



Office of the New Mexico  
Secretary of State  
Maggie Toulouse Oliver

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## 2025 Regular Local Election Candidate Guide

## About This Guide

This publication, prepared by the Office of the New Mexico Secretary of State, Bureau of Elections, serves as an easy-to-use reference for candidates seeking office in the 2025 Regular Local Election, and for anyone interested in the election process in New Mexico.

**Please note, this guide is intended merely as a reference, not as a legal authority.** This guide does not supersede federal or state laws or rules, and it does not have the force of law. Please always consult the local government's specific governing statute, charter, or ordinance for the specific requirements to hold elected office.

Copies of the New Mexico Election Code and other applicable laws are available on our website: [www.sos.nm.gov](http://www.sos.nm.gov).

If you have any questions about the information in this guide, or if you have questions regarding elections that are not provided for in this guide, please feel free to call the Bureau of Elections toll-free, at 1 (800) 477-3632, option 2, or at (505) 827-3600, option 2, or via email [elections@sos.nm.gov](mailto:elections@sos.nm.gov).

# Table of Contents

About This Guide.....	2
Table of Contents .....	3
Regular Local Election – General Information .....	4
Regular Local Election – Important Dates.....	4
General Eligibility Requirements for Regular Local Election Offices .....	7
Special Eligibility Requirements .....	8
Municipalities Electing Officers on the 2025 Regular Local Election Ballot.....	9
Filing for Candidacy .....	2
Filing for Candidacy as a Write-In Candidate .....	2
Withdrawing Candidacy .....	3
Filing Day Tips.....	4
Candidate Challenges.....	4
Ballot Appearance .....	5
Runoff Elections .....	5
Candidate Forms .....	6

## Regular Local Election – General Information

The Local Election Act (LEA), passed by the New Mexico Legislature in 2018, provides a consolidated local election to be conducted in New Mexico. In addition, the New Mexico Legislature signed HB 407 on April 3, 2019, which provided additional updates to the LEA.

The LEA repealed the Municipal and School Board Election Codes and required all elections to follow uniform procedures for the call, conduct, and canvass of all elections. The LEA established two new statewide elections:

1. Regular Local Election (RLE): the biennial local election, at which local governing body members are elected pursuant to the provisions of the LEA, held every November of odd-numbered years.
2. Municipal Officer's Election: municipalities that have not opted in to the RLE will elect executive and judicial officers during this election held every March of even-numbered years.

In addition to candidates, a Regular Local Election ballot may contain ballot questions proposed by the state, county, or local government, or as otherwise provided by law.

All Special Local Elections in New Mexico will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Special Election Act. *NMSA 1978 §§ 1-24-1 through 1-24-5.*

## Regular Local Election – Important Dates

### August 6, 2025: SOS PROCLAMATION CALLING FOR REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION

The secretary of state shall by resolution issue a public proclamation in Spanish and English calling a Regular Local Election. The proclamation shall be issued and filed by the secretary of state, in the office of the secretary of state, ninety (90) days preceding the date of the Regular Local Election and, upon filing the proclamation, the secretary of state shall post the proclamation and certify it to each county clerk. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-4(B).*

### August 26, 2025: CANDIDATE FILING DAY

A candidate for a position that will be filled at a local election shall file a **declaration of candidacy** with the proper filing officer (County Clerk's Office, in the county where the candidate is registered to vote) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., on the seventieth (70) day before the date of the local election. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-7(A).*

- A candidate shall file for only one position in the same local government but may file for a position in more than one local government on the same filing day. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-7(B).*
- A declaration of candidacy shall not be amended after it has been filed. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-7(C).*
- Each declaration of candidacy shall be delivered for filing in person by the eligible candidate or by a person acting by virtue of written authorization. The proper filing officer shall not accept for filing from any one individual more than one declaration of candidacy. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-7(D).*

- No person shall become a candidate in a local election unless the person's record of voter registration shows that the person is a qualified elector of the state, physically resides in the district in which the person is a candidate and was registered to vote in the district on the date the proclamation calling a local election is filed in the office of the secretary of state. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-3(B)*.

