



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: Joy I. Garratt

District: House 29

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? Renewable energy needs to take the lead. Undergirding that, however, we need to ensure the cleanest possible methane rules and extraction rules for the time-being. This includes ensuring that Chaco Canyon area is protected (as Rep. Lente said, would we want the Vatican or the Coliseum surrounded by oil rigs?) and that produced water is not used for anything involving crops and human beings). Finally, we need to be cognizant of the economic and other roles played in our states by Air Force bases—AF reps are deeply concerned about training flight patterns and wind turbines—so they need to be included in discussions (I am Military Veterans Affairs Committee).
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? Yes. These taxes need to be carefully reviewed and when done, done incrementally in the future.
3. How should Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB) be utilized as a tool to support new renewable energy projects in your district? In my specific district we already have two solar farms (PNM) and several in the planning stages. Additional farms have been built directly north of my district in Rio Rancho (my district ends at the Sandoval county line and extends west to the Rio Puerco) or are being planned. With Double Eagle II Airport in the middle of my district, wind farms would not be an ideal placement. IRB for solar would be beneficial and we need to totally collaborate with state and federal lawmakers to improve the incentives.
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 would support necessary laws or revisions to existing statutes.
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? Our state and county economic departments need to initiate outreach to robust companies and fully respond when those companies initiate outreach themselves. There tends to be very individualized outreach by counties, and

the Association of Counties in collaboration with the State EDD need to work together more on these efforts.

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) Yes

THANK YOU!