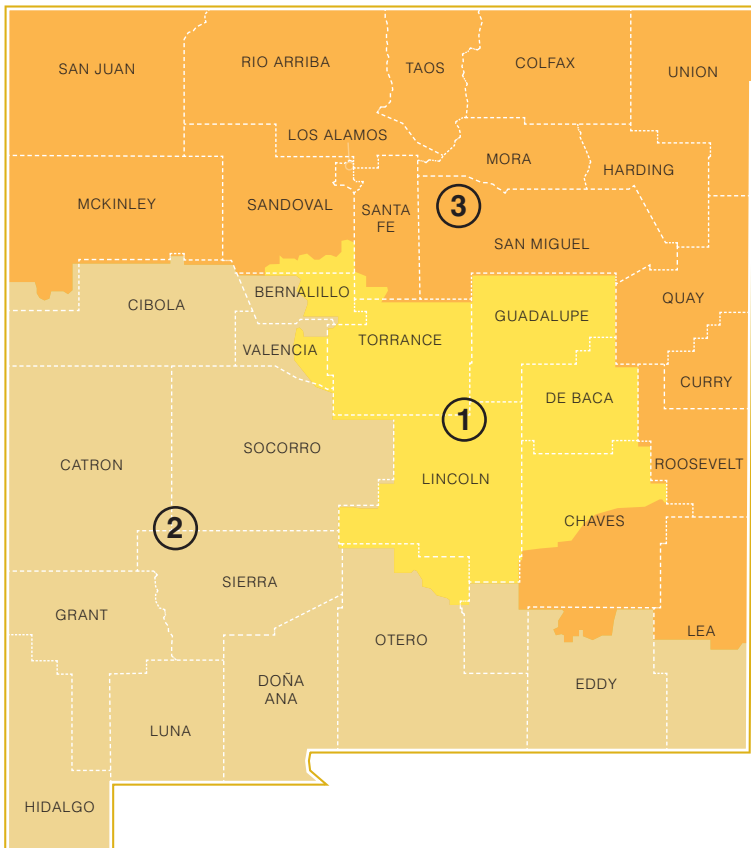
Gabe Vasquez

DEMOCRAT, DISTRICT 2
Elected Nov. 8, 2022
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Teresa Leger Fernandez

DEMOCRAT, DISTRICT 3
Elected Nov. 3, 2020,
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Washington, D.C. 20515
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CD 2 realignment finally settled ... maybe

BY MIKE COOK AND RICHARD COLTHARP
LAS CRUCES BULLETIN

After a couple of appeals, the New Mexico Supreme Court in November 2023 upheld the state legislature's redrawing of U.S. Congressional District 2 for southern New Mexico.

New Mexico Fifth Judicial District Court Judge Fred T. Van Soelen of Clovis, a Republican, had ruled in October that, while Democrats succeeded in "substantially diluting their opponents votes" in the state's Second Congressional District, the congressional redistricting map adopted by the state legislature in 2021 "does not violate the (Republican Party of New Mexico's) equal protection rights" under the state constitution."

The RPNM appealed that ruling, which led to the NM Supreme Court decision.

The legislature, with Democrats in control of both the state Senate and House of Representatives, approved Senate Bill 1 in a special session, redrawing the state's three congressional districts based on the 2020 census. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Democrat, signed the bill into law.

The new map "altered the previous congressional districts," Van Soelen said in his ruling, "adding all of Lincoln and De Baca counties and part of Otero County to (Congressional District) 1. It added part of Eddy and Lea counties to CD 3. It split Chaves County, previously exclusively in CD 2, into all three (3) congressional districts. It also made changes in and around Albuquerque in Bernalillo County, and parts of Valencia, Sandoval and Santa Fe counties."

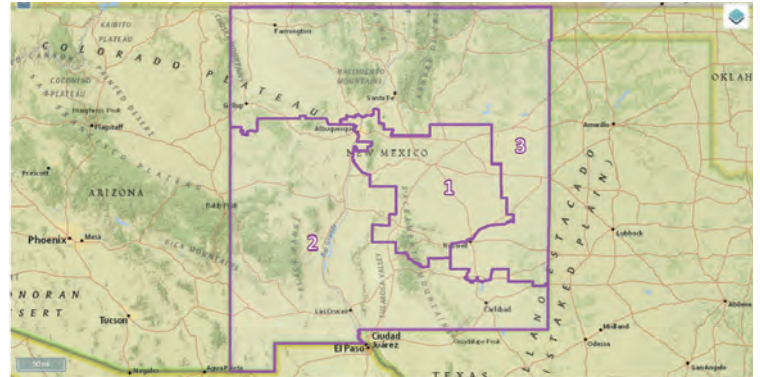
With those changes, the state Republican Party said in its lawsuit, the redistricting map "deeply fractures" the state's southeast region by splitting it among all three congressional districts.

In his ruling, Van Soelen agreed that the "predominant purpose in redrawing CD 2 ... was to entrench the Democratic Party in power by diluting the votes of citizens favoring Republicans (and) "the resulting dilution of the (Republican) vote was substantial."

However, the judge said the way the map was drawn does not rise "to the level of an egregious gerrymander" under the law.

As stated by the New Mexico Supreme Court in a previous ruling, "some degree of a partisan gerrymander is permissible," Van Soelen wrote. "It is only when partisan gerrymanders are 'egregious' that constitutional protections are indicated."

"Given the variables that go into predicting future election outcomes, coupled with the competitive outcomes of the only actual outcome held so far under the ... map, the court finds that the (state



Republican Party) have not provided sufficient evidence that the (Democrats) were successful in their attempt to entrench their party in CD 2," Van Soelen said.

The District has long been a Republican stronghold, with Republicans holding the U.S. Representative seat 40 of the 54 years since it was established in 1969. The current representative is Democrat Gabe Vasquez, who defeated Republican incumbent Yvette Herrell in the 2022 election.

For most of its time, the district covered, essentially, the bottom half of New Mexico. The redistricted map moved a chunk of real estate in the southeast corner of the state into districts 1 and 3, moving majority-Republican communities such as Roswell and Ruidoso out of District 2.

State Sen. Joseph Cervantes, D-Las Cruces, told the Bulletin in September the legislature's redistricting map "is strictly within the boundaries of the law."

Cervantes, a lawyer and chair of the state Senate Judiciary Committee and one of the sponsors of the bill that proposed the map, correctly predicted the lower ruling would be upheld by the Supreme Court.

The map makes all three congressional districts more competitive, Cervantes said. It more closely aligns congressional representatives with average New Mexicans in their districts and reduces the control of political parties in congressional races.

The New Mexico State Supreme Court's decision, however, may not be the last word. Federal appellate courts would be the next step. After the November ruling, officials at the RPNM said they were "contemplating our next course of action."



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GOVERNOR
MICHELLE LUJAN
Grisham

NEW MEXICO'S 32ND GOVERNOR

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

BIRTHPLACE: Santa Fe, 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

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EMAIL: 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

BIRTHPLACE: Silver City

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

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WEBSITE: www.ltgov.state.nm.us



SECRETARY OF STATE
MAGGIE TOULOUSE
Oliver

NEW MEXICO SECRETARY OF STATE

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

BIRTHPLACE: Albuquerque

EDUCATION:

Bachelor's degree 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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ATTORNEY GENERAL
RAÚL
Torres

NEW MEXICO ATTORNEY GENERAL

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

BIRTHPLACE: Albuquerque

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

BIRTHPLACE: Las Vegas, 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

BIRTHPLACE: 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

The Future of Agriculture

BY SARAH RODERICK
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

“I believe in the future of agriculture” is a phrase that has been engraved into our minds, whether through the FFA, 4-H or time in the industry. It is a common belief that through the trials and tribulations of the past, the best is yet to come when it comes to agriculture and this faith is only amplified at the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

“The future is going to be awesome for our young agriculturalists,” said New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte. “Between the new technology that allows production to be more efficient than ever before and the desire to learn among young people, the future is going to be bright.”

In the fall of 2023, New Mexico State University opened the doors to two cutting-edge facilities that will highlight the state’s agriculture industry and modernize education at the university. The Food Science, Security and Safety Center and The Animal Nutrition and Feed Manufacturing Facility are the newest additions to the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at NMSU. These buildings were made possible by the New Mexico Legislature and New Mexico citizens, as they have provided constant support to better the industry in the state.

“This is going to be huge for our students at NMSU and across the state,” said Witte. “These additions to New Mexico agriculture will allow our students to compete with students from across the world.”

In comparison to other states, New Mexico has been behind in agricultural education. Due to a lack of funding and facilities, New Mexico’s agriculture has been trailing for several years. However, the opening of these new facilities on the NMSU Las Cruces campus will give students a level playing field with students from other institutions such as Texas Tech University, West Texas

A&M University and Oklahoma State University.

These buildings will be used for classroom instruction but also as a hub for food safety at the United States-Mexico border. The facilities will also support the many value-added agricultural products that the state produces. The main goal of these facilities is to allow NMSU students and New Mexico agriculturists to learn more about the industry and change the outlook of New Mexico agriculture.

“New Mexico has a very unique agriculture industry, with roughly 24,000 farms and ranches in the state. We have several families that are embracing the future and highlighting the factors that make New Mexico special,” said Witte.

New Mexico has a very strong sense of tradition within its culture. This is evident through NMDA’s “NEW MEXICO—Taste the Tradition” and “—Grown with Tradition” logo program, which showcases the importance of making, selling and buying local products. The program also offers a way for the public to learn more about where their food comes from and how to make it more sustainable for the future.

Many agriculturists are wary of an uncertain future. Future crop prices, weather patterns, water allotment and other matters are largely unpredictable. For some producers, it may be easier to avoid thinking about the future than trying to piece together next year’s plan.

But in New Mexico, the future of agriculture is in good hands, from increases in enrollment in NMSU’s College of ACES, to growing interest in FFA among high schoolers and 4-H enrollment among elementary school students. New Mexico’s youth are learning to do and doing to learn.

“To all aspiring agriculturalists, your opportunities are not even created yet. Be engaged, be involved and be bold! The future is yours!” said Witte.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2011

