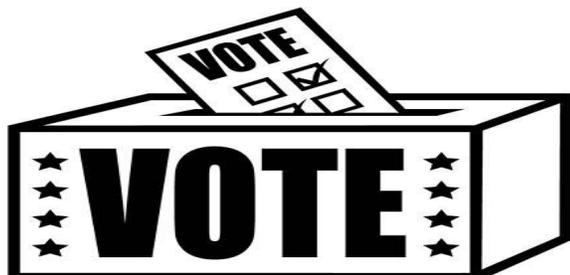# 2019 Special Election Voter Guide

The Local Election Act (LEA) was passed by the New Mexico Legislature in 2018. Effective July 1, 2018, the LEA provides for consolidated local elections to be conducted in New Mexico.

The LEA creates uniform procedures for all districts under the authority of the Election Code.

The LEA establishes two new statewide elections which include: a Local Election to be held every November of odd-numbered years for non-partisan officers and local government ballot questions and a Municipal Officer Election every March of even-numbered years.

FAQ'S

1. What is a Special Election?

A Special Election is an opportunity for applicable entities to pose local government ballot questions to the voters. By definition, the ballots for each Special Election must be mailed to eligible voters at their residential address on file with the County Clerk.

2. How will I know if I'm within a district holding a Special Election?

Please contact your County Clerk or visit to nmvote.org.

3. What should I expect on the ballot?

Special Elections are for posing local government ballot questions only; the election of candidates are not allowed in a Special Election.

4. Will I have to request a ballot?

No. All ballots will automatically be mailed to all registered and eligible voters within the district holding the Special Election 28 days before the election.

5. What if I never receive my ballot?

You can contact your County Clerk to verify the address it was mailed to and/or to get a replacement ballot.

The following districts are required to hold their elections during the Regular Local Election which is held in November of the odd-numbered years:

- Municipalities that have chosen to participate
- School Districts including Public School Boards and Community Colleges
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Arroyo Flood Control Districts
- Water & Sanitation Districts
- Special Hospital Districts
- Special Zoning Districts
- In 2023: Conservancy & Watershed Districts

Why Special Elections? Under the new law, impacted districts need to align their elections and/or extend existing taxing authority. To do that, certain districts might need to hold Special Elections in 2019. These Special Elections can only take place between January 15, 2019 and August 27, 2019 as allowed in the new law. The Secretary of State anticipates these Special Elections to be a transitional activity associated with the implementation of the new law.

New Mexico Secretary of State

sos.state.nm.us

505-827-3600

For more information visit nmvote.org

6. **Will there be any polling places?**

   No. Special Elections are Mail-Only which means all ballots are mailed. Ballots may be mailed back or dropped off at your County Clerk's office.

7. **Will I have to pay for postage?**

   No. You will not have to pay for postage to mail back your ballot. Simply place it in the mail. All ballots have to arrive at the County Clerk's office on or before the day of the Special Election.

8. **Do I sign the ballot?**

   Once you fill out the ballot, you must place it in the inner envelope and seal it. You will have to print and sign your name and provide your year of birth on the outer envelope. Note: If the outer envelope is not signed, the ballot will not be counted.

9. **Can I drop-of my ballot?**

   Yes. Contact your County Clerk's office for their specific office hours.

10. **I know my voter registration address is outdated, when should I update it?**

    You can update online at nmvote.org or by filling out and sending a Voter Registration application to your County Clerk 28 days prior to any election.

11. **Who can I contact if I have questions?**

    You can contact your County Clerk or visit nmvote.org for more information. You can also call the Secretary of State at 505-827-3600 or email at sos.elections@state.nm.us.