BETTER TOGETHER NEW MEXICO

2026 NM HOUSE RACES

NAME	DISTRICT	SCORE	NAME	DISTRICT	SCORE	NAME	DISTRICT	SCORE
Martha Garcia*	6	✗	Eleanor Chavez*	26	✗	Raul S Turrieta	39	✗
Paul Spencer	6	✓	Corey R Zimmerman	26	✓	Luis M Terrazas*	39	✓
Rickie A Gonzales II	7	✗	Abby Christine Foster	27	✗	Joseph L Sanchez	40	–
Tanya Moya	7	✓	Jahnelle Louise Garcia	27	✓	Landon McQuire Dooley	40	✓
Katherine J Gauer	8	✗	Pamelya P Herndon*	28	✗	Kathleen Cates*	44	✗
Brian G Baca*	8	✓	Brenda J Olson	28	✓	Adam Prior	44	✓
G Andres Romero*	10	✗	Joy I Garratt*	29	✗	Tara L Lujan*	48	✗
Christopher P Crane	10	✓	Carolyn Stith	29	✓	Victoria M Garcia	48	✓
Art De La Cruz*	12	✗	Diane Torres-Velasquez*	30	✗	Sarah Boses	50	✗
Steven E Tafoya	12	✓	Jerry Trujillo	30	✓	Kenneth D Brennan	50	✓
Miguel Garcia*	14	✗	Lisa Curtis	31	✗	Grace A Nagamine	51	✗
Richard Zubia	14	✓	Nicole Chavez*	31	✓	John Block*	51	✓
Cynthia D Borrego*	17	✗	Laura M Parra	32	✗	Sarah A Silva*	53	✗
Stacey D Rich	17	✓	Jenifer Jones*	32	✓	Ben Luna, Jr	53	✓
Debra Marie Sarinana*	21	✗	Micaela Lara Cadena*	33	✗	Chriselle V Martinez	57	✗
Robert Mason	21	✓	Enrique Kiki Vigil	33	✓	Catherine J Cullen*	57	✓
William (Bill) Scott	22	✗	Nathan P Small*	36	✗	Luke Nicholas Jungman	60	✗
Stefani Lord*	22	✓	Julia E Ruiz	36	✓	Joshua N Hernandez*	60	✓
Cristina S Parajon*	25	✗	Lori A Martinez	37	✗	Vincent M Soule	67	✗
Denis Litvinenko	25	✓	Isabella Solis	37	✓	Jackey O Chatfield*	67	✓
			David L Mooney	38	✗	Charlotte L Little*	68	✗
*Incumbent			Rebecca Dow*	38	✓	David E Adkins	68	✓

✓	Pro-New Mexico traditional values supporting families, freedom, and opportunities.
✗	Pro-government control over families, businesses, and increasing taxpayer-funded programs.
–	Mixed position; does not clearly align with either traditional values or government control.

Scores are based on information gathered from multiple public sources, including but not limited to the candidates' social media pages, scores from other sources, and the actual votes of incumbents. Summary data can be found at BetterTogetherNewMexico.org

Supreme Court Judge Retention

David K. Thomson — Recommendation: Vote NO on Retention.

2019 Appointed by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham

2026 Concurred in a decision allowing an attorney to clerk for the Supreme Court in lieu of passing the bar exam.

2025 Invalidated abortion restrictions adopted by Lea and Roosevelt counties and Hobbs and Clovis. State statutes preempted the local ordinances, including abortion-clinic licensing and private enforcement provisions.

2024 Denied a request to compel certification of referendum petitions against two 2023 election laws. Held the laws exempt from referendum under NM's public peace, health or safety exception.

2023 Affirmed the district court's decision upholding NM's congressional map. Held that factual findings had substantial evidentiary support, supported the legal conclusions, and disclosed no legal error.

2023 Concurred with the decision requiring Equity in Justice continuing education for attorneys.

Plus several cases upholding the release of repeat offenders.

Shannon Bacon — Recommendation: Vote NO on Retention.

