

Q7

Email address

[REDACTED]

Q8

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Q9

What are your past political activities (Offices held, candidate, volunteer, etc)

I ran unsuccessfully for town council several years ago and I've volunteered for a number of campaigns over the years.

Q10

Why are you seeking this office?

I, Paul Kinzelman, am running for NM House District 8 to be able to write and pass legislation that supports our economy and all New Mexicans, and makes NM a better place for all to live, work, and play. For voters who oppose the Trump administration's disastrous policies, as I do, I'm the candidate opposed to Trump in this race. Please visit www.Kinzelman4NMhouse8.org

Q11

No

Have you or your business, if you are a business owner, ever been the subject of any state or federal tax liens? If yes, please explain.

Q12

No

Have you ever been involved in a personal or business bankruptcy proceeding? If yes, please explain.

Q13

No

Have you ever been arrested, charged, or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony crime in New Mexico or any other state? If yes, please explain.

Q14

State Budget: New Mexico's state budget provides for the state's recurring expenses such as general management, education, facility maintenance . . . etc. Other expenditures are not recurring, such as road construction, infrastructure expansion, ... etc. What do you think is most important for New Mexico to do when there is surplus revenue?

Expansion of already existing state government programs to reach and serve more New Mexicans

Please explain your answer:

An answer is difficult without knowing the context and details, but in general, I would say expanding existing *necessary* programs that are not serving everybody would be a more fair use of the money.

Q15

Legislator funds: Legislators are usually provided funds for specific projects within their districts. How do you think these funds should be distributed to legislators?

Distribution based on economic activity and tax income production by county

Briefly explain your answer :

I don't agree with any of the choices. I oppose the program of giving discretionary money to legislators for their district projects without evaluating the projects themselves. To me, that's just pork and an invitation for waste. Programs should be evaluated by more than just one person funding pet projects.

Q16

State Tax Code: On a scale of one (critical) to five (unimportant), how important is it that New Mexico completely restructure its tax code?

(no label)
Comment:

1 (Critical)

I have not looked at state tax code from the perspective of changing it, but I think it's important for corporations to pay their fair share. Tax codes should always be fair and restructured if not.

Q17

State Tax Code: Are you in favor of the current Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) system for NM or moving to a sales tax?

Gross Receipts Tax (GRT),

Explain your answer:

At the moment I'm inclined to support GRT, but to really have an opinion, I'd want to research both the pros and the cons of that type of tax vs the normal sales or income tax. I'd want to hear from both proponents and opponents.

Q18

Crime: Do you believe that the crime rate and the court's handling of existing laws (sentencing, catch & release protocols, etc.) in New Mexico negatively impacts our ability to attract new businesses and industries to our state?

Yes,

Please explain your answer:

Any time crime happens without adequate punishment hits the news is bad for business. However, once crime has gotten to the court, it's usually way past where it should have been addressed. There's lots of things in the system that need reforming, not just the courts. Convicts need resources to help cut down the recidivism rate.

Q19

Government Mandates: What is your position on government mandates as they apply to businesses?

It is necessary for the government to strictly regulate business operations to assure best practices are enforced and the public's safety and interests are met.

Please explain your position:

Again, difficult to answer without seeing an actual proposal, but in general, we need to be moving away from fossil fuels to renewables in a smart way.

Q20

Energy: NM's oil and gas producers were largely responsible for the dramatic increase in state tax revenue for 2019. Do you support effective land and resource management that allows these extractive industries to maximize production and budgetary support for NM?

Other,

Please briefly explain your answer:

Again, difficult to answer without seeing a proposal. We need production, but not at the cost of the environment.

Q21

Regulation: On a scale of one (critical) to five (unimportant), how important is environmental regulation to protect New Mexico's land, air, and water?

(no label)

Briefly explain your answer:

1 (Critical)

Again, difficult to answer without seeing a proposal, but in general, we need smart environmental regulation, not rules for the sake of rules. We need to be thinking of leaving a quality environment for our kids. I like the "7th Generation" principle.

Q22

Regulation: On a scale of one (critical) to five (unimportant), how important is it that New Mexico thoroughly review regulations to determine use and usefulness in regards to protecting citizens without unnecessarily overburdening business?

(no label)

Please explain your answer:

1 (critical)

I think all regulations should be reviewed to see if there is a continuing public benefit. If a regulation is truly overburdening then I would oppose it. But one business's overburden is another person's protection from pollution so finding a balance can be difficult.

Q23

Land Grant Permanent Fund: Do you support or oppose increased distributions (above the current 5%) from the Land Grant Permanent Fund?

Support,

Please explain your answer:

My position would depend on what the funds would be used for so I can't really provide an answer to the question. But if your house were on fire, you wouldn't worry about spending from your savings account.

Q24

Employment Laws: What is your position on government mandated employee benefits like sick leave, PTO,... etc?

Support,

Comments:

I think COVID-19 shows us the need for sick leave. I'd prefer to have businesses do the right thing without regulation, but if they won't, we need regulations.

Q25

Employment Laws: In recent years, legislation is proposed each session concerning the state's minimum wage. Please state how you feel wages should be determined and explain your answer.

Wages should be determined by government mandate, such as the recent increases in minimum wage

Please explain your answer:

While free market is best when it works, this is one case where I don't think it works. I don't think that allowing starvation wages is in anybody's best interest.

Q26

Workforce Development: On a scale of 1 (critical) to 5 (unimportant), how important do you feel is it that New Mexico's higher learning institutions offer technical and trade related degrees and certifications?

(no label)

Explain your reasoning:

1 (Critical)

I don't really care who offers technical and trade related degrees, but some organization should. Not everybody wants or needs traditional college. We need skilled trades people.

Q27

Economic Incentives: On a scale of one (critical) to five (unimportant), how important is it that state incentives for businesses, such as LEDA, JTIP and tax abatement include mandatory achievement requirements for use of the money as well as enforceable claw back parameters, if those requirements are not met?

(no label)

Please explain your answer:

1 (critical)

Of course there should be tough claw back provisions if a business does not hold up its end of the tax incentive bargain. If a business wants a break, they should be required to show that they deserve the break.

Q28

Do you support an Article V, Convention of States to address proposals that would limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, impose fiscal restraints (balanced budget amendment), and place term limits on federal officials?

No,

Please explain your answer:

Depending on what was discussed I could be in favor of it. I very much favor a law that corporations are not people and money is not speech, and of term limits, but as far as other stuff, I'm concerned that the Convention might go too far. I think requiring a balanced budget might prevent the government from rescuing the economy like our fragile house of cards requires now and then when capitalism fails.

Q29

Is there anything else you would like to share about your candidacy or your desire to serve the people of your district?

A lot of the questions are too nebulous to answer without seeing a specific proposal. My web page (www.Kinzelman4NMhouse8.org) will have more details about my legislative philosophy. As of this date it's not up yet, but it will be in the near future.
