

SENATE MEMORIAL 12

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

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This document incorporates amendments that have been adopted during the current legislative session. The document is a tool to show the amendments in context and is not to be used for the purpose of amendments.

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO STUDY AND PROVIDE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON INSTITUTING OPEN PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

WHEREAS, increasing participation in all levels of the political process will produce a stronger mandate to govern;
and

WHEREAS, twenty-five percent of all New Mexico voters choose not to affiliate with a major political party; and

WHEREAS, sixty percent of younger voters choose to be

.216354.2AIC February 7, 2020 (4:37pm)

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independent voters; and

WHEREAS, voters' tax dollars should not fund elections those voters cannot participate in; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico as a state has among the lowest rate of voter turnout and the highest rate of non-competitive elections in the country; and

WHEREAS, increasing participation in all levels of the political process will strengthen democracy and provide increased civil discourse; SRC→and←SRC

SRC→~~WHEREAS, semi-open primaries allow non-affiliated voters to participate exclusively in one primary and increase the responsiveness of primary candidates to their communities;~~
and

~~WHEREAS, denying participation in primary elections is a form of disenfranchisement;~~←SRC

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of state be requested to study open primaries, in their various forms, and develop recommendations on instituting a form of open primaries in the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of state provide recommendations for legislation to open New Mexico's primary elections to the appropriate interim legislative committee before November 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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transmitted to the secretary of state and the co-chairs of the
New Mexico legislative council.

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