



**NEW MEXICO  
BUSINESS COALITION**

## **Q&A: New Mexico Governor & Lieutenant Governor Candidates on the Economy**

*Source: Santa Fe New Mexican*

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### **GOVERNOR CANDIDATES**

#### **Sam Bregman (Democrat)**

##### **What should the state do to make life more affordable for everyday New Mexicans?**

We should put money back in people's pockets. I've proposed using the oil and gas windfall to send up to \$500 per person to families earning under \$200,000. At the same time, we must lower costs by expanding housing, child care, and good-paying jobs, so families can get ahead, not just get by.

##### **What changes do you support to the state's taxes?**

We should provide targeted relief for working families while making sure the system is fair. That includes expanding tax credits like the Working Families Tax Credit and closing loopholes that benefit large corporations. We should look to simplify our gross receipts tax system where there are already more than 200 different exemptions. Our goal should be to ease the burden on middle- and lower-income households and to promote the growth of our local small businesses.

##### **What do you think should be done to bring down New Mexico's high poverty rate?**

There are many contributing factors to our high poverty rates. One of the best tools has been universal child care. The best anti-poverty program is a good-paying job. We need to invest in workforce development, education, and industries that create sustainable careers. At the same time, we must strengthen the safety net — especially child care, health care and housing — and ensure equal access to high-quality education.

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## **Deb Haaland (Democrat)**

### **What should the state do to make life more affordable for everyday New Mexicans?**

New Mexicans are doing everything right and still struggling. We need to lower everyday costs, increase the minimum wage, crack down on rent fixing, and invest in people who are building businesses and creating jobs. New Mexico will lead as the country's energy capital while building more housing.

### **What changes do you support to the state's taxes?**

I plan to expand the Child Tax Credit and the Working Families Tax Credit. I will also adjust the gross receipts tax in key industries like health care to address shortages. We need to streamline access to tax credits and create one-stop shops for families and businesses.

### **What do you think should be done to bring down New Mexico's high poverty rate?**

We need to invest in good-paying jobs, raise the minimum wage, expand affordable housing, stabilize energy prices, and lower health care costs. We must support small businesses, invest in skilled trades, and ensure young people graduate with pathways to careers.

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## **Gregg Hull (Republican)**

### **What should the state do to make life more affordable for everyday New Mexicans?**

Affordability starts with good jobs and less government interference. I will diversify the economy, cut unnecessary licensing requirements, expand career and technical education, and eliminate property taxes for New Mexicans 60 and older.

### **What changes do you support to the state's taxes?**

I will eliminate property taxes for seniors by expanding oil and gas production and using that revenue to replace local funding. This protects services while providing relief.

### **What do you think should be done to bring down New Mexico's high poverty rate?**

Poverty is solved by growing the economy. I will cut red tape, expand job training, and improve education accountability so people can earn their way out of poverty.

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## **Duke Rodriguez (Republican)**

### **What should the state do to make life more affordable for everyday New Mexicans?**

Eliminate personal income tax, eliminate gross receipts tax on retail sales, and reduce property taxes. Redirect unused funds to infrastructure, improve health care access, and attract businesses to New Mexico.

### **What changes do you support to the state's taxes?**

Eliminate personal income tax, eliminate gross receipts tax on retail sales, reduce property tax, and fix tax pyramiding.

### **What do you think should be done to bring down New Mexico's high poverty rate?**

Reduce taxes, ease the transition off public benefits, expand education options, and attract private-sector employers.

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## **Doug Turner (Republican)**

### **What should the state do to make life more affordable for everyday New Mexicans?**

We need a workforce that can earn higher wages. While national factors affect inflation, we must focus on education and workforce readiness.

### **What changes do you support to the state's taxes?**

I will cut gross receipts taxes and personal income taxes to put money back into people's pockets and improve competitiveness.

### **What do you think should be done to bring down New Mexico's high poverty rate?**

We must promote self-sufficiency through jobs, education, and economic growth. Public benefits should be a bridge, not a permanent solution.

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# LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CANDIDATES

## David Gallegos (**Republican**)

### **What should the state do to make life more affordable for everyday New Mexicans?**

Reduce taxes, cut unnecessary regulations, reform gross receipts tax, and expand energy development.

### **What changes do you support to the state's taxes?**

Simplify and reduce the tax system, especially gross receipts tax, while avoiding new taxes.

### **What do you think should be done to bring down New Mexico's high poverty rate?**

Create jobs, support small businesses, improve education, and focus on economic opportunity.

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## Manny Lardizabal (**Republican**)

### **What should the state do to make life more affordable for everyday New Mexicans?**

Cut regulations, lower gas and energy taxes, expand school choice, incentivize housing, and reduce government spending.

### **What changes do you support to the state's taxes?**

Eliminate gross receipts tax for small businesses, lower income taxes, cap property taxes, and reduce corporate taxes.

### **What do you think should be done to bring down New Mexico's high poverty rate?**

Focus on work and job creation, expand training, and reduce dependency on government programs.

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## Harold Pope (**Democrat**)

### **What should the state do to make life more affordable for everyday New Mexicans?**

Lower costs in housing, health care, and utilities. Expand housing, reduce prescription costs, and invest in clean energy and jobs.

### **What changes do you support to the state's taxes?**

Provide targeted relief to working families while ensuring wealthier individuals and corporations pay their fair share.

### **What do you think should be done to bring down New Mexico's high poverty rate?**

Raise wages, strengthen worker protections, invest in education, and expand access to housing and health care.

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## Maggie Toulouse Oliver (**Democrat**)

### **What should the state do to make life more affordable for everyday New Mexicans?**

Protect benefits, raise the minimum wage, expand housing, and invest in workforce training and apprenticeships.

### **What changes do you support to the state's taxes?**

Support a progressive tax system where higher earners pay more, including measures like a "mansion tax."

### **What do you think should be done to bring down New Mexico's high poverty rate?**

Address systemic barriers through housing, health care, transportation, and coordinated programs like Housing First.