

GOP: On the Right Side of History



Susana Martinez - 1st Hispanic Woman Governor

Susana M. Martinez (born July 14, 1959) is an American politician and attorney who is the 31st Governor of the State of New Mexico and was the chairwoman of the Republican Governors Association. A Republican, Martinez was elected governor on November 2, 2010, and sworn into office on January 1, 2011. She is the first woman to be elected governor of New Mexico, and the first Hispanic woman governor in the United States.

Born in El Paso, Texas, Martinez is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma College of Law. After graduating from college, and being admitted to the State Bar of New Mexico, she began her career as an assistant district attorney for New Mexico's 3rd Judicial District in Las Cruces in 1986. She was appointed deputy district attorney in 1992. She joined the Republican Party and ran for District Attorney for the 3rd Judicial District in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, in 1996, defeating her former boss. She served three terms as district attorney from 1997 to 2011.

After incumbent Governor Bill Richardson was term limited, Martinez declared her candidacy for the governorship. She won a five-candidate Republican primary and went on to defeat the then incumbent Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico Diane Denish with 53% of the vote in the general election. Four years later, she was re-elected in a landslide against state Attorney General Gary King. She is the first woman to be elected governor of New Mexico and the first Hispanic female Governor in the United States. In 2013, Martinez was named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. (Source: Wikipedia)