

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico voters will head to the polls to select a new governor as current governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) is term limited. Voters will also select a lieutenant governor, attorney general, and treasurer. All 70 state house seats are also up for election. Democrats are expected to maintain control of the executive offices and the house.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

Deb Haaland

Debra “Deb” Haaland most recently served as Secretary of the Interior from 2021 to 2025 and is the first Native American cabinet secretary in U.S. history. In 2018, she was elected to Congress, serving until her appointment to the Department of the Interior. In Congress, she worked to expand broadband access, address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, and protecting New Mexico’s public land.

Her [affordability agenda](#) focuses on lowering the costs of groceries, housing, utilities, and healthcare. She supports increasing the **minimum wage** and securing **paid family medical leave**. Haaland wants to expand **down payment assistance** for first-time home buyers and to ban landlords from using **AI-algorithms to set rent prices**.

Haaland’s [education plan](#) spans from early childhood to workforce development. Haaland wants to **expand career pathways** in middle school to ensure students receive hands-on career experience. She supports adopting a **statewide Community School Model** that provides students with **wrap-around services** including counseling, school-based healthcare, dental care, family support, and community engagement.

Haaland’s stance on [public safety](#) prioritizes intervention and prevention. She has called to move the state towards **community policing models** and create an Office of Community Safety staffed with social workers and counselors.

Her expansive [healthcare plan](#) prioritizes rural and Tribal areas, seeking to address physician shortages and expand mobile health clinics while crafting policies to reduce prices. Haaland wants to mandate that all hospitals screen every patient for **charity care eligibility** and insurance coverage before any billing and to require healthcare facilities to offer **zero-interest payment plans** or sliding scale billing and income-based financial assistance. She hopes to develop a program to establish **upper payment limits for high-cost drugs** based on the best price available in other countries. She wants to ban **medical debt** from being included in credit reports. Haaland pledges to fully fund certified **community behavioral health** clinics and focus on a no wrong door model.

Haaland wants to work with the legislature on protections to ensure clinical decisions are made by licensed providers rather than **private equity investors**, and that “medical necessity” is determined by a licensed provider rather than **financial algorithms or insurance models**. She wants to set limits on how much of any local healthcare market a single private equity-backed firm can control.

She pledges to expand a hub for **energy** programs and credits. She has signaled a large investment in renewable energy and a requirement for high-energy-demand industries to build their own infrastructure. She plans to add battery storage capabilities across the state. Her administration would require tech industries to use **sustainable water practices**.

She plans to use state resources to help Tribal nations, rural towns, acequia communities, and colonias repair aging **drinking-water systems** and intends to expand the Water Trust Board’s capacity, help small systems share operators or regionalize when they cannot sustain certified staff on their own, and prioritize communities with documented health-based violations.

The [Cook Political Report](#) has rated this race as Solid Democratic and [Sabato’s Crystal Ball](#) rate this race as Likely Democrat.

Trivia: Deb grew up in a military family and attended 13 public schools before graduating from Highland High School in Albuquerque.