

## 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:               |
|--|-------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Supreme Court</b>   |       |                               |              |                             |
| Briana H. Zamora   | D     | Retention                     |              | Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham |
| <b>New Mexico Court of Appeals</b>                                     |       |                               |              |                             |
| 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        |
| <b>First Judicial District (Los Alamos, Rio Arriba &amp; Santa Fe)</b> |       |                               |              |                             |
| 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        |
| <b>Second Judicial District (Bernalillo)</b>                           |       |                               |              |                             |
| 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 |
| <b>Third Judicial District (Dona Ana)</b>                              |       |                               |              |                             |
| Conrad F. Perea  | D     | Retention                     |              | Gov. Susana Martinez        |
| James T. Martin  | D     | Retention                     |              | Gov. Bill Richardson        |
| Richard M. Jacquez   | D     | Retention                     |              | Elected (Not appointed)     |
| <b>Fourth Judicial District (Guadalupe, Mora &amp; San Miguel)</b>     |       |                               |              |                             |
| Flora Gallegos   | D     | Retention                     |              | Chief Justice Nakamura      |
| <b>Fifth Judicial District (Chaves, Eddy &amp; Lea)</b>                |       |                               |              |                             |
| Efren Andres Cortez  | R     | Partisan                      |              | Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham |
| James M. Hudson  | R     | Retention                     |              | Gov. Susana Martinez Lisa   |
| Riley  | R     | Retention                     |              | Gov. Susana Martinez        |
| AnneMarie Lewis  | R     | Retention                     |              | Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham |
| <b>Sixth Judicial District (Grant, Hidalgo &amp; Luna)</b>             |       |                               |              |                             |
| 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 Martínez        |
| 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 Martínez        |
| Tenth Judicial District (DeBaca, Harding & Quay)               |         |                               |             |                             |
| No one up for retention  |         |                               |             |                             |
| Eleventh Judicial District (McKinley & San Juan)               |         |                               |             |                             |
| Sara V. Weaver   | R       | Retention                     |             | Gov. Susana Martínez        |
| 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 Martínez        |
| Thirteenth Judicial District (Cibola, Sandoval & Valencia)     |         |                               |             |                             |
| Allen R. Smith   | R       | Retention                     |             | Gov. Susana Martínez        |
| Cindy 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/>.