

#15

COMPLETE

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Q1

Candidate full name as it will appear on ballot:

Heather Jean Berghmans

Q2

Political Party Affiliation:

Democrat

Q3

District #:

Senate District 15

Q4

How long have you lived in the district you seek to represent?

Since 2018

Q5

Email address:

Heather@HeatherForNMSenate.com

Q6

Phone number:

505-349-3617

Q7

No

Have you, or a business you have been associated with, ever been the subject of a tax lien or a bankruptcy proceeding?

Q8

No

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

Q9

What will be your #1 priority and what is your plan of action to address it, if elected?

It's been my experience that top-of-mind issues for voters in the city today are the increased number of people experiencing homelessness, school and neighborhood safety, housing affordability, healthcare access, and childcare/elder care support. Addressing housing issues is important to my community and me, and it requires affordable solutions for homeowners and renters, governmental cooperation to reduce homelessness, establishment of trust funds for renters, and streamlining construction processes for residential units.

Q10

Recently, New Mexico has enjoyed record budget surpluses in the \$3.5 billion range. What do you feel is the best use of surplus funds? (Please select and explain your top priority for surplus funds.)

Other or comments::

I believe in using our budget surpluses to fund existing programs to their full potential.

Q11

Do you support or oppose the use of the Gross Receipts Tax system currently in effect?

Other or comments::

I believe that our GRT system needs significant changes. As a first-time candidate, I am eager to learn more and better understand the smartest, most strategic improvements we can make to our GRT system.

Q12

Do you support or oppose the current bail system our courts are using?

Respondent skipped this question

Q13

Crime has reached an all-time high in New Mexico. What do you think the state legislature could do to address crime?

Address mental health treatment,

Address addictions and other lifestyles that impact criminal behavior.

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Other or comments::

I support efforts to reduce violent, retail, and property crime, and combat the fentanyl crisis. I also support sensible gun safety laws like assault weapon bans and red flag laws. Collaboration with law enforcement and government entities is critical for swift justice. We must prioritize full funding and support for frontline defenders and preventive programs like the Violence Intervention Program. As a legislator, I'll push to fund such initiatives and evidence-based behavioral health programs. I believe that our overall criminal justice system needs reforms and that crime stems from many different adverse experiences. We should focus on limiting the number of adverse experiences New Mexico children and people face.

Q14

New Mexico has passed laws that govern employer-employee relations such as increased minimum wage and paid time off among others. There have also been discussions about Paid Family Medical Leave Act (PFMLA), a living wage, and shortened work weeks. If elected, what position will you take on additional regulation of businesses on issues like those mentioned?

Other or comments::

While I support initiatives like PFML, such policies cannot be passed without collaboration and input from our business communities.

Q15

New Mexico's state tax revenue is largely funded by oil and gas producers who operate under some of the most stringent environmental regulations in the country. Do you support or oppose continued oil and gas production in NM?

Other or comments::

I believe that we must work to reduce our state's reliance on the oil and gas industry. We need to use the current budget surpluses from the oil and gas industry to continue growing our local economy and supporting workers. We must continue investing in and growing high-value sectors like film, renewable energy, technology, and healthcare while supporting our local small businesses during any transition away from oil and gas.

Q16

Do you feel that environmental regulations need to be increased or expanded from their current levels regarding New Mexico's land, air, and water?

Other or comments::

It's imperative to safeguard our natural resources, such as clean air, water, and forests, and conserve our public lands for the benefit of future generations. We must face these issues head-on and promote the adoption of green technologies and electrification as quickly as possible. If the executive is going to adopt hydrogen production in ways that bypass the legislature, then lawmakers must develop and pass robust policies to regulate the industry.

Q17

What is your position on mandatory requirements for state-funded incentives that include pay-back measures if the requirements are not met?

Other or comments::

As a first-time candidate, I am eager to learn more about these incentives and ideas.

Q18

Do you support or oppose changing the constitution and/or laws to require legislative approval for any emergency declaration/order lasting more than 60 days?

Support.

Q19

What is your position on abiding by the state constitution?

Other or comments::

Government officials should always pay attention to and follow the laws that govern them. The New Mexico constitution does need to be updated for the 21st century and the complex world we live in today.

Q20

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

I am excited for the opportunity to represent the needs of my community in the legislature, and to listen to and collaborate with every stakeholder interested in making New Mexico a better place to live.
