

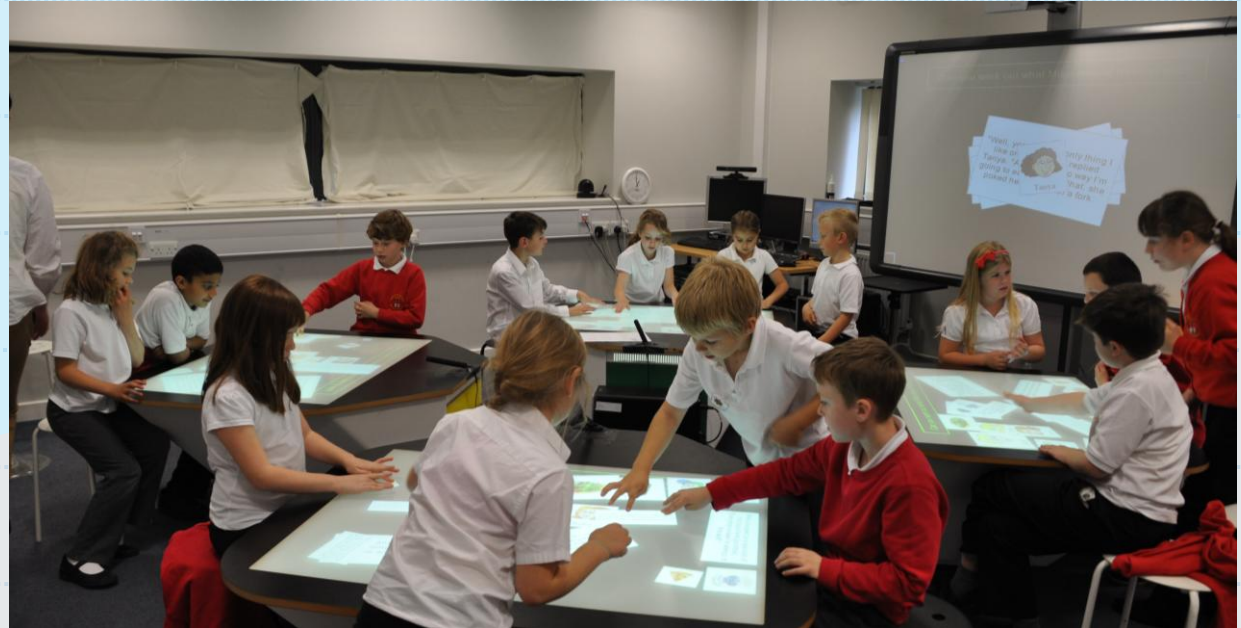
# 2025 Regular Local Elections and Special Elections

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# Agenda

- Regular Local Elections
- Special Elections
- Legislative Changes
- Calendar
- Dos and Don'ts

# Regular Local Elections

November 4, 2025

Held to elect qualified persons to local governing bodies, including school boards.

Non-partisan election (no party or slate).

May include ballot questions (bond or mill levy).

Called, conducted and canvassed pursuant to the Election Code.

- Early and Absentee voting.
- Physical polling locations on election day.

