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SENATE MEMORIAL 12

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Bill Tallman

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO STUDY AND PROVIDE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON INSTITUTING OPEN PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

WHEREAS, increasing participation in all levels of the
political process will produce a stronger mandate to govern;
and

WHEREAS, twenty-five percent of all New Mexico voters
choose not to affiliate with a major political party; and

WHEREAS, sixty percent of younger voters choose to be
independent voters; and

WHEREAS, voters' tax dollars should not fund elections
those voters cannot participate in; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico as a state has among the lowest rate
of voter turnout and the highest rate of non-competitive
elections in the country; and

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1 WHEREAS, increasing participation in all levels of the
2 political process will strengthen democracy and provide
3 increased civil discourse; and

4 WHEREAS, semi-open primaries allow non-affiliated voters
5 to participate exclusively in one primary and increase the
6 responsiveness of primary candidates to their communities; and

7 WHEREAS, denying participation in primary elections is a
8 form of disenfranchisement;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of state be requested to study
11 open primaries, in their various forms, and develop
12 recommendations on instituting a form of open primaries in the
13 state; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of state provide
15 recommendations for legislation to open New Mexico's primary
16 elections to the appropriate interim legislative committee
17 before November 1, 2020; and

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