

**Q7**

Email address

[REDACTED]

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**Q8**

Phone number

[REDACTED]

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**Q9**

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

My wife ran twice for the Public Regulation Commission, in 2012 (lost) and 2016 (won). I was involved as a volunteer in both of those races.

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**Q10**

Why are you seeking this office?

Two reasons: first, my 30-years' experience as a business lawyer in New Mexico, which has given me a lot of ideas about what should be done differently; and second, my frustration and anger with the current Republican Party, which seems to exist only to enable Trump.

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**Q11**

**No**

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.

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**Q12**

**No**

Have you ever been involved in a personal or business bankruptcy proceeding? If yes, please explain.

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**Q13**

**No**

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.

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**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:  
Depends what you mean by "surplus", right? Obviously, some capital expenditures are necessary, in order to replace worn out plant, and to construct new infrastructure. But if by "surplus" you mean things like the oil and gas windfall, that should be used to build reserves, because windfalls, by definition, are not recurring.

**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?

**Equally distributed to each legislator,**

Briefly explain your answer :  
Surely the second choice is a joke. The third one is hardly better. But the best answer is to get rid of our current system of pork barrel spending without planning, and to have all capital improvements be evaluated and properly appropriated. Iowa has a good system, in which a small state agency evaluates capital improvement needs according to statewide importance and then recommends them to the legislature (which frequently approves them with few or no changes). As a general rule, projects that have only local importance should be funded locally.

**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:

**3**  
Good grief! You ask this question without any indication of HOW the code would be restructured? You might as well ask "how important is it that New Mexico completely restructure its constitution?"

**Q17**

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

**Other,**

Explain your answer:  
The devil is in the details. Would a sales tax apply to services? (In some states, it doesn't.) How would the distinction be drawn between sales to businesses (I presume that you intend these to be exempt) and sales to "genuine consumers"? There is a huge hazard of tax fraud if this isn't thought through carefully. If the sales tax produces less revenue than the gross receipts tax, how will the deficit be made up (or, alternatively, how would spending be reduced)? Etc.

**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:

The recent bail reform is not working as it was advertised, and needs to be revisited. But criminal justice is a huge subject. There are no simple answers.

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**Q19**

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

**Support,**

Please explain your position:

The best approach would be a carbon tax that is redistributed on a per capita basis. But when we are dealing with regulated monopolies (as was the case with the ETA), mandates are appropriate. Otherwise there would be no end of game playing.

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**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?

**Other,**

Please briefly explain your answer:

There is no point in propping up oil and gas. Fracking never was particularly profitable, and Saudi Arabia and Russian are never again going to allow sky-high prices that, by encouraging fracking, reduce their market share. And there is a little thing called global warming. Time to look to the future, which is an all-electric economy.

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**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:

**1 (Critical)**

Depends on the nature of the regulation, of course. I spent four years as a coal mine regulator, and have some understanding of the nuances. But since you present this as a simple question, the answer is "critical".

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**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)

Please explain your answer:

**3**

This question is too vague to be answered. Some regulations (e.g., 1200 hours of experience to get a barber's license) are absurd. Others (e.g., methane emission restrictions) are extremely important. The same goes for a variety of laws. The economic regulation aspects of the Motor Vehicle Act, for example, should be entirely repealed.

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**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:

We need to get more value for our expenditures, not just spend more money. We are 46th in per capita income, and 30th in educational expenditures. We spend more per capita on education than Colorado. Clearly, the problem is not one that simply spending more money is going to fix.

**Q24**

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

**Other,**

Comments:

Depends on the benefits, and depends on their cost. If I were to answer "oppose", would that mean that I am against workers compensation insurance?

**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.

**Other,**

Please explain your answer:

I'm not opposed to a minimum wage, but it needs to be adjusted for different markets (e.g., Santa Fe vs. Quemado).

**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)

Explain your reasoning:

**1 (Critical)**

Critical, because we seem to lack an effective apprenticeship program like Germany has.

**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)

Please explain your answer:

**2**

If we talking about IRBs, the requirements are of lesser importance, because the company doesn't get any benefit unless it actually invests. In this sense, IRBs are somewhat self-regulating. With the other incentives, the mandatory requirements are imperative, because not having them is an invitation to fraud.

**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?

**No,**

Please explain your answer:

The proposal is reckless. We have had one constitutional convention in the 18th century that was a miracle. A second miracle is too much to expect. Also, the proponents of this idea are just simple-minded. They expect that complicated problems have mechanical solutions, even though this is shown not to be true every single day of their lives.

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**Q29**

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

My website ([hallform.com](http://hallform.com)) includes a number of pretty carefully considered and written essays on governmental and economic subjects. I would hope that you would look at some of these essays.

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