

# The Importance of Keeping Democrats in Office

## A Word from our Chairwoman

Debra Haaland, Mar. 29, 2016

I wanted to bring attention to the recent capital outlay vetoes made by Governor Martinez in the 2016 legislative session. These vetoes show

what Martinez and state Republicans value. Instead of focusing on our economy and ensuring all New

Mexicans have stability, Martinez picked up her pen and drew a line through funding that would have guaranteed support for our communities.

It's priorities like these that remind us what is at stake in this election.

As an individual who advocated for projects for a small New Mexico Pueblo community, I know the importance of the projects that took the brunt of Martinez' pen. Often, the funding that comes into a rural community from capital outlay projects is the only funding the community sees all year.

With respect to Indian communities, most projects were small, not costly, and could have made a big difference: bathrooms, a generator, and improvements to a senior center. Some were more significant - wastewater projects, power and utility line developments, and a water well. For rural communities, these projects would have kept things going in the face of this poor economy, which we owe in large part to the Martinez administration. Moreover, in light of the fact that Indian Tribes contribute generous amounts to the state's general fund, ensuring they have the support needed to improve their communities isn't too much to ask.

Other Martinez vetoes included about 20 projects that would have improved acequias across the state,



## IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ Chairwoman Debra Haaland shares how damaging the Governor's capital outlay vetoes are for our rural communities, and emphasizes the importance of electing Democrats this election (Cover)
- ▶ Get to know the new DPNM Communications Director Felicia Salazar (Pg. 1)
- ▶ Adan Serna reports on what Democrats are doing to help president Obama fight Republicans in the United States Supreme Court nominee debate. (Pg. 2)
- ▶ Sonia Gonzalez gives a step-by-step guide on voter registration. (Pg. 4)

and supported farmers and ranchers who rely on these waterways for their livelihoods. Our small communities must have the support of the state to protect their way of life for generations to come.

I found it especially troubling that small projects for our seniors and veterans were vetoed. For example, the Springer Veterans Memorial Park renovation and the funds for Bosque Farms senior meals equipment were both redlined by Martinez.

After our election in November of 2016, we will have two more years of Governor Martinez' abject neglect of our communities in need. We can work together to counteract this by ensuring Democrats win up and down the ballot in every race across the state. Our candidates need your vote.

Join us and get involved! Register voters, knock on doors, donate, raise funds, make phone calls—anything you do can make a difference to combat the out-of-touch and damaging effects the Martinez administration and state Republicans have had on New Mexico.

## Hello, I'm glad to be here

*Felicia Salazar, new communications director for DPNM*

I wanted to take this opportunity share a little bit about myself and express how excited I am to be the communications director for the Democratic Party of New Mexico. This position means a lot for the Party. It means we can effectively communicate our values, and ensure the voters know how damaging Republican priorities are for New Mexico.

I grew up in Moriarty, graduated a Moriarty High School Pinto, and later became a UNM Lobo. Before taking this post, I worked for Senator Martin Heinrich as his Deputy Press Secretary. It was in that role that I learned the power that comes from ensuring everyone knows how effective Democrats are at making real change that benefits all New Mexicans.

I was raised in a typical New Mexican family—both of my parents worked and strived to make sure my brother, sister, and I had more opportunity than they had. My dad works at the local grocery store and my mom worked odd jobs until finding a place as a teacher's assistant at Moriarty Elementary.

Like many New Mexican parents, they taught me to care for other people, to always work hard, and to contribute to my community -- the same things New Mexico Democrats value and fight for everyday.

Thanks for putting your faith and trust in me -- I know we're going to do amazing things together!



# Republican Obstruction on the Supreme Court Nomination: Dems Call on U.S. Senate Republicans to Do Their Job

Adan J. Serna, Mar, 29, 2016

ALBUQUERQUE – The President announced the Honorable Merrick Garland, Chief Judge of the Washington, D.C. Circuit Court as his nomination to fill Justice Scalia's place on the U.S. Supreme Court. Both Republicans and Democrats have revered Judge Garland and his rulings with Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts saying, "Any time Judge Garland disagrees, you know you're in a difficult area." Judge Garland is seen by many to be a qualified centrist for the Supreme Court, yet Republicans continue to obstruct his nomination, which has created some chaos on the high court. The *New York Times* also had a glowing review of Judge Garland, saying "Mr. Obama opted to select a jurist better known for his meticulous work ethic and adherence to legal principles than for an ideological bent."