#### **August 29, 2025: NOTIFY CANDIDATES OF QUALIFICATION FOR APPEARANCE ON THE BALLOT**

The proper filing officer shall determine whether a candidate filing a declaration of candidacy is registered to vote within the area to be elected to represent and, if required for the office being sought, whether the candidate's nominating petition for that office has been filed with a number of signatures that is equal to or greater than the number required for that office. If the candidate is so qualified and no withdrawal of candidacy has been filed as provided in the Local Election Act, the proper filing officer shall place the candidate's name on the ballot for the position specified in the declaration of candidacy and notify each candidate in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixty-seventh (67) day before the local election. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-10(A)*

#### **September 2, 2025: WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FILING DAY**

A person desiring to be a **write-in candidate** for an office shall file with the proper filing officer a declaration of candidacy. The declaration shall be filed between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the sixty-third (63) day preceding the date of the election. The declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate shall be accompanied by a nominating petition containing the same number of signatures or the filing fee required of other candidates for the same office. A write-in candidate shall be considered a candidate for all purposes and provisions relating to candidates in the Local Election Act, except that the write-in candidate's name shall not be printed on the ballot nor posted in any polling place. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-8.1(C)*.

#### **September 2, 2025: LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW**

A candidate seeking to **withdraw** from a local election shall withdraw no later than the sixty-third (63) day before that election by filing a signed and notarized statement of withdrawal with the proper filing officer. *NMSA 1978, § 1-10-6(D)*.

#### **September 20, 2025: TRANSMISSION OF UNVOTED MILITARY-OVERSEAS BALLOTS TO FEDERAL QUALIFIED ELECTORS (FQE)**

Not later than forty-five (45) days before an election, even if the forty-fifth (45) day before an election falls on a weekend or a holiday, the county clerk shall transmit a ballot and balloting materials to all federal qualified electors who by that date submit a valid military-overseas ballot application. *NMSA 1978, § 1-6B-7*.

#### **September 23, 2025: VOTER NOTIFICATION**

At least forty-two days prior to each statewide election, the secretary of state, on behalf of each county clerk, shall mail a voter notification of the election. The voter notification shall include: the date and purpose of the election; an internet address where a voter may apply for a mailed ballot; a telephone number where a voter may call to request the paper form of the mailed ballot application; a list of the days and times and addresses of early voting locations and voter convenience centers where a voter may vote in person; and a list of the locations of monitored secured containers where a voter may return a mailed ballot. *NMSA 1978, § 1-11-4.1*.

#### **September 30, 2025: APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION WATCHERS**

Upon written notice filed with the secretary of state no later than seven (7) days before the start of early voting, an election-related organization or any group of three (3) candidates in a local election may appoint **watchers** in a county who shall have the powers of and be subject to the restrictions provided for watchers in the Election Code. Before accepting an appointment or entering into service as a watcher for an election, a

person shall attend a training session in advance of that election. The county clerk shall offer the training between thirty-six (36) and twenty-nine (29) days before the election, and at least once per week prior to the election, through the Thursday before Election Day. *NMSA 1978, § 1-2-27 (B) & 1-2-22.*

#### **October 7, 2025: ABSENTEE/EARLY VOTING BEGINS**

Commencing on the twenty-eighth (28) day preceding the election, a voter may cast an **absentee** ballot or vote in person on an electronic voting system in the county clerk's office during regular business hours, and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately prior to the election. *NMSA 1978, § 1-6-5.7 (A).*

#### **October 14, 2025: SCHOOL DISTRICT CAMPAIGN REPORTING ACT – DEADLINE TO FILE (1ST REPORT)**

Pursuant to Article 22A (School District Campaign Reporting Act), certain offices are required to file reports:

- The position of a board of education member of a school district, or
- The position of board member of a community college organized or operating pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 21, Article 13 or Article 16, NMSA 1978.

All candidates filing for these offices will need to create an account in the Campaign Finance Information System (CFIS) and file a report/statement of no activity. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22A-3.*

#### **October 18, 2025: EXPANDED EARLY VOTING BEGINS**

Commencing on the third (3) Saturday prior to an election **a voter may vote in person on a voting system at an alternate voting location established by the county clerk.** *NMSA 1978, § 1-6-5.7(B).*

#### **October 21, 2025: ABSENTEE APPLICATION DEADLINE (TIMELY RECEIVED)**

The county clerk shall mark each completed application for a mailed ballot with the date and time of receipt in the clerk's office and enter the required information in the ballot register. The county clerk shall then determine if the applicant is a voter and if the voter is a uniformed service voter or an overseas voter. If the applicant is a uniformed-service voter or overseas voter, the application shall be processed pursuant to the UMOVA. An application for a mailed ballot from a voter who is not a federal qualified elector is timely if received by the county clerk no later than fourteen (14) days prior to election day. *NMSA 1978, § 1-6-5.*

