

Constitutional Amendments

Amendment 1 — Governor vetoes/pocket vetoes. Recommendation: Vote YES.

It would eliminate the governor's ability to allow certain legislation to die through inaction. A bill passed by the Legislature that the governor neither signs nor vetoes within the applicable constitutional period would become law. It would also require an explanation for every full or partial veto. The proposal passed the House **66–0** and Senate **38–0**.

Amendment 2 — School election timing. Recommendation: Vote YES.

It would remove the constitutional requirement that school elections occur at a different time from partisan elections. Under existing statutes, school-board members would continue to be elected through the nonpartisan Regular Local Election. The change would, among other things, permit school districts to put questions such as bonds or mill levies on general-election ballots. The proposal passed the Senate **38–0** and House **50–9**.

Amendment 3 — Boards of regents. Recommendation: Vote YES.

It would significantly change how candidates for boards of regents are nominated and appointed. Institution-specific nominating committees would provide lists from which the governor would appoint nonstudent regents, subject to Senate confirmation. It passed the House **67–0** and Senate **34–7**.

Amendment 4 — Legislative compensation. Recommendation: Vote NO.

New Mexico legislators currently receive a very high per diem, mileage, and may participate in the state's Legislative Retirement Plan. Please see the accompanying regional comparison of all legislative benefits. Legislators currently contribute \$1,000 for each year of service credit toward that pension.

In the regional comparison, New Mexico has the second-highest per diem and second-highest illustrated legislative pension among the states compared. The amendment would add annual compensation tied to New Mexico's median household income. Using approximately \$67,800, the resulting salary would be the highest legislative salary among the states included in that regional comparison. The annual salary would exceed half of New Mexico's household income, and the legislator's obligation would remain a 30-day or 60-day legislative session each year. The salary will automatically adjust each year. Legislators would also remain entitled to per diem, mileage, and the pension.

The total estimated cost to taxpayers is more than \$7.6 million annually because of employer payroll taxes and other benefits. The proposal passed the House **41–26** and Senate **23–19**.

Statewide Bond Issues

What does "general obligation (GO) bond" mean for taxpayers?

The legislation **authorizes a statewide property-tax levy to pay principal, interest, and related bond expenses** on debt backed by the State of New Mexico.

NOTE: PROPERTY-TAX EFFECT: The Legislative Financial Committee (LFC) estimated that the 2026 GO bond package was within the state's available bonding capacity and could be issued while maintaining a flat statewide debt-service mill levy as older GO debt is retired. If that's true, your taxes should not increase as a result of passage of these bonds. **If voters reject these new bonds, the state would not incur that new debt, and property taxes could decrease.**

Financing a major building renovation or new construction with long-term debt is different from financing vehicles or equipment that may require replacement in less than the life of the bonds.

Bond 1 — Senior facilities

Recommendation: Vote NO.

Ballot authorization: \$21,582,213

A substantial portion of this bond package finances vehicles and equipment, which typically have shorter lifespans than the bonds. The state is borrowing money to purchase items that should be expensed, and not be part of the state's long-term debt structure. A specific list of items is below.

Bond 2 — Libraries

Recommendation: Vote NO

Ballot authorization: \$19,324,188

Unlike Bond 1 and Bond 3, the Legislature does not identify individual libraries or specific local projects that will receive the \$19 million. Instead, the money is divided into four statewide funding pools. Project details below.

Many of the eligible expenditures, including computers and other technology, equipment, furniture, electronic resources, and library materials, will likely have shorter useful lives than the bond's debt service. The bonds may remain outstanding for up to 11 years, meaning some items could potentially become obsolete or require replacement while debt issued to finance the overall program remains outstanding.

Bond 3 — Higher education, special and tribal schools

Authorization: \$352,225,379.

Recommendation: Vote YES.

This bond accounts for approximately 89.6% of all principal authorized by the three bond questions. These projects are primarily capital improvements, and it is properly structured, **but voters should consider the potential decrease in property taxes if they vote against this bond question.**

Detail on the Bond Issues

Illustrative impact on property taxes. Actual interest costs will not be known until the bonds are sold. Using the existing financing structure for this example, the economic debt-service cost is approximately \$46 per year per \$100,000 of taxable value. This is an estimate of the bond's impact on property taxes and not an indication that a property-tax bill will rise by \$46 per year

Bond	Approx. annual cost per \$100,000 taxable home value*
Bond 1 – Senior facilities	\$2.54/year
Bond 2 – Libraries	\$2.28/year
Bond 3 – Higher education	\$41.50/year
All three bond issues	~\$46.33/year

* “Taxable value” is not the same as market value. For residential property in New Mexico, taxable value is generally based on one-third of assessed value before applicable exemptions. Thus, \$100,000 of taxable value would roughly correspond to \$300,000 of assessed value before exemptions.

