

# SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2026

### **Santa Fe County Clerk's Office Reminds Prospective Candidates to Update Voter Registration Before January 26, 2026 and Provides Open Primary Education**

**Santa Fe County, NM** -- The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office is reminding individuals who are considering running for office in the 2026 Primary Election that any changes to their voter registration must be completed before Monday, January 26, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 1-8-12 NMSA 1978, the New Mexico Secretary of State will issue the official proclamation calling for the 2026 Primary and General Elections on January 26, 2026. Once the proclamation is issued, a candidate's voter registration record is locked for the purposes of candidacy eligibility.

After that date, individuals who intend to run for office may not make changes to their:

- Name
- Residential address
- Political party affiliation

for the purpose of qualifying as a candidate.

Prospective candidates are strongly encouraged to review their voter registration information now to ensure it reflects exactly how they wish to appear on the ballot. The name that appears on the ballot is derived from the voter's registration record. For example, a candidate who wishes to appear as "Maggie" rather than "Margaret" must ensure their voter registration reflects that preference prior to the January 26 deadline.

Voter registration verification and updates can be completed online at [NMVote.org](https://nmvote.org).

### **2026 Will Be an Open Primary Election in Santa Fe County**

The Santa Fe County Clerk's Office also reminds candidates and voters that the 2026 Primary Election will be conducted as an Open Primary in accordance with New Mexico law.

Under the Open Primary system, voters who are registered as Declined to State (DTS) may choose which party's primary ballot they wish to receive on Election Day. This expands access to the primary election process while preserving each party's nomination process.

Candidates are encouraged to familiarize themselves with how Open Primaries operate and how this may impact voter participation and outreach strategies.

More information about Open Primaries in Santa Fe County is available at:

<https://www.santafecountynm.gov/clerk/elections/open-primaries-education>

Official Candidate Guides, including filing requirements, deadlines, and required forms, are available through the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office and on the New Mexico Secretary of State's website at:

<https://www.sos.nm.gov/candidate-and-campaigns/>

Individuals with questions about candidacy requirements, voter registration, or Open Primaries are encouraged to contact the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office at 505-986-6280 or visit [santafe.vote](http://santafe.vote)

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