

Common Cause New Mexico

2016 Ethics and Campaign Finance Reform Candidate Questionnaire

Miguel Garcia

House Dist 14

<p>1. In addition to ruling that corporations and unions have the right to make unlimited political contributions, the 2010 <i>Citizens United</i> opinion also ruled that requiring disclosure of the sources of contributions and expenditures in political campaigns is necessary.</p> <p>Do you support bringing our state’s Campaign Reporting Act up to date by requiring independent political groups to report who their donors are and how their money is spent on campaigns?</p>	Yes	No
	XX	

<p>2. It is increasingly difficult for members of the public or media to determine which individuals or groups are influencing legislative decisions that impact various aspects of our daily life here in New Mexico.</p> <p>Do you support improving the transparency of our lobbying reporting system to ensure consistency, provide for enforcement, and increase the availability of detailed reports from organizations and the individuals who are lobbying elected officials?</p>	Yes	No
	XX	

<p>3. A December 2016 poll by Common Cause New Mexico demonstrated that 85% percent of New Mexicans believe corruption is a serious or very serious problem in our state and support the creation of an independent ethics commission.</p> <p>Would you support the creation of an independent commission to oversee and investigate public officials (both in the legislature and in executive offices) and public employees in New Mexico?</p>	Yes	No
	XX	

<p>4. In New Mexico, voluntary public campaign financing is available for qualified candidates for the Public Regulation Commission, appellate judgeships, as well as some municipal races.</p> <p>Do you support expanding such a system to include races for statewide executive positions such as governor, attorney general, and secretary of state? What about State Senate or State House?</p>	Yes	No
	XX	

<p>5. In the 2016 legislative session, a bill was introduced to compel the online publication of capital outlay projects. These projects are currently undisclosed unless a list of projects is specifically requested by a legislator and approved by the legislative council to be released.</p>	Yes	No

Would you support reforming the capital outlay system so that it is not only more transparent, but also uses a merit-based process to plan and prioritize projects?		
<p>6. The drawing of electoral districts is not transparent and all too often, there is no public participation. The resulting districts can often serve the political interests of the people who draw them, rather than the interests of the people being represented.</p> <p>Would you support the creation of an independent commission to establish written criteria for re-drawing district boundaries and require a fair and transparent process for conducting redistricting?</p>	XX	

Please use this space below to further explain any of your answers above:

Question #5 is too simplistic. I did not give a yes/no answer. It leans toward the yellow journalistic reporting approach that all legislators have something devious to hide regarding how we prioritize our capital projects. For those of us who represent low income, economically challenged, and predominately Hispanic or Native American districts, our capital outlay projects are bare bone necessities and a God send of which such projects would never get funded any other way. Our efforts to prioritize bare bone projects are heart wrenching when we don't have enough to go around. The yellow journalistic media does not care about this reality only the lie that we are all "pork barrel hooligans" on the *movida*.

On Question #4, see my introduction of HB 205 (2015) and HB 208 (2016). Although public financing of legislative races is a priority question on your survey, it is not something your organization gives much credence.

On Question #2, see my introduction of HB 257 in the 2015 Session which prohibited campaign contributions by contractors to ALL statewide races. Again, it is a priority question on your survey but not something your organization gives much credence.

State Representative Miguel P García, District 14