



# 2016 ELECTION REPORT



From the outset of the 2016 election season, Animal Protection Voters knew that if important animal protections would succeed in the future—particularly for wildlife—something big had to change in the New Mexico State Legislature on Election Day.

With your votes and support, APV's political action committee, **Animal Protection Voters-PAC (APV-PAC)**, was able to break down the barriers that were created after the 2014 elections. After those elections, new state House Republican leadership ensured that bills to stop horrific coyote killing contests statewide and to ban cruel traps and poisons on New Mexico's public lands would die an abrupt death in the House Agriculture, Water & Wildlife Committee—a newly minted legislative panel specifically designed to be a graveyard for wildlife protection bills.

After votes were cast on November 8, 2016, Democrats regained control of the State House, with 38 Democratic seats and 32 Republican seats. With these changes, we were able to enter the 2017 state legislative session with renewed hope for a path forward for our wildlife protection and other animal protection bills.

**Animal protection issues remain one of the few truly bipartisan issues in our great state.** And although party leaders can dramatically impact—and have dramatically impacted—animal-related policymaking for better or for worse, neither political party can claim its members hold a monopoly on humane policies. So, we are incredibly grateful for every single Republican and Democratic candidate who earned an endorsement by APV-PAC, and congratulate those who celebrated victory on Election Night.

We give our utmost thanks to each and every one of you who voted and donated your time, energy and financial support to APV-PAC and our endorsed candidates. Some of the outcomes we celebrated on Election Night were due to small margins of victory, from a few hundred votes to a mere two votes (yes, that's right, only two votes!). It is your investment and dedication that will pay off in a big way for animals as we move forward.

**APV doesn't set out  
to elect Democrats  
or elect Republicans.  
We set out to elect a  
*pro-animal majority*  
in the Roundhouse.**

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# 2016 ELECTION TAKEAWAYS

## The Results:

### What We Did:

**\$40K  
RAISED**

With YOUR help, we raised nearly \$40,000 to support pro-animal candidates for the state legislature.

**VOTER  
GUIDE**

We shared APV-PAC's endorsements in the first-ever official Voter Guide to take with you to the polls for the primary and general elections.

**FUNDRAISERS  
&  
AWARENESS**

We built awareness and support for bills to end coyote killing contests and restrict traps and poisons at the "Keep New Mexico Wild" and "Winning for Wildlife" APV-PAC fundraisers, and "Howl & Be Heard" APV fundraising concert series, to benefit wildlife-friendly candidates and fund related advocacy work.

**LAS  
CRUCES**

We conducted focused, door-to-door outreach and voter registration in Las Cruces.



### PRIMARY ELECTION



Out of **14** contested primary (Jun. 6) races in which APV made endorsements, **13** resulted in an APV-endorsed candidate winning.

### GENERAL ELECTION



Out of **28** APV-endorsed candidates in contested general election (Nov. 8) races, **23** won their election.

### The New Landscape:

#### NM HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

**38-32**

Democrats now hold the majority in the State House of Representatives, 38-32.



**New House Speaker:**  
Representative Brian Egolf (D-Santa Fe)

#### NM SENATE

**26-16**

Democrats retained the majority in the State Senate, 26-16.



**New Senate Majority Leader:**  
Senator Peter Wirth (D-Santa Fe)