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THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF  
SANTA FE COUNTY

2020 PLATFORM

Prepared by the Platform & Resolutions  
Committee

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# Democratic Party of Santa Fe County Platform & Resolutions Committee 2020 County Platform

Adopted by the  
County Pre-Primary Convention  
February 15, 2020

## Introduction

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The Democratic Party of Santa Fe County's 2020 County Platform is adopted by the assembled body of the [Democratic Party of Santa Fe County's Central Committee](#) and its contents represent our shared values, principles and legislative goals.

Candidates who seek public office, as well as voters who support them and wish to evaluate their potential and their performance, may use this Platform to help judge how well our elected Democrats either unite in furtherance of our common objectives or justify their choice not to do so.

## Core Values

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Santa Fe County Democrats celebrate many cultures and believe that every person matters. We believe that all citizens should have an equal voice in how we as a people are governed and call out the disproportionate amount of influence by rich and powerful special interests on our government.

[We stand for the 99%](#) and oppose [economic and wealth inequality](#). We affirm the ties that bind us together as one human family. We envision a New Mexico in which every person is treated with respect and every person has what it takes to live a life of dignity—secure, decent-paying

jobs; a just economic system; a [universal single-payer health care system](#); high-quality public schools; and a safe, healthy environment where the unmatched beauty of our land is preserved for future generations.

For the sake of future generations and the health of the planet, we commit to taking every step possible in New Mexico to combat the [climate crisis](#), starting with reaching the goal of net-zero emissions and 100% renewable electricity production by 2045.

As caring citizens of Santa Fe County, this state, this country, and this planet, we hold these basic rights to be the natural heritage of all people. As dedicated Democrats, we band together to claim that heritage for every member of our human community, both now and in times to come.

## Our Primary Purpose

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Our primary purpose is to elect and retain Democrats at all levels of government by activating and mobilizing a fully informed electorate.

We strongly urge our Democratic candidates and officeholders to promote and defend this Platform, to demonstrate full transparency, and to observe the highest levels of [ethical conduct](#).

*In furtherance of these goals:*

- We support the [Code of Ethics of the American Association of Political Consultants](#).
- We urge candidates and their campaign managers to follow our [Code of Conduct](#).
- We believe that [sunlight is the best disinfectant](#) and support full transparency.
- We support [the public financing of political campaigns](#).
- We [oppose donations by corporate PACs](#).
- We reject the use of [dark money](#) in [political campaigns](#).
- We support [people-powered grass-roots campaigns](#).
- We oppose the use of [political dirty tricks](#).
- We oppose [negative campaigning practices](#) and will quickly assist our candidates who have been targeted by any such misinformation campaign.
- We challenge candidates to pay their campaign staff a [living wage](#).
- We encourage all primary candidates to endorse the winning nominee in the General Election.

# Climate Crisis

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*Climate change is an existential threat to our existence on Earth. We must use every tool available to reduce emissions now. Santa Fe County Democrats support all efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and use of fossil fuels while the state and nation undertake the [transition to renewable energy](#) necessitated by climate change. Efforts must include incentives to promote renewables and disincentives for continued exploration, production, use of, and pollution from fossil fuels.*

*We embrace the opportunity to be a world leader in the [renewable energy](#) revolution and its substantial growth potential by requiring utilities to include renewables in new generating facilities, increasing our [Renewable Portfolio Standards](#), and reinstating the [New Mexico solar energy tax credit](#) while supporting an [online energy trading market](#).*

## Expand Clean Energy Sources and Mitigate Climate Change

*We will:*

- Immediately prepare for the [global renewable energy transition](#) necessitated by climate change occurring due to human production of [greenhouse gases](#).

*We support:*

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the use of [fossil fuels](#).
- Increased production and use of [renewable energy sources](#).
- The [Sustainable Santa Fe 25-Year Plan](#).
- The [Renewable Portfolio Standards](#) recently enacted by the [Energy Transition Act](#).
- Vigorously monitoring the state's electricity producers to assure that they meet or exceed these targets and dates.
- Expanding the [renewable energy sector](#), including training for new jobs in the sector and affected enterprises throughout our communities.
- [Start-ups](#) and existing small businesses that promote renewable energy sources and limit carbon emissions.
- [Direct job creation](#) through investments in [infrastructure](#) and transportation projects and renewable energy projects.
- Climate leadership at the local level.
- Requiring all public buildings or buildings used by public agencies to switch to at least 50% renewable energy use by 2030.
- Active partnerships with rural communities through incentives, technical assistance, development of [regional action networks](#), support for pilot projects, and development to scale.

- Wind, solar, and other renewable energy production over the development of new natural gas and nuclear power plants.
- Funding of researchers, industry, and non-profits to develop technologies to produce and distribute renewable energy statewide.
- Reinstating [New Mexico's Renewable Energy Tax Credit](#) and establishing new [rebate programs for the adoption and use of renewable energy sources](#).
- Rules to ensure that decentralized residential and commercial solar producers throughout the state may sell the energy they produce into the grid (i.e., that public utilities must buy it, and not tax the producers).
- Investment in and development of [solar gardens/community solar](#) production that community members can access directly and thus benefit from solar energy even when individual households cannot afford to put solar on their dwelling units. We urge the New Mexico Legislature to pass legislation to this end (HB 210 passed the House in 2019, [died in the Senate](#)).
- Redirecting the focus of Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories away from nuclear production and war-oriented research and toward new, more efficient, cheaper, and easier to use renewables of all types (noting that nuclear power is NOT a renewable).
- Investing in a [statewide publicly accessible electric vehicle charging network](#), clean public transportation, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across our urban and rural areas.
- Accelerating the construction of new transmission lines to get low-cost renewable energy to market.

## Create Powerful Disincentives for Continued Fossil Fuel Activities

We support:

- All approaches to reducing vehicular emissions, in compliance with provisions of the [Paris Climate Accord](#).
- [Taxing the release of carbon dioxide](#), methane, and other greenhouse gases high enough to incentivize corporations to reduce emissions and provide public resources to support actions to offset their costs to the community in health and safety over the long term.
- Prohibiting [flaring](#) and enforcing heavy fines & penalties for violations.
- [Keeping fossil fuels in the ground](#) by restricting and/or denying access to not-yet-tapped deposits of oil, gas, and other energy-related natural resources.
- Establishing comprehensive environmental [pollution taxes](#) that reflect our commitment to a clean energy future by eliminating tax breaks and subsidies for polluting corporations.
- Stringent requirements and equitable fees for commercial access to our mineral, petroleum, forest, and water resources.
- [2019's HB 398](#) by updating and increasing rents and royalties on oil and gas production by adjusting for inflation and including vented gas and leaks. We likewise support increasing the real property tax basis to current values.

- Establishing [programs and incentives](#) to cut energy waste in American homes, schools, hospitals, and offices through energy efficient improvements; modernizing our electric grid and making New Mexico manufacturing clean and efficient.
- [Net Zero Energy Emissions](#) in all new home and commercial construction.
- Investigating allegations of corporate fraud on the part of fossil fuel companies accused of misleading shareholders and the public on the scientific reality of climate change, and prosecuting as appropriate.

## Preserve and Enhance Existing Federal and State Environmental Protection Laws

*We focus our platform suggestions for environmental conservation on medium- and longer-term measures that preserve, conserve, and hopefully augment essential public resources such as water, forests, and other living species, for which action must begin now and be sustained long into the future.*

*We will:*

- Work to improve, and oppose any attempt to weaken, the federal [Endangered Species Act](#), the [Clean Water Act](#), the [Clean Air Act](#), and similar federal and state laws or regulations.
- Eliminate exemptions and loopholes for resource extraction companies and processes from the requirements of the Clean Water Act, the [Safe Drinking Water Act](#), the Clean Air Act, [Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act](#), the [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act](#), and the [Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act](#) (superfund cleanup).

## Water

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*Water is the basis for all life on earth. Since time immemorial water has been precious in our fragile high desert environment. New Mexico's surface waters and aquifers constitute an irreplaceable commons for all New Mexicans present and future. We must use every available means to conserve and protect clean water for all.*

*We support:*

- Recognizing and valuing historical, cultural and [traditional approaches](#) to water usage and conservation, including the cultural heritage and historical use of [acequias](#) and other traditional irrigation practices.
- All efforts to restore, support, protect, enhance all our water systems and educate the public regarding the importance of water conservation.
- Full restoration of the [Waters of America rule](#).

- Making water planning a priority.
  - Framing the City and County's water management at a landscape scale to identify interactions, impacts, and potential synergies.
  - Completing the state's update of its 40-Year Water Development Plan, which has been promised for more than five years. The state should also consider extending the planning time frame to 100 years.
- Plans and related actions and enforcement that:
  - Provide strong local and federal enforcement of the [Clean Water Act](#) that protects water purity, wetlands, and wildlife ecosystems.
  - Maintain water quality along with fair distribution and use of clean water. Our natural water ecosystems (rivers, streams, arroyos, wetlands, springs, lakes and aquifers) need to be protected from over-use (water quantity) and contamination (water quality) from point and nonpoint sources.
  - Promote water policies prioritizing water conservation and careful management of limited water supplies, treating the environment's needs as equal to any other interests and focusing water use on sustainable human needs over industrial waste.
  - Restore rivers and aquifers to healthy function, thus providing a much-needed hedge for adapting to future droughts.
  - Assure that uses of public water serve the public.
  - Incentivize the reduction of residential, agricultural, and industrial water usage and promote science-based, sustainable water policies aquifer protection, water-supply planning, consumptive water-use permitting, and resource protection programs.
  - Reduce residential and industrial water usage with sustainable water policies including aquifer protection, water-supply planning, consumptive water-use permitting, and resource protection programs.
  - Require industries that use water to account for all water used, from its origination source, the amount used and recovered, the quality of whatever water is recovered, and where recovered water is released.
  - Require that in the oil and gas fields, flow-back water (aka [produced water](#)) meet surface and groundwater standards before being approved for other uses affecting humans and the environment, including agriculture.
- Ensuring that all studies and data about water are transparent, interoperable, and integrated in accordance with the [Water Data Act](#).
- Protecting public health and safety by modernizing drinking and wastewater systems including technology to recycle and reuse water.
- Remediating and restoring groundwater and surface waters that are already contaminated (e.g., [groundwater plumes from legacy gas station leaks and dry cleaning operations in the city of Santa Fe](#) should be an urgent priority). This is a health issue, an economic issue, and a moral issue of intergenerational justice.
- Holding parties responsible for the monetary value of cleaning up land and water contamination according to the standards of the state of New Mexico.

