

February 16, 2026

Resolution Title: Resolution to Establish a People’s Primary Rule Deterring Billionaires and Corporations from Buying or Unduly Influencing New Mexico Democratic Primaries

Submitted by: the DPNM Ad Hoc Committee appointed by Chair Attleson in December 2025.

WHEREAS, New Mexico Democrats from every corner of the State know the damaging influence that big outside money has on our local, state and federal elections, and we want to ensure that our elected leaders represent our interests, rather than big outside corporate interests; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2025, the Resolutions Committee of the Democratic Party of Bernalillo County (DPBC) approved a resolution entitled **To Establish a “People’s Primary” Policy Deterring Billionaires and Corporations from Buying or Unduly Influencing Democratic Primaries**; and

WHEREAS, such Resolution was presented to the County Central Committee of the DPBC on October 11, 2025 and adopted by acclamation; and

WHEREAS, consistent with such Resolution, on December 17, 2025, the Chair of the DPNM appointed the ad-hoc committee with a diverse representation from the DPNM Caucuses, including Young Democrats of New Mexico, Rural Caucus, LGBTQIA+ Caucus, Environmental Justice Caucus, the DPBC Resolutions Committee, SPARC, DPNM Vice Chair, Grant County Democratic Party and others; and

WHEREAS, such Resolution charged the ad hoc committee with developing the proposed DPNM People's Primary Rule to implement and enforce the goal of the Resolution; and

WHEREAS, such Resolution directed that the People’s Primary Rule was to be prepared and submitted for a vote by the State Central Committee at the earliest possible date in the spring of 2026; and

WHEREAS, the ad-hoc committee worked diligently and expeditiously from December until the present to fulfill its mandate, and sought legal advice and counsel, and drafted a Rule to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that candidates in New Mexico Democratic primaries are not benefited by, dependent on, or elected due to big donors spending tens or hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars to elect the candidates of their choice; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party is the party of the working class and Americans who believe in a one person, one vote democracy where our elections are determined by We the People as equal citizens — not billionaires and big corporations; and

WHEREAS, working class voters should have no doubt that the candidates chosen in our primaries are not beholden to the same billionaires and corporations that are exploiting and hurting them; and

WHEREAS, the platform of the Democratic Party of New Mexico (DPNM) affirms that “money is not speech and corporations are not people”; and “demand campaign finance reform and the repeal of laws that enable secret money in politics;” and

WHEREAS, the DPNM, as a voluntary association, has the authority and responsibility to regulate its internal affairs, including nominating processes and primary elections, to ensure fairness, integrity, and alignment with our values; and

WHEREAS, to strengthen our party’s brand, win back trust from our voters, and empower our party to win elections and govern to deliver for the working class, the DPNM must act to confront the crisis of big money corrupting our democracy within the arena under our direct authority: our primary elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of New Mexico will establish a "People's Primary" Rule to reduce, to the greatest extent possible, the use of massive private wealth to buy or unduly influence our primary elections. This Rule will ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that candidates in New Mexico Democratic primaries are not benefited by, dependent on, or elected due to outside or independent electioneering spending funded by big donors who are circumventing legal limits on direct contributions to a candidate’s campaign fund to spend tens or hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars of private wealth to elect the candidates of their choice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed People’s Primary Rule will be submitted to the DPNM Rules Committee for its consideration and possible revision in April 2026 at the Call of the DPNM Chair, and will be submitted to the State Central Committee (SCC) for its consideration and possible revision in May 2026. If approved by the SCC and incorporated into the DPNM’s governing documents, the People’s Primary Rule is expected to be effective in 2027 and beyond.