

Q9 What are your past political activities (Offices held, candidate, volunteer, etc)

I ran for the District 27 position in 2018 and lost by 193 votes. Since 2012, I have actively campaigned for and assisted such candidates as Janice Arnold-Jones, Mike Frese, Wayne Johnson and Brook Bassan.

Q10 Why are you seeking this office?

There are a number of factors like crime, high taxes, and an anti-business environment that are pushing people like me out of this state. I want to help bring people to New Mexico by reducing crime, taxes, and by creating a state that is friendly to business.

Q11 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. **No**

Q12 Have you ever been involved in a personal or business bankruptcy proceeding? If yes, please explain. **No**

Q13 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. **No**

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? **Other,**
Please explain your answer:
I like the idea of returning a percentage of the surplus revenue to the taxpayers and placing a percentage in reserve funds.

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**
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Briefly explain your answer :
Since New Mexico has such a wide variety of economic activity, I lean toward supporting the third option. I would think that the need for funding capital projects varies to some extent depending on the legislative district.

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:

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I believe New Mexico has to stop punishing success and has to attract business and people with money to this state. I support the tax program put forth by Representative Jason Harper.

Q17 State Tax Code: Are you in favor of the current Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) system for NM or moving to a sales tax?

Sales Tax,

Explain your answer:

I favor dumping the Gross Receipts Tax and moving to a sales tax as I believe the GRT discourages business from moving into the state.

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:

I have heard stories indicating that companies are reluctant to have a presence in New Mexico because of the high crime rate and the threat crime poses to their employees. We do not seem to have enough factors in place to discourage crime. In addition to more resources like officers and prosecutors, we should have more cooperation between state and local law enforcement with the Federal authorities to identify and remove, from our community, those foreign nationals that commit crime. Another factor that could deter crime is the imposition of reasonable conditions of release that, once violated, put the offender back in detention.

Q19 Energy: What is your position on government mandates for renewable energy like the Energy Transition Act?

Oppose,

Please explain your position:

I don't like the idea of government mandates; I think they distort the market, create inefficiencies, and basically play to the constituencies of government. Rather than dictating to the energy community to develop politically acceptable options, government should allow the market to develop those technologies that will be most relevant and cost effective for the future.

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?

Yes,

Please briefly explain your answer:

The way I see it, if the government is not careful, they are going to regulate this industry right out of the state.

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:

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New Mexico is a land of stunning vistas and open sky, but we also need to use our natural resources to produce the kind of wealth that allows our citizens access to full and productive lives. It's important to balance our environmental regulations so that our society is not paralyzed by some misguided efforts to achieve a pristine state.

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)

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Please explain your answer:

I think it is very important for the state to remove unnecessary roadblocks to economic activity. Some of these regulations just serve to protect already established business and have nothing to do with consumer safety.

Q23 Land Grant Permanent Fund: Do you support or oppose increased distributions (above the current 5%) from the Land Grant Permanent Fund?

Oppose,

Please explain your answer:

The current distribution rate ensures the future viability of the fund and should be continued. I am resistant to the idea of funding additional types of programs because our citizens need to focus on supporting themselves and not relying on the government.

Q24 Employment Laws: What is your position on government mandated employee benefits like sick leave, PTO,... etc?

Oppose,

Comments:

Business needs to be flexible enough to respond to changing market conditions. When government sets wage rates or the types of benefits that can be offered, it removes flexibility from business. There is not a legislator made that can know what a car wash worker, trash collector or restaurant worker should earn in pay or benefits.

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 allowing the free market or supply/demand to determine an appropriate amount

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Please explain your answer:

Wages are often based on the employee's productive value to the employer. Because government does not know the value of each individual employee, government cannot know what an employee should be paid.

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)

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Explain your reasoning:

I think institutions of higher learning should focus on higher learning and we should have schools that specialize in technical and trade related courses.

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)

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Please explain your answer:

While I think it is important that the government hold businesses accountable for the incentives they receive, there can be two sides to the coin here. Intel has had trouble meeting their requirements. Is it their fault or is it because there are not enough qualified workers in the area.

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?

Other,

Please explain your answer:

I support the Article V concept in principle, but we already have a Constitution that seems pretty explicit to me when it comes to limiting government and limiting spending. The politicians blithely disregard those limitations because we have such an uneducated population that will not hold them accountable. I fear the same result with Article V.

Q29 Is there anything else you would like to share about your candidacy or your desire to serve the people of your district?

I'm running for this office because I want to be able to stay in the state that has been my home since 1976. This is not only my concern but the concerns of many people in District 27 that are afraid the crime, the lack of good jobs and the lack of a good education is going to force them or their children to leave New Mexico.