

Why are you seeking office? I love New Mexico & I love the west side. My want to use my experience; as a 25-year lawyer, 18 year legislator to provide leadership and do some good to help people and increase the quality of life for our community.

Beyond being a customer, please describe your engagement with your local business community. I have met with and listened to many business owners and their representatives in Santa Fe. As a small business owner, I understand writing check to Tax & Rev. and the IRS. I also believe that government should play a role in building our economy, though good public policy and infrastructure investment, as well a solid educational system and string law enforcement.

What is the biggest issue impacting “Quality of Life” and “Quality of Place” on Albuquerque’s Westside? Crime. We must work with local law enforcement agencies and partner with local governments to lower the crime rate, so folks feel safe, at stores, at work, and in their homes.

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? Infrastructure investment for starters. We must complete the construction of Atrisco Vista Blvd. which will spur economic growth along that corridor. We must also implement good public policy by lowering barriers to entry so entrepreneurs can grow their businesses.

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? Our funding source of tax dollars from crude oil drilling. State government needs to provide stable and predictable environment so oil companies continue to invest New Mexico.

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? I vote yes. It appears, however, that the prime sponsors and advocates are not willing to compromise. With the surplus in revenues, I think the state should conduct a pilot project to see exactly how much it would cost and how many workers would participate in the program.

The Governor announced a special session focused on public safety. What are your top public safety priorities? The Governor controls the special session so it's her call. I will be working with her team to come up with a legal framework to allow cases, even competency cases, to be stayed (postpone the trial to plea) with incentives for the defendant to receive treatment.