



# NEW MEXICO BUSINESS COALITION

## 2022 Voter Guide Handout

### Important issues, notes, and links:

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

**New Mexico is ranked 50<sup>th</sup> 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 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, she has increased government spending significantly. This means that unless that industry is replaced, taxes will have to increase significantly to cover the 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 1.25% of the five-year average of year-end market values of the money in the [Land Grant Permanent Fund](#) to early childhood education (60% of the allocation) and public education (40% of the allocation).
- As of 2020, the [New Mexico Constitution](#) provided that the annual distribution from the fund was 5%, which is what economists recommend. This amendment would increase the total annual distribution to 6.25%, which will eventually damage the fund for future use.
- **Importantly, the state is currently unable to spend the money available for education. "We have more money than we need,"** Patricia Lundstrom, Chair of the 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, and we are failing our children. More money is obviously NOT the answer!**

**VOTING YES:** supports allocating 1.25% of the five-year average of year-end market values of the money in the Land Grant Permanent Fund (LGPF) to early childhood education and the public school permanent fund and providing that the allocation would not occur if the average year-end market value for the preceding five years of the LGPF fund balance was below \$17 billion.

**VOTING NO:** opposes this amendment to allocate 1.25% of the five-year average of year-end market values of the money in the Land Grant Permanent Fund (LGPF) to early childhood education and the public school permanent fund. **It 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 to Article IX of the State Constitution, **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 (through a majority vote in each chamber) for infrastructure that provides *essential services*, which includes any *infrastructure that allows internet, energy, water, wastewater or other services provided by law.*”
- The amendment states that implementing this legislation for the essential services must contain a *“safeguard to protect taxpayer dollars.”*
- Currently, there isn’t an exception for essential service infrastructure in Article IX and this would be a new exception.
- **Read more [HERE](#).**

**VOTING YES:** Will allow and authorize the legislature to appropriate state funds for infrastructure that provides services primarily for residential use—such as internet, electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater—through a majority vote in each chamber.

**VOTING NO:** Will NOT allow or authorize this amendment for the legislature to appropriate state funds for infrastructure. There is a reason the state has an anti-donation clause and it should remain in place. 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 Section 35 of Article VI of the New Mexico Constitution, which addresses the appellate judges nominating commission and would also affect state supreme court justices, district court judges, and metropolitan court judges.

## New Mexico Constitutional Amendment 3 – Judges - continued

- Constitutional Amendment 3 would provide that an appointed judge would 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.
- **Read more [HERE](#).**

**VOTING YES:** Will allow the constitutional amendment to provide that an appointed judge shall be up for election at the first general election one year after being appointed.

**VOTING NO:** Will NOT allow this constitutional amendment, thus maintaining that an appointed judge 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

- Bond issue 1 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.
- **Read more [HERE](#).**

**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.

### 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.
- **Read more [HERE](#).**

**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 \$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 2**

NOTE: We support education and helping our children, but libraries have largely been replaced by computers and the investment should be there – not putting more of our tax dollars into facilities that don’t get the use they once did. Government is 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**

- Bond question 3 would issue 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.
- **Read more [HERE](#).**

**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 \$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 3**

NOTE: New Mexico is completely overbuilt in higher education. We have three times the college facilities that Arizona has with triple New Mexico’s population. Again the government has not been good stewards of our tax dollars and telling them ‘NO’ would be a good first step.