

# Sovereignty

Compilation drafted by: Bert M. Lucero (15 June 2009)

## Should NM Land Grant Boards of Trustees Assert Their Sovereignty?

Sovereignty as defined by The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language implies four concepts:

- Supremacy of authority or rule as exercised by a sovereign or sovereign state
- Royal rank, authority, or power
- Complete independence and self-government
- A territory existing as an independent state. (a)

Collins Essential English Dictionary© indicates sovereignty as:

- the political power a nation has to govern itself
- the position or authority of a sovereign (b)

The Thesaurus Legend © on the internet links sovereignty as:

- government free from external control [self-determination](#), [self-government](#), [self-rule](#)
- government of a political unit by its own people (c)

And the Collins Essential Thesaurus © sovereignty as;

SUPREME POWER, [domination](#), [supremacy](#), [primacy](#), [sway](#), [ascendancy](#), [kingship](#), [suzerainty](#), rangatiratanga N.Z. (d)

And lastly, as found in the third edition of Black's Law Dictionary, sovereignty is:

SOVEREIGNTY. The supreme, absolute, and uncontrollable power by which any independent state is governed; supreme political authority; paramount control of the constitution and frame of government and its administration; the self-sufficient source of political power, from which all specific political powers are derived; the international independence of a state, combined with the right and power of regulating its internal affairs without foreign dictation; also a political society, or state, which is sovereign and independent. See *Chisholm v. Georgia*, 2 Dall. 455, 1 L. Ed. 440; *Union Bank, v. Hill*, 3 Cold. (Tenn.) 325; *Moore v. Shaw*, 17 Cal. 218, 79 Am. Dec. 123; *State v. Dixon*, 213 P. 227, 66 Mont. 76. (Emphasis added)

The power to do everything in a state without accountability, - to make laws, to execute and to apply them, to impose and collect taxes and levy contributions, to make war or

---

(a) The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright ©2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Updated in 2003. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

(b) Collins Essential English Dictionary 2nd Edition 2006 © HarperCollins Publishers 2004, 2006

(c) [ThesaurusLegend](#): Synonyms Related Words Antonyms Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2008 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.

(d) Collins Essential Thesaurus 2nd Edition 2006 © HarperCollins Publishers 2005, 2006

(e) Black's Law dictionary, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

peace, to form treaties of alliance or of commerce with foreign nations, and the like.  
Story, Const. § 207.

"Political sovereignty is the assertion of self determinate will of the organic people, and in this is the manifestation of its freedom. It is in and through the determination of its sovereignty that the order of the nation is constituted and maintained." Aust. Jur. (e)

I will use this last portion as the main thesis of this discussion in an effort to influence the various Land Grant Boards of Trustees to determine for themselves if they ought to seek to reestablish/assert their "Sovereignty" as granted by the Government of Spain and as ratified by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. But, first, before I briefly review the plight of the native indigent peoples of the North American Southwest, I wish to point out that Section 17 on the New Mexico Constitution (similar to the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America) allows...:

"...Every person may freely speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right; and no law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press..."

Before the Spanish, French, Portuguese and English invasions of the Americas, the indigent groups of people (tribes) conducted their own affairs..., and they needed no outside source to legitimize their powers or actions.

When the European powers arrived, they immediately claimed dominion over the lands that they found (by force – if necessary). The Roman Catholic Pope even wrote four papal bulls giving Spain the right to claim any lands west of the Azores, not populated by Christians. They killed any indigent native who had never heard of Jesus Christ. (f)

Thus, by discovery and conquest, Spain (1492) and other European nations violated the sovereignty of the indigent people already living here, stole the land, and ravaged its resources.

In regards to the Spanish occupied territories, Spain sent very few women with its conquering forces, therefore..., over the next two hundred and fifty (250) years the soldiers (conquistadores) married the local indigent women. In, 1812 Spain gave up its control of the American Southwest and present day country of Mexico, via the Treaty of Cordova (g). The people residing in the northern part of New Mexico (especially north of Cochiti) were left to fend for their own by the new provisional government in Mexico City.

