



## **NMBC 2021 Congressional District 1 Candidate Survey**

New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) is a statewide nonpartisan, pro-business organization. NMBC focuses on improving the business environment for companies and the quality of life for all New Mexicans. One of our goals is to educate New Mexican voters and encourage them to participate in the process. In that regard, we want to provide voters with as much information on candidates as possible. Please explain your answers for each question as it will help voters understand your reasoning and positions.

### Question Title

\* 1. Candidate Name: Melanie Stansbury

\* 2. Political Party Affiliation: Democratic Party

\* 5. Address: PO Box 51493

\* 6. City and Zip Code: Albuquerque, 87181

\* 7. Email address: rocky@melanieformm.com

\* 8. Phone number: Rocky Cordova: (575) 551-1349, Melanie Stansbury: (505) 750-7079

9. What are your past activities/experience that qualify you to serve in Congress? (Offices held, candidate, volunteer, etc.)

I am a native of New Mexico and State Legislator, representing New Mexico House District 28 on the east side of Albuquerque. Like so many women who answered the call in 2018, I stepped up to run for a State House seat that many thought could never be won. But, we organized and mobilized -- and together not only flipped the seat, but elected the first woman to represent the district -- me.

Since taking office in 2019, I have rolled up my sleeves and gotten to work. I have passed 14 pieces of legislation focused on addressing childhood hunger, modernizing our electric grid, fostering resilience in our water and food systems, improving education, expanding economic opportunity and public safety, improving access to healthcare, and using sound science in decision-making. I have worked in communities across the state as a STEM educator and researcher on land and water issues and served as a former staffer in the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the White House Office of Management and Budget. If I am elected to represent our community as the next Congresswoman of New Mexico's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, I will put this lifetime of experiences to work for our people.

10. Why are you seeking the position of U.S. Representative?

I am running for Congress because I believe in our communities and ability to bring meaningful change. As a New Mexican, I know the grit, determination, and heart of our people. I know that we are resilient and that we put our hearts and minds together -- our communities thrive. I know

that when we lean into our values – family, community, land & water, culture, respect and hard work – we get the job done.

I am running for New Mexico's 1st Congressional District to lift up the voices of our communities and tackle our biggest challenges from economic development, to food and water security, to climate change. I am deeply committed to advancing the human and civil rights of all people, including BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, women, people living with disabilities, and historically disadvantaged and disproportionately impacted communities. This campaign is all about building a more just, equitable, and sustainable world that puts our communities first.

11. 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.

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

No.

13. 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.

14. What is your position on government mandates, such as minimum wage, paid sick leave, etc.? Please select one of the options below and explain your answer.

- It is necessary for the government to strictly regulate business operations to assure best practices are enforced and the public's safety and interests are met.
- Some mandates are acceptable but should be formulated through a review process that assures goals are met while not hindering or impeding business operations.
- I oppose government mandates on businesses because those policies should be determined by business owners/operators who better understand the needs of their employees and operations.

I believe that the government has a responsibility to place some mandates on business operations, but I support a review process that ensures goals are met while not hindering or impeding business operations. The responsibilities of our government to protect our communities are two-fold - we must ensure that workers receive living wages and necessary benefits, while also ensuring that our local businesses and economies can thrive. I support examining mandates through a comprehensive review process to make certain that both workers and business owners have a seat at the table and a voice in the discussion.

15. What is your position on effective land and resource management in regards to the extractive industries? Please select one of the options below and explain your answer.

- It is necessary for the government to strictly regulate the extractive industries to assure best practices are enforced and the public's safety and interests in clean air water and land are met.
- Mandates are necessary but should be formulated through an open and representative review process that assures environmental goals are met while allowing productive business operations.

- I oppose government mandates on the extractive industries because those policies should be determined by business owners/operators.
- Other or explanation (optional):

I believe that it is necessary for the government to strictly regulate the extractive industries to assure best practices are enforced and the public's safety and interests in clean air, water, and land are met. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues our country faces today - we have a responsibility to divest from fossil fuels and an oil-based economy, and to invest in renewable energy alternatives to support a just transition to a 100% clean energy future. As New Mexico makes the shift away from fossil fuels, we must care for and protect our workers by creating training and sustainable jobs for underserved communities.