#### **November 1, 2025: EARLY VOTING ENDS**

On the Saturday immediately preceding the election, **absentee and early voting ends.** *NMSA 1978, § 1-6-5.7(B).*

#### **November 4, 2025: ELECTION DAY**

A Regular Local Election shall be held on the first (1st) Tuesday after the first (1st) Monday in November of each odd-numbered year. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-3(A).*

- A local election shall be held to elect qualified persons to membership on a local governing body and, where applicable, to municipal executive office and to municipal judicial office. *NMSA 1978, §§ 1-22-3(B) through 1-22-3.1(A).*
- In addition to candidates in the election, a Regular Local Election ballot may contain ballot questions proposed by the state, county, or local government, or as otherwise provided by law. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-3(C).*

#### **November 10 – November 14, 2025: COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD – CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS BEGINS**

The county canvassing board shall meet to approve the report of the canvass of the returns and declare the results no sooner than six (6) days and no later than ten (10) days from the date of the election. A county canvassing board in a county with more than one-hundred-fifty thousand (150,000) voters shall meet to

approve the report of the canvass of the returns and declare the results no sooner than six (6) days and no later than thirteen (13) days from the date of the election (Note: Bernalillo County is currently the only county with more than 150,000 voters). *NMSA 1978, § 1-13-13(A)*.

#### **November 25, 2025: STATE CANVASSING BOARD – CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

The state canvassing board shall meet in the state capitol on the third (3) Tuesday after each statewide election and proceed to approve the report of the canvass and declare the results of the election or nomination of each candidate or ballot question voted upon by the entire state and by the voters of more than one (1) county. *NMSA 1978, §1-13-15*.

#### **December 1, 2025: CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION ISSUED TO WINNING CANDIDATES**

Upon approval of the report of the state canvass, but not sooner than the twenty-fourth (24) day after a regular local election, the secretary of state shall issue to the candidate entitled by law the appropriate certificate of election. *NMSA 1978, §1-13-16*.

#### **December 4, 2025: SCHOOL DISTRICT CAMPAIGN REPORTING ACT – DEADLINE TO FILE (2ND REPORT)**

Pursuant to Article 22A (School District Campaign Reporting Act), certain offices are required to file reports:

- A position of a board of education member of a school district, or
- The position of board member of a community college organized or operating pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 21, Article 13 or Article 16, NMSA 1978.

All candidates filing for these offices will need to create an account in the Campaign Finance Information System (CFIS) and file a report/statement of no activity. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22A-3*.

#### **January 1, 2025: START DATE OF OFFICERS ELECTED TO SERVE FULL TERMS**

The term of office of a candidate elected in a Regular Local Election or ensuing top-two runoff election shall begin on January 1 of the year following the candidate's election. The candidate to whom a certificate of election has been issued shall take the oath of office before entering upon the duties of office. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-18*.

## **General Eligibility Requirements for Regular Local Election Offices**

A person must be a registered voter and possess the qualifications specified by law to become a candidate for any office on the Regular Local Election ballot.

**Voter Registration Requirements:** New Mexico law outlines certain requirements for candidates to have their name printed on a ballot based upon the candidate's voter registration information. Specifically, the candidate's voter registration must show:

- For offices with district or county residency requirements, eligibility is determined by reviewing the candidate's voter registration address as of the date of the election proclamation. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-3 (B), § 1-22-8 and § 1-22-10*.
- Residency is determined by the place shown on the certificate of voter registration as the candidate's permanent address, provided that the candidate resides on the premises. *NMSA 1978, § 1-1-7.1*.
- The candidate's name will appear on the ballot to match the voter registration record on file. If a candidate's voter registration includes a middle name or initial, it will be included on the ballot. *NMSA*

1978, § 1-10-6.

- The candidate shall provide the proper filing officer with the same name as registered when they file for office. Any changes to voter registration must be effective on or before the date of the Election Proclamation. **Changes to a candidate's voter registration at the time of candidate filing will not be applied to the candidate's name as it will appear on the ballot.**

Candidates may review their current voter registration information by looking up their voter registration record on <https://voterportal.servis.sos.state.nm.us/WhereToVote.aspx> or by contacting their proper filing officer for a copy of their voter registration certificate.