Just 35 years (1776) earlier, the citizens of Great Britain (England) revolted from their own sovereign, England, and immediately began their own quest of invasions and conquest. The new United States Congress just assumed that

---

(e) Black's Law dictionary, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

(f) Bernal Diaz, Ancient History of Nueva Espania

(g) United States of America Vs Juan Jose Lucero circa 1864

any and all Indians were savages and authorized the systematic extermination of these indigent "Savages" (see Indian Intercourse Act of 1834). All went as planned, until they arrived in the American Southwest. By their own definition, these new type of Indians lived in established communities..., they were not nomadic..., therefore they were not savages. New ways had to be uncovered to dispossess them from their lands. (h) (See also USA Vs Juan Jose Lucero, circa 1864)

"...The issue of the extent and limits of tribal sovereignty came before the U.S. Supreme Court in Johnson v. McIntosh, 21 U.S. (8 Wheat.) 543, 5 L. Ed. 681 (1823). Writing for the majority, Chief Justice JOHN MARSHALL described the effects of European incursion on native tribes, writing that although the Indians were " admitted to be the rightful occupants of the soil ... their rights to complete sovereignty, as independent nations, were necessarily diminished, and their power to dispose of the soil, at their own will, to whomsoever they pleased, was denied by the original fundamental principle, that discovery gave exclusive title to those who made it." The European nations that had "discovered" North America, Marshall ruled, had "the sole right of acquiring the soil from the natives."..." ( i )

Eventually, these lands fell to the occupational forces of the United States of America. All lands north of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel (which included Land Grants in present day New Mexico) were relinquished to the U.S.A. via the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo after the U.S. military invaded Mexico City because attempts to invade and occupy the territory were defended by the local peoples. (Ref: four battles near Embudo 1845-1846) The U.S. declared War on Mexico and obtained these lands as a result. Ever since, the sovereignty of these groups of indigents, has been subjected to the imposition of foreign laws of conquest and dominance.

The Pueblos of New Mexico were different than many Indian tribes in America that accepted government intervention in their everyday life. The Pueblos in New Mexico were given the right to remain in their homelands and treated as sovereign entities by the Spanish colonists. The United States' policies towards the pueblos grew out of the pattern of relationships first established by the Spanish. Although there have been many conflicts including the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, the pueblos have retained legal grants to lands they farmed and are recognized as hereditary owners of the land they cultivated.(j)

Never-the-less, generation after generation, sovereignty is diminished; in-so much that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, American Indian Nations are now limited and may only exercise their sovereignty or authority over their Land Grants:

- to form tribal governments
- to determine tribal membership
- to levy and collect taxes
- to exclude non-members from tribal territory
- and to regulate commerce and trade.(k)
- to determine tribal relationships
- to regulate individual property
- to maintain law and order
- to regulate domestic relations

Other land grants were not treated the same, even though (by the 18<sup>th</sup> century) the inhabitants were also, through marriage; interracially and culturally mixed....,

---

(h) ibid: <http://law.jrank.org/pages/8746/Native-American-Rights-Tribal-Sovereignty.html#ixzz012hRMgTx&C>

(i) Read more: <http://law.jrank.org/pages/8746/Native-American-Rights-Tribal-Sovereignty.html#ixzz012hRMgTx&C>

(j ) Sovereignty in New Mexico Pueblos by Eileen Richardson

(k) ibid: <http://law.jrank.org/pages/8746/Native-American-Rights-Tribal-Sovereignty.html#ixzz012hRMgTx&C>

Indian, by another name. But, the United State chose not to view these people as "Indians" and as a result refused..., chose..., not to recognize other Spanish (& Mexican) Land Grants and their sovereignty as agreed in the Treaty Guadalupe-Hidalgo, Treaty of Peace Between Mexico and the U.S.A.

