

THE CLERK'S NOTE



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New Privacy Safeguards

Acting on the recommendations of a bipartisan Blue Ribbon Panel put together following the arrest of an employee on charges related to identity theft, the Doña Ana County Clerk's Office is implementing a series of new steps designed to enhance the security of sensitive information belonging to registered voters in Doña Ana County.

The most significant change reduced access to Social Security numbers in the state electronic voter registration system. Working with the state vendor we were able to create an option to mask this information from screens showing voter information in search results.

The Clerk's office has also implemented an ongoing training program related to responsibilities for protecting private information. This program includes annual acknowledgements, mandatory annual compliance training, notary training, leadership workshops, and new office policies related to working and visiting the office outside of regular office hours. These steps have been modeled after standard practices in the hospital and banking industries. We are also considering modifying the office layout to reduce the possibility of secrecy, and performing regular background and credit checks on employees.

In addition, we are working with the Doña Ana County Information Technology Department to upgrade video surveillance and workplace-monitoring systems.

The steps we've taken establish Doña Ana County as a leader in the state in terms of providing the most protection possible for keeping identities safe, and are a giant step toward ensuring that information is safe.

We have also shared the recommendations with other New Mexico county clerks and the NM Secretary of State's Office to continue the conversation about vulnerabilities that need to be evaluated at the state level. These changes include modifying the electronic voter registration system to include more advanced auditing capabilities and additional administrative options to reduce access to Social Security numbers. We also need to change laws related voter registration

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November Events

*11.11 County Offices Closed
for Veteran's Day*

*11.26 & 11.27 County Offices
Closed for Thanksgiving*

A look ahead

- *1.12.16 Anthony
Water and Sanitation
Election*
- *1.20.16 Dona Ana
Mutual Domestic
Water Consumers
Association Election*
- *2.2.16 LCPS Mil Levy
Election*
- *3.1.16 Anthony,
Hatch, Mesilla,
Sunland Park
Elections*
- *6.7.16 Primary
Election*
- *11.8.16 General
Election*

agents to preclude them from taking full Social Security numbers.

We want to thank the individuals who gave their time, energy and ideas to help us develop these enhanced safeguards. The expertise and advice of Russell Allen, Dr. Paul Deason, Gwendolyn Hanson, John Hummer and John Muñoz was invaluable, frank and straightforward. They have produced a detailed report that we will reference frequently as we move forward. The report is available on the county's website.

2016 Candidate Guide Available

The Doña Ana County Clerk's Office has copies of the state's 2016 Primary Candidate Guide on hand for pickup, or it can be accessed from the Clerk's page on the Doña Ana County website.

Some highlights of the guide include filing stipulations, petition requirements, filing fees and filing deadlines for candidates in federal, state and county elections. There also is information about how candidates without the means to pay a filing fee can apply for a waiver from the state.

2 New Voting Locations

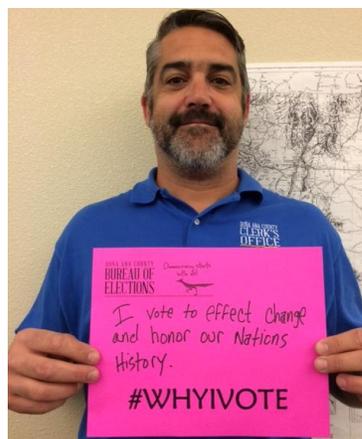
To better serve the community of Dona Ana County, 2 new Voting Convenience Centers have been added for the 2016 Primary & General elections.

- **Mequite Elementary School**
205 NM HWY 228
Mesquite, NM 880418
- **La Mesa Fire Station**
15765 Hwy 28 La Mesa, NM 88044

Depending on the office sought and whether it encompasses one or multiple counties, filing requirements will either be through the New Mexico Secretary of State's Office or the appropriate County Clerk's Office.

Anyone thinking about running for office in New Mexico in 2016 should take advantage of the wealth of information available in this guide. Without it, candidates may miss critical deadlines or requirements that would derail a candidacy before it can even get started. For instance, most candidates don't know that they must be registered to vote in the district they seek to represent no later than Jan. 25.

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*Bryan
Clerk's Office*

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