Targeted New Mexico State House District Races

Below is a list of nine House District races that Retake the Roundhouse has prioritized as Targeted Races. A complete list of all districts, Senate and House will be posted soon. This analysis can be useful in targeting your resources to candidates with whom you feel most aligned or where you think your support can yield a win!

HD 4: San Juan County
Race: GOP-held, tilts Dem-performing
Dem Candidate: GloJean Todacheene
  • Former two-term San Juan County Commissioner and former Navajo Nation Council delegate.
  • Experienced and nationally recognized educator of over 26 years in Shiprock, New Mexico.
Republican Incumbent: Sharon Clahchischilliage (incumbent)
  • Out-of-touch with district—voting against increasing minimum wage and $11.4 million in funding cuts for projects in Native American communities.
  • Like most Republican candidates, most of her campaign contributions come from polluting industries, big corporations, special interest/Republican PACs
Dem Campaign Contact Info:

HD 15: Albuquerque’s North Valley and Northeast Heights
Race: GOP-held, tilts Dem-performing
Dem Candidate: Ane Romero
  • Nationally recognized mental health and behavioral health champion
  • Worked in Congress for Grace Napolitano, and in New Mexico for Martin Heinrich
  • 13th generation New Mexican
Republican Incumbent: Sarah Maestas Barnes (incumbent)
  • Protected tax giveaways for the rich instead of providing relief for working families that would benefit 3 out of 5 New Mexico kids
  • Anti-educator, anti-labor, and in bed with the uranium mining industry
  • Is campaigning by masquerading as a Democrat on issues, but her voting record is conservative Republican
Dem Campaign Contact Info: Eric Castillo, Field Director, eric@fullarsenalstrategies.com, 505-948-9910

Race: GOP-held, toss-up
Dem Candidate: Daymon Ely
  • Committed to fighting for the little guy.
  • Served as Sandoval County Commissioner for 4 years, including a stint as Chairman.
  • Practicing Trial Lawyer for 34 years.
Republican Incumbent: Paul Pacheco
  • Protected handouts for corporations instead of providing $13.74 million directly for students, teachers and schools.
  • Requested almost a million dollars in taxpayer funds for his brother’s design and construction project
  • Retired APD officer; when he was head of police union, he bucked all public oversight and derided the ACLU as a “special interest group”
HD 24: Albuquerque’s east side/mid-town


- Pediatric physical therapist.
- Progressive champion when she served in the House in 2013-2014
- Committed to helping families impacted by autism thrive.
- Named Legislative Champion by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for her efforts to reduce DWI fatalities.

Republican Candidate: Christina Hall

- Handpicked to run by Republican establishment and House Majority Leader Nate Gentry
- Most of her campaign contributions are from big, out-of-state corporations
- Endorsed by the National Rifle Association and Right to Life Committee.


HD 30: Albuquerque’s Northeast Heights


Dem Candidate: Natalie Figueroa

- Educator for 25 years; teaches Spanish at Volcano Vista.
- Master teacher, who also serves as a Mentor Teacher for UNM’s School of Education
- Longtime volunteer work locally, as well as in service projects in Nicaragua, Tanzania and Costa Rica

Republican Incumbent: Nate Gentry

- Like a few other Republicans, running as if he’s a Democrat, despite a conservative voting record and a campaign account teeming with special interest money (including more than $50,000 from the oil and gas industry just this cycle)
- Member of Koch brothers-funded American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).
- Has lengthy record of criminal charges that includes aggravated DWI, assault and negligence.
- Endorsed by both the NRA and Right to Life Committee.

Dem Campaign Contact Info: Mauree Thordahl, 505-503-9403, volunteers.nataliefornewmexico@gmail.com, Facebook: Natalie For New Mexico, www.nataliefornewmexico.com.

HD 36: Northern Las Cruces

The Race: GOP-Held, but tilts Dem. Incumbent Nunez was a conservative Democrat representing the district before changing his registration to Independent in 2012 (he lost the subsequent election), and then changed to Republican and won won in 2014

Dem Candidate: Nathan P. Small

- Former two-term Las Cruces City Councilor.
- Works for New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, and led the effort to protect the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument
- Third generation New Mexican from a family of educators and ranchers

Republican Incumbent: Andy Nunez

- Has taken tens of thousands of dollars from the oil and gas industry, and then voted against stronger penalties for oil and gas companies that contaminate our water
- Supported tax giveaways for the wealthy instead of increased funding for Family Support Services to protect children and strengthen troubled families.
- Voted against the Farmer Protection Act, which would have protected small farmers from getting sued by Monsanto and other bio-tech companies when their crops were contaminated by GMO seeds
HD 37: Eastern Las Cruces
Dem Candidate: Joanne Ferrary
- Lost this race by only 8 votes in 2012
- Has dedicated her career and volunteer work to combating DWI and DWI-related fatalities.
- Lobbied in the legislature for raising the minimum wage and other progressive issues
Republican Incumbent: Terry McMillan
- Voted to slash wages for construction workers and against raising the minimum wage.
- He’s a special interest legislator, working for the HMOs and big pharma (he’s a doctor)
- Endorsed by extremist Right to Life Committee.
Dem Campaign Contact Info: Patricia Aguirre, 575-532-5127, patricia.ann.aguirre@gmail.com, Facebook: @Ferrary4NM, www.joanne4nm.com

HD 39: Grant, Sierra and Dona Ana Counties
The Race: GOP-Held, but leans Dem.
Republican Incumbent: John Zimmerman
- Was one of only a handful of Republicans to vote against an independent ethics commission
- Member of ALEC – a powerful corporate lobby group.
- Voted to eliminate renewable energy standards that have created tens of thousands of good-paying jobs.
Dem Candidate: Rudy Martinez
- Vietnam veteran, coal miner and licensed journeymen and member of IBEW Local 611.
- Former Mayor, Grant County Commissioner and state Representative (lost to Zimmerman in 2014 by less than 400 votes).
- Fighter for hard-working New Mexicans.
Dem Campaign Contact Info: Matt Gloudemans, 505-440-6026, matthew.gloudemans@gmail.com, Facebook: @Rudy4NM, www.rudymartineznm.com

HD 43: Centered in Los Alamos, but also includes precincts in Santa Fe, Sandoval and Rio Arriba counties
The Race: Dem-Held.
Dem Incumbent: Stephanie Garcia Richard
- Native New Mexican and lifelong educator.
- Committed to fighting for our kids and their ability to access a high-quality education.
- In 2012, was the first Democrat to win this seat in over 4 decades; now faces her toughest opponent yet
Republican Candidate: Sharon Stover
- As Los Alamos County Clerk, Stover refused to issue same-sex marriage licenses even after being ordered by the court to do so.
- When she was on County Council, she voted against clean energy and affordable housing
- Like most Republican candidates, getting a lot of her campaign funds from Republican/special interest PACs, and big corporations