



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

5.12.20

New Mexico Primary Election

The Primary Election in New Mexico is coming up, Tuesday, June 2 to be exact, and already the voting process is underway.

Only registered voters of the major parties are eligible to vote in their respective primary elections. At the top of the ticket voters will making their selection in the Presidential primary, the Senate primary races and in the three Congressional districts. The Republican primary election in the Second Congressional District has generated interest as has the Democratic race in the Third Congressional District.

There also are several legislative primary races in which the winner will be the winner as well in the November general election as they are in districts with voter registration that heavily favors their party, or in some cases, there is no opponent in the general election. Many county races also are on the ballot.

With the current Covid-19 situation, many New Mexico voters have requested absentee ballots and county clerks began mailing them out on May 5. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is May 28, but that given county clerk's little time to get them in your hands. Absentee ballots must be in the hands of the county clerk by 7 p.m. on June 2.

Early voting is another option and you can do so at your county clerk's office. Some counties also may have satellite locations where early voting is possible.

And, of course, there's election day where you can cast your ballot at various locations. Most information is available from your county clerk with most of the information posted on their websites.

Special Session

The Governor is expected to call a special session of the Legislature sometime in June as lawmakers will have the deal with the anticipated \$1.8 billion to \$2.4 billion budget shortfall the result of the Covid-19 shutdown and bottom-of-the barrel oil prices.

Advocacy at the Federal, State and Local Levels

Supporting the REALTOR® family with the tools to do business is one of the missions of the national, state and local associations. Your local association keeps an eye on what is happening at city hall or the county courthouse to ensure ordinances, zoning changes, etc. are in the best interest of REALTORS®.

The New Mexico Association of REALTORS® (NMAR) monitors activity and legislation at the state level and with over 6,900 members statewide, many who contribute to the REALTORS® Political Action Committee (RPAC), NMAR has considerable presence in Santa Fe. Most recently when the Governor's office was determining the essential businesses (businesses that could remain open during the Covid-19 actions), NMAR was able to ensure that REALTORS® would be able to do business.

In Washington, D.C. NAR, backed by 1.3 million members and with a talented staff and team of lobbyists, was able to use their considerable influence to ensure passage of the Covid-19 bailout package that also included assistance for independent contractors.

Your membership dues help pay for this support and even more fire-power when you voluntarily contribute to RPAC. If you haven't done so already, please consider a minimum contribution of \$15 to the REALTORS® Political Action Committee.