



**Conservation Voters New Mexico Action Fund
Public Regulation Commission Candidate Questionnaire
2020 Election Cycle**

Candidate Name: _____ **PRC District:** _____

Candidate Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____ **E-Mail:** _____



**There are two parts to this questionnaire. The first part focuses on issues; the second part focuses on your background and campaign. These questions have been selected and tailored to ensure that they do not present conflicts to incumbent commissioners or indicate pre-judgment of cases that are or may be introduced before the PRC. Should you feel uncomfortable answering all or part of the questions on the grounds that they may indicate prejudice or bias, please attempt to answer the question based on the values and premises that it suggests.
Thank you.**

Issue Questions:

1. What do you think is the most important thing you can do as a Public Regulation Commissioner (PRC) to bring about a clean and just energy future for New Mexico?

2. The Energy Transition Act of 2019 established procedures and rules for the closure and replacement of coal plants in New Mexico. It also established a Renewable Portfolio Standard that requires investor owned utilities to deliver New Mexico customers with 50% renewable energy by 2030, 80% by 2040, and 100% carbon free energy by 2045. As a PRC commissioner, you'll be charged with ensuring New Mexico's utilities achieve these goals. Will you execute the mandates contained in the Energy Transition Act? Please explain your answer.

 Yes No

Do you think that New Mexico should get 100% of its energy from renewable sources, like solar, geothermal and wind? If not, please identify the resources that you believe should be a part of the state's energy portfolio.

3. The PRC is currently evaluating different replacement power scenarios to replace the San Juan Generating Station. What priorities and values would you elevate in the replacement power deliberations as a PRC commissioner?

4. New Mexico is in the process of joining the rest of the nation in phasing out coal burning generation facilities. As a PRC commissioner, what are some values that you will bring to the process of helping regulate utilities as they plan their transition away from coal? What role do you think that the PRC has in ensuring that transition plans are equitable for impacted communities?

5. As utilities move away from large centralized power production models, the question of utility ownership of generation resources is being raised more frequently. As a PRC commissioner, do you think that you have an obligation to protect competitive power markets? How do you think that your constituents view competitive power markets?

6. How will you incorporate the climate crisis in your decision making process as a Commissioner?

7. In recent years, the PRC has been plagued by dysfunction and unprofessional conduct between commissioners, including political game playing. As a commissioner, will you commit to be an exemplar of integrity that upholds the seriousness of the work you'll be charged with conducting?

8. What role do you think that nuclear energy has as a generation source in New Mexico? Do you believe that nuclear energy should be expanded? If so, why?

9. Current law requires that utilities use 3% to 5% of their revenues for energy efficiency programs. How would you ensure that New Mexico utilities have the most effective energy efficiency programs possible given the amount of funding? Would you support increased funding? Would you support increasing the mandatory savings target?

10. Would you support or oppose efforts by electric utilities to impose an increased customer charge or standby charge on residential customers that install solar generation units on their rooftops? Why?

11. Would you support measures to continue to de-couple utility revenues from sales of electricity? What type of revenue structure do you think would allow utilities to shift away from the current model?

12. Do you support continued use of net metering for solar rooftop systems in New Mexico?

13. What other policies, if any, would you advocate for that would enable New Mexico to move ahead with climate change solutions? How would you ensure that those policies benefit low-income families and/or communities of color?

14. What is your philosophy about the purpose of the Public Regulation Commission in regulating and managing corporations, especially with respect to their impact on our environment and public health, safety and welfare?

15. Do you believe that the PRC needs reforms at the staff level? If elected, would you support structural changes to the PRC staff structure? If so, what might those reforms look like in order to earn your support?

Background and Campaign-Related Questions:

1. Describe your current occupation and other employment experience relevant to both the election campaign and the position of Public Regulation Commissioner. What other elected positions have you held, if any?

2. What experience do you have with conservation and/or environmental justice issues? What, if any, specific environmental accomplishments are you most proud of?

- b) Please list the names of other organizations that you think will support your campaign this cycle.