Immediately following the passing of conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia last month, Republicans began urging President Obama to leave the vacancy for the next president to fill in hopes that a Republican would win the White House and nominate another staunch conservative. Just an hour after Justice Scalia's death was announced, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced the Senate would not confirm an Obama nominee in a presidential election year, despite the president still having just under a year left in his term. This move, so hastily taken by Republican leadership, has seemed to backfire as evidenced by a recent Wall Street



Photo courtesy of [www.flickr.com/richardgillan](http://www.flickr.com/richardgillan)

Journal/NBC news poll indicating the majority of Americans disapprove of these divisive tactics not to hold confirmation hearings.

Our own U.S. Senators, Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, have called for Republicans to stop playing political games and do their job.

In a statement Senator Udall said, "Merrick Garland has an impressive record as a jurist. He was confirmed to the D.C. Circuit Court - one of

the most important courts in the nation - with strong

bipartisan support, and he has demonstrated a commitment to public service. I look forward to meeting with him and examining his record in more detail as part of my duty as a United States senator. After all senators have had the appropriate time to consider him, I hope that we each will be able to cast a vote - up or down - about whether to confirm him to the U.S. Supreme Court. Few of the Senate's constitutional duties are more important than offering our advice and consent on Supreme Court nominations. That's why I have been deeply disappointed by the Senate Majority's refusal so far even to hold hearings on any nominee by President Obama. The Senate has always voted on every pending nominee for a Supreme Court vacancy, even when the nomination is made in the last months of a president's term. To say that the president's nominee doesn't even deserve a hearing is an example of Senate dysfunction and



Photo courtesy of Martin Heinrich

partisan politics at their very worst. The president has done his job, and it's time for the Senate to do ours."

Senator Heinrich called for a vote saying, "We have a job to do here in the Senate. It is our Constitutional duty to exercise advice and consent for Supreme Court justices. It is my sincere hope that all of us will take that job seriously by holding hearings, conducting interviews and, ultimately, by

holding a vote on this nominee."

The president's duty is to nominate candidates in the case of vacancies, and it is the Senate's job to hold a hearing on such nominations. By blocking President Obama's nominee, Senate Republicans are very literally ignoring an essential part of their duties as senators. The Republican Party has continued to be the party of 'no' and of obstruction. The longer Republicans continue to obstruct Judge Garland's nominee, the more the Supreme Court will find itself in stalemate with tie votes. The Supreme Court is a nine-member court, and in election years, this should be no different.

Going into a competitive election season where Americans will elect a number of governors, congress members, and president, the Republicans' inability to recognize true merit is sure to turn off voters – whether they be Republican, Independent, or Democratic. President Obama's nominee for the Supreme Court is qualified and respected; we shouldn't allow this nomination to fall to the political waste-side. Republican senators up for competitive reelections are starting to realize Senator McConnell's tactics are hurting them, now saying they are willing to meet with Garland or hold confirmation hearings. Republicans have held the Senate majority for almost two years, and in those two years, we have seen obstruction over innovation, and partisanship over collegiality. While Democrats support a confirmation hearing on Judge Garland's merit, Republicans continue to politicize this nomination leaving the court in a precarious situation.

## APRIL 21

Chaves County  
Democrats Monthly  
Meeting (6:00 p.m. - 7:30  
p.m.)

## APRIL 23

DPNM SCC Meeting  
(12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

## MAY 9

Los Lunas County  
Democrats Meeting  
(7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)

## MAY 10

Cibola County  
Democrats Meeting  
(5:30 p.m.)