**Felony Convictions:** A person who has been convicted of a felony shall not be permitted to hold an office of public trust for the state, a county, a municipality, or a district, unless the person has presented the governor with a certificate verifying the completion of the sentence and was granted a pardon or a certificate by the governor restoring the person's full rights of citizenship. *NMSA 1978, § 31-13-1(E).*

## Special Eligibility Requirements

In addition to meeting the age, residency, and other general requirements, some offices and municipalities have additional candidate eligibility requirements. Please always consult the local government's governing statute, charter, or ordinance for the specific requirements to run for an elected office.

The governing statutes for the most common districts are below. Please contact your county clerk directly if the local government information you are interested in is not listed:

Water & Sanitation District – NMSA 1978, §§ 73-21-1 — 73-21-55

Soil & Water District – NMSA 1978, §§ 73-20-1 — 73-20-49

Watershed District – NMSA 1978, §§ 73-20-1 — 73-20-49

Special Hospital District – NMSA 1978, §§ 4-48A-1 — 4-48A-30

Branch College District – NMSA 1978, §§ 21-14-1 — 21-14-17; 1-22A-1 — 1-22A-10

Community College District – NMSA 1978, §§ 21-13-1 — 21-13-27

School District – NMSA 1978, §§ 22-5-1 — 22-5-18

Flood Control District – NMSA 1978, §§ 72-18-1 — 72-18-70

Tax Improvement District – NMSA 1978, §§ 5-15-1 — 5-15-29

Public Improvement District – NMSA 1978, §§ 5-11-1 — 5-11-27



# Municipalities Electing Officers on the 2025 Regular Local Election Ballot<sup>1</sup>

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. City of Alamogordo             | 48. Town of Taos            |
| 2. City of Albuquerque            | 49. Town of Tatum           |
| 3. City of Anthony                | 50. Town of Vaughn          |
| 4. City of Aztec                  | 51. Village of Angel Fire   |
| 5. City of Bayard                 | 52. Village of Bosque Farms |
| 6. City of Belen                  | 53. Village of Capitan      |
| 7. City of Bloomfield             | 54. Village of Causey       |
| 8. City of Carlsbad               | 55. Village of Chama        |
| 9. City of Deming                 | 56. Village of Cimarron     |
| 10. City of Elephant Butte        | 57. Village of Cloudcroft   |
| 11. City of Eunice                | 58. Village of Columbus     |
| 12. City of Farmington            | 59. Village of Corona       |
| 13. City of Gallup                | 60. Village of Corrales     |
| 14. City of Grants                | 61. Village of Des Moines   |
| 15. City of Hobbs                 | 62. Village of Dora         |
| 16. City of Jal                   | 63. Village of Eagle Nest   |
| 17. City of Las Cruces            | 64. Village of Encino       |
| 18. City of Las Vegas             | 65. Village of Floyd        |
| 19. City of Lordsburg             | 66. Village of Folsom       |
| 20. City of Moriarty              | 67. Village of Fort Sumner  |
| 21. City of Portales              | 68. Village of Grady        |
| 22. City of Raton                 | 69. Village of Grenville    |
| 23. City of Rio Communities       | 70. Village of Hatch        |
| 24. City of Roswell               | 71. Village of Hope         |
| 25. City of Ruidoso Downs         | 72. Village of House        |
| 26. City of Santa Fe              | 73. Village of Logan        |
| 27. City of Socorro               | 74. Village of Los Lunas    |
| 28. City of Sunland Park          | 75. Village of Los Ranchos  |
| 29. City of Truth or Consequences | 76. Village of Loving       |
| 30. City of Texico                | 77. Village of Magdalena    |
| 31. City of Tucumcari             | 78. Village of Maxwell      |
| 32. Town of Carrizozo             | 79. Village of Melrose      |
| 33. Town of Clayton               | 80. Village of Milan        |
| 34. Town of Dexter                | 81. Village of Mosquero     |
| 35. Town of Edgewood              | 82. Village of Pecos        |
| 36. Town of Elida                 | 83. Village of Reserve      |
| 37. Town of Estancia              | 84. Village of Roy          |
| 38. Town of Hagerman              | 85. Village of San Jon      |
| 39. Town of Hurley                | 86. Village of San Ysidro   |
| 40. Town of Kirtland              | 87. Village of Santa Clara  |
| 41. Town of Lake Arthur           | 88. Village of Tijeras      |
| 42. Town of Mesilla               | 89. Village of Tularosa     |
| 43. Town of Mountainair           | 90. Village of Virden       |
| 44. Town of Peralta               | 91. Village of Wagon Mound  |
| 45. Town of Red River             | 92. Village of Willard      |
| 46. Town of Silver City           | 93. Village of Williamsburg |
| 47. Town of Springer              |                             |

<sup>1</sup> Updated to include municipalities that opted in by June 30, 2025.

