

## American Federation of Teachers New Mexico reacts to election results

Written by By Stephanie Ly New Mexico president American Federation of Teachers  
Thursday, 19 November 2020 15:47

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### Counting Every Vote Strengthens Our Democracy

Albuquerque —New Mexicans voted at near-historic levels to send a clear message in support of a Biden/Harris administration leading our country. Their winning message of hope over fear, rights for working Americans, strong systems of public education from early through higher education, access to high-quality healthcare, and respect for our democratic institutions helped usher in wins across the country and also in New Mexico.

We offer our heartfelt congratulations to each of the AFT New Mexico-endorsed candidates who were successful in their individual elections, including U.S. Senator-elect Ben Ray Luján, D-N.M., Congresswoman Deb Haaland, D-N.M. and Congresswoman-elect Teresa Leger Fernandez, D-N.M. and the many AFT New Mexico-affiliated legislators already serving our state in Santa Fe.

An expanded majority in the State Senate and a strong majority in the House of Representatives gives New Mexicans hope that many of the long-idle policy needs of our state will begin to be acted upon for the benefit [of] the students, families, and communities we serve.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to all of the candidates who stood up and ran for office in New Mexico. Willingness to serve our communities and students is admirable, and we thank each of them for passion and hard work to better New Mexico. We would be remiss if we did not

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explicitly mention our appreciation to Congresswoman Xochitl Torres Small, D-N.M. who, during her time in Congress was hardworking, honest, and accountable to her constituents. Her bi-partisan voice for rural New Mexico will be missed.

We are proud to add these newly-elected and returning voices to our continued fight for strong public education in New Mexico, increased rights for workers, better public education systems for students and their parents, and strong advocacy for respecting all of New Mexico's diverse communities.

Even as votes continue to be counted – and in New Mexico, recounted in at least one race – we firmly believe accurately counting every vote ensures every vote truly counts. We applaud the countless election administrators, poll workers, and advocacy groups who are working diligently in New Mexico and across the country to ensure our democracy remains strong during and after this election. It is well worth the wait.

By Stephanie Ly  
New Mexico president  
American Federation of Teachers