- Hiring locally to restore canals, acequias, riverbeds, arroyos, dams, and access roads to address decades of neglect.

## Education

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*Santa Fe County Democrats believe that an educated populace is the cornerstone of sustainable democracy and the single most important driver of economic prosperity for all.*

*Affordable, high-quality pre-K through college education is both a basic right and a sound investment in New Mexico's future. Adequately compensated high-quality educators protect this right and implement this investment.*

*We support making [debt-free college](#) a reality for all New Mexicans. We believe that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that the public education system prepares all to participate meaningfully in society.*

## Educating Our Citizens to Create a Better Society and Attract Investment in New Mexico

*We support:*

- Fully funded, free public education for every student, from high-quality affordable pre-kindergarten education through elementary, secondary, vocational, and/or post-secondary education.
- Curricula to implement [Next Generation Science Standards and Framework](#) in its entirety, involving [STEM](#) and AI/Information Technology/coding courses for all students throughout their K-12 education, that assure competence by the time of high school graduation.
- Curricula addressing additional STEM categories that augment deficiencies in content to ensure all graduates are capable of understanding and critically evaluating the scientific basis for the phenomenon called [Global Warming](#) and being qualified to work toward solutions.
- Curricula that assure proficiency in a second language as a requirement for graduation from any state-accredited high school in New Mexico.
- Training programs around the state to prepare for jobs emerging in response to the Climate Crisis. These will include:
  - Solar and wind technology, installation, and maintenance.
  - New approaches to food production.
  - Building science and construction technologies.
  - Engineering technologies.

- Water treatment operations and resource management
- Residential energy auditing and inspection.
- [Green infrastructure](#) and information technology.
- Development of medicines.
- Other [sustainable technologies](#).
- Training, education, and policies that encourage technology transfer, entrepreneurship, and small business creation in all types of innovation sectors and leverage the science and technology base of state universities and national laboratories.
- Registered Apprenticeship Programs (we strongly urge Congress to pass the [CHANCE-in-Tech Act](#)).
- Diversified curricula for students with specific needs including but not limited to special education and gifted, high and low achieving students, low income, and English as a second language.
- Financial literacy, critical thinking, and civics as a means of sustaining, stewarding and strengthening American democracy.

## Investing in the Future of New Mexico Children and Youth

*We support:*

- Investing in all educational content detailed above, at levels adequate to assure competent teaching with aides, curricula, institutional support, and assistance to assure student success.
- Keeping public dollars in public education and resisting federal or other programs that weaken public schools by diverting public money to private school vouchers.
- Developing additional and diversified sources of revenue to protect New Mexico's public education system from volatility in the oil and gas market.
- Funding universal high-quality early childhood (pre-K) education by redistributing the Land Grant Permanent Fund or assigning other funds to the task.
- Providing adequate funding to incentivize advanced research in our universities and National Laboratories to restore our country's scientific edge and global competitiveness.

## Staffing

*New Mexico teachers face special challenges related to high levels of poverty in student families and a high proportion (61%) of English Language Learners in our schools.*

*We need to invest the necessary resources to assure:*

- A full complement of permanent, full-time teachers with appropriate subject-matter certification.
- Adequate compensation to assure that New Mexico schools can hire qualified teachers. Compensation should meet or exceed the nationwide average salary and benefits for educational professionals.

- Special training to assure that teachers can help students achieve language and mathematical proficiency, with supplemental training as needed to facilitate this learning for children whose primary language is not English.
- A Registered Nurse present in every public school.
- At least one appropriately trained teaching assistant in every classroom.
- At least one social worker in every public school.

## Student Support

*Students bring a great variety of strengths, interests, and vulnerabilities to school settings. We support policies, programs, and activities that allow them to capitalize on their strengths and interests and assure that their vulnerabilities do not hinder their educational achievement.*

*We support our kids with:*

- School breakfast and lunch programs, state-funded if federal programs fall short, to assure that all students receive nutrition adequate to set the conditions for learning, with weekend supplements as needed.
- Concrete measures to increase racial harmony within schools to reduce the impediments to student performance, to include cultural sensitivity training for staff, board members, and students; and supports for translating what is learned in training into concrete lesson plans that are actually used.
- Anti-bullying, mental and behavioral health, and conflict resolution programs in the schools, including prevention of and recovery from substance abuse with family participation.
- Comprehensive sex education, respectfully covering choices to be made, resources to help make those choices, and including LGBTQIA as well as heterosexual realities.
- Programs for [prisoner education](#) that are uniform statewide including obtaining a [GED](#), a high school diploma, an advanced degree, or vocational training.

## Quality Education for Our Kids

*We believe New Mexico should start to use subject-specific certifications for all newly hired teaching staff, while employing a clear, timeline determined, equitable pathway for equal certificate specificity for those teaching staff already employed within our public schools.*

*We understand that teachers are highly dedicated and motivated and reject punitive impacts on their evaluations and impacts on the reputations and grades of community schools based on standardized test data that do not adequately quantify the quality of education provided.*

*We support:*

- Actions needed to narrow New Mexico subject area certification requirements to reflect the best practices displayed by higher-performing states, rather than continue in the

current, broadly interpretable manner (i.e. Secondary Science certification versus Physics, Chemistry level specificity).

- Developing a teacher evaluation model that uses multiple indicators based on classroom and school evidence.
- Small class sizes, especially for students facing some challenges to learning and especially in the early grades.
- Restoring dignity and balance to the use of standardized tests in our classrooms.

## Shut Down the School to Prison Pipeline

*We support:*

- Shutting down the [School to Prison Pipeline](#) by investing in kids, not prisons.
- Prevention of over-incarceration.
- Making sure that kids have viable non-criminal options.
- Diplomas, not rap sheets, for our kids.
- Investments in education and jobs, not jails, for our kids, by providing linkages to apprenticeships, work opportunities, and mentoring programs for our youth.
- School retention, graduation and workforce integration policies for our kids.
- Raising the age of criminal responsibility for non-violent youthful offenders.
- Providing medical, mental health, educational and rehabilitative services to incarcerated youth.

*We oppose:*

- [Life without the possibility of parole for youthful offenders.](#)
- The imprisonment of youth in adult facilities.
- Placing juveniles on sex offender registries.

## Healthcare for All

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*The health of our citizens is essential to the strength of our nation. We affirm that healthcare is a right. We believe that the government's policies should "promote the general Welfare and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves..." as written in the opening lines of the [Constitution of the United States](#).*

*We believe, as a matter of [social justice](#), that health care for all in the United States is a basic and necessary human right, that it is essential to the security of our nation, and that it serves the common good.*

*Universal affordable access to necessary medical services is required to preserve freedom, liberty, opportunity, and the ability to be productive. We support the passage of the [New Mexico Health Security Plan](#) as a first step in the process toward a quality [universal single-payer health care](#) system that is independent of employment and focuses on patient care first and foremost.*

## Assure that All New Mexicans Have Health Insurance that Pays for All the Care They Need

*We will:*

- Defend all aspects of the [Affordable Care Act](#), including Medicaid expansion, subsidies for low-income households, cost savings strategies, coverage for anyone with a pre-existing condition, and coverage of children up to age 26 on their parents' insurance.
- Work to restore the Affordable Care Act's [individual mandate](#) and to disallow/discontinue [work requirements as a condition of Medicaid eligibility](#).
- Use the results of the fiscal analysis for the [New Mexico Health Security Plan](#), funded by the 2019 NM Legislature and due in June 2020, to pass and fund the Plan as currently written or other legislation that provides a statewide, unified, nonprofit, nongovernmental universal health care payment system for New Mexico. The Plan will allow the choice of providers and eliminate "in-network" constraints, reduce drug costs, and vastly reduce paperwork, which in turn will allow providers and patients to spend more time together to determine appropriate treatments and supports.

*We support:*

- Providing full coverage for persons with [pre-existing conditions](#).
- Establishing full portability and continuity of health care coverage that eliminates linking coverage to one's employment.
- Creating a health care financing system operated by the members, for the members, with member interest as the focus.
- Covering all New Mexicans, unless they already have full coverage through other means (e.g., federal or military coverage).
- Covering all children with [Centennial Care for Children](#) (SCHIP), regardless of income [currently, NM SCHIP has an income ceiling (300% FPL for kids 0-6; 240% of FPL for kids 6-19)].

## Assure that the Health and Wellness Care Available to All New Mexicans Is Comprehensive and Coordinated

*We will:*

- Make sure that care itself is comprehensive and available to all.

