



1 **IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

2 **March 13, 2026**

3 **NO. S-1-AO-2026-00012**

4 **IN THE MATTER OF THE**
5 **ESTABLISHMENT OF A STRUCTURE**
6 **FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES**
7 **FOR ELECTION CONTESTS AND**
8 **OTHER JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS**
9 **UNDER THE ELECTION CODE FOR**
10 **2026 PRIMARY AND GENERAL**
11 **ELECTIONS IN NEW MEXICO**

12 **ORDER**

13 WHEREAS, the Election Code requires the assignment of district judges to
14 hear election contests and preside over other post-election proceedings;

15 WHEREAS, the upcoming primary and general elections may require the
16 Judiciary to resolve election contests and preside over other proceedings initiated
17 under the Election Code;

18 WHEREAS, the public business requires the expeditious disposition of
19 election contests and other Election Code proceedings that may arise as a result of
20 the upcoming general election; and

21 WHEREAS, in accordance with this Court’s superintending control over the
22 Judiciary under the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, N.M. Const. art. VI,
23 § 3, and the authority of the Chief Justice to designate district judges under N.M.
24 Const. art. VI, § 15, when the public business requires, the Court, on its own motion,

1 having considered the foregoing and being otherwise sufficiently advised, Chief
2 Justice David K. Thomson, Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice C. Shannon Bacon,
3 Justice Julie J. Vargas, and Justice Briana H. Zamora concurring;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the following district judges
5 hereby are DESIGNATED to preside as “Election Judges” over election contests
6 that may be filed under Rule 1-087 NMRA and NMSA 1978, § 1-14-3 (1971), ballot
7 impoundment proceedings that may be filed under NMSA 1978, § 1-14-9 (2023);
8 recount or recheck proceedings that may be filed under NMSA 1978, § 1-14-14(C)
9 (2023); mandamus proceedings that may be filed under NMSA 1978, § 1-14-21
10 (1977); and ballot image review proceedings under NMSA 1978, § 1-14-22 (2019),
11 in each county in New Mexico as assigned in the discretion of the chief judge in
12 their respective judicial districts:

13 First Judicial District Court

14
15 Los Alamos County Hon. T. Glenn Ellington
16 Hon. Jason Lidyard

17
18 Rio Arriba County Hon. T. Glenn Ellington
19 Hon. Jason Lidyard

20
21 Santa Fe County Hon. T. Glenn Ellington
22 Hon. Jason Lidyard

23
24 Second Judicial District Court

25
26 Bernalillo County Hon. Joshua Allison
27 Hon. Erin O’Connell
28

1	Sierra County	Hon. Roscoe Woods
2		Hon. Mercedes C. Murphy
3		
4	Socorro County	Hon. Mercedes C. Murphy
5		Hon. Shannon Murdock-Poff
6		
7	Torrance County	Hon. Shannon Murdock-Poff
8		Hon. Roscoe Woods
9		
10	Eighth Judicial District Court	
11		
12	Colfax County	Hon. Steven A. Romero
13		Hon. Jeffrey Shannon
14		Hon. Emilio Chavez
15		
16	Taos County	Hon. Emilio Chavez
17		Hon. Jeffrey Shannon
18		Hon. Steven A. Romero
19		
20	Union County	Hon. Steven A. Romero
21		Hon. Jeffrey Shannon
22		Hon. Emilio Chavez
23		
24	Ninth Judicial District Court	
25		
26	Curry County	Hon. Fred Van Soelen
27		Hon. Benjamin S. Cross
28		Hon. Donna J. Mowrer
29		
30	Roosevelt County	Hon. Donna J. Mowrer
31		Hon. Benjamin S. Cross
32		Hon. Fred Van Soelen
33		
34	Tenth Judicial District Court	
35		
36	De Baca County	Hon. Timothy Rose
37	Harding County	Hon. Timothy Rose
38	Quay County	Hon. Timothy Rose
39		
40		

1 Eleventh Judicial District Court

2
3 McKinley County

Hon. R. David Pederson

4
5
6 San Juan County

Hon. Curtis Gurley

7
8
9 Twelfth Judicial District Court

10
11 Lincoln County

Hon. Daniel A. Bryant

Hon. John Sugg

12
13
14 Otero County

Hon. John Sugg

Hon. Daniel A. Bryant

15
16
17 Thirteenth Judicial District Court

18
19 Cibola County

Hon. Amanda Sanchez Villalobos

Hon. George P. Eichwald

20
21
22 Sandoval County

Hon. James A. Noel

Hon. Allison P. Martinez

23
24
25 Valencia County

Hon. Cindy M. Mercer

26
27
28 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, except for the Election Code proceedings
29 brought pursuant to the statutes or rule set forth above, the chief judge in each
30 judicial district shall appoint district judges to carry out other election day, election
31 night, and post-election duties required of judges under the Election Code;

32 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any district judge designated under this
33 order who is assigned to preside over an election contest or other Election Code
34 proceeding concerning or affecting a retention or contested election for that judge's

1 position shall recuse from presiding in the matter, and the Chief Justice shall
2 designate another judge to preside over the matter;

3 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any district judge appointed by a chief
4 judge under this order to carry out election day, election night, and post-election
5 judicial duties shall not designate any other person to serve in the judge's place
6 unless otherwise provided in the Election Code;

7 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any mandamus proceedings that may be
8 filed under NMSA 1978, § 1-14-21, may be filed in the district court or the Supreme
9 Court, as appropriate, but shall not be filed in the New Mexico Court of Appeals;
10 and

11 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Election Judges designated in this order
12 are not subject to the exercise of peremptory excusals notwithstanding the provisions
13 in NMSA 1978, § 1-14-7 (1969), and Rule 1-087(E) NMRA.

14 IT IS SO ORDERED.



WITNESS, the Honorable David K. Thomson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of said Court this 13th day of March, 2026.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Garcia".

Elizabeth A. Garcia, Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court
of the State of New Mexico

I CERTIFY AND ATTEST:
A true copy was served on all parties
or their counsel of record on date filed.
Elizabeth A. Garcia
Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court
of the State of New Mexico