



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/3qVRzsq>

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.

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 Sandoval County G.O. Bonds

Sandoval County General Obligation (G.O.) Bond Questions, a total of \$42.8 million dollars, will impose a property mil levy tax to pay for the principal and interest expense incurred.

1. Library Bonds, \$1.885 million: This money can be used for planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, remodeling or otherwise improving public libraries in Sandoval County. **NOTE: Voters previously approved \$3.3 million in 2018 and \$1.9 million in 2020 for Library Bonds.**

VOTING YES: Will allow the sale and issuance of \$1,885,000 in bonds for planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, remodeling or otherwise improving public libraries. **If passed this will result in a property tax increase of about \$5 per year on a \$300,000 home.**

VOTING NO: Will NOT allow the sale and issuance of \$1,885,000 in bonds for planning, designing, upgrading, constructing, remodeling or otherwise improving public libraries **and will NOT result in a property tax increase.**

NMBC recommends a vote of “NO” on the Library Bonds. **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!

2. Courthouse Bonds, \$41 million: This money would be used for making additions required by law and other necessary additions to the County Courthouse. The current courthouse, built in 2005, originally housed two judges. Now there are five. The county’s population has increased by 43% and court caseload has increased over 60% since 2005.

VOTING YES: Will allow the sale and issuance of \$41 million in bonds for making additions required by law and other necessary additions to the County Courthouse. **If passed, bond will result in a property tax increase of about \$20 per year on a \$300,000 home.**

VOTING NO: Will NOT allow the sale and issuance of \$41million in bonds for making additions and other necessary additions to the County Courthouse and **will NOT result in a property tax increase.**

NMBC recommends a vote of ‘NO’ on the Courthouse Bonds. Growth in Rio Rancho, increased crime and requirements for proper judicial proceedings means expansion of the courthouse is needed. **HOWEVER,** there is other pots of money available that would allow for court upgrades without a property tax increase. A permanent tax increase for a short term need doesn’t make sense.

Remember: Voting ‘No’ on a particular bond issue does not mean you are against libraries, parks, police, or whatever the bond says it is for. Voting ‘No’, when the money would be used to ‘expand’ government, sends a strong message to elected officials that you think they could and should be better stewards of your tax dollars.