



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: Gerald Ortiz y Pino

District: New Mexico Senate District 12

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 we should be completely independent of fossil fuels in NM by 2040. That is an ambitious goal but a necessary one if we are to truly confront the global warming issue.
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 think instead of taxing renewable energy sources, we should be incentivizing them. While we don't get direct state revenue from them we also would not have to bear any of the long-term costs that we face in dealing with coal, natural gas and petroleum.
3. How should Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB) be utilized as a tool to support new renewable energy projects in your district? Industrial Revenue bonds are a valid method for financing energy projects. As they are issued by local governments which guarantee them, projects they finance will require careful scrutiny and thus meet the prudent stewardship criterion.
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? RETA has not fully realized its potential due to lack of support during the eight years of the Martinez administration. I am open to doing whatever is needed legislatively to enhance the performance of this tool, created to assist getting renewable energy to the proper markets.
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? We may need to take legislative action to speed the development of such projects by reducing the ways in which private landowners can stall them. Streamlining the environmental impact studies should also be considered.

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’ll read it and consider signing it if I agree.

THANK YOU!