And due to the Adverse Possession and Partitioning Laws that were imposed in 1884, in New Mexico, other land grants were at the chopping block of greedy and unscrupulous lawyers. Most Land Grants lost everything. In fact, regarding the 21 "Indian Pueblo" Land Grants, Congress still believes and enforces the belief that it has

"... ultimate power to limit or abolish tribal governments, until it does so each tribe retains the right to self-government, and no state may impose its laws on the reservation. This position was reiterated in a 1978 U.S. Supreme Court case, *United States v. Wheeler*, 435 U.S. 313, 98 S. Ct. 1079, 55 L. Ed. 2d 303, in which Justice POTTER STEWART concluded that "Indian tribes still possess those aspects of sovereignty not withdrawn by treaty or statute, or by implication as a necessary result of their dependent status."(l)

What does this mean for the rest? This past year the Democrat Party gained total control of the Executive Branch of the United States of America and of the United States Senate, and of the United States Congress and may even gain control over the Judicial Branch --- by the appointment of Supreme Court Judges, who choose to use that office "to make policy" rather than to support the U.S. Constitution and defend the rights of the people that it is supposed to protect.

I am not alone in this assessment of the current political situation. In fact, as of February, of this year, more than half of the 50 States in the U.S.A., have proposed bills which affirm Tenth (X) Amendment Rights. Some affirm additional rights and some cite specific reasons.

***"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."***

I interpret this to mean that State Governments are waking up, and see this attack upon their State's Sovereignty. They are expressing their opposition to the initiatives of the Democratic controlled Administration under this president, Barrack Hussain Obama. His focus appears to be to want to change the Constitution of the United States of America and to manipulate this country into a purely Socialist-Tyrannical type government. For example Oklahoma State Rep. Charles Key stated that the Oklahoma bill was a:

"...big step toward addressing the biggest problem we have in this country – the federal government violating the supreme law of the land." "The Constitution either means what it says, or it doesn't mean anything at all," Key said. "The federal government must honor and obey the Constitution, just like the states and this citizens of this country are obligated to do, or our system of government begins to fall apart." (m)

---

(l) *ibid*: <http://law.jrank.org/pages/8746/Native-American-Rights-Tribal-Sovereignty.html#ixzz0I2hRMgTx&C>

(m) Posted by: Jerome R. Corsi, © 2009 WorldNetDaily, February 24, 2009, 10:48 pm Eastern

I agree with Representative Key wherein he states that whenever...

*"we allow the federal government, or any other government entity, to violate the Constitution, we destroy the Constitution one piece at a time."*(n)

Again, citing Black Law Dictionary:

SOVEREIGN STATES. States whose subjects or citizens are in the habit of obedience to them, and which are not themselves subject to any other (or paramount) state in any respect. The state is said to be semi-sovereign only, and not sovereign, when in any respect of respects it is liable to be controlled (like certain of the states in India) by a paramount government, (e. g., by the British empire.) Brown. "In the intercourse of nations, certain states have a position of entire independence of others, and can perform all those acts which it is possible for any state to perform in this particular sphere. These same states have also entire power of self government; that is, of independence upon all other states as far as their own territory and citizens not living abroad are concerned. No foreign power of law can have control except by convention. This power of independent action in external and internal relations constitutes complete sovereignty." Wools. Pol. Science, l. 204. (o)

We need to stand up and let our voices be heard! As I stated above, the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Senate are both controlled by the Democratic Party and they all fully support Barrack Hussain Obama. Only GOD or WE (as a united people) can stop this initiative to take away..., even our own individual rights..., I urge you to remember:

"Political sovereignty is the assertion of self determinate will of the organic people, and in this is the manifestation of its freedom. It is in and through the determination of its sovereignty that the order of the nation is constituted and maintained." Aust. Jur. (p)

Over 200 years ago, the father of our Constitution, James Madison wrote:

*"To preserve the Republic, it is in the hands of the people. We have staked the whole future of American civilization not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments"*

