

**Q9** What are your past political activities (Offices held, candidate, volunteer, etc)

Commissioner for the Acequia de los Madres Vigiles and the Grzelachowski Ditch. Volunteer for Don Cecilio Elementary, the NNMCF-L Meadow City Havoc, and the Samaritan House. Former Regional Manager for the NM Hispanic Youth Symposium.

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**Q10** Why are you seeking this office?

I am running because of my love for my community, my commitment to public service, and my experience that differentiates me as a Candidate for the future of District 70.

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**Q11** 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. **No**

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**Q12** Have you ever been involved in a personal or business bankruptcy proceeding? If yes, please explain. **No**

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**Q13** 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. **No**

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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?

**Non-recurring investments aimed at improving specific aspects of our state**

Please explain your answer:  
A combination of savings, expansion, and investment would be ideal. But, for long term growth it would be prudent to invest in new areas that can bring in recurring additional revenue. New Mexico has a potential for growth in multiple industries that include alternative energy, agriculture, marijuana legalization, aerospace and defense, distribution and transportation, manufacturing, digital media and film, and administrative and federal government support. We need to invest in other industries in order to see this diversification.

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**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 :  
Coming from a rural district it is important to strive for equal representation. Districts should not be penalized for change of leadership or for not having high taxation production or activity. If this was the case, a lot of New Mexico areas will continue to be under-served and underfunded including rural areas and Navajo Nation communities.

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**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:

**1 (Critical)**

As we deal with the current pandemic, I believe the restructure of our tax code will be a critical step in addressing tax equity and revenue generation.

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**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 current GRT needs massive reform including evaluating tax pyramiding, exemptions and deductions, and the rates at which high vs low income earners are taxed. I am in favor of reforming the current GRT as switching to a straight sales tax would not allow for taxation of many of our current and proposed industries .

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**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:

I think we need to advocate for criminal justice reform that would look at more efficient methods to bring cases to trial, evaluate the current bail rules, create the ability to impose appropriate sentencing and fines for appropriate offenses and repeat offenders, and consider probation reform for minor offenses. Reform also needs to consider the impacts of mass incarceration and acknowledge the role that behavioral health and substance abuse programs have in crime prevention.

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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:

I believe we need to make a steady transition to effectively combat Climate Change. The ETA is a monumental piece of legislation that lays out a plan for energy transition along with a community support initiative to address the impacts of industry upheaval.

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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:

As evidenced by this years oil and gas prices, this market is volatile. Any extra production in good years will have serious environmental implications that carry a high cost of remediation in bad years. I support the energy industry, but I believe all sectors have a societal and environmental obligation to continue to strive for cleaner extraction methods and minimal environmental impact. Many traditional oil and gas companies are transitioning to becoming comprehensive energy providers by diversifying their energy portfolios with renewable energy. I believe we need to support the current communities dependent on oil and gas by working with companies to meet higher environmental standards and/or transition to new forms of energy production. This includes responsible land and resource management to support a transitioning energy sector.

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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)**

I believe that addressing climate change is critical and I believe New Mexico can play a key role in taking action and in clean energy production. Overall, it is the most holistic challenge that must be addressed.

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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:

**2**

I believe all officials have a responsibility to balance safety with the protection of our economic health. But, I err on the side that public safety takes priority. If this question is in regard to the current state mandates: I believe that decisive action was needed in order to maintain public safety and the preservation of life. I support evaluating a sequential opening of the state in order to revive business at a rate that will not overburden our limited healthcare resources or cause preventable illness and/or fatalities.

**Q23** Land Grant Permanent Fund: Do you support or oppose increased distributions (above the current 5%) from the Land Grant Permanent Fund?

**Support,**

Please explain your answer:

Depending on the financial strain our state is in with the decline in oil and gas revenue and the cost of pandemic relief, I believe we may need a combination of measures. This would include evaluating tax reform, serious consideration of new revenue streams, and possible use of distributions from the LGPF. We cannot just make drastic program cuts like in the past to critical areas such as education, healthcare, and public safety as we may not recover.

**Q24** Employment Laws: What is your position on government mandated employee benefits like sick leave, PTO,... etc?

**Support,**

Comments:

Employees have a right to employee benefits.

**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.

**Wages should be determined by government mandate, such as the recent increases in minimum wage**

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Please explain your answer:

I believe in creating a living wage. All workers should have an opportunity to earn income at or above the poverty threshold. Any hope at creating economic stability and reducing government dependence starts with adequate compensation.

**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)**

We need to evaluate our comprehensive job market and streamline our education system to put our New Mexican residents directly to work. Part of creating a workforce that is attractive to business is ensuring that our workforce meets the current demand. Skilled trades and labor are a critical component of our current and future New Mexican workforce.

**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)

2

Please explain your answer:

These programs were put in place to provide incentives to businesses that had a direct impact on job creation which leads to lowered unemployment and the growth of industry. If they are not meeting the required standards, companies should not be eligible for tax loopholes and incentive programs.

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**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?

**Other,**

Please explain your answer:

I would need more information for an accurate response. For us to consider a move to a balanced budget amendment we need to ensure that we have a more diversified revenue stream to adequately support necessary public services. I am unsure what powers of the federal government and what officials are in question.

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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?

I have spent my career advocating for education equity and I will bring that same desire for prosperity to House District 70. My professional and personal experience has given me a unique perspective to honor the culture and traditions of the region while being able to advocate for progressive ideas. It would be my honor and privilege to serve as a State Representative for District 70.

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