



League of Women Voters  
of Central New Mexico

Liga de Mujeres Votantes del Centro de Nuevo México

# Voter Guide

## Guía para Votantes

### City of Albuquerque Regular Local Runoff Election

**December 9, 2025**

#### WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE/DÓNDE Y CUÁNDO VOTAR

##### Early Voting and Same Day Registration

- December 1 - 6    10 am – 7 pm

##### Election Day Voting

- December 9        7 am – 7 pm

This is also the deadline for turning in absentee ballots at one of the election day voting locations or at the county clerk's office.

##### Votación anticipada y registro de votante el mismo día

- 1 al 6 de diciembre, de 10:00 a 19:00

##### Votación el día de las elecciones

- 9 de diciembre, de 7:00 a 19:00

Esta es también la fecha límite para entregar las boletas de voto ausente en uno de los centros de votación del día de las elecciones o en la oficina de la secretaria del condado.

Locations for Early and Election Day Voting can be found on the Bernalillo County Clerk website:

<https://www.bernoclerk.gov/elections/early-voting/>

<https://www.bernoclerk.gov/elections/election-day-voting/>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Who Can Vote</b></p> <p>You can vote, if you are a citizen of the United States, AND a resident of New Mexico, AND 18 years of age or older on Election Day, AND have registered to vote. You can register on the day you vote at most polling places.</p> <p>Individuals who are currently incarcerated in New Mexico for a felony offense cannot vote while incarcerated. Once they are released, they can register and vote in New Mexico elections, regardless of parole or probation status. Individuals who are close to release may be eligible to register.</p> <p>The county clerk's office can provide information about the process.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>¿Quién puede votar?</b></p> <p>Puede votar si es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos, es residente de Nuevo México, tiene 18 años o más el día de la elección Y se ha registrado para votar. Puede registrarse el día que vota en la mayoría de los lugares de votación.</p> <p>Las personas que se encuentran actualmente encarceladas en Nuevo México por un delito grave no pueden votar mientras estén en prisión. Una vez liberadas, pueden registrarse y votar en las elecciones de Nuevo México, independientemente de su estado de libertad condicional o probatoria. Las personas que pronto serán liberadas podrían ser elegibles para registrarse.</p> <p>La oficina del secretario del condado puede proporcionar información sobre el proceso.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Candidate Responses and Character Limits</b></p> <p>The responses of candidates to questionnaires are printed exactly as they are responded to by the candidate. The League assumes no responsibility for the content of any candidate's reply. The League has in no way edited for meaning, grammar, punctuation, or spelling. The League has pre-advised candidates about the length of their responses.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Respuestas de los candidatos y el límite de caracteres</b></p> <p>Las respuestas de los candidatos a nuestros cuestionarios se imprimen exactamente como las ingresó el candidato. La Liga no asume ninguna responsabilidad por el contenido de las respuestas de ningún candidato. La Liga no ha editado ninguna respuesta con respecto al significado, la gramática, la puntuación, o la ortografía. Debido a las restricciones de espacio, la Liga ha informado previamente a los candidatos sobre el límite de caracteres de las respuestas</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sample Ballot and More</b></p> <p>You can verify your voter registration online, view your sample ballot, apply for an absentee ballot and check its status, and much more at <b>nmvote.org</b>. Scroll down to <b>"Find My Registration &amp; Election Information."</b></p> <p>You can also request a sample ballot from the County Clerk or at an early voting location in your county.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Boleta de muestra y más</b></p> <p>Puede verificar su registro de votante en línea, ver su boleta de muestra, solicitar una boleta de voto en ausencia y verificar su estado, y mucho más en <b>nmvote.org</b>. Desplácese hacia abajo hasta <b>"Buscar mi registro e información electoral."</b></p> <p>También puede solicitar una boleta de muestra del secretario del condado o en un lugar de votación anticipada en su condado.</p>