The figures stated are *not* the final taxpayer cost because they exclude interest and issuance expenses. HB 248 requires an annual statewide ad valorem property-tax levy sufficient to meet principal and interest while the bonds are outstanding.

Voters vote on each of the three bond questions separately. Within each question, however, voters approve or reject the entire category of projects; voters cannot approve or reject individual projects within that bond question.

Not every item has the same useful life. **Financing a major building renovation or new construction with long-term debt is different from financing vehicles or equipment that may require replacement in less than the life of the bonds.**

Bond 1 Senior facilities - Detail

Location / Facility	What the money is for	Amount
Albuquerque – Barelás Senior Center	Plan/design/construct/furnish/equip improvements	\$1,000,000
Albuquerque – CASA Kitchen	Vehicles	\$750,000
Albuquerque – Cibola Loop Multigenerational Center	Improvements	\$3,000,000
Albuquerque – Los Volcanes Senior Center	Meal equipment + facility improvements	\$330,000
Albuquerque – Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center	Meal equipment + improvements	\$975,000
Albuquerque – North Domingo Baca	Meal/other equipment	\$55,000
Albuquerque – North Valley Senior Center	Meal/other equipment	\$21,500
Albuquerque – Palo Duro Senior Center	Meal/other equipment	\$20,000
Pueblo of Isleta – Elder Center	Vehicles	\$350,000
Quemado – Senior Center	Vehicles + improvements	\$250,000
Roswell – JOY Center	Meal/other equipment	\$105,000
Clovis – Los Abuelitos	Improvements	\$50,000
Clovis – Hillcrest Senior Center	Improvements	\$900,000
Clovis – La Casa Senior Center	Improvements including parking	\$31,000
Melrose – Senior Center	Vehicles	\$110,000
Anthony – Senior Center	Vehicles	\$160,000
Las Cruces – Doña Ana Community Center	Vehicles	\$40,000
Mesilla – Community Center	Improvements	\$20,000
Carlsbad – Alejandro Ruiz Senior Center	Vehicles	\$332,500
Artesia – Senior Center	Vehicles	\$35,000
Carlsbad – Adult Respite Center	Vehicles	\$56,250
Carlsbad – San Jose Senior Center	Vehicles	\$245,000
Santa Clara – Senior Center	Meal/other equipment	\$200,000
Silver City – Senior Center	Vehicles + facility improvements	\$900,000
Anton Chico – La Loma Senior Center	Meal/other equipment	\$30,000
Puerto de Luna – Senior Center	Meal/other equipment	\$30,000
Lordsburg – Ena Mitchell Senior Center	Meal/other equipment	\$20,000
Lovington – Senior Center	Improvements	\$180,000
Eunice – Senior Center	Vehicles	\$50,000
Jal – Senior Center	Improvements, including parking	\$650,000

Location / Facility	What the money is for	Amount
Capitan – Senior Center	Meal/other equipment	\$45,000
Ruidoso – Community Center	Improvements, including parking	\$2,600,000
Los Alamos – Betty Erhart Senior Center	Vehicles	\$125,000
Ramah Navajo Chapter – Senior Center	Meal equipment/furnishings	\$250,000
Thoreau Navajo Chapter – Senior Center	Improvements	\$250,000
Otero County – Senior Centers	Vehicles	\$260,000
Chimayo – La Arboleda Senior Center	Vehicles	\$150,000
Santa Clara Pueblo – Adult Day Care	Facility improvements	\$565,000
Santa Clara Pueblo – Senior Center	Vehicles	\$30,000
Aztec – Senior Center	Vehicles + improvements/parking	\$50,000
Bloomfield – Senior Center	Vehicles	\$30,000
Farmington – Bonnie Dallas Senior Center	Facility improvements	\$500,000
Fruitland – Lower Valley Senior Center	Vehicles	\$170,000
Rio Rancho – Meadowlark Senior Center	Improvements + walk-in refrigerator/freezer	\$280,000
Santo Domingo Pueblo – Senior Center	Vehicles + improvements	\$210,000
Whitehorse Lake – Senior Center	Improvements, including paving dirt road	\$850,000
Edgewood – Senior Center	Vehicles	\$130,000
Eldorado – Senior Center	Meal/other equipment	\$50,000
Eldorado – Ken & Patty Adams Senior Center	Vehicles	\$85,000
El Rancho – Senior Center	Vehicles	\$85,000
Santa Fe County – Senior Services	Vehicles	\$160,000
Santa Cruz – Senior Center	Vehicles	\$85,000
El Rancho – Senior Center	Meal/other equipment	\$30,000
Truth or Consequences – Ken James Senior Center	Meal/other equipment	\$25,000
Socorro – Senior Center	Vehicles	\$150,000
Magdalena – Senior Center	Facility improvements	\$650,000
Taos Pueblo – Senior Center	Meal/other equipment	\$250,000
Clayton – Senior Center	Meal/other equipment	\$110,000
Belen – Senior Center	Vehicles + facility improvements	\$685,000