BIRTHPLACE: Santa Fe, 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

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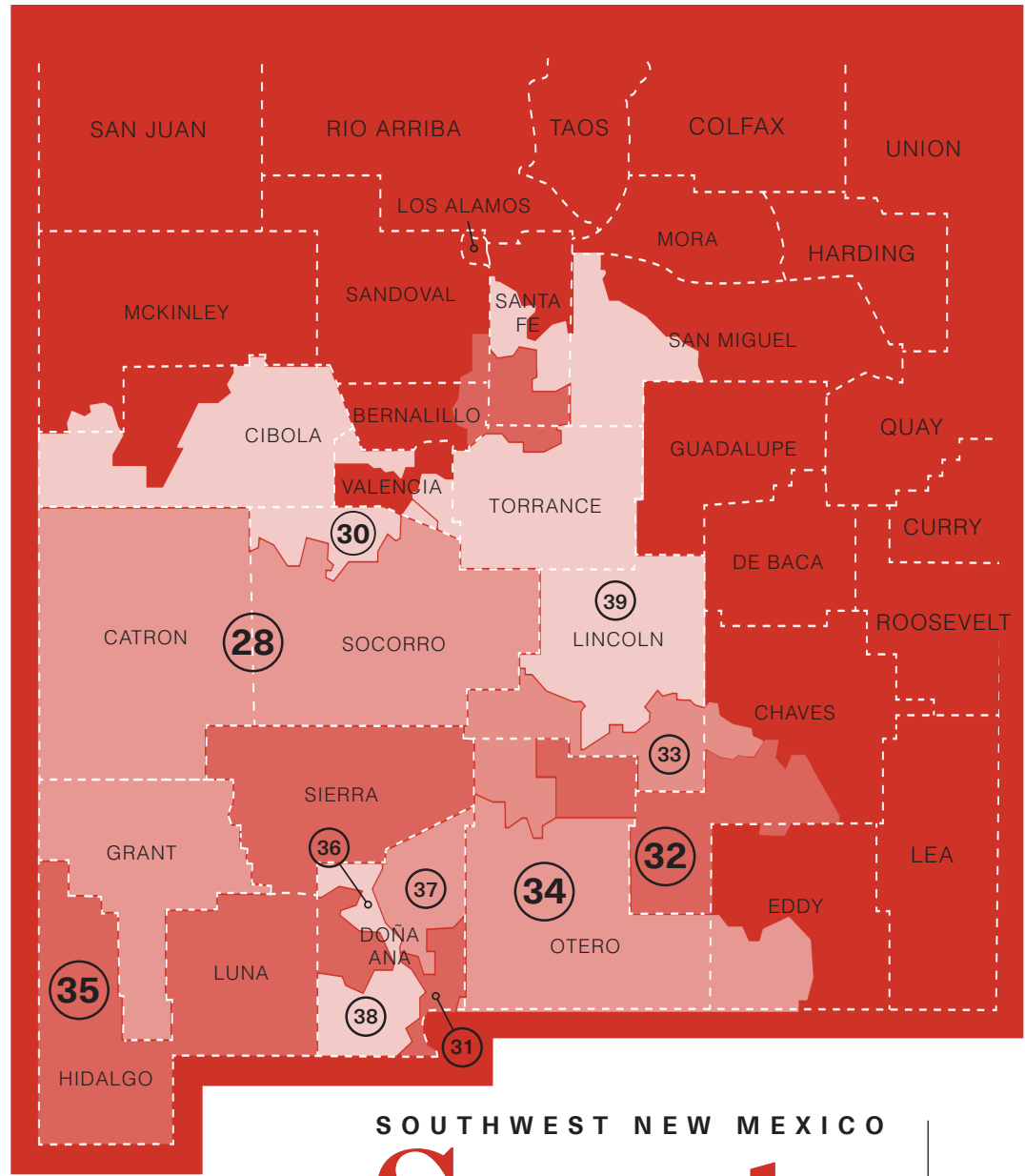
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- 6 ROBERTO "BOBBY" GONZALES
- 7 PAT WOODS
- 8 PETE CAMPOS
- 9 BRENDA GRACE MCKENNA
- 10 KATY M. DUHIGG
- 11 LINDA LÓPEZ
- 12 GERALD ORTIZ Y PINO
- 13 BILL O'NEILL
- 14 MICHAEL PADILLA
- 15 DANIEL IVEY-SOTO
- 16 ANTOINETTE SEDILLO LOPEZ
- 17 MIMI STEWART
- 18 BILL G. TALLMAN
- 19 GREG W. SCHMEDES
- 20 MARTIN E. HICKEY
- 21 MARK MOORES
- 22 BENNY J. SHENDO JR.
- 23 HAROLD JAMES POPE JR.
- 24 NANCY RODRIGUEZ
- 25 PETER WIRTH
- 26 ANTONIO "MOE" MAESTAS
- 27 *PENDING AT PRESS TIME*
- 28 SIAH CORREA HEMPHILL
- 29 GREGORY A. BACA
- 30 JOSHUA A. SANCHEZ
- 31 JOSEPH CERVANTES
- 32 CLIFF R. PIRTLE
- 33 WILLIAM "BILL" BURT
- 34 RON GRIGGS
- 35 CRYSTAL DIAMOND BRANTLEY
- 36 JEFF STEINBORN
- 37 WILLIAM "BILL" SOULES
- 38 CARRIE HAMBLÉN
- 39 ELIZABETH STEFANICS
- 40 CRAIG BRANDT
- 41 DAVID M. GALLEGOS
- 42 STEVEN McCUTCHEON II



SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO

Senate

DISTRICT MAP



SENATOR PROFILES



DISTRICT 28
Siah Correa Hemphill



DISTRICT 32
Cliff Pirtle



DISTRICT 35
Crystal Diamond Brantley



DISTRICT 38
Carrie Hamblen



DISTRICT 30
Joshua A. Sanchez



DISTRICT 33
Bill Burt



DISTRICT 36
Jeff Steinborn



DISTRICT 39
Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics



DISTRICT 31
Joseph Cervantes



DISTRICT 34
Ron Griggs



DISTRICT 37
William "Bill" Soules



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MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER:
Peter Wirth, D-Santa Fe

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MINORITY FLOOR LEADER:
Greg Baca, R-Belen

MINORITY WHIP:
Craig Brandt, R-Rio Rancho





DISTRICT 28
SIAH
Correa
Hemphill

Siah Correa Hemphill of Silver City was elected to the state Senate in 2020, after defeating incumbent Senator Gabriel Ramos in the Democratic primary. In the general election she defeated Republican James Williams.

In 2023 she served on the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Committees' Committee, and in the interim since last year's session she was vice-chair of the Senate Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee; and a voting member of senate committees on legislative finance, economic and rural development, and

the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee. She also was an advisory member of the Legislative Education Study Committee and the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee.

At a recent interim meeting of the Legislative Finance Committee, she and other lawmakers were apprised of \$5 billion in unspent funds from nearly 5,000 projects that had received capital outlay, leading Correa Hemphill to remark at a public forum, as reported by the Silver City Daily Press, that those funds are "meant to stimulate the economy, create jobs, create infrastructure –

COUNTIES SERVED: Catron, Grant and Socorro

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2021

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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and in rural New Mexico, where we don't have the infrastructure, it's increasingly problematic if we aren't able to get that out there."

She also indicated she would introduce a bill to create a \$100 million rural crisis fund, as she has previously, to aid the state's response to disasters such as wildfires and flooding that have afflicted the region.



DISTRICT 39
ELIZABETH 'LIZ'
Stefanics

Sen. Liz Stefanics first represented from 1993 to '96, when she was the first openly gay lawmaker in the New Mexico Legislature. She was defeated in the Democratic primary in 1996, and went on to stand as a candidate for the Public Regulation Commission (when it was an elected body) and was elected to serve as a Santa Fe County Commissioner from 2009 to 2017. She is also a former deputy secretary of the New Mexico Human Services Department and director of the New Mexico Health Policy Commission. She was elected to the senate again in 2016.

She has cited health care and the environment as major areas of concern. In 2023 she presided as chair of the Senate Conservation Committee. Between sessions, she chaired the Water and Natural Resources Committee, and was a voting member of: the Investments and Pensions Oversight Committee, Interim Legislative Ethics Committee, Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee, and the Rules Committee. She was an advisory member of interim committees on economic and rural development, land grants and health and human services.

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

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: 1993-96; & since 2017

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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DISTRICT 30

JOSHUA A.

Sanchez

Sen. Joshua Sanchez was elected to the senate in 2020, defeating Democratic opponent Pamela Cordova after she upset incumbent Sen. Clemente Sanchez in the Democratic primary.

In 2023 he served on the Senate Indian, Rural and Cultural Affairs as well as the Tax, Business and Transportation committees. Between sessions, he was a member of six interim committees: Indian Affairs, Investments and Pensions Oversight, Land Grant, Military and Veterans' Affairs, Radioactive and Hazardous Materials and the Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force.

He was also an advisory member of the Legislative Education Study Committee,

Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee and the Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee.

Sanchez has been a critic of the current capital outlay system in the legislature, telling the Las Cruces Bulletin last year, "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." He has been an advocate for investing in infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. On the other hand, he has also pointed to recent budget surpluses in New Mexico as a sign of excessive taxation, and recommended rebates as a way of stimulating the economy.

COUNTIES SERVED: Cibola, Socorro, McKinley and Valencia

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2021

BIRTHPLACE: Belen

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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DISTRICT 32

CLIFF

Pirtle

Sen. Cliff Pirtle of Roswell defeated longtime incumbent Sen. Timothy Jennings in 2012, and has stated he will not seek a fourth term in 2024 citing changes to his district following redistricting in 2021.

Pirtle has been an advocate for rural communities in New Mexico and has also drawn attention for unique positions and proposals, such as keeping New Mexico on daylight saving time year-round and permitting counties to file secession petitions requesting to join neighboring states or establish their own.

In 2021, as Democrats in the legislature pushed forward with legalizing cannabis for adult non-medicinal use, Pirtle submitted a Republican alternative proposal for legalization, arguing, "Prohibition has not been effective in limiting and controlling the negative effects of cannabis." Separately, he argued that business restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic amounted to property takings and submitted legislation calling for "reparations." While many of his better-known proposals did not make it to the floor, they have often sparked lively debate

COUNTIES SERVED: Chaves, Eddy, Otero

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2013

PROFESSION: Farmer

EDUCATION: Roswell High School

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in committee hearings.

In 2023 he was the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a member of the Senate Committees' Committee. Between sessions he was member of interim committees on courts, corrections and justice; economic and rural development and policy; Indian affairs; rules; and water and natural resources. He was an advisory member of the Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force.



DISTRICT 31
JOSEPH
Cervantes

Sen. Joseph Cervantes is serving his third term in the senate, having previously served in the state House of Representatives from 2001 through 2012. He is an attorney based in Las Cruces and a former licensed architect. A native Las Crucean raised in Doña Ana County, he entered law school at the University of New Mexico after returning to the state from California and was an elected county commissioner before being appointed to the state House.

Cervantes chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee and is a member of the Senate Conservation Committee and Committees' Committee. Between sessions, he chaired the interim committee on courts, corrections and justice; and was member of the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee and Water and Natural Resources Committee.

Cervantes has been a supporter of funds for smaller municipalities in his county such as Anthony and Sunland Park as well as unincorporated communities. He has also advocated for changes to the legislative calendar while remaining cautious about proposals to establish a salaried, full-time legislature. While open to gun control proposals, which are likely to be debated in 2024, last year Cervantes was a prominent critic of Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's controversial attempt to suspend the right to carry firearms in many public places around Albuquerque and Bernalillo County in an emergency public health order. Cervantes called the initial order, which was later walked back, "an unconstitutional approach" that "undermines the important collaboration gun issues deserve."

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana
POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat
YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2013
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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DISTRICT 33
WILLIAM F. 'BILL'
Burt

Sen. Bill Burt is a Deming native and New Mexico State University graduate who was elected to the senate in 2010 and redistricted, following that year's U.S. Census, to District 33, where his fellow Republican Sen. Rod Adair retired at the end of his term in 2012.

Burt served on the Senate Finance Committee in last year's session. Between sessions he was a member of the interim committees on revenue stabilization and tax policy; and

science, technology and telecommunications. He was an advisory member of the Investments and Pensions Oversight Committee, Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Legislative Finance Committee.

He has advocated planning for a future where New Mexico depends on renewable energy and brings in less revenue from oil and gas production, and for holding large portions of budget surpluses in reserve. He has recommended capital outlay be applied

COUNTIES SERVED: Chaves, Lincoln, Otero
POLITICAL PARTY: Republican
YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2011
BIRTHPLACE: Deming
PROFESSION: Broadcaster
EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in mass communications, New Mexico State University

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to infrastructure and emergency agencies' needs, including updated technologies. He has championed elimination of taxes for military retirees and updated catastrophic injury and loss-of-life insurance for emergency responders.



DISTRICT 34

RON Griggs

Sen. Ron Griggs is a business owner and former mayor of Alamogordo who was first elected to the state Senate in 2012. Before the year ended, he was appointed by Gov. Susana Martinez soon after the election to fill a vacancy left by Sen. Vernon Asbill's resignation.

Griggs recently announced his retirement from politics, at age 71, when his current term concludes at the end of 2024, rather than seek re-election. In his written announcement, he stated, "It is time for new blood, new eyes, new ideas, and new directions."

Griggs has pursued grants and other support for New Mexico State University's Alamogordo campus and quality-of-life projects in his city and Otero County, as well as road

improvements and other upgrades in Carlsbad, Cloudcroft and Timberon. Recently, he has also proposed banning prescribed burns from February to June, following disastrous wildfires. He has advocated for investing in infrastructure projects during budget surplus years.

Last year, Griggs was the ranking member of the Senate Indian, Rural and Cultural Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee. Between sessions, he was a member of committees on economic and rural development and policy; revenue stabilization and tax policy; transportation infrastructure revenue; and the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee.

COUNTIES SERVED: Otero, Eddy, Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2012

BIRTHPLACE: Portales

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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DISTRICT 35

CRYSTAL Diamond Brantley

When Sen. Crystal Diamond Brantley, a Republican, was elected to the state Senate in 2020, she succeeded the longtime Democratic senator and Finance Committee chair John Arthur Smith. Smith had been upset in a Democratic primary by a younger, more progressive challenger and first-time candidate, opening a path for the Elephant Butte Republican who promised to uphold Smith's legacy of fiscal conservatism.

She has argued that state agencies and programs must clearly report on returns in investment with explicit benchmarks, particularly when it comes to the use of federal

Covid-19 relief money such as for public school districts.

She was also an advocate for enhanced transparency and oversight of the state's beleaguered Children, Youth and Families Department and establishment of an ombudsman for that agency.

