

# **UTILIZING ELECTION STUDIES TO IMPROVE VOTER EXPERIENCES**

***New Mexico Secretary of State  
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# Utilizing Election Studies to Improve Voter Experiences

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The New Mexico Secretary of State's Office partners with the University of New Mexico to produce the **“New Mexico Election Administration, Voter Security and Election Reform Report”** after each federal election.



These reports are a systematic examination of voter attitudes and experiences with the previous election, concerns about election security, and preferences for election reforms.



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Iterations of these reports have been produced since 2006 in New Mexico – to our knowledge, **no other state or election jurisdiction has had this kind of sustained and independent scrutiny over multiple elections.**

Our Office provides funding (through our HAVA funds), data, and logistical support to the University of New Mexico to produce these reports.

UNM Professor Emeritus Lonna Atkeson and UNM Political Science Professor Wendy Hansen are the authors of these reports.



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The data in these reports – gathered through surveys of New Mexico voters – helps my Office and election administrators across New Mexico understand **how voters are thinking, what’s working, and what needs improvement.**

My Office takes the concerns and suggestions that come from the voters and the report’s authors to set strategy and policy decisions.



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For example:

About **1/3 of voters in the 2022 report were not sure whether their ballot privacy was protected.** Following the report's suggestions, my Office has educated voters about how every ballot is secret and that election officials and poll workers cannot connect ballots with voters.

In 2018, **3 of 4 voters surveyed strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that "primary elections should be open to all voters."**

Data like this helped in the passage of a same-day voter registration law that has a provision to allow independent and minor party voters to participate in the Primary Election after utilizing SDR.



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Find the “New Mexico Election Administration, Voter Security and Election Reform Reports” here:

<https://polisci.unm.edu/c-sved/research.html>

