

NEW MEXICO *Petroleum Marketers Association Report*



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New Mexico Election 2026 Governor's Race Hull vs. Haaland

Haaland posts decisive victory in Democratic primary;

Hull wins a three-way GOP primary

Deb Haaland's bid to make history is hurtling toward November, while Republican Gregg Hull is hoping to break a decade-long dry spell in statewide races.

Haaland, who would become the first Native American woman elected governor if she wins in November, easily rebuffed a primary challenge from Sam Bregman to win the Democratic Party nomination in New Mexico's open race.

The race's outcome was called only 30 minutes after polls closed, with Haaland receiving more than 70% of the votes cast around New Mexico.

During her remarks, Haaland cited her past struggles with alcoholism and reliance on

government assistance programs, saying, "like so many New Mexicans, I've been through hard times." She also vowed to overhaul New Mexico's beleaguered child welfare system and stand up to Donald Trump if elected.

On the Republican side, Hull, the former three-term mayor of Rio Rancho, claimed victory over business owner Doug Turner and cannabis entrepreneur Duke Rodriguez in a three-way race for the GOP nomination. Hull spent Election Day making stops at five different polling locations in Albuquerque metro and said he felt confident about his chances.

"We ran a campaign that focused on the issues, a campaign that focused on who we were and not a campaign that attacked or tore people down."

News Around New Mexico

Candidate Spending Surges Past \$17M in New Mexico Gubernatorial Race

Democrats Deb Haaland and Sam Bregman lead the way in spending, a new campaign fundraising report shows. While some parts of New Mexico's economy might be struggling, the state's political sector does not appear to be one of them.

Fundraising reports show candidate spending on New Mexico's open race for governor has surged past \$17 million, making it the most expensive primary race in state history.

State House Contests Could Decide Chamber's Political Tilt for Next Two Years

The outcomes of more than a dozen contested New Mexico State House races are unlikely to significantly shift the 70-member chamber's moorings. Several moder-

ate Democratic ex-lawmakers are seeking to return to the Roundhouse, while at least two incumbent Democrats are facing primary challenges from more progressive opponents. The outcome of those races could have political implications, as a group of moderate Democrats have proven to be pivotal in recent years in determining whether bills dealing with crime, guns and climate change win approval or come up short.

Five Candidates Vying for New Mexico GOP Leadership Post-Including Former Party Chairwoman

The New Mexico Republican Party wasn't planning on having to pick a new leader less than five months out from this year's general election. But after a state judge ordered former GOP chairwoman Amy Barela to step down from her post,

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Republican Party insiders from around the state will gather in Las Cruces to pick a replacement. The meeting was called by the state party's 1st Vice Chair Mike Nelson, following the state Supreme Court's recent decision to deny an appeal of District Court Judge Cindy Mercer's order. The lawsuit that prompted the judge's ruling hinged on claims top state GOP officials violated party rules intended to ensure neutrality in contested primary races. The four other candidates running include Albuquerque attorney Robert Aragon, Brandon Vogt, Zac Anaya and John Brenna.

Little Suspense in New Mexico's Federal Primaries

New Mexico's primary elections evoked no suspense when it came to shaping New Mexico's four federal contests on November 3rd. New Mexico's three members of Congress and junior senator, all Democrats, are seeking reelection. Besides Senator Lujan, none faced primary challengers. Lujan was quickly projected to have won the nomination over his relatively unknown Democratic challenger, Matt Dodson.

City Council Passes Minimum Wage Bill

The Albuquerque City Council passed a whittled-down ordinance that raises the city's minimum wage from \$12 to \$15 over the next three years with future annual adjustments tied to inflation. The amended bill also cut tipped workers' percentage of the minimum from 60% to 50% and gave city workers making less than \$80,000 a year the same percentage wage increase as the minimum in annual adjustments.

Governor Pitches for Early State Status in 2028 Primary for New Mexico

Governor Michelle Lujan Grishman lent her political muscle to New Mexico Democrats' long shot bid to land coveted early state status for the 2028 presidential election cycle.

The outgoing governor, who is term-limited and will step down at the end of this year, joined top state Democratic officials in Washington to make the pitch for New Mexico to be moved up on the election calendar.

"We think we have a lot of blueprints for democracy in New Mexico," said Lujan Grishman during a presentation to members of the Democratic National Committee's Rules and Bylaws Committee.

New Mexico Court Upholds Electric Vehicle Mandates

A panel of judges handed a setback to New Mexico auto dealers attempting to derail mandates requiring manufacturers to deliver more electric vehicles to the state.

The ruling by a three-person panel of the New Mexico Court of Appeals means that the state remains on track to steadily increase the share of low-emission vehicles in new car showrooms between now and 2032.

For vehicle year 2027, which starts this year, the state mandate requires that electric vehicles comprise 43% of new passenger cars and light-duty trucks delivered to New Mexico. That requirement is set to increase by 8% annually to a maximum of 82% by 2032.

New Mexico Shelled out \$520 million in Tax Incentives – Received Little in Return

New Mexico did not get much bang for its buck after spending \$520 million on economic development tax breaks in 2025, according to a Legislative Finance Committee analysis just released.

"The overarching headline from this work is that tax incentives do not pay for themselves," Legislative Finance Committee economist Brendon Gray said during a committee meeting in Albuquerque. The modest return on investment for more than 20 types of economic-focused tax breaks generated 1.4 cents for every dollar spent.

Gas Prices Surge - Boosts State Revenue

The latest spike in gas prices is a double-edged nozzle in New Mexico, as the consumers continue to feel the impact of rising costs while the state takes in more money from royalties and tax payments. While the spike in gas prices has hit New Mexicans' pocketbooks, it's led to increased revenue inflows for the state. New Mexico is the nation's second-highest oil producer – behind Texas – and the recent surge in oil prices has reversed a downward state revenue trend from earlier this year. Recurring revenue is now tracking roughly \$320 million or 2.4% above projected levels for the current fiscal year.

Event Highlights to Come in Fall Magazine

