

Q7

Email address

[REDACTED]

Q8

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Q9

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

No purely political activity. As a Professional Engineer, I strove to produce my work according to engineering principles and standards, providing the best engineering solutions regardless of politics. I have been consulted as a water resources engineer and have prepared testimony on behalf of myself, NM State Engineers and governors on appropriations and authorizing legislation. I have served in an advisory capacity to several governors' environmental roundtables, advisory roles appointed by NM governors and federal secretaries of the Department of the Interior, and served on bodies advising the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture.

Q10

Why are you seeking this office?

I have an unwavering belief in preserving and defending the constitutions of New Mexico and the United States. I believe that no government may eliminate or restrict the people's constitutional rights and must be bound tightly to recognize that God-given rights are inviolate restrictions on all our governing bodies without exception. I believe that governments exist to protect the rights of the people, including life and liberty and that only the people of this state and nation authorize the existence of our governments. Government exists and has powers given by the people, as opposed to a current opinion expressed by some that government grants rights to the people and that government may withdraw the rights of the people as it alone may choose. Broad attacks on our rights and form of governing by a constitutional republic are why I believe more than ever that the people of this nation and state must step up to defend and protect our federal and state constitutions. I will do all in my power to protect and defend our New Mexico and United States constitutions, our constitutional rights and our form of government as set forth by our founders. I believe I can be most effective in the state legislature due to my experience in the state's executive branch which gave me a thorough understanding of the operation of New Mexico's government.

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

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

Yes (please explain):

I was a co-defendant in my wife's Chapter 13 bankruptcy per New Mexico community property law. All debts were paid in full on time and the court of jurisdiction discharged the bankruptcy.

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 as well as one-time, non-recurring expenditures, 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

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Please explain your answer:

I believe the state should be placing surplus funds in reserve for emergencies or reasonable revenue shortfalls brought out by extreme conditions, and then only with case-specific legislative authorization. I believe the state's permanent funds should be reserved for future needs as intended and protected fully for use only as necessary to fund the future state operating costs. Severance tax income will diminish in the future as the state's natural resources are depleted. Hence, it is imperative to build permanent funds to levels that will produce the highest annual interest income to create the most benefit to taxpayers by offsetting future income taxes necessary to produce operating capital. Those permanent funds may be highly needed in the future when capital project replacements are required at the end of their economic life. It makes greater sense to fund additional capital project expansion as the population grows from income produced as interest from the permanent funds. I find the governor's intent to fund new social programs from the state's permanent fund senseless and devastating to future generations of New Mexicans.

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 :

Legislator funds should be equally distributed because, technically, legislative districts are roughly equal in population numbers. I oppose gerrymandering future districts to disadvantage regions of the state that are significantly and culturally distinct with different values or priorities. I believe that some capital projects by classification or type should be prioritized through regional planning to nonpolitically determine statewide priorities. An example of this could be water supply or wastewater treatment plant projects that would depend not only on regional priority but also on public safety from a statewide perspective determined from a professional evaluation rather than as political favors. Joint projects between districts could be undertaken if a project or need is established that jointly benefits the districts as determined by the representatives of each participating district.

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)

Taxes are collected from numerous sources, but taxes are ultimately paid by the consumer of the products and services offered. When a person buys a product or service from a business that pays tax, the tax is in the cost you pay. Also, businesses have to hire people and services to pay the taxes they collect, so the purchaser also pays that cost. It is cheaper for the consumer if the costs of collecting pass-through taxes are minimized. Gross receipts taxes would be a great place to start tax reform. Another great benefit to New Mexicans would be a substantive income tax reduction that would reduce the need for two-income families by reducing proposed social programs to aid working parents. This means more mommy and daddy times for children, and less government tax and bloated government overhead and administrative costs; that is a win-win for families.

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:

Sales tax is a direct tax collected by businesses at the point of sale and is paid by the consumer of the goods or services. There are operating expenses for a business to collect and pay taxes, and those costs are included in the price of the product or service sold to the consumer. On the other hand, gross receipts tax is a tax on all business revenue. Gross receipts tax does not consider the operating costs, cost of goods and services sold, and business expenses that have not been paid when the tax is rendered to the governing entity. Hence, gross receipts tax does not correctly portray the profits and losses of the business and is always to the benefit of the government. My position is to eliminate gross receipts tax. Other methods of replacing the unfair gross receipts tax may be available.

Q18

Crime: Do you believe that the crime rate and the court's sentencing of criminals in New Mexico negatively impacts our ability to attract new businesses and industries to our state?

