Implementation & Priorities Update

PRESENTATION TO COURTS, CORRECTIONS, AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 2024

Agenda

❖ **State of Elections in New Mexico**

1. General Election 2024 Update

2. Elections Overview and MIT Election Performance Index

3. New Changes/Implementation Updates

❖ **2025 Legislative Advocacy Priorities**

1. Budget

2. Election Administration Items

3. Campaign Reporting Act Updates

General Election 2024 Update

November 5, 2024: Election Day

November 18th – December 2nd: Voting System Check (Audit)

November 26th: State Canvassing Certification

Week of December 2nd: Automatic Recounts

December 11th: Certificates of Ascertainment Due

December 17th: Electoral College Convenes and Casts Votes for President and Vice President

January 6, 2025: Congress Convenes to Count Electoral Votes in Joint Session

Overview of Elections in New Mexico

Regular Local Election

November: Odd year

Consolidated, Nonpartisan Local Election
- 2019

All local public bodies

SOS Issues Proclamation
- Offices submitted by county

Public Financing

Ranked Choice Voting/Runoff

Canvass Process/Certificates of Election

Recounts (automatic)

Post Election System Check

Primary Election

June: Even year

SOS Issues Proclamation (General)

Presidential – Same ballot in NM

Major Party Nominations

Public Financing

Canvass Process/Certificates of Nomination

Recounts (automatic)

Post Election System Check

General Election

November: Even year

All parties/voters participate
- Major/minor/DTS

Filing Office
- Proper filing officer
- Vacancies

Public Financing

Ballot questions
- Judicial Retention
- Statewide
- Local

Canvass Process/Certificates of Election

Recounts (automatic)

Presidential Electors Process

Post Election System Check

Other Elections in New Mexico

Municipal Officer Election

March: Even year

Municipalities
- Choice to opt in to RLE
- Nonpartisan
- Officer only

Runoffs

Canvass Process/Certificates of Election

Recounts (automatic)

SOS Support
- System
- Vendor
- Training/Guidance

Special Elections

Congressional Vacancy
- Off cycle
- Statewide (District)
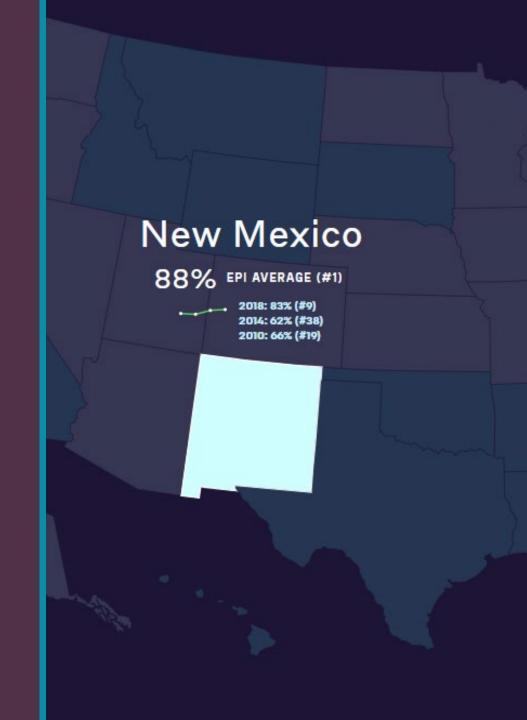
Local Government Entities
- All mail
- Questions only

Year	# of Special Elections
2024	8
2023	14
2022	0
2021	9
2020	3
2019	42

Number 1 in the Country

The Elections Performance Index (EPI) is a project of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Election Data and Science Lab, which is dedicated to the nonpartisan application of scientific principles to election research and administration.

New Mexico

88% EPI AVERAGE (#1)

2018: 83% (#9)
2014: 62% (#38)
2010: 66% (#19)

MIT EPI Indicators

1. the availability of online voter registration
2. post-election audits
3. web-voter lookup tools
4. the return rate of military and overseas ballots
5. the percentage of voters who do not register because of registration issues
6. the number of provisional ballots
7. the number of military ballots rejected
8. the office's participation in federal statistical reporting (EAVs)
9. voter registration rate
10. turnout rate
11. mailed ballot rejection rate
12. disability access

*This list may not be exhaustive.

New Changes/Initiatives Implementation Update

- **SOS Chief Information Security Officer, Permanent Security Program, Federal County Security Grants**

- **Election Changes (SB 180, 2023)**

  - Expansion of voting system check to primary and local elections and to include all counties

  - Election notice prior to each election

  - Online candidate nominating petition signature gathering

  - Poll worker pay increase

  - Challenger/watcher training

  - Recount margin changes

New Changes/Initiatives Implementation Update

- **Voting Rights Protections (HB4, 2023)**

  - Permanent Absentee List

  - Drop Box Requirement

  - Native American Voting Rights Act

  - Voting Rights Restoration

  - Automatic Voter Registration (2025)

New Changes/Initiatives

Election Fund Grants, Reimbursements and Reporting, NMAC 1.10.36 (2023)

- Created definitions for eligible expenses, election equipment, poll worker pay, ineligible expenses and office supplies

- Established timelines/requirements for memorandums of understanding between the county clerks and the secretary of state's office before and after each election

- Defined reporting requirements

Distribution to the Election Fund, SB 108 (2024)

- Created funding source for the Election Fund

2025 Legislative Advocacy Priorities

❖ **Budget**

- Elections Funding

- Campaign Finance Information System (CFIS) C2 Request

- Election Management System C2 Request

❖ **Election Administration Changes**

- Eliminating the Municipal Officer Election

- Emergency Election Procedures

- Newly Elected/Appointed Clerk Training Requirements

- Other Small Changes to the Election Code based on Administrative Experience

2025 Legislative Advocacy Priorities

❖ **Campaign Reporting Act**

- Federal Court Ruling on Political Party Contributions
    1. Found that limits on contributions from state political parties to county political parties are unconstitutional.
    2. Found that CRA limits on contributions from state political parties to nongubernatorial and gubernatorial candidates or candidate committees are unconstitutional.

- Administrative Changes/Clarity in Reporting Deadlines

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Hours of Operation
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday – Thursday
Fridays are physically closed to the public, but the office is open for processing, mail, and calls.