She served on the Senate Finance Committee last session, and between sessions was a member of the interim Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee, Interim Legislative Ethics Committee and Land Grant Committee. She was also an advisory member of the Water and Natural Resources Committee.

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana, Luna, Sierra, Hidalgo

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2021

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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DISTRICT 36
JEFF
Steinborn

Sen. Jeff Steinborn served in the state House of Representatives from 2007 to 2010 and again from 2013 to 2016, when he defeated Sen. Lee Cotter, a Republican, for a seat in the state Senate. Steinborn was previously a staffer for Gov. Bill Richardson as well as U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman. He is the executive director of Outdoor New Mexico and board president of Film Las Cruces.

Last year, he served on the Senate Finance Committee, and between sessions was vice-chair of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee. He was also a member of the interim Water and Natural Resources

Committee.

His conservation work has included legislation establishing the Rio Grande Trail and boosting recognition of outdoor recreation as a vector of economic development, and played a major role in campaigning for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument designation in Doña Ana County in 2014. He also been a prominent advocate for building film industry infrastructure in New Mexico, and in the Las Cruces area particularly.

In last year's session, he introduced a bill to ban single-use plastic bags statewide, which failed; but he vowed to keep up the effort.

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2017

BIRTHPLACE: Las Cruces

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

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DISTRICT 37
WILLIAM 'BILL'
Soules

Sen. William Soules is a former educator and school principal in Las Cruces, with a Ph.D. in education and psychology from New Mexico State University. He succeeded Sen. Stephen Fischmann, a fellow Democrat, when he was elected in 2012 after Fischmann's departure.

Soules is the chair of the Senate Education Committee and served on the Senate Conservation Committee at last year's session. Between sessions he was the chair of the Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force; vice-chair of the Legislative Education Study Committee; and a member of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee. He was also an advisory member

of the Indian Affairs Committee.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham recently appointed Soules to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Soules has advocated for salary increases for teachers and principals, measures to fill teacher vacancies statewide and to boost student teachers. A critic of economic inequity, Soules has called for more funding for low-income schools, and for environmental measures such as mandating lead-free airplane fuel and boosting use of electric vehicles.

Last session, however, Soules drew national attention for the passage of his proposal to make the smell of roasting chile the official aroma of New Mexico.

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2013

BIRTHPLACE: Las Cruces

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:

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DISTRICT 38

CARRIE Hamblen

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2021

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,
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Sen. Carrie Hamblen was once familiar to Las Cruces as a broadcaster on KRWG public radio and later as the CEO of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce, a position she holds today. She was elected to the state Senate in 2020, succeeding longtime Sen. Mary Kay Papen, a fellow Democrat whom Hamblen defeated in the party's primary.

In 2023 she served as vice-chair of the Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee and a member of the Senate Conservation Committee. Between sessions, she chaired the Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee. She was also a member of

the interim Legislative Ethics Committee, and a standing advisory member of the Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee.

Last session, she was one of four legislators who introduced a Human Rights Act modernization bill, expanding protections for the LGBTQ community, that was signed into law by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham.

She has also been an advocate for investing in outdoor recreation as economic development as well as for environmental health. She was a sponsor last year of legislation to allow tribal and local governments to permit local energy providers compete with investor-owned utilities.

FLASHBACK: When Hamblen cosponsored Human Rights Act update

State Sen. Carrie Hamblen of Las Cruces was one of four New Mexico legislators who introduced the Human Rights Act Modernization bill (House Bill 207) in January of 2023, during a 60-day legislative session.

"The Human Rights Act was enacted in 1969 to ensure that all New Mexicans are protected from discrimination in employment, housing, credit and public accommodation," the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions said on its website.

In 2003, New Mexico became the 17th state to add sexual orientation and the third state to add gender identity to such an act, according to Equality New Mexico, a statewide education and advocacy organization working for "cross-sector movement building to increase equity, full access, and sustainable wellness for LGBTQ New Mexicans." ENM was founded May 2, 1993.

The problem, ENM explained, was that "the Human Rights Act has a loophole that allows taxpayer-funded discrimination. (HB207) will close that loophole, prohibiting discrimination against LGBTQ New Mexicans in public schools, universities and state and local governments."



"As a leader in the LGBTQ community, it is my obligation to push forward legislation that fills these gaps in coverage," said Hamblen, a Democrat who represents state Senate District 38, located entirely within Doña Ana County. "We want to be certain that in all 33 counties of New Mexico, LGBTQ people are guaranteed fair and equal treatment; whether they are seeking public services, working to get an education, or simply trying to participate in activities in local community centers, they should know their sexual orientation or gender identity won't be used to deny them," Hamblen said.

Her co-sponsors included state Sen. Peter Wirth, D-Santa Fe, who is majority floor leader in the state Senate, and state Reps. Kristina Ortez, D-Taos, and Andrea Romero, D-Santa Fe, as well as Linda Serrato, D-Santa Fe. The bill sought to add public contractors and public entities to the discrimination prohibitions, which "have been legally allowed to discriminate against queer and trans New Mexicans," ENM said. "This bill has specific implications for LGBTQ New Mexicans because a lack of protections in federal law leaves us specifically vulnerable."

The final version of that bill was signed into law on March 24, 2023.

State Senator: New Mexico not a poor state

BY MIKE COOK
LAS CRUCES BULLETIN

“We are a rich state that allows half our people to live in poverty,” Las Cruces state Sen. Bill Soules said in an interview this fall. “We’re saving money for our grandchildren while our children are going hungry.”

Estimates are New Mexico will have about \$3.5 billion in new recurring revenue when the legislature convenes for a 30-day budget session in January. More than 30 percent of the state’s general fund is held in reserve. The state’s Land Grant Permanent Fund (LGPF) is about \$28 billion, Soules said. The LGPF, which will distribute about \$1.34 billion to New Mexico public schools, universities and other beneficiaries this fiscal year, is one of the largest funds of its kind in the United States, according to the New Mexico State Investment Council.

Soules said his priorities for spending the new money – public education, research and child wellbeing – will have long-term benefits for the state.

Soules, chair of the New Mexico Senate Education Committee, wants to spend about \$30 million to upgrade the New Mexico Public Education Department’s information technology system. The old system is “outdated,” he said. “Fix it. Make it work.”

Second, Soules wants the legislature to put \$200 million into the state Technology Enhancement Fund so more matching funds are available to New Mexico universities to apply for National Science Foundation grants and other basic and applied research funding.

That could help create a research corridor in New Mexico, making New Mexico State University –and including the University of Texas at El Paso – a science, technology and research hub, Soules said.

The economic impact of an investment



COURTESY PHOTO

State Sen. Bill Soules with his spouse, former Las Cruces City Councilor Kasandra Gandara.

that “leverages New Mexico’s brain power” could be huge, he said, and would help stop the “brain drain” that is taking graduates of NMSU and other New Mexico universities out of state to find the best jobs.

“Those brains will stay here,” Soules said.

Soules also wants to create a pilot project that would begin a multi-year investment of about \$450,000 million in child development.

“Babies born in New Mexico deserve the best start we can give them,” Soules said.

His idea is to provide \$1,500 a month for 12 to 18 months to families in the state with a pregnancy.

The money could be used for regular prenatal care, home care visits and other

healthcare and behavioral health needs, he said, along with paying rent, buying groceries and providing transportation.

With their financial burden reduced, young families could focus on their baby’s brain development, particularly crucial in the first year of life, Soules said.

The “toxic stress” many New Mexico families endure as they struggle to pay for food, shelter and transportation impacts their young children for the rest of the children’s lives, he said.

“Do we really care about little kids?” Soules said.

The positive impact of this kind of investment is “well documented in other parts of the world,” he said. It’s also been proven effective in the United States, where the \$300 per child tax credit families received during Covid significantly reduced child poverty, Soules said. The rate has doubled since the credit ended, he said.

Soules said he would like the pilot project to be income based, but it may have to be available to all qualifying families without regard to income to pass the legislature. About 22,000 babies are born in New Mexico each year, he said.

“All kids are this important to the state,” Soules said.

The New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee estimates FY24 (which began July 1 of this year) budget reserves at \$4.3 billion, which is more than 50 percent of \$11.64 billion in recurring revenue.

Rather than continuing to put money into the state’s budget reserves and tax breaks, “We should spend every single dime of that in the New Mexico economy,” Soules said. “When the money moves, the economy improves.”

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‘The greatest honor of my life’

ALGERNON D'AMMASSA
LAS CRUCES BULLETIN

In Albuquerque, first-term state Sen. Katy Duhigg, a Democrat elected in 2020, was preparing in late December for a “short session” sure to be packed with proposals going beyond budgetary matters and likely to spark difficult and even contentious debate.

While 30-day sessions, occurring in even-numbered years, are meant to focus on the budget, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham may add items to the agenda, or “call,” and constitutional amendments and memorials may also be brought up for consideration.

Besides the governor’s promised call for gun safety legislation, Duhigg expected revisions to the state’s Cannabis Regulation Act – the 2021 law that legalized cannabis for adult use and called for a system of regulations and licensing for the industry – would also come before lawmakers. Duhigg was already preparing for that, “now that we’ve had some time to see what’s working and what needs to be adjusted.”

“There’s a number of cleanups that need to happen but one of those things is coming up with a mechanism to appropriately limit licensure,” she said. “We’re the only state that legalized recreational cannabis that did not do that, and now we’re seeing why everyone else did.”

The explosion of dispensaries and applications for producers’ licenses have led to criticism that the market is saturated, leading to potential closures and temptation for some operators to cheat the system, perhaps through illegal sales.

Duhigg also predicted bills dealing with public safety would be brought to committees and, perhaps, to the floor. She herself plans to propose constitutional amendments establishing salaries for New Mexico’s legislature, as lawmakers currently are part-time and volunteer. Duhigg’s pro-

posal includes an independent commission to establish lawmakers’ salaries in order to avoid self-dealing.

The other amendment she plans to introduce would change the chairmanship of the Judicial Nominating Commission from the dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law to the Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court.

“This is at the request of the judiciary,” she said. “And it makes sense. When you’re picking the folks who are going to be making decisions about who will be a judge, having someone who is an active judge be the person who is overseeing that makes a lot more sense.”

Regarding the state’s enormous revenue position, coming primarily from oil and gas production, Duhigg noted that as New Mexico approaches its zero-carbon goals, it is time to get serious about diversifying the revenue on which the state depends for its budget.

“Our oil and gas revenue is going to go down dramatically within the next decade,” she said. “In my opinion, we should be using these funds to create self-sustaining mechanisms that are going to create new revenue sources going forward, like we did with the Early Childhood Fund.”

Another important investment, in her view, is Career Technical Education programming she said “is the answer to many of the problems facing New Mexico, from workforce development to keeping kids in school to addressing addiction.”

Going into the new session, Duhigg said she “absolutely” plans to run for a second term in 2024.

“Other than being a mom to my son, this is the most fulfilling thing I’ve ever done, and the greatest honor of my life. I’ll be there as long as the voters choose to keep me.”



DISTRICT 10

COUNTIES SERVED: Bernalillo, Sandoval

YEARS IN OFFICE: Senator since 2021

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Award-winning state flag leads iconic New Mexico symbols

BY MIKE COOK
LAS CRUCES BULLETIN

Tiny Zia Pueblo, with fewer than 1,000 residents and located about 40 miles north of Albuquerque in Sandoval County, was settled about 1250 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 Mejico 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 website of New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver (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 website continues. "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." In Español: "El saludo la bandera del estado de Nuevo México, el símbolo zia de amistad perfecta, entre culturas unidas."

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.

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

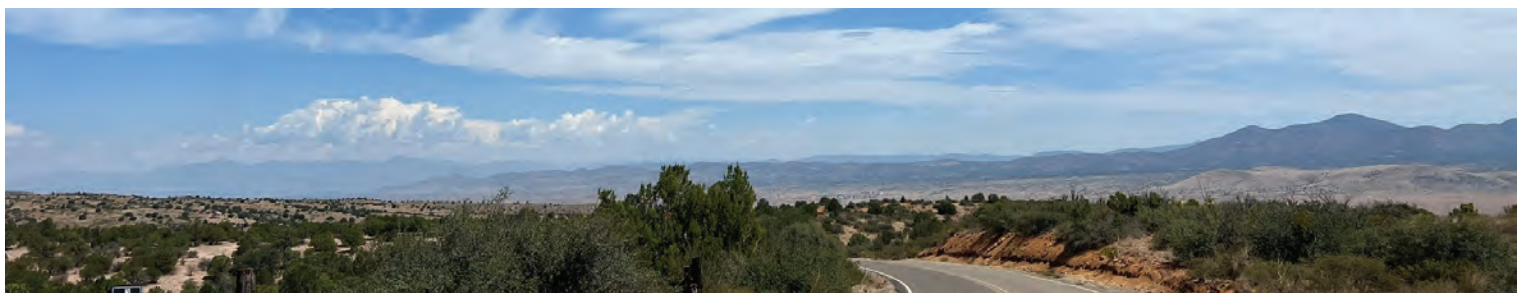
The word "territory" was replaced by "state" in that year."

