

Electing more women, and especially women of color, to state legislatures will create a more representative government and accelerate social progress.

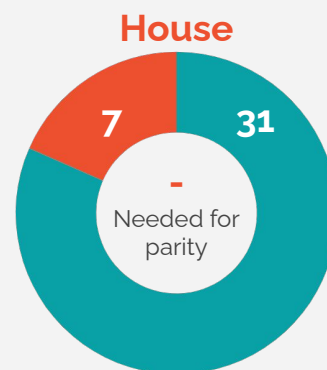
State legislatures create **real change** for communities and serve as a **training ground** for higher office.



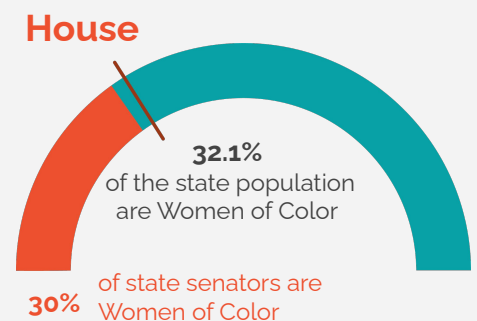
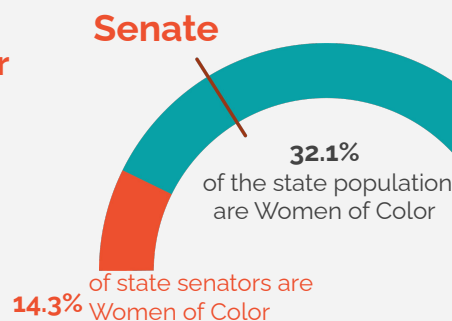
## How representative is New Mexico's state legislature today?

6

**Six more women** are needed to reach a majority of women state legislators.



**More women of color** must be elected to both the Senate and House to reflect the state population.



# 2024 Electoral dynamics

Extensive recruitment efforts by in-state leaders resulted in **women running in 82% of the targeted, competitive state legislative races**. This includes six of six competitive Senate races and eight out of 12 House races. **Fourteen of the 18 recruited candidates are women of color.**

New Mexico is not a Presidential target state, but U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich is up for reelection and one of the state's Congressional seats is expected to be highly contested.

All state legislative seats are up for reelection in 2024.

There are no term limits.

The primary election is on **June 4, 2024.**

**WomenCount** is an online giving platform that raises funds for women candidates and simplifies the giving process. WomenCount and Electing Women Alliance, a national network of giving groups, work together to close the political gender giving gap as a pathway to electing more women.

# Campaign finance considerations

Donation limit:

**\$5,500**

primary election cycle

**\$5,500**

per general election cycle

Average cost of state legislative races:

**\$50,000**

for the House

**\$130,000**

for the Senate

- LLCs can contribute directly to candidates.
- Any person who makes an independent expenditure of more than \$1,000 in a non-statewide election or question or in an amount more than \$3,000 in a statewide race or ballot measure must file a report with the secretary of state.

**All donors are advised to consult an accountant and/or legal counsel to determine the limits and reporting requirements that apply.**

# Independent campaign supporting all these women candidates



## Better Future for New Mexico

Better Future for New Mexico (BFFNM) is an independent expenditure (IE) political action committee in New Mexico. BFFNM is a project of the New Mexico donor table, which has been actively building long-term political power for women and people of color for over 15 years. BFFNM will be granting to women, LGBTQ+, and people of color-led groups doing strategically aligned work to elect more women in the New Mexico legislature. There are no contribution limits.

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# Urgent: Women Incumbents Who Need to be Protected in the June 4 Primary



## Rep. Yanira Gurrola for State House

*House District 16 (West Albuquerque)*

Yanira is an immigrant and engineer who has worked in education, first as a math teacher but now as a national consultant in bilingual education. She has over 20 years experience in education in Albuquerque and while at APS, was involved with her union. Yanira is being challenged by conservative Democrat Marsella Duarte. Marsella was recruited and is supported by high-profile corporate lobbyists and interests.



