



**CVNM & CVNM Action Fund  
2016 NM General Election  
Legislative Candidate Questionnaire**

Candidate Name:  
Office Sought:

**Thank you for taking the time to fill out the Conservation Voters New Mexico legislative candidate questionnaire. Your answers to this questionnaire will be considered in conjunction with your background, your past voting record (where applicable), the viability of your campaign, and the conservation record of your opponent. These factors will be considered by CVNM staff and form the basis of a decision to either endorse a candidate in a race or stay neutral.**

**It is important to understand that these questions are primarily informational for CVNM staff to understand your approach to conservation policy. No answer you give will be automatically disqualifying, and there is no maximum word count. Please take the space and time you need to fully explain your thoughts and positions.**

**Background:**

**1. What experience do you have with conservation issues? What, if any, specific environmental accomplishments are you most proud of?**

**2. Are there any anti-conservation votes or positions in your past that you wish to explain?**

**3. Please list the core staff, supporters, and fundraisers working on behalf of your campaign, and describe their areas of expertise.**

**4. Have you been endorsed by other groups this election cycle? If so, who? Please include contact information.**

**Issues:**

### **1) Uranium mining**

The adverse environmental and public health effects of past uranium mining and milling on New Mexico have been serious. Would you support legislation imposing a moratorium on new uranium mining in New Mexico?

The greatest health impacts (and consequent need for cleanup) are in Native American and Hispanic communities. Would you support legislation acknowledging that this harm falls disproportionately on communities of color in order to help secure clean up funding from other state or federal sources?

### **2) Radioactive waste disposal**

There is currently a plan to develop an interim storage facility for high level commercial radioactive waste in the Southeastern part of the state. Southern New Mexico is also currently home to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and the Urenco USA Nuclear Facility. Do you support the storage or disposal of radioactive - waste as a long term economic growth option for New Mexico?

### **3) Nuclear power**

New Mexico does not have any commercial nuclear power plants, although it does obtain a small amount of electric power from the Palo Verde nuclear power station in Arizona. Do you support nuclear power as part of our energy portfolio in New Mexico? Nationally? Please briefly explain why or why not.

Do you view nuclear power as a relatively “clean,” carbon-free energy source that can help reduce global climate change? Please briefly explain your answer.

### **4) Justice**

In New Mexico, much of the adverse environmental and health effects of mining, drilling, and waste disposal activities have disproportionately fallen on communities of color (Hispanic and Native Communities in particular). How would you address this issue legislatively?

### **5) Pre-emption**

Several counties and municipalities across New Mexico have passed ordinances and rules providing guidelines and restrictions on oil and gas development activities, such as hydraulic fracturing or “fracking,” within their borders. Do you support this practice?

**6) Renewable tax credits**

New Mexico's tax credit for residential rooftop and agricultural solar installation is set to expire at the end of this year. Would you support extending these tax credits? Do you support the idea of using the tax code to promote development of renewable energy sources?

**7) Renewable Portfolio Standard**

A recent study by the Union of Concerned Scientists concluded, based on modeling, that New Mexico should surpass the requirements of the Clean Power Plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by raising its Renewable Portfolio Standard to over 30% by 2030. This action would help make New Mexico a renewable energy exporter. Would you support legislative action to grow the renewable portfolio standard?

**8) Oil and Gas Tax Policy**

Currently a significant percentage of the state's revenue comes from severance tax and royalties on oil and gas production. How would you ensure that state revenues don't suffer when the price of oil and gas is low?

**9) Public Land Transfers**

Do you support the transfer of federally controlled public lands to state or private control?

**10) Gila River**

In 2014, New Mexico's Interstate Stream Commission approved to divert 14,000 acre feet of water from the Upper Gila, the last wild stretch of river in New Mexico. This proposal is currently under federal review for environmental impacts, likely a multiyear process. Price estimates for this project range from \$100 million to \$450 million, with the federal government contributing \$100 million. Would you vote to authorize a state expenditure for this project, should it be approved by the federal government?

**11) Copper Mine Rule**

The Copper Mine Rule, promulgated in 2013, allows copper mines to pollute groundwater beneath wide areas of a copper mine in complete disregard of New Mexico water quality standards. Notably, this area covers 9 square miles at the Freeport-McMoRan Tyrone Mine in Grant County. The Attorney General and several other parties have challenged the rule as contrary to the New Mexico Water Quality Act. The case is currently before the New Mexico Supreme Court, which may invalidate the rule. If, instead, the Court upholds the rule, would you support legislation to overrule the Copper Mine Rule and ensure that all groundwater in New Mexico is protected for present and future use?

## **12) Global Climate Change**

Do you agree that global climate change is the result of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases, and that it presents a very serious problem to human civilization? Do you agree that action is needed to address the problem?

New Mexico, under its previous administration, promulgated “cap and trade” regulations to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The current administration, almost immediately upon taking office, repealed those regulations. Do you support State regulations or legislation to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions? What other legislation or policies do you support to address climate change?

## **13) Coal Power Plants**

Would you support legislation that called for the shutdown of coal fired power plants in New Mexico?

When filling out the questionnaire online for submission, we will also ask for you to attach a copy of your resume.

Visit <http://cvnmactionfund.org> to submit your questionnaire!