

Chancellor Weekly Brief – 10.29.2020**Dr. James Malm****VOTE.**

With this week's winter storm, we were abruptly reminded of the possibility for campus delays and closings—and how these may impact learning within our hybrid semester. Our priority at all times is to keep you safe, especially during inclement weather; and we generally make decisions about campus operations as soon as possible to give you time to plan. When winter weather hits our region, please remember to stay close to your email or phone in order to receive any LoboAlerts informing you of changes to our schedule.

We are just five days away from the General Election, which will be held next Tuesday, November 3rd. No matter your issue or candidate, I encourage you to exercise your sacred right to vote in this election. You can do so, of course, through early voting now through this Saturday—or on Election Day. I should mention, too, that Election Day is our second fall break, so there are no classes, and you'll have more time to vote. We are proud that our Gurley Hall will serve as a polling location for our Gallup community as well. For information on how and where to vote, please visit NMVOTE.org.

Also, please remember to vote 'yes' on two important bonds on this year's ballot. First, your support of [General Obligation \(GO\) Bond C](#) will provide around \$155 million to the state's higher education institutions, including \$3 million to UNM-Gallup for renovations to our Center for Career Technology Education and Innovation (CCTEI)—with no increase in taxes. Also, [GO Bond B](#) will provide much-needed funding for our Zollinger Library to continue providing highly utilized services for our faculty, staff, and students.

Our right to vote is enshrined in the constitution through a series of five amendments that establish voting as an inalienable right unique to our citizenship in this great country. Since the end of the Civil War, we have worked to perfect this right by first expanding it to former slaves through the 14th Amendment, and then ensuring that no one can be denied their vote because of race through the 15th Amendment or by their sex in the 16th Amendment—which expanded the right to vote to women. We can't be disenfranchised due to unscrupulous activities such as charging a poll tax as expressed in the 24th Amendment. And, anyone over the age of 18 can vote as a result of the 26th Amendment.

These amendments that enshrine the right to vote in our constitution are a result of the millions of Americans who came before us and fought, marched, and protested not only to attain the right to vote for all but to protect it for future generations. We should remember that our hard-fought right to vote is fundamental to our democracy, and we should exercise this right as a way to honor our past and to determine our future.

We have seen this year examples of how divided this country is with tremendous civil unrest. As you go to the polls, please do so with the spirit of being a good citizen and remain patient as we live through these unprecedented times together. We may not know the results of this election for days or even weeks to come. Trust our system. Embrace the results. Because, as Abe Lincoln once said during one of his U.S. Senate election races: "A house divided cannot stand."



Office of the Chancellor

Even though there is great doubt about our future with this pandemic and the upcoming election, I commend all of you for continuing our mission during these trying times. I wholeheartedly believe that should we stay the course, exercise our fundamental right to vote in this election, and focus on our mission, we will see brighter days ahead.

Please stay safe, stay healthy, and stay engaged.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'J. Malm'.

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business