<h3>Registering to vote in New Mexico</h3>	<h3>Registrarse para votar en Nuevo México</h3>
<p>To register to vote you must be a U.S. citizen, a New Mexico resident, and at least 18 years old on election day. You will need to provide proof of your identity and residency. If you did not provide this information when you registered, then you will need to provide it the first time you vote.</p> <p>Valid forms of proof include a current and valid photo identification, a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, student identification card, identification issued by an Indian Nation, tribe, or pueblo that shows your name and current address, or other government document. To be sure, bring more than one of these credentials.</p> <p>There are several methods and many places to register:</p> <p><b>nmvote.org.</b> You can register using the <b>nmvote.org</b> portal if you have a valid New Mexico driver's license or identification card up.</p> <p><b>Motor Vehicle Department</b> with proof of New Mexico residence and identification.</p> <p><b>Mail-in registration.</b> If you are registering for the first time in New Mexico, you must submit a copy of <i>identification that shows both your name and your New Mexico address, or present these forms of identification the first time you vote.</i></p> <p><b>Same-day in-person voter registration.</b> You can register in person at the County Clerk's office or at any Early Voting or Election Day location with your identification and proof of residency papers.</p>	<p>Como se indicó anteriormente, para registrarse para votar debe ser ciudadano de los EE. UU., residente de Nuevo México y tener al menos 18 años el día de las elecciones. Tendrá que proporcionar una prueba de su identidad y residencia. Si no proporcionó esta información cuando se registró, deberá proporcionarla la primera vez que vote.</p> <p>Las formas válidas de prueba incluyen una identificación con fotografía actual y válida, una factura de servicios actual, un estado de cuenta bancario, un cheque del gobierno, un talón de pago, una tarjeta de identificación de estudiante, una identificación emitida por una nación, tribu o pueblo indígena que muestre su nombre y dirección actual, u otro documento gubernamental. Para estar seguro, lleve más de una de estas credenciales.</p> <p>Hay varios métodos y muchos lugares para registrarse:</p> <p><b>nmvote.org.</b> Puede registrarse usando el portal en nmvote.org si tiene una licencia de conducir o una tarjeta de identificación de Nuevo México válida.</p> <p><b>A través del Departamento de Vehículos Motorizados</b> y en campañas de registro de votantes.</p> <p><b>Registro por correo.</b> Si se está registrando por primera vez en Nuevo México, debe presentar una copia de una identificación que muestre tanto su nombre como su dirección en Nuevo México, o presentar estas formas de identificación la primera vez que vote.</p> <p><b>Registro de votante en persona en el mismo día.</b> Puede registrarse en persona en la oficina del secretario del condado o en cualquier lugar de votación anticipada o el día de las elecciones con su identificación y documentos que prueben su residencia.</p>

### Absentee Voting

New Mexico allows any registered voter to request an absentee ballot. You can request one at **nmvote.org**, or by contacting your County Clerk.

The last day to request an absentee ballot for the 2025 Regular Local Runoff Election is Tuesday, November 25.

Completed absentee ballots may be turned in at any polling place or Vote Center up through Election Day by 7:00 pm by the voter, a member of the voter's immediate family, or caretaker. You can also mail your ballot, but **it must arrive by 7:00 pm on Election Day**.

You can get on the permanent absentee list to receive an absentee ballot for every election via **nmvote.org**.

### Voto en ausencia

Nuevo México permite que cualquier votante registrado solicite una boleta de voto en ausencia. Puede solicitar una en **nmvote.org** o comunicarse con el secretario de su condado.

El último día para solicitar una boleta de voto en ausencia para las elecciones locales regulares de 2025 es el martes 25 de noviembre.

El votante, un miembro de la familia inmediata del votante o un cuidador pueden entregar los votos en ausencia completados en cualquier lugar de votación o centro de votación hasta el día de las elecciones antes de las 7:00 de la tarde. También puede enviar su boleta por correo, pero debe **llegar antes de las 7:00 de la tarde el día de las elecciones**.

Puede inscribirse en la lista permanente de votantes ausentes para recibir una boleta de voto en ausencia para cada elección a través de **nmvote.org**.

### Provisional Ballots

You will be issued a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the voter rolls, or you are a first-time voter but have not provided proof of identification and residency.

The election officials will give you information on what you will need to do to ensure that your ballot will be counted and to see if it was counted.

### Boletas Provisionales

Se le emitirá una boleta provisional si su nombre no aparece en las listas de votantes, o si está votando por primera vez, pero no ha proporcionado prueba de identificación y residencia.

Los funcionarios electorales le darán información sobre lo que deberá hacer para asegurarse de que su boleta sea contada y para ver si fue contada.

