

New Mexico Voters Want the State's Redistricting Process to Increase Competition and Transparency

New Mexico has a long history of having its redistricting maps litigated and decided by the courts following failed processes at the legislative level. The presence of a Citizen Redistricting Committee for this cycle has increased anticipation that the upcoming legislative session may produce a better process and outcomes. With the legislative session on redistricting approaching, we revisit the 2020 New Mexico Redistricting Survey, which was aimed at providing policymakers, advocates, and the wider public with valuable information about how the electorate in New Mexico views the redistricting process.

Some of the major findings from the survey included:

- **The public wants more political competitiveness.** The majority of New Mexicans polled prefer advancing political competitiveness in the creation of districts so that no single party has an advantage. In fact, nearly twice as many New Mexicans favor the use of objective criteria to draw new maps, even if that means some lawmakers might lose their seats or face greater competition.
- **Voters want more transparency in the process,** as a robust 89% of respondents indicate that it is important (57% very important) that all redistricting meetings be held in public.
- **New Mexicans want a say.** Voters are highly supportive of using public hearings to allow the public to provide comments on maps created by a combination of experts and community members, with high support regardless of whether the medium is to have these conducted in person or online. The public is also hungry for education on how this process works and how people can get involved.
- **There is strong support to engage young people and tribal nations in the process.** In the case of tribes, the public would like to ensure that sovereign nations are not only invited to give input, but that their input receives true consideration.
- **The public wants new laws.** A robust 93% of respondents believe it is important for New Mexico to consider implementing new laws in the future, one example being the creation of an independent redistricting commission. If the redistricting process at the legislative once again fails, it is highly likely that the demand from the public that an independent commission should be created that will have direct decision-making power than just advisory.

Survey Methodology

Latino Decisions, under contract with the UNM Center for Social Policy, randomly interviewed 500 registered voters in New Mexico who are proven likely voters. Interviews were conducted online with respondents randomly drawn from a database of registered voters who were screened for past voter participation. The study was conducted between 8/4/2020 and 9/1/2020, and results were weighted to known population characteristics using the Current Population Survey. The nominal margin-of-error for the poll is 4.3%. Respondents could take the survey in either English or Spanish, and the average time for survey completion was 12 minutes. The survey was designed to not only gather attitudes about redistricting in New Mexico, but to educate the respondents on this process. Respondents were therefore given background information on each issue they were queried, including links to the current maps for the state. The topline results of the survey and full discussion of results are provided in the report [available here](#).