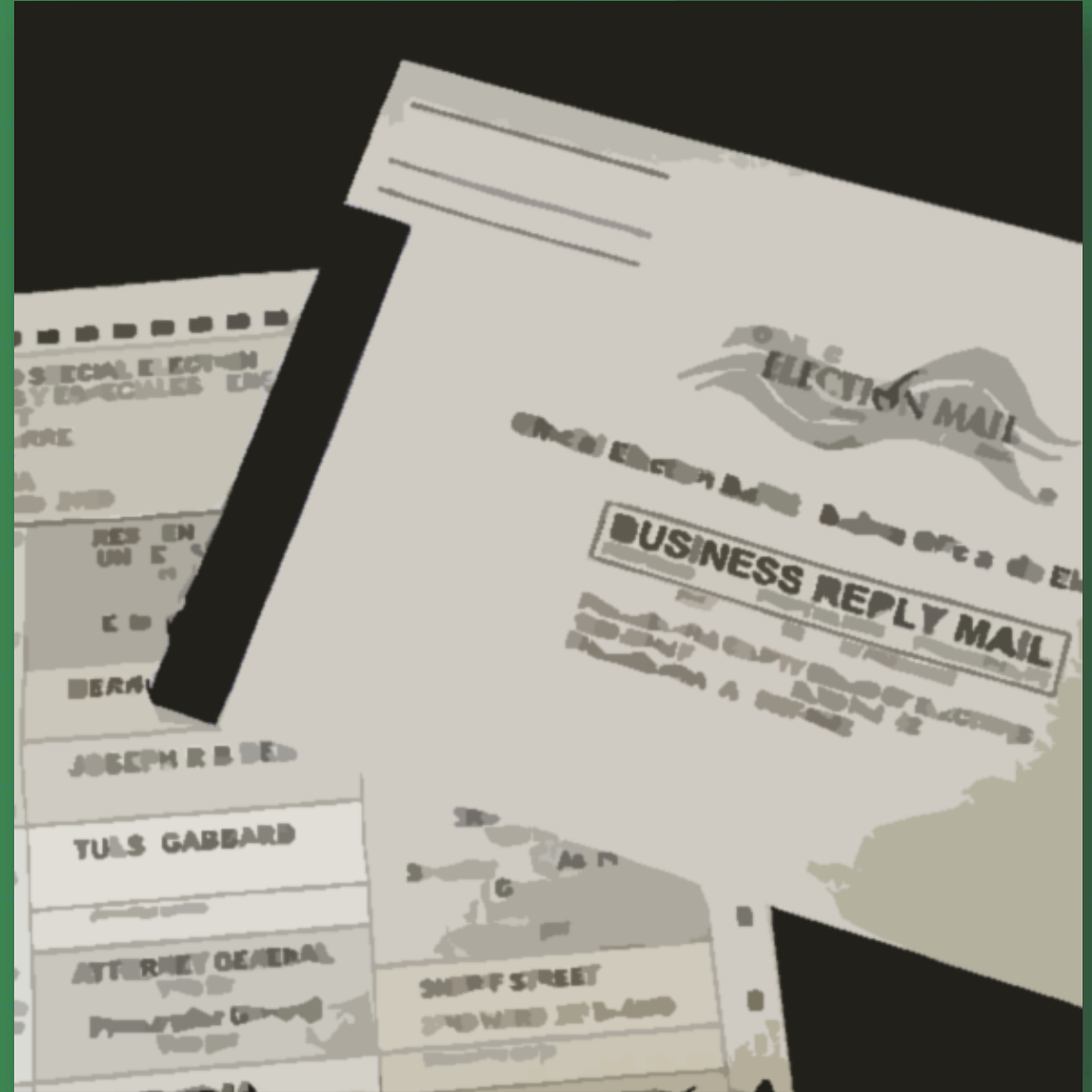


# Special Elections

Held at any time other than a regular election.

Called, conducted and canvassed pursuant to the Special Election Act.

- Mail ballot only
- **District bears the expense.**



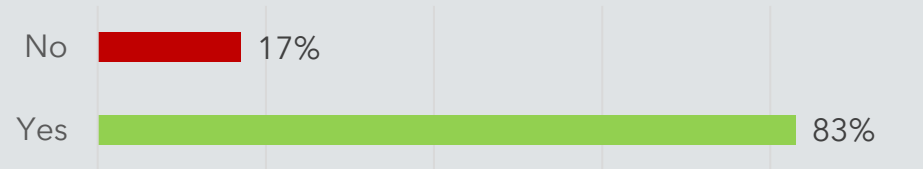
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# Legislative Changes

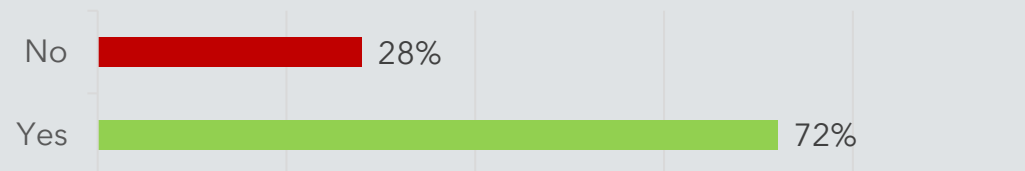


# 2024 General Election

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1:** Proposing an amendment to article 8, section 15 of the constitution of New Mexico to extend a property tax exemption, currently only allowed for one hundred percent disabled veterans and their widows and widowers, to veterans with less than a one hundred percent disability and their widows and widowers and basing the amount of the exemption on a veteran's federal disability rating



**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2:** Proposing an amendment to article 8, section 5 of the constitution of New Mexico to increase a property tax exemption for honorably discharged members of the armed forces and their widows and widowers.