- Guarantee provision of and funding for comprehensive health and wellness care for all New Mexicans, to include but not be limited to medical and dental care; full reproductive health services including prenatal and postnatal maternal care that respects a [woman's right to choose](#); prescribed drugs; mental health care (including case management); dental, vision, hearing, and speech care; rural health care; home and community-based care to avert institutionalization; long term care; chronic disease care; end of life/hospice care; preventive medicine, including chiropractic and acupuncture; physical and occupational therapy; durable medical equipment and medical supplies; laboratory and imaging services; inpatient and outpatient hospital care; drug and alcohol abuse rehabilitation.
- Include coverage/care for conditions that manifest long after the cause/trauma/ infection/exposure has happened—e.g., rehabilitation for brain injuries sustained through repeated trauma as in sports that manifest at a much later date; exposure to harmful materials at work such as toxic chemicals, silicon, asbestos, coal dust, etc.
- Expand and strengthen [respite care](#) and in-home support services including adequate background checks prior to licensure, and promote an in-home support services system that emphasizes independence rather than institutionalization and addresses the needs of all, including people with all levels of disabilities, of any age.
- Combat drug and alcohol addiction, including [opioid addiction](#), by vastly expanding access to prevention and treatment, supporting recovery, helping community organizations, and promoting better practices by prescribers.
- Continue to support the full legalized use of [medical cannabis](#) when prescribed for a patient by a physician; monitor state practice to assure that eligible residents get the medications they need.
- Support new health care delivery models that emphasize the provision of continuous, comprehensive, and coordinated care.

## Promote Provider Flexibility

*We will:*

- Maximize numbers and types of providers who can be reimbursed for providing care; relieve pressure on physicians.
- Promote the use of properly credentialed [peer specialists](#), medical assistants, community health workers, aides, to provide routine health and wellness care.
- Increase training opportunities in New Mexico for health care professionals at all levels.
- Expand locations where care can be provided; promote out-of-office care that takes care of people, especially people with disabilities, homebound, living in remote areas, and the like.

## Promote Accessibility

*We will:*

- Reduce geographic barriers -- assure routine access to quality care in rural and hard-to-reach areas using mobile clinics, on-line access, and other advanced delivery techniques.
- Reduce cultural and linguistic barriers—maximize the likelihood that people will be seen by culturally and linguistically competent caregivers.
- Reduce affordability barriers—use public funding to keep out-of-pocket costs to \$0 for all persons at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level; sliding scale for higher incomes.

## Greatly Reduce the Cost of Prescription Drugs and Medical Devices

*We will:*

- Empower the State of New Mexico to negotiate prices for drugs and medical devices by enacting the Health Security Plan.
- Pressure the federal government to negotiate prices for drugs and medical devices, for Medicare and Medicaid specifically, but also for all other patients in the United States.
- Support the state in coordinating with the federal government in regulating and controlling the cost of prescription drugs and medical devices.
- Permit the New Mexico Department of Human Services to negotiate vaccine, drug, and medical device costs directly with the relevant industries.

## Promote Public Health, Prevention, and Healthy Living

*We will:*

- Change the focus of our healthcare system from disease to health. Reduce the isolation of specialties that emphasize body parts and replace them with care that considers the whole person and her/his living situation.
- Create a healthcare system that proactively focuses on wellness, primary care, preventive medicine, public health, and disease prevention.
- Invest in [public health services](#), especially for poor, rural, and minority communities.
- Address and correct [social determinants of health](#) such as poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and housing instability.
- Support the time it takes for providers to work as teams to address and ameliorate the negative impacts of social determinants of health.
- For seniors (those 60 and older), address and reduce living conditions that may make it difficult to access care and comply with medical/health advice.

- Ensure adequate funding of [public health education](#) at the undergraduate, graduate, and medical school levels as well as adequate funding of residency training programs in public health, [preventive medicine](#), and its subspecialties.
- Base public policies about disease prevention and treatment on [scientifically sound research](#).
- Work to support [increased life expectancies](#) among all New Mexicans.

## Eliminate Non-Monetary Barriers to Healthcare Access

*We will:*

- Ensure economic and physical access to [multilingual health care services](#).
- Reduce health care disparities based on race, ethnicity, gender, place of residence, disability, and other factors.
- Support full funding for community clinics and health centers that serve low-income, rural, and homeless populations throughout the state, including prompt and accurate payment of the charges these clinics and centers submit to government agencies.
- Facilitate and encourage the full partnership of health care providers, including nurses and home health providers, in redesigning our current healthcare system to significantly increase the focus on preserving as much functional life as possible. Prioritize “functional life” over the treatment of specific diseases and body parts in accordance with the stated wishes of patients.
- Encourage regional input in health care system design.
- Eliminate discrimination in insurance coverage and healthcare for transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals, as well as full coverage of all transition-related care.
- Phase-out [Medicare’s 2-year waiting period for SSDI benefit recipients](#), and eliminate it immediately for people with life-threatening illnesses.
- Provide for the long-term solvency of Medicare, especially by addressing and reducing the cost of care. Assure full and adequate funding for Medicare and Medicaid so that many more health care providers are willing to participate than do so at present.

## Provide Comprehensive Consumer Protections

*We oppose:*

- Any and all efforts to weaken or undermine the right of a woman to make decisions regarding her pregnancy, including limiting funding of essential female reproductive health services such as those provided by [Planned Parenthood](#), or forcing local clinics to close.

*We will:*

- Hold polluting industries accountable for the costs of treatment for health conditions caused or contributed to by their pollution, and assure that funds obtained through

penalties or legal settlements are used to provide healthcare to the injured parties (e.g., Purdue Pharma for the ravages of [OxyContin](#)).

- Simplify language and plan choices for ease of understanding to individuals making health coverage decisions.
- Support a requirement that all HMOs and health insurers obtain prior approval from the state before rates can be increased and when the time comes that all New Mexicans are covered by publicly funded health care, support an independent panel free of health care industry conflict to oversee rate increases, cost-effectiveness, and quality of care.
- Enforce the [Patient's Bill of Rights](#); affirm that medical decisions must be made with respect for patients' rights to privacy and freedom to have control over their lives with fully informed consent.
- Recognize the physical and financial burdens of family caregivers and support legislation and programs to provide adequate training, assistive interventions, and financial safety nets such as employer savings and tax credits.
- Provide transparency, accountability, and fairness in health care.
- Guarantee a woman's right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy, including geographically feasible access to a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay.
- Eliminate financial barriers to contraceptive services and pre- and post-natal care, such as through universal health care, which will also significantly reduce abortion rates.
- Enact "[Death with Dignity](#)"/" [Right to Die](#)" legislation to allow terminally-ill patients and their doctors to discuss end-of-life decisions and permit medical personnel to assist terminally ill patients in ending their lives at the patient's discretion, compassionately limiting their pain and suffering.

## Reduce Legal and Administrative Barriers to Affordable Health Care and Increase Accountability

*We will:*

- Work to enact the [Health Security Plan](#); in the interim, strengthen Centennial Care and Medicare and oppose efforts to privatize such safety net programs.
- Monitor implementation of legislation enacted to remedy any uncertainty concerning the dispensing of medical cannabis that will provide for the rights of medical cannabis patients and specify means and manner of dispensing to qualified patients.
- Protect funding for health care services as mandated by voters from being transferred or redirected for any other purpose.
- Create quality jobs in health and behavioral health care that stay in New Mexico because health care money stays in New Mexico, including all database operations and diagnostics as well as direct care.
- Support increased funding and accountability for mental health care parity – improving and broadening existing mental health programs – and call for government-funded providers to have users of services on their staff and governing boards.
- Increase the transparency and accountability of medical costs and foster public input in decision-making bodies established to enact elements of New Mexico's plan to better

evaluate both insurance and health care policies, to help improve the quality of care and reduce the cost of care.

- Ensure that all health care models have strong cost-containment measures and are transparent and accountable to the consumers and the public to significantly lower total administrative costs and improve the quality of care.
- Eliminate profiteering in health care and health care financing.

*We have presented the above Platform Planks in the order of priority for 2020 which we believe to be our highest goals. We present the following Platform Planks knowing their equal importance with each other; the order of presentation should in no way be interpreted as holding one Platform Plank higher than any others.*

## Affordable Housing

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*Throughout the United States, half of renter households are being priced out of housing. [In New Mexico, about 1 in 5 households are poor, with incomes below \\$25,750 for a family of 4.](#) Many of these households rent their living space, often spending more than half of their income on housing. Rents and homeownership costs are skyrocketing in Santa Fe County, while wages are not keeping pace.*

*We support:*

- Providing [rent subsidies](#) for all New Mexico households paying more than 30% of their income for rent. [Rental subsidies are currently available to only about 1 in 10 cost-burdened households.](#)
- Offering tax incentives that racially and socioeconomically desegregate new and existing neighborhoods (i.e., [mixed-use housing](#)).
- Creating and incentivizing neighborhood development that integrates housing, jobs in retail and other businesses, transportation, and recreation.
- Developing a statewide plan that (a) establishes a “fair share” of housing for every municipality in the state, (b) is enforceable, and (c), uses collaboration in all aspects of planning and production.
- Reducing regulatory barriers created by zoning, construction and other codes to expedite the creation of new units that revitalize deteriorating neighborhoods and communities. These should allow smoother processing, one-stop applications even though multiple jurisdictions are affected, with expedited approval processes.
- Incentivizing housing development that follows existing transportation lines.
- Using state funds to support [Housing Trust Funds](#) and [affordable housing tax credits](#) that parallel federal programs—to finance general affordable housing and special needs housing.

