

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 42

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Howie C. Morales

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF USING EITHER ALL-MAIL  
12 BALLOTS OR VOTING CENTERS, INSTEAD OF MAINTAINING A SEPARATE  
13 VOTING SITE FOR EACH PRECINCT, FOR ELECTIONS.

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15 WHEREAS, there have been numerous changes to New Mexico  
16 election laws requiring paper ballots; and

17 WHEREAS, voter participation by absentee by mail and  
18 absentee early voting has greatly increased statewide as the  
19 preferred method of voting for many citizens; and

20 WHEREAS, poll worker recruitment is at an all-time low due  
21 to the long hours required with a minimum work day of fourteen  
22 hours per day and the small per diem allowance; and

23 WHEREAS, poll workers are now expected to make decisions  
24 affecting voters' rights when deciding whether to issue a  
25 regular, provisional or absentee ballot; and

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1           WHEREAS, New Mexico has consistently had problems ensuring  
2           disability access to all polling places on election day; and

3           WHEREAS, the financial cost of maintaining separate voting  
4           sites for each precinct is out of proportion to the number of  
5           voters who vote on election day; and

6           WHEREAS, the human resource expense of maintaining  
7           separate voting sites for each precinct is out of proportion to  
8           the number of voters who cast a ballot on election day; and

9           WHEREAS, maintaining voting sites for each precinct raises  
10          the cost of maintaining compliance with changing federal  
11          requirements for voting machines, polling locations, poll  
12          workers and disability access; and

13          WHEREAS, the use of either all-mail ballots or voting  
14          centers on election day would decrease polling place costs and  
15          reduce the number of voting machines maintained, which would  
16          result in lower maintenance costs; and

17          WHEREAS, the use of either all-mail ballots or voting  
18          centers on election day would help ensure full compliance with  
19          disability access requirements; and

20          WHEREAS, polling place use has declined statewide while  
21          county expenses have remained at the same level in terms of  
22          supplies and staffing, resulting in a less cost-efficient use  
23          of resources;

24          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
25          STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a task force chaired by a

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1 representative of the county clerks affiliate of the New Mexico  
2 association of counties and consisting of representatives from  
3 the office of the secretary of state, the New Mexico  
4 association of counties and the New Mexico municipal league be  
5 requested to study the feasibility and advisability of using  
6 either all-mail ballots or voting centers on election day to  
7 contain rising costs, ensure full participation by the voters,  
8 provide professional and efficient administration of elections  
9 and maintain full compliance and access for persons with  
10 disabilities; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the participants of the study  
12 present their findings to the appropriate interim legislative  
13 committee; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that results of the study and  
15 recommendations be submitted to the first session of the  
16 fiftieth legislature; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
18 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
19 council, the secretary of state, the New Mexico association of  
20 counties and the New Mexico municipal league.

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