

Common Cause New Mexico

2016 Ethics and Campaign Finance Reform Candidate Questionnaire

Angelica Rubio

<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
	X	

<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
	X	

<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
	X	

<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
	X	

<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> <p>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>	<p>Ye sX</p>	<p>No</p>
<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>	<p>X</p>	

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

1. Although I was pleased to note that House Bill 105 was signed it to law, I strongly stand with Common Cause in the belief that there remains much work to do. In my capacity as campaign manager for Kasandara Gandara, I learned first-hand the dispiriting and chaotic impact that last minute, negative and anonymous mailers can have on a campaign.
2. As noted in Common Cause’s January 2016 survey, nine-in-ten voters believe it would be a good idea to require registered lobbyists to make public the bills or issues they have been hired to advocate so that voters know who is lobbying on certain issues in New Mexico. To my mind, the people have spoken. I firmly stand on the side of these voters and the future of our fragile democracy.
3. It is interesting to note that a business-focused [study](#) also published earlier this year revealed that recent analysis conducted by professors of economics and political science ranked New Mexico as the fifth most corrupt state in the nation. It’s a development that I find shameful and alarming. As a legislator, I will not only support the creation of an independent commission, but will be among the first to voluntarily submit to its oversight and investigation.
4. As a working class woman of color, I am a strong proponent of all voluntary efforts to even the playing field when it comes to campaign financing and was both relieved and cheered to note that 58% of those participating in Common Cause’s recent study said they would be more likely to support a candidate running for office in New Mexico who strongly pushes for campaign finance reform.
5. As a legislator, I will absolutely support such reforms, given that:

- NM is the only state in which elected officials divide money for public works
- NM was recently ranked among the top five most corrupt states in the nation
- Just one in every eight capital outlay projects is actually funded. Resulting in nearly 800 million in public money sitting idle

6. As a voter as well as a prospective legislator, I strongly share Common Cause's belief that, "redistricting should level the political playing field, not tilt it toward any party or office holder. I will work hard to make this resolute vision a reality.