

Candidate's Name Rebecca "Puck" Stair, NM State Senate District 20

1. What have you done in the past that demonstrates your progressive values? Please elaborate on your past efforts on issues such as defending civil liberties; promoting equal opportunity; protecting our health, safety and the environment; enacting anti-discrimination laws; diminishing wealth disparity; or more generally, acting to protect those that cannot protect themselves, including future generations.

As a teacher:

- Choose to major in Native American literature
- Reinvigorated African-American Literature curricula to directly address race, equity, power and language, which tripled enrollment.
- Trained other teachers how to embrace diversity in the classroom.
- Advised more than one gay-straight alliance
- Volunteered to teach ESL to custodial staff after hours.

As a filmmaker:

- Fought for and won national same-sex health care union benefits, before gay marriage was legal
- Introduced composting and carbon offsetting to the movie business, which are now widespread.
- Consciously hired and trained women, people of color and traditionally underserved populations.
- Choose local, women- and minority-owned vendors whenever possible.
- Elected several times to the board of the New Mexico filmmakers' union, I cleaned finances, grew the membership and introduced diversity training into a historically white-centric industry, transforming our film industry into the most diverse, balanced, and unified in the US.

As an employee, throughout my career:

- Demanded, participated in and sometimes led diversity training for the workplace.
- Actively hired, trained and promoted people of color and traditionally underserved populations.
- Defended and supported unions.

As a citizen, over a lifetime, I actively lobby for:

- Pro-environment policy
- Pro-immigrant policy
- Fiscal policies that benefit the 99%
- Healthcare for everyone
- Quality education for everyone
- Restorative justice and community policing
- ... most of my legislators know me by name ☺

And I've eaten vegetarian since age 5.

2. The Four Corners region and the southeastern part of the state rely heavily on fossil fuel extraction and processing to employ thousands of New Mexicans. In the near term, what concrete steps would you take in the New Mexico legislature to address the climate emergency while considering the positive financial benefits of the New Mexico oil and gas industry to our economy and our state budget revenues? In the longer term, do you have a plan for the state transitioning from an oil and gas economy to a renewable energy economy? Please describe.

First, we need to diversify our revenue sources for the State Of New Mexico immediately. To do this, we need to diversify our economy and overhaul our tax structure. There are currently many ideas and methods for raising such alternative revenue, such as adding internet sales tax or car excise fees.

Next, we must raise severance taxes to match Texas's.

Third, we should deliberately use our current oil and gas royalties and severance taxes to build the post-carbon economy, and allow drilling to continue only as long as needed to build that foundation.

How do we build the post-carbon economy? Well for example, the film industry is a great example of an entire economic sector created entirely from scratch solely by creative legislation. We could enact similar legislation to create and grow other economic sectors like space & aviation, outdoor recreation, and solar & wind design, manufacturing & recycling.

The good news is that this transition to the post-carbon economy can also polevault New Mexico into an economy based on maximum *flow* versus maximum *growth*. And it can generate good jobs, create businesses, and heal our lands and peoples.

To do this, I will introduce legislation to incentivize the manufacture of wind turbines and solar panels *in New Mexico*, to make their importation from other states and countries noncompetitive. Also, I will introduce legislation to incentivize the training and hiring New Mexicans in the manufacture, installation, maintenance and upgrading of renewables.

3. What else would you do as a legislator to reduce climate change or mitigate its effects?

I will support a carbon tax that's properly structured to disincentivize fossil fuels while alleviating burdens on historically disadvantaged people like rural residents and tribal members. I am currently working with CarbonX to learn from other states like Massachusetts that are ahead of New Mexico on such policy.

I will also support the creation of a new business category, perhaps called "noncarbon," where companies and organizations are given a tax break for conducting business while emitting low or zero net carbon. This idea already has support from Rocky Mountain Institute and NM Economic Development Department.

Both these need to be incremental, but steeply so, for a speedy transition.

4. Economic dynamism and wealth creation has concentrated in urban areas, while rural areas and marginalized communities have largely been left behind. New Mexico is one of the least densely populated states in the nation. Many of its residents do not have access to jobs, health care or the internet. As a New Mexico state legislator, what will you do to enhance broadly-distributed economic development and wealth creation in rural and marginalized communities?

As we always knew, but which is being strongly demonstrated by COVID-19, we are all interconnected, and the divide between rural and urban is mostly manufactured.

- 1) Creative legislation like “noncarbon” above, will immediately spur the creation of locally-owned rural business in carbon uptake (carbon credits), swiftly launching rural companies like:
 - a. tree-planting and grassland- and wetland-restoration companies
 - b. methane uptake facilities like those on the Apache Nation in Colorado
 - c. companies that mine carbon from the atmosphere and use it to manufacture nylon and 3D printing raw material
 - d. “carbon ranches” like JX in Tucumcari.
- 2) We need to regulate the internet and cellular companies more like utilities, ensuring broadband internet in our rural communities, not only for emergency communication but also for tele-medicine, tele-health and business.
- 3) With only modest investment, our tourism sector could be more lucrative than Colorado’s, due to our diverse cultures. For example, use capital outlay money to build hiker “through huts” like those in Switzerland, with overnight hiking routes passing through, say, Shiprock, the Continental Divide, the Gila, and other natural jewels.
- 4) Create small experimental special economic zones throughout the state. But these special economic zones are not designed to maximize profit for businesses, but instead to maximize health, joy, and green innovation. Within the zone there are different “rules,” for example:
 - a. Carbon neutrality
 - b. Universal health care and education
 - c. Voting day is a holiday
 - d. Negative interest
 - e. A public bank
 - f. A “New MexiCorps” year of service for young people

Ideally, the success of these small zones will encourage innovation on a larger scale.

5. The election of the Senate president pro tem is of critical importance as the pro tem selects all the members of the Committees’ Committee, which then makes all committee and committee chair assignments. For at least the last 10 years, a bloc of conservative Senate Democrats have ignored the pro tem preference of the Democratic Caucus and voted with all the GOP senators to elect a conservative Democrat to serve as pro tem. This has resulted in Senate Committees carefully organized to stop progressive legislation. If elected, would you commit to voting for the pro tem candidate chosen by the Democratic caucus and not voting with a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats?

Yes

6. Indicate your stance on each of these issues on a 1-to-5 scale, with 1 for strong support and 5 for strong opposition. You may elaborate on any of these issues if you wish.

- 1 \$15 minimum wage
- 1 Assault weapons ban
- 1 Community Solar Act. *I will also try to mandate that New Mexican solar labor and materials are cheaper than out-of-state.*
- 1 Electric vehicle tax credit
- 1 Health Security Act *Assuming June's fiscal review is positive, as all indicators indicate.*
- 1 Independent redistricting commission
- 1 Protection of a woman's right to choose
- 1 Significant increase in fines for oil spills
- 1 Significant increase in royalty rates on new oil leases
- 1 Significant reduction of methane emissions from oil and gas production operations
- 1 Transition away from regressive taxation