

## Candidate Questionnaire

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### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

1. What do you believe are the top three drivers of crime in New Mexico today, and how would you address them?

**Answer:** Poverty and a stagnant economy; a failing education system; and poor mental health and addiction. We must address crime by first and foremost building a thriving, dynamic, vibrant economy. People need opportunities other than crime, and they need productive diversions away from crime. New Mexico must start attracting sustainable jobs, including in manufacturing, so that people choose a path other than criminal activity. New Mexico must improve educational outcomes so that young people can succeed instead of falling through the cracks. New Mexico must build its primary care and mental health capacity to prevent and treat addiction and mental health problems.

2. What specific policies would you support to address repeat offenders and violent crime?

**Answer:** People convicted of crimes should serve the entirety of their sentence and should face consequences for parole violations. New Mexico should not be proud of reducing the number of people incarcerated in our correctional facilities. Incarceration is a necessary part of maintaining public safety. If you do the crime, you should do the time.

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### **CYFD & CHILD WELLBEING**

1. New Mexico has faced ongoing challenges within CYFD. What specific reforms would you prioritize to improve child safety and outcomes?

**Answer:** I will appoint a prosecutor as Secretary of CYFD. I will direct CYFD to find a way to exit the Kevin S. Settlement, which handcuffs CYFD's operation and budget. CYFD must ensure that the best interests of each individual child are the top priority in every decision it makes. CYFD should seek to terminate parental rights of abusers quickly, aggressively, and often. CYFD should stop prioritizing reunification with abusive biological parents. CYFD must stop driving away good foster parents through ideological pressure. CYFD should welcome cooperation from churches and other faith-based organizations. CYFD should partner with churches and other faith-based organizations to support foster children and foster parents. CYFD must

acknowledge the value of congregate care and rebuild congregate care capacity, including group homes and residential treatment. CYFD should diversify its workforce with more than social workers; former firefighters, police officers, teachers, and nurses should be recruited aggressively and welcomed at CYFD. CYFD must increase information sharing and transparency with other agencies. CYFD's mission should include prenatal care.

2. How can New Mexico better prevent child abuse and neglect before state intervention is necessary?

**Answer:** New Mexico should invest in more extensive prenatal care, rather than spending money on abortion clinics. Police departments should create special teams to respond to and investigate crimes against children. Schools should continue to expand offerings of after-school programs, including sports and music, to provide productive outlets for students. CYFD should stop prioritizing reunification with abusive biological parents. The State should eliminate personal income taxes so that families have greater flexibility when making child care choices. The State should eliminate gross receipts taxes on retail sales so that families can stretch their dollars and create more comfortable, welcoming homes for children.

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## EDUCATION

1. New Mexico consistently ranks low in national education outcomes. What do you believe is the root cause, and how would you address it?

**Answer:** New Mexico has for too long accepted a culture of low expectations for its students. We must institute a culture of high expectations and encourage students to work hard to meet those expectations. New Mexico discourages the best and brightest students; instead, New Mexico's schools should specifically seek out the brightest students early in their education, provide those students with more opportunities and attention, and get them on the fast track to higher education. New Mexico's educational outcomes are wildly uneven across communities; we should be more precise with reporting education statistics so that we see the true location of problem schools. New Mexico does not allow its teachers to teach; instead, we saddle teachers with solving all sorts of other social problems. New Mexico must let teachers teach instead of piling on administrative bloat.

2. What is your position on school choice options (charter, private, homeschool, ESA programs), and why?

**Answer:** I support school choice options and believe money should follow families. Families should have greater flexibility to choose school options which work for them.

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## **HEALTHCARE ACCESS**

1. Many communities in New Mexico—especially rural areas—face limited access to healthcare. What solutions would you propose?

**Answer:** New Mexico should immediately join interstate licensure compacts for medical professionals. At the same time, New Mexico should increase telemedicine options and streamline telemedicine licensing and credentialing. We should continue the medical malpractice reform effort so that doctors come to and stay in New Mexico. UNM and NMSU must expand their nursing and medical schools. New Mexico should eliminate personal income tax to attract professional medical providers.

2. How can the state address provider shortages while maintaining quality of care?

**Answer:** New Mexico should immediately join interstate licensure compacts for medical professionals. At the same time, New Mexico should increase telemedicine options and streamline telemedicine licensing and credentialing. We should continue the medical malpractice reform effort so that doctors come to and stay in New Mexico. UNM and NMSU must expand their nursing and medical schools. New Mexico should eliminate personal income tax to attract professional medical providers.