State song

March 14, 1917 is the date the New Mexico Legislature adopted "O Fair New Mexico" as the state song. 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 July 14, 1881, in Fort Sumner.

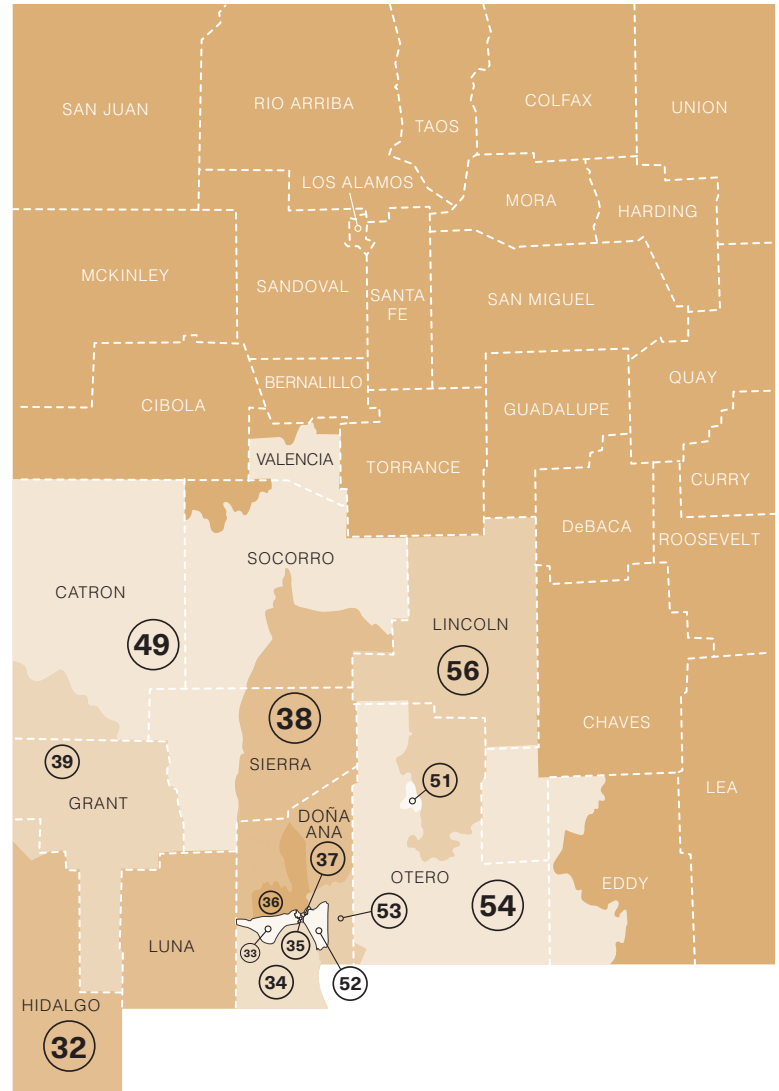
Amadeo Lucero (1900-87) wrote "Asi Es Nuevo Mexico," the New Mexico Spanish-language state song.

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 ARMSTRONG |
| 15 DAYAN HOCHMAN-VIGIL | 50 MATTHEW MCQUEEN |
| 16 YANIRA GURROLA | 51 JOHN BLOCK |
| 17 CYNTHIA D. BORREGO | 52 DOREEN GALLEGOS |
| 18 GAIL CHASEY | 53 WILLIE MADRID |
| 19 JANELLE I. ANYANONU | 54 JAMES TOWNSEND |
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| 21 DEBRA SARIÑANA | 56 HARLAN H. VINCENT |
| 22 STEFANI LORD | 57 JASON CARL HARPER |
| 23 ALAN T. MARTINEZ | 58 CANDY SPENCE EZZELL |
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| 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 JENIFER JONES | 67 JACK CHATFIELD |
| 33 MICAELA LARA CADENA | 68 CHARLOTTE L. LITTLE |
| 34 RAYMUNDO LARA | 69 HARRY GARCIA |
| 35 ANGELICA RUBIO | 70 AMBROSE M. CASTELLANO |



SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO

House

DISTRICT MAP



REPRESENTATIVE PROFILES



DISTRICT 32
Jenifer Jones



DISTRICT 35
Angelica Rubio



DISTRICT 38
Tara Jaramillo



DISTRICT 51
John Block



DISTRICT 54
James Townsend



DISTRICT 33
Micaela Lara Cadena



DISTRICT 36
Nathan Small



DISTRICT 39
Luis M. Terrazas



DISTRICT 52
Doreen Gallegos
Page 41



DISTRICT 56
Harlan H. Vincent



DISTRICT 34
Raymundo Lara



DISTRICT 37
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DISTRICT 49
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DISTRICT 53
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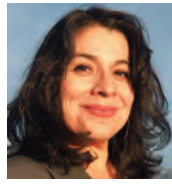
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REPRESENTATIVE PROFILES

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Javier Martinez
D-Albuquerque

MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

Gail Chasey
D-Albuquerque

MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

T. Ryan Lane
R-Aztec

MAJORITY WHIP

Reena Szczepanski
D-Santa Fe

MINORITY WHIP

Greg Nibert
R-Roswell

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





DISTRICT 32

JENIFER Jones

Rep. Jenifer Jones enters her second legislative session since being elected in 2022, when she defeated Democratic incumbent Rep. Candie Sweetser, a fellow Deming resident. Professionally, her career had been in nursing while politically she had been a legislative aide to state Sen. Crystal Diamond Brantley, who campaigned for Jones in the latter's debut run for office.

In her first year, Jones was the ranking member of the House Health and Human Services Committee. She was also a member of the House Transportation,

Public Works and Capital Improvements Committee and the House Enrolling and Engrossing Committee B. Between sessions, Jones was a member of interim committees for: economic and rural development and policy; legislative health and human services; and the Transportation Infrastructure Revenue subcommittee. She was also an advisory member of the Legislative Education Study Committee, the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee and the Water and Natural Resources Committee.

Representing a U.S.-Mexico border

COUNTIES SERVED:

Luna, Hidalgo, Grant

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2023

BIRTHPLACE: Deming

PROFESSION: Oncology nurse

EDUCATION: New Mexico Junior College

CONTACT INFORMATION

ADDRESS: 204 Golf Course SE, Deming, N.M. 88030

PHONE: 785-840-6473

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jenifermariejones@gmail.com

district, Jones has called on Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham to deploy the state National Guard to the border to back federal agents of border agencies, as a way of elevate the need for additional federal resources. She later met with the governor and said she was "encouraged" by the discussion.



DISTRICT 51

JOHN Block

Rep. John Block, a Republican, took office on Jan. 17, 2023, his 26th birthday. This made him the youngest legislator serving New Mexico and the first member of Generation Z elected to state government. He has called Alamogordo, where he lives, "the hidden gem of New Mexico." He is the owner and founder of the online political journal, the Piñon Post, where he has argued for conservative positions and scoured Democrats.

In 2023, he served on the House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee, the Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee and Enrolling and Engrossing

Committee A. Between sessions, he was a member of the Indian Affairs Committee, the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee, and an advisory member of five interim committees.

In budget surplus years, Block has argued for investing in critical infrastructure and law enforcement agencies. He has backed expanded oil, gas and coal production, opposes abortion (which is legal in New Mexico) as well as gun rights, which is likely to be debated during the 2024 session. Block has also called for dismantling New Mexico's Public Education Department and restoring the death penalty in New Mexico, which was abolished in 2009.

COUNTIES SERVED: Otero

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2023

BIRTHPLACE: Santa Fe

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DISTRICT 33

MICAELA LARA Cadena

Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena, first elected to the state House in 2018, succeeding her fellow Democrat, Rep. Bill McCamley, who left office when he was appointed to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's cabinet. She is the research director for the nonprofit Young Women United and previously worked for the New Mexico Corrections Department as the Bureau Chief of Recidivism Reduction.

She has expressed a strong interest in infrastructure investment, living herself in a small community that uses colonias funding for street and water projects; and behavioral health statewide. She also was a prominent cosponsor of legislation, in

2021, to repeal New Mexico's statutory ban on abortion, which was at the time unenforceable because of the historic Roe v. Wade decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. That decision was overturned by the high court in 2022. She told KRWG public radio over the summer, "New Mexicans, because of our identities over decades, have shown that we understand abortion to be health care and that we're going to make sure our doors and our hearts and our clinics remain open for those seeking care."

She served last year as vice chair of the House Taxation and Revenue Committee and a member of the House Transportation, Public Works and Capital Improve-

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2019

BIRTHPLACE: Born in El Paso; raised in Mesilla

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

ADDRESS: PO Box 1510, Mesilla, N.M. 88046

PHONE: 575-644-5830

EMAIL: micaela.cadena@nmlegis.gov

ments Committee. Between sessions she was a member of the interim Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee and an advisory member of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee.



DISTRICT 34

RAYMUNDO 'RAY' Lara

Rep. Raymundo "Ray" Lara, an educator and administrator in the Gadsden Independent School District in southern Doña Ana County, represents several unincorporated communities near the U.S.-Mexico border as well as the city of Sunland Park. He was elected in 2018, succeeding fellow Democrat Bill Gomez.

Last year he served as vice chair of the House Printing and Supplies Committee, and a member of the House committees on

agriculture, acequias and water resources; education; and rules and order of business. Between sessions, he was a member of the interim Legislative Education Study Committee and a designee of the Legislative Finance Committee.

He was among lawmakers who introduced legislation last year to curb activity by paramilitary groups in response to increased unauthorized patrol activity near the border, including in his district.

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2019

BIRTHPLACE: El Paso; grew up in Anthony

PROFESSION: Coordinator for Instructional Resources, Gadsden Independent School District

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EMAIL: rayfordistrict34@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.rayfor34.com and Facebook



DISTRICT 35

ANGELICA Rubio

Rep. Angelica Rubio is an avid bicyclist who has, more than once, pedaled her way from Las Cruces to Santa Fe, holding town halls along her route to the state capital.

Among other issues, she has applied her attention prominently to housing and poverty, environmental justice (seeing that the impacts of climate change adaptation do not inequitably burden low-income and marginalized peoples), and modernizing New Mexico's part-time, volunteer legisla-

ture. She has also advocated for ending the practice of contracting with private prison operators to run prisons and immigrant detention facilities.

In 2023 she served as vice chair of the House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee and a member of the House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Between sessions, she was a member of the interim Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee and Mortgage Finance Authority Act Oversight Committee.

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2017

BIRTHPLACE: Roswell
(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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.Facebook.com/RubioNM35

TWITTER: @anrubio

INSTAGRAM: RadicallyRogueRubio



DISTRICT 36

NATHAN Small

Rep. Nathan Small is a former Las Cruces City Council member who was elected to the state House in 2016. He has been a conservationist and advocate for economic development that includes outdoor recreation — for instance, as a supporter of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument designation in Doña Ana County in 2014.

Last year, Small assumed the chairmanship of the powerful House Appropriations and Finance Committee, succeeding longtime chair, fellow Democrat Patricia Lundstrom of Gallup. In that role he helped shape passage of New Mexico's \$9.57 billion budget.

Additionally, Small serves on the House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the House Printing and Supplies Committee. Between sessions, Small was vice chair of the Legislative Finance Committee, and a member of the Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force as well as the Legislative Education Study Committee. He was an advisory member of the Water and Natural Resources Committee and the Legislative Council.

Last year, Small told the Las Cruces Bulletin that wise spending and securing the state's budget for the foreseeable future was "an incredible responsibility" the legislature must live up to.

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2017

BIRTHPLACE: Albuquerque

PROFESSION: Conservationist

OTHER POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:
Las Cruces City Council member

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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N.M. 88032

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DISTRICT 37

JOANNE J.

Ferrary

Rep. Joanne Ferrary, a Democrat, was elected to the House of Representatives in 2016. She is a former planning director for the New Mexico Department of Transportation's Traffic Safety Bureau. In the House, she succeeded Republican Rep. Terry McMillan.

