

## New Mexico (NM) (5 votes)

Capital: **Santa Fe**  
 Area: **121,700 sq mi. / 315,199 sq km**  
 Population: **2,114,371**  
 Nickname: **"Land of Enchantment"**  
 State motto: **"It Grows as It Goes"**  
 Governor: **Michelle Lujan Grisham (D)**  
 U.S. Senators: **Ben R. Luján (D),  
 Martin Heinrich (D)**



## How will your state vote?

Predicting a vote is a challenging task. Political researchers have different opinions on how to predict an election outcome. Different formulas and methods are used, however none is perfect. Each prediction is a snapshot of the voters' opinion at a certain point in time. But with election issues and current events changing so fast, it is quite a challenge to have an accurate prediction of how the election will turn out. In the 2020 election, most political pundits and polls before Election Day accurately estimated that Democratic candidate Joe Biden would receive more votes than the Republican candidate and former President Donald J. Trump. However, Biden's victory in the Electoral College was narrower than predicted because the polls overstated Biden's support relative to Trump.

What are the most common predictors to determine how citizens will vote? Socio-economic factors are among the most important ones. They include, but are not limited to, citizens' education, income, and ethnicity. While these are often mentioned as decisive, others are important to consider as well. For example, many Americans cast their vote based on a single issue like health care, women's reproductive rights, the economy, or the environment. These voters choose their preferred candidate based on the issue most important to their identity, their social network, or personal biography, for example religious affiliation, ideology, or health. Americans also often cast their vote in a local context and are influenced by political and social issues affecting their own state. Finally, calculating voter turnout is key to an accurate prediction.

## Some key variables for predicting the election outcome



### Voting history

*How have people in the state voted in the past? Is the state solidly red, blue, or purple? What is the expected turnout?*



### Ethnicity

*What ethnic group does a citizen belong to? What is the ethnic make-up of the state?*



### Religion

*How important is religion to the citizens? How often do they pray or attend worship service?*



### Economy

*What's the current economic situation in the state? How many citizens live in poverty? How many are without a job?*



### Income inequality

*How wide is the gap between wealthy and poor people? How much income does the top 1% in the state take home?*



### Education

*How many people graduate from high school in your state? How many have a college degree?*

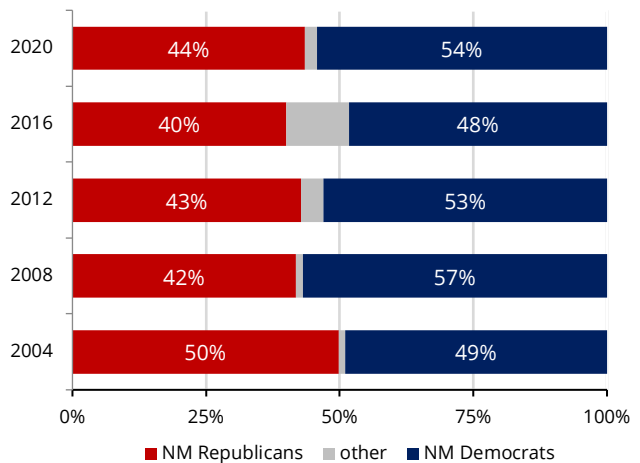


## Voting history <sup>[2]</sup>

The Zia, a Native American symbol for the Sun, features on the state flag and the state has the second-highest percentage of Native American inhabitants in the US.

The state divides politically along geographical lines, with Democrats strong in the more urbanized north and Republicans dominant in the south-east, which borders Texas. New Mexico's large Latino population swung behind Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012, especially after he enacted legislation to protect the children of illegal immigrants. It has participated in 27 presidential elections through 2016, with the results split almost down the middle; 15 for Democrats, 12 for Republicans. However, Democrats have now won 6 of the last 7 elections, including Joe Biden's 54% to 44% win over Donald Trump in 2020.

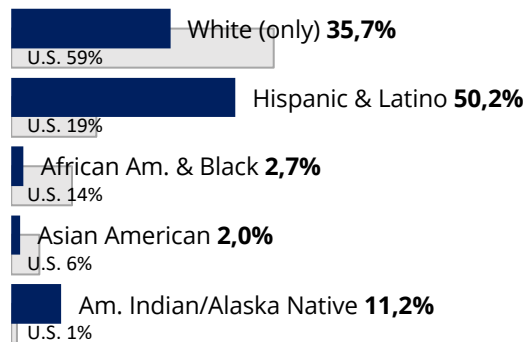
## Election results in New Mexico (2004–2020):<sup>[2]</sup>



## Voter turnout 2020:



## Ethnicity <sup>[3]</sup>



(U.S. average in grey)



## Religion <sup>[4]</sup>

NM is tied for 18<sup>th</sup> most religious state overall

57% of adults in NM are "highly religious," based on an overall index

## Religious profile of New Mexico

59% (14<sup>th</sup>) say religion is very important in their lives

36% (21<sup>st</sup>) say they attend worship at least weekly

55% (19<sup>th</sup>) say they pray daily

63% (25<sup>th</sup>) say they believe in God w/ absolute certainty



## Economy <sup>[5]</sup>

**17.6%** (4<sup>th</sup> highest)  
poverty rate

**4.0%** (37<sup>th</sup> lowest)  
unemployment rate



## Income inequality <sup>[6]</sup>

The **top 1%** take home **14% of all the income in NM.**

(U.S. average: 21%)

1% of the families



14% of the income

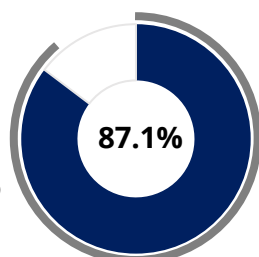


## Education <sup>[3]</sup>

**High school degree or higher**

persons 25+ yrs. old

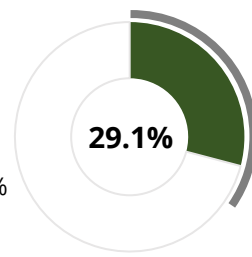
U.S. average (grey): 89.1%



**Bachelor's degree or higher**

persons 25+ yrs. old

U.S. average (grey): 34.4%



## More information on New Mexico\*



### State information

Official state website: [www.newmexico.gov](http://www.newmexico.gov)



### Media



New Mexico Political News:

<https://www.politico.com/news/new-mexico>



New Mexico Politics Podcast:

[https://podcasts.feedspot.com/new\\_mexico\\_podcasts/](https://podcasts.feedspot.com/new_mexico_podcasts/)



## Democrats and Republicans in the state

### Democratic Party



<http://www.nmdemocrats.org/>



no official site



<http://twitter.com/NMDEMS>



<https://www.instagram.com/nmdems/>



no official site

### Republican Party

<https://newmexico.gop/>

no official site

<http://twitter.com/newmexicogop>

<https://www.instagram.com/newmexicogop/>

no official site

\* Please note, these are third-party resources, Teach About U.S. is not responsible for this content.

### Sources:

1. State map: [Wikimedia Commons](#)
2. Voting history text: adapted from [270towin.com](http://270towin.com)
3. Ethnicity, economy, and education data: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)
4. Religion data: [Pew poll: How religious is your state?](#)
5. Poverty and unemployment rate: [Poverty Rates by State & Unemployment Statistics Map](#)
6. Wealth and income inequality data: [Economic Policy Institute – The Unequal States of America](#)