



Dear Elected Official/Candidate,

ReNew Mexico is a coalition of statewide community groups, economic development professionals, business advocates, and residents dedicated to working toward the development of renewable energy and transmission projects for the betterment of New Mexico's economic and sustainable future.

ReNew Mexico will soon be launching our 2020 New Mexico Voter Guide to help voters make informed decisions about candidates in the upcoming elections, especially on the issues of climate change and the economic impact of renewable energy project development.

**If you wish to be considered for our 2020 ReNew Mexico Voter Guide, please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it no later than Friday, October 23rd, but earlier if at all possible. The best way to return your questionnaire is to fill out the attached document and email your completed responses to Arcelia Isais-Gastelum at [arcelia@renewmexico.org](mailto:arcelia@renewmexico.org).**

Your completed questionnaire will be shared with the public via our social media pages, website, and newsletter.

Best,

Ben Kelahan  
Co-Founder  
ReNew Mexico

## ReNew Mexico Candidate Questionnaire - 2020

Elected Official/Candidate Name:

District:

1. Our state has started to make unparalleled progress in the transition to 100% clean, renewable energy these last few years. What role do you think renewable energy should play in our state's economic future?

I think renewables and alternative energy are going to okay huge roles in New New Mexico's economic future. Let's discuss them all and not limit ourselves to just wind and solar!

2. There have been discussions about implementing a tax on wind energy (and renewable energy more broadly). At these critical, early stages of clean energy development, such legislation would be extremely detrimental to New Mexicans living in rural communities and would prevent future renewable energy investment from bringing needed jobs and revenue to New Mexicans. If elected, will you oppose a wind tax that could jeopardize future rural jobs in the wind industry? I will oppose any tax increases on New Mexicans.
3. How should Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB) be utilized as a tool to support new renewable energy projects in your district? I think this conversation should be framed differently and my question, is this the proper role of Government?
4. Updates to our transmission system and energy infrastructure are critical in order to ensure that we have low-cost, reliable energy and to best support our growing population. If elected, what will you do to support upgrades to our transmission infrastructure? I work in the technology field and am always curious about "upgrades", especially when they are "critically needed". I am willing to have this conversation and would like the taxpayers involved in this discussion.
5. There are two major transmission projects in development with the potential to transmit thousands of megawatts of renewable energy to our grid as well as bring hundreds of clean energy jobs to our communities and millions in revenue and investments. What are some ways we can bring more projects like Western Spirit and SunZia to New Mexico? I think leveling the playing field by creating better tax reform could incite a great number of industries to come to NM, not just energy based companies and technologies.
6. Will you sign our "Save Rural Jobs" pledge to promote more job creation and more renewable energy project revenue for our state? (SEE ATTACHED) No thank you but I am always willing to speak with you about any and all issues facing me and my fellow New Mexicans.

THANK YOU!