She has cited education, public health, the economy and the environment as among her key issues of interest. In last year's session, she advocated establishing an "alcohol harms alleviation fund," noting that New Mexico "has the most alcohol-related deaths per capita in the country." She also supported boosting an increase in taxes on alcoholic drinks.

Ferrary chaired the House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee during last year's session, and sat on the House Health and Human Services Committee. Between sessions, she chaired two interim committees: Radioactive and Hazardous Materials and the Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight committees. She was also a member of the interim Water and Natural Resources Committee, and an advisory member of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee. She was designee of the Legislative Finance Committee and the Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee. She was a special advisory member of the Legislative Council.

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2017

BIRTHPLACE: Canton, Ohio

PROFESSION: Retired Planner Director

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

ADDRESS: 6100 Morning Sun Way, Las Cruces, N.M. 88012

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Last year, she wrote: "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."



DISTRICT 38

TARA

Jaramillo

Rep. Tara Jaramillo is serving her first term in office since being elected in 2022. She is a native of Socorro and a speech-language pathologist. She also co-founded Positive Outcomes, which provides personal care services, physical therapy and occupational therapy for children and families with special needs. Her 2022 election win was her debut run for state office, in a House district that changed considerably after redistricting in 2021. She also serves on the Socorro Consolidated School District Board.

In her first session last year, she sat on the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, Health and Human Services Committee and Enrolling and Engrossing Committee B. Between sessions, she was a member of the interim Indian Affairs Committee, an advisory member of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee and a designee to the Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force. She was also a standing advisory member of the Legislative Finance Committee.

COUNTIES SERVED: Sierra, Doña Ana, Socorro

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2023

BIRTHPLACE: Socorro

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DISTRICT 39
LUIS
Terrazas

Rep. Luis Terrazas, a prominent funeral director in southwestern New Mexico, was elected as a Republican to the state House of Representatives in 2020. He succeeded Democrat Rodolpho Martinez.

Terrazas has been an advocate for rural investment and capital outlay, increasing support for law enforcement agencies and first responders, and expanding broadband service across the state and in rural areas in particular. He was also a notable advocate for farms, ranches and residents in remote areas of Grant and Hidalgo counties hit

hard by flooding in 2022.

Last year, he was the ranking member of the House Rural Development, Land Grants and Cultural Affairs Committee and a member of the House Labor, Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee. Between sessions, he served on the interim Military and Veterans' Affairs and New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight committees. He was also an advisory member of the committees on land grants, Mortgage Finance Authority Act oversight and tobacco settlement revenue oversight. He was a designee of the Legislative Finance Committee.

COUNTIES SERVED: Grant, Hidalgo, Catron

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2021

BIRTHPLACE: Silver City

PROFESSION: Owner, Terrazas Funeral Chapels

EDUCATION: BBA in accounting, Western New Mexico University

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DISTRICT 49
GAIL 'MISSY'
Armstrong

Rep. Gail Armstrong, a rancher and businesswoman, was first elected to the state House of Representatives in 2016, succeeding former House Speaker Don Tripp. She has also served as chair of the House Republican caucus.

Redistricting in 2021 enlarged her mostly rural district to include a portion of Sierra County.

In last year's session, she was the ranking member of the House Appropriations

and Finance Committee, and a member of the House Agriculture, Acequias and Water Resources and Printing and Supplies committees. Between sessions, she sat on the interim Legislative Council, Legislative Finance Committee, Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee and Water and Natural Resources Committee. She was an advisory member of the Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee..

COUNTIES SERVED: Catron, Sierra, Socorro, Valencia

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2017

BIRTHPLACE: Socorro County

PROFESSION: Rancher and businesswoman

EDUCATION: High school, some college

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DISTRICT 52

DOREEN Gallegos

Rep. Doreen Gallegos, executive director of the Mesilla Valley Court Appoint Special Advocate (CASA), has represented Doña Ana County in the state House of Representatives since she was first elected in 2012. She succeeded fellow Democrat Joseph Cervantes, who left the House after being elected to the state Senate.

Among her proudest accomplishments, she has stated, was her support of the Early Childhood Education Trust Fund in 2020, a fund that “is now in the billions of dollars for New Mexico kids.” She has also cospon-

sored a child income tax credit and contributed to professional licensure reform as well as small business tax holiday legislation to boost local businesses.

In a previous interview, Gallegos said, “I pride myself in fighting for District 52, whether it’s for our fair share of capital outlay dollars or by bringing my constituents’ voices to the leadership table of the legislature. My work is to improve the lives of families and children in District 52, southern New Mexico and throughout the state.”

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2013

BIRTHPLACE: El Paso

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DISTRICT 53

WILLIE Madrid

Rep. Willie Madrid, a retired instructional assistant in the Gadsden Independent School District of Doña Ana County, was first elected to the state House of Representatives in 2018. He succeeded Republican Rep. Ricky Little to represent the district including his native community of Chaparral. Redistricting in 2021 altered District 53 to include more of Las Cruces while continuing to straddle Doña Ana and Otero counties.

That divide, he said in a 2022 interview with the Las Cruces Bulletin, has proven challenging politically, describing Doña

Ana County as a Democratic stronghold with Otero staunchly Republican and, according to Madrid, showing “no love for Chaparral.” (Madrid has advocated that Chaparral incorporate as a municipality.)

Last year, he was a member of the House Education Committee and Transportation, Public Works and Capital Improvements Committee. Between sessions, he sat on the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee and was an advisory member of five interim committees pertaining to education, economic and rural development, criminal justice and transportation infrastructure revenue.

COUNTIES SERVED: Doña Ana, Otero

POLITICAL PARTY: Democrat

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2019

BIRTHPLACE: El Paso

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

EDUCATION: BA in business management, University of Phoenix

CONTACT INFORMATION

ADDRESS: 13 McClain Road, Chaparral, NM 88081

PHONE: 915-204-9056

EMAIL: wdmadrid@yahoo.com



DISTRICT 54

JAMES Townsend

Rep. James Townsend, a retired oil and gas industry executive, is a former House minority leader and has served in the House of Representatives since 2015, succeeding fellow Republican Bill Gray after Gray chose not to seek another term. Townsend has announced plans to seek the state Senate being vacated by fellow Republican, Sen. Ron Griggs, who will not run for reelection.

Townsend was the lead sponsor in 2023 of a proposal to include natural gas in the state's definition of renewable energy in

order to counter, he said, the threat of insufficient power supply from sources such as solar and wind power.

In the last session he was the ranking member of the House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee and sat on the Taxation and Revenue and Rules and Order of Business committees. Between sessions, he sat on the Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight Committee and was an advisory member of the Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee.

COUNTIES SERVED:

Chaves, Eddy, Otero

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2015

BIRTHPLACE: Carlsbad

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

ADDRESS: 69 W. Compress Road, Artesia, NM 88210

PHONE: 575-703-0153

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DISTRICT 56

HARLAN H. Vincent

Rep. Harlan Vincent, a Republican, is a former Ruidoso fire chief and a businessman who was elected to the state House of Representatives in 2022. He succeeded fellow Republican Zachary Cook. He promised, "I am conservative and will not throw good money at bad projects."

In his first session last year, he sat on the House Health and Human Services Committee; Labor, Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee; and the Enrolling

and Engrossing Committee B. Between sessions, he was an advisory member of the Legislative Health and Human Services and Military and Veterans' Affairs committees.

As a new legislator last year, he told the Bulletin he did not plan to introduce legislation in 2023, saying instead, "I am going this year to defend against bad bills." His priorities, he said, would be to advocate for veterans, first responders, senior citizens and youth.

COUNTIES SERVED: Lincoln, Otero

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

YEARS IN OFFICE: Since 2023

BIRTHPLACE: Clovis

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

EDUCATION: Associate degree in fire science

CONTACT INFORMATION

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State announces highest general fund revenue forecast in New Mexico history

The State of New Mexico will have \$3.482 billion in recurring revenue, a 3.5 percent increase, for FY25, the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) said last year.

DFA and the state Taxation and Revenue Department presented the consensus general fund revenue outlook for the state to the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) in August 2023, “highlighting the unprecedented and historic revenue growth for the state.”

“Even with this favorable position of unprecedented revenue growth, we still need to maintain

fiscal responsibility as we determine the optimal use of these funds,” said DFA Sec. Wayne Propst.

“There’s plenty of money both in revenue and reserves that we need to consider as we start building the budget for the 2024 session” of the New Mexico Legislature.

New Mexico’s General Fund Revenue experienced an average annual increase of 8.1 percent over the last decade, DFA said, with substantial growth in post-pandemic recovery.

At more than 10 percent, New Mexico’s total state revenue forecast for FY24 (the current fiscal year) is second only to Kansas, the LFC said. The forecast for the United States as a whole is minus one percent.

The LFC said estimated recurring revenues for FY24, which began July 1, 2023, are \$12.611 billion, up \$790.7 million from the December 2022 estimate. Recurring revenues for FY25 are estimated at \$13.051 billion, LFC said.

“New money,” which is projected recurring revenue for the coming fiscal year less current recurring appropriations, is expected to grow by 36.4 percent from FY24 to FY25, the LFC said.

Recurring revenues for FY23 were estimated at \$11.641 billion, LFC said, up 20.3 percent from FY22.

“The economic forecast has improved with resilient consumer spending and a robust labor market taming worries of a recession as the Federal Reserve battles inflation,” the LFC said. “A growing oil production outlook and elevated oil prices in the short term further contribute to a positive revenue forecast.

“While experts warned of a recession, the U.S. economy showed resilience, with real gross domestic product, the inflation-adjusted value of all goods and services, growing 2.4 percent year-over-year in 2023, slowing from the four percent growth seen in 2022 but above expectations of more abrupt slowing,” LFC said. “Other strong economic indicators, such as job growth, low unemployment and strong consumer spending, suggest the Federal Reserve, despite implementing sharp increases in interest rates to curb inflation, may be on track to achieve a ‘soft landing,’ where inflation cools without the economy tipping into recession.

Employment

“U.S. employment remains strong. Peaking at 14.7 percent at the start of the pandemic, the unemployment rate had stabilized to the near pre-pandemic level of around 3.5 percent in July 2023, although it is expected to rise to 4.8 percent by 2026 as the labor market cools. Labor force participation, the share of the working age population



with jobs, has yet to recover fully from pandemic lows and is stable at around 62.6 percent, down from the pre-pandemic level of 63.3 percent,” LFC said.

“The estimates used in the consensus revenue forecast expect the New Mexico economy will grow at a slower rate than that of the United States in 2023 but will grow at a rate slightly faster than the that of the U.S. beginning in 2024.

“After reaching the last employment peak in January 2020, employment contracted by 12.2 percent because of the pandemic,” LFC said. “In that period, the leisure and hospitality sector experienced the largest losses of any industry, losing over 38 percent of jobs. While strong gains have been made, the sector is still 1.3 percent below 2019 figures, according to the state Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Retail and wholesale trade, other hard-hit industries, are experiencing divergent recoveries. Retail trade has recovered more than all its lost jobs, while wholesale trade is still 8.4 percent below prior levels.”

In June 2023, “BLS data indicates total employment is up 11.3 thousand jobs, or 1.3 percent, from the pre-pandemic peak,” LFC said. “The University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research expects slow employment growth, nearing stagnancy, beginning in 2024. In total, New Mexico employment regained all jobs lost during the pandemic by March 2023 and is expected to grow by 29.5 thousand jobs, or 3.5 percent, by the end of the forecast period.

New Mexico’s total wages and salaries were about \$45 billion 2019, the LFC said, and expected to reach more than \$60 billion by the second quarter of 2027.

■ GENERAL FUND CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

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How a state senator made green chile roasting NM's official aroma

BY MIKE COOK
LAS CRUCES BULLETIN

The smell of roasting green chile. Just hold that thought in your mind for a moment.

Is there a more welcome scent of fall in the air, or anything more uniquely New Mexico?

That is why New Mexico state Sen. Bill Soules, a Las Cruces Democrat, asked the state legislature last year to recognize the smell of roasting green chile as the state's official aroma.

It worked, as the legislature passed the memorial in its 2023 session. It also worked in bringing national attention to New Mexico, believed to be the first state in America with an official aroma of any kind — not to mention the sweetest smell on earth, to many a New Mexican.

Soules worked with fifth graders at Monte Vista Elementary School in Las Cruces on the project and took them to “be my experts” in Santa Fe at the State Capitol building to lobby state senators and representatives and the governor on behalf the bill.