### Contact information for the County Clerk Información de contacto de la secretaria del condado

**Bernalillo County Clerk**  
505-468-1291; 505-243-VOTE (8683)  
415 Silver Ave. SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
<https://www.berncoclerk.gov/>

## City of Albuquerque Mayor

The mayor is the chief executive officer of the city government and is responsible for enforcing its ordinances and regulations. With approvals from a majority of the city council, the mayor hires, supervises and discharges the non-elected employees of the city. With the advice and consent of the council, the mayor also appoints the chief administrative officer, any deputy administrative officers, the chief of police, and the fire chief. Indirectly, through the use of police personnel, the mayor also has the duty to suppress disorder and keep the peace.

No candidate for mayor of the City of Albuquerque in the regular general municipal elections received more than 50 percent of the vote, necessitating a runoff election between the top two candidates. Voters do not need to have voted in the regular general election to vote in the runoff election.

	What prior experience and education have prepared you for this position?	What more can the mayor do to improve public safety in Albuquerque?	How would you as mayor address possible reductions in federal programs and funding in coming years?	Should Albuquerque continue its stance as an immigrant-friendly city or modify it in some way?
<b>Darren White</b>	NM Department of Public Safety Secretary, Bernalillo County Sheriff, City of ABQ Public Safety Director and small business owner. BA in Management.	I believe the fundamental role of government is to keep people safe. Under Mayor Keller, families live in fear – businesses struggle to survive. I'll take bold immediate action to fight crime in ABQ. I'll hire a strong leader as APD chief, reinstate proactive policing so officers are actively preventing crime, not just responding to it after the fact, and start a specialized Juvenile Crime Unit to address the surge in vicious crimes committed by teens. I know what fighting crime is all about.	I will allow ICE access to arrest data to identify anyone who is in our country illegally and charged with a crime. The skyrocketing federal debt will likely cause cuts in federal funds. This will require the city to manage its finances responsibly. Albuquerque has increased its budget by more than 60% over the last 8 years, yet we continue to face the same core challenges—public safety, homelessness and infrastructure. This points not to a lack of resources, but to misplaced priorities.	I will immediately end the current sanctuary city policy. I will allow ICE access to arrest data to identify anyone who is in our country illegally and charged with a crime. This is a matter of public safety.


	What prior experience and education have prepared you for this position?	What more can the mayor do to improve public safety in Albuquerque?	How would you as mayor address possible reductions in federal programs and funding?	Should Albuquerque continue its stance as an immigrant-friendly city or modify it in some way?
<b>Timothy M. Keller</b>	I was raised in Albuquerque, educated at Notre Dame, and earned an MBA from Harvard. I previously was elected State Senator and State Auditor. I was elected Mayor because voters trusted me to face our toughest challenges head-on—and we’ve done that. We’ve built a foundation to reduce crime and homelessness, add better-paying jobs, and keep families safe. I’m running for re-election to accelerate progress and ensure Albuquerque stands strong against Trump’s harmful policies and budget cuts.	Improving public safety means tackling crime at its roots while holding offenders accountable. We rebuilt APD, added officers, and restored morale, while investing in technology like gunshot detection and automated speed enforcement. Our Community Safety Department has taken over 120,000 calls, freeing officers to focus on crime—and every major category is coming down. But fentanyl drives much of today’s crime. We must expand treatment, create drug courts, and hold dealers accountable.	Cuts threaten the progress we’ve made on public safety, transit and housing. As Mayor, I’ve stood up to Washington before—fighting against harmful Trump-era policies—and I’ll do it again. My ‘Defend ABQ’ plan layers lawsuits, executive orders and alternative funding. We’ll also protect services by diversifying our economy and working closely with state partners to fill gaps. We can’t afford to be at the mercy of DC politics. My job is to safeguard families and keep our city moving forward.	We must remain an immigrant friendly city. Our diversity makes us stronger, and our values demand that we protect all families. When Trump tried to tear families apart, I stood firm—reaffirming Albuquerque’s commitment, adding rules on ICE mask use, and prosecuting those impersonating law enforcement. Trust between immigrants and law enforcement makes our city safer. We will not turn our backs on our neighbors—we’ll continue to defend Albuquerque as a welcoming, immigrant-friendly city.


## Albuquerque City Council

The council controls all of the city's finances and property, passes ordinances and resolutions on a wide variety of topics, approves the hiring and firing of staff, sets staff salaries and establishes and abolishes jobs within the city's administration.

