

Candidate's Name: Rep. Matthew McQueen, House District 50

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 Chair of the House Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee much of my legislation reflects my commitment to protecting our land and water generating a greener and more renewable economy. I have co-sponsored bills on solar tax credits, consent for pesticide application, gas tax (with working family rebate), discharge studies for water projects, greenhouse gas evaluations, gas lease bonding, strengthening wildlife protection act, among others. My second main interest has been in ethics and good government. Good government is entirely about equity because government should listen to all voices equally not just the wealthy lobbyists or donors. I have worked on transparency in capital outlay, ending pensions for corrupt officials, prohibiting political donations during legislative as well as enacting strong lobbying and donation disclosure laws. I support steps to protect our working families, including the Working Families Tax Credit and raising the minimum wage.

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.

We need to transition away from our fossil fuel dependence and diversify our state's economy. I think "transition" is the right word here, although with the recent collapse due to world markets and the impact of the coronavirus we may not have even the 5-10 year window that we thought we'd have. I support a just transition for workers, including job retraining opportunities and economic development in affected communities. I believe the transition happens both by support development of renewable energy and alternative industries, such as film and tourism. Everything we have planned, however, is much more challenging given the current reality of COVID-19.

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

I believe the Democrats rallying cry has been to diversify the economy but that will not happen while oil and gas continues to wield a powerful influence in our government and while our economic structure is entirely organized around oil and gas. Oil and gas will continue to be dominant without big structural changes in who gets to wield power, who is educated, and who has access to capital with which to start a business. We need to consider paying our legislators so that everyday people from all backgrounds can run. We need to consider campaign finance reform

with more disclosure required and clearer rules around recusal. We should consider publicly financed campaigns for our state legislature. We should consider a state bank so that we can invest in New Mexican industries and businesses that are not oriented around oil and gas (I have sponsored legislation to do so). We should consider mandating our investments council invest in renewable and New Mexican industries rather than doubling down on oil and gas and in interests outside of our state. We should better harness our labs tech transfer by offering startup space, miniloans, business development, salary help and a tax incentive to stay and develop in our state. We should pass recreational cannabis and wipe clean the records of those with minor marijuana convictions. We need to consider broadband a utility under the PRC and make a universal lifeline available to everyone in rural or underserved districts. We need to make college affordable for all of those who desire to attend. I have other ideas, but that's where I'd start.

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 a legislator of a district that is highly diverse and has many small rural communities this is a top concern of mine. My legislation this session attempted to open up the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) for key retail (grocery, hardware, pharmacy) so that rural communities could get access essential services. I also explored looking into a separate liquor license that would be tied to communities rather than allowed to be sold to the highest bidder all over the state. Access to healthcare is critical in rural communities. They care about economic development so they want access to very small business loans. They are worried there are no jobs for their young people to stay and raise their families where they grew up. I have been working on reaching out to our new secretaries under our new governor to ensure that those economic development and small grant dollars and funneled into small towns to help them retain population and economic development.

5. 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
(Yes, in stages, and then tied to the inflation index.)
- 1 Assault weapons ban
(I sponsored legislation to ban "bump stocks".)
- 1 Community Solar Act
- 1 Electric Vehicle Tax Credit
- 1 Health Security Act
- 1 Independent Redistricting Commission

- 1 Protection of a Woman's Right to Choose
(I have Planned Parenthood's endorsement due to my strong track-record on women's healthcare protection.)
- 1 Significant Increase in Fines for Oil Spills
(I sponsored the bill to restore the Oil Conservation Division's ability to directly fine oil and gas operators.)
- 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
(I have several bills attempting to do this.)

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