- Establishing a special tax on luxury development, with collections going into a Housing Trust Fund or other mechanisms that then fund new unit construction in areas of high need.
- Establishing a [Deep Subsidy Program](#), to invest more state funds in projects that aim to serve households with incomes below 30 percent of area median income (about the federal poverty level).
- Creating programs to acquire land in high priority areas, including [brownfields](#) and other contaminated lands, and make it available to developers to clean up and create affordable housing.
- Creating a loan program specifically for small rental projects (5-25 units) suitable for [infill development](#) within the urban margin.
- Establishing a housing preservation program to assure that currently affordable housing units that way.
- Enacting [inclusionary zoning ordinances](#) whereby a portion of new development housing is set aside for low and middle-income households, but not allowing developers to “buy out” at levels insufficient to support the production of affordable housing elsewhere.
- Full implementation of Santa Fe’s [Affordable Housing Plan](#).
- Santa Fe’s use of fees to promote affordable housing, such as its [impact fee and in lieu of fees](#), which are assessed against developers to support affordable housing, with proceeds going into its Housing Trust Fund and being used to generate new units of affordable housing.
- Zoning densities high enough to allow affordable multi-family development that address the current rental housing crisis.
- Infill affordable housing located near transit and existing infrastructure.
- Permanent funding sources for [Santa Fe’s Affordable Housing Trust Fund](#) of not less than \$2 million per year.
- Regulation of [short-term rentals](#), with enforcement levels adequate to assure that they are being offered by local property owners with only one or at most a few properties and not by large commercial investment companies and that all short-term rental properties register with the city or county and pay appropriate taxes.
- Working with affordable housing nonprofits to increase the odds of successful applications for [Low Income Housing Tax Credits](#) (LIHTC) at the SFUAD site, surrounding areas, and other parts of Santa Fe by donating city land, making other in-kind contributions, and providing bridge loans from the city’s Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- More equitable distribution of LIHTC funds countywide.
- Opening the [Community Development Committee](#) to a more transparent process and encouraging media coverage of decisions.

# Jobs and Labor Rights

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*Every American has the right to a job that earns enough to provide adequate food, housing, clothing, healthcare, recreation, and protection from the economic fears of old age, illness, or accidents while ensuring adequate resources for future generations to provide equally for themselves.*

*We recognize how unions have contributed to building a stronger middle class, as well as their critical role in fighting for living wages, fair work rules, fair hiring practices, and safe working conditions. Santa Fe County Democrats will make it easier for workers, public and private, to exercise their right to organize and join unions. Businesses also have the right to operate free from unfair competition and domination.*

## Creating a Fair Economy That Works for Everyone

*We support:*

- Small businesses that promote, reflect, protect, and embrace our Democratic values.
- Expansion of the [County Living Wage Ordinance](#) to establish a county-wide minimum wage of \$15 an hour over the next several years to ensure that no full-time worker lives in poverty.
- Full implementation of a [progressive tax system](#) where all businesses and individuals pay their fair share.
- Assurances that women, people of color, and other marginalized communities are treated with dignity in the workplace free of discrimination, including but not limited to [pay equity](#) and time off to care for family without fear of losing a job.
- Access for all New Mexicans to jobs that provide them with a living wage sufficient to provide for a home, health care, education, leisure, and retirement.
- State budget stabilization through diversified revenue streams that hedge against [market volatility in the oil and gas sector](#).
- [Public banking](#) as a way to increase public budget revenues without increasing taxes.
- Strong [oversight and regulation of big banks and other financial institutions](#).
- Government [microloan](#) and assistance programs that meet the needs of high-risk borrowers fairly and transparently.
- Development and purchase of goods made in New Mexico.
- State and federal regulations to prevent monopolies that limit our choices and increase our costs, including media mergers.

*We oppose:*

- [Predatory lending](#) that traps people in a cycle of debt and support legislation to cap interest rates at 10% interest per annum.

- [Privatization](#) of essential government services and outsourcing public sector jobs.

## Growing the New Mexico Economy

*We support:*

- Partnerships with government institutions and support means to increase direct hiring in education and research, public safety, national laboratories, local governments, land management, and tribal gaming.
- Investing in small businesses, [women-owned businesses](#), minority-owned businesses and hiring locally.
- The Healthcare sector and recognize when Medicaid and Medicare are protected and expanded, all healthcare jobs are protected and expanded.
- The [Hospitality sector](#) and will expand the tourism industry to build the [NM True Brand](#). We will continue to attract tourists from around the world by building the [NM True brand](#) as the best place to go for enchantment, adventure, open spaces, chile, margaritas, and [legal cannabis products](#).
- [Buy-local campaigns](#) to keep our tax dollars at home by contracting locally. New Mexico businesses should have the first and best shot at every contract with our large public institutions.
- Our local [Foodservice industry](#) and believe we should foster growth by encouraging higher tips and wages for these workers by reforming industry regulations to increase minimum wages.
- Developing the market for authentic [New Mexico branded chile](#) and an environmentally friendly agricultural sector.
- The jobs, products, and revenues from a [legal industrialized hemp industry](#) supported by a fully unionized workforce.
- [Rural broadband](#) and the opportunities it provides to rural communities to engage in entrepreneurial behavior without having to leave home.
- Creating an international economy by opening our markets with Mexico through [direct flights](#), global promotion programs, and exports of energy technology services and aerospace.
- All efforts to promote economic growth in the technology sector through education, developing and promoting advanced tech applications, and generating innovators by [teaching coding in every public school](#).
- [Legalizing cannabis for adult recreational use](#), supported by a fully unionized workforce and contributing to a diversified tax base.

## Getting Families Back to Work

*We support:*

- A strong [safety net of social services](#) for New Mexicans living in poverty, including child-care, food and nutrition support, affordable housing, free school breakfasts and lunches, job training and retraining, and comprehensive high-quality health services.
- Forming partnerships with small businesses that:
  - Promote and guarantee low-interest small business loans and start-up grants to provide the seed capital to launch and expand job-creating businesses.
  - Establish [small business incubators](#) to teach people with good ideas on how to turn them into businesses.
  - Support legislation that offers incentives for [investing in technologies developed by New Mexicans](#).
- [Workforce education programs](#) in all regions of the state including investments in vocational education and training programs for all individuals interested in entering skilled trades, technical, and other hands-on careers.

## Boosting Wages and Worker Rights

*We support:*

- Full inclusion of farm and domestic workers in Social Security and other safety net protections.
- The rights of workers to organize and to [bargain collectively](#) for a safe and fair working environment.
- Fair and safe labor practices.
- Hiring local union shops and businesses that uphold the rights and dignity of workers.
- [Exposing and opposing “right-to-work” laws](#), which are anti-union and limit the rights and benefits of workers.
- Eliminating unfair hiring and firing practices.
- Expanding protections for part-time teachers and adjunct faculty in all state-funded New Mexico educational institutions.
- Providing adequate retirement plans for all.
- Developing and enforcing regulations preventing [wage theft](#) and providing functional and effective pathways to relief against employers found guilty of this practice.
- Increasing the minimum wage to \$15/hour over the next several years to support a [living wage for New Mexicans](#) and eliminating exemptions to minimum wage laws for farmworkers, tipped wait staff and others.
- [Equal pay for equal work](#) to end pay discrimination against women and minorities.
- The return from other countries of jobs that once employed American workers but have been transferred overseas.

- Programs that remove barriers and create a path to a job for persons experiencing chronic unemployment including veterans, technologically displaced people, people experiencing long-term homelessness, persons living with disabilities, and disconnected youth, including [victims of human trafficking](#).
- Enacting [free trade agreements](#) or revising existing ones to allow American businesses to compete in a global market without exploiting workers and the environment, including provisions to address unequal wages, unequal labor protections, and unequal environmental standards.

## Public Safety

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### Prevent Gun Violence and Improve Gun Safety Policies

*We support every effort to restrict gun ownership to legitimate uses, including registration, limitations on ownership, [extreme risk protection orders](#) and similar strategies to keep guns out of the hands of people with a known potential for violence, and strong enforcement of laws on the books.*

*Specifically, we support the following for New Mexico, which currently gets an “F” on gun safety from the [Giffords Law Center to Control Gun Violence](#):*

- Require background checks for every buyer and seller in all gun transfers; strengthen requirements for firearm purchases; close dangerous loopholes in our current laws.
- Prohibit the purchase, sale, and ownership of [assault weapons](#), [large-capacity ammunition magazines](#), [bump stocks](#), and the like by reinstating and strengthening the [assault weapons ban](#).
- Require registration of ownership of all firearms at purchase and all those already owned; institute penalties for failure to register when unregistered firearms are found.
- Require mental health professionals to alert the authorities about at-risk patients who should not be allowed to buy a firearm.
- Establish standards for the safe handling of firearms at home.

*Further, we urge Congress and other federal actors to:*

- Repeal the [Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act \(PLCAA\)](#) that revokes dangerous legal immunity protections for firearm manufacturers and sellers.
- Support efforts for the [Centers for Disease Control](#) to study the effects of gun violence as a public health issue.
- Support the enactment and enforcement of aggressive laws against [illegal gun trafficking](#).

- Support a balance between responsible gun ownership and [policy that maximizes public safety](#) and ensures respect for our fundamental freedoms while protecting the public against gun violence.

## Increase Freedom from Physical and Sexual Violence

*Santa Fe County Democrats believe everyone has a basic right to be free from coercion and violence in their private and public lives, including freedom from physical and sexual abuse in whatever context it occurs and to whatever person, regardless of gender, age, disability, or race.*

*We support enforcement of all laws regarding sexual assault and domestic violence, including those designed to support survivors, that have been on the books since the early 1970s but remain poorly enforced.*

*We support all efforts to hold institutions to account for looking the other way when people in power use their positions to abuse others. For most of human history, abused persons have been silenced while abusers go free.*

*We are committed to doing everything possible to reverse this situation.*

*We support:*

- Appropriate responses from law enforcement agencies, including giving credence to persons reporting abuse (always believe the victim and act on that belief rather than vice versa); collecting, analyzing, and retaining valid evidence of abuse; establishing circumstances of privacy for interviews; offering measures to increase the safety of abused persons; and cooperating with advocacy organizations representing abused persons.
- Analysis of all [outstanding rape kits](#).
- Parallel measures to those described for law enforcement, for all civilian offices entrusted with taking reports and acting on them, including but not limited to supervisors and human resources departments in businesses and nonprofits, deans on campuses and principals in public schools, and authorities in church hierarchies.
- Appropriate actions by prosecuting attorneys, most especially following through with the large majority of cases that do not fit common stereotypes of what a “real” rape/child abuse/battering/elder abuse situation looks like. Only in this way can these stereotypes be changed.
- Adequate levels of support for abused persons, including adequate funding of [child welfare services](#), [adult protective services](#), and rape and domestic violence counseling services and shelters.
- Massive public education campaigns to help New Mexicans recognize abuse for what it is and take steps to end it. Men who are willing to stand up and condemn abuse should be involved in all such campaigns, speaking to other men about the “unmanliness” of

abuse. These campaigns should be ongoing in schools, congregations, places of work, and the media.

