

Sen. David Gallegos – NMFAM Survey Responses

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

The top three drivers are under-resourced law enforcement, widespread substance abuse, and a court system built around catch-and-release rather than accountability. To address them: we fund and support our officers, expand substance abuse treatment options tied to real consequences, and hold our judges and prosecutors publicly accountable until the revolving door stops spinning.

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

I will support mandatory minimum sentencing for violent repeat offenders, oppose policies that allow dangerous individuals back onto our streets without bail or supervision, and work with the Trump administration to ensure that criminal illegal aliens are deported rather than recycled through our system. I will also push for greater public transparency on judicial release decisions so New Mexicans can see exactly who is making those calls and hold them accountable at the ballot box.

CYFD & CHILD WELLBEING

1. What specific reforms would you prioritize to improve child safety and outcomes?

The problem at CYFD is structural. The dedicated men and women in the field are doing their best inside a broken system. My priority is a top-to-bottom organizational rebuild with clear lines of accountability, reduced caseloads, better training, and leadership that answers for outcomes rather than process. Children's safety cannot be sacrificed to bureaucratic inertia.

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

Prevention starts with the family. I have long championed fathers' rights legislation, because the research is unambiguous: children in homes with engaged fathers experience dramatically lower rates of abuse, poverty, and involvement in the criminal justice system.

Strengthening families, including ensuring courts give fathers meaningful access to their children, is the most cost-effective child protection policy we have. We should also expand community-based support for at-risk families before a crisis requires state removal.

EDUCATION

1. What do you believe is the root cause of New Mexico's low education outcomes, and how would you address it?

The root cause is an accountability vacuum. We test endlessly and the results go nowhere: no feedback loop to teachers, no meaningful intervention for struggling students, no consequences for persistent failure. Mississippi faced the same crisis and fixed it by committing to early literacy, value-added assessment, and holding every level of the system accountable for results. New Mexico needs that same discipline and that same political will.

2. What is your position on school choice options — charter, private, homeschool, ESA programs?

I support all of them, without apology. Charter schools are outperforming traditional public schools in comparable populations. Homeschool students consistently exceed their peers academically. ESA and "money follows the child" models are showing real promise, including in Native American communities here in New Mexico. Competition improves every system it touches. Parents, not zip codes, should determine where a child is educated.

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

1. What solutions would you propose for limited healthcare access, especially in rural areas?

We must actively recruit physicians and specialists to New Mexico, and that means making our state worth coming to. Tort reform to protect doctors from predatory lawsuits is essential; providers will not locate in a state where they face unlimited personal liability for split-second decisions. The interstate licensing compacts we've passed are a meaningful step toward expanding the provider pool. Telehealth expansion and incentivized rural placement programs should be part of the mix as well.

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

By getting out of the way where regulation is the obstacle, and investing strategically where the market alone won't solve the problem. That means streamlining licensing for qualified out-of-state providers, protecting specialists' scope of practice so we don't drive them elsewhere, and listening directly to the medical community rather than imposing solutions from Santa Fe. I will make physician recruitment and retention a personal priority.

ENERGY PRODUCTION

1. How should the state balance energy production with environmental concerns?

The industry has made genuine environmental progress and deserves acknowledgment for it. Smart regulation means holding bad actors accountable while allowing responsible producers to grow. What we must avoid is using environmental policy as a pretext for strangling an industry that funds roughly a third of our state budget. I have proposed relocating the Oil Conservation Division to Southeast New Mexico: regulators who live in the communities they regulate make better, more grounded decisions.

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

Growing the industry responsibly means more jobs for New Mexico workers, more revenue for schools and infrastructure, and ultimately downward pressure on energy costs for families. The workers in the Permian Basin and the San Juan Basin wake up early, work hard, and carry this state's finances. My policies will be built around supporting them: not viewing them as a problem to be managed from Albuquerque.

AFFORDABILITY & COST OF LIVING

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

Government waste, fraud, and abuse driving unnecessary spending; regulatory overreach strangling small businesses and suppressing competition; and energy policies that, if allowed to drift left, would drive up costs for every New Mexico family. We are not suffering from a revenue problem--we are suffering from a spending and accountability problem.

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

Start with a serious, transparent audit of state government. I am convinced that what we find will shock taxpayers, and that eliminating it will create the fiscal space to reduce the burden on working families without cutting essential services. Government that is accountable spends less. Government that spends less taxes less. That's the sequence, and I intend to follow it.

PARENTAL RIGHTS

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

Expansive ones. Parents are the primary authority in their children's lives, full stop. They should have the right to direct their child's education, to be informed of and consent to medical decisions, and to raise their children according to their values without government interference. We have paid a generational price for allowing bureaucracies to quietly displace parents, and I intend to reverse that.

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

Only in genuine, immediate emergencies where a child's life is at risk and a parent cannot be reached in time. That is the narrow exception, and it should remain narrow. The moment a parent can be contacted, authority returns to the family. Schools are not co-parents. Healthcare providers serve the child and family together. Any policy that routinely excludes parents from decisions about their own children is a policy I will oppose.

LIFE (SANCTITY OF LIFE)

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

I am pro-life. I believe every human life has inherent dignity and deserves protection. New Mexico's current policy, among the most permissive in the world, is a moral failure, and I have said so publicly, including in Washington, D.C.

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

The state should not be funding an abortion industry with taxpayer dollars. Medical

decisions about pregnancy should be made by licensed physicians exercising genuine medical judgment, not by providers whose financial model depends on performing procedures. And New Mexico should not be in the business of subsidizing abortion tourism from other states. Our focus should be on supporting New Mexico women, New Mexico families, and New Mexico children, both before and after birth.

CLOSING

1. Why are you running for this office?

Because New Mexico deserves leaders who are actually from here and actually fighting for here. As a 14th-generation New Mexican, this isn't a stepping stone for me; it's home. I've spent 14 years in the legislature learning how this state works, and I've seen too many decisions made for out-of-state interests, national agendas, and political ambitions that have nothing to do with the people of New Mexico. I'm running because I'm not willing to watch that continue.

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

Experience, relationships, and authenticity. Fourteen years in the legislature means I know the process, the people, and the pressure points. There is no learning curve. As a rural Hispanic New Mexican, I bring a perspective that speaks directly to communities that have been talked about but rarely represented at the executive level. Thirty years with Gas Company of New Mexico and sixteen years with Ramirez and Sons Construction means I understand what businesses need to survive and grow. And as someone who has fought for fathers' rights, pro-life policy, law enforcement, and parental authority long before this race, my record isn't a campaign position--it's who I am.