



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: Carrie Hamblen

District: Senate, District 38

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?

*As the CEO/President of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce, I have been talking about the role of renewable energy in our economic future for several years. I feel it should have a primary role in the movement toward financial sustainability for our state and also recognize the need to provide training to those workers in the oil and gas industry who will be displaced by renewable energy. Don't get me wrong, I believe our future is in renewable energy but the reality of people losing jobs that are needed to support their families is also weighing heavily on legislators. I believe that as we continue to move forward to embracing more renewable energy, we can also help those who will need to learn a new trade.*

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?

*Absolutely. It's the rural communities who are in great need of assistance regarding jobs and reducing energy bills. If there are ways we can focus renewable energy jobs in the rural communities that want them, I would like to support that.*

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

*I like the idea of IRB's for District 38. Of course, I would want to discuss the options for renewable energy projects with the residents of this district as there is a great deal of farm land and views of the mountains that many generations have valued. We have opportunities for job creation and reducing energy costs for many of those in the rural part of the district. I would like to explore community solar projects for the Colonias, in partnership with improving the infrastructure in those areas. I would also support IRB's for projects for the communities that are pursuing energy projects that could help them.*

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 most definitely support upgrades to our transmission infrastructure as we are missing out on an incredible opportunity to create jobs and offer low-cost energy to those who need it the most. As Legislators, we need to keep our eyes on the future and create policy that will help lift up our poorer communities while providing training and creating high paying jobs. I am aware that the cost of upgrading our transmission infrastructure is a very large amount and in the upcoming session, diversifying our revenue sources is going to be the priority. I would appreciate information about possible phases of upgrading our transmission infrastructure and see where we can finance them with the goal of reaching a fully functional and economically beneficial 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?

*I am grateful for the years of work of mapping lines, working with different agencies and governmental entities, to lay the groundwork for the transmission lines. I feel with these two projects in place, we have the infrastructure to recruit more opportunities like Western Spirit and SunZia. However, as we know, getting the communities impacted by these lines to support the transmission lines is always a factor. I believe we need to connect with potential communities for future lines, determine the impact (environmental and economic) for the areas, and determine the financial commitment from the region and the state. Then, we can start pursuing other transmission line providers.*

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!