## Reform Police Practices

*We will:*

- Oppose the use of [excessive force by law enforcement](#).
- Support the [demilitarization of law enforcement](#).
- Oppose [privatization of law enforcement](#).
- Support a fully funded enhanced basic training and relevant ongoing in-service training in recognition that sixteen weeks of initial training is not sufficient.
- Support increased training for [de-escalation procedures](#) for law enforcement including the use of behavioral health teams.
- Support strong civilian community oversight of law enforcement agencies including transparency in the hiring and firing of officers, recommending disciplinary action, budgets, and policies.
- Encourage the [community policing](#) model.
- Strengthen the laws that prevent illegal seizure of cash and property from New Mexicans without first bringing criminal charges against them in accordance with the 4th Amendment which protects against unreasonable search and seizure.

## Environmental Public Safety

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*Santa Fe County Democrats support the right of everyone to live in a healthy environment with clean air, water, and land, and be protected from health and safety risks associated with environmental contamination.*

*Responsibility to promote a healthy environment falls on the government to provide adequate standards (laws and regulations) and enforce them, and on polluters to stop practices that put public health and safety at risk and clean up the contamination they have caused.*

*We focus our Environmental Public Safety plank on measures designed to immediately and urgently protect the public from the risks to human health and safety caused by the environmental contamination from industrial waste of all kinds, including nuclear, petrochemical, and heavy metals, wherever it occurs. Risks may have been a long time in the making or of recent or probable future occurrence, but action to mitigate or eliminate them is urgent.*

*We include Environmental Public Safety under Public Safety rather than Climate Crisis. Many of this plank's suggestions pertain to ways the public needs to be protected from environmental contamination. We propose expanding the concept of "public safety" in the Santa Fe County*

*Democratic Party platform to include these aspects of environmental safety and danger, both because that is what they are and because it is important for the public to see them that way, as issues of protection from corporate predation.*

## Protect the Public from Environmental Contamination that Threatens Health and Safety

*We support:*

- Control and eventual elimination of [fracking in New Mexico](#).
- Curtailing use, including for fracking, of water if the use results in its removal from the local water supply or limits its reuse because of pollution.
- Full disclosure to the appropriate government regulators as public information of all chemicals discharged or injected into the ground or maintained on the surface by businesses and municipalities.
- Accounting for all water, from its origination source, the amount used and recovered, the quality of what water is produced, and where the water ultimately ends up. [Produced water](#) must meet surface and groundwater standards before it can be used in any way that affects humans or the environment.
- Closing the [Halliburton loophole](#) that strips the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) of its ability to regulate hydraulic fracturing, and ensuring that tough safeguards are in place, including [Safe Drinking Water Act](#) provisions, to protect local water supplies.
- Reassessing all leases of public lands, especially oil shale leases, delaying the lease of any further state or federal lands for oil shale and natural gas development until environmental concerns have been satisfactorily reviewed and resolved.
- Increasing funding of the state [Oil Conservation Division](#) to adequately staff all offices with qualified personnel at a competitive salary to oversee drilled wells, witness and verify the integrity of all wellbores, and enforce state and EPA regulations. We urge civic and public involvement and oversight of this process. The burden of this oversight, and especially of the cost of remediation and cleanup, should fall on the relevant industries and not the public.
- Air and water quality assessments performed by an independent entity before, during, and after all new well drilling so that all concerns of pollution and contamination can be identified, quantified, and reclaimed.
- Concrete well liners, wastewater ponds, and containment tanks that protect groundwater from pollution must be independently certified reliable for the entire life of the well.

## Preserve the Rights of State and Local Governments to Protect Their Citizens from Environmental Hazards by Requiring More Stringent Regulation

*We affirm that:*

- Any process for extracting natural resources must not threaten public health, safety, and welfare. Local governments must have the right to ban, regulate, or issue moratoria on these processes to protect their communities.

*We support:*

- Local ordinances, state legislation, and federal programs that require strict [reclamation bonds](#) and programs to ensure that industry stakeholders are directly liable for all public health, property loss, local business, water use, environmental mitigation and other costs resulting from mining and drilling operations, as well as significant penalties in the event of irreparable damage.

## Nuclear Public Safety

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*We believe the potential for New Mexicans to suffer harm from incidents and accidents arising from exposure to nuclear materials is high, given that our state is home to [Sandia National Laboratory](#), [Los Alamos National Laboratory](#), and the [Waste Isolation Pilot Project \(WIPP\)](#).*

*We recognize that [nuclear material](#) of all kinds (including nuclear weapons) poses inherent risks to safety and encourage stronger safety-focused oversight and accountability.*

*We also want all of our citizens to enjoy all of the advantages and economic opportunities that our nuclear facilities offer to New Mexico.*

*We support:*

- Job-driven education (including apprenticeships) that meets the Labs' needs for improved safety in handling nuclear material.
- Continued public access to nuclear safety reports.
- Increased oversight of New Mexico nuclear facilities by the U.S. Department of Energy and New Mexico regulators.
- Significantly increasing fines and enforcing the collection of fines for safety violations and mishaps. The number of fines should match the number of significant incidents and, when appropriate, reflect the cost to taxpayers.

- Funding of higher educational programs by the Labs' management contractors by putting such items into management contractors' budgets and having the Department of Energy dispense funds appropriately.
- Holding DOE accountable for safety violations and criticality incidents.
- Evaluating U.S. nuclear weapons policies and the authority to use nuclear weapons.
- Continuing to reduce nuclear warheads.
- Continued research on nuclear warheads' reliability.
- Repurposing future research at the Labs towards sustainability and other more humane projects.
- A moratorium on the expansion of [plutonium pit production](#).

*We oppose:*

- Storage facilities for high-level nuclear waste in New Mexico.

*We do not support the shipment of [high-level nuclear waste](#) to New Mexico, although we realize that such shipments may occur.*

*We therefore:*

- Strongly urge our legislators to enact state oversight providing for a task force that shall negotiate for the state with the federal government in all areas relating to siting, licensing and operation of new federal and privately operated disposal facilities including research, development, and demonstration, for high-level nuclear waste disposal in New Mexico.
- The taskforce should review federal license applications and identify impacts of facilities and disseminate information to the legislature, governor and relevant executive departments.

## Immigration

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*Santa Fe County Democrats will continue to work toward comprehensive immigration reform that fixes our nation's broken immigration system; improves border security; prioritizes enforcement so we are targeting criminals, not families; keeps families together; and strengthens our economy.*

*We will work to prevent [inhumane treatment of immigrants in detention centers](#) and will stand firmly against the separation of families through [raid operations](#).*

*Santa Fe County Democrats reject attempts to impose [religious tests](#) to bar immigrants or refugees from entering the United States.*

*Santa Fe County Democrats know the importance of our country's history as a nation of immigrants. We honor our fundamental values by treating all people who come to the United States with dignity and respect; we always seek to embrace, not to attack, immigrants.*

*We affirm:*

- Immigration is a defining aspect of the American character and our shared history, not a problem to be solved.
- Unifying and keeping immigrant families intact is good for people, families and our country.
- The basic rights of every person living or working in the United States, regardless of citizenship status.
- Border communities are some of the safest, culturally rich, and economically vibrant areas in our nation.
- That we will continue to challenge and reject the divisive and derogatory language of Donald Trump toward immigrants; his offensive comments about immigrants and other communities have no place in our society.

*We support:*

- Passage of [HB 72, the Immigrant Detention Facilities Act](#), to ban [private immigrant detention facilities in New Mexico](#).
- President Obama's [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals](#) and [Deferred Action for Parents of Americans](#) executive actions that help [DREAMers](#), parents of citizens, and lawful permanent residents avoid deportation and pursue a [pathway to citizenship](#).
- Immigration policies that allow all immigrants, including refugees, to make this country their home, as we have done in previous generations.
- Policies that provide all immigrants a path to citizenship and promote their quality of life.
- Development, adoption, and enforcement of reasonable, humane and compassionate immigration laws and regulations.
- Improving [temporary worker programs](#).
- [Sanctuary cities](#), counties and states and oppose using local law enforcement for immigration enforcement, a federal responsibility.
- Designation of [sensitive locations](#) (including courthouses) and imposing strict limits of access to those locations by agencies such as [ICE](#).
- Requiring Border Patrol to comply with the same 4th Amendment Search and Seizure laws as other law enforcement agencies.

*We oppose:*

- Funding, building, or maintaining border walls.
- Deportations of immigrants who served in our armed forces and support creating a faster path to citizenship for such veterans.

- The false narrative that immigrants can simply “get in line” and apply for legal US citizenship because the current pathway is extremely restrictive and prevents most from becoming citizens.
- Harassment, seizures, exploitation, family separations, inhumane treatment and other abuses of undocumented immigrants.
- [Religious tests for immigrants or refugees](#).
- Racist immigration policies.
- Needless expansion of our [border enforcement infrastructure](#), which consists of 18,000 armed agents, advanced technology, drones, border walls, and fences.
- Use of for-profit immigrant detention centers as they encourage enforcement based on corporate profits, not public policy.
- [Mandated bed quotas in immigrant detention facilities](#).
- Spending on border patrol and ICE agencies whose practices are used to split families.
- Profiteering from border enforcement.

