

**Candidates Full Name**

Gabriel Ramos

**Political Party Affiliation**

Republican

**District #**

SD 28

**How long have you lived in the district you represent?**

**Email Address**

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**Phone #**

(575) 313-2077

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

No

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

No

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

My number one priority is ensuring that our communities are safe. We as a state need to work towards ending the lawlessness that has plagued us for years. I want to work on bipartisan legislation that holds criminals accountable for their crimes, supports the retention of our law enforcement officers, and elevates compassionate mental health and drug prevention programs that cut recidivism rates.

**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?**

Added to our reserves for the future and returned to the taxpayers.

It is a great thing that we have such a massive budget surplus, and because of this, we can certainly stand to give back a portion of it to our taxpayers who are struggling. However, it must also be taken into consideration that we will not have this surplus forever, and if we are to be responsible, we should make sure we are adding to our reserves for when we need them in the future.

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

Oppose.

The current tax system in New Mexico is killing our businesses. If New Mexico wants to make money and make it efficiently, we must spur growth. Step one to doing this is to revisit our unfair tax code and give our businesses a fair shot.

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

Oppose.

New Mexico's current bail system is half of the reason why the state suffers from such high rates of crime. Criminals have been allowed to re-offend because defendants are released while awaiting trial. It is unacceptable to continue the cycle of letting dangerous criminals walk back on the street to reoffend.

***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, significant mandatory sentencing requirements, and address addictions.

As stated before, I want to make sure that we are doing our best to make sure law enforcement officers remain in their jobs, and to aid our fellow New Mexicans who struggle with mental health and issues with addiction. I also want to make sure that criminals who commit the worst crimes, or who don't learn from their previous punishment stay out of our communities. We must keep the most dangerous people in our society off of our streets to protect our families, our children, and our state.

***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?***

Will not support

The PFMLA is something that the radicals in the legislature have been pushing and has been shot down by sensible lawmakers on both sides of the aisle every time. Not only will the PFMLA drive business away from an already business-dry state, but it will cost the state millions of dollars to implement, meaning more taxes for New Mexicans.

***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?***

Support.

Our state is sitting on a gold mine of oil and gas. It's foolish not to use it to our benefit. Not only will pursuing oil and natural gas production make profits for our state soar, but it will also put many New Mexicans in a job. Oil and gas production is a necessity if we are to bring a booming business mentality back to our state. We are certainly not in any place to solely rely on renewables. Our economy would crash.

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

No

Our current environmental regulations have seriously hindered New Mexico's ability to progress. Companies across the state are bogged down trying to figure out if they comply with the excessive amount of regulations that they can hardly focus on turning a profit. And when they don't comply, they are fined to no end. This has driven business out of New Mexico and has sapped so much great potential.

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

No support or oppose – I'd say 'other' with below comment

I certainly support giving incentives to the small businesses that have built New Mexico's culture and pride for decades. In our current economic environment, these businesses could use the support to help them thrive. However, handouts for big businesses and corporations should be approached with caution especially if we're asking our taxpayers to pick up the slack for the tax breaks that those corporations would receive.

***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

The fact of the matter is that changes being enforced over a longer period need to be approved by the legislature. We have a legislature for a reason, and using emergencies to push an agenda is irresponsible governance. The legislature is the people's voice, without it, the governor has free reign to do whatever she wants.

***What is your position on abiding by the state constitution?***

Support it as written.

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

I will always believe in common sense policy that benefits every New Mexican. I left the Democrat party because I and others were replaced with radicals who want our state to be something it isn't. I want our children to grow up in a safe community, I want our businesses to thrive, I want our people to have jobs, and I want Southwest New Mexico to have a voice. We deserve to be respected and to be listened to, and when I'm in the Santa Fe Roundhouse, that message will be loud and clear!