

New Mexico State Legislature
411 S Capitol St
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear New Mexico State Governor,

For the first time ever, Gallup reported that 51% of Americans identify as politically independent.¹ This includes over 300,000 New Mexican voters who are registered independent and/or decline-to-state (DTS).

Our closed primary system requires many voters to register with a major political party in order to cast a vote during primary elections, obscuring their prevalence. New Mexico has been a national leader on voting rights, but we believe it is a disservice to potentially disenfranchise a quarter of voters from primary elections.

We, the undersigned, support legislation that would enact semi-open primary elections in New Mexico. Under semi-open primaries, DTS and independent voters would select the ballot of the major party they would prefer to vote with.

Now is the time for New Mexico to join a majority of states that allow all voters to participate in publicly funded primary elections without added barriers.

We believe in our democracy, and now more than ever, we need to make it accessible to all New Mexican voters. Signing semi-open primaries would ensure enhanced voting access in our most influential elections.

We ask you to join us in support of this policy and for your signature on the semi-open primaries bill, **SB16**.

Sincerely,

- NM Voters First
- New Mexico Open Elections
- NM Native Vote
- Common Cause New Mexico
- New Mexico Asian Family Center
- Veterans for All Voters New Mexico
- New Mexico Forward Party

¹ <https://news.gallup.com/poll/15370/party-affiliation.aspx>

- La Raza Unida de Nuevo México
- Green Party of New Mexico
- DPNM Veterans and Military Families Caucus
- DPNM Environmental Justice Caucus
- UNM College Democrats
- Young Democrats of New Mexico
- League of Women Voters of New Mexico
- Progress Now New Mexico
- Conservation Voters New Mexico
- Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - New Mexico
- Alliance for Local Economic Prosperity
- NM Comunidades en Acción y de Fé (NMCAFe)
- Equality New Mexico
- New Mexico Black Leadership Council
- New Mexico NAACP