## Criminal Justice Reform

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### End Mass Incarceration

*We oppose mass incarceration and support common-sense sentencing reforms. We reject bumper-sticker solutions to complex social problems. We recognize that prison is not the answer to every problem and we support meaningful changes in our sentencing rules. We will work to substantially reduce our prison population and transmit those savings to more effective prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programs.*

*We will promote and expand alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders, such as drug courts, veteran’s courts, and other diversionary programs. We will prioritize prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation over incarceration for non-violent offenders.*

*We support:*

- Ending [mass incarceration](#).
- Revising sentencing guidelines for non-violent offenders.
- Prioritizing prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation over incarceration for non-violent offenders.
- Abolishing [sentence enhancements](#) for non-violent offenders.
- Continuing to ban the death penalty in New Mexico.
- Promoting [community-based sentencing alternatives](#) for non-violent offenders.
- Adopting smart on crime policies to reduce the prison population.
- Installing closed-circuit TV systems throughout all jails, prisons, and detention facilities.
- Regular visitation and communication with incarcerated individuals.

- Providing proper [medical, dental and mental health services to all inmates](#).
- Regulating the cost of collect calls from inmates to prevent price gouging of inmate's families.
- Inmate job training and educational programs linked to outside employment upon release.

*We oppose:*

- [Solitary confinement](#).
- [Private prisons and detention facilities](#).
- [Using county jail as a mental health facility](#).
- Prison labor programs that take advantage of the [13th Amendment Legal Slavery Clause](#).

## Remove Roadblocks to Reentry for Ex-Offenders

*Released prisoners should be allowed to move forward with their lives after they have done their time and paid their debt to society. We will provide released prisoners with a fair chance to start their lives over by removing unjust roadblocks to reentry. We are committed to ending the system of perpetual punishment and we will work tirelessly to reduce recidivism rates for stronger families and communities in New Mexico.*

*We will undertake a systematic, wide-ranging and thorough review of all New Mexico laws that unjustly impose [collateral consequences](#) upon a criminal conviction, to substantially reduce [recidivism](#) and provide for the effective reintegration of prisoners into our communities.*

*We will continue to expand [New Mexico's Criminal Record Expungement Act](#) to assist with the positive reintegration into our society of ex-offenders by making [expungements automatic](#) upon dismissal of charges or completion of sentence.*

*We will:*

- End the system of perpetual punishment of ex-offenders.
- Support the full [restoration of all civil rights to ex-offenders](#) who have served their term of incarceration and supervision.
- Support comprehensive re-entry services for ex-offenders to prevent recidivism.
- Adopt criminal record expungement legislation for non-violent offenders, veterans, and victims of human trafficking.
- Expand the recent [Ban the Box](#) legislation, to remove checkboxes on employment applications asking about criminal convictions.
- Limit the number of [collateral consequences to a criminal conviction](#) for non-violent offenders.
- Legalize, regulate and tax marijuana for recreational use.
- Provide drug treatment for every person with an alcohol or substance abuse disorder.

- Reallocate cost savings from reducing incarceration to education and job training programs.
- Divert low-level drug offenders from lengthy prison terms.

## Criminal Courts and Prosecutors

*Equal justice for all is not just a slogan, it is the foundation of our Democracy.*

*We support:*

- Balanced funding for District Attorney and Public Defender agencies.
- Diversionary programs such as [Adult Drug Court, DWI Drug Court, Family Dependency Court, Juvenile Drug Court, and Mental Health Court](#).
- Creation of an [Independent Wrongful Conviction Review Commission](#).
- Ending the prosecutorial practice of [stacking charges](#).
- Reforming New Mexico's [bail bond](#) practices.
- Funding for labs to [complete all rape kits](#) in a timely manner.
- DNA testing to protect the wrongfully accused and set free the wrongfully convicted.
- Implementation of [restorative justice](#) practices.

*We oppose:*

- [Trump's War on the Poor](#).
- Debtor's prisons for unpaid [justice debts](#).

## Civil Rights

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*We acknowledge the rights of all persons to be treated equally, with dignity and respect, regardless of race, color, creed, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, physical ability, cognitive ability, or age.*

*We affirm that:*

- The rights of free speech, free press, peaceful assembly, due process, and habeas corpus must be defended and upheld.
- Personal choices, including reproductive choice, domestic partnership, end of life options, religious choice, including freedom from and of religion, and marriage equality, are fundamental rights which must be defended and upheld.
- We oppose unreasonable searches and domestic surveillance, including the [USA Patriot Act](#).

*We will:*

- Protect the [Establishment Clause](#) in all local, state, and federal government institutions including the military and public schools.
- Improve conditions and defend human rights for incarcerated people.
- Embrace racial and socio-economic equality and counter discrimination in hiring practices and ongoing employment, including the use of affirmative action as part of academic admissions.

*We must address violence waged against people of color and advocate to end it. We condemn hate speech that creates a fertile climate for violence.*

*We will:*

- Promote civility and speak out against bigotry and other forms of intolerance that have entered our political discourse, including opposing white supremacy and Nazism in all of its forms.
- Call out the national trend of the disproportionate use of the death penalty against people of color and other disenfranchised people.

## Campaign Finance Reform, Elections & Ethics

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*A just and functioning society can only exist when all people have an equal voice. Every person of voting age residing in New Mexico has a right and should be encouraged to vote. We actively work to prevent and remove obstructions to voting in any local or federal election. We also believe that the government has the right to regulate campaign finance. Santa Fe County Democrats believe we must preserve the essence of the longest standing democracy in the world: a government that represents the American people, not just a handful of politically influential special interests.*

### Campaign Finance Reform

*We will:*

- Work to overturn [Citizens United](#) and [Buckley v. Vallejo](#). Corporations are not people and money is not speech.
- Require full disclosure of all major contributions in political and issue campaigns.
- Work for campaign finance reform and repeal laws that enable secret money in politics.
- Work to eliminate [super PACs](#).

- Create competitive public campaign financing to stop the influence of big donors and special interest groups.
- Promote the ability of the average citizen to run for our state legislature by paying New Mexico legislators a fair salary.
- Use modern technology for real-time disclosure of hard money campaign contributions and expenditures.
- Adopt strict forfeiture of office and forfeiture of pension penalties for willful violators of campaign finance reporting laws.

## Election Systems Must Be Transparent, Verifiable, Safe from Interference, and Archived

*We will:*

- Urge the Federal Government to defend and protect New Mexican residents from all [threats to our electoral system](#), including strengthening [election cybersecurity](#).
- Urge the New Mexico Secretary of State to take all necessary steps to protect the state's voting apparatus and procedures.
- Recognize that Americans' right to vote is sacred and fundamental.
- Restore the sections of the [Voting Rights Act](#) recently gutted by the U.S. Supreme Court in [Shelby County v. Holder](#).
- Advocate for state-wide adoption of [ranked-choice voting](#) to make democracy more fair and functional in all New Mexico elections.
- Demand up-to-date election processes that guarantee transparency, integrity, and accountability in the voter software and equipment with archived paper ballots.
- End gerrymandering that gives an unfair advantage to one political party over others.
- Establish a nonpartisan commission to draw district boundaries, following California's example of giving priority to geographical continuity and fair representation for "communities of interest" (groups of people with similar interests) while adhering to Voting Rights Act requirements.
- Fight against [voter suppression tactics](#) such as [voter ID laws](#), [exact-match voter registration laws](#), [voting roll purges](#) and [closing polling sites in minority neighborhoods](#).
- Promote and encourage [early voting](#).
- Promote voter registration reforms.
- Increase voter participation by expanding voting hours and days and by establishing voting convenience centers.
- Provide [convenient polling sites in all Native American tribal communities](#).
- Support the ability for New Mexico voters to use straight-ticket, party-preference voting.
- Repeal all voting disenfranchisement laws.

## Prohibit Conflicts of Interest by Public Officials

*We will:*

- Require [disclosure of the names and affiliations of all the people who wrote or contributed to significant portions of proposed legislation that affect their financial interests](#).
- Stop the [revolving door between industry and government employment](#).
- Require full financial disclosure by all elected officials and paid lobbyists/consultants.
- Promote the strong implementation of the [independent ethics commission's](#) work.

## Women

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*Santa Fe County Democrats are [pro-choice](#).*

*Santa Fe County Democrats are committed to ensuring full equality for women in education, employment, health care, and in all other spheres of society.*

*We value the right and ability of women to achieve their highest career potential without fear of [pay inequity](#) or the loss of their careers when they have children.*

*Santa Fe County Democrats will not allow the Republican Party to defund [Planned Parenthood](#).*

*We recognize that [violence against women and girls](#) is an epidemic and stand firm in the need for a societal shift and prosecution of perpetrators.*

*We believe that women have sovereignty over their bodies and should always have access to the reproductive health care of their choice, including birth control and/or pregnancy termination.*

*We will:*

- Support ratifying the [Equal Rights Amendment](#) to the Constitution guaranteeing equal rights for all citizens regardless of gender
- Work to secure equal pay for women to ensure women's economic independence and power, which will benefit all women and their families, particularly women of color who are disproportionately impacted by discriminatory pay practices, and against other factors that contribute to the wage gap.
- Work to end gender discrimination in all areas by combatting biases across economic, educational, political, and social life that hold women and girls back and limit their opportunities — tackling specific challenges facing women of color.