## Rep. Angelica Rubio for State House

*House District 35 (Doña Ana)*

Born and raised in rural southeastern New Mexico, and the youngest daughter of Mexican immigrants, Angelica has been a Representative in the New Mexico State Legislature since 2016. Angelica focuses on policy that centers disproportionately impacted communities harmed by extractive industries, as well as building a more sustainable economy for New Mexico. Angelica is a champion for equitable outdoor recreation that not only benefits younger New Mexicans but also a new generation of stewards of our lands. This is a Democratic Primary race only.

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## Rep. Susan Herrera for State House

*House District 41 (Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Taos)*

Susan has an impressive background as the former Executive Director of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and first President and CEO of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation (LANL-Foundation). Under her leadership, the foundation's endowment grew from \$8 million to \$80 million, providing numerous college scholarships to New Mexican students. While in the New Mexico House of Representatives, Susan led the fight to end predatory lending in New Mexico. She has since worked to modernize New Mexico's antiquated water infrastructure laws, providing desperately needed funding for rural communities. In 2023, she was appointed Chairperson of the House Agriculture, Water Resources and Acequias Committee, a role a woman from Northern New Mexico has never held. Susan Herrera is known for her support of women's health care, education reform, and transparency and rural issues. Despite House District 41 being a Safe Democratic district, she has faced stiff challenges from candidates who are well-funded by oil and gas and other special interests.



## Sen. Shannon Pinto for State Senate

*Senate District 3 (Gallup, Shiprock, Farmington, San Juan County)*

Shannon is an incumbent Senator who chairs the Indian, Rural and Cultural Affairs committee and is also a member of the Education committee. A member of Navajo Nation, Pinto was born and raised in Tohatchi, New Mexico. She earned an Associate's degree in Business from the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of New Mexico. Gov. Lujan appointed Pinto to the seat after Pinto's grandfather, who held the seat, unexpectedly passed away. In her time in office, Pinto has sponsored bills that help and advance women, including a bill last session that would have created a Chief Diversity Officer for the state.

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# Urgent: Candidates in need of support for the June 4 Primary to increase women's representation in the legislature



## Gabby Begay for State House

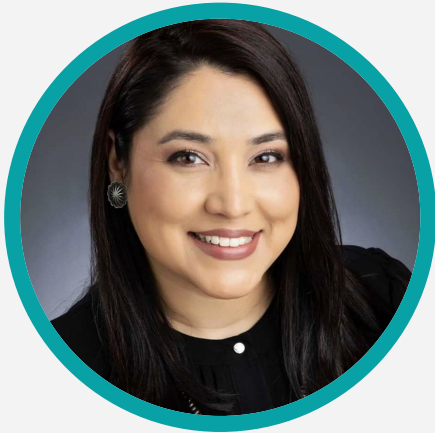
*House District 39 (Catron, Grant, Hidalgo)*

Gabby is a Navajo woman, born and raised in southwest New Mexico. She earned her degree in Criminal Justice from Western New Mexico University, where she was appointed as a student to the Board of Regents. She later received her Masters of Education in Teaching and Learning from the University of the Southwest, and she currently is a first grade teacher in Silver City. She is Board president of the Cobre Consolidated Board of Education as well as a commissioner for the southwest region of the state on the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women. Gabby believes that every child deserves access to quality education, regardless of their background. She will tirelessly advocate for better resources, modern classrooms, and support for both students and teachers. She is an ardent supporter of a woman's healthcare, of creating policies that promote affordable housing for all, of criminal justice reform that addresses systemic issues and promotes community solutions for a safer and more equitable society. Gabby is a graduate of Emerge.

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## Michelle "Paulene" Abeyta for State House

*House District 69 (Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, San Juan, Socorro, Valencia)*

Paulene is a member of the Navajo Nation and is from To'hajiilee, New Mexico. She is an attorney and first-time candidate for the New Mexico State Legislature. This largely Native American district covers parts of rural western NM, Central NM, and a little bit of Southern NM. Currently, Paulene serves on the To'hajiilee Community School Board of Education and the National Native American Bar Association Board. She is running against a conservative incumbent who has repeatedly voted against policies that support and help women, including expanding paid family medical leave.



## Anita Gonzales for State House

*House District 70 (San Miguel and Torrance)*

Anita is Deputy Director for NM MESA which prepares middle and high school students for careers in STEM related fields, and serves on the board of the Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter. She is running against an incumbent who opposes legislation that supports and helps women, including gun safety bills and protecting consumers from payday loan companies. This year, Anita's campaign is being professionally managed to meet strong fundraising and field goals and is supported by numerous community organizations.