“I think this will be a fun one,” Soules said before last year's session.

It will also support New Mexico agriculture and tourism, he said.

“The aroma of New Mexico green chile being roasted is unmistakable and is recognized throughout the nation,” said New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Sec. Jeff Witte, who is based at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. “The distinctive scent of roasting green chile in the air is unique to our state, and it brings that feeling of ‘home’ to people who have moved away from New Mexico.”

As part of domestic marketing efforts, NMDA staff goes around the country teaching grocery store staff how to roast New Mexico chile.

Retail chains purchase New Mexico chile (have it shipped), and they roast it outside their stores, just like in New Mexico. That is how many people who have moved out of New Mexico can still enjoy the roasting aroma and purchase New Mexico chile.

For more information, visit ElevateNMag.com/get-your-fix.

When Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the “official aroma” into law, she decided to do so at Monte Vista Elementary, sitting with Soules as well as the students who served as the senator's official advisors through the process, teaching them a practical lesson in moving legislation through Santa Fe.



■ GENERAL FUND CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

Oil production

“New Mexico's oil prices have neared an average of \$80.50 per barrel (bbl) in FY23 and are estimated to average \$74.50/bbl in FY24. Prices fell as low as \$67/bbl in the second quarter of 2023 but rallied to over \$80/bbl in the third quarter following an attack on a Russian oil export hub and extended production cuts by OPEC. Prices are expected to stay elevated and above \$70/bbl during the forecast period because of moderate but persistent inventory drawdowns and improving market demand,” LFC said.

Since January 2014, New Mexico's oil production has grown from about 10 million barrels a month to about 100 million barrels a month in May 2023, the LFC said. Oil production is expected to exceed 2024 levels for about 10 years, and is expected to peak in 2031.

Gross receipts

“Data from the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department¹⁸⁶ shows matched taxable gross receipts (MTGR)—a better indicator of overall economic activity in the state than other tax data because it matches taxable gross receipts to tax payments — were up 14.6 percent in FY23 compared with FY22, despite an already high FY22. Total gross receipts tax collections in FY23 were up about \$480.5 million over FY22, or 13.6 percent. Strong collections are the result of higher spending in the mining sector, record public investments in construction, high consumer savings, strong wage and consumption growth and relatively high inflation,” LFC said.

For more information, visit NMDFA.state.nm.us.

Remembering Gov. Bill Richardson

Former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson died on Sept. 1, 2023 at his summer home in Chatham, Massachusetts at age 75.

In addition to his eight years as governor (2003-11), Richardson also was a member of Congress, the first elected to represent New Mexico's then new Third Congressional District in 1982, a seat he held for 14 years. He resigned the House seat to become U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, a post he held 1997-98 before serving as secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, 1998-2001. He was briefly a presidential candidate in the Democratic primary in 2008. Richardson was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in August for his work in international hostage negotiations.

Richardson, a native of Los Angeles, grew up in Mexico City, went to prep school and college in Massachusetts, and moved to Santa Fe in 1978. He became executive director of the New Mexico Democratic Party and the Bernalillo County Democratic Party. His first bid for elective office came in 1980, when he narrowly lost the U.S. House seat in New Mexico's First Congressional District to long-time incumbent Manuel Lujan.

"I am saddened to learn of Governor Richardson's passing and wish to express my condolences to his family," former New Mexico Gov. and New Mexico State University Chancellor and President Garrey Carruthers told the Bulletin. "Governor Richardson was a consummate politician and statesman. Few New Mexicans have achieved the acclaimed public service status accorded the Governor. I liked him personally and very much appreciated him seeking my counsel and assistance such as asking me to Cochair the Ethics Taskforce, Chair the New Mexico Medicaid Advisory Committee, campaign with him for passage of the Spaceport tax initiative, and joining me in teaching a class at NMSU. More public leaders should follow his lead in reaching out to members of the opposite party for advice, counsel and assistance. In addition, he named the State Library after me. Now you know why I think he was the consummate politician and statesman."

"Governor Richardson's loss will be felt across the planet," U.S. Rep. Melanie Stansbury, D-N.M., said.

"Richardson has left an indelible mark on New Mexico politics and public service. He lived and loved big, mentored a generation of leaders and served our great state and nation."

The Democratic Party of New Mexico released the following statement on the passing of Governor Bill Richardson:

"It is a sad day for New Mexico Democrats as we remember the life and mourn the passing of Governor Bill Richardson,"

the Democratic Party of New Mexico said. "Governor Richardson was a larger-than-life public figure who always put public service first."

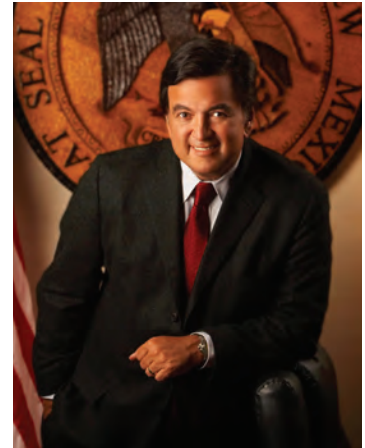
"Governor Richardson was a giant in public service and government," said U.S. Sen. Ben Ray Lujan, D-N.M. "He was trusted to handle some of the most sensitive diplomatic crises, and he did so with great success. Here in New Mexico, we will always remember him as our governor.

He never stopped fighting for the state he called home. Governor Richardson was a close friend who held the same House seat that I was elected to. He knew how to get things done, and he worked closely with my late father in the Legislature."

"New Mexico, our country, and, frankly, the entire world lost a champion," Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said. "Bill Richardson was a titan among us, fighting for the little guy, world peace and everything in between. He was a visionary who saw the potential of our great state before so many others did. He saw us taking on Hollywood and reaching for the stars, launching both the film and space industries that continue to reap significant economic benefits today. For my own part, Bill was a mentor and adviser who was instrumental in my own journey into elected office. He was a steadfast friend who celebrated my successes, and someone I could turn to in those moments when leading is particularly challenging. I am immeasurably grateful to have known such a giant among men."

"Governor Richardson's belief in the future of New Mexico is reflected in Spaceport America's journey in developing technologies, companies, and economic opportunity for the citizens of our state and all mankind," said Spaceport officials. "During his time in office, Governor Richardson had a vital and profound impact on the creation of the spaceport. It can well be argued that the spaceport would not exist without his vision, passion, belief in the potential of New Mexico, and the tireless work he put in to make it a reality. He will be greatly missed."

Richardson earned a BA, majoring in French and political science, and an MA in international affairs from Tufts University. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, whom he married in 1972.





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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. Kellar (Re-elected 2023)

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.



QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

- Population:** 3,827 (2022)
- Households:** 1,523 (2021)
- Median household income:** \$37,623 (2021)
- Persons below poverty level:** 19.8 percent

BUSINESS

- Total employer establishments:** 66 (2021)
- Non-employer establishments:** 361 (2019)
- Total employment:** 509 (2021)

GEOGRAPHY

- Land area (square miles):** 6,924 (the state's largest county)
- Persons per square mile:** 0.5



PUBLIC OFFICIALS

LOREN CUSHMAN
 County Manager
 P.O. Box 507
 Reserve, New Mexico 87830
 stan.brown
 @catroncountynm.gov
 575-533-6423
 575-533-6433 Fax

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

BUSTER GREEN
 County Commissioner
 Position # 1

AUDREY McQUEEN
 County Commissioner
 Position #2

HAYDN 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



CATRON COUNTY COMMUNITIES

APACHE CREEK
 Census-designated place
 Population: 64

ARAGON
 Census-designated place
 Population: 76

CRUZVILLE
 Census-designated place
 Population: 223

DATIL
 Census-designated place
 Population: 50

GLENWOOD
 Census-designated place
 Population: 57

LUNA
 Census-designated place
 Population: 32

PIE TOWN
 Census-designated place
 Population: 118

QUEMADO
 Census-designated place
 Population: 163

RESERVE
 Census-designated place
 Population: 293

PLEASANTON
 Census-designated place,
 Population: 350





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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://bcomm.org/>.

City of Las Cruces

Mayor Eric Enriquez (elected 2023)

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 Russell Hernandez (elected 2023)

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 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

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:
223,337 (2021)

Households:
79,933 (2021)

Median household income:
\$47,151 (2021)

Persons below poverty level:
19.3 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments:
3,761

Total employment:
52,308

Non employer establishments:
13,620

GEOGRAPHY

Land Area (square miles):
3,807.51

Persons per square mile: 57.7

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

Remembering J. Paul Taylor

BY MIKE COOK
LAS CRUCES BULLETIN

Mesilla/Las Cruces icon and former legislator J. Paul Taylor died on Feb. 12, 2023, surrounded by loved ones and caregivers at his Mesilla home.

Taylor, who was born Aug. 24, 1920, in Chamberino, New Mexico, served in the state House of Representatives from 1987 to 2005 and was a long-time educator and community activist.

When Taylor celebrated his 102nd birthday in 2022, it was at the Las Cruces charter school named in his honor.

Taylor grew up on a farm and attended a small county school, graduating from the eighth grade with four other students. He and his wife, Mary, who died in 2005, raised seven children. His 5,000-square-foot home, built in 1858, contains art and artifacts dating to the 18th century.

Taylor, a Democrat, had strong ties to both major political parties in New Mexico. His mother's grandfather was Miguel Romero y Baca (1798-1880), who met Abraham Lincoln (Taylor died on Lincoln's birthday) and helped start the Republican Party in New Mexico. Romero y Baca's son, Trinidad Romero (1835-1918), was elected as a delegate to Congress representing the Territory of New Mexico 1877-79 and later was appointed a U.S. marshal by Republican President Benjamin Harrison.

Taylor's mother's family came to New Mexico with the Oñate expedition in 1598.

Taylor graduated from Valley High School (later Gadsden High School) in 1938 and graduated from the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (now NMSU) with a degree in history in 1942. He served four years in the United States Navy during World War II. Taylor married his wife of 63 years, Mary Daniels Taylor, in 1944. The

couple bought the house on Calle de Principal on the west side of the historic Mesilla plaza in 1952.

Taylor worked for several years for NMA&M before joining the Las Cruces school system in 1951. During a 34-year career, he would be a teacher, principal and administrator, serving as coordinator of elementary education, director of transportation and physical education and associate superintendent. Taylor oversaw school bond elections and relations with the school board and dealt with truancy issues.

He was on the first board of trustees when the Town of Mesilla incorporated in 1959, and served as mayor pro tempore.

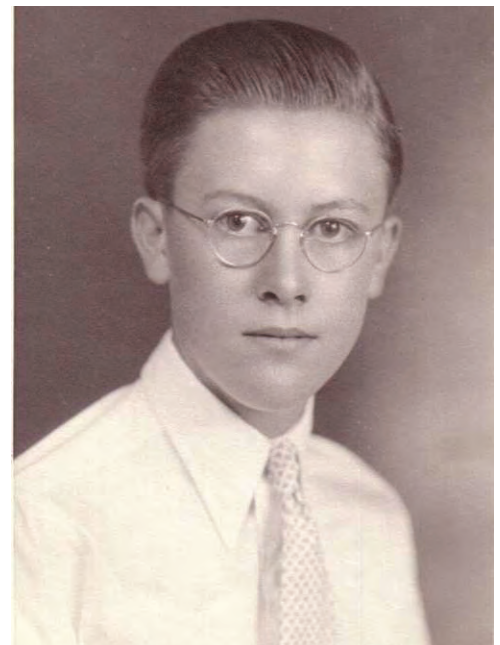
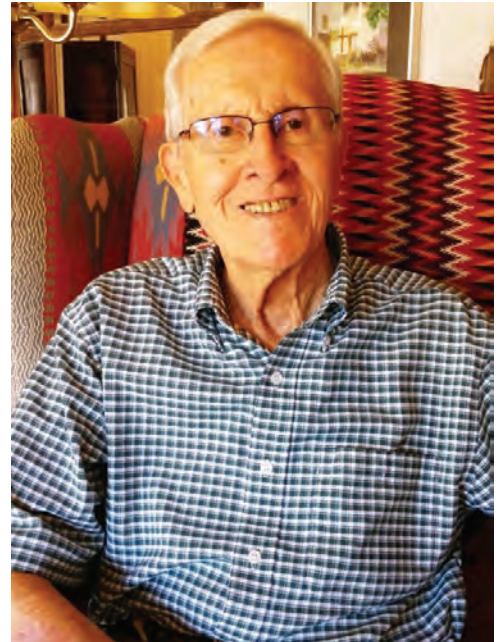
Taylor lived through the Covid-19 pandemic and remembered his parents talking about the Spanish Flu that killed millions in the 1918-1920 worldwide pandemic.