Co-founder of Emerge New Mexico

2019 Appointed by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham

2026 Concurred in a decision allowing an attorney to clerk for the Supreme Court in lieu of passing the bar exam.

2025 Wrote the court’s opinion that invalidated abortion restrictions adopted by Lea and Roosevelt counties and Hobbs and Clovis. State statutes preempted the local ordinances, including abortion-clinic licensing and private enforcement provisions.

2024 Denied a request to compel certification of referendum petitions against two 2023 election laws. Held the laws exempt from referendum under NM's public peace, health or safety exception.

2023 Wrote the dispositional order affirming the district court's decision upholding NM's congressional map. Held that factual findings had substantial evidentiary support, supported the legal conclusions, and disclosed no legal error.

2023 Sponsored the decision requiring Equity in Justice continuing education for attorneys.

Plus several cases upholding the release of repeat offenders.

ON EVERY NEW MEXICO BALLOT – NOV. 3, 2026

4 Constitutional Amendments + 3 Bond Questions

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS		VOTE RECOMMENDATION
CA 1	**End pocket veto.** Bills the governor neither signs nor vetoes become law. Governor must explain vetoes.	YES
CA 2	**Allow school elections** to be held on the same day as partisan elections.	YES
CA 3	**Create nominating committees** for university Boards of Regents; student members chosen from student-body lists; non-student members cannot switch party 12 months before appointment.	YES
CA 4	**Pay state legislators** a salary equal to *New Mexico's* median household income.	NO

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS *(paid by statewide property tax if approved)*		VOTE RECOMMENDATION
Bond 1	Senior citizen facilities: up to $21.6 million	NO
Bond 2	Public, school, academic & tribal libraries: up to $19.3 million	NO
Bond 3	Higher education, special schools & tribal schools: up to $352.2 million	NO

Regional Comparison of State Legislative Per Diem, Salary, and Retirement

State	Per Diem / Expense Reimbursement	Regular Session	Salary / Legislative Pay	Retirement / Pension*	
				10 years	20 years
AZ	$35/day Maricopa; $269.33/day outside Maricopa	100 calendar days or more annually	$24,000/year	$ 9,600.	$19,200.
CO	$77/day metro; $277/day non-metro	120 calendar days annually	House $47,561; Senate $43,977 or $47,561 depending on the starting term.	$11,890.	$23,781.
TX	$221/day	140 calendar days in odd years	$7,200/year	$40,250.	$80,500.
UT	Expense reimbursement.	45 calendar days annually	$301 per legislative day (~$13,545 for 45-day general session)	$ 3,984.	$ 7,968.
OK	$196/day for members >50 miles from Capitol with overnight stay	110-117 calendar days annually	$47,500/year	$ 9,500.	$19,000.
NM	$247/day	60 days in odd-numbered years; 30 days in even-numbered years	If HJR5 passes: salary based on the annual median household income. Est. salary $67,800.	$31,122.	$62,244.

Important Notes

• New Mexico has the second-highest per diem, second-highest pension, and if HJR5 passes, would have the highest salary in the region.

• If HJR5 passes, New Mexico legislators would be paid a higher salary than some FT teachers and half of New Mexico households. While most legislators participate in interim committees, their base obligation to taxpayers is a 30-day or 60-day legislative session.

* Retirement/Pension figures are illustrative calculations using current base salaries or plan formulas. Actual benefits vary by individual service credit, contribution history, final average compensation, and plan tier. Newer legislators in AZ, UT, OK, and some others are generally in defined-contribution plans only and receive no fixed percentage-of-salary pension.

New Hampshire Comparison

New Hampshire: $200 per two-year term ($100/year equivalent) plus mileage reimbursement. NH legislators receive no per diem; no legislative pension; and have no legislative staff.

Full source links and verification notes are on the NMBC website.

Gabe Vasquez...Voted

Against

NO Tax on Tips

Melanie Stansbury…Voted

Against

NO Tax on Tips