The Ninth Amendment reads,

***"The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."***

In the words of Ernest Hancock, all of the States... that are creating their own Resolutions, thus far, and except for Hawaii

"...are explicit restatements of what has always been in place, but not necessarily enforced, as detailed by the 10th Amendment. HI (*Hawaii*) is actually aiming for total

---

(n) Posted by: Jerome R. Corsi, © 2009 WorldNetDaily, February 24, 2009, 10:48 pm Eastern

(o) Black's Law dictionary, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

(p) ibid Black's Law dictionary, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

(f) Read more: <http://law.jrank.org/pages/8746/Native-American-Rights-Tribal-Sovereignty.html#ixzz0I2hRMgTx&C>

sovereignty as it is claimed that HI was never really a state of the U.S. to begin with. The intent of these bills appears to be to let the federal government know that the states' sovereignty will not be overwritten... say in case certain gun ban laws get passed... or other "War Time / Martial Law" type plans come into play."(q)(r)

Even the Lakota (Indian) Nation and New Mexico are entering their own bills. I have attached the NM State Constitution, which I urge you to reference as you read through **House Joint Resolution 27**. This is the bill introduced by New Mexico State Representative Dennis Roch (s) - to demand that the Federal Government "Cease and Desist" its actions... that go... beyond the scope of powers authorized to it by the United States Constitution – Amendment X (1791) --- this Tenth Amendment specifically provides:

***"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."***

*New Mexico House Joint Resolution 27:*

**WHEREAS**, the tenth amendment to the constitution of the United States reads as follows:  
"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."; and  
**WHEREAS**, the tenth amendment defines the total scope of federal power as being that specifically granted by the constitution of the United States and no more; and  
**WHEREAS**, the scope of power defined by the tenth amendment means that the federal government was created by the states specifically to be an agent of the states; and  
**WHEREAS**, today, in 2009, the states are demonstrably treated as agents of the federal government; and  
**WHEREAS**, many federal laws are directly in violation of the tenth amendment to the constitution of the United States; and  
**WHEREAS**, the tenth amendment assures that we, the people of the United States of America and each sovereign state in the union of states, now have, and have always had, rights the federal government may not usurp; and  
**WHEREAS**, Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution of the United States says, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government", and the ninth amendment states that, "The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people"; and  
**WHEREAS**, the United States supreme court has ruled in *New York v. United States*, 112 S. Ct. 2408 (1992), that congress may not simply commandeer the legislative and regulatory processes of the states; and  
**WHEREAS**, a number of proposals from previous administrations and some now pending from the present administration and from congress may further violate the constitution of the United States;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO** that New Mexico hereby claim sovereignty under the tenth amendment to the constitution of the United States over all powers not otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal government by the constitution of the United States; and  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution serve as notice and demand to the federal government, as our agent, to cease and desist, effective immediately, mandates that are beyond the scope of these constitutionally delegated powers; and

---

(q) Note: "The indigenous Hawaiian people never directly relinquished their claims to their inherent sovereignty as a people or over their national lands to the United States, either through their monarchy or through a plebiscite or referendum." - United States [Public Law 103-150](#), November 23, 1993 [Bouvier's Law Dictionary](#) (1856 Edition)

(r) Ernest Hancock, Freedom's Phoenix, February 12, 2009 <http://www.mrstep.com/politics/az-wa-mo-nh-ok-claiming-sovereignty/>

(s) Visit Mr Roch's website here, <http://www.dennisroch.com>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all compulsory federal legislation that directs states to comply under threat of civil or criminal penalties or sanctions or requires states to pass legislation or lose federal funding be prohibited or repealed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the president of the United States, the president of the United States senate, the speaker of the United States house of representatives and the speaker of the house and the president of the senate of each state's legislature of the United States.