"My parents were still talking about it," Taylor told the Bulletin just before his 101st birthday in 2021. "They were still very cautious."

Taylor, the youngest of six children, had four sisters and one brother.

His earliest memory, dating from age 3, Taylor said, is of the family farm, the cotton fields around it and the family's Ford Model-T. He learned to drive at age 14 in a Buick touring car which Helen E. Wood, a friend of Taylor's mother, gave the family in 1928.

He also remembered the 4-H club he belonged to and taking second place in a corn demonstration contest at what would become New Mexico State University. Taylor's 4-H coach was Chloe Hampson Donaldson, the mother of retired ABC newsman Sam Donaldson. During his senior year, Taylor remembered a trip to El Paso to meet First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.



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

DISTRICT 1
Christopher Schaljo-Hernandez
 575-525-5808

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

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

DISTRICT 5
Manuel Sánchez
 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: 8,693

FAIRACRES
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 1,213

MESILLA
 Town Population: 1,796

RODEY
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 594

SUNLAND PARK
 City Population: 16,702

BERINO
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 1,704

GARFIELD
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 146

MESQUITE
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 892

SALEM
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 586

UNIVERSITY PARK
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 2,917

CHAMBERINO
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 687

HATCH
 Village
 Population: 1,552

ORGAN
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 242

SAN MIGUEL
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 975

VADO
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 3,189

CHAPARRAL
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 16,551
 (in Doña Ana and Otero counties)

LA MESA
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 642

PLACITAS
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 409

SAN PABLO
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 858

WHITE SANDS
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 1,368

DOÑA ANA
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 1,375

LA UNION
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 997

RADIUM SPRINGS
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 1,487

SAN YSIDRO
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 166

RINCON
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 494

SANTA TERESA
 Census-designated Place
 Population: 6,553

2024 CITY OF LAS CRUCES LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

CIT/MIH BUILDING

Construct a new 7,300-sq. ft. facility for the Las Cruces Fire Department's Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program and Project LIGHT Mental Crisis Response.



SOUTH MAIN STREET

Reconstruct S. Main St. from Avenida de Mesilla to Boutz Rd. to include underground utilities, bike lanes, sidewalks, ADA improvements, street lighting, safe pedestrian access, intersection improvement, and more.



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Support Active Transportation Plan projects and initiatives, including sidewalks, ADA improvements, transit shade structures, street lighting, bicycle facilities, and street trees.



EAST MESA PUBLIC RECREATION COMPLEX

Build on GO Bond funding to continue construction of this regional park, including multi-purpose fields, courts, and concessions.



AMADOR CROSSING HOUSING

Build approximately 40-50 unit master-planned housing project on the Community of Hope campus to provide supportive housing, onsite services, and access to campus agencies.



WASTEWATER SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Install wastewater sewer system to eliminate the use of septic tanks in the remaining Brittany Estates and Estados Serenos subdivisions.



LIFT UP LAS CRUCES

Renovate Valley View Park and complete trail project in the second Lift Up area. Start other projects to be identified by community survey.



SACRAMENTO STREET

Complete the reconstruction of Sacramento St. from Polar Ave. to Oasis Ave as part of the Lift Up Phase 1 project area. Replace underground utilities, new sidewalks, ADA improvements, street lighting, and more.



POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING RENOVATION

Construct and furnish a renovated Intelligence and Records & Identification section, to include remodeling that will lay the foundation for a crime lab and a real-time crime center.



FIRE STATION #9

Gap funding to complete the construction of Fire Station #9 on the City's growing East Mesa. The 14,335 sq.-ft. station is expected to break ground at Sonoma Ranch Blvd. and Central Ave. in 2024.



POLICE DEPARTMENT REAL TIME CRIME CENTER

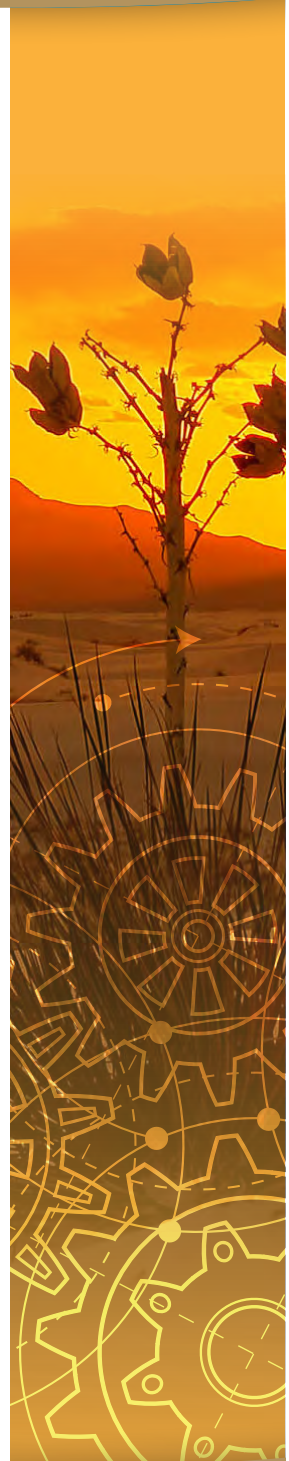
Design and install a Real Time Crime Center for Las Cruces Police Department, including the purchase of technology equipment and software.



700 N Main
Las Cruces, NM 88001
www.LasCruces.gov



CITY OF LAS CRUCES





EDUCATION

PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

GADSDEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
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

LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

505 S. Main St. Ste. 249,
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-527-5800
lcp.s.net

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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575-449-4796
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Las Cruces, NM 88005
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lccsonline.org

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wordpress.mvcsonline.com/wordpress

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www.mlschool.net

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NM 88005
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www.almadarte.org

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

J. PAUL TAYLOR ACADEMY

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Las Cruces, NM 88005
575-652-4006
www.jpaultayloracademy.org

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Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-527-5916
www.lasmontanashigh.com

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Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-527-9085
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Grades K-5
2211 N. Valley Drive
Las Cruces, N.M. 88007
575-222-0538
www.raicesdelsaber.org

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

DOÑA ANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (DACC) – CENTRAL CAMPUS

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

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DELIVERING MORE
COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER CARE

unmhealth.org/cancer



Movie studio to begin construction in Las Cruces

BY ALGERNON D'AMMASSA
LAS CRUCES BULLETIN

Representatives of 828 Productions updated the Las Cruces City Council in December on plans to develop office space, production facilities and more in multiple locations in the city next year, including the distinctive cotton gin near Amador Avenue.

The California-based production company announced plans last year to relocate to Las Cruces and build a \$75 million production facility including studio, back lot, soundstage and business space. In exchange for \$3 million in state funds through the Local Economic Development Act, the company has pledged to employ 100 people by the end of 2029 and invest the \$75 million by the end of 2031.

New Mexico's film industry incentives, meant to draw movie productions and permanent facilities to the state, were a factor in the company's decision to locate here, CEO Todd Lundbohm said, in addition to the availability of local graduates trained in post-production skills through New Mexico State University and Doña Ana Community College.

Among the studio officials presenting to council were Robert Dean, a graduate of NMSU's Creative Media Institute and local filmmaker serving as the company's head of operations; and Jonathan Sepp, former director of the nonprofit Film Las Cruces and now 828's manager of operations and public affairs.

"We're not just here making a movie of building a soundstage," Sepp told the council. "We're really here to build, develop and establish an industry here in Las Cruces."

This fall, a Legislative Finance Committee study raised questions about how much private investment was resulting per dollars spent on tax rebates offered to film companies, with the cost per job created far higher than with other economic incentives offered by the state.

Lundbohm said 828 Productions has yet to touch any of the LEDA funds or nearly \$900,000 in support approved by the city in March.

The first round of construction was planned for February, including studio lots on S. Compress Road and Hayner Avenue, to include a 20,000-square-foot soundstage and 10,000 square feet of mill space; production and training facilities on S. Miranda Street; and administrative and guest accommodations at its headquarters at 100 S. Church Street. The plans include new construction as well as renovation and retrofitting of some existing properties.

New soundstage capacity was critical, Lundbohm said, because since Netflix purchased Albuquerque Studios in 2018, its eight soundstages have been reserved for its own productions, exacerbating a need for other producers: "There's no soundstage space available in New Mexico at the moment; same thing with back lot space."

The recent Hollywood double strike by unions representing writers and actors caused delays but appeared to be resolved and productions were resuming, Lundbohm said.

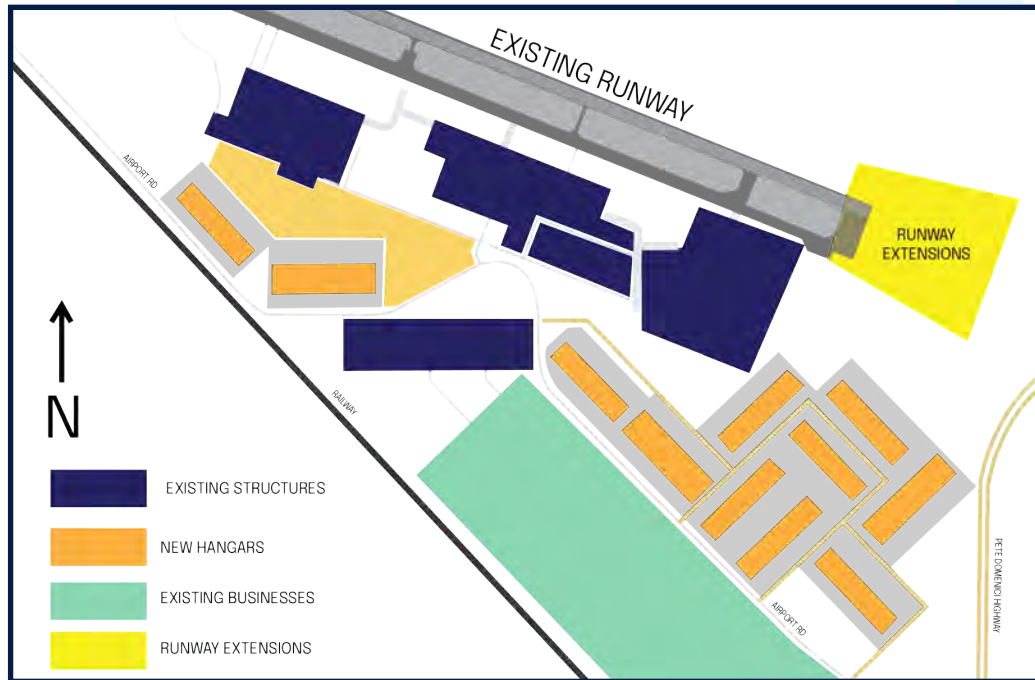
As 828 plans for the beginning of construction, the company is also planning two productions during 2024.

Dean emphasized the studio was building the infrastructure for long-term industries and local employment, emphasizing that much of the industry operates out of public view, where no cameras and production trucks are visible; as well as local workforce development to supply what a nascent local industry would need.

"When you think of film production, I think very often all we think about is the physical making of the movie and what we watch on the screen," he said, "but the truth is, that life cycle from end to end is sometimes years and years of process, and that process is only as good as your team."



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



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. The Gila Wilderness is the first declared Wilderness in the U.S., and turns 100 in 2024. 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 John L. Ojinaga (elected 2023)
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 Arnold H. Lopez (elected 2023)
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: 27,686 (2022)

Households: 11,144 (2021)

Median household income: \$39,429 (2021)

Persons below poverty level: 18.6 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments: 534 (2021)

Non-employer establishments: 6,608 (2020)

Total employment: 1,637 (2019)

GEOGRAPHY

Land area (square miles): 3,962

Persons per square mile: 7.4

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: Charlene Webb
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
cobreschools.org

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: 2,097

CLIFF

Census-designated place
Population: 173

HURLEY

Census-designated place
Population: 1,247

MIMBRES

Census-designated place
Population: 404

PINOS ALTOS

Census-designated place
Population: 225

SANTA CLARA

Village Population: 1,606

SAN LORENZO

Census-designated place
Population: 149

SILVER CITY

Town, County Seat
Population: 9,578

LAKE ROBERTS

Census-designated place
Population: 53

FAYWOOD

Census-designated place
Population: 33

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.

