STATESIDE

NEW MEXICO

Voters in New Mexico this year will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General. All 70 seats in the New Mexico State House of Representatives will be up for election. The gubernatorial and attorney general races are expected to be competitive. Democrats will be defending majorities in both legislative chambers.

Attorney General

Democratic Nominee

Raúl Torrez

Raúl Torrez (D) currently serves as the Bernalillo County District Attorney in New Mexico. He advanced in the Democratic primary for Attorney General of New Mexico after defeating State Auditor Brian S. Colón (D).

Torrez started his career as an assistant district attorney and assistant attorney general. He was appointed to serve as a White House Fellow by President Barack Obama (D) and served as a senior advisor to the Department of Justice.

He has been endorsed by Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM), former New Mexico Lt. Governor Diane Denish, and former New Mexico Attorneys General Patsy Madrid (D) and Paul Bardacke (D).

Torrez believes that the time he has spent prosecuting in the courtroom qualifies him to be Attorney General, stating that New Mexico needs a prosecutor, not a politician, to occupy the office. He is focusing his campaign on typical law and order issues and is pledging to take a comprehensive approach towards public safety.

He opposes any efforts to reduce funding for law enforcement and proposes more training for community policing. Torrez stated that the legislature needs to find other funding avenues for mental health training and substance abuse support rather than using funds dedicated for law enforcement activity.

Torrez cites his efforts to take on domestic threats by initiating a lawsuit against right-wing militia and touts about his efforts to require Facebook to turn over information about their recruiting efforts.

He raised nearly $1.1 million in campaign funding ahead of the June 7 primary.

Trivia: Torrez attended Harvard University, the London School of Economics, and Standford Law School.