

New Mexico

Holding Power Accountable

Common Cause New Mexico's Pro-Democracy Agenda for New Mexico Candidates Can You Get on Board and Make them a Priority for your campaign?

Common Cause members number over **a million strong ordinary citizens** who are working across the country with state, national and local officials to find pragmatic solutions to strengthen our democracy, so it works for all of us. We believe in government by, for, and of the People! In **New Mexico, our 15,000 members** have worked on ethics, transparency and campaign finance reform, increasing voting access and curbing the influence of special interests and lobbyists in our political system. We are a non-partisan organization that is focused on REAL solutions to rebuild the public trust in our political process.

Here are our Priorities. Do they synch with yours?

Expansion of Voter Rights and Election Integrity

We believe every eligible New Mexico voter deserves to have their voice heard in the decisions that affect their families and communities every day. To ensure this, we support a free, fair and secure election process. Recently, we have worked to modernize our voting system with easier, on-line and automatic voter registration and to guarantee the integrity of our elections through cross-state registration checks and auditable paper ballots.

We also support open primaries to allow DTS and independent voters the right to vote in primary elections which are now closed to them. And we work at the polling places during every election across the state with lawyers and other partner organizations to protect voters from illegal activity such as discrimination, intimidation, delay and disenfranchisement.

Ethics and Accountability

In a strong democracy, everyone plays by the same common sense rules, regardless of party or position. And when those rules are broken, consequences must follow. New Mexicans deserve no less. That's why Common Cause has led the fight for an Independent Ethics Commission, now contained in a constitutional amendment on the November 2018 ballot. If passed by the voters, the duties of the commission will be defined in enabling legislation. We believe the commission, which will oversee public employees, state officials, contractors and lobbyists, must be fully empowered to investigate and adjudicate violations of the governmental conduct act and campaign finance law. To restore the public's trust that wrongdoers will be held accountable, the commission must conduct its work in a transparent manner and have the ability to impose fines and sanctions.

Campaign Finance Reform and Disclosure

For decades, political campaigns have been financed by huge sums of money from private interests, much of it undisclosed and unlimited. The voices of everyday New Mexicans are not as loud as these big donors, who often set the agenda for the rest of us. To stem the tide of big money in state elections, we are dedicated to maintaining the contribution limits established in 2009 and requiring disclosure of all political contributions and expenditures from lobbyists, independent PACs, and candidates in accordance with the constitution. New Mexicans have a right to know who is trying to influence elected officials. Transparency in government at all levels, not just elections, is the key to a strong and healthy democracy.

Citizen-Funded Elections

To restore balance to our elections and enable ordinary people to participate meaningfully in campaigns, both as candidates and as donors, we support systems of small-donor public financing. Reforms in our current public financing system for our state's higher courts, the public regulation commission and city elections in Santa Fe



and Albuquerque would bring the system into compliance with recent court decisions. The system would allow ordinary people to run and provide an incentive for candidates to interact with voters, rather than spending their time dialing for dollars from wealthy donors, who often live out of state. Returning our elections to the people—rather than the special interests—is what our greatest leaders had in mind: a government by, for and of, You the People.

Shedding Light on Lobbyists and Slowing the Revolving Door

New Mexicans deserve a government that is responsive to everyone, not just those who can afford to hire lobbyists. Citizen engagement is the key to good government—that’s why it is so discouraging to see the access and influence monopolized by special interests, which often operate behind closed doors. To level the playing field, we support complete disclosure of activities, contributions and expenditures of lobbyists aimed at influencing the policy making process. The public deserves to know. Do to this, we support legislation to require a two-year waiting period before lawmakers can become lobbyists. In New Mexico, this revolving door spins quickly and currently there are 26 well-known former legislators-turned-lobbyists.

Redistricting and Gerrymandering

New Mexicans deserve competitive, fair elections where every vote counts equally, and the outcome is not rigged by maps drawn to maximize partisan or incumbent advantage. Compared to other states, New Mexico’s legislature has few truly competitive districts. The result is that incumbents often have no opposition and voters have little choice. “Safe” seats created through gerrymandering guarantee a position for either a Republican or a Democrat. And with a rigged system, challengers stay home and voter turnout is down. That’s why we are fighting for fair maps drawn in a transparent manner by an independent, nonpartisan redistricting commission.

How do you feel? Do you support:

- Automatic Voter Registration
- Open Primaries
- An Independent Ethics Commission
- Maintaining current campaign contribution limits
- Full disclosure of lobbyist activities and expenditures
- Disclosure of contributions and expenditures of PACS
- Small donor public financing
- A two-year waiting period before legislators can begin lobbying
- A non-partisan independent redistricting commission

