

Voters' Guide to Judicial Election & Retention

The importance of judicial elections cannot be overstated. The current crime crisis in New Mexico is not solely a criminal or law enforcement issue, it also involves the judiciary. Judges play a significant role in the outcomes of criminal cases and have discretion when it comes to 'catch and release' issues that plague our state. Voters should make informed decisions about who is elected and/or who is retained as a judge.

In this guide, we have included factual information about each judge, such as their name, the court they serve on, their political party, the type of race (partisan or retention), their connection to the Emerge program (see NOTE below the chart on the significance of Emerge affiliation) and which governor appointed them. We provide this information to help voters make fully informed choices, recognizing that political affiliation (and Emerge affiliation) can impact judicial decisions.

Judge	Party	Partisan (P) or Retention (R)	*Emerge Alum	Appointed by:
Supreme Court				
Briana H. Zamora	D	Retention		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
New Mexico Court of Appeals				
Jennifer L. Attrep	D	Retention	*Emerge 2015	Gov. Susana Martinez
Megan P. Duffy	D	Retention	*Emerge 2018	Elected (not appointed)
Shammara Haley Henderson	D	Retention	*Emerge 2010	Gov. Susana Martinez
First Judicial District (Los Alamos, Rio Arriba & Santa Fe)				
Shannon Broderick Bulman	D	Retention		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Bryan Biedscheid	D	Retention		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Matthew J. Wilson	D	Retention		Gov. Susana Martinez
Second Judicial District (Bernalillo)				
Brett R. Loveless	R	Retention		Gov. Susana Martinez
Daniel E. Ramczyk	D	Retention		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Cindy Leos	D	Retention		Elected (Not appointed)
Elaine P. Lujan	D	Retention	*Emerge 2020	Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Courtney B. Weaks	D	Retention	*Emerge 2013	Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Denise Barela-Shepherd	R	Retention		Gov. Bill Richardson
Emeterio L. Rudolfo	D	Retention		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Victor Lopez	D	Retention		Elected (Not appointed)
David Murphy	D	Retention		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Third Judicial District (Dona Ana)				
Conrad F. Perea	D	Retention		Gov. Susana Martinez
James T. Martin	D	Retention		Gov. Bill Richardson
Richard M. Jacquez	D	Retention		Elected (Not appointed)
Fourth Judicial District (Guadalupe, Mora & San Miguel)				
Flora Gallegos	D	Retention		Chief Justice Nakamura
Fifth Judicial District (Chaves, Eddy & Lea)				
Efren Andres Cortez	R	Partisan		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
James M. Hudson	Other	Retention		Gov. Susana Martinez
Lisa Riley	R	Retention		Gov. Susana Martinez
AnneMarie Lewis	R	Retention		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Sixth Judicial District (Grant, Hidalgo & Luna)				
James B. Foy	R	Retention		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham

Judge	Party	Partisan (P) or Retention (R)	Emerge Alum	Appointed by:
Seventh Judicial District (Catron, Sierra, Socorro & Torrance)				
Shannon Murdock-Poff	R	Retention		Gov. Susana Martinez
Eighth Judicial District (Colfax, Taos & Union)				
Steven Anthony Romero	D	Partisan		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Jeffrey A. Shannon	D	Retention		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Ninth Judicial District (Curry & Roosevelt)				
Fred T. Van Soelen	R	Retention		Gov. Susana Martinez
Tenth Judicial District (DeBaca, Harding & Quay)				
No one up for retention				
Eleventh Judicial District (McKinley & San Juan)				
Sara V. Weaver	R	Retention		Gov. Susana Martinez
Douglas W. Decker	D	Partisan		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Twelfth Judicial District (Lincoln & Otero)				
Stephen P. Ochoa	R	Partisan		Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Daniel A. Bryant	unknown	Retention		Gov. Susana Martinez
Thirteenth Judicial District (Cibola, Sandoval & Valencia)				
Allen R. Smith	R	Retention		Gov. Susana Martinez
Gndy Mercer	D	Retention		Elected (not appointed)
Allison P. Martinez	R	Retention		Elected (not appointed)

***NOTE: 'Emerge New Mexico'** is an affiliate of the national Emerge organization, a 527 political group dedicated to training and electing Democratic women with progressive values. While they present themselves as empowering women in leadership, their deeper agenda is to transform the U.S. into a progressive, culturally Marxist state through their influence on elections and judicial appointments. This organization's growing influence raises serious concerns about political bias and the undermining of traditional American values. Source: [Emerge New Mexico website](#).

Another source of information on judges is the **Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC)** which evaluates judges using a survey system. It is important to note that the surveys are not mandatory, and the return rate can be low so the evaluations may not fully represent a judge's overall performance. In addition, the JPEC endorsed all judges for retention except four who are relatively new. Given the issues with our judicial system, we recommend using caution in relying on this information. You can access their website at: <https://nmjpec.org/en/>.