# 2025 Legislature

## **HB 47 and SB 192 - Implementing Veteran and Disabled Veteran Exemption**

“The nuance tied to the specific individual and individual property make it impossible ... to fully understand the financial impact to their budgets until the exemption is filed.” - NM Counties Bill Analysis

“[B]ond capacity will decrease because of veteran exemptions, and...many schools... issue debt periodically ... which may create challenges in servicing debt with reduced revenues.” - Fiscal Impact Report

Mill levies subject to yield control or already at or near the maximums may not be able to offset losses. School districts may not be able to adjust debt levies to cover the lost revenue, particularly in the first year or two of implementation. Fiscal Impact Report

Questions on compliance with existing bond covenants.

# 2025 Legislature

**HB 342 - Property Tax Changes** - Proposes the implementing changes for the 2024 Constitutional Amendments but also adds a temporary “lightening tax” restriction on non-residential properties to prohibit an increase in excess of 112% over the prior tax year for the years 2025 through 2037.

**HB 128 - NMFA Local Solar Access Fund** - Proposes establishment of a \$60MM grant program administered by the NMFA for solar energy projects.

Stay tuned....



# Recent Legislative Changes

Removal of position numbers for non-districted offices - “vote for no more than x”; candidate with most votes is elected to the longest term length (SB 180 / NMSA 1-10-8 (2023))

Contribution/expenditure report provisions (SB 137 / NMSA 1-22A-3 (2024))

Confidentiality of home addresses and financial disclosures (SB 180 / NMSA 1-1-1 (2023))

Extensive changes to election procedures and security (SB 180 (2023))

School Board Member mandatory training requirements (SB 137 / NMSA 22-5-13 and 22-8B-5.1 (2024))

Superintendent Contract change limitations (SB 137 / NMSA 22-5-4 (2024))

Board Meeting webcast, minutes and archive (SB 137 / NMSA 22-5-6 and 22-8B-8 (2024))

# 2025 Regular Local Election Calendar



## BOARD PLANNING

Review board terms to determine which positions are up for election. If a board member resigned and a new member was appointed, they must stand for election.

## FINANCIAL PLANNING

Review mill levy authorizations and potential bond questions for ballot.

### JUNE 7, 2025

First day for District to notify County Clerk of all board positions and position numbers to be filled at 2025 Regular Local Election [NMSA 1978, § 1-22-4(A)]

### JULY 7, 2025

Last day for District to notify County Clerk of all board positions and position numbers to be filled at 2025 Regular Local Election [NMSA 1978, § 1-22-4(A)]

### JULY 15, 2025

Last day for County Clerk to notify Secretary of State of all positions to be filled at November 4, 2025 Regular Local Election [NMSA 1978, § 1-22-4(A)]

# Timeline

## AUGUST 6, 2025

Secretary of State shall issue and file a proclamation in English and Spanish calling 2025 Regular Local Election [NMSA 1978, § 1-22-4(B)]; County Clerk shall post entire election proclamation on website [NMSA 1978, § 1-22-4(D)]

## AUGUST 21, 2025

Deadline for County Clerks to publish portions of election proclamation in English and Spanish in a newspaper of general circulation within County(ies) [NMSA 1978, § 1-22-4(D)]

## AUGUST 25, 2025

Deadline for District to file resolution for bond and mill levy (SB9 / HB 33) elections with each County Clerk and DFA [NMSA 1978, § 1-16-3(B)]

## AUGUST 26, 2025

Deadline to file Declarations of Intent with each County Clerk [NMSA 1978, § 1-22-7(A)]; Deadline for County Clerk to certify all mill and bond local ballot questions [NMSA 1978, § 1-16-3(B)]

## AUGUST 29, 2025

Deadline for County Clerk to certify ballot [NMSA 1978, § 1-16-3(B)]; Deadline for County Clerk to place and to notify candidate that name will appear on ballot [NMSA 1978, § 1-22-10(A)]