Returning to Mr. Hancock's statements, I prefer not to try to summarize them, but I personally agree with him and am greatly concerned that this nation, under B. Hussain Obama. We will be reduced to a dependant state not much better than under the concept of "Tyranny":

With the economy collapsing, it is a very real and immediate danger that the federal government can turn into a completely criminal and fascist government. They'll put foreign troops on their streets. They'll grab people to put in forced labor or concentration camps if they are unemployed or protesting. They'll conduct experiments on these prisoners.

This is especially true since a private corporation owned by a small group of people, who own over half the world's wealth, control our currency and monetary policy through the Federal Reserve. They also have such power over the world as a whole through the

World Bank, IMF, most other national central banks, numerous well-funded non-government organizations, and numerous corrupted government officials.

This group of men who own most of the world's currencies and wealth want complete centralized control of printing money. They also want a powerful undemocratic regional and world government which can usurp the sovereignty of national governments. They want more European Unions. They want a stronger United Nations. They want to push their own agendas, which include population reduction through eugenics. The threat is real and well documented in policy documents and in the mainstream press.

The only way we can stop the U.S. government and these banks is through the states. If the states are united, the people are united. If the people are united, the U.S. government ceases to function, and the states are able to reform a functioning and lawful U.S. government instead of the completely corrupt, rogue, destructive, and lawless federal government we have now.

Armed rebellion is not going to work. It will just result in a lot of dead people because the U.S. government has excessive firepower. Violent rebellion is exactly what the men in control of our money want. (t)

What... If anything..., can we do..., ought we to do? Even Abraham Lincoln wrote:

*We the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts, not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow the men who have perverted the Constitution."*

When analysed, according to Bouviers' Law Dictionary sovereignty is:

" naturally divided into three great powers; namely, the legislative, the executive, and the judiciary; the first is the power to make new laws, and to correct and repeal the old;

---

(t) *ibid* Ernest Hancock, Freedom's Phoenix, February 12, 2009 <http://www.mrstep.com/politics/az-wa-mo-nh-ok-claiming-sovereignty/>

the second is the power to execute the laws both at home and abroad; and the last is the power to apply the laws to particular facts; to judge the disputes which arise among the citizens, and to punish crimes. (u)

Each of us, must decide - for the overall good of our own people -whether we are just going to stand by and let things happen or to assert our own rights and authority. Please take time to review the New Mexico State Constitution and USA Vs Juan Jose Lucero.

Are you/we willing to be subservient to President Barrack Hussain Obama, the Democrat Party, The Republican Party, the State of New Mexico, The super wealthy, our own respective County or City governments or will we choose to assert our own sovereignty as given to us by the government of Spain (and/or Mexico) in alignment with the Treaty of Guadalupe – Hidalgo and other treaties & laws.

Written and Compiled by:

Bert Lucero, Trustee, LTLGA  
15 June 2009



Attachment

**CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**  
ADOPTED JANUARY 21, 1911 (AS AMENDED THROUGH 1974)

PREAMBLE

***We, the people of New Mexico, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of liberty, in order to secure the advantages of a state government, do ordain and establish this Constitution.***

ARTICLE II --- BILL OF RIGHTS

Sec. 1. The State of New Mexico is an inseparable part of the Federal Union, and the Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land.

Sec. 2. All political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government of right originates with the people, is founded upon their will and is instituted solely for their good.

Sec. 3. The people of the state have the sole and exclusive right to govern themselves as a free, sovereign and independent state.

Sec. 4. All persons are born equally free, and have certain natural, inherent and inalienable rights, among which are the rights of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and of seeking and obtaining safety and happiness.

Sec. 5. The rights, privileges and immunities, civil, political and religious guaranteed to the people of New Mexico by the Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo shall be preserved inviolate. (ADOPTED BY THE PEOPLE NOV. 2, 1971)

Sec. 6. No law shall abridge the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms for security and defense, for lawful hunting and recreational use and for other lawful purposes, but nothing herein shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons.

Sec. 7. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall never be suspended, unless, in case of rebellion or invasion, the public safety requires it.

Sec. 8. All elections shall be free and open, and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

Sec. 9. The military shall always be in strict subordination to the civil power; no soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war except in the manner prescribed by law.

