

# Highlighting Some Amazing Dems!

## A Word from the Chairwoman

Debra Haaland, Oct. 23, 2016

On October 8, the Democratic Party of New Mexico held our Annual Rising Star Dinner, where we were pleased to show our special guest, U.S. Representative Cedric

Richmond, our New Mexico hospitality and recognize Ane Romero and Nathan Small as this year's Democratic Rising Stars.

Ane Romero and Nathan Small have shown the capacity and the dedication to become great leaders in our state, and they both exemplify exactly what our communities need--devoted public servants who are committed to Democratic ideals.



At DPNM's Rising Star Dinner we also honor two outstanding volunteers. We're incredibly proud to show our gratitude to Willie Marquez and Cheryl Harris. They have both worked tirelessly for the Party and our Democratic candidates for many years.

At our Rising Star Dinner we emphasized the need to get out and elect Democrats this election cycle.

There is too much at stake -- we must ensure we have a Democrat in the Secretary of State's office to ensure our elections are fair and transparent and elect legislators who will hold Governor Martinez accountable for her failed economic agenda.

It's imperative that we elect a Democrat to the White House, because the stakes are too high not to. In New Mexico, we take pride in our communities and know that we're stronger together--and so does Hillary Clinton.

We know that when Democrats are in office, New Mexico families win. Tonight, let's commit ourselves to work everyday to elect Democrats up and down the ballot. Let's get out the vote!

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# Nora Espinoza is too extreme for New Mexico

Vote Maggie Toulouse Oliver!

Sonia Gonzalez, Oct. 23, 2016

On November 8, not only are we electing our new President of the United States we will also be electing our next N.M. Secretary of State. It is vital that New Mexicans vote for Maggie Toulouse Oliver and Democrats down the ballot. This choice comes very easily, especially when Republicans are pushing policies that are at odds with our values as New Mexicans.

Nora Espinoza, a Republican who has pushed bills that limit women's healthcare rights, would ban Hispanic history books in schools, and allow legal discrimination against our LGBT community, is a reflection of how easily she has embraced Republican principles of division and exclusion.

Espinoza in 2013 proposed House Bill 122, which was clearly strategy meant to scrutinize a woman's personal decision, instead of ensuring they have support and access to abortion services. Fast-forward to this year Donald Trump in an interview with MSNBC agreed that "there should be some sort of punishment for women" is a clear indicator of what the Republican Party stands for.

Not only is Espinoza taking a stance not to support women, but in a ridiculous effort she has also taken a stance against

embracing the Hispanic culture in our schools. Considering this is an integral part of our New Mexican heritage, it is outrageous. Espinoza contradicts herself and the Republican Party policies when she says Hispanic books are racist and hate books when, in fact, it is she and her own presidential candidate who are racist and spurr hate and violence.

In a pitiful attempt, Espinoza also proposed making discrimination against LGBT individuals in our state legal. Espinoza insisted that this bill was about respecting each other's beliefs. But of course the bill was immediately shut down because of how flawed and outright discriminatory it was.

New Mexicans see the truth about Nora Espinoza's extreme record and that electing her would be devastating to our state. At the forefront of this election, Maggie Toulouse Oliver is protecting our principals. Not only does she have the experience of being the county clerk of Bernalillo since 2007 but also she is committed to reform, transparency and accountability. We can make sure we have candidates who will be our voice is by contributing, volunteering, and voting before or on November 8.



# DEM OF THE WEEK: MERRIE LEE SOULES, CANDIDATE FOR NEW MEXICO'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sonia Gonzalez, Oct. 23, 2016



Merrie Lee Soules with her background of working 30 years with Packard Electric Division of General Motors and Delphi Corporation and with her record of fighting for what is best for our state identifies some of the most pressing issues in her district. She has plans a plan to build an economy that works for everyone, invest in education, and bring jobs to our state.

