

SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2025

Voting Now Open in Santa Fe County “I Voted” Sticker Design Contest

Santa Fe County, NM — The Santa Fe County Clerk’s Office is pleased to announce that submissions are now closed for the 2025 “I Voted” Sticker Design Contest – and now it’s the public’s turn to vote for the winners. This year, we received 57 entries from students across the county. A review panel at the Clerk’s Office selected the top 10 finalists—a difficult task given the creativity on display—to advance to a public vote.

Entries came from schools including Gonzales Community school, Academy for Technology and the Classics, and Nava Elementary. Participants ranged in age from 6 to 17, showcasing the artistic talents of young residents who are already finding ways to contribute to civic life.

Community members are invited to select their favorite designs through an online Ranked Choice Voting ballot. Voters will have the opportunity to rank all the sticker submissions, a process that mirrors the system Santa Fe voters will use in the year’s Regular Local Election, which features a Ranked Choice mayoral race. This gives the public an opportunity to practice the method ahead of Election Day.

“Engaging students in elections through art and creativity is an exciting way to build civic awareness,” said Santa Fe County Clerk Katharine E. Clark. “By inviting the public to use Ranked Choice Voting to select our sticker winners, we’re also giving voters hands-on practice with the same system they’ll use in November.”

The top three winning designs will be printed and distributed as official “I Voted” stickers during upcoming elections. They will also be shared on the Clerk’s Office website and social media channels to celebrate community participation.

How to Vote

Vote [here](#). Voting is open through September 28th.

What is Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)?

RCV lets voters rank candidates in order of preference (1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, etc...). If a candidate earns a majority of first-choice votes, that candidate wins. If not, the last-place candidate is eliminated and the voters’ next available choices are counted in the next round. The process continues until a candidate reaches a majority of the active ballots.

Why we use RCV:

- Helps identify a winner with broader support among voters.
- Lets voters express full preferences without feeling they must only choose one candidate.
- Can reduce separate runoff elections when applicable to that contest.

How to mark your RCV ballot:

- Rank candidates by filling in one oval per column: “1st choice,” “2nd choice,” “3rd choice,” and so on.
- You may rank as many or as few candidates as you like. Ranking additional choices does not harm your higher-ranked choices.
- Do not give the same rank to more than one candidate.
- Do not skip ranks (e.g., avoid marking a 1st and 3rd choice without a 2nd)

Common myths & facts about RCV

- Myth: “Ranking a 2nd choice hurts my 1st choice.”
Fact: Your 2nd choice is only considered if your 1st choice is eliminated. Ranking backups never reduces support for your top pick.
- Myth: “I have to rank every candidate.”
Fact: You don’t have to. You can rank only the candidates you prefer. If all your ranked choices are eliminated, your ballot may become inactive in later rounds for that contest.
- Myth: “Only first choices count.”
Fact: First choices are counted first. If no majority is reached, later choices can matter in subsequent rounds.
- Myth: “I can give two candidates the same rank.”
Fact: Not allowed. Mark one candidate per rank to ensure your ballot counts as intended.

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