



NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE GUIDE: 2018 NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR'S RACE

| | Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) | Steve Pearce (R) |
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| Abortion: Mostly ban or mostly legal? | Legal. Opposed bill to ban abortion after 20 weeks unless women's life was at risk or pregnancy was from rape or incest. | Ban. Voted to ban abortion after 20 weeks unless women's life was at risk or pregnancy was from rape or incest. |
| Campaign Finance: Require political ads to disclose largest funders? Support <i>Citizens United</i> decision, allowing unlimited political donations from corporations & unions? | Yes, on disclosure. Sponsored bills to reverse Citizens United, & require tax-exempt social welfare organizations that run political ads to reveal donors. | Supported Citizens United. No position on disclosure bills. Voted to defund House Ethics office after it investigated his staffer. |
| Climate Change: Consider climate change a serious threat? | Yes. It would be irresponsible to ignore human impact on the changing climate. Modern science should guide our policy. | No. In 2010 said Intergovernmental Panel, which measured climate change, "doesn't even believe the crap." |
| Climate Change: Limit or tax production of greenhouse gases? | Yes. Says: Limit greenhouse gases, join Paris Climate Accord, lead on renewable energy—50% of energy from renewables by 2030, 80% by 2040. | No. "Burdensome regulations are killing jobs & driving up energy prices." Voted to prohibit EPA from regulating greenhouse gases. Called Paris Accord an unfair deal for Americans. |
| Contraception: Allow employers to withhold contraceptive coverage from employees if they disagree with it morally? | No. Access to free contraception essential "regardless of employer's religious beliefs." | Yes. "This is not an issue of birth control, it's an issue of government control." |
| Courts: Support Judge Kavanaugh nomination? [before recent controversies] | No. His "reactionary judicial record threatens decades of progress for" woman's rights, LGBTQ rights, civil rights, & access to healthcare. | Yes. Hopes nomination process will reveal Kavanaugh to be "committed to preserving our freedoms as set forth in the Constitution." |
| Economy: Support Trump's imposition of tariffs on Chinese steel & other products? | No. Concerned will cause "dangerous & short-sighted" trade war, harming NM agriculture & consumers. | Some reservations. "I will not support putting our businesses at a disadvantage & raising prices on our consumers." |
| Education: Increase funding for K-12 education? | Yes. Supports passing constitutional amendment to allow distributions from NM Permanent Fund. Also supports universal pre-K & shifting funding from administrators to classroom teachers. | Unclear. Reluctant to dip into Permanent Fund, for pre-K or in general. "Far more complex than just throwing more money at the situation." Support better management, mental health support & apprenticeship programs. |
| Education: Provide publicly funded vouchers to help pay for private schools? | No. Strongly opposes school vouchers. | Yes. "Vouchers break link of low-income & low-quality schools." |
| Education: Increase funding for higher education? | Yes. Find sources of money to replace lottery. In Congress opposed budget that would have lowered Pell Grants. | No. "Right now we don't have the money." Must first grow the economy, so that we have the money. |

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| Gay Marriage: Support gay marriage? | Yes. Supported NM marriage equality before Supreme Court ruling. | No. Personally opposes, voted against, but now settled law. |
| Gun Control: Support more restrictive gun control legislation? Restrict semi-automatic weapons? | Yes. Strengthen background checks, ban assault weapons & high-capacity magazines. Ban anyone convicted of domestic violence from buying guns. | No. “I don’t think gun control legislation works.” Restrictions would divert resources to “cataloguing & confiscating the guns of law-abiding citizens.” |
| Healthcare: Support or Repeal ACA, aka Obamacare? | Supports ACA, voted against repeal. Protect & strengthen Medicaid. | “Repeal & replace.” Voted for repeal. |
| Healthcare: Require people to work to receive Medicaid? | No. Opposed work requirements enacted by current governor Susana Martinez. | Yes. Require “able-bodied” Medicaid recipients to work. |
| Healthcare: Let Planned Parenthood receive public funds for non-abortion health care? | Yes. Values their preventive care. | No. Willing to shut down government to stop any public funding of them. |
| Immigration: Support DREAM Act (DACA), allowing “Dreamers” who arrived illegally as children, then grew up in the US, to achieve legal status if meet certain conditions? | Yes. Worked to protect their status. Supports earned path to citizenship, for DACA recipients and illegal immigrants in general. | Yes. On DACA, proposed 10-year “conditional protected status” with option to renew but no path to citizenship. Supports guest worker program, without amnesty. |
| Labor: Enact right-to-work law, preventing unions from mandating dues for workers they represent? | No, opposes. | Yes, supports. |
| Marijuana: Legalize or decriminalize marijuana? | Yes. Supported NM medical marijuana program & voted in Congress to protect. Supports recreational legalization. | No. Strongly opposes recreational legalization. “It would hinder the economic fortunes of poor people.” |
| Minimum Wage: Raise the minimum wage from current \$7.25/hour? | Yes. Supports raising to \$10 immediately, & to \$12 in 4 years, indexed to inflation. | No. Raising the minimum wage would hurt small business & people at the bottom of the economic ladder. |
| Net Neutrality: Require internet providers to provide equal access to all users? | Yes. Co-sponsored Congressional resolution to reinstate net neutrality. | No. Net neutrality rules “undermine the free marketplace.” |
| President Trump: Percentage of major votes supporting Trump’s positions? | Voted 25% with Trump as of October 1. | Voted 90% with Trump as of October 1. |
| Renewable Energy: Support government subsidies for renewable energy? | Yes. Committed to facilitating investments in renewable energy sector. | No. Wants to “support every form of energy.” Voted repeatedly against credits or support for renewables. |
| Student Financial Aid: Increase federal or state student financial aid? | Yes. Backed Elizabeth Warren proposal to lower student interest rates by taxing the wealthy. Also backed Pell Grant support & financial aid for people not pursuing 4-year degree. | Unclear. Voted for a 2015 Federal budget that significantly cut Pell Grants. Also 2006 budget that cut student loan support in favor of deficit reduction. |
| Taxes: Support President Trump’s tax cuts ? | No. They resemble failed past policies that “reward the wealthiest people & special interests, while adding as much as \$1.5 trillion to our national debt.” | Yes. Will “give a shot in the arm to all manufacturers, & small businesses will be able to become a little more stable.” |
| Voting Rights: Support stricter voting rules such as voter ID requirements even if they prevent some people from voting? | No. “Burdensome voter ID laws & purging of voter registration rolls... disproportionately impact poor, elderly, disabled & Americans of color.” | Yes. Voted for photo ID in federal races. |

Created by the [Campus Election Engagement Project](#), a nonpartisan effort to help college & university administrators, faculty, & student leaders engage their schools in the election. Key sites consulted included [Votemart.org](#), [Ontheissues.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#), & public candidate statements. For guides to local races, see [Vote411.org](#) from the League of Women Voters & [Ballotready.org](#).