Learn more about Merrie Lee Soules and her commitment to New Mexico below:

**Q:** How is your campaign addressing the issues that matter most to New Mexico families?

**A:** As I travel throughout this district, I find people all throughout southern New Mexico who love living here, who call this place home, and yet haven't found the economic opportunity to prosper right here at home. Our young

people are still leaving. For Southern New Mexico, the issue of jobs and economic opportunity is fundamental. So I'm looking to put my business background and all the experience that I gained in a 30-year career in the automotive industry, to work, to move the barriers out of the way, to make it possible for Southern New Mexico to thrive and prosper. I believe we should invest in education, which is still absolutely critical for young people and returning students to realize their potential.

I'm focused on energy – New Mexico has such amazing, essentially unlimited renewable energy resources. I want to be part of the effort to unleash the potential of renewable energy technologies that we need for the future, both to protect the environment and to build a sustainable economy.

And finally infrastructure – for me the big opportunity there is in connecting our rural areas to other markets. A century ago, this country invested in electrifying the entire country to bring in electricity to rural communities, to making it possible for them to join what was then the modern world on an equal footing with those who lived in cities. Today I think that challenge has to do with broadband, internet, cell

service. Without it, we are stuck in a world that is not connected, that is not participating in our modern economy. With it, I think the opportunities are endless.

**Q:** How does your experience and background prepare you for this position?

**A:** I have a degree in electrical engineering from Cleveland State University and a master's degree in business administration from the Harvard Business School. I spent 30 years working in the automotive industry – Packard Electric Division of General Motors and then Delphi Corporation. For at least 20 of those years I was an executive. I ran a manufacturing plant, I was director of purchasing, and I was chief engineer. I had financial responsibility for operating budgets on the order of several million dollars, project budgets, capital budgets that were in the hundreds of millions of dollars. I held those responsibilities in a period when the world was globalizing, becoming smaller, and we were conducting business in countries everywhere.

When I came home to Las Cruces 12 years ago, I spent the last three years of that 30-year career living in Las Cruces and working in Mexico, commuting every day to Ciudad Juarez.

That experience has given me a unique perspective on the challenges of our border, on international relations, on the global economy. Since retiring, I've found ways to serve my community, and that includes most recently filing as a citizen intervenor with the Public Regulation Commission in an El Paso Electric Company rate case. El Paso Electric was seeking a rate increase of \$8.6 million per year.

I filed and helped bring in others, including Dona Ana County and the City of Las Cruces on an expanded basis to represent not just their government-customer perspective but also the interests of residents and businesses. I played an important role in persuading the PRC to award El Paso Electric only \$1.1 million in additional rates. So together we Dona Ana County customers \$7.5 million per year, over 10 years; \$75 million will stay in the community, in our pockets, rather than leaving to go to Wall Street investors as EPEC profit. This is the leadership and the value I want to bring to work on behalf of the people of Southern New Mexico as their representative in Congress.

**Q:** What is your favorite thing about your home district?

**A:** I love the people and the diversity. The people who live here are here because they want to be here. Somebody told me recently that New Mexico is unique amongst the various states – although people do leave, more people do come back. So like me, southern New Mexico is our home. We come from different cultures – Native American to Hispanic to long-time Spanish heritage to those of us who have come just within the last century. It is fascinating, it's diverse, and the people are really great people.

**Q:** Why are you running for this position and why is it important to you?

**A:** I'm running because I feel that our government has a real job that has to be done, and for too long it's not been stepping up to that challenge. Our current representative sees government as an obstruction, as something we'd be better having less of, and he's been living that from his record. After 12 long years, he has no more than a handful of pieces of legislation that he's introduced and passed. And to the best of my knowledge, those have not had a great positive effect on the people of southern New Mexico. We deserve a Congress that's ready to work because there are big challenges facing us, and those challenges are everything from a disappointingly sluggish economy to climate change, to immigration reform. I believe that this is the election cycle when the people will make their voices heard and choose a future and a government that is working for them – with responsible and respectful representation, ready to tackle the challenging work of creating a future that works for all us and not just the few.

**Q:** Red or green?

**A:** Yes. And I like them hot.

## OCTOBER 25-26

Phone bank for Natalie Figueroa

(5-8 p.m.)

