Santa Fe County Clerk's Office Recognizes County Clerks' Work Following Passage of Constitutional Amendment 2

Voters approve longstanding legislative priority addressing costly school special elections.



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Santa Fe, NM - The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office congratulates New Mexico's county clerks and election workers on a successfully administered General Election and recognizes the passage of Constitutional Amendment 2, approved by approximately 65 percent of voters.

The amendment removes a 114-year-old constitutional restriction that prevented school districts from placing ballot questions on partisan general election ballots. Dating to a time when women could vote in school elections but not general elections, the restriction has continued to impose unnecessary costs on school districts and election administrators.

New Mexico's county clerks have worked across party lines for years to address this issue, making it a longstanding legislative priority.



"I want to recognize my fellow county clerks for their years of persistence and leadership on this issue," said Santa Fe County Clerk Katharine E. Clark, Legislative Chair of the Affiliate. "County clerks see firsthand the costs and administrative challenges of conducting separate elections. This effort reflects the important work clerks do together to identify practical solutions and improve election administration."

Rosangela Ortiz, NM County Clerks' Affiliate Chair and Chief Deputy of the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office Bureau of Elections, emphasized the administrative challenges that motivated the effort.

"For years, county clerks have worked together to address an outdated constitutional restriction that created unnecessary costs for school districts and administrative burdens for election officials," Ortiz said. "This change gives school districts greater flexibility and creates opportunities to reduce duplicative election expenses while making it easier for voters to participate."

What Amendment 2 Means

The amendment removes the constitutional barrier preventing school districts from placing bond and mill levy questions on general election ballots, bringing them into alignment with other local governments.

This creates opportunities to:

- **Reduce costs** by avoiding separate special elections for eligible school ballot questions.
- **Increase voter participation** by allowing school questions to appear on higher-turnout general election ballots.
- **Improve efficiency** by reducing duplicative staffing, equipment, ballot production, and administrative expenses.
- **Give school districts flexibility** to bring important funding questions before voters without relying on separate election dates.

School board elections continue to be governed by New Mexico's Regular Local Election Act.

Recognizing Bipartisan Work and Voter Participation

The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office recognizes Senators Linda M. Trujillo and Natalie Figueroa, sponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 1 (SJR-1), and Representative Joanne Ferrary, who presented the resolution in

the House. The measure passed the Senate unanimously, 38-0, and the House with bipartisan support, 50-9. The Secretary of State's Office also expressed support during legislative committee proceedings.

"This was a longstanding priority for county clerks, and we appreciate the legislators from both parties who worked to bring the question before voters," Clark said. "Most importantly, we thank New Mexico voters for taking the time to consider the amendment and make their decision."

The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office also extends its appreciation to election workers, county staff, and voters throughout New Mexico for their participation in another General Election.

About the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office

The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office administers elections, maintains voter registration records, records and preserves public documents, issues marriage licenses, and serves as Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners and the Probate Court. The office is committed to secure, transparent, accessible, and efficient public services.

Learn more at **SantaFeCountyNM.gov/clerk**.