

7. There is a huge disparity between what upper management and other state employees get paid. Would you commit to looking into the big gap between management and other employees' wages?

Yes X

No

Additional comments: There is no possible justification for the huge increase over the last number of years in the ratio of what upper level managers are paid to what their employees receive.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

8. What are your proudest pro-labor accomplishments or moments? Are you now or have you ever been a union member?

Though I have always supported unions, most of my working life has been spent in areas without union construction jobs. I was a member of a union while working for some time as a carpenter on movie sets near Santa Fe. I think my proudest pro-labor accomplishment was during a time I was working as a kitchen supervisor in a restaurant and management fired one of the kitchen workers without justification. I led a mass walkout of the kitchen staff; we all quit until the restaurant rehired the fired worker. It was the sort of incident that reminded me all the more of why workers need the right to organize.

9. How do you believe you can win the election? How would you differentiate yourself from your opponents in this race?

Our campaign is building a coalition of progressive Democrats, Greens, and Independents. I also expect many Republicans to be attracted to my independence and to the kind of forward-looking approach I am taking to issues of decentralized energy generation, local decision-making and support for local small business. I believe my years of work on issues such as renewable energy and utility policy, central to the work of the PRC, clearly differentiate me from my opponent.

10. What do you see as other major issues facing New Mexico, and how can you address them if elected?

I think one of the most important things I can do as an elected official is to oppose the power of large multinational corporations. I believe this corporate power is fundamentally opposed to the democratic ideals of this country. I am basically an optimist – I believe we can make positive changes if we're willing to do things differently.

The PRC's regulation of insurance can help New Mexico move towards universal and affordable health coverage. I believe we should have a single payer system.

There are a number of ways the PRC can promote clean renewable energy and local generation. Ideas like "efficiency and conservation first" rules and a feed-in rate for local producers of wind and solar energy have been very successful in

places like Europe. Reforms like these will not only create a boom in renewable energy construction and help protect the environment, but can also lower consumers' energy costs.

We need better elections in New Mexico, so that our democratic choices are based on a search for the best ideas, not a race for the biggest donors. I'm proud to be participating in the new Public Financing system for elections to the PRC. I'm the only candidate in this race who is participating; my opponent is not. I want to make sure this system is a success so that it will eventually be implemented for all elections in New Mexico.

11. If elected would you be willing to meet on a regular basis with union leadership?

Yes. All candidates probably answer yes to this, but my whole approach to politics has always been to involve people and learn from their experience.

12. Do you wish to receive a public endorsement from AFSCME?

Yes. I would be proud to be endorsed by AFSCME. I see labor as a key part of the coalition we need to build to make fundamental changes in how the economy of New Mexico works.

13. Tell us about yourself! What is your birthdate? Where were you born? Where did you grow up? What is your current occupation? Any previous occupations? What is your educational background? In what ways are you or have you been involved in the community? Feel free to add information about your family or other interests.

I was born in 1948 in Dallas and grew up there. I was educated at the University of Texas and Colorado State University. I've lived in New Mexico for the past 34 years and have primarily worked as a carpenter and woodworker, mostly building houses (especially energy-efficient ones). I also ran a restaurant in Santa Fe for some years. When I was a business owner I always paid a living wage. For the last several years I have been an energy consultant, and this work has merged with my political and community activism, promoting renewable energy, working on issues of sustainability in agriculture and economic development, and much volunteer work in the environmental and peace movements. I live in rural Santa Fe County with my life partner Louise.