

# DEMOCRATS WORKING FOR YOU!

*Democrats in 2024 are stressing kitchen table issues.” We stand and fight for democracy, freedom, opportunity, and human dignity at the abstract philosophical level. But, beyond those important values, we are working every day to help working people and our children lead better healthier, happier lives. Below are just a few ways we are doing this:*

**Good jobs:** Initiatives carried out under President Biden have generated more good-paying jobs than the last three Republican administrations combined.

- Jobs of the future supported in renewable energy and technology (\$300 Billion invested in manufacturing in the USA).
- Over 11 million new jobs created (nationwide) since January 2021.
- Expansion of the Intel plant in NM is expected to support tens of thousands of new high-tech high-paying jobs.

The 2025 NM state budget proposed by the Democratic Governor and passed by Democrats in the Legislature includes:

- \$959 million for College (Opportunity) scholarships.
- \$70 million to support workforce/apprenticeship training.

**Childcare:** Families with children can't take advantage of those new jobs if they have to care for their children full-time. High-quality affordable child care is essential for prosperity to benefit those in the working and middle classes. Democrats at the Federal, State and Local levels have:

- NM 2025 budget includes \$11 million to support early childcare and pre-K programs.
- Dems in Congress blocked GOP bills to eliminate programs supporting working parents including Federal work-study, job training, and to significantly reduce early childhood education.

**School lunches:** Nobody learns well if they are hungry or afraid. Free meals for school-children have proved both effective in improving student achievement and cost-effective as a way to help children achieve long-term goals. The 2025 state budget passed by the Democratic legislature and signed by the Democratic Governor:

- \$20 million to fully fund FREE school lunch for all public-school students.

**Community safety:** Safety comes first for everyone. The Democratic Governor proposed in the 2025 budget and the Democratic legislature passed:

- Increased funding for law enforcement recruiting.
- Increased waiting period to purchase firearms.
- No-bond hold authority for repeat felony offenders.

Under Democratic leadership, Congress passed:

- the first meaningful legislation to reduce gun violence in 30 years.

**Affordable housing:** Santa Fe has needed more affordable housing for a long time. Last year, Democrats here in Santa Fe -- working with many community organizations -- successfully presented and passed a referendum to tax residential properties over \$1 million in value, with that revenue dedicated to the affordable housing trust fund.

- The new program is expected to generate over \$3 million dollars each year.
- That fund, with private investment, should produce and retain hundreds of affordable housing opportunities every year.

The state budget for 2025 proposed by the Democratic Governor and passed by Democrats in the Legislature includes:

- \$200 million for affordable and workforce housing.

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*Our everyday lives are impacted by big global issues. The impacts may not be immediate or as easy to feel as the kitchen table issues, but they matter today and will matter more for our children and grandchildren.*

Climate Change: We hear a lot of frustration from voters who feel that our government isn't doing enough to address global climate change. Others are concerned about their immediate air and water. We owe a livable planet to those who come after us..

- Congressional Democrats in 2022 enacted the largest and strongest legislation EVER addressing climate change and supporting our shift to sustainable energy.
  - \$370 Billion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This supports NM's efforts to reduce toxic elements leaking from oil and gas sites, and move to sustainable energy.
  - \$60 Billion for environmental justice programs to help historically underserved communities.
  - \$33 Billion supporting smart agricultural projects plus rural energy loans and grants to help folks move to sustainable energy sources.
- Democrats in our NM Legislature created new trust funds to provide long-term programs to protect and enhance our air and water; our basic quality of life.

Reproductive Rights to Health Care: There are few (if any) more consequential choices a person can make than about their family. The only role Government should play in these matters should be limited to ensuring that medical services are safe, effective, and available. What is happening in other states is scary.

- Democrats in Congress and here in New Mexico have consistently supported reproductive freedom.
- Republicans in Congress and here in New Mexico have consistently tried to impose their personal or religious ideas into decisions that should be made by a woman and her doctor.
- The Democrats in our New Mexico Legislature and in our executive officers (notably the Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General) have taken affirmative steps to ensure that services supporting reproductive freedom are available and accessible here.

Wars in Gaza and/or Ukraine: The human tragedy in both these wars has been horrific. Many voters are concerned that our government has not done enough to end or even reduce the suffering. They do not understand why we are supporting the killing and destruction, instead of productive diplomatic non-violent alternatives.

- Democrats, including President Biden and this administration, are doing a great deal behind the scenes regarding these wars, have strongly denounced civilian casualties, and are very actively and positively engaged in diplomacy around the world.
- The NM Democratic Party has passed a resolution in support of an immediate ceasefire and pause in arms shipments to Israel. The vote was by the state pre-primary convention and was 527-185.
- Further, while these wars are very important, keep them in perspective. Remember the many things Democrats are doing here at home to preserve our democracy, rebuild our infrastructure, support the middle and working classes, and insisting that those in the top percentage of wealth pay their fair share.
- If you are troubled by the US role in these international wars, you (the voter) can express your concern by voting "Uncommitted" in the Democratic primary for President, and still get a chance to vote on our local candidates. In November you can decide how you want to vote based on the Middle East and also a lot of other important issues. We'd rather you vote in the primary, even if it's uncommitted, than not vote at all.