

Governor Susana Martinez

31st Governor of New Mexico

In 2010, Susana Martinez was elected governor of the State of New Mexico. She became New Mexico's first female governor and the first minority (Hispanic) female governor in the history of the United States. Prior to being elected governor, Martinez was a prosecutor for almost 25 years along the nation's southern border and served as Third Judicial District Attorney for over half that time. As governor, she prioritized keeping New Mexico's communities safe, ensuring all students receive a high-quality education, and diversifying and growing the state's economy.

Governor Martinez's two terms were marked by many successes including eliminating a historic \$450 million inherited deficit of a \$5.6 billion budget and leaving the state in 2018 with a \$2.2 billion surplus; job growth at a 12-year high; improving the state's high school graduation rate to an all time high; and implementing a number of public safety initiatives.

Governor Martinez won re-election to her second term in 2014 by the largest margin of any Republican gubernatorial candidate in modern history, earning substantial support from Democratic and Independent voters in rural and urban areas alike. She served alongside a democratically controlled legislature throughout her time in office, with the exception of a two-year period of Republican control of one chamber. She was named as Time Magazine's Top 100 Most Influential People in the World (2013) and served as a chairman and long-time executive committee member of the Republican Governors Association (RGA). Governor Martinez earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso and later earned her law degree from the University of Oklahoma School of Law, where she was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2019.

Governor Martinez serves as a Board Member for the Daniels Fund, Foundation for Excellence in Education (ExcelinEd), American Edge Project, Vice Chair of the Hunt-Kean Institute Board, Executive Advisory Board of Reformers Academy, Institute for Health Policy Accountability, an Advisory Board Member for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation, an Honorary Board Member for the David Westphal Veteran's Foundation and the Heart Gallery of New Mexico and Honorary Chair of Right Direction Women.