## Filing for Candidacy

Individuals seeking candidacy shall file a declaration of candidacy with the proper filing officer on the seventieth (70) day before the Regular Local Election between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. A candidate shall file for only one (1) position in the same local government but may file for a position in more than one (1) local government at the same time. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-7.*

The proper officer for purpose of filing declarations of candidacy and candidate qualification documents by all other candidates is the county clerk of the county in which the candidate resides. *NMSA 1978, § 1-1-5.9.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some candidate requirements, such as nomination petitions, public financing, and campaign finance reporting, are specific to each local government. Please check with the local government or the applicable county clerk's office to determine what additional documentation may be required to become a candidate.

### When to file

August 26, 2025, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### What to file

Each candidate who is filing to appear on the Regular Local Election ballot **must submit the following completed forms** to the proper filing officer during the designated hours:

- Declaration of Candidacy.
- Nominating Petitions (**if required – please contact the local entity which you are running for office**).
- Affidavit of Designee for Filing (only if someone is filing on behalf of the candidate).

A candidate seeking utilize the “confidential home address designation” (outlined in *NMSA 1978, § 1-1-27.1* and *1.10.37 NMAC*), will also need to submit a completed copy of the “Public Official Home Address Confidentiality” form. Candidates are **not required** to utilize the confidential home address designation.

**Please note:** The confidential home address designation is contingent upon the candidate's election to the office for which they are running, and should the candidate fail to be elected to that office, the candidate's home address will no longer be designated as confidential. Candidates that remain qualified (i.e. are elected to office) will need to resubmit the form every two years, by February 1st of that calendar year.

### Where to file

**All candidates will file at the county clerk's office, in the county where they are registered to vote.**

## Filing for Candidacy as a Write-In Candidate

Individuals may be a write-in candidate only if the person has the qualifications to be a candidate for the position for which the person is running. A person desiring to be a write-in candidate for an office shall file a declaration of candidacy on the sixty-third (63rd) day before the election between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate shall be accompanied by a nominating petition

containing the same number of signatures or the filing fee required of other candidates for the same office. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-8.1 (B), (C).*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some candidate requirements, such as nomination petitions, public financing, or campaign finance reports, are specific to each local government. Please check with the local government or the county clerk's office to find out what additional documentation may be required to become a candidate.

### **When to file**

September 2, 2025, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### **What to file**

Each candidate who is filing to appear on the Regular Local Election ballot must submit the following completed forms to the proper filing officer during the designated hours:

- Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate.
- Nominating Petitions (**if required**).
- Affidavit of Designee for Filing (only if someone is filing on behalf of the candidate).

A candidate seeking utilize the "confidential home address designation" (outlined in *NMSA 1978, § 1-1-27.1* and *1.10.37 NMAC*), will also need to submit a completed copy of the "Public Official Home Address Confidentiality" form. Candidates are **not required** to utilize the confidential home address designation.

**Please note:** The confidential home address designation is contingent upon the candidate's election to the office for which they are running, and should the candidate fail to be elected to that office, the candidate's home address will no longer be designated as confidential. Candidates that remain qualified (i.e. are elected to office) will need to resubmit the form every two years, by February 1st of that calendar year.

### **Where to file**

**All candidates will file at the county clerk's office, in the county where they are registered to vote.**

## **Withdrawing Candidacy**

Candidates who decide to withdraw their candidacy must submit a signed and notarized Affidavit of Withdrawal of Candidacy by the deadline to the proper filing officer.

Deadline to withdraw from the Local Election: **September 2, 2025**

A candidate's name shall not be printed on the ballot if at least sixty-three (63) days before a **regular local election**, or seven (7) days after the filing day for declarations of candidacy for any other election:

- The candidate files with the proper filing officer a signed and notarized statement of withdrawal as a candidate in that election;
- A judicial determination is made that the candidate does not qualify to be a candidate for the office sought;
- The voter registration of the candidate is updated by the candidate in such manner that the candidate does not qualify to be a candidate for the office sought; or
- The voter registration of the candidate is canceled for any reason provided in Chapter 1, Article 4

NMSA 1978.