Location / Facility	What the money is for	Amount
Valencia County – Highland Meadow Senior Center	Facility improvements	\$1,500,000

Bond 2 Libraries - Detail

The Legislature doesn't list individual local libraries. Instead, the Legislature divides the money into four statewide pools:

Recipient	What can be purchased	Amount
Nontribal public libraries statewide	Equipment, furniture, fixtures, print/non-print/electronic resources, collaborative resources, IT, broadband equipment/infrastructure	\$ 6,000,000
Public-school libraries statewide	Equipment, print/non-print/electronic resources, collaborative resources, IT	\$ 6,000,000
Academic libraries statewide	Books, equipment, electronic resources, collaborative resources, IT	\$ 6,000,000
Tribal libraries statewide	Equipment, furniture, fixtures, print/non-print/electronic resources, collaborative resources, IT and broadband infrastructure	\$ 1,000,000
TOTAL PROJECT APPROPRIATIONS		\$19,000,000

Bond 3 Higher education, special and tribal schools - Detail

Institution / Location	Specific project	Amount
ENMU – Portales	New agriculture science and art annex	\$15,000,000
ENMU – Roswell	Campus improvements	\$ 3,000,000
ENMU – Ruidoso	Child-care laboratory	\$ 975,000
NM Highlands – Las Vegas	Thomas C. Donnelly Library and annex improvements	\$ 9,000,000
NM Tech – Socorro	Bureau of Geology core research facility	\$ 8,000,000
NM Tech – Socorro	Mineral Science & Engineering Complex improvements	\$40,000,000
NMSU – Las Cruces	New multidisciplinary academic facility, including demolition	\$55,000,000
NMSU – Las Cruces	Critical infrastructure and other improvements	\$20,000,000
NMSU – Alamogordo	Improvements, including electronic access control	\$ 1,000,000
Doña Ana Community College – Sunland Park	Campus improvements	\$ 4,000,000
NMSU – Grants	Access control, abatement, exterior doors and improvements	\$ 1,000,000

Institution / Location	Specific project	Amount
Mora County	NMSU reforestation center	\$ 17,650,000
UNM – Albuquerque	School of Medicine	\$116,000,000
UNM – Los Alamos	Buildings 1 & 7 improvements	\$ 3,000,000
UNM – Gallup	Calvin Hall north-wing improvements	\$ 3,000,000
UNM – Taos	Pueblo Hall improvements	\$ 2,500,000
UNM – Valencia/Los Lunas	Campus improvements	\$ 1,000,000
Western NM University – Silver City	Campus improvements	\$ 3,000,000
Northern New Mexico College – Española	Improvements, including infrastructure	\$ 5,000,000
NM Military Institute – Roswell	Educational facility	\$ 5,000,000
NM School for the Deaf – Santa Fe	Dillon Hall and other facility improvements	\$ 6,500,000
CNM – Albuquerque	Center for Technical Innovation & Entrepreneurial Development	\$15,000,000
Clovis Community College	Improvements	\$ 1,000,000
NM Junior College – Hobbs	John Shepherd Administration Building improvements	\$ 1,000,000
Luna Community College – Las Vegas	Allied Health Building improvements	\$ 2,000,000
Mesalands CC – Tucumcari	Improvements, including heating/cooling systems	\$ 750,000
San Juan College – Farmington	Water utilities, hot-water-loop system and infrastructure	\$ 4,200,000
Santa Fe Community College	Library and 500s-area facility improvements	\$ 2,000,000
Southeast NM College – Carlsbad	Main entryway/welcome-center improvements	\$ 1,000,000
Institute of American Indian Arts – Santa Fe	Improvements	\$ 1,000,000
Diné College facilities in NM	Improvements	\$ 2,000,000
Navajo Technical University facilities in NM	Improvements	\$ 2,000,000
CNM Center for Technical Innovation & Entrepreneurial Development		\$15,000,000