## OCTOBER 27

Phone bank for Nathan Small

(5-7:30 p.m.)

## OCTOBER 29-30

Knock doors for Nathan Small

(9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

## NOVEMBER 1

Valencia County phone bank

(5:30-7:30 p.m.)

# Stephanie Garcia Richards leads on education

Cayla Aikin, Oct. 23, 2016



LOS ALAMOS, NM - The race for Representative in District 43 pits former County Clerk Sharon Stover against experienced, current House Rep. Stephanie Garcia Richard. Local Stephanie Garcia Richards' has made education a priority, and it's one of many reasons she's the right choice for District 43.

Throughout the race, it's become clear that Sharon Stover's plan for education would allow individual's lacking teaching credentials to head classrooms, and such a stance would damage education opportunities for New Mexico children across the state. Stover believes that placing unqualified individuals in front of students would address the shortage of teachers in New Mexico, instead of pointing out the main reason teachers are leaving the state or retiring early: Governor Martinez's lack of support for our teachers.

Teachers are the backbone of our education system and deserve the resources and support to ensure all children in New Mexico receive a quality education. Teachers possess the necessary skills to pass information to students, and understand the difficulties and frustrations students face while learning. Thousands of teachers continuously expand their skills by obtaining new certifications and working toward advanced degrees. The fact that Stover believes any graduate can be a teacher is an insult to the people who attend college to become teachers. Stover's undermining of necessary qualities and qualifications is unacceptable. Garcia Richard, an educator herself, understands that under qualified individuals have no place teaching our children. She advocates for qualified instructors and smaller classrooms, and evidence shows that her strategy is much more effective than Stover's. "Our kids deserve better than an unqualified teacher," Garcia Richard said at an League of Women Voters Forum.

# Recap of the final presidential debate

Addison Flores-Thorpe, Oct. 24, 2016



[www.flickr.com/gageskidmore](http://www.flickr.com/gageskidmore)

Last Wednesday, presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump participated in the third and final presidential debate. This debate, like the two others, made it very clear who is prepared to be president and who is not.

Donald Trump is not prepared to be president.

Not only was it unprofessional and flat-out childish for him to interject the word "wrong" after almost all of Clinton's answers throughout the debate, it proved that he does not have the patience or temperament that a president requires.

Once again, Trump made the debate all about his "accomplishments" and not about his plans for the U.S.

During the debate, Trump made crude comments about late-term abortions saying, "If you go with what Hillary is saying, in the ninth month you can take the baby and rip the baby out of the womb of the mother just prior to the birth of the baby," he said, "Because based on what she is saying and based on where she's going and where she's been, you can take the baby and rip the baby out of the womb. In the ninth month. On the final day. And that's not acceptable."

Donald Trump used scare tactics to try and gain voters instead of citing rational facts.

Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, met Trump's

comments with a level head, explaining why his comments were absurd.

"Well that is not what happens in these cases. And using that kind of scare rhetoric is just terribly unfortunate," Clinton said, "This is one of the worst possible choices that any woman and her family has to make. And I do not believe the government should be making it."

Hillary Clinton understands that a woman's health decisions, especially those that come to her legal right to safe abortion, is a deeply personal decision. She knows that a woman will make the right decision for her family, her health, and her own religious beliefs.

Recently, Trump has come under fire for comments he made to Access Hollywood's Billy Bush, bragging about sexually assaulting women.

This debate was no different, with Trump spewing misogynistic comments at Clinton calling her a "nasty woman."

Clinton brushed off the comment, continuing her answer to moderator Chris Wallace's question about healthcare.

Trump's comments about women need to be acknowledged. America is finally seeing his true colors and the way he belittles women. Those who support Trump also support his misogynistic rhetoric.

Clinton closed the debate by saying, "Well I would like to say to everyone watching tonight that I'm reaching out to all Americans, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, because we need everybody to help make our country what it should be, to grow the economy, to make it fairer, to make it work for everyone."

The choice for president is clear. Hillary Clinton has the temperament, experience, and knowledge to become President of the United States. Donald Trump has none of these qualities.