

FAQ's

Registering to Vote

1. **Who can register to vote?**

To register to vote you must be a United States citizen, be at least 18 years old on or before the next election and a resident of New Mexico. 17 year olds who will be 18 by the general election may participate in the primary election.

2. **Where do I register to vote?**

You can register in person to vote at the Grant County Clerk's Office or the Department of Motor Vehicles. You can register by mail by downloading a form from the Secretary of States website at sos.state.nm.us or by calling the clerk's office to request a form. You can also register online at NMVote.org.

3. **Must I register as a member of a political party?**

It is not necessary to register with a political party in order to vote. However, New Mexico is a "closed" primary, so only those registered in a major political party may participate in the primary election.

4. **Do I need to change my registration if I move? Even if I move to a different address in the same city?**

Yes, the content of your ballot including districted offices, bond questions, and other types of ballot contests is directly associated with the precinct of your physical address. If you have moved or changed your mailing address you need to update your voter registration with the county clerk's office.

5. **What if my name changes?**

If your name changes by marriage or other legal process, you must fill out a new voter registration form.

6. **How do I change my political party affiliation?**

You need to fill out a new voter registration form and submit it to the Grant County Clerk's Office or submit a new registration online in order to change your party affiliation.

7. **How long is my registration good for?**

Your voter registration is permanent, unless you don't vote for four (4) years and/or if you fail to return a voter notice from the Bureau of Elections. Your registration will automatically be cancelled if the County Clerk's office is notified that you have moved from the county or have been convicted of a felony.

Absentee Voting

1. **How do I vote absentee by mail?**

You can request an absentee ballot application by mail, telephone, online or at NMVote.org, or in person at the clerk's office.

2. **When does absentee voting by mail and voting early in person begin?**

Voters may cast a ballot or vote in person in the county clerk's office during regular business hours starting 28 days prior to an election and on the Saturday before the election.

Voting Convenience Centers

1. **What are Voting Convenience Centers (VCC's)?**

Voter Convenience Center (VCC) is an Election Day polling location that is available to any registered voter of Grant County regardless of their designated precinct.

VCC's give voters more flexibility on Election Day since they are not constrained to any specific polling location. There are enough voting stations and voting machine tabulators to accommodate the Election Day voters of Grant County.

Elections

1. **What is a Primary Election and when is it held?**

A Primary Election is held by each major political party for the purpose allowing registered party voters to select the candidates who will represent their party in the General Election. A voter registered in one party may not vote for candidates in another party. New Mexico has a closed primary, so only those registered in a major political party may participate in the Primary Election. Party affiliation can be changed no later than 28 days prior to the election. The Primary Election is held on the first Tuesday in June in each even-numbered year.

2. **What is a General Election and when is it held?**

A General Election is held to determine which candidates from all parties, including write-in candidates, will be elected to serve in the office for which they are running. In the General Election, you can vote for any candidate, regardless of your political party or unaffiliated registration. The General Election is held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each even-numbered year.

3. **What is Regular Local Election?**

The Regular Local Election consolidates School Districts, Municipalities who opt-in, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts in Grant County into one election. This election is held every November of the odd-numbered years.

4. **What is a Municipal Officer's Election?**

The Municipal Officer's Election is for those municipalities that do not opt-in to the Regular Local Election. This election is held every March of the even-numbered years.

Voting

1. **Can I receive assistance if I need it in order to vote?**

Assistance is available to any voter who is blind, physically disabled, unable to read or write, or who requires assistance in operating the voting machine. The voter must tell the poll worker in advance that assistance is required, and the voter will then be accompanied to the ballot booth by a person of the voter's choice EXCEPT the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, an officer or agent of the voter's labor union, or a candidate whose name appears on the ballot.

2. **How can I find out who is running for office and how the ballot will look?**

Sample ballots are available ahead of the election in the Grant County Clerk's Office, online at NMVote.org, or on Election Day at each polling location.

3. **What identification do I need to provide when I vote?**

A physical form of identification is only required for first-time New Mexico voters who registered by mail and did not include identification with their voter registration application form. Otherwise, you will be asked to provide verbal identification which includes your name and year of birth.