Sec. 10. The people shall be secure in their persons, papers, homes and effects, from unreasonable searches and seizures, and no warrant to search any place, or seize any person or thing, shall issue without describing the place to be searched, or the person or things to be seized, nor without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation.

Sec. 11. Every man shall be free to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and no person shall ever be molested or denied any civil or political right or

privilege on account of his religious opinion or mode of religious worship. No person shall be required to attend any place of worship or support any religious sect or denomination; nor shall any preference be given by law to any religious denomination or mode of worship.

Sec. 12. The right of trial by jury as it has heretofore existed shall be secured to all and remain inviolate. In all cases trial-able in courts inferior to the district court the jury may consist of six. The legislature may provide that verdicts in civil cases may be rendered by less than a unanimous vote of the jury.

Sec. 13. All persons shall be bail able by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses when the proof is evident or the presumption great. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted. (ADOPTED BY THE PEOPLE NOV. 4, 1924)

Sec. 14. No person shall be held to answer for a capital, felonious or infamous crime unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury or information filed by a district attorney or attorney general or their deputies, except in cases arising in the militia when in actual service in time of war or public danger. No person shall be so held on information without having had a preliminary examination before an examining magistrate, or having waived such preliminary examination. A grand jury shall be composed of such number, not less than twelve, as may be prescribed by law. Citizens only, residing in the county for which a grand jury may be convened and qualified as prescribed by law, may serve on the grand jury. Concurrence necessary for the finding of an indictment by a grand jury shall be prescribed by law; provided, such concurrence shall never be by less than a majority of those who compose a grand jury, and, provided, at least eight must concur in finding an indictment when a grand jury is composed of twelve in number. Until otherwise prescribed by law a grand jury shall be composed of twelve in number of which eight must concur in finding an indictment. A grand jury shall be convened upon order of a judge of a court empowered to try and determine cases of capital, felonious or infamous crimes at such times as to him shall be deemed necessary, or a grand jury shall be ordered to convene by such judge upon the filing of a petition there for signed by not less than seventy-five resident tax payers of the county, or a grand jury may be convened in any additional manner as may be prescribed by law. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall have the right to appear and defend himself in person, and by counsel; to demand the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have the charge and testimony interpreted to him in a language he understands; to have compulsory process to compel the attendance of necessary witnesses in his behalf, and a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county or district in which the offense is alleged to have been committed.

Sec. 15. No person shall be compelled to testify against himself in a criminal proceeding, nor shall any person be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense; and when the indictment, information or affidavit upon which any person is convicted charges different offenses or different degrees of the same offense and a new trial is granted the accused, he may not again be tried for an offense or degree of the offense greater than the one of which he was convicted.

Sec. 16. Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war against it, adhering to its enemies, or giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.

Sec. 17. Every person may freely speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right; and no law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press. In all criminal prosecutions for libels, the truth may be given in evidence to the jury; and if it shall appear to the jury that the matter charged as libelous is true and was published with good motives and for justifiable ends, the party shall be acquitted. (ADOPTED BY THE PEOPLE NOV. 7, 1972)

Sec. 18. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor shall any person be denied equal protection of the laws. Equality of rights under law shall not be

denied on account of the sex of any person. The effective date of this amendment shall be July 1, 1973.

Sec. 19. No ex post facto law, bill of attainder, nor law impairing the obligation of contracts shall be enacted by the legislature.

Sec. 20. Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation.

Sec. 21. No person shall be imprisoned for debt in any civil action. (ADOPTED BY THE PEOPLE SEPT. 20, 1921)

Sec. 22. Until otherwise provided by law no alien, ineligible to citizenship under the laws of the United States, or corporation, co-partnership or association, a majority of the stock or interest in which is owned or held by such aliens, shall acquire title, lease hold or other interest in or to real estate in New Mexico.

Sec. 23. The enumeration in this Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny, impair or disparage others retained by the people.