Sonia Gonzalez, Mar. 29, 2016

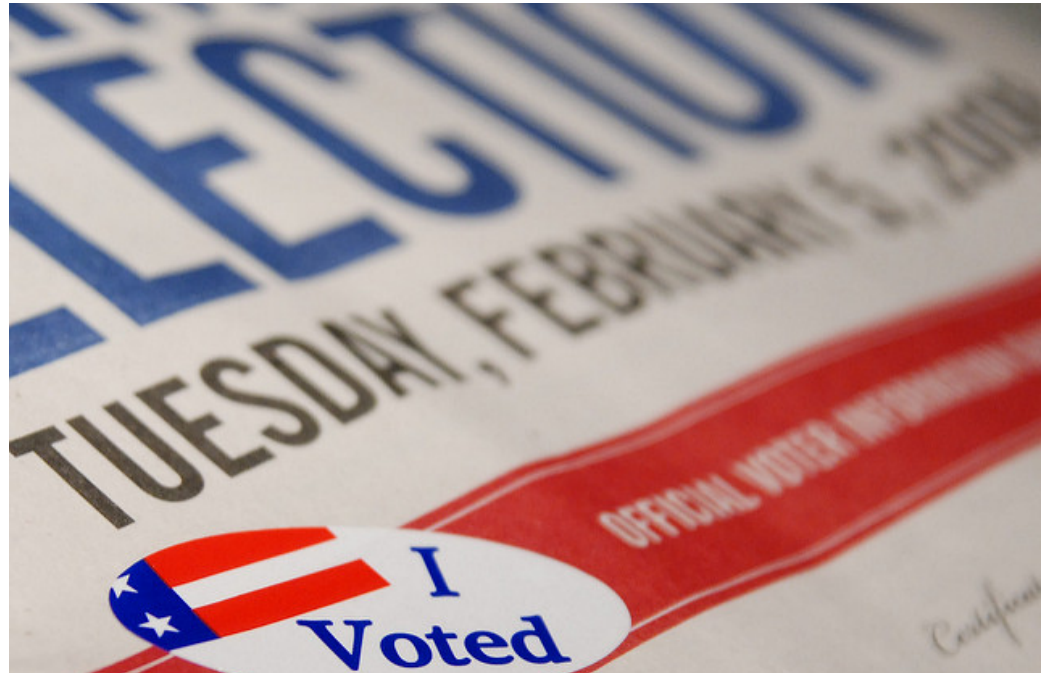
With the excitement around our primary and general election, we must realize that our community has a role in making sure our family and friends are registered to vote. By simply reminding our community how to register, remembering important deadlines, and realizing what's at stake, this election will give our Democratic candidates the turnout they need to win.

## Step 1: Eligibility Requirements

- Must be 18 years old by Election day
- Must be a U.S citizen Resident of New Mexico
- If convicted of a felony, civil rights must have been restored

## Step 2: Fill out voter registration form

Filling out the voter registration form is simple and only basic information is needed. Voter Registration can be filled out at your local county clerk's office, at an office of Motor Vehicle Division of New Mexico (MVD), and in some cases online. You can also visit your local clerk's office official website to download the voter application.



## Step 3: Submit your voter registration

When submitting your voter registration, it is important to keep in mind to submit your registration at least 28 days prior to Election Day. March 10, 2016 is the official deadline to participate in the primary.

If you are visiting your local county clerk's office or local MVD, your application can be submitted on the spot. If you print it from the website you can mail it to your county clerk's office.

## Step 4: Vote!

The most exciting and rewarding part of the registration process, is actually voting for your Democratic candidates.

Photo Courtesy of [www.flickr.com/denisecross](http://www.flickr.com/denisecross)

Registering to vote is a very simple task, and every vote makes a difference.

Make sure your family and friends are informed.

Did you know? Individuals who are unable to physically go to voting sites can still vote. All you have to do is request an absentee ballot, fill it out, and send it in.

## Dates to remember:

May 10, 2016 deadline to register for primary

June 7, 2016 Primary Election  
Oct. 11, 2016 deadline to register for the General Election

Nov. 8, 2016 General Election