

## Pearce poll puts him within 2 points of Lujan Grisham

Written by By Matthew Reichbach NM Political Report  
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Steve Pearce's campaign released an internal poll showing he trails Michelle Lujan Grisham by two percentage points.

The campaign touted the results, saying they show the race is within the margin of error and so essentially tied.

The poll, conducted by The Tarrance Group, showed Lujan Grisham with the support of 47 percent of registered voters and Pearce with the support of 45 percent.

Pearce does not have a primary opponent, while Lujan Grisham is facing two Democrats in June's primary.

"Michelle Lujan Grisham starts this race with significant structural advantages, including national headwinds, yet her inherent weakness with voters and Steve Pearce's underlying strengths continue to show up in the numbers," according to Tarrance Group pollster BJ Martino's announcement of the results, which he said put the race in a "dead heat."

Lujan Grisham's campaign said called it "no surprise" that the Republican poll showed a tied race.

This is only the second poll to be released in the gubernatorial race—the previous poll was also conducted by The Tarrance Group. A poll conducted last spring showed Lujan Grisham with a four percentage point lead over Pearce.

No independent polls have been released in the gubernatorial race yet.

Typically, campaigns release internal polls when they show good news for the campaign. And, as with this poll, do not generally include much context beyond a single question or two.

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Shortly after Pearce's campaign released the poll, the campaign sent an email fundraiser out mentioning the results.

The poll of 608 likely voters was conducted between April 9 and 12. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percentage points.

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By Matthew Reichbach

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