

Q7

Email address

[REDACTED]

Q8

Phone number

[REDACTED] 56

Q9

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

I have spent time in Santa Fe during legislative sessions over the last three years as President of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts. I am currently the Chairman of the Quemado Soil and Conservation District, a national board member of the National Association of Conservation Districts, and a board member of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association. I have formerly held the position of President of the Quemado Independent School Board, President of the Catron County Farm Bureau, and board member of the New Mexico Jr. Livestock Foundation.

Q10

Why are you seeking this office?

I'm a 5th generation New Mexican and 3rd generation rancher. I am proud of my roots what my family has created due to their hard work. It's my time to work hard for future generations — not just for my own family but for families all over the state.

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.

Yes (please explain):

In 2011 I expanded my business with a satellite office in Magdalena NM. The lady that was running my office at the time was not sending in our CRS taxes or paying the federal payroll taxes. I was unaware of this until I received a certified email in 2012 that my properties were going to be liened. I hired a new accountant at the time and was able to set up a payment plan to pay off those balances. We have paid the Irs and the state of NM in full, the liens have been released and we have remained in compliance since then.

Q12

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

No

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

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:

The recent downturn in oil and gas should be a wake-up call to all of the politicians up in Santa Fe who want to spend like their life depends on it. When we have good years and are in a good place financially, we can make those non-recurring investments, but it would be prudent to build up those reserve funds now so we can eventually use it to better the state.

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 :

Distribution of those funds should not be allocated based on the the tenure of any legislator. That money needs to be distributed fairly for the benefit of the taxpayers in our district, and since the needs of each district vary widely, splitting it up by taking into account tax income and economic activity seems like the best way.

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)

The current GRT-based tax code has become cumbersome and complex. The state has been trying to reform it for years and it's finally time for it to go. We're seeing people being taxed out of business and consumers paying much more than they should because of tax pyramiding. Companies don't want to invest here. We have to make changes if we want our economy to grow.

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:

The GRT tax on services is killing businesses and creating a tax pyramid structure that is not sustainable. I'd be willing to explore options like a sales tax structure.

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:
Economies tend to grow in secure environments. If we want more companies and industries to invest in New Mexico, a low crime rate is a great incentive.

Q19

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

I oppose government mandates on business because they should be left to make the decisions that allow maximum profit and growth.

,
Please explain your position:
Government mandates tend to hold businesses back rather than help them so I would err toward freeing businesses from mandates rather than saddling them with more.

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:
I am supportive of effective land and resource management for oil and gas producers and will make sure they are not strapped down by limiting government regulations.

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:

3

We all have a responsibility to take care of our state and its resources. Any environmental regulations should be reviewed to ensure that what we are implementing is actually effective, and if it is not, we should get rid of it.

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)

We need to take a hard look at the regulations we have in place. The livelihoods of our citizens are far too important to allow ineffective regulations to interfere.

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 be mindful of our spending, including the money that comes out of the LGPF. We need to safeguard those funds for future generations. As this year has proven, we never know what the future will hold. We need to be prepared.

Q24

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

Oppose,

Comments:

Businesses owners need to be in control of their own business policies. The benefits and standards that work for one may not work for all.

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

,

Please explain your answer:

Just like benefits, the way every business runs is different. Holding business owners to provide a minimum wage, especially one that keeps going up, may mean they can't afford to hire low-level positions, and that's one less job available in New Mexico.

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 young people to learn real skills so they can graduate and be ready to work. We're currently losing our students to better jobs in other states. We need to prepare them for jobs that keep them here.

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)

These requirements and clawback parameters keep businesses accountable to make sure that they are not taking advantage of these incentives.

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?

Yes,

Please explain your answer:

The reach of the federal government has grown beyond its means. I would support a Convention of States to check their power and reign it in.

Q29

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

I've built three successful grassroots businesses in the district. I know the ups and downs of making tough decisions and spending wisely. With my business experience, I'm ready to tackle the hard issues and move this state up in the ranks.
