



NEW MEXICO BUSINESS COALITION

2022 Election handout

We believe it's important that every voter is educated about candidates and issues so they can make informed decisions when they vote.

Constitutional Amendments (CA) should be taken very seriously as they will amend the state's constitution. CAs and Bond issues can have a serious impact on the future of our state and municipalities. We encourage voters to carefully consider these issues and the possible consequences of each one.

Important issues, notes, and links:

Voter resources: <https://nmbizcoalition.org/election-voter-information/>

New Mexico is ranked 50th in the U.S. as the worst state to live in.

<https://bit.ly/3qOS7jE>

New Mexico's Governor is ranked worst in the nation. <https://bit.ly/3LAzrOj>

Education: New Mexico has more PhD's per capita than any other state, but our children's education system is dead last in the U.S. <https://bit.ly/3qVRzsg>

Electricity costs are increasing significantly, and electricity service is less reliable.

Decisions by the governor and certain elected officials are causing electricity rates to increase dramatically while we are now facing rolling blackouts and brownouts. Residential rates have increased 4.8% in the past year alone. **New Mexicans now have the 14th highest electricity rates in the country.** <https://bit.ly/3LGy68V>

Government expansion of 42%. While the current administration is actively working to shut down the industry that provides 40% of the state's budget, it has increased government spending significantly. This means that unless that industry is replaced, taxes will have to increase significantly to cover government costs. <https://bit.ly/3dvrEof>

Specific Ballot issues: Constitutional amendments and bonds

Constitutional Amendment 1 - Land Grant Permanent Fund

- Constitutional Amendment 1 would allocate an additional 1.25% of the five-year average of year-end market values of the [Land Grant Permanent Fund](#) to early childhood education (60%) and public education (40%).

Constitutional Amendment 1 - Land Grant Permanent Fund continued

- As of 2020, the annual distribution from the fund is 5%, which is what economists recommend. This amendment would increase the total annual distribution to 6.25%, with some safeguards, that could damage the fund for future generations.
- **Importantly, the state is currently unable to spend the money available for education. “We have more money than we need,”** Patricia Lundstrom, Chair, House Appropriations and Finance and Legislative Finance Committees. 8/26/21
- Education funding has increased significantly over the past 15 years and still **New Mexico is ranked last in the U.S. for educational performance. We are failing our children and more money is obviously NOT the answer!**

VOTING YES: supports allocating an additional 1.25% of the five-year average value of the Land Grant Permanent Fund (LGPF) to early childhood education. The current allocation of 5% is what is recommended by economists, and this is a dangerous move for the fund.

VOTING NO: opposes this amendment to allocate an additional 1.25% of the five-year average value of the Land Grant Permanent Fund (LGPF) to early childhood education. **Leaving the distributions at 5% is economist recommended and will help assure the fund is healthy in perpetuity.**

NMBC recommends a vote of “NO” on Constitutional Amendment 1

Constitutional Amendment 2 – Residential Services Infrastructure

- This is a constitutional amendment authorizing funds for residential services infrastructure and **adding an exemption to the state’s anti-donation clause.**
- If approved, this would allow the state legislature to appropriate state funds for essential services including internet, energy, water, wastewater or other services.
- Currently, there are prohibitions to the state making "donations" for services. This would allow the state to choose who receives certain services for free or reduced cost with total disregard to the anti-donation clause. **The anti-donation clause exists for a very important reason and this CA is dangerously bad policy.**

VOTING YES: Will allow the legislature to skirt the anti-donation clause, which is important for taxpayer protection. This CA would allow state funds for primarily residential infrastructure to be provided for those chosen by the state.

VOTING NO: Will NOT allow the legislature to avoid the state’s anti-donation clause. The anti-donation clause is to protect taxpayers by preventing the government from choosing who receives government services assistance. This is a backdoor attempt to get free services for certain people, including those who are not citizens.

NMBC recommends a vote of “NO” on Constitutional Amendment 2

New Mexico Constitutional Amendment 3 – Election of Judges

- This would amend the New Mexico Constitution, which addresses the appellate judges nominating commission. It would also affect state supreme court justices, district court judges, and metropolitan court judges.
- It would provide that an appointed judge be up for election at the first general election one year after being appointed. The winning candidate of that election would serve the remainder of the term in effect.

VOTING YES: Will allow appointed judges to have at least one year of service before they face a general election.

VOTING NO: Will maintain that an appointed judge will be up for election at the next general election.

NMBC recommends a vote of “YES” on Constitutional Amendment 3

Bond Issue 1 – Senior Citizen Facilities

- Would issue almost \$24.5 million in bonds to make structural changes for select senior citizen facilities across the state.
- This money would come out of a “General Obligation Bond,” which is considered a public debt and is paid for using state funds, specifically funds from a statewide property tax in New Mexico.

VOTING YES: Will allow the sale and issuance of \$24,470,000 in bonds for senior citizen facility improvements.

VOTING NO: Will NOT allow the sale and issuance of \$24,470,000 in bonds for senior citizen facility improvements **and result in a decrease in property taxes.**

NMBC recommends a vote of “NO” on Bond Issue 1

NOTE: We *love* our seniors but feel that until the government becomes better stewards of our tax dollars, we need to pull back the authority we give it – especially in the overuse and abuse of our tax dollars. You can rest assured that the facilities will still be maintained, because the government built them and is responsible for maintaining them.