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## ENERGY PRODUCTION

1. New Mexico's economy relies heavily on oil and gas revenue. How should the state balance energy production with environmental concerns?

**Answer:** New Mexico should adopt an "all of the above" energy policy. We should continue to take advantage of our tremendous oil and gas resources and also continue to explore alternatives. We should immediately explore and exploit desalination so that we secure our water future. New Mexico should invest in immediate construction of at least five large-scale desalination facilities. I will appoint a new energy czar, headquartered in Lea County, Eddy County, or Chaves County, to ensure we have someone on the ground near the Permian Basin to make sure New Mexico gets the most out of its oil resources. At the same time, I will work with major oil producers to find out how they can most efficiently and effectively manage their processes to minimize environmental impacts.

2. How would your energy policies impact jobs, state revenue, and cost of living for New Mexicans?

**Answer:** New Mexico will see more sustainable jobs, more sustainable state revenue, and lower costs of living.

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## AFFORDABILITY & COST OF LIVING

1. What do you see as the biggest contributors to the rising cost of living in New Mexico?

**Answer:** New Mexicans are taxed too broadly, too deeply, and too steeply. New Mexicans face the fourth-highest tax burden in the United States. At the same time, industries are not moving into New Mexico and are even moving away. We have too few job opportunities and too many taxes.

2. How should the state approach taxation and spending to reduce financial pressure on families?

**Answer:** Eliminate state personal income tax. Eliminate gross receipts tax on retail sales. Cooperate and coordinate with counties to ease property taxes. Focus on investing in projects with a high return-on-investment potential, instead of spending on low-impact programs.

## PARENTAL RIGHTS

1. What rights do you believe parents should have in directing their child's education, healthcare, and upbringing?

**Answer:** Parents should possess access to all information regarding their child's education, healthcare, and upbringing. Monetary assistance for child care should follow the family, rather than go directly to the child care provider. New Mexico should lower taxes for families so that parents have greater flexibility in choosing how they wish to raise their children. Parents should not be penalized or threatened for expressing their views on how they wish to raise their children.

2. In what situations, if any, should schools or healthcare providers make major decisions affecting a child without parental notification or consent?

**Answer:** Schools and healthcare providers should not make major decisions affecting a child without parental notification or consent. Parents should be informed of and involved in any and all decisions which affect their child.

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## LIFE (SANCTITY OF LIFE)

1. What is your position on abortion policy in New Mexico?

**Answer:** I am pro-life. New Mexico should not and must not spend any taxpayer money on building or operating abortion clinics. New Mexico should not spend any taxpayer money on providing or obtaining abortions. However, New Mexico should respect court rulings regarding the availability of abortions. As Governor, I will veto any legislative appropriation that uses taxpayer money on abortion.

2. What role should the state play in regulating or funding abortion services?

**Answer:** The State of New Mexico should not and must not spend any taxpayer money on building or operating abortion clinics. New Mexico should not spend any taxpayer money on providing or obtaining abortions. However, New Mexico should respect court rulings regarding the availability of abortions. New Mexico can regulate medical providers who provide abortion in the same manner as any other medical provider: ensure proper credentials and licensure and require reporting.

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## CLOSING SECTION

1. Why are you running for this office?

**Answer:** I was raised in rural New Mexico by a single mother on Medicaid and learned perseverance and grit from hardship. As a graduate of NMSU, I rose through accounting roles to become COO of Lovelace, one of New Mexico's largest healthcare providers. I later founded Ultra Health, growing it into the state's leading medical cannabis provider, creating hundreds of jobs, and serving thousands of patients. I brought my expertise to public service as Secretary of the New Mexico Human Services Department under Governor Gary Johnson, deepening my understanding of healthcare access. I am running for Governor to fix New Mexico's healthcare crisis, improve education, fight crime, build a vibrant economy, and help every resident succeed. New Mexico has given me more than I ever imagined, and now I want to give back. My run for Governor is my way of saying "thank you" to the Land of Enchantment. I want every New Mexican to enjoy the same opportunities the state gave to me.

2. What sets you apart from other candidates in this race?

**Answer:** I will bring more than forty years of business and private sector experience to the Governor's office. I have worked on Main Street and Wall Street. I have operated companies with five employees and five thousand employees. I have built businesses from the ground up. If you want the same tired old political platitudes, hire a politician. If you want innovative business solutions, hire a businessman like me.