

Q7

Email address

██████████m

Q8

Phone number

██████████

Q9

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

After law school, I served as the Election Protection Coordinator for Common Cause New Mexico, a nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to fair elections, where I organized New Mexico's first state-wide nonpartisan election protection program in 2008. I went on to be a New Mexico House of Representatives Judiciary Committee Analyst, providing nonpartisan legal analysis to committee members before establishing The Duhigg Law Firm.

In August 2018, I was appointed as Albuquerque City Clerk by Mayor Tim Keller. During my time as Clerk, I oversaw the 2019 Local Election for the City, and served as the city's chief records custodian. I hit the ground running after my appointment, revamping the City's Election Code and passing public financing reforms that were approved by 57.87% of voters. My efforts also included reforming the City's Code of Ethics to take politics out of appointments to the Board of Ethics, set clear guidelines regarding campaign ethics, and increase disclosure requirements for elected officials.

I am the former vice president of Common Cause New Mexico. I was also a member of the Bernalillo County Code of Conduct Review Board and the Bernalillo County Valuation Protest Board. I also served as a governance council member and executive board secretary with the RFK Charter School. I was recognized by Common Cause New Mexico in 2018 with a "Special Board Recognition Award" for my work on fair elections at its Best in Government Awards Annual Luncheon.

Q10

Why are you seeking this office?

I have spent my entire career working for the little guy, advocating for governmental and electoral ethics, and serving my community. The current crisis has underscored the need for new approaches to grow and diversify our economy, ensure that all New Mexicans have access to high-quality, affordable health care, and address inequalities that leave significant portions of our community vulnerable to crises like the one we face now. I want to help New Mexicans thrive, in good times and bad.

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:

In general, I support using surplus tax revenue to build reserve funds, but not at the expense of New Mexican's health and safety. If there are immediate needs that can and should be met by those surplus funds, and our reserve levels are otherwise appropriate, then those funds are better spent on preventative care than clean up.

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 :

I think our capital outlay system should be reformed overall, and the focus should be on projects that are merit-based, vetted, and fully funded. I also support full transparency on how capital outlay is funded, what projects are being funded, and by whom.

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:

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I don't believe that the entire tax code needs to be completely restructured, but there are clearly significant segments, such as gross receipt tax, that need reform.

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:

I don't think that GRT or sales tax are the only options. Regardless, the more we can get away from regressive forms of taxation, the better.

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 crime rate does negatively impact New Mexico's ability to attract new business. Your question lays the problem at the hands of the courts, but it's much bigger than that.. Judges can only act on the information presented to them in order to uphold everyone's Constitutional rights. If the DA fails to present information that justifies detention, then that is the failing of the DA; not the judge. If the police don't collect the data appropriately or file it in the appropriate time period, that is not the fault of the judge. We need to do a comprehensive look at the entire system. Database collaboration amongst agencies is critical, including out-of-state database coordination. Adequate information regarding a person's previous participation in behavioral or substance abuse treatment is missing. In addition, in order to protect everyone's Constitutional rights, data needs to be collected quickly and presented quickly. That is often when mistakes, or the failure to completely collect the appropriate data, occurs. Funding is part of the issue, but ensuring that the various agencies properly spend the funding and implement these procedures can be better monitored by the legislature.

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.

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Please explain your position:

The level of regulation that is appropriate depends on the specific industry at issue, as well as any history of consumer abuse, etc. within that industry.

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:

I think our current economic crisis illustrates the danger of putting so many of our eggs in the oil and gas basket. That said, because our state is so dependent on oil and gas at this point, I do not support efforts to impose a moratorium on fracking, etc. It will take time to diversify our economy, and we need to make sure that energy companies are part of that process, and make it a positive and profitable endeavor for all involved.

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)

There is no reason why we can't protect our land, air, and water, and also support a healthy economy.

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 should always be reviewing any and all regulations that the government institutes to determine use and usefulness. That's the job of an effective legislature.

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:

We must address our current educational crisis. We have an important and critical responsibility to change the course of our state. We must support our children, educators and ultimately help the business community with better educated and trained residents.

Q24

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

Support,

Comments:

Healthy, supported workers are good for the economy and the businesses they work for. While I know businesses are concerned about the economic impact of these initiatives, I think it is important to note that safe, healthy employees also protect the businesses from litigation and legal fees, especially in light of COVID. Struggling New Mexicans have to choose between safety and paycheck when working paycheck-to-paycheck. That means unhealthy/sick workers expose themselves and their companies to risk, simply to make ends meet. I commit to work with the business community on implementing legislation that can work for the employer and employees.

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

Please explain your answer:

All workers deserve a living wage. When our residents make a living wage, they are more productive members of society, and thus we see the need for governmental assistance go down.

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)

1 (Critical)

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)

1 (critical)

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 unknowns surrounding a constitutional convention pose an unacceptable risk, particularly in the current polarized political climate. There is nothing in the Constitution to prevent a constitutional convention from being expanded in scope to issues not raised in convention calls passed by the state legislatures. Simply put, an Article V constitutional convention is a dangerous and uncontrollable process that would put Americans' constitutional rights up for grabs.

Q29

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

I am running for the State Senate because I believe that New Mexico is at a tipping point. Even before the current public health crisis, I knew that we need new approaches to reduce crime, grow our economy, lift up our communities and families, and develop a path for our children to build careers and raise their families right here at home. And now, with a public health and economic crisis on our doorstep, I know it's more important than ever that we elect strong, compassionate, transparent leaders to see New Mexico through these tough times.

I have dedicated my career as an election-protection and consumer-protection attorney to fighting for New Mexicans. I was then fortunate to be appointed to serve as the City Clerk of Albuquerque to ensure fair and ethical elections, including revamping the City's Election Code and passing public financing reforms. My work included setting clear guidelines regarding campaign ethics and increasing disclosure requirements for elected officials. I am a former Vice President of Common Cause New Mexico, a nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to fair elections. I want to bring my commitment to ethics and fighting for fairness for New Mexicans to the State Senate.