Bond Issue 2 - Libraries

- Bond Question 2 would issue up to \$19,266,000 in [general obligation bonds](#) for library improvements at public libraries, public school libraries, academic libraries and tribal libraries statewide.
- This money would come out of a “General Obligation Bond,” which is considered a public debt and is paid for using state funds, specifically funds from a statewide property tax in New Mexico.

Bond Issue 2 – Libraries continued

VOTING YES: Will allow the sale and issuance of \$19,266,000 in bonds, for public library improvements.

VOTING NO: Will NOT allow the sale and issuance of \$19,266,000 in bonds, for public library improvements **and result in a decrease in property taxes.**

NMBC recommends a vote of “NO” on Bond Issue 2

NOTE: We support education and helping our children, but libraries have largely been replaced by computers. Investment should be in computers – not putting more of our tax dollars into facilities that don’t get used as they once did. Our government is generally not a good steward of our tax dollars, and sometimes you just need to say NO!

Bond Issue 3 - Higher Ed, Special and Tribal Schools

- This would allow issuance of up to \$215,986,000 in “General Obligation Bonds” to make structural changes for higher education, special schools, and tribal schools.
- This money would come out of a “General Obligation Bond,” which is considered a public debt and is paid for using state funds, specifically funds from a statewide property tax in New Mexico.

VOTING YES: Will allow the sale and issuance of \$215,986,000 in bonds for improvements to higher education, special public schools, and tribal schools.

VOTING NO: Will NOT allow the sale and issuance of 215,986,000 in bonds for improvements to higher education, special public schools, and tribal schools **and result in a decrease in property taxes.**

NMBC recommends a vote of “NO” on Bond Issue 3

NOTE: New Mexico is completely overbuilt in higher education. We have three times the college facilities that Arizona has while Arizona has triple New Mexico’s population. The government has not been a good steward of our tax dollars and telling them ‘NO’ is appropriate. The schools will continue to be maintained as required by law.

2022 Las Cruces G.O. Bonds

NEW FIRE STATION:

- Fire Station 9 will reduce response times for the Sanoma Ranch and Central service area.
- Currently, the furthest station in a potential District 9 fire is 11 minutes; all other stations in the city average an 8-minute response time.
- With Fire Station 9 in place, the response time would be reduced to 3-6 minutes, improving public safety for residents in the service area.

Voting “YES” will allocate \$10 million of taxpayer money to a new fire station and will maintain property taxes at the current level.

Voting “NO” will not provide funding for the construction of Fire Station 9 and will **decrease** your property taxes.

RECREATION COMPLEX PHASE 2:

- This G.O. Bond will provide necessary funds for the city to move forward with phase 2 of the East Mesa Public Recreation Complex facility.
- This phase will add security lighting and stadium lighting for the outdoor fields, so games can be played in the evening.

Voting “YES” will allocate \$5 million of taxpayer money to complete Phase 2 of the East Mesa Public Recreation Complex facility and will maintain property taxes at the current level.

Voting “NO” will not allocate taxpayer money to Recreation Complex Phase 2 and will **decrease** your property taxes.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS:

Park improvements would include safety, lighting, and shade enhancements in addition to other improvements at these parks:

- **La Llorona Park** - Playground replacement, additional shade, upgrading the restroom, and trail repair
- **Salopek/Stull Neighborhood Park** - Playground replacement, shade, and solar lighting
- **Tellbrook Neighborhood Park** - Removal/replacement of exercise equipment
- **La Fonda Neighborhood Park** - Doggie-doo bags, bench with shade, and trash cans
- **Hess Terrace Neighborhood Park** - Trees, benches with shade, trash cans, and doggie-doo bags

Las Cruces G.O. Bonds

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Voting “YES” will allocate \$2 million of taxpayer money to park improvements and will maintain property taxes at the current level.

Voting “NO” will not allocate taxpayer money to park improvements and will **decrease** your property taxes.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

- \$6 million of Las Cruces taxpayer dollars would be used with the *hope* that it could be paired with \$36.5 Million in federal, state, and private funds to build 175 affordable housing units in Las Cruces.
- **Unfortunately, this money can also be used for the expansion of homeless facilities**, which has been a growing problem for the city. As homeless facilities expand, so does the homeless community. Many homeless are coming from other locations to take advantage of government assistance in Las Cruces.
- Homeless facilities and housing funded by the City are using the housing-first model, which means they are not requiring those who are receiving services to be off drugs, seeking work, etc.
- At the same time, our elected officials are doing nothing to help those who have true needs and would like to become a functioning part of society.
- This situation is giving more rights to the homeless and endangering the citizens who live and pay taxes here. For instance, people living near the Desert Hope Affordable Housing Project in Las Cruces are experiencing a sharp increase in crime and other problems since the Project was opened in August of 2021. Nearby residents and business owners are suffering from break-ins, trespassing, property theft and damage, people urinating and defecating near their homes and businesses, threats of physical harm, sexual harassment, panhandling (sometimes aggressive), finding drug needles lying around, etc.

Voting “YES” on this issue can provide affordable/attainable housing units but could also expand homeless facilities. If passed, it will maintain property taxes at the current level.

Voting “NO” will help stop the expansion of homelessness in Las Cruces and will **decrease** your property taxes if the measure fails.

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND VOTING “NO” ON THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING G.O. BOND.