

Q7

Email address

[REDACTED]

Q8

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Q9

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

2014 Candidate Dona Ana County Commissioner D 1:
2016 Candidate for NM State Senate D 38
2018 Candidate for NM State House D 33
2020 Candidate for NM State Senate D38
2015-17 Charter School Board Member
2017-18 Chairman, Charter School Board
2019 Chairman of Dona Ana County Election Advisory Council

Q10

Why are you seeking this office?

I am saddened by NM's continued low rankings in so many social/economic indicators. As a former science/math teacher and administrator in NM public schools, I know we can and should be doing better. I believe my experience, knowledge and desire for continued public service would add to our representative governance in Santa Fe.

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.

Q12

No

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

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.

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?

Surplus tax revenue should be used to build reserve funds

Please explain your answer:

It is wise to have a sound financial standing. Emergencies do occur and need to be given due consideration for resolution.

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?

Distribution based on economic activity and tax income production by county

Briefly explain your answer :

The current system allows for misuse and for incumbents to be more easily elected. There needs a revision of how the money is distributed.

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)

In my opinion, the GRT is unfair to businesses. Some taxes are regressive -- hurting the ones it is touted to help.

Q17

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

Sales Tax,

Explain your answer:

Businesses should not have to deal with the GRT.

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:

Businesses/industries are going to select those states that can offer the best quality of life for their stakeholders. As I said in Questions 9 and 10, our social/economic indicators are not acceptable. Much data is available pertaining to this very correlation, e.g., "Crony Capitalism, Corruption and the Economy in the State of New Mexico" -- Committee For Economic Development

Q19

Government Mandates: What is your position on government mandates as they apply to businesses?

Some mandates are acceptable but should be formulated through a review process that assures goals are met while not hindering or impeding business operations.

Please explain your position:

Some regulations may be acceptable, if properly, as noted, reviewed and promulgated. Our Constitution speaks of government intrusion when "impairing the Obligation of Contracts."

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?

Yes,

Please briefly explain your answer:

The key word above is "effective." Let's manage our valuable petrochemical resources prudently. They have been a boon for our severance tax fund growth.

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)

As noted in #20, Common sense says we must be prudent in protecting our state's resources. Future generations are counting on us to be good stewards. But, environmentalists have gone too far. I don't agree with their extreme views or tactics. For example, the 4 Corners area has been adversely impacted by their actions. The question might add what regulations, by whom, under what authority and what cost -- to people and resources?

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:

1 (critical)

Providing safety and security to its citizens, I believe is the first and primary function of government. Civil societies require protection from forces without and within. In this context, the society (citizens) could not exist without a viable economic base. The free market system has proved to be the best at fostering and nurturing an entrepreneurial climate. So, the challenge is to maximize business development and sustainability without overburdening them with unfair and unreasonable regulations. Unfortunately, I feel, big government has failed in this effort.

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:

I strongly oppose any additional withdrawals from the LGPF. They were implemented to serve specific purposes.

Q24

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

Oppose,

Comments:

This is an example of government regulatory over-reach, and place undue and unfair burdens on businesses. Increasing overhead just leads to more challenges for business owners. As stated earlier, contractual obligations should be between employer and employee. Fact is, it would do us well to review and possibly sunset existing mandates.

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 allowing the free market or supply/demand to determine an appropriate amount

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Please explain your answer:

The descriptor states it well. Let owner and employee work out the contract.

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)

Research shows there is a shortage of skilled labor. The emphasis has been on college for everyone, perhaps at lessening the dignity in the technical and trade skill areas.

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:

1 (critical)

Using a basic business paradigm, it is essential to have accountability. There needs to be strong safeguards for protecting taxpayers' money.

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:

When this issue appeared a few years ago, I was in favor. But since, I am not. With corruption becoming ever so much more prevalent, I fear a force could coop the best laid plans and things would go "astray." Money and other forces are too tempting. History verifies as such.

Q29

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

Good questions. Thanks for the opportunity to express my views. Of course, much more could be said about the issues raised. I would be honored to be your representative and am able to respond to any inquiries. Contact info is available at cwendler.com