No single candidate for the Albuquerque City Council races in Districts 1 and 3 in the regular general municipal elections received more than 50 percent of the vote, necessitating a runoff election between the top two candidates. Voters do not need to have voted in the regular general election to vote in the runoff election.

### District 1 Councilor

	What prior experience and education have prepared you for this position?	What more can the city council do to improve public safety in Albuquerque?	How might the city council address possible reductions in federal programs and funding in the coming years?	Should Albuquerque continue its stance as an immigrant friendly city or modify it in some way?
 <p><b>Stephanie Telles</b></p>	<p>My lived experience as a mom, wife, educator, and caregiver gives me a deep understanding of the challenges families face balancing work, family, and community. Professionally, I'm a small business owner, budget expert, and certified fraud examiner with a career dedicated to eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse. As a former government accountability officer, faculty member at UNM and CNM, and active community board member. I bring strong financial and leadership expertise to this role.</p>	<p>Public safety is about prevention, trust, and timely response. I support strengthening ACS to respond to behavioral health and nonviolent crises, reclassifying 911 dispatchers as first responders, ensuring we have the staffing and resources needed to reduced response times. I would also prioritize youth engagement, housing stability, violence interruption, and community trust-building. Real safety comes when people feel supported, valued, and connected, in their neighborhoods.</p>	<p>My background in government oversight equips me to manage risk and ensure accountability in times of uncertainty. I'd prioritize housing, behavioral health, and preventive care by using city resources strategically, building coalitions with hospitals, unions, and nonprofits, and pressing for restored funding. I'd also redirect subsidies from luxury projects to community needs and pursue sustainable, equitable revenue streams that don't fall hardest on working families.</p>	<p>Albuquerque must remain an immigrant-friendly city. Sanctuary policies protect limited local resources, improve public safety by building trust between immigrant communities and police, and affirm our values of dignity and fairness. Local law enforcement should never act as an arm of ICE or CBP. Protecting immigrant families strengthens our city socially, culturally, and economically, and I will fight to ensure Albuquerque continues to stand proudly for these values.</p>

	<b>What prior experience and education have prepared you for this position?</b>	<b>What more can the city council do to improve public safety in Albuquerque?</b>	<b>How might the city council address possible reductions in federal programs and funding in the coming years?</b>	<b>Should Albuquerque continue its stance as an immigrant friendly city or modify it in some way?</b>
 <p><b>Joshua Taylor Neal</b></p>	<p>As a Civil Engineer, I manage complex projects by coordinating with architects, contractors, utility providers, and agencies to balance competing needs and deliver results on time and on budget. This work has taught me to listen, build consensus, and find solutions—skills essential for City Council. My engineering background also makes me detail oriented, data-driven, and focused on delivering practical results for Albuquerque.</p>	<p>Public safety is the City's top job. I'll fight crime with enforcement, prevention, and accountability. That means fully staffing APD, improving training and response times, and supporting community policing. We must prevent crime by fixing streetlights, cleaning blighted areas, and investing in youth programs. Finally, I'll demand accountability with data-driven policing, public safety dashboards, and transparency so we know what's working.</p>	<p>If federal funding is reduced, City Council must prioritize essential services, cut waste, and explore partnerships with state, local, and private organizations. We should diversify our revenue base, pursue grants aggressively, and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently. By focusing on core services and smart budgeting, Albuquerque can remain resilient and continue delivering results for residents even during funding shortfalls.</p>	<p>I've seen the human side of migration firsthand, serving in Colombia to aid Venezuelan refugees. Our police shouldn't waste time deporting grandmas—they should focus on drug lords, human traffickers, gangs, and cartels that devastate our city. We can show compassion to families while prioritizing enforcement against those who bring crime and violence.</p>