In the New Mexico Legislature, I have championed legislation to provide clean energy jobs, mitigate pollution, curb emissions, and help New Mexico to move towards a diversified economy that is not dependent on gas and oil revenue, leading us toward net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. In Congress, I will continue my work of sponsoring and supporting legislation which provides for federally-financed clean energy alternatives and enforces environmental laws.

16. Regulation: On a scale of one (critical) to five (unimportant), how important is environmental regulation to protect the United States' land, air, and water?

1 (Critical) 2 3 4 5 (Unimportant)

Explanation/comments: Please choose the best answer from the available options. Any additional explanation will help voters better understand your positions on these issues and is encouraged.

\_\_\_ What role should the federal government play in managing states?

- It should continue to hold a central role in managing assets and procedures for the common good, but should not dictate to states how they are managed
- It should take a more active role in determining standard policies such as minimum wage, employee benefits, and taxation to allow uniform policies throughout the U.S.
- Other or explanation (optional):

I believe that states should have the ability to dictate how assets and resources are managed and allocated. However, I grew up in a community where many struggled, and I know what it's like to struggle to make it through the month, put food on the table, or see a doctor. With this experience comes an understanding that our communities need living wages, equitable healthcare and employee benefits. I support reforming New Mexico's tax system to lower taxes for families and local businesses to create a level playing field so that New Mexico's businesses and economy can grow. I believe that we must work together with both businesses and employees to advocate for solutions that will protect workers, businesses, and the economy.

If I am elected to Congress, I will continue to advocate for a living wage for workers, more meaningful and sustainable jobs, workers' rights, and equal pay for equal work, while also advocating for the needs and concerns of New Mexican business owners to find fair and equitable solutions.

\_\_\_ What is your position on requiring identification to vote?

- I support Voter Identification
- I oppose Voter Identification

Chose one above and explain:

I recognize that voter identification laws disproportionately impact marginalized communities, and can create additional barriers to voting for those who are not financially able to obtain photo identification or a government-issued ID. I am in support of voter identification solutions such as those offered in H.R.1 - the For the People Act. This legislation provides for alternatives to a government-issued photo ID if one cannot be obtained, such as a sworn written statement attesting to the individual's identity as a permissible alternative to a photo ID. I know that we can maintain the security of our electoral process, while also removing historical barriers to voter access and ensuring that the voices of all New Mexicans are heard.

\_\_\_ With regards to Social Security: (Choose all that apply)

- It should be left as it is
- It should be updated to assure that all participants receive their full benefits through retirement
- It should be privatized so that individuals take a more active role in managing their retirement resources
- It should be eliminated
- Other or explanation (optional):

In Congress, I will fight for the right of all participants to receive their full social security benefits through retirement. Especially during the uncertain times of the pandemic, we must put money back into the pockets of our communities, and prioritize investments in our elders and others who receive social security benefits due to disability.

17. 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?

I believe in the importance of term limits for federal officials, in addition to ensuring that the powers of the federal government are balanced with the autonomy of states. However, I recognize that an Article V, Convention of States has the potential to significantly alter the United States Constitution and the ways in which our democracy functions. In Congress, I will advocate for term limits for federal officials, and seek solutions which provide for a balance between state autonomy and necessary regulations and jurisdiction identified by the federal government.

18. What is your position on the concept that, "Congress and Washington D.C. bureaucrats don't have an income (tax revenue) problem; they have a spending problem."?

I believe that we must do everything in our power to ensure that our tax dollars are appropriately allocated at a federal level. It is essential that we invest in our economic strengths and our people, to ensure that everyone has every opportunity to succeed. Our government should work for New Mexicans, and I believe in ensuring that tax revenue is put towards resources that will actually benefit our communities, such as the creation of sustainable jobs, COVID-19 relief for families and businesses, investments in our children, educators, and schools, and resources to address issues such as food insecurity, access to healthcare, and re-building our economy to ensure everyone can thrive.

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

I am a native of New Mexico and a state legislator, representing New Mexico House District 28 on the east side of Albuquerque. I am running for Congress because I believe in our communities

and ability to bring meaningful change. As a New Mexican, I know the grit, determination, and heart of our people. I know that we are resilient and that when we put our hearts and minds together – our communities thrive. I know that when we lean into our values – family, community, land and water, culture, respect and hard work – we get the job done. This campaign is all about building a more just, equitable, sustainable world that puts our communities first.