- Call for our political leaders to set the precedent to address any form of sexual harassment and sexual violence wherever it occurs, and to end non-disclosure agreements that silence women and others who have suffered sexual harassment and violence. We will promote civility and speak out against sexism and other forms of intolerance that have entered our political discourse
- Demand funding to [Planned Parenthood](#) health centers, which provide critical health services to millions of people.
- Repeal the [Hyde Amendment](#) that impedes poor women's access to abortion.
- Ensure that all women have full and equal access, within reasonable proximity, to comprehensive healthcare and insurance, including reproductive healthcare services, cancer prevention, screening, and treatment.
- Strongly and unequivocally support a woman's right to choose to have a child or end a pregnancy as affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in [Roe v. Wade](#). This includes ensuring access to safe abortion services. It also includes ensuring access to services that promote a safe and healthy pregnancy and childbirth.
- We will also work to provide services during pregnancy and after the birth of a child, including paid maternity and family leave, affordable childcare, adoption and social support services, and protections for women against [pregnancy discrimination](#).
- End the scourge of violence against women and girls wherever it occurs — in our homes, streets, schools, military installations, or elsewhere. We condemn and fight against human trafficking in all its forms. We believe [FDR's vision of Freedom from Fear](#) should apply equally to women so that women can live full lives without fear of gender-based violence.
- Support the [Violence Against Women Act](#) to provide law enforcement with the tools it needs to combat this problem. We commit to ending the backlog of processing rape kits.

## Media

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*A free and open media with diverse ownership and multiple opposing views from independent journalists is essential to a functional democracy because voters must be informed to make sound voting decisions.*

*We believe that the massive media mergers have the potential to stifle information by limiting the number of voices, opinions, and facts that inform our world view.*

*We are concerned about the ability of social media to spread disinformation and the lack of transparency behind such disinformation.*

*We will:*

- Fight for [Net Neutrality](#) so that all internet content is equally accessible without favoring or blocking specific content, charging differential rates, or providing different upload/download speeds. The internet must remain open and uncensored.
- Urge the New Mexico Legislature to join other states in passing legislation to protect New Mexicans from being affected by differential access to the Internet and different charges for different levels of access and speed.
- Urge the New Mexico Attorney General to join other states in suing the FCC to negate its decision to end net neutrality, for the protection and economic opportunity and well-being of all New Mexicans.
- Support programs that ensure all New Mexicans, including rural New Mexicans, will have access to high-speed, affordable Internet.
- Commit to giving candidates free and equal media time and coverage during elections.
- Enforce [existing antitrust laws](#) to break the monopoly on information in individual media markets.
- Dismantle media companies that are monopolies in various geographic areas.
- Guarantee continued support and funding for NPR, PBS, and other progressive public media.
- Protect journalists and media organizations from intimidation and resist efforts to marginalize and undermine objective media sources.
- Encourage accurate portrayals of people of color in the media to counteract the systemic racism that people of color experience collectively.
- Support a [New Mexico film industry](#) that creates movies, tv shows, and commercials that include people of all races, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, and gender identities, as reflected in the diverse demographics of our State.
- Support programs that educate people to identify fake news.
- Ensure that social media providers provide robust protection of private data.

*We affirm that:*

- Public figures in the media should treat all women with respect and dignity. We call for eliminating the objectification of women and men in press, radio, film, tv, and news as a means of acquiring status or employment.

*The political and public policy communities are presently engaged in a debate about social media and perceived uses versus abuses of them. Santa Fe County Democrats urge lawmakers and advocates to work continuously to resolve open questions regarding social media and we urge campaigns to balance their use of these platforms with security measures and caution until these pressing questions have been answered.*

# Arts

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*Santa Fe County Democrats recognize the role of the arts toward making a community attractive to its citizens, tourists, labor force, and business partners and are committed to investing in the arts to continue our state's rich cultural heritage. The arts also contribute to community building and are part of communicating new ideas.*

*Santa Fe County Democrats will continue to advocate strongly for funding of the arts in our cities, schools, and public spaces and support public funding for arts programs.*

*We will:*

- Support the arts through government funding, grants, marketing assistance, training, and [increased market access](#).
- Build awareness of entrepreneurial services and support such as small business development centers within the arts community.
- Fight to restore public funding for the [U.S. National Endowment for the Arts](#) and for the [U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities](#), both government agencies.
- Ensure that arts and music are included within all public school curricula across New Mexico.
- Connect with the film industry; ensuring arts participation in the New Mexico film industry.
- Make sure that government and other funding are adequately distributed to organizations as well as directly to the individual-emerging artists in New Mexico.
- Bolster New Mexico's reputation as an arts hub and tourist destination.
- Globally brand New Mexico as a destination for domestic and international tourism.
- Portray our state's beautiful terrain, public lands, and monuments, opportunities for adventure, wildlife, and our majority Native American, Hispanic, and multi-cultural identity.
- Protect freedom of expression and speech.
- Protect artists' freedom of expression and defend the rights of artists to question authority and inspire our people to continue to fight for a better world.
- Provide intellectual property protections for iconic cultural images that originate in New Mexico.

# Veterans

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*We support the right of all qualified persons who wish to serve our nation to do so without discrimination. Our country has a sacred, moral responsibility to keep faith with all our veterans and wounded warriors. Santa Fe County Democrats work to keep this promise through proper funding of the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) (VA), defending it from any attempts at privatization, and pushing for more educational benefits, job training, combating chronic homelessness, and preventing suicide and the conditions leading to it.*

*The party that passed the G.I. Bill of Rights will always work to protect the benefits our veterans and their families have earned in service to our nation.*

*We affirm:*

- Any person, regardless of immigration status, who served and was honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces must receive citizenship upon completion of service.
- We are proud of the repeal of [Don't Ask Don't Tell](#) and we commit ourselves to ensure fair treatment for LGBTQ veterans by proactively reviewing and upgrading discharge records for veterans who were discharged because of their sexual orientation.
- We are proud of the opening of combat positions to women.
- Our military is strongest when people of all races, religions, sexual orientations, and gender identities are honored for their service to our country.
- Our country has a moral responsibility to support all our veterans because they have put their lives on the line to defend us.
- We support full federal funding for comprehensive veteran-centric systems to fulfill our commitment to all veterans by meeting their needs upon discharge, with an emphasis on suicide prevention, employment, housing, family support, reintegration, comprehensive healthcare, and legal assistance.
- The VA must be fully resourced so that every veteran gets the care that he or she has earned and deserves, including those suffering from sexual assault, mental illness and other injuries or ailments
- We reject attempts to privatize the VA.
- The VA should take responsibility to identify all unserved and underserved veterans including those that are homeless.
- War is THE LAST resort. The only reason we will ever put anyone through war is that we have exhausted all other options and our safety is in peril.
- Santa Fe County Democrats are committed to addressing the scourge of military sexual assault. We must increase efforts to prevent sexual assault and rape, and aggressively investigate and prosecute allegations. And we must make sure victims receive timely, appropriate and comprehensive treatment for physical, emotional, and psychological trauma resulting from sexual assault.

*We will:*

- Provide support to care for our military family members, especially spouses, partners, and children who must rebuild their lives after the loss of a loved one or life-altering injury or disability.
- Push for more educational benefits, job training, and protect and preserve the post-9/11 GI Bill for future generations.
- Assure total non-discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, and disability in access to and quality of care.
- Ensure that reservists and Guard members are treated fairly when it comes to employment, health, education benefits, deployment, and reintegration.
- Fight for every veteran to have timely access to high-quality health care including mental health care and timely processing of claims and appeals.
- Look for more ways to make certain the VA provides veteran-centric care, such as providing women and transgendered people with full and equal treatment, including reproductive health services; expanding mental health programs; continuing efforts to identify and treat invisible, latent, and toxic wounds of war; treating post-traumatic stress; and expanding the post-9/11 veteran's caregiver program to include all veterans.
- Support making comprehensive dental care available to all veterans at the VA.
- Support closing loopholes in the for-profit school industry that exploits veterans, and support strengthening programs that help veterans choose the best educational programs possible.
- Prioritize military readiness by making sure our Active, Reserve, and National Guard remain the best trained and equipped in the world.
- Support our troops currently committed to the conflicts our nation is engaged in by taking them out of harm's way, compensating them commensurate with that commitment, and adopting peace as a guiding principle.
- Support a smart, predictable defense budget that meets the strategic challenges we face and seek an economy that does not require resources from hostile regions
- Seek to create a strategic approach to evaluate military deployments.
- Oppose contractors who promote and profit from war.

## Native Americans

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*Santa Fe County Democrats acknowledge all the injustices, including but not limited to the misguided federal, state, municipal, and institutional policies and actions based on racist beliefs that resulted and are still resulting in the destruction of the Native American communities' economies, social, and religious systems; the taking of their lands, and the creation of intergenerational trauma that exists to this day.*

*Santa Fe County Democrats will fulfill, honor, and strengthen to the highest extent possible the United States' fundamental trust responsibility grounded in the Constitution, treaties, and case law to Indigenous Peoples.*

*Santa Fe County Democrats recognize the inherent sovereignty of Tribes, Pueblos, Bands, Villages, and Nations, and will work to support laws and policies that are led and informed by Tribes, Pueblos, Bands, Villages, and Nations.*

*Santa Fe County Democrats believe in the ability of an Indigenous community to reject any "development" of land that would harm and inhibit access to the land, air, water; inhibit sovereignty, and decrease public safety.*

*We affirm:*

- We will actively recruit and engage Native Americans into the Santa Fe County Democratic Party.
- We will continue to address the [deaths and disappearances of Native American women](#) in New Mexico.

*We will:*

- Work with local law enforcement agencies to adequately identify cases of [missing and murdered indigenous women and girls](#) in Santa Fe County.
- Recognize and protect tribal sovereignty and the capacity of self-governance.
- Represent Native American issues at all levels of government.
- Provide sufficient and meaningful resources to Native American tribes to bolster economic development and self-determination.
- Restore tribal lands by continuing to streamline the land-into-trust process and recognize the right of all Tribal Nations to protect their lands, air, and waters.
- Support full funding the [Bureau of Indian Education](#) (BIE) to strengthen self-determination and enable culturally inclusive learning unique to each Tribal Nation, and help recruit and re-train qualified Native teachers and administrators.
- Support existing Native agricultural practices and protection of seed-saving traditions.

