

Candidate's Name: Martin Hickey

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.

I have spent my entire career as a physician and advocate in the pursuit of affordable, accessible healthcare for all. I know we can make this vision a reality for our state, if we have the right leadership. I taught medicine and provided medical care to the indigent at the UNM Medical Center, and provided critical medical services on the Navajo Nation for seven years before that I set up the first VA rural clinics in the country, here in the Four Corners of New Mexico. I also was the founding CEO of New Mexico's ObamaCare access plan, New Mexico Health Connections and True Health New Mexico. This work helped create more affordable access to individuals, families and small businesses who had not had that access but often had the greatest need.

This career of assisting those with the most need came from how I grew up. My mom loved quoting, "You do what lies before you to be done!" thinking that came from her role model, Eleanor Roosevelt (who actually said: *What one has to do usually can be done*). And my father, a Lieutenant in the Navy during WWII, always drove home the lifelong value of service. They taught me that we all do better when we all do better.

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.

Addressing the climate emergency is one of my top priorities. As a State Senator, I commit to championing policies that aggressively reduce carbon. The federal government should follow the example of New Mexico by adopting policies like the Energy Transition Act, which I fully supported. The ETA put New Mexico on a clear path toward being carbon-free by 2045, while also creating \$40 million for San Juan County mine workers and their families. I will fight to ensure the implementation of this legislation is successful at the PRC and will support any additional bills that support ETA's intended outcomes. In addition, the next step is to

incentivize other carbon reduction strategies. For example, less than 1% of New Mexicans drive an electric vehicle (EV), well below the national average. We need to get more EV's on the road, starting with an EV tax credit that increases, the lower your household income is.

Secondly, we must increase energy efficiency in both homes and buildings. I supported the Community Energy Efficiency Development Grant Act and will work hard to get this bill passed in 2021. This bill will benefit low-income households disproportionately. We must also continue to work with the Governor and State Land Commissioner to regulate methane, a growing contributor to carbon, particularly in the Permian Basin.

In short, New Mexico can and should lead the nation in clean energy like wind and solar power; protect fossil fuel and renewable energy workers; and set THE example for other states, especially as an oil producing state. We're on the right track but we can do more, such as training a new generation of New Mexicans in wind and solar installation, manufacturing, and technology.

Regarding fossil fuel, the priority is to contain and aggressively reduce methane emissions. The long-term priority is to diversify New Mexico's economy so that, when oil and gas extraction on state lands lessens, our schools and government services are held harmless. We must hold these goals--to reduce carbon and to diversify our economy--in parallel. One cannot proceed without the other. We must also attract, retain and build our own businesses. Thus, education, healthcare, behavioral health, early childhood must all be addressed as well. And finally, the jobs we do create and attract must be better paying jobs which in turn will provide a fair tax base to improve all these issues.

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

Many decisions related to the energy future of our state take place at the PRC. I will support efforts to evaluate the role of the PRC in New Mexico's energy policy setting and implementation. We need to identify ways to increase professionalism and experience coming out of the PRC moving forward. Finally, we need to support organizations such as the Sierra Club to achieve the national laws that will assist all of this. While the lead on Obama Care Access in New Mexico, I worked a few days each month in Washington to attain the support of New Mexico's legislative delegation with the federal government.

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?

In the Senate I will work closely with our rural elected representatives in the Legislature on policies such as expanding workforce training opportunities to rural communities and incentivizing small business growth. New Mexico needs an economic development strategy that takes advantage of our strengths, and these strengths are often situated in rural communities. Examples include outdoor recreation and outfitting; local food production; tourism and film; space exploration; and wind and solar technology. A key need for many of these opportunities is reliable, fast, broadband access. We can build broadband access on the same lines that we build renewable energy transmission lines, bringing business opportunities and clean energy to each community across the state.

I have a history of working in rural areas to expand access to health care. I traveled to all corners of the state to implement and oversee the VA rural clinics, which are all still highly functional almost thirty years later. I also traveled to all rural regions for several years to understand the health needs as we continually improved our Obama Care access plans. I intend to use this experience to help build out a health care system that ensures access to all New Mexicans. Specifically, it is clear that expansion of access to primary care and behavioral health providers to assure timely access to health improvement, smart habits, and peace of mind is a MUST. We can do this. Healthcare affects all of us. Examples of concrete steps to do this include,

- Attraction and retention of primary care clinicians to New Mexico, rural and urban is critical
- Insurance reform that substantially reduces deductibles and contains premiums is doable
- Behavioral health impacts all of our families. We must build a major infrastructure that is present in rural areas that addresses mental health and addiction recovery and removes any co-insurance for those services as we have done for years at New Mexico Health Connections and True Health New Mexico
- We must enhance House Bill 100 which simplifies health insurance purchasing and lowers its costs.

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
- __1__ Electric vehicle tax credit
- __1__ Health Security Act
- __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