

Survey Q Response-Cynthia4nmhouse

Why are you seeking office?

I have served as a public servant for over 30 yrs, and hope to continue my service to help make NM a better place to live, work and play. I also have young nephews and nieces, and want these young people to have a great life in NM. So, I will continue to work toward that effort. I am also the House Incumbent for District 17, and am seeking re-election. My experience, education and training have also lead me in this direction.

Beyond being a customer, please describe your engagement with your local business community.

I am currently a small business owner, and have been since 2010. I know the struggles of owning and operating a small business. I also believe small businesses are the backbone of our economy.

What is the biggest issue impacting “Quality of Life” and “Quality of Place” on Albuquerque’s Westside?

I believe the biggest issue on the Westside is the lack of available jobs. Westside residents have to travel over 30 miles to the Eastside to obtain and access to jobs. It is important that we try to attract more businesses to locate on Albuquerque’s Westside.

What priorities do you see as being necessary to stimulate the state’s economy, grow jobs on the Westside, and make New Mexico a place where businesses want to locate?

I believe we need to improve our educational system; promote Job Training and Apprenticeships; add affordable housing and housing opportunities, and conserve and preserve water, a critical element for growth.

Public education is critical to our future workforce. In New Mexico the state entirely pays for Public Education, and it is typically the largest portion of the State’s budget, what is the primary revenue source of our state’s budget and, how would you ensure the continuation of this funding stream?

The largest portion of the State budget is education. This is primarily funded through the Oil and Gas Industry, however the State is now looking to renewable energy to assist with our financial budget. My experience with finances is that the State diversify our budget and investments as much as possible.

Over the past two legislative sessions one of the most controversial bills for small business has been Paid Family Medical Leave, do you support the legislation proposed? If yes, how should it be paid for to ensure it is sustainable?

First and foremost, I support paid family medical leave. As a Cancer survivor and small business owner I know how important this issue is. At the end of the day. New Mexicans elected us to do our due diligence and enact legislation that works for everyone from our working families to our small businesses. The 2024 bill didn't do that. There were

more questions than answers regarding the bill proposed. I believe an Actuarial Study and a Business Stability Study should be considered, before the bill is enacted.

Coming back into another session this is one of those bills that we can take, rework, and ensure it not only works for working families, but our business owners as well.

The Governor announced a special session focused on public safety. What are your top public safety priorities?

The Special Session will be the Governor's Call on the items discussed. My personal priorities will be raised in the 2025 60 Day Session. My priorities include: HB 87 **COMBINE MOTOR VEHICLE CRIMES FOR SENTENCING (Automobile theft)**