



**Conservation Voters New Mexico  
State Legislative Candidate Questionnaire  
2012 Election Cycle**

**Candidate Name:**

**Office Sought:**

- Senate  
 House

**District:**

**Address:**

**Phone(s):**

**E-Mail:**

***Your answers to this questionnaire will be held confidential. Only members of the staff and Board of Directors of Conservation Voters New Mexico will review them. The information will not be published in newsletters, released to the media or distributed to members.***



**There are two parts to this questionnaire. The first part deals with issues; the second part focuses on your background and your campaign. Please answer all of the questions. For Yes/No questions, please check the appropriate box. Additional space is available for you to provide more details, so that we may better evaluate your responses. Please add any comments you feel are necessary to clarify your position on any of the issue questions.**

**Thank you.**



**Issue Questions:**

***Health & Environment***

1. New Mexico is one of few states with no requirement that projects funded with public money or regulated by state agencies identify their impacts on public

health or the environment. Would you support or sponsor legislation requiring a state environmental and socio-economic impact assessment of all publicly-regulated or publicly-funded projects?

Yes

No

2. The adverse environmental and public health effects of past uranium mining and milling on New Mexico have been significant. Would you sponsor or support legislation that places a moratorium on new uranium mining, including a moratorium on issuance of exploration permits, in New Mexico until contamination from past uranium mining and milling has been cleaned up?

Yes

No

3. The regulatory process in New Mexico is designed to protect public peace, health, safety and welfare. Corporate special interests have invested a lot of time and resources trying to undermine the strength of New Mexico's regulatory regime – by requiring legislative review of rules, imposing burdensome impact statements, or by gutting the permitting and enforcement capabilities of state agencies. Would you vigorously oppose any efforts to weaken the rule-making and enforcement authority of the state (e.g. agencies, boards, commissions)?

Yes

No

4. Although it exists in every other significant environmental statute, there is no provision in the New Mexico Air Quality Control Act that allows the state to deny or revoke a permit for a polluter with a track record of egregious violations of environmental laws. Would you sponsor or support legislation that would authorize the state to deny or revoke permits in instances where the applicant or permittee is guilty of specific bad acts?

Yes

No

5. Currently, in a situation where an individual or community is being harmed by unlawful pollution, victims can sue for damages to their health or property after the fact. However, they do not have a legal right to go to court to stop the pollution that is harming or threatening them. Would you sponsor or support legislation that would afford landowners or other affected parties a private right of action to pursue enforcement of environmental laws against violators, or against agencies that are failing to enforce existing law?

Yes

No

6. In hundreds of cases across the country, biotechnology companies have sued farmers for 'patent violations' when the farmers' fields have been contaminated by genetically-engineered pollen or seeds. Would you sponsor or support legislation to provide liability protection for farmers from similar legal actions when their crops are contaminated through no fault of their own?

Yes

No

## ***Energy Policy***

7. Global climate change is one of the most critical challenges facing our economy and our environment. New Mexico is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because of the scarcity of water in the southwest. Would you support or sponsor legislation that requires New Mexico to reduce our overall carbon emissions to 25% below 2000 levels by 2020?

Yes                       No

8. Would you oppose any public subsidies for new coal plants—or any other major polluting facilities—in New Mexico?

Yes                       No

9. Would you support or sponsor legislation requiring all new residential, commercial and institutional construction to meet certifiable standards for energy efficiency that are at least 40% greater than conventional build?

Yes                       No

10. Currently, the Oil Conservation Division (OCD) of the Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Dept. has limited authority to examine the impacts of oil and gas drilling on wildlife and our environment. Would you support or sponsor legislation to expand the mandate of OCD to include environmental protection?

Yes                       No

**Water Policy:**

11. Many New Mexico communities are concerned about the future of their water supply, particularly in areas where consumption exceeds renewable supply to the point that aquifers are being depleted. Unfortunately, the various regional water plans developed over the past several years are irreconcilable, because many regions are expecting to meet their future needs by transferring water from basins in neighboring regions – water that is unavailable because the communities in those areas need the water for their own future. Would you support or sponsor legislation placing certain restrictions on major water transfers, such as evaluating the long-term impacts on the area from which the water will be transferred, or requiring certain water conservation standards in the area to which water will be transferred?

Yes

No

12. New Mexico is one of few western states with no protection for environmental flows. Texas and Idaho are two examples of states that are years ahead of NM in planning and implementing programs to restore and protect the health of rivers and their associated riparian habitats. Would you support or sponsor legislation to provide for the minimum flows necessary to maintain basic functioning of our river ecosystems?

Yes

No

***Land Use & Transportation Policy:***

14. One of the challenges faced by local governments in accommodating rapid growth and development is how to pay for the infrastructure for new development beyond the already-served areas. Would you support or sponsor legislation allowing local governments to assess impact fees to developers for schools, libraries, community centers, transit facilities and water rights?
- Yes                       No

15. Tax Increment for Development Districts (TIDDs) are a newer financing mechanism for large-scale development. TIDDs use bonds to finance the up-front costs for infrastructure, and then service the bonds over the long term by diverting property and gross receipts tax revenue from state and local governments – revenues that would otherwise be paying for health care, public safety and education. Would you:

- a) support or sponsor reform legislation to ban TIDDs from being used for projects outside existing developed areas ('greenfields' development), where the tax diversion rates are demonstrably higher?

Yes                       No

- b) support or sponsor legislation to place restrictions on TIDDs so that the maximum allowable diversion of tax revenues is scaled based on public interest criteria such as: provision of workforce housing, construction of 'green'-certified buildings, application of transit-oriented design principles, and provision of high-wage jobs?

Yes                       No

16. Would you support or sponsor legislation establishing a state transit fund (supporting public transit) with a specific dedicated revenue stream, such as the projected increase in excise taxes from vehicle sales?

Yes                       No

## ***Wildlife and Wilderness***

17. New Mexico lags far behind other states in providing funding for the conservation of land and wildlife. Would you support or sponsor legislation to earmark a particular revenue stream, such as the existing Oil and Gas Conservation Tax (generating about \$15 million per year), for land and wildlife conservation projects?

Yes

No

18. Studies document that 95% of land-based outdoor recreation is passive or 'quiet' recreation – including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, trail cycling, horseback riding, bird watching, outdoor education, snowshoeing, etc. Motorized, or off-highway, vehicles (OHVs) represent only 5% of land-based outdoor recreation, but the negative environmental impacts of OHVs are well-documented – constituting one of the most critical threats to our public lands and forests. Will you support or sponsor legislation that places strict controls on OHV use, including strong sanctions for illegal use, and restrictions on use in areas where natural resource damage and degradation would likely occur?

Yes

No

19. Describe your position on reintroduction of predators into their native habitat.

## **Background and Campaign-Related Questions:**

1. Describe your current occupation and other employment experience relevant to both the state legislative campaign and the position of State Legislator. What other elected positions have you held, if any?
2. What experience do you have with conservation issues? What, if any, specific environmental accomplishments are you most proud of?
3. Are there any anti-conservation votes or positions in your past that you wish to explain?
4. How much money have you currently raised towards your April 9 campaign finance report?  
*(NOTE: please do not include any information on projected fundraising. CVNM cannot conduct activities on behalf of candidates when we have access to information on future plans or strategies)*
5. Please list the core staff, supporters, and/or fundraisers working on behalf of your campaign, and describe their areas of expertise.

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



*Thanks very much for your time and effort.*