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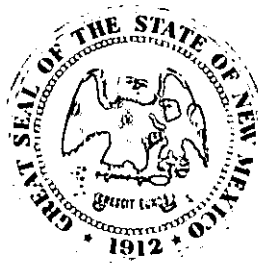
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A VOTER'S GUIDE  
for the  
CITIZENS OF NEW MEXICO



PRESENTED BY:  
BETTY FIORINA  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
JANUARY, 1974

What would you call people who do not take part in public affairs? Well, most of us would call them apathetic, but did you know that in ancient Greece, they were called "idiots"?

This word is a little harsh in today's terminology, but the problem still exists. We still have people who do not take part in public affairs--who do not vote--who do not seem to care who our public officials are--who are not interested in issues that they have an opportunity to vote upon. For instance, in 1966, only 60 percent of the registered voters in New Mexico voted in the General Election; in 1972, 78 percent of the registered voters in New Mexico voted in the General Election.

Now that the federal amendment lowering the voting age has been ratified, there are many more New Mexicans eligible to register to vote. This brochure has been compiled for all New Mexico citizens to acquaint them with procedures for registering and voting.

I encourage those of you who are already registered to vote -- to exercise this right and privilege in all elections.

To those of you who are not registered to vote, I urge you to take advantage of this right and privilege -- register now so that you can express yourselves at the polls.

YOUR GOVERNMENT IS YOUR BUSINESS! REGISTER! VOTE!

*Peteey Lissner*

## VOTER REGISTRATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

### FOR VOTING IN NEW MEXICO

1. You must be a citizen of the United States.
2. You must be 18 years of age prior to the date of the next election.
3. You must register for the purpose of voting in the county and precinct of your residence.
4. At present there are no residency requirements for eligibility to register to vote. A person may register to vote at any time. However, in order to vote in the next ensuing election, you must register at least 30 days prior to that election. Section 3-4-8, N.M.S.A., 1953 Compilation (Chapter 118, Laws of 1973)

### REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Persons who wish to register to vote should apply to the County Clerk's office in the county in which they reside, or to a qualified Registration Officer in the county. To obtain the name of a Registration Officer who resides in your area, simply call the county clerk's office and they will give you the name and address of the nearest Registration Officer.

The following information will be required to complete your affidavit of registration:

Your complete name and address

Place and date of birth

Sex

Social Security Number

The date you established residency in New Mexico

Party affiliation -- or, you may decline to state a party affiliation.

All applicants must sign the registration form, which is an oath or affirmation that all facts listed are true and correct.

Registration closes at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th day preceding any election and reopens on the Monday following the election. County Clerks receive affidavits of registration while registration is closed, but they are not included in the file of eligible voters until registration reopens. . . . i.e., you may register during the 30 day period that the books are closed, but your affidavit will not be in the Eligible Voter's file until registration reopens.

### ABSENTEE REGISTRATION

A person who is qualified to vote in the state of New Mexico and who is temporarily out of his county of residence, or outside of New Mexico may, upon request to the county clerk of his county of residence, obtain the prescribed blank affidavit of registration. This affidavit form will be in triplicate and must be completed (filled in) by the voter and signed before a person authorized to administer oaths. The qualified voter who is in New Mexico but temporarily out of his county shall subscribe to the affidavit of registration before a registration officer. After the affidavit of registration has been subscribed and attested, the qualified elector shall return it by mail to the county clerk of his county of residence.

### DURATION OF REGISTRATION

Registration is permanent unless the voter:

- A. Dies
- B. Is declared legally insane
- C. Is convicted of a felony
- D. Fails to vote in a general election. If this occurs, the voter is notified and, at his request, may be reinstated. If the voter does not respond when notified, his/her name is purged from the registration list.
- E. Changes his registered residence address to another county; or moves to another state. In these cases, the voter must notify the County Clerk in writing and the County

Clerk will in turn notify the voter that his affidavit of registration has been cancelled.

If a voter moves to another precinct, a "Change of Address" form should be filed with the county clerk or registration officer.

### WHEN YOU GO TO THE POLLS TO VOTE

Polls are open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

If, at 7:00 p.m. there are voters in the polling place or in line at the door, the polls are kept open a sufficient time to enable them to vote. Any person who arrives at the polling place after 7:00 p.m. is not entitled to vote.

