



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.

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: Brenda McKenna

District: SD 09

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 believe renewable energy should lead our economy and we move toward 100% clean energy. I am a supporter of the Energy Transition Act and hope we can move even more aggressively toward 100% clean.

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 oppose a wind tax and would look forward to learning more about it from you.

3. How should Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB) be utilized as a tool to support new renewable energy projects in your district?

IRBs can be a great financing tool, if the local community supports the project.

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?

Because our state is moving aggressively toward clean energy, we need a 21st century transmission infrastructure that can move power where it's most needed at different points in the day and better incorporate battery storage into our transmission infrastructure.

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?

The ETA helps build predictable demand for wind and solar. We need to now start exporting our wind and solar to other states. New Mexico should join a regional grid so we can create even more revenue and jobs from renewable energy. Lastly, I support vocational training at community colleges for wind turbine technology and related clean energy jobs.

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)

I will consider signing the pledge once I learn more the tax from you and others.

THANK YOU!