

WPMA News Magazine Summer 2018 – NMPMA

Good news for New Mexico! Susan Montoya Bryan from Associated Press released the following article on New Mexico:

“Oil producers have set a record for the number of barrels pumped in New Mexico last year, and industry experts said Monday that output from the basin that straddles the Texas-New Mexico border is expected to double over the next several years.

Data from the U.S. Energy Information Association and an industry group that represents hundreds of producers in New Mexico show a record 172 million barrels of oil were produced in 2017. That is double New Mexico’s output in 2011 and tops the 147 million barrels set in 2015.

New Mexico also finished the year producing more than 17 million barrels in December to maintain its position as the third-largest oil-producing state. Texas and North Dakota lead the nation. The surge has continued into 2018 as the federal energy analysts estimate that overall U.S. crude oil production averaged 10.3 million barrels a day in February. That’s up nearly a quarter-million barrels more than the daily level in January.

Daily production is expected to top out around 10.7 million barrels in 2018, which would surpass the highest annual average for crude oil production in the U.S. set in 1970. Analysts say that upward trend is likely to continue in 2019.”

New Mexico Oil and Gas Association Executive Director Ryan Flynn said in an interview Monday that the record production is the result of more than \$13 billion in investments that the industry began making last year. The sustained rebound in oil prices and the investments in exploration also have helped New Mexico give lawmakers and the governor more for spending on government programs. *“It’s good news for anyone who cares about infrastructure like roads, schools and public safety,”* Flynn said.

Despite the gains, state economists have warned that New Mexico finances are more dependent than ever on the energy industry — and vulnerable to fluctuations in world oil markets. There are also questions about the impact of the 2018 midterm elections on any policy shifts.

The 2018 primary races are starting to get really interesting. Here are some statistics for the New Mexico House of Representatives. There are 62 incumbent Representatives who are running for re-election, eight do not have primary. There are 35 Democrats and 27 Republicans (Adkins, Alcon, Deborah A. Armstrong, Gail Armstrong, Baldonado, Bandy, Brown, Chasey, Clahchischilliage, Cook, Crowder, Dines, Dodge, Dow, Egolf, Ely, Ezzell, Fajardo, Ferrary, David M. Gallegos, Doreen Y. Gallegos, Harry Garcia, Miguel P. Garcia, Gomez, Gonzales, Hall, Harper, Johnson, Larranaga, Lente, Lewis, Little, Louis, Lundstrom, Maestas, Javier Martinez, Rodolpho “Rudy” S. Martinez, McQueen, Montoya, Nibert, Powdrell-Culbert, Rehm, Rodella, Romero, Roybal Caballero, Rubio, Ruiloba, Salazar, Sarifiana, Scott, Small, Stapleton, Strickler, Sweetser, Thomson, Townsend, Carl Trujillo, Christine Trujillo, Jim R. Trujillo, Linda M. Trujillo, Wooley, Youngblood).

There are eight incumbent Representatives not running for re-election (3 Democrats, 5 Republicans): Richard Garcia, Dist. 43; Gentry, Dist. 30; Herrell, Dist. 51; Maestas Barnes, Dist. 15; McCamley, Dist. 33; Roch, Dist. 67; Nick L. Salazar, Dist. 40; and Smith, Dist. 22.

Two incumbent Representatives have both primary and general opposition (1 Democrat, 1 Republican) (Doreen Gallegos, Rehm).

There are eight incumbent Representatives with primary election opposition only (7 Democrats, 1 Republican) (Gomez, Johnson, Lente, Rodella, Roybal Caballero, Sarifiana, Carl Trujillo, Wooley).

There are 26 Incumbent Representatives with general election opposition only (11 Democrats, 15 Republicans) (Adkins, Deborah Armstrong, Baldonado, Bandy, Clahchischilliage, Dines, Dodge, Dow, Ely, Fajardo, Ferrary, Hall, Harper, Larranaga, Lewis, Little, Rodolpho “Rudy” S. Martinez, Nibert, Powdrell-Culbert, Rubio, Small, Sweetser, Thomson, Christine Trujillo, Stapleton, Youngblood).

There are 26 incumbent Representatives with no primary or general election opposition (16 Democrats, 10 Republicans) (Alcon, Gail Armstrong, Brown Chasey, Cook, Crowder, Egolf, Ezzell, David M. Gallegos, Harry Garcia, Miguel P. Garcia, Gonzales, Louis, Lundstrom, Maestas, Javier Martinez, McQueen, Montoya, Romero, Ruiloba, Salazar, Scott, Strickler, Townsend, Jim R. Trujillo, Linda M. Trujillo).

United States Senator Martin Heinrich (D) is running for re-election and has no primary opposition. There are a Libertarian, Aubrey Dunn, and a Republican, Mick Rich running against him, but it is highly unlikely that they can defeat Sen. Heinrich. He has about \$4

million in his campaign account. United States Congressman Steve Pearce is running for Governor, so that leaves District 2 an open seat with five Republicans running in the Primary, and I believe it is between Yvette Harrell and Monty Newman. District 1 is also a seat that is open after Michelle Lujan-Grisham elected to run for Governor. This seat should be between Debra Haaland and Antoinette Sedillo, and they are both Democrats.

The Governor's race in New Mexico should be very interesting. There are way more running in the primary on the Democratic side (Michelle Lujan-Grisham, Jeff Apodaca, and Joseph Cervantes). Whoever wins the primary will then run against Republican Steve Pearce, and this could end up being a very interesting race.

New Mexico has once again been put in the severe drought category, and with no rain in sight and winds up to 60 miles per hour, we are also in a high fire watch.

Upcoming Events

The NMPMA Convention and Trade Show will be held August 20-22, 2018, at Sandia Resort and Casino in Albuquerque, New Mexico.