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## Heather Berghmans for State Senate

*Senate District 15 (Albuquerque)*

Heather is an Albuquerque native. She was a policy analyst in the legislature as well as a fundraiser for the NM Democratic State House Caucus. At 35 years old, she will be the youngest woman serving in the State Senate. She is challenging disgraced incumbent Daniel Ivey Soto—who has faced multiple credible claims of sexual harassment, bullying, pending ethics violations. Ivey-Soto also voted against paid family and medical leave and has been disavowed by the Democratic Party of New Mexico.



## Angel Charley for State Senate

*Senate District 30 (Cibola, McKinley, Socorro, Valencia)*

Angel is a Native American (Laguna/Zuni/Diné) woman and first time candidate running for the State Senate in rural and tribal west/central New Mexico. Angel is the former Executive Director of the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women and now heads a national native group. Redistricting dramatically changed this district so that a Native American can win and hold this seat. She is running against former State Senator Clemente Sanchez in the primary; Clemente's voting record includes votes that oppose legislation that would help women, including, bills on women's health care, education, healthcare, and workers.

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# Candidates without a primary, but where early investment matters



## Rep. Charlotte Little for State House

*House District 68 (Bernalillo County)*

Charlotte is a Native American member of the San Felipe Pueblo and just completed her first term in office. She has been a small business owner, served as a Tribal Administrator, and worked as an Administrative Officer for the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Her priorities are public safety (including gun reform and safety), healthcare, and education.



## Rep. Joy Garratt for State House

*House District 29 (Northwest Albuquerque)*

Joy Garratt in HD 29 has served in the New Mexico House since January 2019, becoming the first Democrat to be elected to Northwest Albuquerque District 29. A retired educator and long-time teacher union activist, she serves as House Education vice chair and member of House Appropriations and Finance. Priorities are education at all levels, workforce development, broadband, transportation, economic development and health care.

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## Rep. Kathleen Cates for State House

*House District 44 (Rio Rancho, Northwest of Albuquerque)*

Kathleen Cates is an advocate for the interests of women with mental and substance diagnoses, disabled individuals seeking job opportunities, and children in need of special considerations. She most recently worked to negotiate on behalf of first-time homebuyers, who may be overwhelmed with the burdens associated with first-time home buying. Kathleen is a member of the Developmental Disability Council, a previous CEO of two nonprofits, and a member as well as frequent officer of the Rio Rancho Sunrise Rotary.



## Sen. Katy Duhigg for State Senate

*Senate District 10 (Albuquerque)*

Katy Duhigg was elected to the New Mexico Senate in the 2020 election and currently serves as Chair of the Senate Rules Committee and Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In the NM Legislature, Katy has been a leader on election reform, voting rights protections, and ensuring access to the ballot for New Mexican. She passed critical legislation to expand public financing for judicial candidates and take big money out of judicial campaigns. In addition, she led efforts to end predatory lending, reform temporary guardianships and conservatorships to prevent abuse and neglect, and close loopholes that prevented workers from being paid a fair wage. She has also been a leader on healthcare issues, passing the Patients' Debt Collection Protection Act, to protect lower-income patients, in 2021, and the Healthcare Consolidation Oversight Act, to ensure that healthcare mergers and acquisitions do not negatively impact the availability, accessibility, affordability, and quality of healthcare for New Mexicans, in 2024.

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## **SD28 Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill for State Senate**

*Senate District 28 (Silver City)*

Siah Correa Hemphill/SD28 - Siah, who is from Silver City, is running for re-election for State Senate in rural and western New Mexico. Siah has been an educator for 25 years, working as a teacher, a school psychologist and as a director of special education. She is a mom with four kids, including a son who is in his mid-twenties and has a rare genetic syndrome and multiple disabilities who she and her husband care for. This time she is running in the General Election against Republican Gabriel Ramos who switched parties from a Democrat to a Republican after she defeated him by 38% to 62% in the 2020 Democratic Primary. Ramos is anti-choice, opposed funding for Early Childhood Education, gun safety legislation, and supported building the Gila River diversion.

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