Yes,

Please explain your answer:

Absolutely. High crime rates are definitely considered by businesses when looking to transfer or expand operations in New Mexico; they want their employees to thrive in a safe place. I believe New Mexico should consider limits to judicial powers when a judge oversteps other authorities such as parole boards or by legislating from the bench. Legislation must be considered limiting judges' sole authority to release violent and/or repeat criminals by clearly identifying criminal activities for which no release should be permitted. Judges' ability to ignore sentencing minimums should be strictly limited, especially because a legislative body expresses the people's will through elected representation.

Q19

Crime: What are your thoughts on the 2016 Constitutional Amendment, Denial of Bail for Certain Felonies, and its impact on the state?

It has been detrimental to the state by putting dangerous criminals back on the streets

Please explain your position:

Crime is soaring in New Mexico. I believe that allowing the release of criminals because of their inability to pay the cost of bonds may be contributing to the surge and that some judges may have abused their powers for political purposes. Modifications or restrictions on releases of criminally charged persons must be changed to include prohibiting or limiting poverty releases for repeat offenders. The preponderance of evidence should place a substantial limitation on judicial use of a poverty standard for repeat offenders, regardless of the seriousness of the crime. Innocent citizens always pay the price for crime prevention and prosecution, but further sloughing of the costs induced by repeat offenders onto the burden of law-abiding citizens is not fair and only provides additional incentive to repeat criminal behavior.

Q20

Government Mandates: What is your position on general government mandates on business operations?

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

Q21

Energy: NM's oil and gas producers were largely responsible for the dramatic increase in state tax revenue. 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:

Absolutely a priority for New Mexico as we build for a more secure future and quality of life. Multiple uses of our public lands must be sustained as opposed to single-use preserves proposed by environmental groups and trends in federal agencies that have superseded or deemphasized the management of federal lands for multiple uses. Another avenue that must be explored for state lands is to protect multiple uses through tort reform to restrict judicial priorities restricting multiple uses.

Q22

Regulation: On a scale of one (critical) to five (unimportant), how important is it that environmental regulations be increased/expanded from current levels to protect New Mexico's land, air, and water?

(no label)

Briefly explain your answer:

3

I believe protecting New Mexico's land, water and air is necessary. Having said that, I believe there are significant opportunities for deregulation reforms to enhance business responsibly and recreational opportunities. Regulations must be adopted pursuant to specific statutory authorization and must be data-driven with no room for the uncertainty of outcome. I believe New Mexico must adopt a procedure of legislative authorization of regulatory actions before implementation. Regulations are a significant impact on the operating costs of business. I believe that an investigation of regulations may reveal dysfunctionality or competing interests with other regulations. An example of this may be competing interests to improve water supplies through land management practices instead of hands-off practices on wildland vegetation that increase fire and erosion. Many installations of solar panel equipment have the potential to increase soil erosion and impact water quality significantly. Still, the desire to install solar equipment should not be allowed more lenient environmental regulations that are not equivalent to regulations required of oil and gas producers. All regulations must be equally applied.

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:

Use of the Land Grant Permanent Fund should be restricted to the original purposes of the fund. I believe that some persons in our state want to expand uses to preschool entities, some of which may be contrary to the wishes of parents whose children could be indoctrinated at an early age without consent. Some reasoning for weekday early education would be eliminated if tax cuts are enacted so that two incomes are not necessary to support a family. A return to a model of a family raised by an income producer and a stay-at-home spouse allows people to bring up children in a family-nurturing environment as opposed to a tax-producing environment requiring two wage-earner families.

Q24

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

Oppose,

Comments:

Employee benefits should be an option left entirely to a business and a business-driven decision. Unions are an option available to employees but must not be forced on the employees. Businesses that cannot provide employee benefits are likely unable to attract a workforce in a thriving economy and are unlikely to survive. Still, the only interference from the government is to reasonably regulate the health and safety of the workforce. A free-market economy will weed out non-competitive businesses because of an unstable workforce. Government must never be in the business of running businesses in a free society. Government's role is to protect a thriving free-market economy.