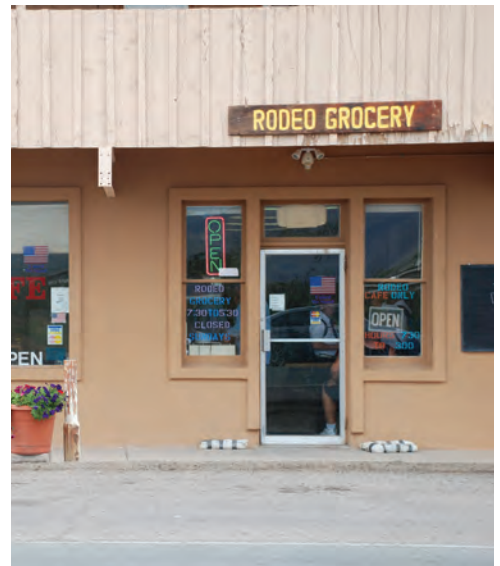
Village of Virden

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.



QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

Population: 4,003 (2022)
Households: 1,573 (2021)
Median household income: \$46,097 (2021)
Persons below poverty level: 24.1 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments: 91 (2021)
Non-employer establishments: 198 (2019)
Total employment: 700 (2021)

GEOGRAPHY

Land area (square miles): 3,439
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
Johnny Hatch
Joel Edwards

SHERIFF
Warren Walter
575-542-3833

COUNTY CLERK
Alyssa A. Esquivel
575-542-9213

COUNTY TREASURER
Leslee Rudiger

COUNTY ASSESSOR
Martin Neave

COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE
Carmen Acosta

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

ANIMAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

HIDALGO COUNTY COMMUNITIES

ANIMAS

Census-designated place
Population: 124

COTTON CITY

Census-designated place
Population: 266

GLEN ACRES

Census-designated place
Population: 204

LORDSBURG

City, County Seat
Population: 2,335

RODEO

Census-designated place
Population: 54

VIRDEN

Population: 123

PLAYAS

Census-designated place
Population: 52

WINDMILL

Census-designated place
Population: 54



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 Robert E. Hemphill (elected 2023)
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 Minerva J. Davalos (elected 2023)
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: 20,411 (2022)
Households: 8,723 (2021)
Median household income: \$47,242 (2021)
Persons below poverty level: 18.4 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments: 679 (2021)

Total employment:

4,885 (2021)
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.cpsccardinals.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: 2,687

CAPITAN

Village
Population: 1,405

CARRIZOZO

Town, county seat
Population: 972

CORONA

Village
Population: 130

FORT STANTON

State historical site
Population: 41

GLENCOE

Unincorporated community
Population: 225

HONDO

Census-designated place
Population: 1,081

LINCOLN

Village
Population: 189

RUIDOSO

Village
Population: 7,679

RUIDOSO DOWNS

City
Population: 2,648

SAN PATRICIO

Town Population: 341

WHITE OAKS

Ghost town
Population: 70

Nogal

Census-designated place
Population: 126

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 Serna

DISTRICT 3

Jon Floyd Crunk

DISTRICT 4

Pierre Pfeffer

DISTRICT 5

Mark Fischer

COUNTY CLERK

Shannon 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





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 Michele C. Shillito (elected 2023)

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 Philip K. Skinner (elected 2023)

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: 25,749 (2022)

Households: 9,047 (2021)

Median household income:
\$33,914 (2021)

Persons below poverty level:
27.6 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments:
376 (2021)

Total employment: 4,816 (2021)

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: 1,459

DEMING

County Seat
City
Population: 14,835

NUTT

Unincorporated
community
Population: 12

SUNSHINE

Census-designated
place
Population: 487

EDUCATION

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1001 S. Diamond Ave.
Deming, NM 88030
575-546-8841
www.demingps.org

UNIVERSITIES

WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY-DEMING

2300 E. Pine St.
Deming, NM 88030
575-546-6556
extended.wnmu.edu/deming/



A new national monument in Luna County?

BY ALGERNON D'AMMASSA
LAS CRUCES BULLETIN

Organizers in Luna County on Wednesday, Dec. 6, announced the launch of a campaign seeking a new 245,000-acre national monument for southern New Mexico, but the proposal immediately ran into headwinds locally.

The proposed Mimbres Peaks National Monument would encompass the Florida Mountains near Deming, Cooke's Range and Good Sight Mountains to the city's north and the peaks known as the Tres Hermanas (Three Sisters) near the village of Columbus. No formal proposal has been made to the Biden Administration as yet.

Nearly ten years after the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument protected just under half a million acres in Doña Ana County, proponents in Deming said the Mimbres Peaks proposal was inspired by economic growth it attributed in part to the OMDP's impact on tourism and hospitality in the region.

The campaign launch was emceed by state Sen. Carrie Hamblen, D-Las Cruces, who heads the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce. It took place within Rockhound State Park, in an area of the Floridas that attracts hikers, hunters and collectors of rocks and gems. Livestock frequently graze at the side of neighboring roads. The Floridas are also a haven for wildlife and home to a wilderness study area. Recently, at a foothill within the Floridas several miles away, core drilling proceeded for a prospective dolomite and magnesium quarry on federal land.

"The creation of a national monument would not only preserve these lands for future generations and create a proven economic engine for Luna County, it would also preserve the traditional land uses such as ranching, hunting and rockhounding, all of which would continue as it is today," Luna County Commissioner Ray Trejo said at a podium positioned with the mountains as a backdrop.

Deming Mayor Benny Jasso said the monument designation would fit into the city's long-term plan for making Deming a tourist destination, in part through outdoor recreation. The city and county have both invested in parks and recreational facilities located near Deming's commercial loop on the city's east side, including a water park that opened this summer and plans for a business incubator to feature a brewery, entertainment venue and other amenities, to spur job growth.

The presentation also included an invocation in the indigenous Towa language and addresses by speakers from the pueblos of Ysleta Del Sur and Jemez, noting the Mimbres region's cultural history.

"We all fight for protection of land — all natives do, because these are lands that our people used to walk on; we prayed; a lot of our people are buried on these lands," Rafael Gomez said. "These lands are also all of your lands ... all Americans."

Although each speaker stressed the launch was the beginning of conversations with affected parties including ranchers, a number of those in attendance complained the proposal had been developed in secret and demanded an opportunity to ask questions as Hamblen attempted to conclude the presentation. Trejo was immediately confronted by citizens angry about the rollout as well as the monument proposal itself.

"Evidently, they've had several meetings and (among) all the ranchers I spoke to, nobody had any information about this until I started making phone calls two days ago," rancher Eddie Mesa told the Bulletin. "They tried to sneak this thing in under the radar and blindsided



us. This is a land grab by the federal government and they're disguising it as an economical development project."

Mesa expressed concern a monument designation would lead to decreased grazing rights for ranchers and possibly curtail leases with the federal Bureau of Land Management. Supporters counter that has not held true for the OMDP, where livestock numbers reportedly grew by 30 percent over the first six years of its existence.

Luna County Commissioner Colette Chandler, herself part of a ranching family, expressed doubts about further federal involvement in the area. Referring to local farms and ranches, she said, "If these people who are here making their money and circulating it and keeping all this going, they're the ones that have the right to say."

State Rep. Jenifer Jones, R-Deming, who was present for the announcement, remarked to the Bulletin, "To this point, there has been little transparency or public involvement around the monument discussion. I am just as interested in how this impacts farmers and ranchers as I am about the purported benefits of yet another federal land grab."

Residents associated with the Friends of the Floridas, a volunteer group promoting preservation of the mountain range, were also in attendance. The group and its president, Wesley Light, are parties in a federal lawsuit against BLM over the American Magnesium dolomite mine.

"It's complex public land; it's managed by the government for the benefit of all the people, and we have to work together to make that happen here in Luna County," Light said.

National monuments are established either by acts of Congress or by presidential order under the Antiquities Act of 1906. The OMDP, for instance, was designated by President Barack Obama in May 2014. The Protect Mimbres Peaks campaign is hoping for action by President Joe Biden.

Areas protected by national monuments are limited to lands under federal ownership or control, preserving resources or sites of cultural or ecological importance including Native American cultural sites and artifacts. Since the BLM already manages the lands that would be protected by a national monument, it would likely oversee the monument and develop a required resource management plan with local input, if the Mimbres Peaks ever becomes a national monument.

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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. It's 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 Vincent C. Turner (elected 2023)

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. It's 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 Deborah L. Cooksey (elected 2023)

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. It's 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: 25,749 (2022)

Households: 9,047 (2021)

Median household income: \$33,914 (2021)

Persons below poverty level: 27.6 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments: 376 (2021)

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

Total employment: 4,816 (2021)

GEOGRAPHY

Land area (square miles): 6,612

Population per square mile: 10.3



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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1900 N. White Sands Blvd.,
Alamogordo, NM 88310
575-437-3505
www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us

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ST. FRANCES CABRINI CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Grades PreK – 8
1000 E. Eighth St.,
Alamogordo, NM 88310
575-437-7821
www.stfccatholic.org

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Classical Christian School
Grades K-12
3601 N. Scenic Drive,
Alamogordo, NM 88310
575-434-3903
www.imagodei.academy

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3001 Thunder Road,
Alamogordo, NM 88310
575-434-0352
www.legacychristianacademy-edu.com

UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY -ALAMOGORDO
2400 N. Scenic Drive,
Alamogordo, NM 88310
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alamogordo.nmsu.edu



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4th St. #203,
Holloman AFB, NM 88330
575-479-2337
www.park.edu/academics/
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?location=nm-holloman-afb

OTERO COUNTY COMMUNITIES

ALAMOGORDO

City, County Seat
Population: 31,652

BENT

Unincorporated community
Population: 151

BOLES ACRES

Census-designated place
Population: 2,311

CHAPARRAL

Unincorporated community
Population: 16,551
In Doña Ana and Otero counties

CLOUDCROFT

Population: 777

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: 2,637

WEED

Unincorporated community
Population: 67

TWIN FORKS

Census-designated place
Population: 228

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.

QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

Population: 11,436 (2022)

Households: 5,321 (2021)

Median household income:
\$35,939 (2020)

Persons below poverty level:
26.7 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments:
215 (2021)

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

Total employment: 2,126 (2021)

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
Amber Vaughn
575-894-6215
avaughn@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

ARREY
Census-designated place
Population: 296

CABALLO
Census-designated place
Population: 118

CHLORIDE
Census-designated place
Population: 20

CUCHILLO
Census-designated place
Population: 35

DERRY
Census-designated place
Population: 110

ELEPHANT BUTTE
City
Population: 1,447

ENGLE
Census-designated place
Population: Unavailable

HILLSBORO
Census-designated place
Population: 199

**HOT SPRINGS
LANDING**
Census-designated place
Population: 120

KINGSTON
Census-designated place
Population: 57

LAKE VALLEY
Census-designated place
Population: 96

LAS PALOMAS
Census-designated place
Population: 196

LAS PLACITAS
Census-designated place
Population: 576

MONTICELLO
Census-designated place
Population: 84

OASIS
Census-designated place
Population: 117

**TRUTH OR
CONSEQUENCES**
County Seat
Population: 6,062

UPHAM
Unincorporated community
Population: 1,678

WILLIAMSBURG
Village
Population: 462

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 (re-elected in 2023) 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.

QUICK FACTS

PEOPLE

Population: 16,115 (2022)

Households: 4,834 (2021)

Median household income: \$38,242 (2021)

Persons below poverty level: 22.2 percent

BUSINESS

Total employer establishments: 225 (2021)

Total employment: 2,683 (2021)

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: 45

ALAMO

Census-designated place
Population: 1,150

BINGHAM

Census-designated place
Population: 165

CHAMIZAL

Census-designated place
Population: 62

CLAUNCH

Census-designated place
Population: 62

ESCONDIDA

Census-designated place
Population: 45

LEMITAR

Census-designated place
Population: 346

LUIS LOPEZ

Census-designated place
Population: 74

MAGDALENA

Village
Population: 808

POLVADERA

Census-designated place
Population: 626

SAN ACACIA

Census-designated place
Population: 30

SAN ANTONIO

Census-designated place
Population: 16

SAN ANTONITO

Census-designated place
Population: 94

SOCORRO

City
Population: 8,443

VEGUITA

Census-designated place
Population: 219



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
201 Neel Ave.,
Socorro, NM 87801
575-838-2026
www.socorroschools.org/o/cvc

UNIVERSITIES/ COLLEGES

NEW MEXICO TECH
INSTITUTE OF MINING
AND TECHNOLOGY
801 Leroy Place,
Socorro, NM 87801
575-835-5620
www.nmt.edu



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