When you are ready to vote, announce your name and address to the election official, and this information will be checked. You will sign one poll book or, in Optional Registration counties, two signature rosters. One of the election clerks will hand you a marked voting machine permit card which you will present to the election clerk in charge of the voting machine. She will then press the voting machine entrance knob, allowing you to enter the voting machine. When you enter the voting machine, the curtains will be open. You will see a large red handle to your left. Pull this handle all the way to the right. This will close the curtains, allowing you complete privacy to cast your ballot. After you have voted, pull the red handle all the way back to the left. This records your vote and opens the curtains for your departure.

To avoid any possible delay in voting, it is wise to take the triplicate copy of your registration affidavit with you to the polls. If your name is not in the registration books, you can still vote if you show your voter's copy and sign an oath of affirmation for voting on a triplicate affidavit.

Voting, or offering to vote more than once in the same election; voting, or offering to vote, with the knowledge of not being a qualified elector; voting, or offering to vote in the name of any other person, are all fourth degree felonies.

### VOTING MACHINES

New Mexico law requires the use of voting machines in all precincts. Instructions for voting on voting machines are posted in every polling place. Read them and, if you wish, an election official will demonstrate the machine on the instruction model.

### ASSISTANCE IN VOTING

A voter may request assistance in voting only if:

- he is blind;
- he is physically disabled; or
- he is unable to read or write

When a person requires assistance, he shall announce that fact in an audible tone. The voter's need of assistance is noted in each poll book or signature roster, and the voter signs or marks an affidavit of assistance. In a general or special election, the voter may be accompanied into the machine by two precinct board members representing different political parties. In a primary election, a voter may be accompanied into the machine by one precinct board member of his own choosing and his own political party and, in addition, by one person who is either his spouse or a relative to the second degree of consanguinity.

IN ALL ELECTIONS, A BLIND PERSON MAY BE ACCOMPANIED INTO THE MACHINE ONLY BY A PERSON OF HIS OWN CHOICE.

### DATES OF ELECTION

Primary Elections are held on the first Tuesday in June in each even-numbered year. In order to vote in the Primary, you must be registered with a major party.

A Presidential Primary is held in New Mexico on the same date as the Primary Election. (Every four (4) years).

General Elections are held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year.

Municipal Elections are held on the first Tuesday in March of each even-numbered year.

School District Elections are held on the first Tuesday of February in each odd-numbered year.

Proposed constitutional amendments and other state, county, municipal and school district questions and issues are voted upon in special elections.

#### SAMPLE BALLOTS

Sample ballots, or the text of amendments for special elections, may be obtained from the County Clerk's office or on Election Day at the polling place.

A voter may carry with him into the voting machine a sample ballot previously marked.

Printing or distributing sample ballots, which include the name of any person not entitled to be on the ballot, or omitting the name of any person entitled to be on, or otherwise including false or misleading information or heading, is a fourth degree felony.

#### ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee ballots for all Primary, General and Statewide Special Elections are provided for members of the Armed Forces and citizens of the United States temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and their spouses and dependents when residing with or accompanying them.



Any voter of New Mexico, who cannot be present at his precinct polling place on Election Day because of illness, disability, vacation or business is entitled to vote as an absent voter.

Application for an absent voter's ballot can be made in person or by mail to the Office of the County Clerk of the County in which the applicant is registered.

Applications for absentee ballots from persons outside the continental limits of the United States must be received by mail no later than 28 days prior to the election.

Applications from persons inside the United States must be received by mail no later than 10 days prior to the election.

Applications for presidential ballots may be received by mail no later than thirty days prior to the date of a federal election.

Absentee ballots may be cast in person at the County Clerk's office up until 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday immediately prior to the date of the election.

Note: Absentee voting is permitted in regular school district elections. Application for an absentee ballot is made to the Superintendent of Schools.

Unlawful possession of an absentee ballot is a fourth degree felony.

### ELECTIONEERING

There shall be no electioneering or any form of campaigning closer than 100 feet from the building in which a polling place is located. This includes the display of signs and distribution of campaign literature.



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