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:

A common misconception is that raising a mandated minimum wage will produce happier people. The fact is that a higher minimum wage produces a higher cost of living. Government's great deception is that higher wages also create more taxes to fuel more government. New Mexico requires employers to comply with its benefits policy or employment contracts. New Mexico does not require employee benefits. Businesses offer benefit packages to encourage employment stability. I support requiring employers to pay time and a half for mandatory overtime for non-exempt employees. I believe that additional benefit offerings should be in the purview of the business responsible for its security, goals and business objectives. Suppose New Mexico and local governments can establish considerable expansion of diverse business and industrial opportunities that provide greater career earning potential. In that case, many questions about the minimum wage are solved by people seeking new jobs to advance from entry-level positions to better jobs. I believe government should develop opportunities to expand job opportunities for its citizens. Expanded job opportunities will create an environment where wage increases will be necessary to attract employees and remain in business.

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)

New Mexico must develop light industry and manufacturing around existing natural resources, including our workforce. New Mexico still had higher unemployment than many areas of the country before the Covid-19 shutdowns. Basically, that means New Mexico still has a workforce that has not been fully engaged to its potential. To that end, our education system has neglected many of our students who do not intend to attend a university, resulting in our chronic high dropout rate from secondary schools. There is no acceptable reason for New Mexico not to provide education early in secondary schools to produce technical and skilled labor training ready to enter the workforce at a functional apprentice or intern level upon graduation from secondary schools. This will result in greater starting wages as opposed to a base entry-level. Additional post-secondary educational opportunities should be developed and implemented for skilled technician and laboratory careers to enhance greater income-earning opportunities. Vo-tech schools in each secondary school would enhance student retention and significantly reduce dropout rates.

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:

LEDA and JTIP are utilized for post-secondary students. Leda is oriented toward college education at "top" universities, for which I believe no preference over our state's universities should be given priority. JTIP is orientated toward non-college-bound students in pursuit of manufacturing, light industrial, or technical applications. Tax abatement is a process that slowly rolls in taxes on start-ups or other special-purpose programs. Tax abatement programs are generally incentivized by tax reduction over a period of time. Use of any of these programs should require post-graduate or post-certificate service in New Mexico or in qualified underdeveloped communities from program participants. All the programs should require mandatory reporting achievements with goals and claw-back requirements to substantiate success measurements. It is necessary to develop our education system in secondary and post-secondary training that will provide skills and a better income earning potential for New Mexicans that do not desire a university degree. Measures to produce enhanced capabilities should be introduced sooner rather than later in our education system. I believe introduction sooner in our education system will help also to reduce high dropout rates seen in New Mexico's high school because interest levels by students will be enhanced for students more interested in manual or technical work. Our universities produce quality graduates that are sought around the country; that may be a problem for this state because so many of our college graduates have to leave the state to find a job that reflects the knowledge and abilities gained. The state has failed its graduates if we cannot attract the industry, manufacturing and skill-based applications.

Q28

What is your opinion of sanctuary status for the state of New Mexico?

Sanctuary status violates federal and state law and should not be an option for New Mexico

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Please explain your answer:

If New Mexicans desire to implement sanctuary status, it should be authorized by the people. Politicians have usurped the authority of the people to impose their personal reasons for sanctuary.

Q29

Currently the governor can extend emergency declarations/orders 30 indefinitely. Do you support or oppose new legislation requiring legislative approval of any executive 'emergency' declaration beyond 60 days?

Other (please specify):

I support the law as written that requires the governor to call the legislature into session and stay in session for the duration of the emergency. An emergency declaration that does not require readily available funding appropriation to address the emergency leads to a conclusion that no emergency exists. I support the constitutional requirement that the legislature authorizes expenditures for all purposes, including emergency provisions.

Q30

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

Our government has unreasonably grown over the last few years under the current administration to the detriment of our future. The current expenditures of this administration are unsustainable. New Mexico's oil and gas golden egg is being purposely damaged to the point that it threatens the sustainability of the permanent fund, and some legislators intend to further damage the fund's sustainability by increasing distributions. The inevitable outcome, in that case, is an increased tax burden on the citizens of this state. Coupled with the cost of energy our government is trying to force us into, the future of the citizens is placed in significant jeopardy to support a massively overgrown government that only massive tax increases can support. With the current administration's intent to proceed with an expensive energy transition controlled by a foreign corporation, the highest unemployment in the nation, prolific drug abuse and a failing educational system, it is time for New Mexicans to step up, vote out those politicians responsible, take control of the situation and correct the course that our government has taken. I will support and defend the constitutional rights of every New Mexican, support every effort to reduce taxes, revive our educational system, empower our police to provide safety and security from criminals, and restore and develop our economy to provide rewarding job opportunities for New Mexicans. Together we can put New Mexicans back in control of their destinies and empower our people to thrive in the future. It is time for New Mexico to elect politicians to serve the people rather than rule over them.