***\*\*School Board District and College Board District candidates who withdraw and are subject to the School District Campaign Reporting Act, are still obligated to file a final campaign finance report no later than the next report deadline or continue to file reports as described in the Campaign Reporting Act. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in monetary fines and a possible referral to the State Ethics Commission.\*\****

## Filing Day Tips

- Do not expect early service. Filing officers will not accept filings prior to 9:00 a.m.
- Do not wait until the last minute. Candidates not appearing by 5:00 p.m. in the appropriate filing officer's office cannot file.
- Candidates must file in the office of the proper filing officer. Be certain of who your appropriate filing officer is and of the location of their office. If you have any questions about who your appropriate filing officer is, please call the Bureau of Elections at 1 (800) 477-3632 or (505) 827-3600, option 2 or email [elections@sos.nm.gov](mailto:elections@sos.nm.gov).
- Be prepared with all necessary information and have all forms completed. Please keep in mind that some of the forms will require a notarized signature.
- Candidates must file in person, either themselves or via a proxy who has written authorization from the candidate permitting the individual to act on the candidate's behalf. Further, filing officers may accept one and only one declaration of candidacy from any individual (i.e., candidates) may only file for one office within the same local government in an election cycle. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-7.*

## Candidate Challenges

Pursuant to Section 1-22-10, any voter may challenge the candidacy of any person seeking election at the Regular Local Election, because the person does not meet the requirements for the office sought, by filing a petition in the district court within seven (7) days after the day for filing a declaration of candidacy. The district court shall hear and render a decision on the matter within ten (10) days after the filing of the petition. The decision of the district court may be appealed to the Supreme Court within five (5) days after the decision is rendered. The Supreme Court shall hear and render a decision on the appeal forthwith.

## Ballot Appearance

Regular Local Election ballots maintain a standard appearance according to *NMSA 1978, § 1-10-8(C)*, with offices listed in the following order:

1. Municipal offices: elective executive officers listed first, governing board members listed second, and judicial officers listed third.
2. Board of education of a school district.
3. Community college, branch community college, technical and vocational institute district, or learning center district, and special district listed in order by voting population of each special district, with the most populous listed first and the least populous listed last.

Pursuant to *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-3(B)*, Regular Local Elections are nonpartisan. Candidate names will appear on the ballot with no party or slate designation.

The names of candidates for the same office will be ordered based upon the first letter in each candidate's last name according to the order of letters in the 2025-2026 New Mexico Election Alphabet. When two or more candidates for the same office share the same first letter in each candidate's last name, the order of the candidate names is resolved by applying the New Mexico Election Alphabet to each subsequent letter in each candidate's last name until a discernment can be ascertained between candidate names.

The 2025-2026 New Mexico Election Alphabet was randomly generated on December 17, 2024. For more information about this process visit our website <https://www.sos.nm.gov/candidate-and-campaigns/how-to-become-a-candidate/nm-election-alphabet/>.

## Runoff Elections

All runoff elections authorized by Article 7, Section 5 of the Constitution of New Mexico shall be conducted pursuant to this section as a top-two runoff election, or as a ranked-choice runoff election, as follows:

- A top-two runoff election shall be conducted on a separate ballot when the candidate receiving the most votes for an office does not receive the percentage of votes required to win candidacy in the first round of voting. When ordered, the top-two runoff election shall be held following the Regular Local Election and allow the voter to select between the two (2) candidates who in the first round of voting received the highest number of votes for an office. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-16(A)(1)*.
- A ranked-choice runoff election shall be conducted on the same ballot as the Regular Local Election and allow the voter to rank the candidates for an office in descending order of preference for the voter. *NMSA 1978, § 1-22-16(A)(2)*.

In both cases, no additional action is required on the part of the candidate. Jurisdictions with top-two runoff elections include: City of Albuquerque, and City of Gallup. Jurisdictions with ranked-choice runoff elections include: City of Las Cruces and City of Santa Fe.

## Candidate Forms

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Prescribed forms are currently available on the Secretary of State's website:

<https://www.sos.nm.gov/candidate-and-campaigns/how-to-become-a-candidate/2025-regular-local-election-candidate-information/>