## District 3 Councilor

	What prior experience and education have prepared you for this position?	What more can the city council do to improve public safety in Albuquerque?	How might the city council address possible reductions in federal programs and funding in the coming years?	Should Albuquerque continue its stance as an immigrant friendly city or modify it in some way?
 <p><b>Teresa Garcia</b></p>	<p>I am the first in my family to graduate from UNM with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. With 7+ years of statewide coalition and policy work, I serve the Chair of Albuquerque's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Commission and formerly chaired the Southwest Community Policing Council. I also regularly attend and present at City Council meetings. These roles, along with statewide and local advocacy, have prepared me to lead effectively to represent my community.</p>	<p>We must improve public safety by ensuring APD is trained in deescalation, trauma-informed care, cultural sensitivity, and accountability, while expanding Albuquerque Community Safety for calls involving homelessness, mental health, and substance use. We must end the revolving door for violent crimes, improve response times, and intentionally create fully functioning programs that invest in youth, housing, jobs, and nonprofit partnerships to address root causes and build safer neighborhoods.</p>	<p>Our community is already experiencing funding cuts, making it urgent for City Council to diversify funding and work closely with state leaders to protect essential services. We must prioritize housing, public safety, and healthcare, while strengthening partnerships with nonprofits to sustain intentional, fully functioning programs. Transparency and accountability are critical to ensure every dollar directly supports Albuquerque families and reduces the impact of lost federal funding.</p>	<p>Albuquerque must continue as an immigrant-friendly city. Immigrants are vital to our culture, economy, and neighborhoods, and policies must reflect dignity and protection. I support safeguarding immigrant rights, unmasking ICE for transparency, and rejecting fear-based tactics. By working with community organizations, we can create intentional, fully functioning, and accessible pathways to citizenship and resources that ensure every resident feels safe, valued, and supported.</p>

	What prior experience and education have prepared you for this position?	What more can the city council do to improve public safety in Albuquerque?	How might the city council address possible reductions in federal programs and funding in the coming years?	Should Albuquerque continue its stance as an immigrant friendly city or modify it in some way?
<b>Klarissa J Peña</b>	District 3 is a predominantly working class area, with 81.6% of our residents identifying as Hispanic, according to the 2020 U.S. Census. Years ago, community members united to confront the lasting impacts of historic redlining, chronic disinvestment, and a lack of equitable development. My lifelong work has focused on addressing the broad range of needs that have emerged from this history—needs that include housing, infrastructure, economic opportunity, and access to essential services.	Public safety requires prevention, intervention, and strong behavioral health services. I've sponsored Community Policing Councils to empower residents and support community policing. Shot Spotter has helped deter crime. Fully funding safety departments while ensuring compliance with consent decree policies will build trust, address root causes, and create lasting safety.	If federal funding is reduced, the City Council must protect core services like public safety, housing, and infrastructure. We can do this by prioritizing our budget, building stronger reserves, and seeking state, grant, and public-private partnerships. Albuquerque must plan ahead so our most vulnerable residents aren't left behind.	In 2018, I sponsored reaffirming Albuquerque's Immigrant Friendly status, first passed in 2000. Albuquerque is not a sanctuary city, but policies limiting local involvement in federal enforcement protect safety and trust. I expect these inclusive policies to continue reflecting our community's values.

## About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico is an educational non-profit organization dedicated primarily to nonpartisan voter education. We are affiliated with the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, which functions as a statewide advocacy organization supported by the four local leagues: Central New Mexico, Los Alamos, Santa Fe County, and Southern New Mexico.

The League provides nonpartisan voter education to citizens on issues and candidates by conducting and sponsoring public discussion, forums, lectures, and other similar programs; by producing observer reports of various public councils, boards, and commissions; and by producing online and printed information on issues, candidates, and officials. This includes the popular Voter Guide and Who's Who Political Directory.

## About the Voter Guide

This guide is published to assist voters in learning about candidates, bond questions, and other issues on their ballots. The work is done by volunteers. The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or political parties. This year the Leagues in New Mexico have put together an online statewide Voter Guide called **VOTE411.org**. Using software licensed by the LWV of the United States, we ask candidates to enter their answers to a series of questions developed by the state and local Leagues. No one at the League edits or alters their answers. The only restriction we impose is a character limit for answers.

**VOTE411.org** also includes information about what's on the ballot, including bond issues, and other local questions.

**If this guide helped in making your decisions, please consider donating to and/or joining our organization at [lwvcnm.org](http://lwvcnm.org).**

## Donating to the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions to LWVCNM are tax deductible.

The League depends on the generosity of individual supporters and members, foundations, and businesses to fund its citizen education and advocacy activities.

### **You can donate by:**

Going to the [LWVCNM.org](http://LWVCNM.org) website and select the Donate button.

*The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico appreciates your support!*