# Timeline

## SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Deadline to file Declaration of Candidacy for write in candidate [NMSA 1978, § 1-22-8.1(C)];  
Deadline to withdraw as candidate [NMSA 1978, § 1-10-6(C)]

## OCTOBER 7, 2025

Deadline to register to vote in [NMSA 1978, § 1-4-8(A)]; Absentee voting begins [NMSA 1978, § 1-6-5(F)]; Early voting begins [NMSA 1978, § 1-6-5.7(A)]

## OCTOBER 14- 28, 2025

County Clerk's publication of notice of election [NMSA 1978, § 1-11-3(A)]

## NOVEMBER 1, 2025

Last day to vote early [NMSA 1978, § 1-6-5.7(A)]

## NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Election Day



# Timeline

## NOVEMBER 10-17, 2025

County canvassing board (the County Commission) to complete canvassing duties [NMSA 1978, §§ 1-13-13(A), (B), and (C)]

## NOVEMBER 21, 2025

Suggested date for publication of results of election if ballot included a bond question [NMSA 1978, § 22-18-10]

## NOVEMBER 28, 2025

First day for Secretary of State to issue certificates of election to appropriate candidates [NMSA 1978, § 1-13-16(C)]

## JANUARY 1, 2026

Term of office begins for elected candidates [NMSA 1978, § 1-22-18]

## JANUARY 2026

Initial School Board meeting

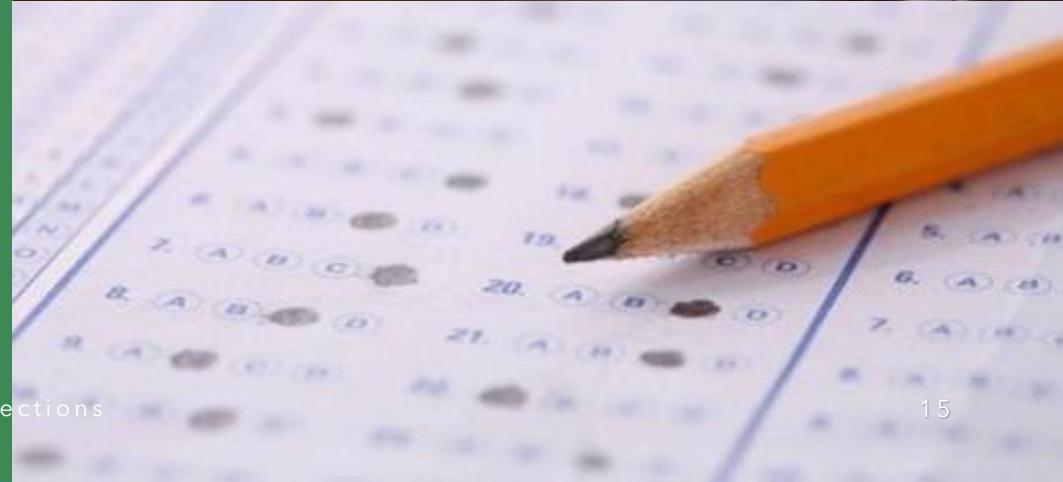
# Timeline

# Election DOs

Plan ahead.

Educate voters using communications that factually describe the purpose of a measure without advocating for or against.

- Bond question and mill levy information.
- Make available election logistics information (polling locations; early voting dates; absentee ballot; clerk and secretary of state websites).



# Election DON'Ts



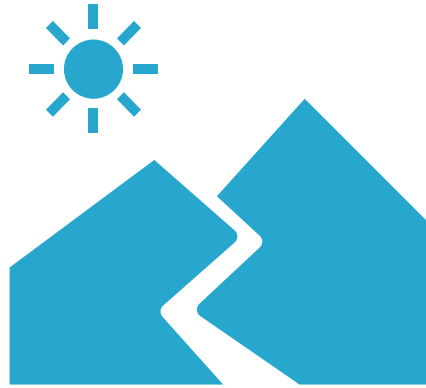
- Do not take an official position on passage of bond or tax elections.
- Board cannot support particular candidates.
- Do not use state or local funds or other district resources to electioneer for or against any candidate, measure or political party.





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# Cuddy & McCarthy Bond and Election Team

