

AMANDA LOPEZ ASKIN

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

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TOP PRIORITIES

Q4. What are your top three priorities for the office?

- 1. Expanding voter access for working families:** Too many New Mexicans are locked out of voting not because they don't care, but because of time, transportation, childcare, and work schedules. I would make sure existing tools such as online registration, no-excuse absentee voting, the permanent absentee list, same-day registration, and automatic voter registration are fully implemented and actually reach the people who need them, especially in rural and working-class communities.
- 2. Protecting election security and public trust:** New Mexico has strong safeguards already in place: paper ballots, air-gapped tabulators, pre-election testing, and post-election audits. I would preserve and strengthen those systems while ensuring uniform, professional election administration across all 33 counties, and meet misinformation head-on with fast, accurate, multilingual public information.
- 3. Government transparency and accountability:** From campaign finance disclosure to business registration to the day-to-day operations of the office itself, I would push for clear public reporting, searchable records, and consistent enforcement so New Mexicans can see for themselves that their government is working fairly and honestly on their behalf.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION & INTEGRITY

Q5. What steps will you take to strengthen election security, accuracy, and public confidence?

I will protect and strengthen the safeguards that already make New Mexico's elections secure: paper ballots for every voter, tabulators that are never connected to the internet, rigorous pre-election accuracy testing, and post-election audits overseen by an independent auditor, along with recount procedures that remain open to public observation. These measures matter because public confidence should rest on verifiable facts, not just assurances.

I will also prioritize uniformity, training, and professionalism across all 33 counties. As the state's chief election officer, the Secretary of State is responsible for ensuring the Election Code is applied consistently everywhere, not just in some counties. I will make sure county clerks and election workers have clear guidance, standardized training, and reliable support so every New Mexican's vote is counted the same way, no matter where they live.

Finally, I will meet misinformation with speed, accuracy, and accessibility. I will strengthen and expand tools like NMVote, ballot tracking, the voter bill of rights, and "Rumor vs. Reality" resources making them more visible, more multilingual, and more proactive, so voters can verify their registration, track their ballot, and get truthful information directly from the office rather than from rumor or speculation. Public trust is earned when the government is transparent, responsive, and willing to show its work and that is the standard I will hold this office to.

Q6. Do you support or oppose requiring voter identification in all NM elections?

Oppose

Explain your answer: I oppose a strict new voter ID requirement because New Mexico already verifies voter identity through our existing registration and election safeguards. Adding a stricter ID mandate on top of that wouldn't make our elections more secure; it would only create new barriers that disenfranchise eligible voters, particularly elderly voters, low-income workers, people with disabilities, and rural residents who face real challenges obtaining and maintaining specific forms of ID. I will not support policies that make it harder for eligible New Mexicans to exercise their right to vote.

Q7. Do you support or oppose the federal effort to audit NM voter rolls using all databases available to identify and remove any non-citizens?

Oppose

Explain your answer: I oppose this federal effort to audit New Mexico's voter rolls using external databases. New Mexico already has strong, legally established safeguards to maintain accurate voter rolls and ensure only eligible citizens vote, including regular list maintenance conducted by county clerks under state and federal law. In fact, New Mexico has been ranked #1 in the nation by the MIT Election Performance Index, a testament to how well-run and secure our elections already are.

A federally directed data-matching effort using databases not designed for this purpose risks flagging eligible citizens as ineligible due to data errors, outdated records, or mismatched information, disproportionately harming naturalized citizens, voters with name changes, and other eligible New Mexicans. As County Clerk, I pushed back against election deniers and misinformation that undermined trust in our elections and this kind of unproven, federally imposed audit follows that same pattern of eroding confidence in a system that is already secure and nationally recognized as a model for the rest of the country. I will protect New Mexico's voter rolls through accurate, transparent, state-run processes rather than a federal effort with clear potential for error and voter disenfranchisement.

Q8. Given the recent exposure in New Jersey of non-citizens being registered to vote through automatic voter registration (OVR), do you support or oppose the current system of OVR in New Mexico?

I support New Mexico's current system of Online Voter Registration. What happened in New Jersey was a vendor software error at the Motor Vehicle Commission not a flaw in the concept of automatic or online voter registration itself. New Mexico's system is different, and I will make sure it stays that way by ensuring rigorous, regularly tested safeguards between our MVD data systems and voter rolls, so that citizenship status is verified correctly before any registration is transmitted.

Automatic and online voter registration are important tools that make it easier for eligible New Mexicans to participate in our democracy, especially working families who don't have time to navigate a cumbersome registration process. The answer to a vendor's software error in another state is not to abandon a system that works, it's to demand strong oversight, regular audits, and accountability from the vendors and agencies involved. As Secretary of State, I will hold our systems to that standard so New Mexicans can trust that OVR is both accessible and accurate.

BUSINESS SERVICES & PERFORMANCE METRICS

Q9. What changes would you make to improve business filings, online searches, processing times, and customer service?

My priority would be modernizing the Secretary of State's business services so they work for every New Mexican, not just those who are comfortable navigating government websites. That means investing in a more intuitive online filing system with clear, plain-language instructions at every step, so business owners aren't left guessing what a form requires or why a filing was rejected.

I would improve the business search tool to make records easier to find, read, and verify, with better search functionality and more transparent, up-to-date public data. On processing times, I would set clear, published performance standards for how long filings should take, and hold the office accountable to them, with regular public reporting so businesses know what to expect instead of being left in the dark.

I would also expand support for accessibility, including multilingual resources and materials, and make sure phone and in-person support remain available for business owners who don't have reliable internet access or prefer speaking with a real person, particularly small business owners, rural entrepreneurs, and first-generation business owners who may be filing for the first time. Ultimately, modernization should mean the system is faster and easier to use, not harder to access. I would work to reduce unnecessary bureaucratic barriers, improve customer service response times, and make sure the office treats every business owner, whether they're launching a small shop in Las Cruces or a startup in Albuquerque, with the same responsiveness and respect.

Q10. What measurable goals will you establish, and how should New Mexicans evaluate your performance after four years?

I believe New Mexicans should be able to judge my performance by clear, public metrics, not just promises. I would establish measurable goals in three core areas: elections, business services, and government transparency, and I would publish regular public reports so voters can track progress themselves.