

VOTE FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Enduring scandals, resignations, court cases and near-impeachments, the citizens of New Mexico have waited for over 40 years for an independent New Mexico ethics commission to hold officials accountable for wrongdoing.

NEW MEXICO IS ONE OF ONLY SIX STATES WITHOUT AN ETHICS COMMISSION.

Now YOU can make it happen!

A measure to establish an ethics commission will be on the ballot in November 2018.

If passed in the general election, this amendment to the New Mexico Constitution will create a seven-member “State Ethics Commission” that will be independent of both the executive and legislative branches and have the power to initiate, receive and investigate complaints alleging violations of:

- 1. standards of governmental conduct**
- 2. procurement and lobbyist laws**
- 3. campaign reporting and disclosure requirements**

The complaints may pertain to state officials; employees of the executive and legislative branches of government; candidates or other participants in elections; lobbyists and government contractors or seekers of government contracts.

This commission will have its own subpoena power and can investigate and resolve complaints. It will also issue advisory opinions to help officials do the right thing in confusing, gray areas.

The seven-member commission is structured in a balanced way **with no more than three members of the same political party**. Members will be appointed as follows:

- **One member by the Governor**
- **One member by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate**
- **One member by the Minority Leader of the Senate**
- **One member by the Speaker of the House of Representatives**
- **One member by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives**
- **Two members of differing parties by the four legislatively appointed members**

Once the amendment is passed by voters in 2018, the legislation that details guidelines for the commission and its specific duties will be heard in the 2019 legislature. This “enabling legislation” will empower the commission to begin its work.

New Mexicans can and must actively participate in this legislative process and speak with their legislators about the powers, process and duties they want the commission to have. This citizen participation is critical to ensure that specific details are included in this legislation that require the ethics commission to operate in a transparent manner (i.e. making complaints and dismissals publicly available in a searchable and accessible way), hold public hearings, set deadlines for complaint and response procedures, detail the process by which to adjudicate complaints, and more!