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1. New Mexico Prisons and Jails

Most other states have experienced drops in both crime rates and the size of their prison populations. New Mexico is one of the few states where our crime rates have gone up while our prison population continues to grow. At the same time, inmates in New Mexico face rampant abuses in the use of solitary confinement, the denial of adequate medical treatment, and a lack of programming/services in New Mexico's jails and prisons, making it difficult for them to transition to life after prison.

- a. What do you believe is the role and purpose of New Mexico prisons and jails? What, if anything, would you do differently when it comes to managing these facilities? If a jail or prison were forced to close or threatening to close, what would you do to facilitate job programs that aren't related to corrections?
- b. Do you support legislation, such as decriminalization of drugs, which would reduce the inmate population?

2. Executive Action

Our current governor has embraced an approach to public safety that reflects a tough-on-crime attitude that was popular in the 1980s and 1990s and helped lead to the mass incarceration crisis currently affecting our nation. As the new governor, you would have broad authority to shape agencies and policy at the state level.

- a. What is your administrative approach to criminal justice reform, particularly in light of rising crime rates?
- b. What alternate policy approaches to public safety do you favor that move beyond the outdated hyper-punitive strategies that have led to overcrowded prisons with little corresponding reduction in crime?

3. Evidence Based Strategies

Criminal justice policy decisions are often made by well-meaning policymakers in reaction to a tragic situation. Unfortunately, this means many policies are reactionary and may have unintended consequences. Those closest to the problem, such as victims, their families, and formerly incarcerated individuals, are closest to the solution, but are often forgotten or excluded from policymaking.

- a. What would you do to empower directly impacted individuals, families, and communities to have a voice in criminal justice reform?
- b. How would you ensure that policy decisions are evidence based and data driven, rather than subject to the whims of the public?

4. Parole

Earlier this year, New Mexico's broken parole system received national attention

(<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-mexico/articles/2018-01-27/hundreds-of-new-mexico-inmates-held-past-parole-date>).

- a. What would you do as governor to fix these issues?
- b. Do you support legislation addressing problems with parole, such as former SB 216 Parole Board Procedures and SB 116 Medical/Geriatric Parole?

5. Reentry

New Mexico is one of only a handful of states that do not allow criminal records expungement or sealing. Having a criminal record, from a simple arrest to a felony conviction, is often a barrier to employment, safe housing, education, and a myriad of other collateral consequences.

- a. Do you support second chances for people with justice system involvement, and if so, what would you do as governor to provide second chances?
- b. Do you support legislation that would help people move on with their lives and support their families, such as expungement/sealing of criminal records, Fair Chance Hiring ("Ban the Box", and the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act?

6. Decriminalization

According to the New Mexico Sentencing Commission, a significant portion of inmates in New Mexico are incarcerated on charges of simple possession of drugs for personal use. By any measure, the War on Drugs has been a failure because incarceration by itself does nothing to address issues of addiction and dependency and punitive approaches to problematic drug use have devastated communities of color across the United States.

- a. What would you do as governor to address the lack of services available for people in New Mexico, particularly low-income families, which have loved ones struggling with addiction?
- b. Do you support legislation that would reduce or eliminate the penalty for simple possession of a controlled substance? Do you support alternatives to incarceration and prosecution, such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program?

7. Pretrial Detention

New Mexico voters overwhelmingly supported a constitutional amendment stipulating that an inability to pay cannot be the sole reason for detaining an individual. Now that the new Supreme Court bail rules have gone into effect, many people are released to pretrial services and may be required to pay for drug testing, GPS monitoring, counseling, and other conditions of release.



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- a. What would you do as governor to balance individual rights of accused (not convicted) individuals with the safety of the community?
- b. Do you support the bail amendment and the Supreme Court Rules? If not, how would you seek to change them?

8. Addressing Underlying Causes

Many states have implemented criminal justice reform and seen crime rates go down. New Mexico is somewhat unique because crime has been rising for many years and several recent justice reforms, such as bail reform, have not reversed the trend.

- a. Why do you believe New Mexico has struggled with crime rates over the past decade?
- b. What would you do as governor to invest in proven, but long-term, solutions to crime (i.e., unemployment, housing, education, behavioral health, and substance abuse treatment)?

9. Police and Border Militarization

Surveillance and military technologies have been used to intimidate and oppress certain communities more than others. Many cities and some states have introduced legislation aimed at ensuring residents are empowered to decide if and how surveillance and military technologies are used by law enforcement in their communities.

- a. Would you support state-wide legislation that maximizes the public's influence over whether or not police can acquire or deploy military and surveillance equipment? If so, what is your vision?
- b. What other measures would you take to protect the public against civil rights and liberties violations that so often occur alongside the increased use of highly sophisticated surveillance and military technologies?