## Infrastructure

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*Santa Fe County Democrats believe in local, state and federal investment in [critical infrastructure](#)--the facilities systems, sites, information, networks, and processes necessary for a country, state, or community to function.*

*There is an economic cost of failing to restore and maintain existing infrastructure and invest in evolving strategies to provide and protect infrastructure. It is not just about bricks and mortar--a*

*well-functioning infrastructure makes it possible for all New Mexicans to enjoy a high quality of life with affordable clean air and water, communications, power and electricity, heat, high-speed internet, public transportation, emergency services, and safe roads.*

*At its core, the goal of well-functioning infrastructure is the overall safety and well-being of everyone. Restoring, maintaining, and enhancing infrastructure also provides good jobs and bolsters a strong economy.*

We support:

- Collaborative efforts of city, county, state and national governments to restore, maintain and enhance our infrastructure with a minimum of unnecessary delays. We must restore our roads, bridges, and dams to address [decades of neglect](#).
- Maximum transparency, cooperation, and collaboration in all infrastructure projects at the state, county, and city levels.
- Prioritizing state, county, and city use of our local companies and workers rather than outsourcing beyond the state.
- Widespread and well-resourced [education and training programs](#) to help the local workforce acquire needed skills, through Santa Fe Community College, Vo-Tech, and other local training programs, plus city and county [investments in start-up companies](#) to meet the demands of increased infrastructure work.
- [Net neutrality](#). We urge the governor and the New Mexico legislature to do everything they can to secure [net neutrality for all New Mexicans](#), as five states have already done.
- The [Secretary of State's and Santa Fe City and County's continuing efforts to secure the state's election software and hardware](#), as well as protecting every electronic process involved in accessing voter rolls.
- Developing and installing the technology to extend [high-speed internet access to every New Mexico resident](#), regardless of where in the state they reside. Since many reside well beyond metropolitan areas, this means retention of 4G technology for the foreseeable future to reach non-metropolitan residents.
- Modernizing all New Mexico schools, including Santa Fe schools, with the technology to access high-speed internet for student use.
- All efforts to protect and enhance the security and integrity of the state's various communication mechanisms (wired, wireless, satellite) and their interconnectedness, as well as policies and practices that can quickly and accurately restore services should a breach occur.
- Every effort of our state and Santa Fe County governments to:
  - Monitor [the condition of New Mexico's dams](#).
  - Increase funding to allow more remediation of high hazard dams rated as in poor condition.
  - Provide legislation or regulations to promote remediation for dams on private land.
- Developing the infrastructure needed to move electricity generated by wind, solar, and other renewable sources from the point of production into the grid.

- Improving the safety and integrity of fossil fuel infrastructure (wells, pipelines, refineries) to greatly reduce leakage and the resulting contamination of land, water, and air.
- Build the infrastructure county- and statewide for affordable public transportation, electric cars, and bicycle routes.

## Science & Technology

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*Technological growth and the supporting infrastructure should be equally accessible to all, provide equitable benefits, and ensure socially responsible development for the public good.*

*Policymakers should be informed by the best science available.*

*We recognize that we must put money and resources toward the innovation and technology of the future economy.*

*The government has a vital role to play in ensuring that New Mexicans participate in creating and marketing the next generation of technological innovation.*

*We affirm:*

- High-speed internet is a necessity for 21st-century success in all sectors of the economy (including agriculture), social mobility, education, health care, and public safety in both urban and rural areas. We demand strong net neutrality rules that permanently protect the rights of every single person being able to get the same access and distribution without a fee.
- That ambitious public and private investments in local science, technology, and research are key to economic growth in New Mexico. Such publicly funded Research and Development should reflect our Democratic values.
- The government should hire and keep qualified scientists and research staff in all regulatory and policy-making bodies that use or oversee science and technology. Decisions by these bodies on funding science and technology research and development should not be politicized or censored, and policymakers should be aware of and avoid any potential conflicts of interest in scientific results used as the basis of policy.
- There should be transparency and accountability in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and autonomous technology developed by the private sector and its use in the public sector.
- As “disruptive technologies” -- i.e., technologies that drastically change our economic and social landscape -- emerge, we need to create more opportunities for local workers, local industries, and local entrepreneurs to participate.

*We will:*

- Secure financing and providers for affordable, high-speed, high-quality internet and cellular service in all areas of New Mexico, especially rural.
- Support municipal and locally provided and managed Wifi to facilitate inexpensive, high-quality, universally accessible, and readily available high-speed internet.
- Recruit companies and directly hire state workers to put New Mexico at the forefront of deploying next generation science and technologies and enable New Mexicans to benefit and profit from transformative technologies.
- Protect the intellectual property rights of artists, creators, and inventors at home and abroad
- Support patent reform that allows for fair protection of innovations and fair use of common science and technology.
- Strengthen partnerships with space commerce companies to create new demand for space technologies and launch new missions to space, including space travel.
- Promote net neutrality to the extent possible at the state level; lobby the Federal Communications Commission to restore net neutrality.
- Support local entrepreneurship and promote inclusion in the digital economy;
- Attract and retain talented people from all over the world; invest in research and development, innovation hubs, and distribution/sales mechanisms.

## Taxes

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*Santa Fe County Democrats believe that individual and small business successes are dependent on a robust local economy of workers who have the means to participate.*

*Everyone should be fairly taxed to supply public investment in our infrastructure, including transportation and a well-educated and healthy population.*

*Tax policy should undergird the welfare of the poorest among us and facilitate economic sustainability for everyone. It should not provide exclusive benefits for those who are already the wealthiest Americans.*

## Protect Home Ownership with Property Tax Reform

We support a split-roll property tax structure that protects owner-occupied single-family residences and individually farmed agricultural lands while increasing funding for public schools, community colleges, and local government services by changing the tax assessment formula for all other types of real property based upon regularly assessed market values.

## Adopt a Progressive Income Tax Structure

We support updating our income tax laws and regulations with a progressive income tax structure that imposes a smaller tax rate on low-income earners and an increasingly larger tax rate on those with higher incomes, making it based on the taxpayer's ability to pay. We support a tax structure that taxes a larger percentage from high-income earners than it does from low-income individuals.

## Reform the Gross Receipts Tax

We support the simplification of the [Gross Receipts Tax](#) to make it as progressive as possible and to eliminate all loopholes and exemptions.

## Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit

We support the [expansion of New Mexico's Earned Income Tax Credit](#) to improve the lives of working New Mexicans.

## Reform Gasoline Taxes

We support an increase in the [state gasoline tax](#) to provide funds for road and bridge maintenance, along with a refund mechanism for low-income households.

## Agriculture and Food Supply

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*We support small, local, and sustainable New Mexico agriculture that enables equal water access with water conservation efforts. These farming practices are important to help alleviate food deserts in urban and rural communities.*

*We recognize the importance of local agriculture to include farming and ranches.*

*We affirm:*

- New Mexico is a desert and our water is extremely valuable. We should be creating a long-term plan to ensure that our state agriculture industry uses water in the most efficient way.
- We must work to create opportunities for entrepreneurial development of grocery stores, farmers' markets, [community-supported agriculture \(CSAs\)](#), and similar businesses and extend the incentives offered to industrial agriculture to small local producers.
- [Genetically modified food](#) must be labeled as such whenever or wherever sold so consumers can make their own informed decisions about whether to consume such

food; and that such food not be permitted to be exported to other countries without specific labeling.

- Pesticides should be used responsibly with full consideration of all effects in the ecosystem.

*We support:*

- The [Agricultural Worker Protection Standard](#) that protects farmworkers from harmful pesticides and herbicides.
- The protection of farmworkers from unfair wages and [wage theft](#).
- Stronger [agricultural worker protections](#) including regulation of work hours, elimination of child labor, ensuring adequate housing for migrant workers, and sanitary facilities in the field.
- The [industrial hemp industry](#).
- Incentives for sustainable agricultural practices, agricultural water conservation, and retaining lands for agricultural production and ranching.
- Expanding [farm and ranch land protection programs](#).
- Efforts to preserve and protect [New Mexico's traditional heritage livestock](#) and varieties of heirloom seeds, as well as individual property owners' ability to control their farmlands and local water rights.
- Protecting farmers from lawsuits by companies that produce patented genetically modified seeds, when the local farmers' crops are corrupted or cross-pollinated from nearby company fields.
- Making it easier for individuals and communities to develop yard and [community gardens](#) through supportive land-use policies and zoning.

*We oppose:*

- The use of [neonicotinoid pesticides](#) that kills bees and pollinators on which we depend on for our food supply.
- [The minimum wage exemption for farmworkers](#).

## Public Lands

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*Santa Fe County Democrats believe that our state lands and waters belong to all New Mexicans and should be used to further the common good.*

*We will:*

- Support the protection of natural habitats and intact ecosystems through science-based management of public lands that promotes the optimal balance between human use and

the natural world, with special attention paid to the protection of threatened and endangered species.

- Support sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources and public lands through appropriate taxation for extraction of non-renewable natural resources and thoughtful land use planning to combat [suburban sprawl](#); reject any sale of public forestry and parklands; support dedicated funding for state parks; and safeguard the state's forests through [sustained yield best practices forestry](#), the elimination of [clear-cutting](#) (and subsidies for roads to enable clear-cutting) to preserve natural habitat diversity and connectivity, soil conservation measures, the preservation of heritage trees, and carbon sequestration technique.
- Oppose the sale of public lands to developers or individuals which would restrict public access.
- Support the protection and reclamation of New Mexico's public lands and natural resources from damage inflicted by extractive industries.
- Oppose the [Gila River diversion](#).
- Support the protection and preservation of our National and State Parks, Forests, and Monuments, World Heritage Sites, Native American sacred sites.
- Support the [Endangered Species Act](#) to protect threatened and endangered species.
- Enlist farmers and ranchers as partners in promoting conservation and stewardship.
- Recognize New Mexico's water resources as a commons to be managed for the benefit of all.
- Support the protection and reclamation of New Mexico's water resources that have been damaged by extractive industries.